



Warsaw

POP 1.72 MILLION

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Best Places to Eat

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- » Bar Nam Sajgon (p68)
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Best Places to Stay

- » Castle Inn (p62)
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- » Le Méridien Bristol Hotel (p63)
- » Oki Doki Hostel (p63)
- » Krokodyl (p67)

Why Go?

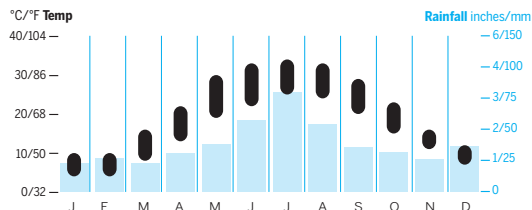
Kraków may have the beauty and Gdańsk the seashore, but Warsaw has the culture, the energy and the action. Poland's capital was flattened in WWII and, ever since, the city's been racing to replace what was lost. After 1989, that pace accelerated, and central Warsaw today has so many booms, cranes and construction sites, you'd think you'd landed in Beijing.

That energy extends to the city's thriving club and music scene. The annual calendar is filled with funky street fests, edgy art openings, and lots of highbrow, Chopin-inspired music festivals. The best museums are here too. The Warsaw Rising Museum set the standard for a new generation of engaging, interactive exhibitions. Two new museums, one on Chopin and the other on Jewish history, raise the bar even higher.

Sprawling Warsaw may be an acquired taste and your first impressions straight off the train may not be positive. But the vibe and drive of Poland's capital are infectious if you give it time.

When to Go

Warsaw



Mar-May

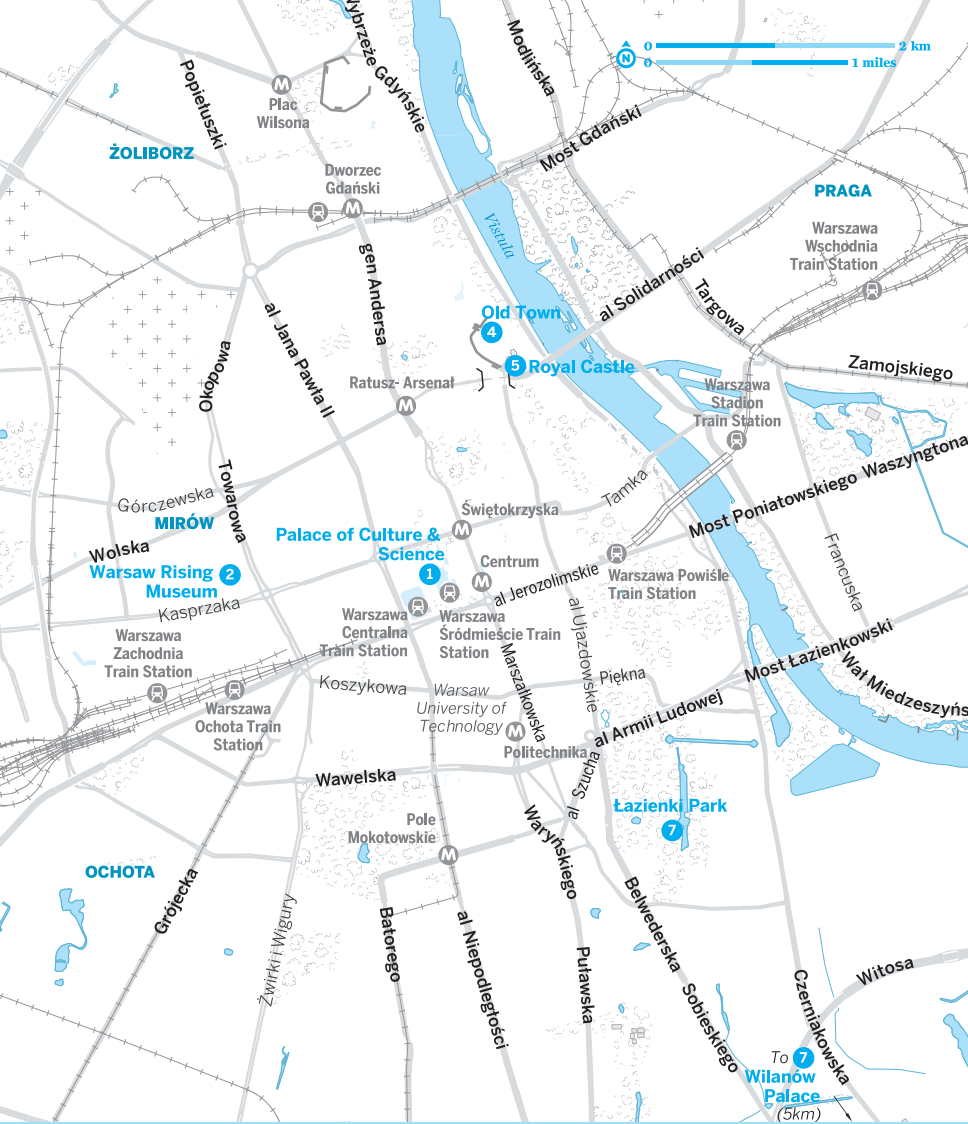
Watch the trees bud and flowers bloom on a stroll through bucolic Łazienki Park.

Jul

Midsummer brings five days of happenings around town during the Street Art Festival.

Oct

Film buffs will enjoy 10 days of Polish and international films at the Warsaw Film Festival.



Warsaw Highlights

- 1 Taking in Warsaw and beyond from the top of the **Palace of Culture & Science** (p55)
- 2 Listening to first-hand accounts of WWII at the **Warsaw Rising Museum** (p55)
- 3 Spending your hard-earned cash on **handmade products** (p75)
- 4 Marvelling at the quality of the renovation work in the **Old Town** (p49)
- 5 Taking in the regal splendour of the **Royal Castle** (p49)
- 6 Tapping into the capital's **nightlife** (p72), whether it be bar-hopping, clubbing, jazz or highbrow entertainment
- 7 Admiring Warsaw's palaces at **Łazienki Park** (p59) and **Wilanów Palace** (p60)