



Mazovia & Podlasie

POP 5.3 MILLION

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Restauracja Art Deco (p100)
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- ➔ Ato Sushi (p94)
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- ➔ Carska (p111)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel Tumski (p99)
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- ➔ Hotel Branicki (p104)
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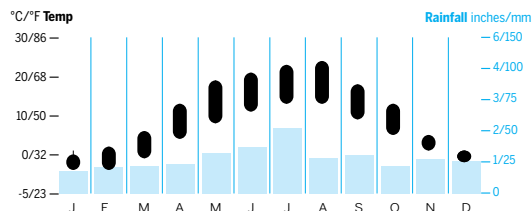
Why Go?

The rolling landscape of Mazovia (Mazowsze in Polish) may look blissful, but this central region has had an eventful history. Once a duchy, Mazovia is dotted with castles, cathedrals and palaces, the biggest of which reside in the riverside towns of Płock and Pułtusk. Łódź is the provincial capital, with more going for it than meets the eye. It's Poland's third-largest metropolis and reflects the ups and downs of its industrial past in its mix of gritty and restored architecture. If you take the time to discover its charms, you'll be happy you did.

To the east, the Podlasie region acts as the green lungs of Poland. Aside from a few urban centres, this province abutting the Lithuanian and Belarusian borders is a paradise of farmland, forest and lakes. Its four national parks are splendid: Narew and Biebrza for their marshlands; Wigry for its lakes; and Białowieża for its primeval forest and wild European bison, the kings of Polish fauna.

When to Go

Łódź



May & Jun
Celebrate spring amid the lush primeval greenery of Białowieża National Park.

Jun Visit Łódź for the 'Four Cultures' (Polish, Russian, Jewish, German) festival.

Sep Enjoy the last of the warm weather while kayaking in and around the Augustów Canal.



Mazovia & Podlasie Highlights

① Marvelling at the industrial heritage and movie magic of **Łódź** (p89).

② Harking back to a time of romance at **Arkadia & Nieborów** (p96).

③ Wondering how **Płock** (p97) got hold of so many Art Nouveau treasures.

④ Strolling the attractive

grounds of the Branicki Palace (p102) in **Białystok**.

⑤ Exploring the last remnants of Poland's Tatar culture at **Kruszyniany & Bohoniki** (p108).

⑥ Searching primeval forest for a glimpse of the rare European bison at **Białowieża National Park** (p109).

⑦ Relaxing the mind and exercising the body kayaking the Rospuda and Czarna Hańcza in the **Augustów-Suwałki region** (p113).

⑧ Catching your breath as sunshine reveals the stunning scenery of the **Suwałki Landscape Park** (p116).