

RIPE68

Your guide to

WARSAW | POLAND

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ripe68.ripe.net





Introduction

Welcome to RIPE 68! We've been on the hunt for the best restaurants, nightlife and "must-see" spots in Warsaw. Our top tips are included in this guide so that you can make the most of your time in this remarkable city.

There's a useful summary of transportation links (p5) that will help you navigate your way around Warsaw's winding streets. With our advice, the handy map (p8) and our list of Polish phrases (p6), you'll be navigating like a Varsovian (resident of Warsaw) in no time!

But where to go with all your newly acquired knowledge? We've got that covered. We searched high and low for recommendations as to who serves the tastiest pierogies in town (p7-10) and which bars offer the best Tyskie (p12-13). And for those with stronger stomachs, we've written a short cheat sheet to guide you in Polish drinking customs (p11).

There's plenty to see and do, from historical sights to balloon flights – and we've listed something for everybody (p14-15). Whether it's culture, cuisine, cocktails or clubbing that grabs your interest, you're bound to find a "must visit" destination or activity in this guide to Warsaw.

Have a fantastic RIPE 68!



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Health and Safety

The Warsaw city centre is generally a very safe area with a strong police presence. However, as with any unfamiliar area, exercise a little extra caution.

The Praga district has a reputation as a rough area at night. We advise doing as the locals do and using a taxi to get in and out of that district as opposed to public transportation.

Pickpockets can sometimes be a problem, so be careful to hold onto your belongings when in a crowd or on public transportation.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in all workplaces, at transportation stations (including airports), on public transportation and in enclosed public spaces (including restaurants, nightclubs, bars and casinos).

Some enclosed spaces have separate smoking rooms or smoking areas.

Medical Services

We hope you will be happy and healthy during RIPE 68! However, should you become ill or need medical attention while in Warsaw, there are private hospitals and clinics available:

Carolina Medical Center ul. Pory 78 02-757 Warsaw Tel: +48 (0)22 355 82 00 Centrum Medyczne - LIM Center Al. Jerozolimskie 65/79 00-697 Warsaw Tel: +48 (0)22 458 7000

There are many pharmacies (apteka) in Warsaw, and several stay open all night. Details of these night pharmacies can be found in the 'Supermarket' section of the "Gazeta Wyborcza" newspaper (Polish only).

There is an all-night pharmacy at the central train station.



Important Numbers

If dialing from a mobile phone, always dial '22' before a number.

Police: 997 Fire service: 998 Ambulance: 999 Emergency: 112

Bear in mind that most telephone dispatchers will not speak English.

Getting Around

Warsaw has an integrated public transport system (ZTM). The tram, bus and metro lines all use the same ticketing system.

Buying Tickets

Buy a ticket before boarding, or from the bus or tram driver while the vehicle is still at the stop. Tickets are sold at newsstands, hotels, post offices, metro stations and various general stores look for a sign saying 'Sprzedaż Biletów ZTM'.

Types of Ticket

A short-term travelcard valid for 20 minutes costs 3.40PLN. Alternatively, a single-fare transfer ticket costs 4.40PLN for one zone (valid for 75 minutes) or 7.00PLN for two zones (valid for 90 minutes), and can be used for an unlimited number of journeys within the time period specified. Also available are unlimited one-day travelcards for 15PLN and weekend travelcards for 24PLN. All of these include both day lines and night lines.

Remember to validate your ticket!

Feed your ticket (magnetic stripe facing down) into the little yellow machine on the bus or tram when you board, or at the metro station entrance gate before boarding.

Times

Main routes on the transport network operate from around 05:00 to approximately 23:00. Services are frequent and mostly reliable, but they can be crowded during rush hours.

On Friday and Saturday nights, the metroruns until 02:30.

After 23:00, several night bus routes link major suburbs to the city centre.
The night bus service 'hub' is at ul. Emilii Plater, next to the Palace of Culture & Science. Buses depart every 30 minutes.

Taxis

We advise using only the official "Radio-Taxi" companies. Their cars are recognisable by the mermaid symbols and yellow/red stripes on the doors, and price information clearly displayed on the back window. It's best to call a taxi in advance:

City Warsaw Taxi 194 59 Super Taxi 196 22 Tele Radio Taxi 196 27

Always type the prefix 22 when dialing a five-digit number on a mobile phone.

Polish Phrases

While Polish is arguably a difficult language for foreigners to learn, our phrase guide will have you up to speed when interacting with the locals! We've included a pronunciation guide in brackets ().

In English... In Polish (pronunciation)...

Hello (formal) Dzień dobry (Jeh-ni bob-ry)

Hello (informal) Cześć (Tch-esh-ch)

How are you?

Jak się masz? (Yahk shie mah-sh)

Fine, thank you

Dziękuję, dobrze (Jenkoo-yeng dob-sheh)

What is your name?

My name is ______ (Nah-zivam sheh ____)

Nazywam się _____ (Nah-zivam sheh ____)

Pleased to meet you Miło Cie poznać (mee-woh cheh poz-natch)

Please Proszę' (PRO-she)
Thank you Dziękuję (Jenkoo-yeah)
You're welcome (formal) Proszę' (PRO-sheh)
You're welcome (informal) Nie ma za co (nye ma za t

You're welcome (informal)

Nie ma za co (nye ma za tso)

Tak (tahk)

Yes Tak (tahk)
No Nie (nye)

Excuse me (for attention)

I'm sorry

Goodbye (formal)

Przepraszam (pshe-pra-sham)

Przepraszam (pshe-pra-sham)

Do widzenia (do vee-dze-nya)

Goodbye (informal) Pa (pah)

I can't speak Polish [well] Nie mówię [dobrze] po polsku

(nye moo-vye [dob-zhe] po pol-skoo)
I don't understand Nie rozumiem (Nyeh roh-zoom-yem)
How much for this? Ile to kosztuje? (ileh toh kosh-too-ye)
I want that Chciałbym to (hch-chow-buhm toh)

I don't want that

Nie chciałbym to (nye hch-chow-buhm toh)

One beer, please

Poprosze jedno piwo (po-pro-sheh yed-no pee-

voh)

Cheers! Na zdrowie (naz-dro-v-yeh)
Bon appetit! Smacznego (smatch-nego)

It's delicious To jest smaczne (toh yest smatch-neh)

I'm a vegetarian

Jestem wegetarianinem

(Yestem vege-tar-ian-ee-nem)

I am lost

Zabłądziłem (zah-bwon-TZEE-wehm)

Where is the toilet?

Gdzie jest toaleta? (g-jeh yest to-a-leta)

Prosze o rachunek (pro-sheh o ra-hoo-neck)

The most common curse slang word in Polish is kurwa, which can mean either an expletive...or a comma! Don't be alarmed if you hear a Pole muttering this after they ask you a question and realise you aren't Polish and don't know how to respond.



Places to Eat

Warsaw has a growing reputation as a city of great eateries, and there's bound to be someplace that serves food to tickle your taste buds. Traditional Polish restaurants, exotic hideaways and the most contemporary cuisine await, but remember to reserve a table to avoid disappointment!

Ale Gloria (1)

alegloria.pl/en

Plac Trzech Krzyży +48 22 584 7080

f f f f f

Savour modern Polish food in a lavish setting influenced by Polish folk art.
Ask the waiter to give you a tour of the strawberry, crystal and hunting rooms, and to indicate the Malczewski reproductions. We recommend the pavlova with strawberry sauce - it can be shared between two. Reservations are a must.

Pierogarnia na Bednarskiej (2)

pierogarnianabednarskiej.pl/

ul. Bednarska 28/30

+48 22 828 0392

€€

Enjoy traditional Polish cuisine in this authentic eatery famous for their exceptional 'pierogies' (filled dumplings, boiled or fried).

U Fukiera (3)

ufukiera.pl

Rynek Starego Miasta 27

+48 22 831 5808

€€€

Fukiera is Warsaw's oldest restaurant - and the most famous - boasting a glittering clientele ranging from supermodels to royals. The atmosphere is a unique mix of medieval and old aristocracy, while the menu is a lavish version of traditional Polish cuisine.

Nonsolo Pizza (4)

nonsolo.pl/en/index_en.html

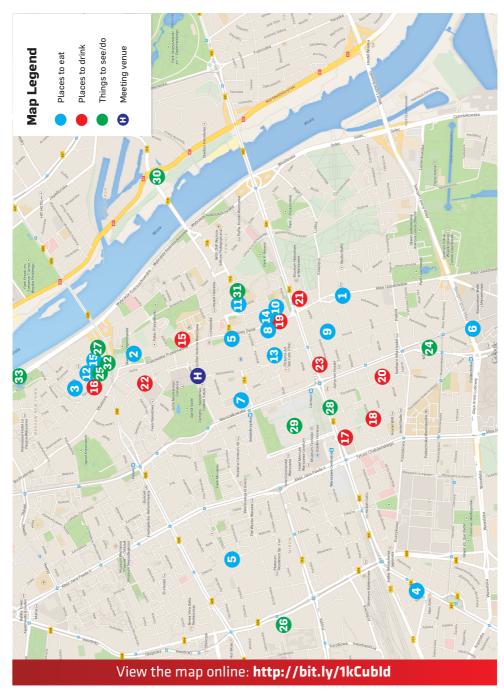
ul. Grójecka 28/30

+48 22 824 1273

€€

Arguably the best pizza in town and often frequented by locals. The house speciality is the 'Nonsolo' pizza, topped with tomato, mozarella, ham, mushrooms and garlic. Be prepared to wait for a table in the evenings.

Average cost for three courses (excluding drinks): € € € € = €80+ € € € = €60 € € = €40 € = €20 or less



Obera Pod Czerwonym Wieprzem (5)

czerwonywieprz.pl/en

Żelazna 68

+48 22 850 31 44

€€€€

Experience a taste of the Cold War in this internationally acclaimed restaurant styled after the Polish People's Republic (PRL). Enjoy dishes named after Communist icons, such as Mao's chicken and Kadar's Hungarian potato pancake, in elaborate surroundings decorated with flags, chandeliers and - of course - portraits of Lenin and the like. Our tip: if you're with a group, order a beer tube! Reserve well in advance.

Tandoor Palace (6)

tandoor.com.pl/EN/

ul. Marszałkowska 21/25

+48 22 825 23 75

€€

Tandoor Palace is widely regarded as the best Indian restaurant in the country. Specialising (as the name suggests) in tandoori dishes, Tandoor Palace is especially popular with foreign residents in Warsaw.

Banjaluka (7)

banjaluka.pl/

Szkolna 2/4

+48 22 828 10 60

€€

Mad about meat? Banjaluka's got what you need! This Balkan restaurant serves a mixture of Croat, Serbian, Bosnia, and Jewish recipes - in massive portions! In the warmer months, the garden is one of the best spots in Warsaw, often hosting an outdoor barbecue.

Brooklyn Burgers and Wings (8)

facebook.com/BrooklynBurgersandWings Nowy Swiat 36

+48 22 270 21 44

€.

Gourmet-style burgers prepared in an open kitchen. Savour a bite of Brooklyn in this cheap and cheerful, American-run burger joint that also offers delicious wings, cakes, home-made lemonade and more.

Sushi Zushi (9)

sushizushi.pl/ (Polish language only)

Żurawia 6/12

+48 22 420 33 73

€€€

If you're craving sushi, this is the place to be, with sushi and teppanyaki created right before your eyes! The menu is a more modern take on sushi - but if there's something you enjoy that isn't listed, don't be afraid to ask the chef to whip it up.

Opasly Tom Restauracja Autorska (10)

kregliccy.pl/english/opaslyTom.php

ul. Foksal 17

+48 22 621 18 81

€€€

A small restaurant in the city centre featuring a short menu that changes seasonally. Most dishes are inspired by Polish cuisine, with a modern twist. Four- and six-course tasting menus are available, accompanied by wine tastings.

Restauracja Stary Dom (off-map)

starydom.info/restaurant-old-house

Puławska 104/106 +48 22 646 42 08

€€€€

Enjoy Polish hospitality and delicacies amid beautiful, rustic wooden interiors. Friendly staff and acclaimed steak tartare – but don't forget to book!

Tamka 43 (11)

tamka43.pl/english/

ul. Tamka 43, 00-355 Warsaw +48 22 441 62 34

€€€€

An eclectic seasonal menu featuring sous vide ("under vacuum") cuisine. Tamka 43 is a mixture of restaurant, wine bar and café, all situated in the city centre in the modernist building of The Fryderyk Chopin Institute, opposite the Baroque Ostrogski Palace. Gastronomers will be particularly impressed by the head chef's CV – previous employers include two of the world's best restaurants: Copenhagen's Noma and Spain's elBulli.

Zapiecek (12)

grbistro.pl/index.php?lang=en

Świętojańska 13, Warsaw

+48 22 635 61 09

€

A traditional Polish food chain, but don't let that put you off. If you're into large portions for a reasonable price, pay Zapiecek a visit – we hear their pierogies are excellent.

GR Bistro & Restaurant (13)

grbistro.pl/index.php?lang=en ul. Szpitalna 8

+48 22 828 42 85

€

After reasonable rates and a relaxed atmosphere? Look no further! GR Bistro & Restaurant offers an Italian-inspired menu and if you arrive for happy hour (usually before 20:00) you can take advantage of cheap drinks to accompany your meal.

Papaya (14)

papaya.waw.pl/lang,en.html

ul. Foksal 16

€€€

Cosmopolitan Asian bar/restaurant in a minimally designed setting, complemented by fresh bright colours and Asian touches. The food is acclaimed, and the bar is well-stocked with old reliables, as well as more diverse drinks including sake and plum wine.

Restaurant Polka (15)

warszawa.restauracjapolka.pl/en/ ul. Świętojańska 2, 00-288 Warsaw € €

+48 22 635 35 35

Head on down to the Old Town to visit Restaurant Polka for delicious, traditional Polish food from local celebrity chef, Magda Gessler.



What About the Wódka?

Vodka has been a part of Polish tradition for hundreds of years. Here's how to drink like a Pole:

- 1. Grab your buddies. In Poland, drinking is a public affair always have a group of friends with you to share your vodka (and imminent hangover).
- 2. Don't dilute! Vodka is drunk neat, chilled (but without ice) and usually in measurements of 50ml. Poles generally don't drink vodka in cocktails or diluted with a mixer to traditionalists, these practices are almost criminal!
- 3. Don't forget the toast. The most common toast is "na zdrowie" (pronounced "naz-dro-v-yeh"), meaning "to health".
- 4. Brace yourself! Vodka is always drunk in one gulp, or "do dna" ('to the bottom'), regardless of size.
- 5. Take a break. While drinks are immediately refilled, take some time between each toast to sip some water or enjoy a Polish snack, like pickles or sausage.
- 6. Drink up! If you're a guest in somebody's home, your host will expect the bottle to be empty before you leave.



Wódka: From A to Ż(ytnia)

Polish vodka comes in a number of colours and flavours. Czysta (clear) vodka is not the only species of the vodka family. Clear vodka is the common choice for seasoned drinkers – Wyborowa is the finest of the wheat-based clear vodkas, and Żytnia the best of the rye-based ones. However, there's a wide variety of vodkas - from super sweet to extra dry, including:

- Myśliwska ('hunter's vodka'; tastes similar to gin)
- Wiśniówka (flavoured with cherries)
- Jarzębiak (flavoured with rowan berries)
- Cytrynówka (flavoured with lemon)
- Pieprzówka (flavoured with pepper)
- The famous Żubrówka ('bison vodka', flavoured with grass from the Białowieśa Forest where the bison feed)

Places to Drink

Now that you know how to drink like a native, it's time to put your newfound knowledge to the test! Warsaw is a hotbed of watering holes and you're never far from a refreshing beer or a busy nightclub - the choice is yours...



Karmnik (16)

facebook.com/karmnikbar ul. Piwna 4a +48 22 468 06 64

Karmnik's curvy stark white space is reminiscent of a hip igloo. Standing in welcome contrast to the neighbouring historical spots such as the Warsaw Royal Castle, Karmnik's a good place for an out-of-the-ordinary beer while enjoying ambient grooves. Ask the barman to "surprise you" – and expect anything from a sweet drink to bacon-infused whiskey.

Panorama Bar and Lounge (17)

panoramabar.pl

40th Floor, Warsaw Marriott Hotel Aleje Jerozolimskie 65/79 +48 22 630 6306

Located on the 40th floor of the Marriott Hotel, this glass-walled lounge bar offers a stunning panoramic view of Warsaw. Once your gaze returns to the interior, you'll notice that the double-decked bar itself is strikingly classy, too. Great for cocktails.

Legends (18)

legendsbar.pl/en/ ul. Emilii Plater 25 +48 22 622 4640

If you prefer your drinks a bit more down to earth, give Legends a try. This family-owned pub offers a traditional British menu and selection of drinks. They stock cider, Guinness, English ales and all the local Polish drinks, too. Frequented by Poles, British expats and tourists alike.

Sketch (19)

ul. Foksal 19 +48 22 602 762 764

Sketch is two floors of bright spacious interiors, where you'll find an array of beers (130 from around the world!), cocktails, spirits and a variety of sandwiches, salads, main dishes and desserts. They also have the best Belgian fries in town.

Beirut Hummus & Music Bar (20)

facebook.com/beiruthummusbar Poznańska 12

An atmospheric bar (made of sandbags) offering Lebanese snacks to pair with your frosty beer. When the weather is nice, the front is open to the street, letting passers by marvel at the sound system and unique hairstyles of the hip staff.

Cuda na Kiju (21)

ul. Nowy Świat 6/12, Warsaw

Housed in the former Communist Party HQ, just next to the statue of General De Gaulle, this three-level bar hosts an impressive 16 taps pouring European beers. The enthusiastic and knowledgeable barmen are constantly on the prowl for new guest beers for the ever-changing drinks menu. The inside is relaxed and there are three different seating areas outdoors, so you can take your pick depending on the weather.

Gniazdo Piratów (off-map)

gniazdopiratow.com.pl (Polish only) ul. Ogólna 5, 01-702 Warsaw +48 22 633 71 82

If you've ever longed for the life of a pirate, this is the place for you, m'hearty! Jolly Roger flags and lanterns hang from the rigging and live sea shanties have the crowds singing along in a tuneless chorus. Also serves food.

Level UP (22)

facebook.com/levelupbar ul. Ogólna 5 +48 22 514 691 120

What happens when you mix cocktails with consoles? Level UP bar! This Polish bar prides itself on its unique "gaming" take. The bar hosts in-house tournaments on game consoles and shows the most popular "e-sports" matches on large screens. Think of it as a sports bar for video game fanatics.

Sheesha Lounge (23)

Aleje Jerozolimskie 33 +48 22 828 25 25

Sheesha transforms from its peaceful daylight persona into one of the most popular dance venues in town during its regular club nights. The ground floor level turns into a dance floor and in-house DJs Alex and Saad belt out mainly Arabic, Asian and R&B fat beats. Belly dancers and darbuka players make frequent appearances to add to the multicultural shenanigans and steamy ambience. Strict door policy.

Things to See & Do

MiTo (24)

mito.art.pl/

Ludwika Waryńskiego 28

An art cafe with a fantastic selection of books. A must visit for keen readers – and the cakes are nice, too.

Lazienki Park (25)

Aleje Ujazdowskie

Magnificent palace and garden complex, built by King Stanislaw August Poniatowski during the second half of the eighteenth century. Features the neoclassical Palace on the Water (Lazienki Palace) surrounded by magnificent gardens, canals and ponds. This massive park is very clean, and home to various squirrels and peacocks.

Warsaw Uprising Museum (26)

http://www.1944.pl/en/ ul. Grzybowska 79 +48 22 539 79 05

The museum details events of 1944, when the Polish people stood up to their Nazi oppressors. A sombre experience and a must visit for history buffs. Admission is free on Sundays at time of writing.

Royal Castle (27)

zamek-krolewski.pl/en Pl. Zamkowy 4

This castle was rebuilt after it was destroyed by Nazis after the Warsaw uprising. It has been rebuilt to replicate

the original castle's 17th-century architecture and interiors. There are often classical concerts held inside the palace itself.

Fotoplasticon (28)

fotoplastikon.stereos.pl/index-en.html Aleje Jerozolimskie 51 (enter through the courtyard)

A hidden gem in the centre of Warsaw. The fotoplasticon shows images through a dual lens which gives them a 3D quality. Unlike much of Warsaw, this particular specimen survived the war and has been entertaining Varsovians for a century. Step through the curtain, into a small room filled by this large contraption, and you'll find yourself among the streets and people of days gone by. Open from 10:00-18:00, Tuesday-Sunday.

Palace of Culture and Science (29)

http://www.pkin.pl/en/ Plac Defilad 1

Even if you don't take the tour (which we recommend), do pay the "sky deck" a visit. On the 30th floor, at 114 metres, this terrace is a well-known tourist attraction with a panoramic view of the city.

Stacja Balon (30)

by Swietokrzyski Bridge, Warsaw, Poland stacjabalon.pl/en/

Stacja Balon is a tethered helium balloon offering flights up to a height of 120m. The

balloon takes a maximum of 30 people, and from the observation deck you can experience a fantastic, panoramic view of Warsaw. Flies daily from 10:00-22:00 but flights depend on weather conditions, so call or check the website to confirm.

Eat Warsaw Food and Vodka Tours

eatwarsaw.com

Location will be disclosed when booking +48 22 513 605 518

This food tour gives you an opportunity to taste great Polish dishes and hear the stories behind them. You will visit five establishments accompanied by a friendly Warsaw foodie, so be prepared for a full meal (and dessert, of course). There will be plenty of walking, so wear comfortable shoes. Be sure to book.



Fryderyk Chopin Museum (31) chopin.museum ul Okólnik 1

A high-tech, multimedia museum spanning four floors, showcasing the works of the country's most famous composer. Don't miss the listening booths in the basement where you can enjoy Chopin's works to your heart's content. Even non-fans will enjoy this extremely interactive museum. Be sure to book your visit via the website or telephone.

Orange Umbrella Free Tour (32)

orangeumbrella.pl/

Sigismund's Column, Castle Sq.

A free walking tour of Warsaw, led by a friendly, licensed Varsovian city guide. Tours start at 11:00 from Sigismund's Column in Castle Square and last 2.5 hours. Highly recommended.

Boat Trip to Serock (33)

The "Zefir" ship takes you on a cruise along the Vistula and the Đeran Canal to Serock on the Zegrzyński Lake. The cruise runs from May to June on Saturdays and Sundays only. The boat leaves from Warsaw Podzamcze - Multimedia Fountain Park, below the Royal castle, at 9:00. You'll get to Serock at 12:00 and the return trip leaves at 13:30, getting you back to Warsaw for 18:00. Round-trip tickets are 36PLN per person at time of writing.

Warsaw's Old Town (34)

The Old Town is bounded by the Wybrzeże Gdańskie, the bank of Vistula River, and Grodzka. Mostowa and Podwale Streets. The heart of the area is the Old Town Market Place, rich in restaurants, cafés and shops. Surrounding streets feature medieval architecture such as the city walls, the Barbican and St. John's Cathedral. Much of the city was destroyed during World War II. After the war, a five-year reconstruction campaign by its citizens resulted in today's meticulous restoration of the Old Town. It's an outstanding example of a neartotal reconstruction of an era of history spanning the 13th to 20th centuries.



Useful Info

RIPE 68 takes place at the Sofitel Warsaw Victoria.

Sofitel Warsaw Victoria Królewska 11 00-065 Warsaw Poland

Tel: +48 (0)22 657 80 11

For more information about RIPE 68, visit: ripe68.ripe.net

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