



48 HOURS IN

Warsaw

TASTE · DISCOVER · LINGER

EUROPEAN SERIES

Welcome to Warsaw.

Warsaw doesn't get the postcard reputation Krakow does, and that's exactly the point. Nearly the entire city was destroyed in World War II — the Old Town you'll walk through is a meticulous, brick-by-brick reconstruction completed after 1945, built from photographs, paintings, and the sheer will of a city that refused to disappear. What Warsaw offers instead of untouched medieval streets is something rarer: proof of what a city can do with its own resurrection.

What Warsaw has that no other city on this itinerary has: a rebuilt UNESCO-listed Old Town that is itself a monument to resilience; the Warsaw Uprising Museum, widely considered one of the best-curated history museums in Europe; a food scene split between milk bars serving Communist-era cafeteria classics and a genuinely inventive modern restaurant scene, all at prices well below Western Europe; and Praga, a gritty, real, increasingly creative neighborhood across the river that most first-time visitors skip and shouldn't.

Warsaw rewards solo travelers who go looking for the layers under the reconstruction. Walk the Royal Route at your own pace. Sit with the Warsaw Uprising Museum's weight for a full afternoon. Eat where the price tag has nothing to do with the quality. Cross the river into Praga before you decide you've seen the city. This is the itinerary.

DAY ONE

Day One — Old Town · Royal Route · Warsaw Uprising Museum

Day One covers the rebuilt historic core and the museum that best explains why it needed rebuilding.

MORNING · 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**9:00 AM**

Old Town Market Square (Rynek Starego Miasta)

The colorful, meticulously reconstructed heart of Warsaw's Old Town — a UNESCO World Heritage Site specifically because of the completeness of its post-war restoration. Coffee at a square-side café is the natural start.

10:00 AM

Royal Castle & Castle Square

Plac Zamkowy. The Royal Castle, seat of Polish monarchs and later the President, was almost entirely destroyed in WWII and rebuilt from surviving fragments and pre-war paintings. The Sigismund Column stands at the square's center.

11:00 AM

Barbican & City Walls

A short walk north from the square — the fortified gateway between the Old and New Town, one of the few sections of the medieval wall to survive intact.

12:00 PM

Nowy Świat

Walk south from the Old Town toward this Parisian-style boulevard — cafés, boutiques, and people-watching. A good midday wander before the afternoon's heavier history.

AFTERNOON · 1:00 PM – 6:30 PM**1:00 PM**

Lunch: A Milk Bar (Bar Mleczny)

Bar Bambino or Bar Familijny (both near Nowy Świat). Communist-era cafeteria-style dining — cheap, filling, unpretentious. Żurek (sour rye soup), pierogi, gołąbki (cabbage rolls). Under 25 PLN for a full meal.

2:30 PM

Warsaw Uprising Museum

Grzybowska 79, Wola district (short taxi/Uber ride from the Old Town). Entry 35 PLN; closed Tuesdays; closes around 6pm. Tells the story of the 1944 uprising against Nazi occupation through personal accounts, artefacts, and interactive exhibits. Free on Thursdays. Book a skip-the-line ticket in advance.

INSIDER TIP

Widely regarded as one of the best-curated history museums in Europe — allow a full 2.5–3 hours, and expect it to be emotionally heavy.

5:30 PM

Nowogrodzka Street Craft Beer District

A short walk from the museum. Warsaw's unofficial craft beer strip, several tap rooms within easy walking distance — a good decompression stop after the Uprising Museum.

EVENING · 7:00 PM – LATE

7:00 PM

Dinner: Stary Dom

Traditional Polish cooking, well-reviewed and reliably good — bigos, pierogi, roast meats. €15–28.

9:00 PM

Cyber Machina

A genuinely distinctive bar — board games, arcade games, Nintendo Switch stations, and inventive cocktails. A fun, low-pressure solo-friendly evening spot.

DAY TWO

Day Two — Łazienki Park · Vistula Riverside · Praga

Day Two moves from Warsaw's green spaces to its most authentic, least-touristed neighborhood across the river.

MORNING · 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

10:00 AM

Łazienki Park

Warsaw's largest park, 76 hectares. The Palace on the Isle and the Old Orangery are the architectural highlights; peacocks roam the grounds. Free entry to the park itself.

INSIDER TIP

Free open-air Chopin concerts run on Sundays, mid-May through September, at the Chopin Monument inside the park — genuinely magical if your dates line up.

11:30 AM

Vistula Riverside Walk

Walk north along the river from the park toward the city center — the National Stadium and the Copernicus Science Centre are both visible en route.

12:30 PM

Copernicus Science Centre (optional)

Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 20, riverside. A strong interactive science museum, good rainy-day option if the weather turns — otherwise skip in favor of more time in Praga.

AFTERNOON · 1:30 PM – 6:00 PM

1:30 PM

Lunch: Hala Koszyki

Trendy converted food hall, Śródmieście. Multiple vendors, good solo counter seating, casual. €8–16.

3:00 PM

Praga District

Cross the river (tram or short Uber) into Praga — Warsaw's grittiest, most authentic neighborhood, largely untouched by WWII destruction (which is why it looks and feels different from the rest of the city). Koneser Praga Centre has indie shops, cafés, and galleries in a converted vodka factory complex.

5:00 PM

POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews (optional)

Back across the river, near the Old Town. A powerful, well-curated museum on 1,000 years of Polish-Jewish history. Good alternative or addition if time allows.

EVENING · 7:00 PM – LATE

7:00 PM

Dinner: Zielony Niedzwiedz or Restauracja Akademia

Both recommended as upscale-but-not-overly-touristy dinner options away from the Old Town crowds. €20–38.

9:00 PM

Bar Pacyfik

A lively, creative cocktail bar — good Polish twists on classics, a fitting way to close a Warsaw weekend.

WHERE TO EAT

Warsaw's Table

RESTAURANT	NEIGHBOURHOOD	PRICE
Bar Bambino / Bar Familijny (milk bars)	Near Nowy Świat	Under €6
Stary Dom	Śródmieście	€15–28
Hala Koszyki	Food hall, Śródmieście	€8–16
Zielony Niedzwiedz	Śródmieście	€20–38
Restauracja Akademia	Śródmieście	€20–38
Krowarzywa	Multiple locations	€6–10 (vegan burgers)
Syrena Irena	Praga	Under €10 (pierogi)

GETTING AROUND

Navigating Warsaw

MODE	COST	NOTES
Walking	Free	Old Town and Royal Route are entirely walkable; Praga requires crossing the river.
Metro / Tram / Bus	~4.40 PLN single / 15 PLN 24hr	Extensive, efficient network; buy via Jakdojade app or station machines.
Uber / Bolt	Metered, shown up front	Airport to city center runs under 40 PLN — cheaper and more reliable than street taxis.
Airport (Chopin)	Train, ~20 min	SKM line S3 connects Warszawa Centralna directly to Chopin Airport.
Airport (Modlin, budget carriers)	ModlinBus, ~45 min	30–35 PLN to the city center.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Before You Go

TOPIC	DETAILS
Getting There	Warsaw Chopin Airport (WAW), 10km from center, direct train link. Modlin (WMI) serves Ryanair and other budget carriers, 40km out.
Best Time	May–September: pleasant weather, outdoor cafés, parks in bloom. December: Christmas markets, very cold.
Solo Dining	Very easy — milk bars and food halls are naturally solo-friendly, and Warsaw's dining culture overall accommodates solo diners well.
Language	Polish; English widely spoken in the city center and among younger residents.
Useful Apps	Jakdojade (transit planner + ticketing), Uber/Bolt, Google Maps (offline download).

Warsaw awaits.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Final Checklist

- ❑ Book Warsaw Uprising Museum skip-the-line ticket in advance — avoids the midday queue
- ❑ Note Thursday free-entry days at the Uprising Museum and POLIN, if your dates align
- ❑ Try a milk bar (bar mleczny) at least once — cheap, authentic, and central to Warsaw's food identity
- ❑ Avoid the “friendly stranger leads you to a bar” pattern in the Old Town at night — a documented overcharging scam
- ❑ Use Uber or Bolt over street taxis, especially from the airport or Centralna station
- ❑ Check menu prices and itemized bills carefully in Old Town tourist-zone restaurants
- ❑ Download offline maps before arrival

Your interactive map is one scan away.

All locations from this guide, colour-coded by day, open on your phone.

goingsolo.life/maps/warsaw

Your interactive map is one scan away.

All locations from this guide, colour-coded by day, open on your phone.



goingsolo.life/maps/warsaw