



IS IT SAFE?

# *Warsaw*

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SOLO TRAVELER SAFETY GUIDE

## SAFETY GUIDE SERIES

# Overall Safety Assessment

RATING: Safe — one of Europe's safer capitals; standard vigilance around a specific, well-documented Old Town nightlife scam.

Warsaw carries a crime index of roughly 26 out of 100 (Numbeo), reflecting low crime levels comparable to or better than most major European capitals. Violent crime against tourists is rare, public transport is clean and well-regulated, and the city's central districts — Śródmieście, the Old Town, the Royal Route — feel lively and safe well into the night. Poland's NATO and EU membership underpin strong institutional stability; the Russia-Ukraine war has no meaningful impact on daily life or tourism safety in Warsaw, which sits hundreds of kilometers from any conflict activity.

The primary risk for solo travelers, and especially solo male travelers, is a specific and well-documented Old Town nightlife scam involving friendly strangers steering visitors to bars with inflated, undisclosed pricing — detailed below. Otherwise, standard petty-theft precautions in crowded tourist areas cover the rest.

## RATING SCALE

★★★★ = Very safe    ★★★ = Safe    ★★ = Use awareness    ★ = Avoid at night    = Avoid

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY

# Neighbourhood Safety at a Glance

| AREA                                         | RATING | NOTES                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Old Town / Castle Square                     | ★★★★   | Closely patrolled, bustling day and night; watch for the bar-steering scam after dark.                         |
| Śródmieście (City Center)                    | ★★★★★  | Warsaw's safest, most patrolled district — business and shopping hub.                                          |
| Royal Route / Nowy Świat                     | ★★★★   | Well-lit, active, safe for evening strolls.                                                                    |
| Praga                                        | ★★★★   | Grittier and less touristy but genuinely safe in daytime and early evening; standard urban caution after dark. |
| Żoliborz                                     | ★★★★★  | Quiet, residential, green — safe at all hours.                                                                 |
| Around Warszawa Centralna Station            | ★★★    | Standard major-station vigilance, particularly for taxi overcharging and after dark.                           |
| Mokótow (late night, less central stretches) | ★★★    | Generally safe but public transport less frequent late at night — plan return transport in advance.            |

## COMMON SCAMS &amp; RISKS

## Common Scams & Risks

### Old Town bar-steering scam:

The signature Warsaw scam. Friendly, English-speaking strangers (often presenting as fellow tourists) approach in the Old Town at night and suggest a specific bar. Once inside, drinks arrive without menus or prices, and the bill can run into hundreds of złoty. Avoid any bar recommended by a stranger on the street, and always confirm a venue has visible, posted pricing before ordering.

### Fake sick-relative / rose scam:

A child or young person presses a flower into your hand near a major landmark, then launches into a fabricated story about a sick relative and a needed donation. Decline firmly and keep walking — do not accept the item in the first place.

### Taxi overcharging:

Unlicensed taxis near airports and train stations are the main culprits. Use Uber or Bolt, or confirm a licensed taxi's meter before departure.

### Bill padding / undisclosed extras:

Some Old Town restaurants add bread, olives, or “cover charges” without clearly stating them upfront. Check the menu twice and review the itemized bill before paying.

### Fake currency exchange:

Street or unofficial exchange offices may give counterfeit or short-changed currency. Use ATMs inside bank branches or official exchange counters only.

## HEALTH &amp; MEDICAL

## Health & Medical

### Central Clinical Hospital, Medical University of Warsaw (Banacha Campus)

Ul. Banacha 1a, Warsaw. One of the city's main public hospitals handling emergency care.

### Szpital Kliniczny Dzieciątka Jezus

Ul. Lindleya 4, Warsaw — handles most public emergency cases centrally.

### LUX MED / Medcover Hospital

Al. Jerozolimskie 65/79. Private care with English-speaking doctors — the standard recommendation for tourists and expats needing faster, English-language service.

### Insurance note

Poland's public system (NFZ) treats EU/EEA citizens with a valid EHIC/GHIC card on the same terms as Polish nationals, though wait times can be long. Non-EU visitors are billed directly and should carry comprehensive travel insurance — minimum €100,000 medical coverage is a commonly recommended baseline.

## SOLO WOMEN TRAVELERS

## Solo Women Travelers

Warsaw is widely considered safe for women traveling solo — the 2026 Women, Peace and Security Index scores Poland at 0.92, reflecting low risk, and the city is well-lit with plentiful public space where women report feeling comfortable even at night. Standard precautions apply: stick to main streets and well-populated areas after dark, avoid walking alone in Praga or outer districts late at night, and be cautious of overly friendly strangers — the Old Town bar-steering scam above targets women as well as men, typically via a warm, low-pressure approach rather than an obvious hustle. Public transport is safe and reliable for solo evening travel.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

# Emergency Contacts

| SERVICE                                    | CONTACT                |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Emergency (general, all services)          | 112                    |
| Police                                     | 997                    |
| Fire                                       | 998                    |
| Ambulance                                  | 999                    |
| Central Clinical Hospital (Banacha Campus) | Ul. Banacha 1a, Warsaw |
| US Embassy Warsaw                          | +48 (22) 504-2000      |