

MUSEUMS IN WARSAW, POLAND:

Royal Castle

pl. Zamkowy 4

tel. +48 22 355 51 70

<http://www.zamek-krolewski.pl/?page=1117>

The former residence of Polish kings and the seat of the Sejm of the Two Nations Republic. The classicist era marked the castle's heyday in the 18th century, during the reign of King Stanisław August Poniatowski. Destroyed during World War II by the Nazis, the palace has been restored thanks to the efforts of the entire nation; the interior decoration features salvaged works of art from the old Castle. Worth seeing are the Great and the Royal Suite with the Great, the Throne and Canaletto Halls (featuring 22 original paintings by Bernard Bellotto called Canaletto), the Senators Hall, in which the Constitution of May 3 passed in 1791 is exhibited, along with Rembrandt's paintings "Girl in the Picture Frame" and "Scholar at the Desk".

The Kubicki Arcades (Arkady Kubickiego) exhibit archaeological objects and manor lodgings. The Pod Blachą Palace (Pałac pod Blachą) presents a unique collection of eastern rugs from the Teresa Sahakian Foundation collection.

National Museum

Al. Jerozolimskie 3

tel. 22 629 30 93

<http://www.mnw.art.pl/index.php/en/>

The National Museum in Warsaw is the largest art museum in Poland. Collected over a period of more than 140 years, the objects total close to a million paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, numismatics and objets d'art. A large part of the collection is presented in the following permanent galleries: Ancient Art, Eastern-Catholic Art, Medieval Art, Polish Painting, European Painting, 20th century Polish Art and Decorative Arts; and there are a huge number of temporary exhibitions on display.

One of the most important parts of the Museum is the Medieval Art Gallery, which is the only place in Europe which presents a collection of medieval Christian paintings from Africa. Paintings from Sudanese Nubia, discovered by Polish archaeologists and dating from the VIII to XIII-XIV centuries, depict the divine and holy people, and Nubian clergy and laity. Also notable is the Gallery of Polish Painting, presented in chronological order, showing the trends and styles in Polish painting from the 16th century to World War I, and including over 400 works of the greatest Polish artists - Marcello Bacciarelli, Jan Matejko, Józef Chełmonski, Józef Mehoffer, Jacek Malczewski and Olga Boznańska. Now the Museum has got its own impressive collections in which a enormous size painting (426 x 987 cm) 'Battle of Grunwald' by Jan Matejko is undoubtedly one of the main attractions

Łazienki Królewskie Museum

ul. Agrykoli 1

tel. 22 506 01 01

<http://www.lazienki-krolewskie.pl/en>

Łazienki Królewskie Museum is a Palace-Garden complex which includes a park (76 hectares of nature, right in the city center) and numerous historical objects. The park was created using the formerly wildy growing forest, allowing the animals to be 'detained' under natural conditions. In the 18th century it became the most beautiful planned area in Warsaw and one of the most beautiful in Europe, equally stunning in terms of its greenery and architecture.

Łazienki performs a variety of functions: it is a museum, a place of cultural, scientific and entertainment events, and a favourite place for walks. It is also an important place for music lovers. For 50 years, at the foot of the world's most famous monument of Fryderyk Chopin, on Saturdays and Sundays during the summer, free piano concerts have been held, gathering crowds of tourists and music lovers.

The Wilanów Palace Museum

ul. St. Kostki Potockiego 10/16

tel. 801 011 779, 22 842 81 01

www.wilanow-palac.art.pl/en

The Wilanów Palace is one of the most precious monuments of Polish Baroque. Built for King Jan III Sobieski at the end of the 17th century and gradually expanded by successive owners, it represents an unusual combination of a traditional Polish court with an Italian rural villa and a French chateau. The interiors of the palace, with their original design and decadent furniture, represent three style eras. The oldest, Baroque royal apartments are located in the main building, while the south wing represents an 18th century style and the more modern rooms, decorated by the Potocki family in the 19th century, are in the northern wing. The Crimson Hall, the Cabinet of the Etruscans, the Lapidary and the pre-Gallery Cabinet are all part of the historical museum founded in 1805.

The first floor houses the Polish Portrait Gallery of Works from the 16th to the 19th centuries, with portraits of kings, representatives of great aristocratic families, distinguished Poles and cultural figures. Among them, characteristic Polish coffin portraits and Sarmatian Counterfeits are also displayed. The two-level garden is the 'frame' of Wilanów Palace, and somehow manages to combine a stylish Baroque garden, a romantic English-Chinese park, an English landscape park and a neo-Renaissance garden into a stylish and harmonious whole. The eastern part of the grounds are surrounded by a lake, the southern end of which has a cascading water feature, and the whole of the garden is decorated with sculptures, fountains and miniature samples of architecture.

Fryderyk Chopin Museum

ul. Okólnik 1 (mapa)

tel. 22 441 62 51

<http://chopin.museum/en>

Housed in Ostrogski Palace (Pałac Ostrogskich), strikingly situated on the Vistula escarpment, it is a baroque-classical jewel of a building. The Museum's beginnings date back to the 1930s: in 1935, the Chopin Institute (as it was called then), founded by prominent representatives of culture, began to purchase and collect several valuable manuscripts from the composer's relatives.

As such, the museum's exhibits make up the world's richest and most varied collection of memorabilia related to both Chopin as an individual, and his work. The collection includes manuscripts and printed copies of Chopin's works, his correspondence, autographs, notes, works of art, personal items belonging to the composer and his piano. There are also some extremely valuable and moving exhibits on show, most notably the post-mortem face mask, and a cast of his hand.

The newly-opened museum in the renovated Ostrogski Palace is the most modern biographical museum in Europe. Multimedia exhibitions and touch screens – here the real world meets the virtual. The ticket to enter this magical world is an electronic card; by using it, one may hear commentary and information in several languages, and listen to music.

No matter if you are a tourist, a musicologist, or even a child – everyone will find something to interest them. This museum was specifically designed so that everyone can create their own sightseeing route and itinerary, in accordance with their personal interests.

The entire exhibition consists of 15 rooms, each one creating a separate 'mini-museum'. You can thus see and experience how Chopin lived: take a stroll through Warsaw, then enjoy 'his Paris', listen to the twittering birds in Nohant, inhale the scent of violets – Chopin's favourite flowers, meet some women from his life, sense when the composer was displeased, listen to his works... and finally, enter the room of death, which is designed as a big black box.

Copernicus Science Centre

ul. Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 20

tel. 22 596 41 00

<http://www.kopernik.org.pl/en/>

The latest attraction of the capital! Opened in November 2010, is one of the most modern institutions of this kind in Europe. Its mission is to arouse the curiosity, assisting in independent cognition of the world as well as inspiring social dialogues on scientific issues. Here, thanks to experiments some complicated nature phenomenon become easy to understand. Hundreds of attractions will be waiting for visitors. The undoubted attractions include: Elektrybałt (electric poet, machine composing poems – its precursor form was character from 'The Cyberiad' story by Stanisław Lem), earthquake simulator, twister and magic carpet.

A roof garden will offer panorama terraces and the park around the centre artistic exhibits, an art gallery and a climbing wall.

Warsaw Rising Museum

ul. Grzybowska 79

tel. 22 539 79 05

<http://www.1944.pl/en/>

The Warsaw Rising Museum is one of the most visited places in Warsaw. Opened on the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of fighting in the city, it is a tribute to those who fought and died for a free Poland and its capital. The exhibition shows the struggle of everyday life before and during the Warsaw Uprising and the horror of occupation – which was a complex international situation – to the post-war communist terror and the fate of insurgents in the PRL. Images and sounds present the days prior to the outbreak of the Uprising, its subsequent phases, as well as the insurgents' exit and their subsequent fate. With an area of over 3,000 meters, there are nearly 1,000 exhibits and 1,500 photographs and films.

The heart of the Museum is a steel monument, passing through all the floors of the building. On its walls is engraved the Uprising's calendar of events, and the sound of a heartbeat which can be heard from inside symbolizes the life of Warsaw in 1944. A special attraction is the Museum tower, with a beautiful view of Warsaw and Freedom Park with the Memorial Wall, on which are engraved the names of more than 10,000 insurgents who died during battle. In the central part of the wall the 'Monter' bell is hung: weighing 230 kg, it is dedicated to General Antoni Chruściel.

From August 1st, visitors can see the 3D movie 'The City of Ruins'. It is the simulation of the Liberator plane flights over destroyed Warsaw in 1945.

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