

BERLIN

Museum Sinsel (Unesco)

Brief Description

The museum as a social phenomenon owes its origins to the Age of Enlightenment in the 18th century. The five museums on the Museumsinsel in Berlin, built between 1824 and 1930, are the realization of a visionary project and show the evolution of approaches to museum design over the course of the 20th century. Each museum was designed so as to establish an organic connection with the art it houses. The importance of the museum's collections – which trace the development of civilizations throughout the ages – is enhanced by the urban and architectural quality of the buildings.

Justification for Inscription

Criterion (ii): The Berlin Museumsinsel is a unique ensemble of museum buildings which illustrates the evolution of modern museum design over more than a century.

Criterion (iv): The art museum is a social phenomenon that owes its origins to the Age of Enlightenment and its extension to all people to the French Revolution. The Museumsinsel is the most outstanding example of this concept given material form and a symbolic central urban setting.

Torun

This walled, medieval town on the **UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites** is often called the Copernician Town, because it was the birthplace of Mikolaj Kopernik (Copernicus). It's location on the banks of the Vistula River offers a popular place for people to promenade, leading to the ruins of the 13th-century Castle of the Teutonic Knights. Regular boat tours operate on the river in summer. The city's former wealth is expressed in the impressive Town Hall and parts of the Church of St John – where Copernicus was baptised and later taught – which date from the 13th century. The Gothic townhouse where Copernicus was born is located at ulica Kopernika 17. Torun is also famous for its gingerbread, still baked in medieval moulds according to a traditional recipe. The city is 200km (124 miles) from Warsaw and is reachable by train from Warsaw Centralna (journey time 3 hours) or by Polski Express bus, which departs every hour from the bus stop near Warsaw Centralna (journey time – 3 hours 40 minutes). Further information is provided by Torun Tourist Information Centre, ulica Piekary 37/39, 87100 Torun (tel: (056) 621 0931; fax: (056) 621 0930; website: www.man.torun.pl).

UNESCO

Brief Description

Torun owes its origins to the Teutonic Order, which built a castle there in the mid-13th century as a base for the conquest and evangelization of Prussia. It soon developed a commercial role as part of the Hanseatic League. In the Old and New Town, the many imposing public and private buildings from the 14th and 15th centuries (among them the house of Copernicus) are striking evidence of Torun's importance.

Justification for Inscription

The Committee decided to inscribe this property on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iv), considering that Torun is a small historic trading city that preserves to a remarkable

extent its original street pattern and outstanding early buildings, and which provides an exceptionally complete picture of the medieval way of life.

VARSOVIA

UNESCO Brief Description

During the Warsaw Uprising in August 1944, more than 85% of Warsaw's historic centre was destroyed by Nazi troops. After the war, a five-year reconstruction campaign by its citizens resulted in today's meticulous restoration of the Old Town, with its churches, palaces and market-place. It is an outstanding example of a near-total reconstruction of a span of history covering the 13th to the 20th century.

Many people still have an image of Warsaw as a dull concrete jungle, a wasteland of Soviet-era housing with little appeal. The city does undoubtedly have its fair share of problems and whole swathes of its suburbs are indeed dominated by the less-than-imaginative creations of communist-era architects. But there is far more to one of Europe's most underrated cities, with a string of things to see, an impressive cultural scene and an increasingly lively nightlife. Warsaw is a real survivor – the city's current day existence is impressive in itself.

By the end of World War II, roughly 85% of the city lay in ruins and most of the population had been killed, deported or sent to concentration camps. More than a third of Warsaw's pre-war population was Jewish, although there are hardly any traces of this heritage remaining, as the city's prosperous Jewish community was decimated by the end of the war. Much of Warsaw's historic centre was painstakingly recreated in the years after World War II, in a move by the communist authorities, which surprised the citizens of the city as it much as it did the West. Some churlish critics have dismissed the 'new' Old Town as being nothing but an unconvincing fake, although the loss of the original was hardly Warsaw's fault and many of Europe's old towns have undergone similar refurbishment and rebuilding. Somewhat ironically, many of today's Old Town buildings are closer to the original architecture than they were before destruction, as the alterations of the intervening centuries were not incorporated in the reconstruction. The strikingly successful rebuilding of the Old Town was finally rewarded in 1980, when the entire complex earned its place on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Situated in the Mazowieckie province, in east-central Poland, the city spans the Wisla (Vistula River) and all the main tourist sites are on the left bank, while the right bank contains the increasingly fashionable Praga district. The tourist epicentre of Warsaw is the 'Royal Route', which runs north-south from the New and Old Towns, past the fashionable shops of Nowy Swiat, the palaces that survived the war and the royal gardens of Lazienki Park, before reaching Wilanow Palace to the south of the city centre. The city also boasts many green spaces, with leafy parks where rowing boats cruise past outdoor cafés, during the summer, and free classical concerts attract crowds in a scene far removed from the dull Communist-era images of Warsaw. The nightlife scene today is equally surprising, with the city's clued-up and increasingly well dressed youth flocking to the countless bars and clubs of a city that now buzzes after dark.

Warsaw is still very much Poland's largest city and the nation's economic, cultural and educational hub, a role that looks set to expand yet further when the country finally

joins the European Union. The peak tourist season is from May to October, when the weather is most pleasant, although there will be some odd days when the temperature rises above 30°C (86°F). January and February are the coldest months and temperatures can drop as low as -30°C (-22°F).

History

1025 Boleslaw the Brave is crowned as the first King of Poland
1374 Warsaw is founded
1413 Warsaw becomes capital of Mazovia
1569 Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania unite as the Republic of Two Nations
1572 King Zygmunt II August dies heirless – end of Jagiellonian dynasty; beginning of Polish Baroque period
1596 Warsaw becomes Poland's capital when King Zygmunt III Waza (Vasa) makes it his permanent residence
1655 Warsaw is destroyed during the war with Sweden
1683 Jan III Sobieski breaks the Turks' siege of Vienna
1696 Death of Jan III Sobieski
1764-72 Reign of Stanislaw August Poniatowski, the last King of Poland
1791 Democratic constitution is passed by the Sejm
1794 Tadeusz Kosciuszko leads the insurrection against the partitioners of Poland
1795 Third partition – Poland ceases to exist until 1918. Warsaw is under Prussian rule
1807 Duchy of Warsaw is established under Napoleon with Warsaw as its capital
1810 Chopin is born just outside of Warsaw
1815 Congress Kingdom of Poland is established, but is ruled by the Russian tsar
1830 & 1863 Armed uprising against Russian rule
1918 Poland regains its independence and Warsaw becomes capital of the Second Republic
1939-45 Nazi German occupation begins; Jews are forced to live in a walled-in ghetto and then sent to concentration camps
1943 Liquidation of the Jewish ghetto; remaining 300,000 are sent to their deaths at Treblinka concentration camp
1944 Warsaw uprising lasts 63 days – 200,000 people are killed; entire population is deported and city is destroyed
1945 Warsaw is liberated and becomes the capital again
1955 Stalin builds the Palace of Culture
1981 Solidarity movement begins; martial law is imposed
1989 Free elections mark the end of the communist regime

Sightseeing

For many people, the very symbol of the city is the voluminous Palace of Culture and Science, which was gifted to Warsaw by Stalin. The viewing deck is now accessible via express lifts and this is the best venue for visitors to get acquainted with the layout of the city.

Sightseeing in Warsaw is generally concentrated on the left bank of the Vistula river. The UNESCO World Heritage Old Town is unmissable – quite literally, seeing as many of the city's attractions and a whole host of cafés, bars and restaurants are located within its environs. The Old Town is both a physical and symbolic expression of the city's

spirit and determination to come back from the brink of annihilation at the end of World War II. Most visitors to Warsaw spend their first day strolling around the Old Town, where one can find the opulent and impressive Royal Castle, once home of the Polish kings. Outside the historic centre is Wilanow, a charming palace on a grand scale, which was modelled on Versailles.

Warsaw boasts a number of green lungs and Lazienki Park is one of the most relaxing, with its Palace on the Water and boating lake. The city is also home to an impressive array of cultural attractions, with a string of museums, including the National Museum, Chopin Museum and the haunting Pawiak Museum, which served as a cruel prison under the Nazis. Perhaps the most depressing and emotive testament to Warsaw's past is the Jewish Ghetto, or lack of it – an area that gives away little of the history of what actually happened but still retains a sense of unspoken tragedy.

Tourist Information

Warszawskie Centrum Informacji Turystycznej (Warsaw Tourism Information Centre)
89 Krakowskie Przedmiescie

Tel: (022) 9431. Fax: (022) 629 0750.

E-mail: info@warsawtour.pl

Website: www.warsawtour.bptnet.pl

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 0800-2000, Sat 0900-1700 and Sun 0900-1500 (May-Sep);
Mon-Fri 0800-1800; Sat-Sun 0900-1500 (Oct-Apr).

There are also tourist information centres at the Okęcie Airport arrivals hall, the Warsaw Central railway station, the Historical Museum in the Old Town and Warsaw West coach station. There is also a tourist information telephone service with English-speaking operators (tel: 9431).

Passes

There are currently no tourist passes available in Warsaw.

Key Attractions

Zamek Krolewski (Royal Castle)

Walking through the Royal Castle, one has to constantly remind oneself that most of it was reconstructed between 1971 and 1984, although the darker elements of the decor were actually salvaged from the ruins. The castle, located on a plateau overlooking the Vistula River, was built for the Dukes of Mazovia and expanded when King Zygmunt III Vasa moved the capital to Warsaw. From the early 17th until the late 18th century, this was the seat of the Polish kings. It subsequently housed the parliament and is now a museum displaying tapestries, period furniture, coffin portraits and collections of porcelain and other decorative arts. Work is underway to recreate the castle gardens, set on the slopes of the Vistula River, which were also badly scarred when the Nazis levelled the rest of the castle complex.

Plac Zamkowy 4 (ticket office situated at ulica Swietojanska 2)

Tel: (022) 657 2170 or 2338, ticket office. Fax: (022) 635 7260.

E-mail: zamek@zamek-krolewski.art.pl

Website: www.zamek-krolewski.art.pl

Transport: Tram 4, 13, 26 or 32; bus 125, 170 or 190.

Opening hours: Tues-Sat 1000-1800, Sun and Mon 1100-1800 (Jul-Sep); Tues-Sat 1000-1600, Sun 1100-1600 (Oct-Jun).

Admission: Z8 (permanent exhibits); Z14 (royal apartments); Z70 (English-speaking guide); free on Sun; concessions available.

Lazienki Park

In addition to a number of palaces, Lazienki Park contains the Chopin Monument – where the annual Chopin Festival is held each summer – and the Orangerie, set within extensive 18th-century gardens. Palac Lazienkowski (Palace on the Water) is best viewed from near the monument to Jan Sobiewski, on the bridge where ulica Agrykola crosses the water. Originally built in 1624, for King Zygmunt III Vasa, Zamek Ujazdowski (Ujazdowski Castle) now houses the Centre of Contemporary Art. The 1764 Palac Belweder (Belvedere Palace) was the residence of King Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski and later of Poland's 20th-century presidents. On warm summer days, rowing boats offer short cruises around the park's lake. Cycling is banned in the park.

Ulica Agrykola 1

Tel: (022) 621 8212.

Transport: Bus 114, 116, 118, 151 or 195.

Opening hours: Tues-Sun 0900-1500; park closes at sunset.

Admission: Free (park); Z10, free on Sat (Palace on the Water); Z5, free on Tues (Orangerie); Z4, free on Sat (Belvedere Palace); concessions available.

Wilanow Palace

In the mid-1600s, King Jan III Sobieski commissioned Augustyn Locci to build the Baroque palace and garden of Wilanow for his summer residence. Construction continued from 1677 until the king's death in 1696. It remained popular with subsequent monarchs. Visitors can tour the interior and the gallery, which features portraits of famous Poles. Artistic handicrafts are on display in the Orangerie. Also here is the Muzeum Plaktau w Wilanowie (Poster Museum at Wilanow), the first of its kind in the world. Entrance to the palace requires a guide, for a group of one to 35 people, although the park is open to unaccompanied visitors. Restoration work, the speed and scale of which is determined by current funding levels, is ongoing but affects few visits.

Ulica St. Potockiego 1

Tel: (022) 842 8101.

E-mail: wilanowm@mercury.ci.uw.edu.pl

Website: www.wilanow-palac.art.pl

Transport: Bus 116, 130, 164 or 180.

Opening hours: Mon, Wed-Sat 0930-1400, Sun 0930-1800; park closes at sunset.

Admission: Z4 (park); Z115 (palace – with English-speaking guide), Z23 per person (palace – for a group of six or more people with English-speaking guide); free on Thurs (park, Orangerie and temporary exhibitions); concessions available.

Pawiak Prison

This eerie old prison symbolises the oppression that has haunted Varsovians over the last two centuries. Originally built in the 1830s, at the order of the ruling Czars, the prison incarcerated many victims of the Nazi reign of terror from 1939-1944, when it

served as the largest political prison in Poland. A third of the estimated 100,000 detainees never made it out alive. The Nazis tried to dynamite the evidence of their crimes as they left but Pawiak is back as a museum and a testament to the city's seemingly endless ability to suffer and survive.

Ulica Dzielna 24/26

Tel: (022) 831 9289. Fax: (022) 831 1317

Transport: Bus 1 and 8.

Opening hours: Wed 0900-1700, Thurs 0900-1600, Fri 1000-1700, Sat 0900-1600, Sun 1000-1600.

Admission: Free.

Narodowe (National Museum)

The National Museum's impressive art collection dates from ancient times to the present day. Highlights include Jan Matejko's monumental Battle of Grunwald, which celebrates the Polish victory over the Teutonic Knights in 1410, and a collection of Egyptian art, which is unique in Europe. Unusually, there are also galleries of Polish and European decorative arts. Frequent temporary exhibitions bring prized international works – from Andy Warhol to Caravaggio – to Warsaw.

Aleja Jerozolimskie 3

Tel: (022) 621 1031. Fax: (022) 622 8559

E-mail: muzeum@mnw.art.pl

Website: www.mnw.art.pl

Transport: Metro Centrum.

Opening hours: Tues, Wed and Fri 1000-1600, Thurs 1200-1700, Sat and Sun 1000-1700.

Admission: Z9; Z13 (temporary exhibitions); concessions available; free Sat.

Katedra sw. Jana (St John's Cathedral)

St John's claims to be the oldest church in Warsaw. Although a major church in the Mazovian Gothic style, completed in the 15th century, St John's was only upgraded from a parish church to a cathedral in 1798. Destroyed during World War II, it has been reconstructed in its original style and features major Gothic art works by Wit Stwosz. The cathedral was used in 1764, for the coronation of the last Polish king (Stanislaw II) and for the swearing in of the Sejm (Polish Parliament) after the constitution of 1791. The covered footbridge connecting it to the Royal Palace was the result of a failed assassination attempt on King Zygmunt III.

Ulica Swietojanska 8.

Tel. (022) 831 0289.

Transport: North of the Royal Castle; tram 4, 13, 26 or 32; bus 125, 170 or 190.

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 1000-1800, Sun 1400-1800 (cathedral); daily 1000-1300 and 1500-1730 (crypt).

Admission: Free.

Getto Zydowskie (Jewish Ghetto)

What is markedly absent from Warsaw contributes as much to its history as anything that has been preserved or reconstructed. Pre-war Warsaw had a Jewish population

second only to New York. After the Nazi invasion, some 400,000 Jews were rounded up and forced to stay in the Jewish ghetto. A three-metre-high (ten-foot) wall encircled the area, from the Palace of Culture and Science to the Umschlagplatz monument, corner of ulica Stawki and ulica Dzika. This stark monument, erected in the late 1980s, marks the place from where Jews were despatched by train to the Treblinka concentration camp, following the Ghetto Uprising of 19 April 1943. The centre of the ghetto is marked by the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, ulica L Zamenhofa, which was erected on a sea of ruins in 1948. Other memorials are the Monument of the Killed and Murdered in the East, ulica Muranowska, and the 1944 Warsaw Uprising Monument, plac Krasinskiach. Only three sections of the actual ghetto wall remain.

Further information about the Jewish Ghetto is available at the Jewish Historical Institute Gallery, located on the site of the former Great Synagogue. The Institute has a permanent display of work by Jewish artists, as well as photographs and documents relating to the Jewish ghetto, a bookshop (with copies in English) on the Jews of Eastern Europe and archives at the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation is located on the premises (entrance by appointment only). There are also plans for a brand new Jewish museum, which will be built on the site of the ghetto and funded by Jewish groups around the world.

Jewish Historical Institute and Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project

Ulica Tlomackie 3/5

Tel: (022) 827 9221. Fax: (022) 827 1843.

Website: www.jewishinstitute.org.pl

Transport: Bus 107, 111, 166, 171, 180 or 512; tram 2, 4, 15, 18, 31 or 36.

Opening hours: Tues-Fri 0900-1500, Sat and Sun by prior appointment only.

Admission: Free.

Palac Kultury I Nauki (Palace of Culture and Science)

Varsovians are somewhat divided when it comes to this marvel of Socialist Realism, for decades (at 231 metres) the tallest and largest building in Poland and a reminder of Stalin's ambitions – it was a gift from him to the city, in 1955. The viewing platform on the 30th floor gives a terrific view over Warsaw. What is reputed to be the world's highest clock tower was added in 2001.

Ulica Emilii Plater

Tel: (022) 656 7136.

Transport: Tram 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 18, 22 or 35.

Opening hours: Daily 0900-2400.

Admission: Z15; Z20 after 2100 (including a drink); concessions available.

Malbork

El castillo de los caballeros teutónicos de Malbork, la fortaleza gótica más grande de Europa también despierta el interés de los turistas. La fortaleza consta de tres castillos rodeados por fortificaciones separadas y ocupa una superficie aproximadamente 20 hectáreas. Dentro del castillo hay una exposición de objetos de ámbar. Una atracción

especial es la visita nocturna al castillo. En verano cuando anochece se organizan en los patios del castillo espectáculos "Luz y sonido".

Muskauer Park / Park Muzakowski Unesco World Heritage

Poland Lubskie County, Zary Region, Leknica Town, Poland
and

Saxony, Neiderschlesien Bezirk Oberlausitz, Bad Muskau Town, Germany
N51 34 45.5 E14 43 35.2

Brief Description

A landscaped park of 559.90-ha astride the Neisse river and the border between Poland and Germany, it was created by Prince Hermann von Puckler-Muskau from 1815 to 1844. Blending seamlessly with the surrounding farmed landscape, the park pioneered new approaches to landscape design and influenced the development of landscape architecture in Europe and America. Designed as a 'painting with plants', it did not seek to evoke classical landscapes, paradise, or some lost perfection, instead it used local plants to enhance the inherent qualities of the existing landscape. This integrated landscape extends into the town of Muskau with green passages that formed urban parks framing areas for development. The town thus became a design component in a utopian landscape. The site also features a reconstructed castle, bridges and an arboretum.

Justification for Inscription

Criterion (i): Muskauer Park is an exceptional example of a European landscape park that broke new ground in terms of development towards an ideal made-made landscape.

Criterion (iv): Muskauer Park was the forerunner for new approaches to landscape design in cities, and influenced the development of 'landscape architecture' as a discipline

Camping sites in Poznan, Poland.

Lake Malta
Krankowa 98
Poznan Tel:061 876 6155

Camping sites in Torun, Poland.

UIN: 442006
ul. Kujawska 14,
Torun

Tel:056 654 7187

CAMPINGS EN VARSOVIA

El mas recomendado

UIN: 452068

Wok, Odrębna 16

04-867 Warszawa

Warszawa Tel:+48 22 612-79-51

Fax:+48 22 615-61-27

Opening dates:01.04 - 31.10 No. of pitches:30

Time of Last Entry:24:00

Price*:11 Zlotych

Awards:Mister Camping

Directions: Drive to Warsaw, then cross the Vistula river on its east side, drive south parallel to the river (road no. 801 - Wal Miedzeszynski) and look for our road signs. We are located on the left side, about 200 m. from the main road.

You may also use a train. Then go out at Warsaw East railway station, take bus no. 146 and get off at the 20th bus stop (Romantyczna), you will be 200m from our site.

Visitors Reviews: Small ***** campsite, just one grassy field with trees. Staff speaks English and are friendly. Campsite is secured with a steel fence, so your car is safe. Use the bus to get to the centre of Warsaw, tickets are available at the reception! Good toilets and showers (for free), barbecue garden, small bar and simple restaurant. When I left the owner stopped me to give me a bottle of mineral water for the road.

Camping

Nr 34 ul. Zwirki i Wigury 32

Warszawa Tel:022 825 4391

Astur Camping

Nr 123

ul. Bitwy Warszawskiej

Warszawa Tel:022 276 778

LETONIA.

NORTH VIDZEME

RESERVA DE LA BIOSFERA.

General Description North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve comprises 53 km of the coastline of the Gulf of Riga and borders to the north the frontier with Estonia. It covers 474,447 hectares corresponding to the catchment basins of the Salace, Svetupe and Vitrupe Rivers. Lakes characterise the landscape (over sixty greater than 3 hectares) as well as gentle glacially formed hills and rolling plains. The coastal part consists of sandy beaches, coastal meadows and areas of bare rocks. The area is important from a conservation point of view since it harbours raised bogs, wild rivers with wild Baltic

salmon, coastal meadows which are traditionally maintained by grazing and remnants of the ancient broadleaf forest. 60 people live in the core area of the biosphere reserve (1997). In the surrounding areas, agriculture is the economic main activity, although traditional grazing practices are declining. There are 25,000 visitors per year and tourism is increasing (1997). Monitoring focuses on topics such as water quality, air pollution, plant communities and insects. There are also many training and environmental education activities.

Major ecosystem type Temperate and sub-polar broadleaf forests and woodland, including mire, riverine systems and coastal/marine component

Major habitats & land cover types Boreal coniferous and mixed forests; wetlands; raised bogs and open bog pools; fens and wet meadows; lakes and rivers; coastal dunes and marine littoral area; extensive agricultural and urban areas

Location 57°20' to 58°10'N; 24°20' to 26°00'E