

Key events in 2018



CELEBRATIONS OF THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE IN WARSAW

In 1918, after more than 120 years being partitioned, Poland found itself again on the map of Europe. Warsaw invites you to take part in the joyful celebration of the 100th anniversary of this event, which will last all year. Residents and tourists will be able to take part in a wide range of cultural, educational and sports events. The culmination of the celebrations will be the Grand Warsaw Polonaise, which for one day in November will turn the Royal Route into the largest ballroom in the world.

OPENING OF THE POLISH VODKA MUSEUM (JUNE)

The Koneser Vodka Factory operated in Warsaw for many years. A museum is set to open in the restored buildings where everyone will be able to find out how this traditional Polish liquor is made, while visiting an interactive exhibition and workshops organised on site.

OPENING OF A NEW EXHIBITION OF THE MARIA SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE MUSEUM (NOVEMBER)

A two-time Nobel Prize winner, Maria Skłodowska-Curie was born in Warsaw 150 years ago. The building in which she was born houses a museum that collects items related to the great scholar. The new interactive exhibition will allow visitors to find out more about Maria and learn how she became so famous.

<http://muzeum-msc.pl>

CHOPIN'S WARSAW

For information about all events, visit <http://en.chopin.warsawtour.pl>

FEBRUARY 22nd. – MARCH 1st.

FRYDERYK CHOPIN BIRTHDAY CONCERTS FESTIVAL

The exact date of Fryderyk's birthday remains under debate. Some sources quote February 22nd 1810, others March 1st. These discrepancies have become an excellent opportunity to celebrate the great composer's birthday for a full eight days. This is how the festival was born, which sees Warsaw resound to Chopin's music for days. www.chopin.smolna.org

MAY – SEPTEMBER (every Sunday, 12:00 noon and 04:00 p.m.) – free admission

CHOPIN CONCERTS IN THE ROYAL ŁAZIENKI PARK

The event, held without interruption since 1959, has become Warsaw's cultural trademark. Every summer Sunday, one of the most beautiful parks in the capital attracts hundreds of residents and tourists, perching on benches and nearby lawns to listen to pieces by Chopin performed by distinguished Polish and foreign pianists. www.lazienki-krolewskie.pl

AUGUST

CHOPIN AND HIS EUROPE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

A unique opportunity for classic and contemporary music lovers. The festival – organised in Warsaw by the Fryderyk Chopin Institute since 2005 – follows a different main theme each year. The event is attended by distinguished artists from Poland and from around the world. www.pl.chopin.nifc.pl

SEPTEMBER

1st. INTERNATIONAL CHOPIN COMPETITION ON HISTORICAL INSTRUMENTS

For the first time, pianists from around the world will be able to compete with each other in Warsaw for the title of the best performance of Fryderyk Chopin's works on pianos from the 19th century. The competition is to mark the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining its independence and will take place every five years. www.pl.chopin.nifc.pl

DAILY

Chopin's music resounds throughout Warsaw all year round. Tickets can be bought for daily recitals that take place in several places; they are the perfect way to round off visiting Warsaw's attractions. www.chopin.warsawtour.pl

MUSIC

JANUARY – MAY, NOVEMBER - DECEMBER (every Sunday)

MUSIC SALON AT THE PALACE ON THE ISLE

Sunday concerts at the Palace on the Isle and the Myślewicki Palace have become a regular event in the Royal Łazienki Park cultural schedule, drawing large numbers each year. www.lazienki-krolewskie.pl

MARCH 19th. – 30th.

22nd. LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN EASTER FESTIVAL

A classical music festival held two weeks before Easter. The festival programme changes annually, showing the numerous faces of European music in a commentary on Beethoven's work from a variety of perspectives – thus proving the importance of the place occupied by the composer in the world of contemporary music. www.beethoven.org.pl

JUNE 1st. – 2nd.

ORANGE WARSAW FESTIVAL

A giant stage and world-class performers – the Orange Warsaw Festival is one of the most famous festivals organised in Warsaw. This year's stars include: Sam Smith and Florence and the Machine. www.orangewarsawfestival.pl

JUNE – JULY (weekends) – free admission

ZONE OF SILENCE FESTIVAL

A unique festival, allowing an immersion into the silence of one of the most beautiful Polish parks – the Royal Łazienki Park, and into music performed on stages arranged at numerous locations around the park, in a world of lush greenery. www.strefaciszyfestival.pl

JUNE – JULY

28th. MOZART FESTIVAL

The Mozart Festival in Warsaw, organised without interruption for more than 25 years, is the Warsaw Chamber Opera's flagship artistic event. This is the only European festival presenting Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's entire stage oeuvre. www.operakameralna.pl

JULY 5th. – 8th.

WARSAW SUMMER JAZZ DAYS

One of the most prestigious jazz festivals in Europe – leading world-class performers present the latest jazz trends. www.warsawsummerjazzdays.pl

JUNE 30th. – AUGUST 25th. (every Saturday) – free admission

INTERNATIONAL OPEN-AIR OLD TOWN JAZZ FESTIVAL

Jazz music lovers meet in the Old Town; this is one of the most popular and the largest (in terms of spectator numbers) jazz festivals in Poland. It has become a cultural trademark of the capital, and an attraction for jazz lovers and visitors from Poland and abroad. www.jazznastarowce.pl

SEPTEMBER 21st. – 29th.

WARSAW AUTUMN FESTIVAL

The only contemporary music festival in Poland. For many years, this prestigious international event has been the only one of its kind in Central and Eastern Europe. www.warszawska-jesien.art.pl

SEPTEMBER

THE CROSSING CULTURES FESTIVAL IN WARSAW

The festival is a presentation of the most interesting phenomena in music and culture from faraway places; it remains one of the largest events of its kind in Poland and our part of Europe. The festival's mission is to open Varsovians and visitors to Warsaw to the richness of cultures of the contemporary world.

www.festival.warszawa.pl

SEPTEMBER 28th. – 30th.

LA FOLLE JOURNEE DE VARSOVIE / MAD MUSIC DAYS

The La Folle Journée / Crazy Music Days has for many years been organised in France, Spain, and Japan; since 2010, it has also been held in Warsaw. Year after year, Crazy Music Days have been proving that classical music does not have to be serious nor boring – not least because unusual concerts are organised as part of the festival: astonishing in form, showing interesting phenomena that cross the borders of various forms of art, and presenting remarkable artists. www.szalonednimuzyki.pl

FILM

MAY 11th. – 20th.

AGAINST GRAVITY DOC FILM FESTIVAL

The largest documentary film festival in Poland, and third most popular documentary festival in Europe. In 2015, the audience exceeded 40,000. This is also the only festival in Europe held on a major scale in several cities at once. It continues to trigger intense interest in documentary films, and focuses on all themes of

greatest importance to the contemporary world. www.docsag.pl

OCTOBER

WARSAW FILM FESTIVAL

Over one hundred movies, prestigious premieres, and world-class stars – all this makes the WFF one of the largest film festivals in Central and Eastern Europe. Thousands of film lovers follow cinema trends and festival events each year. www.wff.pl

DECEMBER 7th. – 13th.

18th. INTERNATIONAL WATCH DOCS FESTIVAL – HUMAN RIGHTS IN FILM

Today, WATCH DOCS is one of the two largest human rights-themed documentary film festivals in the world. Audiences are exposed to a blend of human rights and cinema. www.watchdocs.pl

CUISINE

FEBRUARY 8th. – 18th.

WARSAW RESTAURANT WEEK. FINE DINING EDITION

The festival is attended by Warsaw's most prestigious restaurants, where five-course tasting menus are composed and available at special, hugely attractive prices.

APRIL 20th. – 30th.

OCTOBER 19th. – 31th.

WARSAW RESTAURANT WEEK

Now a fixed event on the Warsaw schedule. It attracts crowds of restaurant aficionados as well as people who rarely eat out. Each participating restaurant prepares a three-course menu at an identical affordable price. The festival also includes a number of events themed around food culture and spending free time with family and friends. www.restaurantweek.pl

MAY 24th. – 26th.

OCTOBER

WARSAW BEER FESTIVAL

The largest craft beer festival in Europe, attended by top beer artist-craftsmen. All leading, new wave beer initiatives are showcased. www.warszawskifestiwalpiwa.pl

YEAR ROUND, OPEN AIR EVENTS, APRIL – OCTOBER, WEEKENDS

BREAKFAST BAZAARS

Events attracting thousands of hungry Varsovians and tourists each weekend. Warsaw restaurants, cafes, and ice-cream parlours offer their fare; local producers are present as well. Stands are set up around wooden tables. In the spring and summer season, bazaars operate in Warsaw's parks and on green squares; in the wintertime, they move to unique indoor spaces. <http://targsniadaniowy.pl>

JULY – SEPTEMBER (Friday – Sunday)

NIGHT MARKET

The tastiest image of night-time Warsaw. The market is organised on platforms of the no-longer-used Main Railway Station (Warszawa Główna). A unique destination for those interested in tasting dishes from different parts of the world, served in unique surroundings. Food stands apart, the Night Market offers displays by lifestyle exhibitors, a well-stocked bar and an art zone. www.facebook.com/nocnymarket

SPORTS

MARCH 25th.

PZU WARSAW HALF MARATHON

One of the largest running events in Warsaw, its route leading across the most interesting and picturesque areas of the capital city. www.pzupolmaratonwarszawski.com

APRIL 22nd.

ORLEN MARATHON

This largest running event in Poland will be held for the fifth time this year. Each year, it is attended by thousands of professional and amateur athletes from around the world. www.ornmarathon.pl

SEPTEMBER 30th.

40th PZU WARSAW MARATHON

The 40th. Jubilee edition of the oldest marathon organised in Poland since 1979. Voted the best mass sports event in the country in 2013. Sideline events include a 5-kilometre run, a rollerblade marathon, and a handcycle marathon. www.pzumaratonwarszawski.com

FASHION / DESIGN

SEPTEMBER

WAWA DESIGN FESTIVAL

Top-level creative designing. Wawa Design Festival is a blend of educational and recreational events, while inspiring designers, city authorities, curators, local residents and tourists to take creative action.

www.facebook.com/WawaDesignFestiwal

SEVERAL EDITIONS A YEAR

WZORY DESIGN FAIR

The WZORY Design Fair promotes young design. The organisers seek out and invite young gifted designers in a quest to foster dialogue and engage all senses. By supporting small craft brands, they show their appreciation for originality in terms of form and manufacturing quality alike. <http://wzorytargi.pl>

OCTOBER

SLOW FASHION FAIR

In the course of just a year, Slow Fashion has become one of Poland's key fashion events. The fair's mission is to promote local clothing, jewellery and accessories by designers who have adopted the "slow" ethos. The fair is organised twice a year: in the spring and autumn. www.slow-fashion.pl

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

HUSH WARSAW

Quality and excellent design – these are the values that the HUSH WARSAW organisers follow; the fair is a marvellous opportunity to learn more about young brands that are taking new markets (Poland and others) by storm. <http://targi.hushwarsaw.com>

JUNE AND DECEMBER

MUSTACHE YARD SALE

A fashion and design fair – a great opportunity to buy unique gifts, fashionable clothes and crafted items, as well as natural cosmetics and food truck fare. The Mustache Yard Sale is also a remarkable opportunity for young designers to present their products. www.mustache.pl/yard-sale

MONTHLY

GRAND BAZAR – FASHION FAIR

A regularly held fashion fair – an opportunity to meet the latest hot trends and buy designs from young creators from Poland and abroad. Clothing, footwear, jewellery, accessories and home décor items are on display. www.modnetargi.pl

APRIL AND DECEMBER

PRETTY THINGS FAIR

The Pretty Things Fair is an event that showcases contemporary Polish furniture, lamps, china, posters, textiles, vintage design, books and educational toys. All designs have a number of things in common: top quality, excellent materials, functionality and remarkable aesthetics. The fair supports young designers while serving as a communication and exchange platform for producers and the public.

www.targirezeczyladnych.pl

OTHER KEY EVENTS

MAY 19th.

NIGHT OF MUSEUMS

A major urban event in which museums open their doors to the public free of charge and long after regular opening hours. A number of sideline events are held as well. Free public transport is an extra perk. Vintage buses and trams take visitors to all the main museums, while visits to venues usually closed to the public (such as the Mayor of Warsaw's office and the Belvedere) are a special attraction. www.um.warszawa.pl

MAY – SEPTEMBER

MULTIMEDIA FOUNTAIN PARK, PODZAMCZE

On Friday and Saturday evenings, around 9.00 p.m. (May and September) 9.30 p.m. (June, July, August), 30-minute water-light-sound multimedia shows are given. Computer-controlled fountains, LED lighting, lasers and projections on a giant water screen attract crowds of Varsovians and tourists each weekend.

www.parkfontann.pl

JUNE

FLOWER WREATHS ON THE RIVER

A modern-day answer to the Kupala Night Slavic tradition. In the olden days, the games involved fortune-telling, dancing and girls floating flower garlands with lit candles down the river. Today, the Multimedia Fountain Park has become a venue for concerts, joint weaving of flowers and a huge fireworks display.

www.estrada.com.pl

AUGUST 25th. – OCTOBER 2nd.

SINGER'S WARSAW – JEWISH CULTURE FESTIVAL

Since 2004, Singer's Warsaw Jewish Culture Festival has been commemorating the pre-war Jewish Varshe described by the Nobel Prize winner in his many stories and novels. Every year, many eminent representatives of Jewish culture from around the world come to Poland to attend the festival. www.festiwalasingera.pl

STAR CONCERTS

In 2018, world-class stars will give concerts in Warsaw, including: **Ed Sheeran, James Blunt, Brian Adams, Bobby McFerrin.**

WINTERTIME WARSAW

JANUARY 6th.

CAVALCADE OF MAGI

This family open-air event celebrates the journey of the Three Magi to Bethlehem. During the procession each year, thousands of people unite in the joyful and loud singing of Christmas carols while they follow the Three Wise Men dressed in charming, colourful attire. www.orszak.org

OCTOBER – MARCH

ROYAL GARDEN OF LIGHTS

An enchanting open-air illuminated exhibition, with thousands of colourful LED lights arranged in fantastic shapes. At weekends, the façade of the King John Sobieski III Museum is also adorned with illuminated mappings – three-dimensional light, image, and sound shows. Unique images make ornamental elements of the building come alive. www.wilanow-palac.pl

NOVEMBER – MARCH

WINTERTIME NATIONAL STADIUM

Wintertown at the National PGE Stadium, with 3 skating rinks, an 11-metre ice hill you can whoosh down directly from stadium stands, a curling track, a food court and an underground skatepark. Late-night skating events are organised on Friday and Saturday evenings; skating courses for young children are held on weekend mornings. www.zimowynarodowy.pl

DECEMBER - JANUARY

THE GREAT CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATION

One of Warsaw's major wintertime attractions, adored by tourists and photography aficionados alike. As always, the Christmas tree on Castle Square, Warsaw's streets and inimitable city ornaments will flash and twinkle with thousands of lights.

DECEMBER

WARSAW CHRISTMAS MARKET


The annual Old Town market, offering wares from Polish producers, Christmas decorations, souvenirs, and – most importantly – an authentic Christmas spirit!

www.barbakanrzemioslemzdobiony.pl

More information at:

 [Facebook.com/Warsaw](https://www.facebook.com/Warsaw)

 [Twitter@ewarsaw](https://twitter.com/ewarsaw)

 [Instagram.com/fall_in_love_with_warsaw](https://www.instagram.com/fall_in_love_with_warsaw)

 [WarszawaEN](https://www.youtube.com/WarszawaEN)

www.warsawtour.pl