

DESTINATIONS

SHORT BREAKS | WARSAW

Snapshot

WARSAW

Ella Buchan gives an at-a-glance guide to what's new and happening in the Polish capital

make time for...



Neon Museum

In the past, few tourists crossed the river to the Praga district, but spaces such as the Soho Factory – a compact hub with design shops, murals and restaurants on a former factory site – are changing that. Its Neon Museum highlights the city's post-Second World War history, with restored signage from cinemas, hotels and libraries.

neonmuzeum.org



we love...



Lazienki Park

Visitors are never far from greenery in Warsaw. Perhaps the city's most famous, and vast, park is Łazienki, with immaculately kept lawns, elegant tree-flanked boulevards and eclectic structures – from a lakeside amphitheatre to a 17th-century bathhouse that was later converted into a palace for Poland's final king. Free summer concerts are held by the bronze Chopin Monument, with classical musicians playing works by the Warsaw-raised composer.



dine out...



N31

Chef Robert Sowa is a household name in Poland thanks to TV appearances and cooking for the national football team. The menu at his latest opening, N31, focuses on classic Polish cuisine with a fine-dining edge, served in a sleek dining room.

n31restaurant.pl/en



getting there...



Flights and tours

Lot Polish Airlines flies to Warsaw from London City and Heathrow, from £99 return. To discover a different side to the city, suggest Adventure Warsaw. Tours in vintage Nysa vans cover pre-war and communist Warsaw and visit popular attractions and lesser-explored stops. lot.com; adventurewarsaw.pl/en

what's new...



Polish Vodka Museum

Occupying a former distillery in Praga, the Polish Vodka Museum has been a temple to the spirit since it opened last summer. Galleries trace 600 years of production in Poland and showcase label designs and interactive exhibits on the distillation process, as well as traditional Polish toasts – “fish likes to swim” is a popular one. Visitors can stay for a guided tasting or try a cocktail in Bar 3/4.

muzeumpolskiejwodki.pl/en



PICTURES: Olivassoto.com; Shutterstock

where to stay...



Old Town Warsaw

Close to the airport and a short drive or taxi ride to Old Town Warsaw, the design-led Vienna House Mokotów is geared towards business travellers. With super-comfy beds, sleek bathrooms and a plant-filled restaurant specialising in local produce, it makes a chilled-out base for leisure travellers, too. Weekend rates are cheaper and start at £47 per night B&B (£70 on weeknights). viannahouse.com

