

# EFA 2018 – TRAVELERS' TIPS

## Getting to Warsaw

There are multiple ways to get to Sofitel Warsaw. There are two international airports in Warsaw: Warsaw Chopin Airport ([www.lotnisko-chopina.pl/en](http://www.lotnisko-chopina.pl/en)) and Modlin Airport ([www.modlinairport.pl](http://www.modlinairport.pl)) which serve connections with many countries.

### From Warsaw Chopin Airport

From the Warsaw Chopin Airport you can get to Sofitel by **bus no 175**, the trip should last about 40 min + 5 min walk (28 min to Warszawa Centralna, the central rail station) and cost 4.40 zloty (1.05 EUR); however, there are 4 other lines getting you to other parts of Warsaw operating at the airport: 188, 148, 331, at night: N32.



Another way is to take the **train S2** or **S3**, which can get you to the Warszawa Centralna (22 min). A **taxi** ride should last about 25 min and cost about 30-50 zloty (7.15-12.00 EUR). Traveling from the airport to Sofitel with premium level "Sawa Taxi" will cost you 32 zloty (7.63 EUR) (10km: 8 zl + 2.40 zl/km - rate between 6am and 10pm), with economy level "GlobTaxi" 29 zloty (6.90 EUR). **Uber** ride will cost you 19-26 zl (4.53-6.20 EUR) (basic) or 28-36 zl (6.70-8.60 EUR) (Uber Select).



### From Warsaw Modlin Airport

From the Warsaw Modlin Airport you can get to Sofitel by **modlinBus** ([www.modlinbus.pl](http://www.modlinbus.pl)), the trip to should last about 40 min to Warszawa Centralna and cost 9.00 zloty (2.15 EUR) if you buy online and 35 zloty (8.35 EUR) if you buy from the driver.



Another way is to take the **train** from Modlin train station where you will get by bus operated by Koleje Mazowieckie (included in the ticket). This will cost you 19 zloty (4.53 EUR) and take you to Warszawa Centralna in 35-40 min.

A **taxi** ride should last about 40-50 min and cost about 100-200 zloty (24-48 EUR). Traveling from the airport to Sofitel with "Sawa Taxi" will cost you 159 zloty (daily rate) (38 EUR), and with "GlobTaxi" 99 zloty (daily rate) (23.5 EUR). **Uber** ride will cost you 58-77 zl (basic) or 80-100 zl (Select) (19-24 EUR).

### From Warszawa Centralna (central train station)

Using train as the main transport to Warsaw, you should leave the train at Warszawa Centralna (the central rail station). Then you can take a **bus**: 175 or 128 heading to "Pl. Pilsudskiego", which will take you to Sofitel in 12 min + 6 min walk and should cost 3.40 zloty (0.80 EUR) for a 20-min ticket. **Walking** distance is about 2 km (30-40 min). **Taxi** and **Uber** rides are also possible and will cost 10-15 zloty (2.39-3.58 EUR).

## Getting around Warsaw

There are multiple options to get around in Warsaw. Warsaw has 2 underground lines, buses, trams, local trains, taxis, and municipal bikes (Veturillo).

### How to navigate the city

In general to efficiently move in Warsaw, you can use [Google maps](#) to search for convenient ways to travel between two points using either a car (routes take traffic into account), a bike, public communication, or on foot.

Alternatively, to find the shortest public communication (local train, metro, buses, trams) route via Internet or mobile (Warsaw) you can use an online application <https://jakdojade.pl/warszawa/> (there's a mobile app as well).

### Using the public infrastructure

At the public transport authority's (ZTM) website (<http://www.ztm.waw.pl/index.php?l=2>) you will find all relevant public-transportation information. In general, the **prices for public transport** within the borders of Warsaw (<http://www.ztm.waw.pl/?c=110&l=2>) are: 20 min ticket will cost 3.40 zloty (0.80 EUR) and entitles you to an unlimited number of journeys for a period not exceeding 20 minutes. A single fare transfer ticket costs 4.40 PLN (1.05 EUR) and entitles you to an unlimited number of journeys for a period not exceeding 75 minutes from its validation or entitling to a single journey to a stop or station which is the last on the route. One-day ticket costs 15.00 zloty (3.60 EUR) and entitles to an unlimited number of journeys for 24 hours from its validation. A 3-day ticket costs 36.00 zloty (8.60 EUR) and entitles to an unlimited number of journeys for 72 hours from its validation. You can buy ticket in one of many ticket vending machines at the bus stops and in the metro stations and inside most buses and trams or from many newsstands. Tickets can also be purchased using a mobile phone application. For detailed information search for: mPay, SkyCash, or moBILET. Tickets must be validated immediately after entering the bus or tram, or at the gates leading to platforms in the case of the metro. Transportation of luggage and animals is free of charge.

At night it is worth taking the metro, which runs until midnight on weekdays and at weekends as late as 3:00 AM. Or take night buses marked with the letter "N", which run from 11:15 PM to 04:45 AM.

### Taxi

When using **taxis** in Warsaw, it is recommended that you use taxis with the following: beacon sign "TAXI", a hologram with the license number and the vehicle's registration number on the front glass and on yellow/red stripes with the symbol of Warsaw – a mermaid affixed along both front doors. Taxi **rates** are: 1.50-3.00 zloty/km + 6-8 zloty | 0.36-0.72 EUR/km + 1.43-1.90 EUR (max daily rate) and 2.50-4.5 zloty/km + 6-8 zloty | 0.60-1.07 EUR/km + 1.43-1.90 EUR (max night rate). Hailing a taxi from the rank may be even 30% more expensive than calling one.

### Bike sharing

If you prefer bikes, there are over 200 **Veturillo bike stations** in Warsaw where you can hire a bike. You do



not have to return the bike to the point where it was hired. The first 20 minutes you cycle for free. For the next 40 min you pay a 1 zloty (0.24 EUR), for the second hour 3 zloty (0.72 EUR), the third 5 zloty (1.20 EUR), and for the fourth and all following hours you pay 7 zloty (1.70 EUR). The bikes can be hired for maximum 12 hours at a time. Veturilo bikes can be hired in two ways, either by registering on the webpage [en.veturilo.waw.pl](http://en.veturilo.waw.pl) and paying an initial fee of 10 zloty (2.38 EUR) via the webpage or by registering by credit card at the terminal located at every bicycle station.

### Moving around by car

If you use a **car**, remember to check the parking zones ([http://bit.ly/warsawParkingZones\\_PL](http://bit.ly/warsawParkingZones_PL) - website in Polish; [http://bit.ly/warsawParkingInfo\\_EN](http://bit.ly/warsawParkingInfo_EN) - website in English). The whole of the center of Warsaw is a pay parking zone. This rule applies from Monday to Friday, from 8 am to 6 pm. On Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays parking is free. Parking fees are first hour: 3.00 zloty (0.72 EUR), second hour: 3.60 zloty (0.86 EUR), third hour: 4.20 zloty (1 EUR), fourth and each subsequent hour: 3.00 zloty (0.72 EUR) per hour.

Drivers can also use pay public parking lots. Parking lots in the Warsaw city center are found, i.e. next to large hotels, such as Sofitel Victoria, Mercure Centrum.

## The Town of Warsaw

Learn about Warsaw's troubled history. Visit the beautiful parks and palaces. Wander around Old Town. Bus line #180 used to be known as the Warsaw Tourist line and will take you to most main attractions in the city. If you would like to stock up on free guides, maps etc. you can find one of the several Tourist Information Points (<http://www.warsawtour.pl/en/warsaw-essentials/tourist-information/warsaw-tourist-information-1809.html>).



You will find some more useful information on Warsaw at the City Office website: <http://www.um.warszawa.pl/en> and Practical Warsaw: <http://warsawtour.pl/en/warsaw-essentials/practical-warsaw-1794.html>

There are some special public transportation lines for tourists. First, a special **bus no. 180**, which is a regular bus line that takes you to most of the best tourist destinations in Warsaw and takes you along the Royal Route to Wilanów. The whole route takes about 60-70 minutes. Second, a historic tram **Tourist Line T**. The hosts of these classic vehicles, being at the same time tour guides, are members of the Public Transport Enthusiasts' Club who will be happy to tell you the history of the capital city during the weekend and holiday tours. The trams accept public transport tickets. The Praga district of Warsaw can be admired from the windows of the historic Jelcz bus popularly known as the "**Cucumber**". The tour includes the former Koneser vodka factory, the legendary Różycki market and Praga tenements, chapels, churches and murals. Ticket prices: 50 zloty (12 EUR)/person. You can take a ride around the streets of the Old Town in a **horse-drawn cab** (dorożka), all year round. Cab drivers wait for passengers at Zamkowy Square, and are open to negotiation (but do expect to pay 120-150 zloty (28-36 EUR) for a 25 minute trip. During the summer, an **Old Town Railway** runs daily; during the off-season it runs only at weekends. The route

starts and ends at Plac Zamkowy. During the 30-minute trip through the streets of the Stare and Nowe Miasto, the guide points out interesting buildings, monuments and other attractions. It is possible to request a guide speaking a particular foreign language; for more information. Regular ticket costs 25 zloty (6 EUR). Other special **Hop-on, Hop-off** buses are **Warsaw City-Tour** and **City Sightseeing Bus**. The first (Warsaw City-Tour) invites you to a panoramic tour of tourist attractions of the city. During the tour, which lasts about 2 hours, you can see many beautiful and interesting places of the capital: interesting districts, palaces, churches, monuments, museums, parks, historical cemeteries. On the bus there are audio-guides in 12 languages. Buses run every day, departure point is at Królewska Street by the park, vis a vis Zachęta Gallery. Tickets can be purchased on the bus: 1-day for 70 zloty (16.70 EUR), 2-day for 90 zloty (21.45 EUR), 1 panoramic trip 50 zloty (12.90 EUR). The second bus (City Sightseeing Bus) offers an open top bus route to see all the best sights and attractions of Warsaw. The bus runs every day, all year round and has 2 routes - red (8 stops) and blue (10 stops). The route lasts for 2 hours. They offer a multi-lingual commentary with 8 languages. Tickets can be purchased directly from the driver and at [www.city-sightseeing.com](http://www.city-sightseeing.com). 1-day (24h) regular ticket costs 60 zloty (14.3 EUR), 2-day (48h) ticket 80 zloty (19 EUR), 3-day (72h) ticket 90 zloty (21.45 EUR). If you like river sightseeing, there is a **Wars water tram** (Tramwaj wodny "Wars"). There are two stops on the route – Cypel Czerniakowski, where the cruise begins and ends, and Poniatowski Bridge. There are 4 cruises a day at weekends and public holidays (11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm), and 5 during the week (10am, 11:30am, 1pm, 2:30pm, 4pm). The cruise takes about 2 hours. At weekends, grilled dishes and warm and cold drinks can be purchased onboard. Normal tickets cost 18 zloty (4.30 EUR). Tickets are available directly onboard on the day of the cruise.

## Language

From the ancient custom of greeting visitors with bread and salt, Poland's system of social graces has developed into one that is unmatched in the world, and will often put a smile on your face. Most young people should be able to help you in English, although a small phrasebook wouldn't hurt, especially for the markets and Polish restaurants. You can use Google Translator App - there is an option available to translate signs using just photos.

## Currency

Poland's legal tender is called Złoty (PLN). 1 złoty = 100 groszy.

Coins in circulation: PLN 1, 2, and 5 and 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 groszy coins.

Notes in circulation: PLN 10, 20, 50, 100, and 200 notes. To help the blind and partially sighted, each Polish banknote carries a special mark – a distinctive embossed shape identifying the value of the bank note: PLN 10 – square, PLN 20 – circle, PLN 50 – diamond, PLN 100 - plus sign, PLN 200 – triangle.



Exchange rate as of May 2018

	0,23 EUR
1 PLN	0,27 US Dollar
	0,20 GBP



There are many ATMs (called bankomat), some may dispense EUR. They operate 24 hours a day. Poland is not yet in the Euro Zone, so there is no obligation for sellers to accept Euro.

You can exchange money everywhere in Poland, in big cities and small towns. You can use an ATM machine or visit a bank, currency exchange counter in town or at a hotel reception desk. The best place to exchange money is at the "kantors" spread all over the city. The ones at the airport and central train stations may have slightly less favorable spread. Banks in larger cities are usually open from 9 am to 4 pm on weekdays and until 1 pm on Saturdays. In smaller towns or villages they have more limited business hours, usually from 5 am to 1 pm. Kantors are usually open from 9 am to 7 pm weekdays and until 2 pm on Saturdays. 24-hour services are usually available in larger major tourist centers such as train stations, border crossings and airports.

In Poland, the use of credit cards is widely accepted, particularly in major towns and tourist attractions. The most widely used cards are Europay International, MasterCard International, Visa International, and American Express, both embossed and electronic versions. Electronic cards (Maestro, Visa Electron) can be used only in cash dispensers and at points of sale equipped with electronic card readers. Embossed cards (Eurocard/MasterCard, VISA) are not subject to such restrictions. Major travelers cheques can be exchanged (for a commission) at most of the locations above, with the exception of Kantors. Eurocheques are accepted in accordance with the standard international practice.

Number of places in Poland where you can pay by bitcoin is growing. Every year there are new cafes, restaurants and museums where you can use your digital currency. Some of them can be found here: <http://www.coinmap.org/#/map/52.20581833/20.97873688/12>

## Shopping

Poland offers a great choice of goods at affordable prices and a wide variety of local specialties and souvenirs. The old city has plenty of art galleries and antique shops selling objects of art, souvenirs and hand crafted goods. To buy traditional Polish food delicacies – such real Polish ham, sausages, mushroom, or home-baked bread, you should visit a farmers' market. These markets have a long-standing tradition of offering a wide choice of organic products and local specialties. In Warsaw you can find plenty of shopping malls, such as "Złote Tarasy", "Galeria Mokotów" and "Arkadia", to name a few. Poland is not an expensive country, hence one of the reasons many tourists chose to come here is value for money. Yet Poland is ideal not only of those who want to enjoy a reasonably priced holiday, but also those who are prepared to pay for luxury.

## Eating in Poland

Poles are passionate about their food. Throw away your preconceptions about miserable Eastern Bloc stews, and be prepared for a great surprise. You have to try: pierogi (dumplings) with different stuffing, żurek (sour soup), czerwony barszcz z uszkami or

pasztecikiem (red beetroot soup with beetroot / pâté), bigos (sauerkraut-and-meat stew), nóżki w galarecie (pork jelly), kielbasa (sausage), kaszanka (blood sausage), piwo (beer), gołąbki (doves/meat-stuffed cabbage), placki ziemniaczane (potato pancakes), babka ziemniaczana (potato cake), racuchy (apple pancakes), oscypki (smoked goat cheese), smalec ze skwarkami (lard with cracklings). To drink: Tymbark's apple juices, Ambra's cider Cydr Lubelski, and trójniak – miód pitny (mead). And for desert: Wedel's marshmallow-like milk foams Ptasia Mleczko, Kopernik's gingerbread Pierniki Torunskie or different brands of krówki ("little cows", fudge / gumdrops).

Tipping is not expected but is welcome. No self-respecting waiter will turn away a few extra zloty, but you will not get the customary grimace if you do not. You are not guaranteed a smile if you do either. Tipping usually depends on where you go, the higher the prices the more it's expected, usually around 10%, although watch out, in the menus sometimes they already say service is included in the price.



*Dumplings*



*Red beetroot soup with beetroot / pâté*



*sauerkraut-and-meat stew*



*Wedel's marshmallow-like milk foams Ptasia Mleczko*

## Original souvenirs

An old Polish custom states that visitors must bring home a memento of their trip. Apart from practical souvenirs like mugs, T-shirts and printed canvas bags, or food and drinks (vodka), there are decorative souvenirs for special occasions, such as Christmas tree ornaments and universal gifts like keyrings, figurines, playing cards or puzzles. Foreigners mention some other original souvenirs from Poland: dried mushrooms, music (rock, Chopin, jazz), traditional whistle, surreal painting, movie posters from the famous Polish Poster School, Amber Jewelry, Ceramics, Linen Products, Keepsake Box or The Wittcher 3 game from the Polish studio CD-Project Red.

## Polish manners

When in Poland, be prepared for your words to be sometimes misinterpreted, but do not worry about communication. You will find it very easy to engage in a friendly conversation, even regardless of the other speaker's linguistic competence.

Be prepared to be confronted with situations described below:

- Even on the first visit, do not be surprised to be offered by your host a pair of slippers for your comfort.
- If you travel on public transport, be prepared for a display of old fashioned courtesy: young people give up their places to the elderly, while gentlemen make way for ladies.
- It is considered exceptionally courteous to kiss a woman's hand as a way of greeting. This practice is particularly popular among the older generation.

A Pole is on one hand the heir to a rich history, tradition and culturally ingrained vices and virtues, but on the other hand a great individualist. The Polish character is a mixture of hospitality, light-heartedness, noble tradition and a frequently unjustified sense of inferiority. Poles, particularly the young, have an ever increasing desire to acquire knowledge, and they certainly place great emphasis on education.

## Communication

Wherever you go in Poland, you will always be able to send a **postcard** or phone your loved ones back home to say greetings from Poland. In almost every town and village, no matter how small, you can buy stamps and find one of the characteristic red post boxes. The biggest Polish post network is Poczta Polska (Polish Post). You can use, however, a system of automated postal boxes (or postal terminals) used to send and receive parcels, called Paczkomaty, which is provided by InPost.



The number of **Internet** users in Poland is very high and still rising. Broadband Internet access is widespread. 3G networks provide a reliable and high-speed access to the world wide web. Other easy way for tourists to gain net access is through Internet cafés. Some of these are open 24 hours a day. Prices at Internet cafés vary – an hour of surfing might cost between 2 and 7 zloty. It is also possible to pay for just 15 minutes (normally around 1 zloty) or half an hour. Most hotels usually provide Internet access, however it may not be very fast. You can gain free net access at hot spots in the centers of large towns or shopping malls.

As Poland is in EU, there is an EU free roaming zone. Therefore, if you travel from an EU country, you may not notice it in your cell-phone bill. However, depending on the service provider, there may be some restrictions or limitations. Check it with your provider.

## Smoking & alcohol

In Warsaw, smoking is prohibited at public transportation stops and shelters as well as clubs, pubs and restaurants unless they have separate room for smokers. Not respecting this law risks the offender receiving a fine. In Warsaw, you may not drink alcohol in public places (parks, squares, streets, etc.), with the exception of permitted areas such as gardens and patios in restaurants and pubs. Not respecting this risks the offender receiving a fine.

## Toilets

Poland has adopted its own uniquely confusing symbols for differentiating public toilets for men and women - the circle is for women, the triangle (pointing downwards) for men. Remember, that you may well have to pay in some places.



Women



Man

## Important Contacts

Warsaw is one of the safest city in Poland. In terms of security, it can easily comparable to other European capitals. In case anything happens, you can use one of following options. If there is any kind of security incident, you should call the emergency number **112**, or the



**POLICJA**

police at **997**. In case of serious health problem you should use the ambulance service number **999** (112 is viable but 999 would speed up paramedics' reaction). Dial 986 to call Municipal Wardens (Straż Miejska). For foreigners in Poland during the summer, there is a special

emergency number. Call 800 200 300, from mobile phones, dial +48 608 599 999 (these numbers is in service from June to September, between 10 am and 10 pm daily). In case of some travelling problems, there is a Poland Travel Hotline of Polish Tourist Organisation, which provides information to Polish and foreign tourists: +48 801 888 844. If you want to find a business by phone, dial 118 913 (information on the telephone numbers of businesses and private persons).

## Weather

Warsaw is in the transitional zone of the moderate climate zone, characterized by the presence of hot summers and cold winters. The annual average temperature goes from 18°C in June to 0°C in February, with a maximum of 30°C and a minimum of -20°C. The largest rainfalls are recorded in the summer months, as a result of storms that regularly occur during this period. Details about current weather forecasts can be found on many websites, such as information services at the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management at [www.pogodynka.pl](http://www.pogodynka.pl) (information is in both Polish and English) or at [www.new.meteo.com](http://www.new.meteo.com) and [news.bbc.co.uk/weather](http://news.bbc.co.uk/weather).

## Other Practical

- Warsaw is in the Europe Central time zone (GMT +1).
- In Poland, the voltage is 230V, 50 Hz. The plug: standard European double plug
- Usually there are some limitations on roaming data.
- The international code for Poland is (00)48 or (+48)