Warsaw Tourist Information

The star in the map indicates the location of the University of Warsaw where the conference will take place. The numbers refer to the numbered places of interest listed below.

1 — Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów

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 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. There is a museum in the palace devoted to King Johan III Sobieski with a richest in Poland collection of old-Polish portraits. Open: Fri., Sat. 9.30am-4pm; Sun. 10.30 am–4 pm; Mon. 9.30am-4pm — http://www.wilanow-palac.pl/

2 — Łazienki Królewskie

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 such as Palace on the Island, Myślewicki Palace, White House or Old Orangery. The park was created using the formerly wildly 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. Open: Fri. & Sat. 9am-8pm; Sun. 9am-6pm; Mon. 11am-6pm — http://www.lazienki-krolewskie.pl/en/home.html

3 — Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle

The Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle is a place for the creation, presentation and documentation of contemporary art in all of its manifestations. The CSW organizes exhibitions, presentations of visual theater, performances, concerts of contemporary music, experimental films and video art screenings, creative workshops, and numerous artistic events mixing the various genres and forms of art. Ujazdowski Castle also operates as the Library and Artistic Reading Room, and the Videoteka (video library), releasing films of artistic events. The Polish History Museum will be built near Ujazdowski Castle. Open: Fri. Sat. Sun. 12am-9pm; Mon. closed — http://csw.art.pl/

4 — National Museum

The National Museum in Warsaw is home to over 800,000 exhibits of both Polish and worldwide art. They represent all epochs from antiquity to contemporary times, including paintings, sculptures, drawings, illustrations, photographs, numismatic items and objects of applied arts. The most unique are the Medieval Art Gallery (unique sculptures, panel paintings and goldsmithery from all regions historically related to Poland in medieval times completed with medieval works of art created in other regions of Europe) and the largest Polish painting “Battle of Grunwald” by Jan Matejko (426 x 987 cm). The Museum is seated in a modernist building located near the Poniatowski Bridge and the Charles de Gaulle Roundabout, being one of the most busy places in Warsaw. Open: Fri. Sat. Sun. 10am-6pm; Mon. closed — http://www.mnw.art.pl/en/

5 — Fryderyk Chopin Museum

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. 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. Open: Fri. Sat. Sun. 11am-8pm; Mon. closed — http://chopin.museum/en

6 — Royal Castle

Built in the 15th century, this castle served as residence of Mazovian princes. Once the capital was moved to Warsaw from Krakow, the castle served as seat of the king and the government. The castle has been renovated repeatedly and destroyed completely during World War II. It was rebuilt between 1971-1988 using castle remains and rubble. Today, the segment with the clock tower opens the way to the Old Town. Museum attractions include two original Rembrandt paintings as well as works by Bernard Bellotto, aka Canaletto, court painter to Polish King Stanisław August Poniatowski. Canaletto’s paintings were vital during Warsaw's post-war reconstruction. On the Vistula side are the recently renovated Kubicki Arcades which
support the foundations and the cliffs and give the structure its shape. Following the 1831 Uprising they were used as stables and barracks, and then as garages. The arcades are original, as they were not destroyed during World War II. Currently they house an archaeological exhibit. Open: Fri. Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 11am-6pm; Mon. 10am-6pm — http://www.zamek-krolewski.pl/en

7 — Zachęta National Gallery of Art

Zachęta is one of the oldest showrooms in Poland. The impressive building was built between 1898-1900 and designed by Stefan Szyller. All the most outstanding Polish artists’ presented their works in Zachęta, including Wojciech Gerson, Jan Matejko, Józef Chelmoński, Józef Brandt, Stanisław Wyspiański, Józef Mehoffer and many others. Zachęta is now the most prestigious and largest contemporary art gallery in Poland, with a valuable collection of post-war Polish art. Today, the Gallery exhibits the outstanding work of many artists such as Paul Cezanne, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Pablo Picasso, Kasimir Malevich, Max Ernst, Jean Dubuffet, Kim Sooja, Yayoi Kusama, Fernand Léger and Henri Stazewski, Alina Szapocznikow, Roman Opalka, Mirosław Balka, Jerzy Nowosielski, Katarzyna Kozyra, Krzysztof Wodiczko, among others. In the Gallery, lectures, scientific sessions, book promotional events, meetings with artists, movie screenings, concerts, educational workshops and integration programs are held. The building also has a cinema studio and workshop, and features a well-stocked art bookshop. In addition, Zachęta has a large collection of directories and a fully-structured documentation database of contemporary Polish artists. Open. Fri. Sat. Sun. 12am-8pm; Mon. closed — http://www.zacheta.art.pl/

8 — Powązki Cemetery

This cemetery, named after the neighbourhood in the Wola district where it is located, is the most famous of all of Warsaw's burial grounds. Older cemeteries, which were located within the city limits from the Medieval period, couldn’t handle the population expansion of Warsaw, therefore a new cemetery outside the city was established in the village of Powązki. It covers an area of 44 hectares – making it as large as Vatican City. The cemetery was established in 1790, and designed by Dominik Merlini, the royal architect to King Stanisław August Poniatowski. The remains of the King's family, relatives and members of his court are buried in the catacombs. Powązki Cemetery is the final resting place of a number of great Poles, among them: the leader of the 1794 Warsaw Insurrection, Jan Kiliński, actor and director Wojciech Bogusławski, education reformer Stanisław Konarski, Enlightenment era politician and publicist Hugo Kolłątaj, writer Bolesław Prus and director Krzysztof Kieślowski. Among those buried there are Noble Prize winning writer Władysław Reymont, poet Leopold Staff and writer Maria Dąbrowska. Estimates say that over one million people may be buried at Powązki Cemetery, but the exact number is hard to define as the cemetery’s books were destroyed during World War II.

9 — Jewish Cemetery

A priceless treasure of Jewish Warsaw. Established in 1806, it is one of the last remaining open and active Jewish cemeteries in Poland. During World War II it was encompassed in the Warsaw Ghetto. Around 200,000 tombstones can be found at the cemetery, many of which have great historical and artistic value. Among the grandest are: the Mausoleum of the Three Writers (Icchok Lejb Perec, Szymon An-ski and Jakub Dinezon) by sculptor Abraham Ostrzega, and the monument of the grave of the great actress from Warsaw's Jewish Theatre, Ester Rachel Kamińska, created by Szymon Kratka. Additionally, many great people - important for both the Jewish nation as well as for Warsaw and Poland - are laid to rest at the Jewish cemetery. The rabbi of the Praga district Jeszaja Muszkat (buried in 1866) and the first Rabbi of Warsaw Szlomo Zalman Lipszyc (who died in 1839) both rest at the cemetery.
10 — Palace of Culture and Science

The Palace of Culture and Science was built between 1952 and 1955; it was a "gift of the Soviet people to the Polish nation", offered by Joseph Stalin himself. The architect was Lew Rudniew. The Palace is the highest building in Poland, standing at 230.5 m (which is 42 floors) with an area of 817,000 m² and has over 3,000 rooms, including offices, institution headquarters and the Polish Academy of Sciences. The big attraction for tourists and residents is the 'trzydziestka', a large terrace on the 30th floor of the Palace (at a height of 114 m), where you can admire the gorgeous panorama of Warsaw.

11 — Copernicus Science Centre

The Copernicus Science Centre is operating in its official building since 2010. However the idea for such a construction in Warsaw dates back to the late 90s, when the Science Picnic and Science Festival became a huge success. In 2004, after an agreement had been signed by the President of Warsaw, Minister of Science and Minister of Education, the Centre’s construction project has been launched. One of the greatest attractions is also the planetarium „The Sky of Copernicus”, where projections onto a dome screen surrounding the auditorium and modern multimedia technology give the participants the impression that they are travelling to the remotest corners of the cosmos, into the depths of an ocean or inside a volcano. A special show even allows us to return to the beginnings of life on earth. Another curiosity of the Copernicus Science Centre is the „Electrobard”, an electronic poet, who writes poems on request and then recites them. The prototype for the manlike machine was a figure invented by Stanisław Lem in his series of short stories “The Cyberiad”. From the roof of the Copernicus Science Centre one has a view on the Vistula and the Praga bank, the Świętokrzyski bridge, the national stadium and the neighbouring roof garden of the university library. Open: Fri. 9am-6pm; Sat. Sun. 10am-7pm (Warning, hundreds of children during weekends!); Mon. closed — http://www.kopernik.org.pl/en/

12 — Warsaw Uprising Museum

The Warsaw Uprising 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. Open: Fri. 8am-6pm; Sat., Sun. 10am-6pm; Mon. 8am-6pm — http://www.1944.pl/