

7-Day Warsaw & Krakow Itinerary

Royal Castles, Old Towns & Auschwitz-Birkenau

DURATION

7 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

May – September

Warm days, park season

FROM

\$1,050 USD / person

for 2 people

Warsaw's rebuilt Old Town and Krakow's untouched medieval core make an unmatched contrast for a first trip to Poland — a UNESCO World Heritage square raised brick by brick after 1944, the Warsaw Uprising Museum, the royal gardens at Lazienki and Wilanow, and two full days in Krakow that include a guided visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum.

DAY 1

Arrive in Warsaw, Old Town Welcome

Land at Warsaw Chopin Airport, settle into a hotel steps from the Old Town, then join an evening walking tour along the Royal Route before dinner in the Market Square.

Airport Transfer — Warsaw Chopin Airport (WAW)

On arrival • ~\$21 USD, private car for up to 4 passengers

A pre-booked private transfer meets you in the Arrivals Hall with a name sign for the 20-minute ride straight to the Old Town — no need to find a taxi rank after a long flight.

Welcome Pickups • welcomepickups.com

Overnight — PURO Warszawa Stare Miasto

From \$150–190 USD / night, for 2 people

A design-forward hotel in a restored townhouse on Canaletta street, inside the Old Town walls and a two-minute walk from the Market Square — your base for the first three nights.

PURO Warszawa Stare Miasto • +48 22 177 60 00 • purohotels.com

Old Town & Royal Route Walking Tour

~2.5 hours, evening • Pay-what-you-wish, typically \$15–25 USD / person

A guided walk from the Copernicus Monument down the Royal Route past the University of Warsaw and the Presidential Palace, through Zygmunt's Column and the rebuilt Market Square to the Barbican — the fastest way to get oriented on night one.

Walkative! Warsaw • freewalkingtour.com/warsaw

Dinner in the Old Town

Est. \$30–50 USD / person

On your own — the Market Square and Freta Street are lined with milk bars and Polish restaurants serving pierogi and zurek within a five-minute walk of most Old Town hotels.

DAY 2

Royal Castle & the Warsaw Uprising Museum

A full day split between the seat of Polish kings and the story of the city's near-total destruction and rebuilding in the 20th century.

Royal Castle

~1.5–2 hours · 30 PLN (~\$8 USD) / person

The reconstructed residence of Poland's kings on Castle Square, rebuilt brick by brick after being leveled in 1944 — the Canaletto Room and the Great Assembly Hall are the highlights inside.

Royal Castle in Warsaw · +48 22 355 51 70 · zamek-krolewski.pl

Warsaw Uprising Museum

~2–3 hours · 35 PLN (~\$9 USD) / person, free on Thursdays

An immersive, artifact-heavy museum covering the 63-day 1944 uprising against German occupation, housed in a former tram power station on Grzybowska Street — one of the most-visited museums in Poland and essential context for the rest of the trip.

Warsaw Rising Museum · +48 22 539 79 05 · 1944.pl

Dinner in Warsaw

Est. \$30–50 USD / person

On your own — the Powisle district along the river has a growing restaurant scene a short taxi ride from the Old Town.

DAY 3

Lazienki Park & Wilanow Palace

A green, palace-filled day south of the center — the city's largest park in the morning, its finest Baroque residence in the afternoon.

Lazienki Park & Palace on the Isle

Park free · Palace on the Isle 50 PLN (~\$13 USD) / person

Warsaw's largest park (76 hectares), landscaped for King Stanislaw August around a neoclassical palace built over an artificial lake — look for the free-roaming peacocks and the Chopin Monument, where free open-air piano concerts run on summer Sundays.

Royal Lazienki Museum · +48 22 50 60 024 · lazienki-krolewskie.pl

Wilanow Palace & Gardens

~2 hours · 70 PLN (~\$18 USD) / person, includes the gardens

Dinner in Kazimierz

Est. \$25–45 USD / person

On your own — Plac Nowy and Szeroka Street have some of Krakow's best casual dining, from zapiekanki stalls to Jewish-Polish restaurants.

DAY 5

Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial & Museum

A full-day guided trip to the site of the largest Nazi concentration and extermination camp — heavy, and one of the most important stops on any trip to Poland.

Auschwitz-Birkenau Guided Tour

Full day (~7 hours) · From €47 (~\$51 USD) / person, includes transport & guide

Round-trip coach transport from central Krakow (about 90 minutes each way) with a licensed guide leading a roughly 3.5-hour walking tour through both Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau — headsets, entry, and an English-speaking guide are included. Guided access must be booked well in advance.

DiscoverCracow.com · +48 12 346 38 99 · discovercracow.com

Overnight — Hotel Wentzl

From \$150–190 USD / night, for 2 people

Second night at the same hotel on the Main Square.

Hotel Wentzl · +48 12 430 26 64 · wentzl.pl

Dinner in Krakow

Est. \$30–50 USD / person

On your own after a long, emotional day — the Main Square has restaurants open late for a quiet dinner back in the city.

DAY 6

Krakow Old Town & Wawel Castle

A full day in Krakow's medieval core, spared the destruction Warsaw suffered — Europe's largest medieval market square, then the royal hill that gives the city its name.

Rynek Glowny, Cloth Hall & St. Mary's Basilica

Basilica 20 PLN (~\$5 USD) / person · Cloth Hall stalls free to browse

Europe's largest medieval town square, ringed by the 16th-century Cloth Hall's trinket stalls, with St. Mary's Basilica's Gothic altarpiece inside and the hourly hejnal bugle call sounding from its taller tower — a tradition unbroken since the 13th century.

St. Mary's Basilica · mariacki.com

Wawel Royal Castle & Cathedral

~2 hours · State Rooms 95 PLN (~\$24 USD) / person, includes audio guide

The seat of Polish kings for over 500 years, on a hilltop above the Vistula — the State Rooms hold Renaissance tapestries and royal portraiture, while Wawel Cathedral next door is where most of Poland's monarchs are buried.

Wawel Royal Castle · +48 12 422 51 55 · wawel.krakow.pl

Farewell Dinner in Krakow

Est. \$35–55 USD / person

On your own — a last night to try Krakow's fine-dining scene around the Main Square before tomorrow's train back to Warsaw.

DAY 7 Return to Warsaw & Depart

A morning express train back to Warsaw leaves enough time to connect to an international flight home.

Train — Krakow to Warsaw (EIP Express)

~2h 45min · From ~\$33 USD / person, one-way

The same Express InterCity Premium service back to Warszawa Centralna — book an early departure to leave a comfortable buffer before your flight.

PKP Intercity · intercity.pl

Airport Transfer — Warsaw Chopin Airport (WAW)

~\$21 USD, private car for up to 4 passengers

A private car meets you at Warszawa Centralna for the short ride out to Chopin Airport — allow at least two and a half hours before an international flight.

Welcome Pickups · welcomepickups.com

All prices are per person in US dollars, current as of August 2026 research and subject to change with season, exchange rate, and availability. Flights to/from Poland are not included. Book museum and tour tickets in advance where noted, especially Auschwitz-Birkenau guided access.

I-Journey · i-journey.com