

Putting in Poland



Des Duggan reports on a city break with a twist. Pack the golf clubs and you will be pleasantly surprised on what Warsaw has to offer.

We all know that Warsaw was rebuilt in the immediate aftermath of World War 11 and since the fall of communism in 1989. But after the bombing, the revolts, the fighting, and the demolition had ended, most of Warsaw lay in ruins. Under a Communist regime set up by the conquering Soviets, the "Bricks for Warsaw" campaign was initiated, this included the Palace, a gift from the Soviet Union.

The city resumed its role as the capital of Poland and the country's centre of political and economic life. Many of the historic streets, buildings, and churches were restored to their original form in 1980. You wouldn't recognise the city if you saw it ten years ago, and more changes are constantly taking place. Warsaw was home to Europe's largest outdoor marketplace, once located around the old stadium. This has since disappeared, replaced by the new National Stadium for the Euro 2012 football championships.

The city of Warsaw is truly an unforgettable destination for tourists. Skyscrapers shoot upwards as Warsaw's economic status rises and the city continues to gather foreign investors. Warsaw is blessed with the Vistula River flowing through the city...

Old Town

Walking the streets of the Old Town and New Town allows you to rest from the bustle of central city life. Atmospheric alleys, squares, and cosy cafés create a unique sense of history, and in the summer, the Old and New Town Squares become stages for musical and theatrical performances and open-air galleries. Warsaw's historic Old Town was inscribed onto UNESCO's World Heritage list.

Eating out

Although Warsaw's menus feature traditional Polish cuisine, food from

around the world can be found at the many restaurants suited to all tastes. The cheapest - milk bars - are an attraction offering a slice of years past. One of Warsaw's culinary symbols is undoubtedly sweet - quite literally! Try the Zigmuntówka, jelly-filled doughnuts.

Warsaw Rising museum

Opened in 2004, on the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising, the museum pays tribute to all those who fought and died for their country's independence. Housed in a former tramway power station, the modern museum guides visitors through interactive displays, video footage and photographs.

Climate

Warsaw's climate offers similar winters to us and slightly warmer summers,

Golfing Warsaw

Polish golf has come a long way in a short time, with a number of high quality golf courses now available. We visited three local Warsaw's golf courses during our short stay and all within a short driving distance from the city.

We began with a trip to the First Warsaw Golf Club which member's course and offering green fee golf to tourists. The course has everything to offer, including great greens wide fairways and lots of water to test your nerve. The condition and layout of the course was as good as any we offer Ireland. Plans are in place to make slight changes to lay out of the last hole which will offer golfers a go for green or a layup, win or lose last shot over water.

The next course we played was also top quality: Sobienie Królewskie Golf Club, which was also as good as many top European tour courses and has recently staged its first European satellite event. It was another great golfer's challenge but has the facility

to set up for tourist golfers with a number of tee boxes on every hole. It was set up as a difficult course to play and wayward shots were punished. We also enjoyed an overnight stay at its local hotel, which is a converted manor house from pre-communist Poland.

The third course we visited is called Lisia Polana Golf Club. It is ideal course for a tourist golfers or groups as it is ideally located close to the airport and as it was not overly difficult it offered a far more enjoyable. Lisia Polana Golf Club also includes accommodation options and would be the ideal course to start or finish a golfing trip due to its proximity to Modlin Airport.

Where to stay

We stayed in a very central location in the heart of the city Polonia Palace Warsaw, which is in a fantastic location in the newer side of the city centre. It is a stone's throw from what the locals call Stalin's Gift, a sort of miniature Empire State Building that houses the Palace of Culture and Science. The hotel is a modern four-star with spacious rooms offering fabulous views of the city ...

Flying to Warsaw

Ryanair offers daily direct flights from Dublin to Modlin Airport with the flight time being approximately 2 hours 30 minutes ...

For more information about Warsaw or golfing in the region, visit www.poland.travel/en-gb.

First Warsaw Golf Club

www.firstwarsawgolf.com

Sobienie Królewskie Golf Club

www.sobieniekrolewskie.pl

Lisia Polana Golf Club

www.lisiapolana.pl

Polonia Hotel:

www.poloniapalace.com

Hotel Sobienie:

www.hotelsobienie.pl/en/

Poland will be hosting 2014 FIVB

Volleyball Men's World Championship in September this year

