

Because even the most loyal New Yorker needs to flee the greatest city on earth sometimes.

Escape from New York

Warsaw, Poland



Castle square

Dine at Lenin's haunt

Savor moist lamb knuckles and cream-of-celery soup as you take selfies with portraits of Fidel, Mao and apparatchiks of the Communist Party. **Czerwony Wieprzem**, once a popular dining spot for communist elites including Vladimir Lenin, dishes out wild boar and mushrooms washed down with a matching selection of wines and spirits that were dreams of the proletariat.

→ Zelazna 68 (22-850-31-44, czerwonywieprz.pl/en)

Follow the beat

Catch the sounds of Slavic funk and world music at **Sklad Butelek**. Intimate nightly performances take place among old sofas, chairs and lamps that will remind you of your old Polish aunt's home, if you had a Polish aunt. Drink the twin-sister owners' home brew and join the jam session.

→ 11 Listopada 22 (60-233-88-24, skladbutelek.pl)

Have a night at the opera

In the lower level of the Grand Theatre—National Opera, the underground **Opera Club** has guest DJs spinning on Friday and Saturday nights. The venue features smoke machines, marble floors and multiple rooms with different vibes for a good time. Smoke the *shisha* (hookah) and try the sushi.

→ Plac Teatralny 1 (22-828-70-75, operaclub.pl)

Make it your own

A low-rising hill hides the art space **Galeria Forty/Forty**, an open-air gallery (inside

INSIDER SECRETS

Locals give it to you straight.

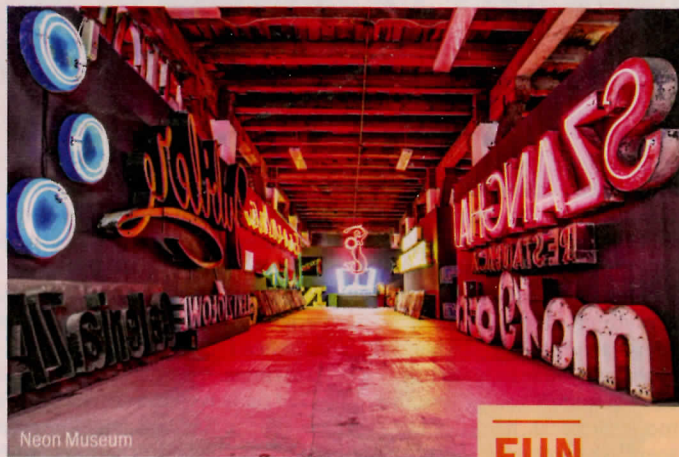


"Eat pierogi at Gościniec Polskie Pierogi."
—Tadeusz

"See and hear the Fryderyk Chopin Museum before noon."
—Jolanta

"Drink beer with raspberry syrup at Gorączka Złota."
—Agata

"Try wild boar at the Michelin-starred Ateller Amaro."
—Marja



Neon Museum

a formerly abandoned fort) for graffiti artists, installations and performances, with a rope-climbing course as well as river views from atop old bunkers. Don't miss the cute tea-house yurt outside the gate.

→ Fort Bema (535-855-13040, 40bema.blogspot.com)

Come to the light

Bask in the afterglow at the **Neon Museum** (about \$3.50), exploring Cold War culture and revolution through the illuminating art form. The collection includes signs that graced buildings and structures like movie marquees and popular coffeeshops in a dazzling array of designs, colors and typefaces, sometimes in sizes as large as a truck.

→ Soho Factory, Minska 25 (665-711-635, neonmuzeum.org)

■ *Mark Laiosa*

FUN FACT

The people of Warsaw are called Varsovians.

PHOTOGRAPHS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP): SHUTTERSTOCK/RAOCSLAV MACIEJNSKI; COURTESY NEON MUZEUM; COURTESY YELP/GOŚCINIEC POLSKIE PIEROGI

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