

# POLAND RISK ASSESSMENT



## City & Country

Warsaw, Poland

## Prepared by

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### Before you go –

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides travel advice by country. It covers safety and security, local laws and customs, entry requirements, health and natural disasters along with a host of other useful information. We strongly recommend that students read the section related to their destination prior to departure and before undertaking any trip to another part of the county/region.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/>

### VISA REGULATIONS

British Citizens do not need a visa to enter Poland. If you hold a different type of British nationality or have another nationality altogether, please check entry requirements with the Polish. \*\*\*Please note that due to Brexit, these regulations are subject to change. Keep up to date with the information provided on the FCO website\*\*\*

### HEALTH

If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 112 and ask for an ambulance. If you are referred to a medical facility for treatment you should contact your insurance/medical assistance company immediately.

If you're visiting Poland you should get a free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) before leaving the UK. The EHIC isn't a substitute for medical and travel insurance, but it entitles you to state provided medical treatment that may become necessary during your trip. Any treatment provided is on the same terms as Polish nationals. The EHIC won't cover medical repatriation,

ongoing medical treatment or non-urgent treatment, so you should make sure you have adequate travel insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment and repatriation. \*\*\*Please note that due to Brexit, these regulations are subject to change. Keep up to date with the information provided on the FCO website\*\*\*

## TERRORISM

Attacks in Poland can't be ruled out. You should be aware of the global risk of indiscriminate terrorist attacks which could be in public places, including in places visited by foreigners.

There's a heightened threat of terrorist attack globally against UK interests and British nationals from groups or individuals motivated by the conflict in Iraq and Syria. You should be vigilant at this time.

Find out more about the [global threat from terrorism](#), how to minimise your risk and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack.

| Type         | Nature of the Hazard   | Procedures to Minimise Risk  |
|--------------|--|--|
| <b>CRIME</b> | Most visitors to Poland experience no difficulties. Serious crime against foreigners is relatively rare, but incidents do occur and in some cases attacks have been racially motivated. You should also be alert to the possibility of street crime and petty theft, and that foreigners may appear to be lucrative targets. | Keep valuables and cash out of sight, especially in crowded areas and tourist spots where pickpockets and bag snatchers operate. |
|              | There is a higher risk of robbery at main rail stations and on all train services, especially overnight sleeper trains. You  | Only use official taxis, which have the name and telephone number of the taxi company on the side of the door and on             |

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|              | <p>are most at risk while boarding and leaving trains.<br/>Unregulated taxi drivers operate at the Warsaw airports and elsewhere. They commonly overcharge.</p>  | <p>the top of the taxi. They will also show a rate card on the window of the vehicle.<br/><br/>Taxis with a crest but no company name are not officially registered taxis.</p>                 |
|              | <p>Don't leave drinks or food unattended and beware of accepting drinks from casual acquaintances. There have been a small number of reports of drinks being spiked and visitors having their valuables stolen.</p>  | <p>Check your bill carefully when buying drinks in bars and nightclubs. There have been some reports of overcharging and of large amounts of money being charged to debit or credit cards.</p> |
| <b>OTHER</b> | <p>Jay-walking is an offence. If caught by the police you will be fined.</p>   | <p>You should cross only at recognised crossing points.</p>  |
|              | <p>Polish police take a strict approach to public drunkenness. You are not allowed to consume alcohol in public places and fines may be imposed. If you are found to be drunk in a public place you may be taken to a drying out clinic where a doctor or nurse will medically assess you. You will not be released until you have sobered up and this may require an overnight stay. You will have to pay for the cost of the stay.</p> |  |