

The Old Town Tour – The Jewish Route for kindergarteners

Żydowska Street

I According to the oldest documents, you are now standing in the former Żydowska Street. It was the first place of residence of the Jews who were coming to Warsaw.

II Walk along the street towards the well and learn about the origin of the two streets' names: Wąski and Szeroki Dunaj (the Thin and the Wide Danube).

The Well

I A long time ago many rivers and brooks flew in the area. The names of the Thin and the Wide Danube are said to originate from these brooks. There is yet another theory. It goes back to the synagogue which used to stand at Piwna Street. Passers-by could hear people addressing God, calling him "Adonai". This could have influenced the naming of the nearby streets.

II Do not be afraid to peek into the street's nooks. Take the fastest route between the city walls and head towards the Barbican. There awaits the model of the Old Town.

The Warsaw Barbican

I Take a look at the model in front of the Barbican. Find a small dot – it indicates your position on the map. The Barbican is the gate to the Old Town. How would you call the other part of Warsaw? It is the New Town, 100 years younger than the Old Town.

II Go back to the Old Town and head towards the Marshall's Tower. You can choose a more interesting route and walk along the city walls.

The Marshall's Tower

I Look ahead, to the other side of the Vistula. Is it still Warsaw? Of course it is! The part of the city located on the right bank of the Vistula is called Praga. It was the home of a big Jewish community. This place was called Szmulki.

II It's time to leave. Follow the stairs to reach Brzozowa Street. Then, turn right. The Gnojna hill awaits!

Gnojna hill

I Don't worry, the rubbish dump after which the hill took its name is no longer here. Take a look at the Vistula. Did you know that rivers in the past were used as trade routes? Jewish merchants often used them to ship their goods. Rivers were also places where the Jews gathered to pray during Rosh Hashanah holiday. They used to "shake off" their sins into the water.

II Go back the same way or cross the Old Town Market Place. A long walk awaits! Pass the Barbican and reach Wedel chocolate cafe. Then, turn left. You will reach the next stop in 300 metres.

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Warsaw Ghetto boundaries

- I You must have heard of the great war during which the Germans created the Warsaw Ghetto. Jews from Warsaw and surrounding areas were imprisoned there. This monument marks one of the Ghetto's boundaries. You will see many more like this in other places in the city. They indicate the location of Ghetto's 6 metres high walls.
- II Continue your walk along the street. When the lights turn green, cross the road and find the garden fencing.

The Krasiński Garden

- I You are now in the garden that was frequently visited by many Jews. They used to come here to rest after a whole week at work. Children could play here and eat delicacies bought at the gate.
- II Do you see the gate opposite the pond? Walk through it to find the former Nalewki Street.

Nalewki Street

- I Where exactly is this Nalewki Street? The tramway track helps you follow its former course. It may be hard to imagine, but Nalewki Street used to be one of the most crowded streets in Warsaw. Did you know that thanks to this street the whole Jewish district was called Nalewki?
- II Find the tramway track and walk along towards the nearest tower. The underground passage will help you cross the wide street.

The Great Synagogue of Warsaw

- I You are now in front of the Blue Skyscraper. It stands in the place of the former synagogue which could seat up to 2200 people – that's why it was called the Great Synagogue. Unfortunately, it was blown up by the Germans during WWII.
- II The Great Synagogue was sometimes referred to as Tłomackie. Where did the name come from? Walk to the other side of the Blue Skyscraper to discover a quiz.

Tłomackie Street

- I Back in the times when Warsaw was enclosed by city walls, it was surrounded by small towns. The town that used to be here was called Leszno. Its owner was Eustachy Potocki, the starost of the Ukrainian city of Tlumach. Today, you can find yet another important building here – the Jewish Historical Institute.
- II Our trip is over. Would you like to discover more? Further adventures await!