The best shopping street in the world

No, it isn't Oxford Street, the Champs-Elysées, or even Fifth Avenue. A new survey shows that the most popular shopping street in the world is ... Nowy Świat. Where's that? In Warsaw, Poland, of course.

by ANNE APPLEBAUM

'If you're tired, stop at *Café Blikle*.'

'There are a lot of small, chic shops.'

A recent survey has shown that the busiest shopping street in the world is not in London, New York, or Paris, but in Warsaw. It's called Nowy Świat (pronounced /nɒvɪ ʃvɪət/), which means *New World*. An incredible 14,000 Poles walk down this main street every hour.

It is a lovely place to shop. The pavements are very wide. There are statues, palaces, attractive town houses, exclusive cafés, and high-class restaurants. The buildings aren't too tall. They look old, but in fact the whole city was rebuilt after World War II.

There aren't any billboards or neon lights. There isn't any loud music, and there aren't many tourists. People think that Polish shops have nothing to sell, so nobody comes shopping here. The world doesn't know about this paradise for shoppers – yet.

It is now possible to buy almost everything in Warsaw. There are a lot of shops from the West, but the interesting thing is that Polish manufacturers are now producing high quality goods. They are good because they are not mass produced for world consumption.

Nowy Świat has a lot of small shops, specialist shops, and chic shops. It hasn't got the huge department stores that sell the same things everywhere.

If you want an exquisite handmade suit, Nowy Świat is the place to go. It isn't cheap. You will pay up to £1,000. For beautiful French baby clothes, go to *Petit Bateau*. You will pay £50 for a pair of blue jeans for a baby. A dress for a baby girl is about £90. At *Désa*, a famous antique shop, a desk costs £5,000, and a 19th century Russian icon is £200.

Not everything is expensive. At the shop *Pantera* you can buy leather goods – handbags, purses, coats, and belts. *Cepelia* specializes in folk art. There are also book shops and record shops. And there are a lot of small boutiques that sell men's and women's clothes that aren't too expensive.

If you're tired, stop at *Café Blikle*. This is a fashionable place to meet. You'll find a lively atmosphere, and a lot of well-known Poles. The frozen yoghurt and ice-creams are excellent, and its famous doughnuts are delicious.

It is possible to travel the world and find the same things for sale in every country. But Warsaw is different because its shops are unique – and they're in Nowy Świat.

VOCABULARY AND LISTENING

Buying things

1 What can you buy or do in these places? Write two things for each place.
Compare your ideas with the class.

a clothes shop	a chemist's	a café	a bank	a newsagent's

2 **T 4.5** Listen to the conversations. Answer the questions.

1 Where are the conversations taking place? Choose from the places in exercise 1.
2 What does the customer want?
3 Can the shop assistant/cashier help?
4 How much does the customer pay?

3 Complete these lines from the conversations. Look at the tapescript on p64 and check your answers.

1 **A** Hello. Can I help you?
B I _____, thanks.
. . .
B I'm looking for a jumper _____. Have you got _____?
A I'll just have a look. _____ are you?
B Medium.

A Here you are.
B That's great. _____?
A Of course. The changing rooms are over there.
. . .
B I like it.
A It _____.
B How much is it?
A £39.99.
B OK. I _____.
A How would you like to pay?
B _____.

2 **A** _____ help me? I'm looking for this month's edition of *Vogue*. Can you tell me _____?
B Over there. Middle shelf. Next to *She*.

3 **A** Hello. I _____ help me. I've got a bad cold and a sore throat. Can you _____?
B OK. You can take these three times a day.
A Thank you. _____ some tissues _____, please?
B Sure. _____?
A No, that's all, thanks.

4 **A** Good morning. Can I have a _____, please?
B Espresso?
A Yes, please. Oh, and a doughnut, please.
B _____ there aren't _____. We've got some delicious carrot cake, and chocolate cake.
A OK. Carrot cake, then.
B Certainly. Is _____?
A Yes, thanks.
B _____, please.
A Thank you.

EVERYDAY ENGLISH

Prices and shopping

1 Look at the way we write and say prices in British and American English. Practise saying them.

British English		American English	
Written	**Spoken**	**Written**	**Spoken**
£1	a pound	$1	a dollar
50p	fifty p	50¢	fifty cents
£1.99	one pound ninety-nine	25¢	a quarter
£16.40	sixteen pounds forty	10¢	a dime

T 4.6 Listen to the conversations and write the numbers you hear.

2 What's the exchange rate between sterling/US dollars and your currency?

There are about five … to the dollar.

In your country, how much is … ?

- a pair of jeans
- a hamburger
- a packet of cigarettes
- a litre of petrol

3 Make conversations in these places with a partner. Use the ideas to help you.

1 in a clothes shop

a shirt/tie
What size are you?
small/medium/large
too small/too big
I'll have it, please.
I'll leave them, thanks.

3 in a café

a black/white coffee
an espresso/a cappuccino
a pot of tea
a sparkling/still mineral water
a piece of chocolate cake

2 in a chemist's

conditioner
shaving foam
deodorant
stomach ache
sore throat

4 in a post office

some stamps
First or second class?
a letter/postcard to Japan
send this parcel to Mexico
buy some envelopes