

The Magic of Poland

7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS

Day 1, Warsaw

After arrival, we introduce you to the highlights of Warsaw. A half-day sightseeing tour includes Old Town, beautifully rebuilt after World War II, with the impressive Royal Castle, seat of the kings of Poland. Here, the May 3rd Constitution was proclaimed in 1791, the second oldest constitution, after the USA Constitution, in the world. You will admire some of its 300 rooms and visit the Canaletto Room with 23 of his paintings, the Throne Room; the magnificent Knight's Hall with six large paintings by Marcello Bacciarelli; the Marble room with its 22 portraits of Polish kings and the largest and most impressive of all, the castle's chambers, the Ballroom. After lunch served at a local restaurant in Old Town, we continue our tour with a drive to the site of the former Warsaw Ghetto. En route, you will see the building of the National Opera House and Town Hall. During your tour of Warsaw, we will invite you to the famous Warsaw chocolate factory "Wedel", to taste the delicious hot chocolate at the "Wedel Old Fashioned Shop". In the evening, you will take an unforgettable musical journey through the world of famous compositions of Poland's greatest composer, Frederic Chopin, at a piano recital. A glass of sparkling wine will be served during intermission.

Afterwards, welcome dinner at a local restaurant. Your meal will include traditional Polish dishes and famous Polish vodka, "Zubrowka". Overnight in Warsaw. (L, D)

Day 2, Warsaw

Morning tour to royal palace located in the Wilanów district, Warsaw. Wilanów Palace survived the Poland's partitions and both World Wars, and so serves as a reminder of the culture of the Polish state as it was before the misfortunes of the 18th century. It is one of Poland's most important monuments. The Palace's museum, established in 1805, is a repository of the country's royal and artistic heritage. The palace and park in Wilanów hosts cultural events and concerts, including Summer Royal Concerts in the Rose Garden and the International Summer Early Music Academy. Wilanów Palace was built for king John III Sobieski in the last quarter of the 17th century and later was enlarged by other owners. It represents the characteristic type of baroque suburban residence built entre cour et jardin (between the entrance court and the garden). Its architecture is original, a merger of generally European art with distinctively Polish building traditions. After lunch at local restaurant you will have some free time for shopping in one of Warsaw malls and outlets.

Dinner at local restaurant. Overnight in Warsaw. (B, L)

Day 3, Warsaw – Lublin - Kazimierz Dolny - Warsaw

Lublin is the largest city in southeastern Poland with long history and full of historic buildings. Population of the city suffered heavily during the World War 2, nearby Nazis opened concentration camp Majdanek which was one of the largest in Europe. You will have an opportunity to see the Old Town with its impressive Krakow Gate dating back to the 14th century, the Town Hall. One of the most important historical artefacts to be found in Lublin is the priceless set of Russo-Byzantine frescoes in the Holy Trinity Chapel, located within the fortified walls of Lublin Castle.

Lunch at local restaurant.

Kazimierz Dolny is a charming town picturesquely situated on the right bank of the Vistula River in the hills, valleys and gorges. For years it fascinated with its unique atmosphere, attracting many tourists. According to the legend – the local synagogue was founded by King Casimir the Great as a gift for his beloved Esther.

Back to Warsaw, dinner and overnight in Warsaw

Day 4, Warsaw - Krakow

After breakfast drive to Krakow. After arrive lunch at local restaurant the sightseeing tour which will start with the Royal Wawel Castle, home to three dynasties of Poland's monarchs. Its stately halls and exquisite chambers are filled with priceless art, valuable period furniture and rare ancient objects. The collection of monumental 16th century tapestries is unmatched. You will also visit the Wawel Cathedral, the place of the cult of St. Stanislaw and St. Jadwiga, Queen of Poland. Its 18 chapels are true architectural masterpieces. The giant bell, Zygmunt from 1520, ranks with the world's largest. This is the place where Polish kings were crowned and buried. Drive to Old Town with its restored Main Square surrounded with magnificent houses and palaces. Here, we will visit St. Mary's Basilica, originally built in the early 13th century, to see the magnificent wooden altar by Wit Stwosz. The Renaissance Cloth Hall, originally built before 1349, is the focal point of the Market Square. Check-in, dinner at overnight at hotel in Krakow.

Day 5, Krakow – Kazimierz & Auschwitz – Krakow

Kazimierz has been a major historic centre of Jewish culture since the 16th century. Its soul perished during the traumatic events of the Second World War, but many of the district's buildings, some still with Yiddish inscriptions, have survived. Today Jewish life and culture is undergoing a revival in Kazimierz. Many buildings have been restored and the district's fashionable cafes, restaurants and bars are nowadays full of tourists from all over the world curious to learn more about Jewish culture. The district's main attractions are Szeroka Street where "Schindler's List" was filmed, Isaac, High, and Old Synagogues, Remuh Synagogue and its Cemetery, and the "Pod Orłem" ("Eagle") Pharmacy.

Lunch at local restaurant

Afternoon tour to Oswiecim with Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum which provides one of the most memorable lessons in Modern European History. The visit includes a film showing the camp's liberation, the flower-strewn Death Wall, national memorials, the railway line and ramp, the remains of hundreds of barracks, all of which constitute a moving testimony to the number of lives lost through Nazi atrocities across occupied Europe.

Back to Krakow for dinner and overnight.

Day 6, Krakow – Zakopane – Krakow

After breakfast drive to Zakopane, beautifully situated at the foot of the Tatra Mountains, in the valley between Gubalowka Hill and Mount Giewont. Zakopane is the most popular resort in Poland. Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Zakopane. The city's wooden architecture blends with the natural landscape. This style is copied in other parts of Poland and is known as Zakopianski Style. You will visit the Jaszczurowka Chapel, a great example of the wooden architecture in Zakopane. Later, we drive to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima at Krzeptowki, which was built by the people of Zakopane in appreciation to the Lady of Fatima for saving the Pope's life after an assassination attempt. Admire the breathtaking views of the Tatras from the top of Gubalowka Hill and shop for souvenirs, arts and crafts of the Highlanders (Gorale) in the local shops. After lunch, you will have free time. Before we continue on to Krakow, take a spectacular rafting trip on the Dunajec River in Pieniny National Park. Tonight's dinner will be served at a local restaurant in Krakow with polish folklore show . Overnight in Krakow. (B, D)

Day 7, Krakow – Warsaw airport

After breakfast, drive to Warsaw airport with sop ten route at Lodz.

A post-industrial city of contrasts and hidden treasures, “the Manchester of Poland”. See how textile industry changed the city through the centuries. Discover why people call it “the Promise Land” and get to know about rich ethnic variety, especially Jews. Get awed by the gigantic 19th century red brick factories, Art Nouveau buildings, palatial mansions and a world famous film school. Łódź is an unusual city. Without kings and knights but with charming red brick factories and great benefits of industrial revolution. Explore the new symbol of Lodz, the Manufaktura, a huge factory converted to a cultural, commercial and social centre. Discover the city where members of the Polish, German, Jewish and Russian cultures lived and made business together. Discover how to become a millionaire being a bootblack and follow the traces of 19th–century factory owners. To get the best walking tour around Lodz, you must have a visit to Manufaktura - former factory which was renovated a few years ago. Nowadays this complex, located in the city centre, is a shopping mall. It is also a centre for culture, trade and entertainment. One of the gate remains triumphal arch of old mill. See Poznanski Palace belonged to most famous factory magnate in Poland. Currently this building houses City Museum of Lodz where you can admire Neo-Barouque facade, staircase, dining- and ballroom. Then have a walk along the longest European trading route – Piotrkowska street. This pedestrian street is heart of the city, full of clubs, restaurants, bars and wide range of cultural sites. Admire old buildings, renovated factories and Lodz’ speciality – Rickshaws. At the end we invite you to White Factory (Biała Fabryka), which is home of Textile Museum (Muzeum Włókiennictwa). Museum gathers number of looms, old material and examples of the weaver’s art.

Lunch at local restaurant.

End services at Warsaw airport.