

Pearls of the East

Discover beautiful **Eastern Poland** - a European treasure, still undiscovered and uncrowded destination. During this 13-day trip, you'll admire the **diverse landscapes**: charming Masurian Lakeland, unique Biebrza wetlands and the ancient woodland in the Bialowieza National Park. You will also discover the **rich local cultural heritage** as well as several impressive historic buildings, including the mysterious remains of the Krzyztopor Castle and the magnificent Lancut Castle. During a visit to the vineyard on the outskirts of Krakow you will try **delicious local cuisine** and spend an evening in a **folk style**. Get a new travel experience and feel the magic of this unique land!

Duration: 13 days

Availability: Sep 2020 / May 2021 / Sep 2021

Departures from: Warsaw

The order of the visited places may change.
The tour is not recommended for disabled people.
Triple rooms upon request!

PRICING

Tour Date	Double occupancy	Single occupancy
18/Sep/2020 - 30/Sep/2020	1949 EUR / per person	2366 EUR / per person
29/May/2021 - 10/Jun/2021	1949 EUR / per person	2366 EUR / per person
18/Sep/2021 - 30/Sep/2021	1949 EUR / per person	2366 EUR / per person

INCLUDED IN PRICE

- hotel accommodation as described or similar
- transport (air-conditioned high-class coach)
- experienced driver
- professional English-speaking escort guide while on tour
- 18 diversified meals including breakfasts, one lunch and five three-course dinners
- city tours of Warsaw, Lublin, Sandomierz, Rzeszow and Krakow with licensed guides
- sightseeing of Wolf's Lair, Swieta Lipka, mosques of Bohoniki & Kruszyńiany, Holy Mount of Grabarka, Kozłowka palace, Krzyztopor Castle, Underground Tourist Route of Sandomierz, palace and distillery museum in Lancut, Zalipie, Lipnica Murowana, Church of the Virgin Mary, Wawel hill
- private visit with vodka tasting in Polish Vodka Museum
- boat trip on the Krutynia river
- half-day tour in Bialowieza National Park including Forest Museum and Bison Show Reserve
- short guided tour in Biebrza National Park
- tasting in Polish winery on the outskirts of Krakow

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE

- airfares
- airport transfers
- gratuity
- travel insurance
- other services not mentioned in the programme

- information booklet
- tour organization and travel documents

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival day

Individual arrivals to hotel. *Evening:* Meeting at the hotel's lobby with tourguide and office representative. Continue by a **delicious welcome dinner**. Overnight in Warsaw.

Day 2: Warsaw - sightseeing tour & visit in Polish Vodka Museum

Morning: Walking city tour with the best of fascinating Warsaw: **the Old Town** almost completely rebuilt after the destruction of World War II; the area of the **former Jewish ghetto**; the living city centre and the stylish **Royal Route** connected with the **Lazienki Royal Gardens** and its **Palace on the Water**, the former residence of the Polish King Stanislaw August Poniatowski. *Afternoon:* Visit **the Polish Vodka Museum**, a place devoted to one of our best-known product exports. During the tour you will listen the fascinating story of production, expansion and - of course! - consumption. The theoretical part of the tour ends with **tasting of three types of vodka** at a local restaurant. *Evening:* Free time & overnight in [Warsaw](#).

Day 3: Great Masurian Lakes - Krutynia river & Gizycko

Morning: Travelling to [Masuria](#), a region in northern Poland famous for impressive natural beauty with almost 3,000 lakes, dense forests, organic farms and charming resort towns. The first attraction of the trip will be a stop at the Krutynia river to enjoy a **traditional boat trip** through one of the most spectacular nature landscapes in Poland. *Afternoon:* Arrive to [Gizycko](#), the biggest yacht harbor in Masurian area. During free time don't forget to look at a former **Prussian Boyen Fortress**, Water Tower, the unusual swing bridge and charming historic houses. *Evening:* Dinner and overnight stay in the **14th-century Teutonic castle** converted into an elegant hotel.

Day 4: Wolf's Lair & Swieta Lipka

Morning: Our sightseeing starts in the heart of the Masurian forests where was Adolf Hitler's first Eastern Front military headquarters in World War II. **Wolf's Lair** was also the site of the famous assassination attempt in 1944 as a part of *Operation Valkyrie*, a covert plan to take control in the German Reich following Hitler's death. *Afternoon:* Our next step is [Swieta Lipka](#), known from the Sanctuary of St. Mary, an important pilgrimage shrine, a masterpiece of Baroque architecture. Listening a **pipe organ concert** is an inimitable experience! *Evening:* Free time. Second overnight stay in Gizycko.

Day 5: Biebrza National Park & Tatar Trail

Morning: Travel through [Biebrza National Park](#), the largest area of marshes in Central Europe. Enjoy the breathtaking landscapes during the short walk through the Tsarist Path (Carska Droga) towards Laskowiec

with a stop at the towers and Bagno Lawki. After a spectacular meeting with local nature, follow the Tatar trail to **Bohoniki and Kruszyniany**, the oldest centers of followers of Islam within the Polish borders. Visit two wooden mosques and nearby cemeteries, listening to the history of the culture and religion of this unusual national minority. *Afternoon:* Enjoy delicious dishes of **Tatar cuisine** in Kruszyniany, the only agritourism farm run by the Tatar family. *Evening:* Arrival to **Bialowieza**, famous for its unique virgin forest and **European bison** (called "żubr" in Polish). Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 6: Bialowieza Forest & Grabarka

Morning: It's time to enjoy the natural beauty of Bialowieza! During a half-day tour we will show you a **forest museum** with many precious scientific collections and the **European Bison Show Reserve**, where you will admire these big mammals and other wild animals like a wolf and lynx. *Afternoon:* On the way to Lublin, a nice stop in **Holy Mount of Grabarka**, the most important Orthodox sanctuary in Poland, which is called also "the Hill of Crosses" as more than 7000 crosses of various sizes are scattered about the mountain. *Late afternoon:* Arrive to Lublin for dinner and overnight stay.

Day 7: Lublin & Kozlowka Palace

Morning: First part of this day is dedicated to the city sightseeing. Our route leads to the most interesting monuments of the **Lublin Old Town**: Castle Hill with the Lublin Castle, Grodzka Gate, Dominican Church, Market Square with the Crown Tribunal, the Cathedral with its Acoustic Sacristy Chamber and Treasury, 14th century Krakow Gate and New Town Hall. *Afternoon:* Travel to **Kozlowka** for a visit in beautifully preserved Palace of the celebrated Polish aristocratic family of Zamoyski. The Palace boasts a splendid intact interior in the style of the Second Empire. See also the **Socialist Art Gallery** in a nearby park where one can find monuments of nowadays unpopular heroes of the Communist era, dismantled and relocated from their original sites. *Evening:* Overnight in [Lublin](#).

Day 8: Krzyztopor & Sandomierz

Morning: You will see the **magic and mystery ruins of Krzyztopor**, which was the largest residence in Europe for almost 11 years! (before the erection of the Palace of Versailles in France). Unfortunately, over the centuries, it has fallen into ruin, but still attracts attention. *Afternoon:* After a short ride follow to [Sandomierz](#), a peaceful small town with many hidden historical secrets. The visit includes a walk through the streets of the Old Town and the underground tourist route. *Evening:* Arrive to Rzeszow. Overnight.

Day 9: Rzeszow & Lancut

Morning: City tour of [Rzeszow](#). During the walking tour you will visit the Old City with Main Market and Town Hall from the late 19th century as well as dominant building of the Gothic Church of St. Stanislaw and Wojciech and remains of the Old Castle of Ligez family. After you will see 17th century Old Town Synagogue and New Town Synagogue, both reconstructed after World War 2. *Afternoon:* Travel to **Lancut** to visit **the Castle Museum** – another aristocratic palace with splendid interiors decorated in different styles with unique 18th century court theatre and Carriage House with 140 horse-drawn carriages of manifold purposes. The tour will finish in **Lancut Distillery Museum** with a **tasting of their delicious liquors**. *Evening:* Return to Rzeszow for overnight.

Day 10: Zalipie & Lipnica Murowana

Morning: On our way to Krakow we will visit the **Painted Village of Zalipie**, a charming community with cottages painted with decorative floral motifs. ***Afternoon:*** Go to **Lipnica Murowana** to see 15th century small wooden church of St. Leonard - **UNESCO site**, surrounded by mighty trees and old cemetery graves. ***Evening:*** Arrive to Krakow for overnight.

Day 11: Magic Krakow

Morning: **Enjoy the beauty of Krakow:** exploring the medieval section of the town, the largest market square in Europe, the fascinating churches with different architectural styles; and the beautiful streets brimming with old world charm. The world's biggest wooden altar (carved by Veit Stoss between 1477-1489) opens its wings in **the Church of the Virgin Mary** each day and we will be there to witness the magical moment. From one of its twin towers we can hear the Hejnal every hour, the haunting alarm-call played by a trumpeter. The tour also included a comfortable walking tour of the legendary **Royal Wawel Hill**, covering the Royal Cathedral and the Belfry. ***Afternoon & evening:*** Free time. Overnight in Krakow.

Day 12: Culinary Krakow

Morning & afternoon: Spend your time in Krakow or take an **excursion to Polish winery** where you taste local wines in a charming setting overlooking the Vistula River. ***Evening:*** A horse-drawn carriage ride around the old town after which we invite you to a unique **folk evening** with traditional Polish music and dances, delicious local cuisine and beverages. It's a true feast for the senses! Last overnight in Krakow.

Day 13: Departure

Last day in [Krakow](#). Depending on your schedule, independent transfers to the airport in Krakow or to the railway station. If you plan to continue to other Polish destinations to extend your tour, we will be glad to assist with further arrangements. We can help in arranging the following **extra excursions from Krakow** to: - [Auschwitz- Birkenau Museum](#) - [Wieliczka Salt Mines](#) - the Eagles' Nests trail (Szlak Orlich Gniazd) - [Dunajec Raft Trip](#) - [Zakopane mountain resort](#) - [Jasna Gora \(Black Madonna\) Monastery](#) - Brewery in Tychy and much more!

