

## The Essence of Poland

Discover the **variety of Polish landscapes** and **stunning architecture** on this 10-day tour, covering **Poland's top attractions**. With an expert guide, you'll visit Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw, Poznan, Torun and Gdansk, where you'll be in awe as you walked step by step through these picturesque old towns. Travel aboard a comfortable bus from the Polish seaside to the foot of the majestic Tatra Mountains. The itinerary also includes the **UNESCO listed** Wieliczka Salt Mine, Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork and Auschwitz concentration camp.

**Duration:** 10 days

**Availability:** May-Jun & Aug-Sep 2020

**Departures from:** Warsaw

The order of the visited places may change.  
The tour is not recommended for disabled people.

### PRICING

Tour Date	Double occupancy	Single occupancy
23/May/2020 - 1/Jun/2020	1377 EUR / per person	1681 EUR / per person
29/Aug/2020 - 7/Sep/2020	1377 EUR / per person	1681 EUR / per person

#### INCLUDED IN PRICE

- 3\* hotel accommodation as described or similar
- transport with air-conditioned high-class coach
- experienced driver
- parking fees
- professional English-speaking escort guide while on tour
- breakfasts and 3 three-course dinners
- city tours of Warsaw, Krakow, Zakopane, Wroclaw, Poznan, Torun and Gdansk with licenced guides
- sightseeing of Malbork Castle, Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum and Wieliczka Salt Mines
- organ concert in Gdansk-Oliwa
- cable car to Mt. Gubalowka
- folklore show in the outskirts of Krakow
- city taxes in Gdansk
- information booklet
- tour organization and travel documents

#### NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE

- airfare
- airport transfers
- optional gratuities
- other services not mentioned in the programme

### ITINERARY

## Day 1: WELCOME DAY

Individual arrivals to the hotel. *Evening:* Meet your tour leader and other travellers. Then enjoy a hearty and delicious **welcome dinner**. Overnight in [Warsaw](#).

## Day 2: WARSAW

*Morning:* The first day begins with the very best of the nation's capital, **Warsaw**. Beginning in the historical centre of the city that was rebuilt brick by brick after near-total destruction during WW2. Next, you'll travel through the historical Jewish Ghetto and see what remains of the wall that once kept Warsaw's Jewish population separate during Nazi occupation. Next we travel to **the Royal Lazienki Palace Park** to see the most stunning gardens in the city - you may even spot a few peacocks! *Afternoon and evening:* Free time for exploring the city on your own. We recommend a visit to:

- Warsaw Uprising Museum
- The Museum of Polish Jews
- Praga district
- Wilanow Palace
- Vistulan boulevards

Overnight in Warsaw.

## Day 3: WARSAW - KRAKOW

*Morning:* Depart to [Krakow](#). After arrival, check-in the hotel. *Afternoon:* You'll start by meeting one of the best local guides who will take you through **the heart of Poland's cultural capital**. Beginning in the largest Medieval square in Europe, you'll explore Krakow's 16th-century cloth hall and take in **the Gothic altar in St Mary's Basilica** - the largest in the world. Next, stroll along Krakow's infamous cobblestones and make your way to **Wawel Hill** and the Castle of the Polish Monarchs - the heart of Poland until the 16th century. *Evening:* Feel the unique atmosphere and flavour of old Polish inns. Enjoy a **folklore show** and traditional Polish cuisine in the outskirts of Krakow. Return to Krakow for overnight.

## Day 4: WIELICZKA SALT MINE

*Morning:* Descend underground, into the eerie chambers of **Wieliczka Salt Mine**, where you'll discover medieval chapels, halls and galleries on three levels, carved entirely from the salt and bedrock. The visit includes impressive Chapel of St. Kinga with unique reliefs and altars. A city underneath a city, Wieliczka Salt Mine is truly a breathtaking feat of human engineering. *Afternoon and evening:* Free time. Overnight in Krakow.

## Day 5: ZAKOPANE

Day will be dedicated to the awe-inspiring [Tatra mountains](#), the most revered mountain range in Poland. In **Zakopane**, the home of the Polish Tatras, you'll jump on the railcar and take a trip to **the top of Gubalowka Hill** to admire a 360 view of the city and the surrounding mountain range. Then, while

strolling along Krupowki Street, one of Poland's most popular shopping promenades, you can enjoy the very best of the local culture, from fashion and souvenirs to restaurants and local produce. An absolute must, however, is a taste of the pride of the region, Oscypek, a smoked cheese made from a mix of sheep and cow milk. The surrounding wooden chapels, houses and eateries are overflowing with charm and will no doubt capture your heart. Return to Krakow in the early evening.

#### Day 6: AUSCHWITZ - WROCLAW

*Morning:* On the way to [Wroclaw](#), we will make a stop in the former **Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp Auschwitz-Birkenau**. Here, an experienced museum guide will take you through the exhibitions in the remaining prison blocks and show you the gas chambers and crematoriums. After a short break, you'll arrive at Birkenau/Auschwitz II, where you'll climb the infamous watchtower to take in the size of the largest Nazi extermination camp. *Afternoon and evening:* Arrive in Wroclaw in the late afternoon. Free evening.

#### Day 7: WROCLAW - POZNAN

*Morning:* City tour of **Wroclaw** (3h). Wroclaw (pronounced vrots-wav) is a gem of Poland that's often overlooked. The thriving city is small enough to be explored but big enough to feel bustling. After breakfast, a local guide will take you through the **old town's narrow lanes**, gas lamps and the **infamous Cathedral Island**. Next, you'll stop to take in the **University district** and explore its historical academic headquarters, and other buildings left untouched for hundreds of years. You'll then explore the town and the quaint shopping district en route to the **magnificent main square**, the city's heart and soul. After a lunch break, head to [Poznan](#). *Evening:* Short city tour of **Poznan** (2h). Here in Poznan, you'll explore the charming old town and its Renaissance Town Hall. Stroll through the charming streets on your way to St Stanislaw's Church, locally known as 'fara', and admire the **rare Polish Baroque architecture**, encrusted with gold, gems and other precious ornaments. Overnight in Poznan.

#### Day 8: TORUN - GDANSK

*Morning:* Depart from Poznan and travel north to Gdansk with a short stop in the medieval pearl - **Torun**. [Torun](#) is Poland's best-kept secret. One of the **most interesting and well-preserved cities in all of Europe**, the town, its incredible history and bounty of surprises is easily explored on foot. No matter where you go, you'll see some kind of decorative frieze, 200-year-old stained glass window, ruins of a medieval castle, and all of it brimming in history. You'll get a taste of Torun's favourite export, **gingerbread**, and explore the birthplace of the cities pride and joy, **Nicolaus Copernicus** - the astronomer who discovered that the Earth revolves around the sun. After a guided tour and a short break, transfer to Gdansk for the night.

#### Day 9: GDANSK

Beginning in the Old Town of Poland's biggest sea-side city, [Gdansk](#), you'll explore its rich maritime and trading history. The Amsterdam-esque slim red-brick houses, Hanseatic architecture and constant call of the sea make Gdansk a true sight to behold. Take in **St Mary's, the largest Gothic church in Poland**, the Neptune Fountain and Artus Court, the most famous symbols of the city. Afterwards, you'll be

travelling to **Oliwa** to visit stunning 13th-century cathedral, famous for its complex yet beautiful pipe organs. *Afternoon*: We stop at the famous **Gdansk (formerly Lenin) Shipyards**, the birthplace of the Solidarity movement led by Lech Walesa. *Evening*: Free time. Farewell dinner and last night in Gdansk.

Day 10: MALBORK - WARSAW

After an early breakfast, it's time to head back to Warsaw, stopping at the biggest brick castle in Europe.

**Malbork Castle** was the home of the Order of the Teutonic Knights between 1309 and 1459. Today, the UNESCO World Heritage Site has been meticulously restored, with its great halls, giant towers and grand galleries restored to their former glory. After a short break for lunch, continue the way to Warsaw. Arrive in the capital in the early evening.

