

## Perfect Pairing: Culture & Nature

Experience the **perfect balance of culture and relaxation** with this tour: explore the historical treasures of Krakow, Poland's cultural heart, and enjoy a peaceful retreat surrounded by nature at the base of the Owl Mountains.

Looking for an **unforgettable blend of vibrant city life and tranquil countryside**? This tour lets you uncover world-class art, wander through UNESCO heritage sites, and recharge in a serene, welcoming setting.

From Krakow's timeless charm to the cozy comfort of Hotel Niemcza Wine & Spa, this carefully crafted journey offers **inspiration, relaxation, and a deeper connection** with Poland's beauty.

**Duration:** 8 days

**Availability:** every day

**Departures from:** Krakow

**This tour is organized for minimum 2 pax.** If you are a solo traveller or you are going to travel in a larger group, please contact us for a quote. The itinerary can be adjusted to your travelling dates. We will change the order of the museum visits if it is necessary or will suggest some alternatives.

### PRICING

Tour Date	Double occupancy	Single occupancy
2 people	2628 EUR / per person	0 EUR / per person

#### INCLUDED IN PRICE

- accommodation in Krakow at the 4\* Hotel Kossak, located near Wawel Hill, or a similar property, in 1 double room (DBLB), bed & breakfast (5 nights)
- accommodation in Niemcza at the 3\* Hotel Niemcza Wine & Spa, in 1 double room (DBLB), bed & breakfast (2 nights)
- private car transfer for 2 passengers on arrival and departure (one transfer each way)
- private English-speaking guided tour of Krakow on **Day 2** as per the itinerary, including private transport (5 hours)
- entrance fees: Wawel Castle & Cathedral, St. Mary's Basilica
- obligatory museum guide at Wawel Castle
- private English-speaking guided walking tour of Krakow on **Day 3** as per the itinerary (4 hours)
- entrance fees: Czartoryski Museum, Collegium Maius
- private full-day tour on **Day 4** as per the itinerary, including transport and an English-speaking tour escort
- entrance fee: Dunajec rafting
- entrance fee to Wieliczka Salt Mine (you will join a larger group)

#### NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE

- flight tickets
- travel insurance
- alimentation
- other services not included in the programme

for the guided visit)

- private car transfer on **Day 6** as per the itinerary
- guided walking tour in Katowice (2 hours)
- private car transfer on **Day 7** as per the itinerary
- entrance fee: Arboretum in Wojsławice
- VAT

## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Nothing Like Krakow

**The Capital of Poland for 500 years and a cradle of Polish culture, Krakow**, ranks among Europe's most artistically rich cities. Stand-out architectural gems, a labyrinth of museums, charming restaurants, coffee shops, first-rate clubs and street performers, contribute to maintaining the magic of the place.

From the regal Wawel Castle to the bohemian spirit of Kazimierz, **every corner resonates with the essence of Poland's heritage**. Upon your arrival in Krakow Airport a private car transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is on your own.

### Day 2: Exploring the Soul of Krakow

**Priceless Art Treasures** Begin your day by diving into the captivating atmosphere of Krakow, the first European city to be honored as a UNESCO World Heritage site. As you explore, you'll uncover the stories of artists who shaped the way we view art and beauty. The journey starts in the heart of the Old Town, where **Europe's largest medieval square** has stood unchanged for over 700 years. Highlights include the **Renaissance Cloth Hall**, shimmering in the sunlight, and the **iconic St. Mary's Basilica, home to Veit Stoss's awe-inspiring wooden altarpiece**, a masterpiece of Gothic art. From the square, we'll make our way to **Wawel Castle and Cathedral**, perched majestically above the Vistula River. This iconic ensemble, a symbol of Poland's rich history and pride, offers a glimpse into the golden age of Krakow as the "City of Kings." Inside the Royal Castle, marvel at its **unrivaled collection of tapestries, including works by Michiel van Coxcie**, celebrated as the "Flemish Raphael." The Cathedral's stunning interior showcases Italian craftsmanship at its finest, a true testament to artistic brilliance. **The Ancient Heart of Jewish Krakow** In the afternoon, we'll head to Kazimierz, a **district brimming with history and character**. Once the vibrant center of Jewish life in Krakow, it now thrives as a lively, bohemian neighborhood. Stroll through its narrow, atmospheric streets, where history lingers at every corner. Along the way, you can see the **Rubinstein family house, the birthplace of Helena Rubinstein**, whose entrepreneurial spirit and famous saying, "Beauty is Power," left an enduring legacy. End the day with free time to explore Kazimierz further, indulge in some shopping, or simply soak up the unique ambiance of this remarkable district.

### Day 3: Through the Eyes of Art and Literature in Krakow

**Poland's Mona Lisa** While in Krakow, you'll have the chance to admire one of the most captivating faces

in art history. **The Czartoryski Museum houses Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, *The Lady with an Ermine***, one of only four portraits of women painted by the Renaissance genius. Art experts consider this piece the first modern portrait, celebrated for its emotional depth and anatomical precision—a true testament to Leonardo's skill. Next, we'll visit the **iconic Slowacki Theatre**, renowned for its connection to Helena Modrzejewska (known internationally as Helen Modjeska), the foremost female interpreter of Shakespeare on the global stage. This legendary Polish actress left an indelible mark both in her homeland and in America, becoming a symbol of artistic excellence in her time. A visit to Krakow wouldn't be complete without exploring **Collegium Maius, one of Europe's oldest universities**, often called "Copernicus College." Its stunning central courtyard is steeped in history, inviting you to pause and reflect on the centuries of knowledge that have passed through its walls. Finally, we'll tour the **Basilica of St. Francis, a treasure trove of Art Nouveau brilliance**. The vibrant stained-glass windows, designed by Polish master Stanislaw Wyspianski, fill the space with color and light. The floral murals adorning the interior reflect the Franciscan love of nature and highlight Wyspianski's unique vision. **The UNESCO City of Literature** Krakow's charm extends beyond its visual and architectural beauty; it's also a city of words. As a UNESCO City of Literature, it has nurtured literary greats like **Nobel Prize winners Czeslaw Milosz and Wislawa Szymborska**, as well as playwright Slawomir Mrozek, whose works found acclaim on Off-Broadway stages. During your free time, take a moment to explore Krakow's literary cafes, where the aroma of coffee mingles with the timeless magic of the written word.

#### Day 4: The River Rafting Experience & The Wieliczka Salt Mine

Begin your day on the border of Poland and Slovakia, where the picturesque Pieniny Mountain range awaits. The highlight here is the **tranquil Dunajec River rafting experience**, a tradition that has flourished for over two centuries. Guided by skilled highlanders, you'll drift along the gently meandering river, surrounded by rocky hillsides. These two hours on the water offer a serene escape into nature. While in the mountains, **don't miss the chance to try oscypek**—a spindle-shaped smoked sheep's milk cheese with a Protected Designation of Origin by the EU. Pair it with a touch of cranberry jam for a truly authentic taste of the region. Next, journey to the **Wieliczka Salt Mine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**, where centuries of salt extraction have left behind an underground wonderland. Marvel at intricate sculptures, carvings, and statues created by miners, celebrating mythic, historical, and religious figures. Among the highlights is the breathtaking Chapel of St. Kinga, the crown jewel of this subterranean masterpiece. End your day by returning to Krakow, carrying with you memories of nature's tranquility and human craftsmanship.

#### Day 5: Krakow - A Day at Your Own Pace

Take a full day to **enjoy Krakow in your own way**. Stroll through its streets, revisit places that caught your eye, or simply relax and soak in the atmosphere. You might choose to unwind in a café, browse local shops, or explore more of the city's history—whatever feels right for you.

#### Day 6: From Urban Heritage to Mountain Serenity

**The Iconic Nikiszowiec Settlement** Post-industrial urban spaces offer a fascinating setting for the imagination. The Nikiszowiec settlement, a **gem of social housing architecture**, cannot be overlooked

when seeking a complete portrait of Poland. This charming coal miners' district in Katowice feels like a step back in time to the industrial heyday of Upper Silesia. It provides a unique perspective on social architecture and an intriguing look at how remnants of the past have been transformed into contemporary galleries and cultural spaces. While in the region, you'll also have the chance to **savor its distinctive cuisine**. Traditional Silesian dumplings (with their signature hole), beef roulade, and braised red cabbage are among the must-try specialties. **An Enclave of Tranquility** After enjoying the cultural and culinary highlights of Nikiszowiec, we'll continue to **Hotel Niemcza Wine & Spa, nestled at the base of the Owl Mountains in the Sudetes**. Featuring its own vineyard and a nearby botanical garden, this hotel offers a peaceful retreat. Spend your afternoon enjoying free time to rest and recharge in this calm and healthy environment.

#### Day 7: Quality Time In Nature

Start your day by exploring the **idyllic landscapes of the University of Wroclaw's arboretum** in Wojslawice, a true gem of Lower Silesia. This botanical garden offers a breathtaking variety of flowers, plants, and serene ponds, making it the perfect place to stroll and unwind. Renowned for its exceptional collection of daylilies and rhododendrons, the arboretum serves both as a hub for research and education and as a beloved tourist destination. While there, take a moment to **admire the European Tree of the Year 2024, the majestic beech tree "Atropunicea"**, which has stood tall for over 200 years. Allow yourself to pause and enjoy the tranquility of this remarkable place. Next, visit the **Krasnodebski Sisters' ceramics workshop** in Niemcza, where creativity blossoms in every detail. Famous for their hand-crafted pottery adorned with floral motifs, the sisters' work reflects the uniqueness of nature itself—no two pieces are the same. The remainder of the day is yours to relax and explore at your own pace.

#### Day 8: Departure

Enjoy a private car transfer to the airport in Krakow or Wroclaw for your departure flight. If you are interested in extending your stay in Wroclaw, please contact us for a personalized quote.

