

Grand Tour of Poland

Our Grand Tour is the ultimate choice if you wish to discover the best of Poland in 12 days. Enjoy a varied extensive program with many unusual experiences. A thrilling personal insight into Poland, with fantastic landscapes and 1000 years of amazing history.

Duration: 12 days

Availability: May, 2019 - Sep, 2019

Departures from: Warsaw

Reduced prices are available only for new bookings made from 19th Nov to 25th Nov.

PRICING

Tour Date	Double occupancy	Single occupancy
17/May/2019 - 28/May/2019	1811 EUR / per person	2183 EUR / per person
12/Jul/2019 - 23/Jul/2019	1811 EUR / per person	2183 EUR / per person
23/Aug/2019 - 3/Sep/2019	1811 EUR / per person	2183 EUR / per person
27/Sep/2019 - 8/Oct/2019	1811 EUR / per person	2183 EUR / per person

INCLUDED IN PRICE

- hotel accommodation as described or similar
- transport (air-conditioned high-class motorcoach)
- experienced driver
- parking fees
- professional English-speaking escort guide while on tour
- 17 diversified meals, including breakfasts and 6 three-course dinner
- city tours of Warsaw, Gdansk, Krakow, Zakopane and Wroclaw with licenced guides;
- sightseeing of Gniezno, Malbork Castle, the Jasna Gora Monastery, Wawel Castle, Our Lady's Church, Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum, Wieliczka Salt Mines, Swidnica Peace Church, the Museum of the Warsaw Uprising
- entrance to private Chopin piano concert
- cruise on the Ostroda-Elblag Canal
- organ concert in Gdansk-Oliwa
- cable car to Mt. Gubalowka
- horse carriage ride and highlander show in Zakopane
- city taxes in Krakow and Zakopane
- information booklet
- tour organization and travel documents

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE

- airfare
- airport transfer
- optional gratuity

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival

Evening Meet with your tour leader and a representative from our office. This is followed by a hearty and delicious welcome dinner.

Day 2: Warsaw

Morning Your full-day tour of the city covers **the very best of fascinating Warsaw**: the charming Old Town (painstakingly rebuilt from scratch after WW II); the historical Jewish Ghetto area; the vibrant downtown and the elegant Royal Route with the Palace on the Water in the Łazienki Gardens, one of Europe's finest 18th century royal residences. **Afternoon** The next stop is **the Museum of the Warsaw Uprising**, widely regarded as the best new museum in Poland, and dedicated to the uprising of 1944, the consequences of which scar and define the city to this day. Alternatively, you can choose to have free time to explore the cobbled lanes of the Old Town and spot the details of restoration on the facades of the historical houses. **Evening** A delicious **traditional Polish dinner** in a stylish restaurant. We conclude the day with a **private piano concert** of works by Chopin, a Polish composer-pianist revered worldwide as the greatest master of Romantic music.

Day 3: The Day of Teutonic Knights

Morning Shortly after an early breakfast, we board our bus and head northwards to the Baltic Sea. We will travel through the Warmia (Ermland) region, stopping in the Iława Lake District to visit a marvel of 19th-century German engineering: **the Ostroda-Elbląg Canal**, a system of canals combined with a narrow-gauge railway. Your boat cruise will let you take in the natural and technical wonders of this top Poland attraction. **Afternoon** A tour of **Malbork** (Marienburg) Castle, a triumph of architecture and one of the biggest medieval castles in Europe. Between 1309-1459, it was the seat of the mighty Order of Teutonic Knights. Today, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with meticulously restored interiors such as the great halls, magnificent high towers and even a central heating system. **Evening** Drive to Gdańsk. Check-in to a comfortable hotel. Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 4: Gdansk

Morning We start in the Old Town of **Gdansk**, Gdańsk's past as the richest Polish port city has made it one of the top tourist destinations in Poland. Its Old Town is full of maritime atmosphere and packed with unique Hanseatic-style architecture. Think Amsterdam; tall and slim red-brick waterfront houses. During sightseeing you will see the Old Town, St. Mary's (the largest Gothic church in Poland), the Neptune Fountain and the Artus Court. After, we take you to **Oliwa** with a beautiful 13th-century cathedral famous for its set of incredibly complex pipe-organs. After an organ recital, you will have free time in Gdańsk. **Afternoon** On the way to the Old Town, we stop at the famous Gdansk (formerly Lenin) Shipyards, the birthplace of the Solidarity movement led by Lech Walesa. **Evening** Free time. Overnight stay in Gdansk.

Day 5: Torun - Copernicus

Morning After breakfast, we bid farewell to Gdańsk and head south towards **Toruń**, another red brick pearl! **Afternoon** Lunch break followed by a tour of Toruń Old Town (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). This delightful historical city is rich in original Gothic structures that survived numerous wars and invasions, including a magnificent town hall, medieval fortification walls, the Polish "leaning tower of Pisa", as well as the superb St. James' church. The town has always been famous for its gingerbread – taste it in different shapes and sizes. **Evening** Free time. Overnight stay in Toruń. The town may for many be the surprise hit of the entire trip. Based on what our previous clients have said, it never fails to leave a lasting impression.

Day 6: The first Polish capital

Morning On the way to Wrocław (Breslau), we will stop in **Gniezno**, the first Polish capital. The town is a must-see to understand the early history of Poland. The cathedral is a true gem and it was the coronation site of five Polish kings. Visitors can see the tomb of Saint Wojciech (Adalbert) as the centerpiece of the cathedral. It is renowned also for its bronze Romanesque gate. **Afternoon** Arrival at the medieval city of **Wrocław** in the Lower Silesia region. **Evening** Dinner in a superb restaurant. Overnight stay at a centrally located hotel.

Day 7: Lovely Silesia (The Church of Peace & Wrocław)

Morning From the feedback of the last ten seasons, Wrocław has always been warmly received by the visitors. You can either enjoy free time (there is plenty to do and see) in the old town or see the breathtaking university hall or go on a complimentary trip to Świdnica, a small town an hour's drive away. **Świdnica** is home to the huge wooden **Church of Peace**, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was one of the three places in Silesia where Protestantism was permitted after the Thirty Years' War and the church itself was built without using a single nail. **Midday** Shortly after lunch, we will take a **short walk in the Old Town** led by an experienced local guide **Evening** Free time. Overnight stay in Wrocław.

Day 8: Auschwitz-Birkenau

Morning This day's journey will be towards a totally different kind of experience. In eastern Silesia, at the edge of the town of Oswiecim there are two gruesome reminders of the former German death camps that now make up the Holocaust Memorial, kept so that humanity will never forget one of the worst periods in its history. We will visit the older camp **Auschwitz I** (the museum) and **II Birkenau**, a concentration and extermination camp. **Afternoon** After lunch we continue south to **Zakopane**, the principal Polish mountain resort located at the foot of the majestic Carpathian mountain range. **Evening** In the evening, we take a horse carriage ride to one of the best local restaurants. Enjoy a lively **highlander show with live music and dance** where you will see the folk customs that are still thriving in this region, and get a taste of the local cuisine and the strong "highlander tea". Overnight stay in Zakopane.

Day 9: Polish mountains

Morning We see the exquisite local wooden architecture in Zakopane before hopping onto the funicular railway to **Mt. Gubałówka**, one of the most beautiful peaks in the Tatras, to view the dramatic scenery. **Afternoon** During the day, there is time for some souvenir hunting along **Krupówki Street** in Zakopane. **Evening** Arrival in Kraków. Overnight stay in the beautiful Old Town.

Day 10: Wieliczka

Morning Descent into the underground chambers of the **Wieliczka Salt Mines** for an unparalleled and eerie tour of the medieval galleries, chapels and halls carved out of rock and salt deposits. All you've heard about this place is true; there is nothing like it in the world. ***Morning & evening*** Free time. Overnight stay in Kraków.

Day 11: Krakow - royal capital

Morning This city tour promises to be a feast for the senses and includes: exploring the medieval section of the town that has **the main town square**, the largest square in Europe; the fascinating churches with different architectural styles; and the most 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 every hour you can hear the Hejnal, the haunting alarm-call played by a trumpeter. We take a comfortable walking tour of the legendary **Wawel Castle**, covering the Cathedral and the Belfry. ***Evening*** Afterwards, we shall treat you to a sumptuous dinner in one of Krakow's finest restaurants. You will have a chance to learn how to **prepare delicious pierogi** (our national dish, a type of dumpling filled with meat, vegetables or fruit). Overnight stay in Kraków.

Day 12: Black Madonna - return to Warsaw

Morning Breakfast is followed by the last highlight of our tour – **Czestochowa**. Along with Rome, Fatima in Portugal and Lourdes in France, the **Jasna Gora Monastery** of Czestochowa belongs to the most important and inspiring pilgrimage points in Christendom. We will see not only the famous Black Madonna but also the monastery premises on a tour led by a resident Pauline monk. ***Afternoon & evening*** Arrival in Warsaw at approx. 18.00. Drop-off possible at the Chopin Airport, Hotel Novotel Airport, Hotel Airport Okecie and Hotel SOFITEL Victoria. **We can provide the best rates for an extended stay or arrange a continuation of the tour.** Favourite private extensions include: Lublin, once called Poland's Jerusalem; Kazimierz Dolny, an untouched renaissance trading town; Poznań, one of Poland's most historic and dynamic cities; Białowieża forest, the last unspoilt forest in Europe with its renowned bison or a spa hotels break – Poland is noted for having restorative micro-climates.

