

Treasures of Poland, plus Berlin



MAY 15 - JUNE 3, 2022

DAY 01

15 May Arrival in Wrocław, Poland

Everyone loves Wrocław (vrots-wahf), and it's easy to see why. With an idyllic location on the Odra River, the venerable city comprises 12 islands, 130 bridges, and verdant riverside parks. The beautifully preserved Cathedral Island is a treat for lovers of Gothic architecture

After checking into our hotel will have an afternoon tour of Wrocław Old Town, including the entrance to Raławice Panorama. We will meet for dinner in the restaurant. Overnight in Wrocław. *Included meals: D*

16 May Wrocław

After breakfast, we travel outside Wrocław. We will stop at the Swidnica Peace Church, a UNESCO site. The church is the largest wooden church in Europe. We continue to the 13th century Książ Castle. The castle was home to many noble families including the House of Hochberg. During WWII the Germans occupied the castle and created tunnels underneath the castle. Returning to the city we will visit Centennial Hall (also UNESCO enlisted) and Japanese Gardens for a stroll and a free time in the area. Return to the hotel. Dinner in the restaurant. Overnight Wrocław. *Included meals: B, D*

DAY 02

DAY 03

17 May Wrocław

After breakfast we will have more sightseeing in Wrocław including University Leopoldina Lecture Hall and Royal Palace City Museum. We will have some free time this afternoon Perhaps time to discover the Gnome Population in Wrocław! Meet for dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight Wrocław. *Included meals: B, D*



18 May Zakopane

Nestled in the foothills of the Tatras, Zakopane is Poland's best-known mountain resort, famed for hiking in summer and skiing in winter. Zakopane is known for its beautiful wooden villas dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some of these now house museums or hotels. The father of this craze for ornate timber houses was the architect Stanisław Witkiewicz, and his early 20th-century creations helped to establish Zakopane as a haven for painters, poets, writers and composers.

After breakfast we leave Wrocław and travel south. Our first stop is Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp Museums (UNESCO World Heritage List). We then continue to the town of Zakopane at the base of the Tatra Mountains. Dinner in a local restaurant.

Overnight Zakopane.

Included meals: B, D

DAY
04

DAY
05

19 May Zakopane

Today we enjoy the beautiful mountain scenery. We will take the funicular train to Gubałówka summit and admire Zakopane panorama. We continue with a carriage ride in Chocholowska valley with stop for dessert and coffee. Return to Zakopane for dinner in local restaurant. Overnight Zakopane.

Included meals: B,D

20 May Dunajec Gorge, Wieliczka Salt Mine, Krakow

The Historic Centre of Krakow, the former capital of Poland, is situated at the foot of the Royal Wawel Castle. The 13th-century merchants' town has Europe's largest market square and numerous historical houses, palaces and churches with their magnificent interiors. Further evidence of the town's fascinating history is provided by remnants of the 14th-century fortifications and the medieval site of Kazimierz with its ancient synagogues.

Leaving Zakopane we arrive in Sromowce Wyżne Village the departure point for exploring Pieniny National Park and Dunajec Gorge. We will have a traditional rafting experience through the gorge. Our day continues with a visit to Wieliczka Salt Mine. We will have a fully guided tour with free time at the lowest zone of the mine. After our visit our next stop is Krakow. Meet for dinner in the hotel.

Overnight Krakow

Included meals: B,D

DAY
06



DAY 07

21 May Krakow

Krakow is the second largest and one of the oldest cities in Poland. Situated on the Vistula River in the Lesser Poland region, the city dates back to the 7th century. Kraków has traditionally been one of the leading centres of Polish academic, cultural, and artistic life and is one of Poland's most important economic hubs. We have a half-day sightseeing of the city with local guide including entrance to St. Mary's Basilica, and Wawel Castle Royal Chambers. We will meet for dinner in a local restaurant and Folklore evening. Overnight Kraków. *Included meals: B,D*

22 May Krakow

Exploring more of Krakow we visit the Kazimierz district and its synagogues: Old, Remuh, Tempel, Kupa, and High. We visit the Galicia Jewish Museum and have a meeting with the Holocaust survivor. We continue our afternoon with a walk in the area of former Jewish Ghetto and visit Schindler's Factory Museum. Dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight in Kraków. *Included meals: B,D*

DAY 08

DAY 09

23 May Zalipie and Warsaw

A small ancient village in South-Eastern Poland, Zalipie, is definitely one of the country's top tourist attractions. Not because it has five-stars hotels or massive glass buildings, but on the contrary, due to its small wooden cottages, which are painted in the most vibrant colors.

During the Warsaw Uprising in August 1944, more than 85% of Warsaw's historic centre was destroyed by Nazi Troops. After the war, a five-year reconstruction campaign by its citizens resulted in meticulous restoration of the Old Town, with churches, palaces and marketplace. It is an example of a near-total reconstruction spanning 13th to 20th century.

After breakfast check out of the hotel and travel approximately 90 minutes to Zalipie village. We will have time for sightseeing of the village and afterwards arts and crafts workshops in the Painters' House. Next, transfer to Warsaw. This evening we will have a Chopin Concert and dinner in local restaurant. Overnight in Warsaw. *Included meals: B, D*



24 May Warsaw

Today we will have an Old Town sightseeing tour with an entrance to the viewing deck at the Palace of Culture and Science. We will then transfer to POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. We will finish with a guided walk in Royal Baths Palace and Park. Dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight in Warsaw.

Included meals: B,D

DAY
10

DAY
11

25 May Hitler's Wolf's Lair and Mamerki Bunkers

Hidden in thick forest near the hamlet of Gierłoż, is one of Poland's eeriest historical relics – 18 overgrown hectares of huge, partly destroyed concrete bunkers. This was Hitler's main headquarters during WWII, baptised with the German name of Wolfsschanze (Wolf's Lair). A famous attempt to assassinate the Führer took place here in July 1944.

Leaving Warsaw we travel approximately 3 hours north to the town of Gierłoż. Discover WWII mysteries in Hitler's hiding place the Wolf's Lair and continue to discover Mamerki bunkers. We will meet for dinner in the hotel. Overnight in Olsztyn.

Included meals: B, D

26 May Olsztyn and Gdansk

Olsztyn is the capital city of Poland's Warmia-Masuria Province, which is famous for being the 'Polish Lake District'. While rural charm and a love of nature is clear in the area, big city life prevails in vibrant Olsztyn.

With a tradition spanning over 1,000 years, Poland's maritime capital, Gdansk is one of the largest ports on the Baltic Sea. Today it is a unique metropolis that has always been characterized by a spirit of freedom and courage.

After breakfast and check-out we will have a guided tour of Olsztyn before traveling to Gdansk. We will have dinner in the hotel restaurant. Overnight Gdansk.

Included meals: B,D

DAY
12

DAY
13

27 May Gdansk

We will discover the Old Town with a guided sightseeing tour including entrance to St. Mary's Basilica. We will have a round trip cruise to Westerplatte. The Westerplatte Peninsula is the place where WWII started. Dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight Gdansk.

Included meals: B, D



DAY 14

28 May Malbork Castle and Torun

Built in the 13th century, the Castle of the German Teutonic Order in Malbork is the largest castle in the world measured by land area and the largest brick building in Europe. This amazing fortified monastery was restored after severe damage following WW2. It was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1997

Torun a magnificent walled Gothic town on the banks of the Vistula should be high on every traveller's list. Visitors revel in its wealth of historic buildings and city defences, all of which WWII left mercifully untouched. The entire town is listed as a Unesco World Heritage site for being an unusually well-preserved example of a medieval European trading and administrative centre.

Approximatley 1 hour from Gdansk we will discover the Castle of Malbork, the biggest Teutonic castle on UNESCO list. As it is a longer driving day we will have a stop in Topolno and visit to nearby vineyard. We continue our journey arriving in Torun late afternoon. Dinner has been arranged in the hotel this evening.

Overnight Torun

Included meals: B,D

29 May Poznan

Poznan is Poland's 5th largest city and one of its oldest. Situated halfway between Warsaw and Berlin, it combines a unique heritage with rich culture and a lively atmosphere. This is the very place Polish statehood was born in the 10th century.

We have a morning sightseeing tour and Gingerbread workshop in the Live Gingerbread Museum before traveling to Poznan. The drive will be about two and a half hours. En route we will visit the Cathedral in Gniezno. On arrival in Poznan, we will have a late afternoon food tour. Overnight Poznan.

Included meals: B

DAY 15

DAY 16

30 May Berlin

Bismarck and Marx, Einstein and Hitler, JFK and Bowie, they've all shaped – and been shaped by – Berlin, whose richly textured history confronts you at every turn. This is a city that staged a revolution, was headquartered by Nazis, bombed to bits, divided in two and finally reunited – and that was just in the 20th century! Walk along remnants of the Berlin Wall, marvel at the splendour of a Prussian palace, visit Checkpoint Charlie or stand in the very room where the Holocaust was planned. Berlin is like an endlessly fascinating 3D textbook where the past is very much present wherever you go.

This morning we have a sightseeing tour of Poznan including the Old Town and Cathedral. We will take the train to Berlin. We will arrive Berlin in time for dinner at a local restaurant.

Included meals: B, D

**DAYS
17-19**

31 May - 02 June

Berlin

Over the next three days, we will have various sightseeing tours organized with a local guide. You will also have plenty of time to explore on your own and pursue personal interests.

03 June Time to say Farewell

We will fly from Berlin to Toronto, with a late afternoon arrival and transfer to London, Ontario.

**DAY
20**

