

POLAND & PRAGUE.



Featuring Warsaw, Krakow, Zakopane and Prague
Wed, Sept 21-Sun, Oct 02, 2016 (10 nights/ 12 days)

DAY 1 / Wed, Sept 21 In flight

We depart from Pearson International Airport with LOT, Polish Airlines. Flight will leave at 9:45 pm and arrive into Warsaw at 12:05 pm the next day. Meals will be served in flight.

DAY 2 / Thu, Sept 22 Warsaw

We arrive into Warsaw at 12:05 pm. We clear customs and will be met by our guide and deluxe coach. As we move downtown you can try to imagine that after the Second World War, huge parts of the city were completely ruined. Only rubble was left. Many of the local citizens brought in post cards and photos to help the government reconstruct this city. We will be staying for 2 nights in the city centre. Some time to relax before a welcome dinner at the hotel.

(Breakfast in flight and welcome dinner)

Accommodation: Mercure Grand Hotel or similar

DAY 3 / Fri, Sept 23 City sightseeing Warsaw

Enjoy a full hot breakfast at the hotel this morning before we once again board our coach for an interesting look at Warsaw. We will start in Old Town and the Royal Route. Standing on the Royal Castle Square you can thank the citizens of Warsaw that all has been rebuilt. Relax and walk through the paths of Lazienki Park, former summer residence of King Stanislaw August Poniatowski, the last Polish king. Admire the beautiful Palace on the Water and the amphitheatre. Our tour will take us past the Palace of Culture, affectionately known as the "wedding cake". Then there is time to reflect at the Memorial of the Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto. The tour concludes with a walk through the Old Town to the Market Square. We include lunch today at a local restaurant. (Breakfast and lunch) Some free time this afternoon. Return to our hotel at leisure.

Accommodation: Mercure Grand hotel or similar

DAY 4 / Sat, Sept 24 Warsaw – Czestochowa – Krakow

Following breakfast we depart for Czestochowa, a city in southern Poland on the Warta River. The city is known for the famous Pauline monastery of Jasna Gora, which is the home of the Black Madonna painting, a shrine to the Virgin Mary. Enjoy some time to visit this famous pilgrimage site and have lunch. Then we continue on our way south to Krakow. For hundreds of years Krakow was Poland's capital, the centre of Polish political, cultural and scientific life. The city, with its unique atmosphere, is one of the most beautiful showpieces of Eastern Europe. This claim is validated by the inclusion of its historic centre on the first ever UNESCO World Heritage List in 1978. You will enjoy this city of majestic monuments, cobbled streets, priceless townhouse, fine architecture and city of Polish kings. Dinner is included this evening.

(Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Accommodation: Metropolis Hotel or similar

Created especially for the Escarpment Probus Club, the Combined Probus
Clubs of Oakville North and friends.

DAY 5 / Sun, Sep 25 Krakow and Auschwitz-Birkenau

Breakfast is included this morning. Krakow is one of Poland's oldest cities and it's second largest. It was the capital for over 500 years during the late Middle Ages and today is regarded as a major academic and artistic centre. On our morning tour, enjoy a walk through the Old Town visiting the Renaissance "Cloth Hall" in the Market Square and the Mariacki Church. Lunch is included today in a local restaurant before we leave the city behind and travel to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum. Since World War II, the name of the two has become a symbol all over the world of the martyrdom of Nazi victims. Built here in 1940 was the largest concentration camp – Oswiecim Brzezinka/ Auschwitz-Birkenau – in which more than 1,500,000 prisoners of 28 nationalities lost their lives, among them Polish social and political activists. Soviet prisoners and the largest number – Jews were brought here from all over Europe. The camp area has been designed as a Monument to the Martyrdom of the Polish and other nations. Since 1947 there has been a National Museum of Martyrology here. An impressive Monument to Victims of Oswiecim has been built in the grounds. We pass beneath a replica of the infamous "Arbeit Macht Frei" (Work Makes You Free) entrance gate. This is a very moving visit. Dinner at the hotel tonight.

(Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Accommodation: Metropolis Hotel or similar

DAY 6 / Mon, Sept 26 Krakow and Wieliczka (Salt Mines)

Following breakfast we begin by paying a visit to Wawel Castle, the marvelous renaissance residence of kings. Next, the Cathedral, where they were crowned as well as buried. The cathedral amazes visitors with both its history and its breathtaking decorations. Lunch on your own, and then depart in the afternoon for Wieliczka to see the oldest salt mine in Europe. You descend 150m below ground level by foot for a 2½ hour tour through several kilometres of corridors. Inside are chapels, ballrooms, a café and a museum. (Breakfast)

Dinner on your own this evening.

Accommodation: Metropolis Hotel or similar

DAY 7 / Tue, Sept 27 Krakow to Zakopane

Breakfast at our hotel. We then say farewell to Krakow as we travel south from Krakow to Zakopane, the most famous of Polish mountain winter resorts with beautiful scenic forest in the fall. We arrive in the late morning. Lunch on your own at our hotel. Afternoon, enjoy sightseeing tour of Zakopane. See wooden architecture, Jaszczurowka Chapel, Sanctuary of our Lady of Fatima, views of the Tatras Mountains from top of Gubalowka Mountain. Some free time to shop for local souvenirs at the Highlanders Market. We return to our hotel for dinner at a typical Highlands cottage with entertainment. (Breakfast and dinner)

Accommodation: Grand Starny Hotel or similar

DAY 8 / Wed, Sept 28 Touring Zakopane region

Have a good breakfast this morning before we depart for Pieninski Park and a full day sightseeing tour. Enroute to Pieniny National Park, visit the wooden church in Debno. This Gothic church was built of larch wood in the middle of the 15th century. Its structure was joined by notching and reinforced with spiles, but with no nails. An exhilarating 2.5 hour rafting trip in the Dunajec River on traditional wooden rafts, travelling from Sromowce Katy to Szczawnica. It is amazing meeting with the wild nature, untouched for thousands of years. The Dunajec River sculpted the ravine in the limestone rocks. The tradition of steering down the river on a wooden raft built from narrow boats tied together to each other dates back to the first half of the 19th century.

Lunch on your own and free time in spa town of Szczawnica. On our return, we'll stop at Niedzica Castle and the dam on the Dunajec River. Niedzica castle is one of the most precious sites among the Polish fortified architecture. It was built in the early 14th century on the Hungarian side of the border, opposite the Polish fortress in Czorsztyn. Today, it houses a historical museum whose collection includes documents concerning the history of the castle and the Spisz region. Dinner at hotel tonight. (Breakfast and dinner)

Accommodation: Grand Starny Hotel or similar



DAY 9 / Thu, Sept 29 Zakopane to Prague

We have a travel day today as we move from Poland to the Czech Republic. We will be stopping at Brno, the second largest city of the Czech Republic in the centre of the Moravian region. It's historic centre is delightful so enjoy the stop for lunch on your own. After Brno, we continue for a two hour ride to Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. The city is bisected by the Vltava River. Nicknamed "the City of a Hundred Spires," it's known for its Old Town Square, the heart of its historic core, with colorful baroque buildings, Gothic churches and the medieval Astronomical Clock, with a popular show. Completed in 1402, pedestrian Charles Bridge is lined with 30 statues of saints. Relax and unpack in our centrally located hotel. Dinner at the hotel this evening. (Breakfast and dinner)

Accommodation: Clarion Old Town Hotel or similar

DAY 10 / Fri, Sept 30 Prague sightseeing

Following breakfast we will begin in the vicinity of the Estates Theater in the Old Town, which hosted the premiere of W. A. Mozart's opera, "Don Giovanni." We'll pass by the National Theater, where you'll have a marvelous panoramic view of Prague Castle and the Charles Bridge, Rudolfinum (home-stage of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra), the Powder Gate, Charles Square, the renowned Dancing House (Fred and Ginger), and Wenceslas Square, also known as the center of the New Town, where Czech history was written. Then we'll cross the Jirasek Bridge for you to be enchanted by the Lesser Quarter, dominated by St. Nicholas Church. The first part of the tour is provided by minibus. We'll start our walk along Prague Castle, where Czech kings had their offices. We will see St. Vitus' Cathedral, where the Czech Crown Jewels are kept, and where the father of the country, King Charles IV, is buried, We are walking downhill towards the Old Town Square, one of the oldest marketplaces in Prague with its historic Town Hall and world-famous Astronomical Clock dating back to 1410. Our tour ends at the Old Town Square and famous Charles Bridge. Our guide leaves us here for free time to enjoy this historic area. It is an easy walk back to the hotel. Dinner at the hotel this evening.

(Breakfast and dinner)

Accommodation: Clarion Old Town Hotel or similar

DAY 11 / Sat, Oct 01 Hop on-hop off bus, Prague

You can take this day at your own pace. We have provided you with a City Sightseeing hop-on hop-off bus tour complete with informative audio commentary. Time to really enjoy the top Prague attractions including Old Town, the Vltava River and Prague Castle, hopping on and off at any of the eight stops along the way. The hop-on hop-off bus makes it easy to get around, while giving you the freedom and flexibility to explore at your own pace. Perhaps include a visit to Schindler's Factory. Oskar Schindler was a wealthy German Nazi who employed hundreds of Jews in his Krakow enamel factory, which ultimately led to many saved lives. Despite Schindler's political affiliations, he insisted that his employees were vital to the workforce. Many of his workers were shipped out of Poland to Brněnec in the Czech Republic, where they went on to survive World War II. Schindler's part in all this is immortalized in the Steven Spielberg film Schindler's List. Since June 2010, Schindler's old factory has housed a highly emotive, interactive and visually stunning permanent exhibition on the Nazi occupation of Krakow.

Farewell dinner this evening with wine and beer. (Breakfast and dinner)

Accommodation: Clarion Old Town Hotel or similar

DAY 12 / Sun, Oct 02 Home

Our program ends today as we pack up and transfer to the airport for our flight home. Polish Airlines flight 528, departs Prague at 1:10 pm and arrives Warsaw at 2:25. Polish Airlines flight 45 departs Warsaw at 4:45 pm and arrives Toronto at 7:55 pm the same day. (Breakfast at the hotel and meals in flight)



INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST:

- Round trip airfare with Polish Airlines from Toronto to Warsaw, Prague to Toronto
- 10 nights first class accommodation, all rooms with private facilities and non-smoking
- English speaking guide for the full tour
- Modern motor coach with experienced driver for the full tour duration
- Hot breakfast daily at the hotel
- 3 lunches and 8 dinners including farewell dinner with wine and beer\
- City sightseeing Warsaw, visit to Czestochowa and the monastery of Jasna Gora, sightseeing in Krakow, visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum, , visit to Wavel Castle, visit to the Salt Mines at Wieliczka, touring in Zakopane, rafting trip on the Dunajec River sightseeing tour of Prague, visit to the Prague Castle, full day Hop-on, hop off bus pass.
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person
- All taxes on included features



NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST

- Airport departure taxes. Currently \$620.00
- Optional insurance.

COST PER PERSON, TWO TO ROOM, CANADIAN DOLLARS

\$2950.00 Single supplement: Plus \$580.00

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- To book your tour: Complete the enclosed booking form and mail it to Tour Design or send it by email to nliu@glpworldwide.com. Our toll free number is 1-888-923-9183 and Nancy's extension is 252.

DEPOSIT:

- Deposit of \$500 per person is required at the time of booking. If you wish to have optional deluxe package insurance, please note at the time of booking. If you take insurance, please provide your date of birth. Rates are listed on the booking sheet.
- Final payment is due 75 days prior to departure on July 18, 2016

CANCELLATION:

- Between the date of booking and January 18, 2016 - \$300 per person
- From January 19, 2016 and July 17, 2016 – \$500 per person
- From July 18 to date of departure – total tour cost.

DOCUMENTATION: You must have a valid passport to travel on this tour. Your passport must be valid for six months after your return date.

AIR CREDIT: If you wish to do your own airfare from Toronto to Warsaw, Prague to Toronto you can deduct \$450.00 from the tour cost.

Program designed in conjunction with Joanne Millichamp. Email: jmillichamp@hotmail.com or call 289 878 2969.

