

## **THE TREASURES OF POLAND    Tour A-4**

### **11 Days / 10 Nights LAND ONLY**



### **TOUR ITINERARY:**

#### **DAY 1            *Saturday • WARSAW*** ***(Welcome dinner)***

After arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel in the heart of the city. The afternoon is free. At 6:00PM, meet your guide and the rest of the group in the hotel lobby. Drive along the beautifully renovated Royal Route with its historical monuments and residences. Stop at Castle Square for a short walk through Old Town, and then join us for welcome dinner at a local restaurant. Your meal will include typical Polish dishes and famous Polish vodka, "Zubrowka".

#### **DAY 2            *Sunday • WARSAW*** ***(Breakfast, Lunch)***

This morning, we introduce you to the highlights of Warsaw. A half-day sightseeing tour includes Old Town, beautifully rebuilt after World War II, with the impressive Royal Castle, seat of the kings of Poland. Here the Constitution of May 3rd was proclaimed in 1791, the second oldest constitution, after the US Constitution, in the world. You will admire some of its 300 rooms and see the Canaletto Room with 23 of his paintings, the Throne Room, the magnificent Knight's Hall with six large paintings by Marcello Bacciarelli, the Marble room with its 22 portraits of Polish kings and the largest and most impressive of all the castle's chambers, the Ballroom. After lunch served at a local restaurant in Old Town, we continue our tour with a drive to the area of the former Warsaw Ghetto. En route, you will see the building of the National Opera House and Town Hall. During your tour of Warsaw we invite you to the famous Warsaw café, "U Bliklego", to taste a typical Warsaw pastry called "paczek". This evening you will take an unforgettable musical journey through the world famous compositions of our greatest composer, Frederic Chopin, at a piano recital. A glass of sparkling wine will be served during intermission.

#### **DAY 3            *Monday • WARSAW – CZESTOCHOWA – ZAKOPANE*** ***(Breakfast, Lunch)***

After breakfast, we depart for Zakopane – one of the most popular vacation resorts in the Tatra Mountains. En route, we stop in Czestochowa to visit the Jasna Gora Monastery and the Black Madonna Shrine with its miraculous icon. Lunch will be served a local restaurant in Czestochowa. In the evening we arrive in Zakopane beautifully situated at the foot of the Tatra Mountains, in the valley between Gubalowka and Giewont. It is the most popular resort in Poland and one of the most beautiful places in all of Poland, owing to its picturesque location. Once, a small mountain village, Zakopane became a fashionable artist's retreat at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**DAY 4**      **Tuesday • ZAKOPANE – KRAKOW**  
**(Breakfast, Dinner)**

In the morning, you will have a sightseeing tour of Zakopane, whose wooden architecture blends with the natural landscapes and it is copied in other parts of Poland and is known as Zakopianski Style. You will visit the Jaszczurowka Chapel, a great example of the wooden architecture in Zakopane, and the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima at Krzeptowki, which was built by the people of Zakopane to thank the Lady of Fatima for saving the Pope after an attempt on His life. Admire the breathtaking views of the Tatras from the top of Gubalowka Mountain and shop for souvenirs of arts and crafts of the Highlanders (Gorale) in the local shops.

After lunch on your own you will have a free time. Before we continue on to Krakow, take a spectacular rafting trip on the Dunajec River in Pieniny National Park. Tonight's dinner will be served at a local restaurant in Krakow's Old Town Market Square.



**DAY 5**      **Wednesday • KRAKOW – WIELICZKA – KRAKOW**  
**(Breakfast, Dinner)**

The morning sightseeing tour will feature Wawel, the Royal Castle, home to three dynasties of Poland's monarchs. Its stately halls and exquisite chambers are filled with priceless art, valuable period furniture and rare ancient objects. The collection of monumental 16<sup>th</sup> century tapestries is matchless. You will also visit the Wawel Cathedral, the place of the cult of St. Stanislaw and St. Jadwiga, Queen of Poland. Its 18 chapels are true architectural masterpieces. The giant bell, Zygmunt from 1520 ranks with the world's largest. This is the place where Polish kings were crowned and buried. Following a short break for coffee and cake at the famous Krakow café, "Jama Michalika", a place designed by local artists with beautiful glass-painted windows and interesting drawings, we drive to Old Town with its restored Main Square of magnificent houses and palaces. There, you stop at St. Mary's Basilica where to see the magnificent wooden altar by Wit Stwosz. In the middle of the square is Cloth Hall built before 1349, but renovated in the 16th century with many shopping stalls inside. After lunch on your own, we drive to the Wieliczka Salt Mine, an unforgettable tourist attraction with underground chambers, grottoes, and chapels carved from salt. Dinner with **a folkloric show** will be served at a local restaurant in Wieliczka, before we drive back to Krakow.

**DAY 6**      **Thursday • KRAKOW – AUSCHWITZ – KRAKOW**  
**(Breakfast, Lunch)**

Drive to Auschwitz to visit the Martyrdom Museum of the former Nazi concentration camp, the infamous factory of death. In the afternoon time to explore the city on your own and time for shopping.



**DAY 7**      **Friday • KRAKOW - TORUN**  
**(Breakfast, Lunch)**

Morning departure for Torun. Lunch at a local restaurant upon arrival.

Afterwards, sightseeing tour of Torun including highlights of the city. Torun is the birthplace of Nicolaus Copernicus and considered as one of the most magnificent historic cities of Poland. Its Old Town has been included in UNESCO's list for its impressive 13<sup>th</sup> century Town Hall, superb churches and historic streets preserving Torun's past glory. A visit to the Copernicus Museum is included in your itinerary. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant in Torun.

**DAY 8**      **Friday • TORUN - GDANSK**  
**(Breakfast, Lunch)**

Departure for Gdansk.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Afternoon time for orientation walk through the city.

**DAY 9**      **Saturday • GDANSK – GDYNIA – Sopot – GDANSK**  
**(Breakfast, Lunch)**

Today, we tour Gdansk in depth. We start from the Upland Gate - a fragment of the city's former fortifications and one of its main gates. Just behind it, we pass by a baked-brick construction consisting of the Prison Tower and the Torture House - relics of the 15<sup>th</sup> century Gothic defense walls. The Golden Gate, situated next to the Prison Tower, opens onto Long Market - a magnificent street, with grand mansions decorated with late Renaissance and Baroque facades. A real feast for the eyes!!! It is here that the richest burghers of Gdansk once lived. Next, we come upon the Main Town and the Artus Court - a building used for Hanseatic League meetings.

It is renowned as the most beautiful court among all of Europe's Hanseatic cities. Just behind it stands the tower of St. Mary's Basilica, a part of the most precious and largest red-brick Gothic church in Gdansk. On our way back we pass by Mariacka Street, with its gabled terraced houses and elegant boutiques. From here we drive to Gdynia, youngest of the tri-city complex, which also includes Sopot. Here we visit Oliwa Cathedral famous for one-of-a-kind pipe organ, to enjoy a concert. After lunch at a local restaurant, we continue our drive to Sopot, the famous and fashionable seaside resort. Here you can still see the oldest and longest wooden pier in Europe. The balance of the day is free and give you time for shopping Baltic arts and crafts, including unique amber jewelry and trinkets.



**DAY 10**      **Sunday • GDANSK – MALBORK – WARSAW**  
**(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

After breakfast, we drive to Olsztyn. En route, we stop at the Teutonic Knights Castle in Malbork. It is the largest brick building in Europe and one of Poland's greatest tourist attractions. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, we continue to Olsztyn, a town located in a region of lakes and forests. The most attractive part of the city is the old town, encircled by a set of fortified walls.

Departure for Warsaw.

A farewell dinner will be served at local restaurant in Warsaw this evening.

**DAY 11**      **Tuesday • WARSAW**  
**(Breakfast)**

After breakfast this morning, we transfer you to the airport for the return flight home.

## Included services:

- Airport transfers
- Selected class hotels, rooms with private facilities
- English-speaking tour escort assistance
- Obligatory local guides
- Private air-conditioned motor coach/minibus/car (depending on the group size)
- Meals as per itinerary:

*breakfast daily,*

*6 x lunch served at the local restaurants*

*5 x dinner (including one dinner with folkloric show in Wieliczka)*

- Cake & coffee/tea at famous Warsaw café „U Bliklego”
- Cake & coffee/tea at famous Krakow café „Jama Michalika”
- Sightseeing tours as per itinerary
- Entrance fees:

*Warsaw – Royal Castle*

*Czestochowa – Jasna Gora Monastery and the Black Madonna Shrine*

*Oswiecim/Auschwitz*

*Zakopane – cable car to Gubalowka Hill and a rafting trip on the Dunajec River*

*Krakow – Royal Castle and Cathedral on the Wawel Hill, St. Mary’s Church*

*Wieliczka Salt Mine*

*Torun – Copernicus Museum*

*Gdansk – organ concert in the Oliwa Cathedral*

*Malbork – Malbork Castle*

*Olsztyniek – Museum of Folk Architecture*

- Chopin concert with a glass of sparkling wine
- Luggage handling at hotels (one piece per person)
- Hotel charges and taxes

## Indication of hotels:

**3 nights at 4-star hotel in Warsaw**

**Novotel Centrum or similar**



**1 night at 3-star hotel in Zakopane**

**Nosalowy Dwor or similar**



**3 nights at 4-star hotel in Krakow**

**Novotel Bronowice or similar**



**1 night at 3-star hotel in Torun**

**Mercure Helios or similar**



**2 nights at 4-star hotel in Gdansk**

**Scandic Hotel or similar**



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**Tour A-4**

**Guaranteed Dates 2012**

Starting dates in Warsaw <b>Saturday</b>	Ending dates in Krakow <b>Tuesday</b>
May 19	May 29
July 7	July 17
July 21	July 31
August 04	August 14
August 25	September 4
September 8	September 18
September 22	October 2
October 6	October 16