

PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND

8 days

Route: Warsaw – Niepokalanów – Częstochowa – Oświęcim – Wadowice – Krakow – Łudźmierz – Zakopane – Krakow



Częstochowa – Jasna Góra Monastery

Day 1. Warsaw

Arrival in Warsaw. A panoramic tour to make you feel the city atmosphere. Dinner to be provided at a restaurant well known as a place serving traditional Polish cuisine.

Day 2. Warsaw

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Poland's capital. Highlights of your tour include the Old Town, rebuilt with great reverence after World War II, the beautiful Royal Route to see its palaces, aristocratic residences, famous statues and historic churches – the sites of faith and spirit of the Polish people. Visit the most famous baroque church in Warsaw, St Anne's Church, a witness of important events in Warsaw's history. It was here that Pope John Paul II celebrated mass in 1980. Proceed to the Metropolitan Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Warsaw's oldest Gothic church. Lunch to be served at one of the Old Town restaurants. Afterwards, proceed to St. Stanislaw Kostka Church where you will attend a Holy Mass and see a special exhibition devoted to Father Jerzy Popiełuszko, a great personality of the Catholic Church murdered by militant security police in 1984. Today, pilgrims from all over the world arrive to Kostka Church, a major "Solidarity" sanctuary, to pray on his tomb. Afternoon is free at leisure.

Day 3. Warsaw – Niepokalanów – Częstochowa

Morning departure for Niepokalanów to visit one of the youngest Polish sanctuaries. It is a Franciscan monastery linked with the figure of Saint Maximilian Maria Raymond Kolbe, a martyr from the Auschwitz death camp. The monastery was founded in 1927, and in 1980 Pope John Paul II gave the church the title of a Minor Basilica. Continue for Częstochowa, the religious centre of Poland. Częstochowa is one of the most important places of religious worship in the Christian World, with pilgrimage traditions dating back to the 14th century. Check-in at your hotel and a short rest after the journey. In the evening, you will visit Jasna Góra Monastery and its famous shrine which houses the Black Madonna, venerated by some as the "Queen of Poland". Holy Mass before the miraculous picture of the Black Madonna.

Day 4. Częstochowa – Oświęcim – Wadowice – Krakow

In the morning: meeting with a local Paulist guide and

visit to the monastery. Your tour will include: the Basilica with the Black Madonna Shrine, the exhibition devoted to the 600-years-long history of the Monastery, the Armoury Room, as well as the Treasury Room with precious gifts. Afternoon visit to the Auschwitz Museum. In the death camp, known as *Konzentrationslager Auschwitz*, we will visit the cell of the martyred St. Maximilian Kolbe. En-route stop in Wadowice, the birthplace of Pope John Paul II. Visit to the house where the Pope was born and the church that he attended as a child. Continue drive for Krakow. Check-in and free time.



Day 5. Krakow

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of the magical town of Krakow, the city connected with Pope John Paul II. Our Krakow tour begins with the Barbican – a medieval fortress, the Market Square – Europe's largest medieval square, St. Mary's Church with the largest wooden gothic altar in the world created by Veit Stoss. Proceed to the Wawel Hill to visit the Wawel Cathedral, the site of Karol Wojtyła's ordination as bishop. We will see the Bishop' Palace where Karol Wojtyła used to live, with the famous window where John Paul II used to show up to talk with Cracovians during his pilgrimages to Poland. We will tour St. Florian's church where he was a vicar and the beautiful Franciscan church, his favourite praying place. The latter church features also a monumental stained-glass window made by Stanislaw Wyspiański. Also worth seeing is the Catholic Centre of John Paul II where you can learn about Pope John Paul II's spiritual heritage. In the afternoon, you can explore the city on your own.



Day 6. Krakow – Łudźmierz – Zakopane

Morning departure for Zakopane. En-route stop at Łudźmierz, the religious centre of highlanders. Visit the oldest sanctuary in the Podhale region, where Pope John Paul II often arrived and prayed with his beloved mountaineers. See the miraculous figure of Our Lady Queen of Podhale. This wooden sculpture is almost 600 years old. Every year in September, on the holiday called *Matki Boskiej Siewnej*, the basilica becomes the centre of a colourful and spectacular harvest festival. Continuing to Zakopane. Afternoon visit to Zakopane including the famous Krupówki Street, the ski jump, the Jaszczurówka Chapel – a great example of the characteristic wooden architecture in Zakopane, and the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima at Krzeptówki.

Day 7. Zakopane – Łagiewniki – Krakow

In the morning: visit to the Blessed Sister Faustina Convent in Łagiewniki, the capital of the Divine Mercy. It was here that originated the message of the Divine Mercy, which Christ Himself wished to pass on to our generation, through the mediation of Sister Faustina. We will visit the Shrine of Divine Mercy, St. Faustina's convent chapel and her tomb. Afternoon: time at leisure. Farewell dinner at one of the famous Krakow restaurants.

Day 8. Krakow

After breakfast: transfer to the airport.

