

**TASTE POLAND**  
**9 Days / 8 Nights**

**TOUR A - 6**  
**LAND ONLY**



**Day 1**  
**WARSAW, Welcome Dinner**

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Arrival in Warsaw. Transfer to your hotel. Afternoon meeting with your tour escort. Drive for the Chopin concert held in one of the historical interiors of Warsaw. A glass of sparkling wine during the interval. Afterwards, you will be welcomed with a loaf of bread and salt – a traditional Polish way to greet the guests. Welcome dinner at one of the local restaurant owned by Magda Gessler and degustation of Polish vodkas.

**Day 2**  
**WARSAW, Breakfast & Dinner**

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Walk through the Old Town, an excellent example of a compromise between the historic values and modern needs. See the Barbican, St. John’s Cathedral, Warsaw’s oldest and most distinguished church, connected to celebrations of proclamation of Poland’s Constitution of May 3, the first constitution in Europe and only the second in the world. Visit historical sites of Warsaw: the Ghetto Memorial, the Monument of the Warsaw Uprising, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Take pleasure in a drive along the Royal Route with its beautiful palaces, aristocratic residences, famous statues and historic churches.

Visit to the Royal Castle - the residence of first Polish Parliament. Rebuilt after the W.W. II some of its 300 rooms can be visited. All are furnished and decorated as it was ages ago. There is the magnificent Knight’s Hall with six large paintings by Marcello Bacciarelli and the largest and most impressive of all the chambers is the Ballroom.

Highlight - the Canaletto Room with 23 paintings of Bernardo Bellotto where you will see paintings presenting Warsaw in the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Afternoon on your own.

Dinner at a local restaurant, where you will also have a possibility to try to make your own ‘pierogi’ – dumplings – with different kind of stuffing: meat, cabbage and mushrooms or fruits. This will be an unforgettable cooking lesson and degustation of the most famous Polish dishes.

Poles love to drink beer, therefore, after dinner and your cooking lesson we will take you to “KOMPANIA PIWNA” – a typical beer restaurant with live music, excellent food, including different kinds of beers & snacks.

**Day 3**  
**WARSAW-TORUN-GNIEW, Breakfast & Dinner**

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Sightseeing tour of Torun.

Degustation of different kind of ginger bread for the dessert.

Drive to Gniezno for overnight and evening festive dinner at the Gniezno Castle.

Enjoy your festive evening with dinner served by the Gniezno Knights presenting historical costumes, knights’ fights traditions. You will degustate typical Polish dishes based on traditional recipes.

## **Day 4**

### **GNIEW-MALBORK-GDANSK, Breakfast & Dinner**

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Departure for Gdansk. En route stop in Malbork to see the famous fortress of the Teutonic Knights. The magnificent castle is located on the banks of the Nogat River. Protected by draw bridges, moats and mounds, the complex consists of 3 parts: the Lower, Middle and Upper Castles. Note the remarkable and original palm vaulting in the Knight's Hall. The largest in Poland and some of the oldest castle in Europe. A splendid example of a classic medieval fortress with multiple defensive walls, a labyrinth of rooms and chambers with great architectural details and decorations. Teutonic Castle in Malbork belongs to the UNESCO Treasures of Poland. Beside the main Chapel, the High Castle's Chapter House is the most important interior in the Malbork Castle.

Upon arrival in Gdansk short walk through the Old Town. Afterwards, drive to **Sopot** – one of Poland's most fashionable seaside resorts. Stroll along the pier, reputedly the longest on the Baltic, which continues for 512 metres into the sea. Dinner at a local restaurant with sea shants entertainment and degustation of gold-wasser.

## **Day 5**

### **GDANSK, Breakfast & Dinner**

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We start the tour from the Upland Gate - a fragment of the city's 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 Gothic defence walls from the 15th century. The Golden Gate, situated next to the Prison Tower, opens onto the Long Market - a magnificent street, with Patrician mansions decorated with late Renaissance and Baroque facades - a real feast for the eyes!!! It is here that the richest burghers of Gdansk used to live. Next, we can see the Main Town Hall, with a life-sized figure of king Sigismund Augustus on the top. Beyond the Main Town Hall, we admire the Artus Court - a building used for Hanseatic League meetings, the most beautiful court in all the Hanseatic cities. Just behind it raises the tower of St. Mary's Basilica, a part of the most precious and largest red-brick Gothic church. On our way back we pass by Mariacka Street, with its gabled terraced houses and elegant boutiques, leading to the Long Wharf on the Motlawa River. At the river's edge stands the characteristic Gdansk Crane, where the tour ends.

Afterwards, drive to manufacture of amber jewellery in Gdynia. The place that you are about to see is one of the biggest in the region and it employs several dozen of people. This manufacture is almost a factory of amber jewellery and it consists of few production departments. On the guided tour the group will learn about the whole production process starting from selecting of the right amber stones, polishing, designing, bonding with silver or gold, until the final processing of jewellery. After the tour the participants will have the chance too see and buy the final products.

Visit to Amber Museum - located inside Gdańsk's medieval Torture Tower this fine, multi-floor exhibition with additional multimedia displays features everything amber-related from large raw lumps of the stuff to some stunningly ornate artistic creations. Museum takes up all the floors, with each floor dedicated to a different amber-related issue. The second floor is dedicated to how amber formed. The 3rd floor presents various forms of amber processing and use, its application as a medicinal agent and examples of artistic craft. Works of artistic craftsmanship went unsigned at the time and the cabinet which is now at the Amber Museum is one of only three in the world to bear the name of its creator.

Dinner at one of the local restaurants in Gdansk.

## **Day 6**

### **GDAŃSK KARTUZY-CHMIELNO-WDZYDZE KISZEWSKIE –POZNAŃ, Breakfast & Lunch**

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Transfer to Poznań via Kartuzy. The Kashubian Regional Museum will introduce you to some of the intricacies of Kashubian domestic, cultural and religious traditions. Highlight of the curator's guided tour is his performance of a Kashubian folk song complete with dramatic accompaniment. Another attraction is a display of snuff-boxes.

We continue to the village of Chmielno, known for its more than a hundred-year-old potter's workshop of the Necel family and the Museum of Kashubian Pottery.

Stop in Wdzydze Kiszewskie with the oldest in Poland ethnographical open-air museum, picturesquely located within the Wdzydze Landscape Park. The skansen includes buildings collected from the central and southern Kashubian region. Enjoy organ recital in the 18<sup>th</sup> century church which is used for Sunday mass and is also the site of regional organ concerts which are held here every summer. Watching this irreplaceable archival resource apart you will meet local artists and see the process of making embroidery and wickerwork of pine root.

Lunch at a local restaurant with folklore entertainment. Try traditional dishes of regional cuisine : *golce, ruchanki*.

Arrival in Poznań. Check in and time to enjoy as you please.

## Day 7

### POZNAN, Breakfast & Dinner

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The city nominated to the Cultural Capital of Europe in 2016.

The most interesting part of the city is the Old Town with its famous Renaissance Town Hall, now housing the Historic Museum. In the middle of the attic, above the clock, you can see two metal goats butting their horns 12 times every day at noon. Visit Ostrow Tumski - located on the right bank of the river Warta – the oldest part of Poznan with its reconstructed and great gothic Cathedral, initially built in 10<sup>th</sup> century. Its Gold Chapel contains sarcophagi with the ashes of the first Polish King. Despite the cathedral at the Ostrow Tumski we will find as well the 15<sup>th</sup> century gothic Church of the Sacred Virgin Mary, the 16<sup>th</sup> century Lubraskich Academy building and the Bishop's Palace.

Dinner to be served at one of the local restaurants with degustation of the typical Poznan cakes called after St. Marcin "rogale marcinskie". They are baked mostly once in the year on St. Marcin's Name Day and are stuffed with poppy and nuts.

Afterwards, we also invite you for a beer degustation to one of the most famous restaurants called Brovaria as they cultivate the tradition of medieval beer-producing inns, replaced in the 19th century, due to Industrial Revolution, with more efficient industrial breweries.

## Day 8

### POZNAN-LOWICZ-WARSAW, Breakfast & Lunch

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Drive to Warsaw. En route stop in Łowicz, a small town known for cultivating the folk traditions in music, dress, embroidery and paper cut – outs.

Enjoy famous Polish hospitality with a home hosted lunch prepared by a local family in their charming house set by the ruins of the former Lowicz Castle. You will also have a chance to degustate a typical home-made jams and preserves. Also see the presentation of typical Lowicz paper cut-outs and try to do some by yourself. Dessert to be served in a beautiful garden. Continue your drive to Warsaw.

## DAY 9

### WARSAW, Breakfast

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Departure.

### **Included services:**

- Airport arrival and departure transfers
- Selected class hotels, rooms with private facilities
- Mazurkas Travel English-speaking tour escort assistance
- Obligatory English speaking local guides
- Private air-conditioned motor coach/minibus (depending on the group size)
- Meals as per itinerary:
  - breakfast daily*
  - 2 x lunch served at a local restaurants*
  - 6 x dinner (including festive dinner at Gniez Castle) served at a local restaurants*
- Sightseeing tours as per itinerary
- Entrance fees:
  - Warsaw – Royal Castle*
  - Gniez Castle*
  - Malbork Castle*
  - Gdansk – Amber Museum*
  - Museum of Kashubian Pottery, Kashubian Regional Museum*
- Vodka Degustation
- Beer Degustation
- Cooking Lesson
- Visit to Amber Manufacture
- Chopin concert with a glass of sparkling wine
- Folklore entertainment in Kaszuby
- Luggage handling at hotels (one piece per person)
- Hotel charges and taxes

**Indication of hotels:**

*Warsaw*      *Novotel Centrum or similar*  
*Gniew*        *Gniew Castle or similar castle*  
*Gdansk*       *Scandic or similar*  
*Poznan*       *Novotel Centrum or similar*

**TASTE POLAND**  
**Tour A-6**  
**Guaranteed Dates 2012**

Starting dates in Warsaw <b>Saturday</b>	Ending dates in Warsaw <b>Sunday</b>
July 28	August 5
August 25	September 2

