POLISH CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

8 days 1 7 nights countries travel type Cultural

Spend 8 days to see the main cultural sights of Poland and discover its picturesque old towns, majestic medieval castles and learn about its turbulent history:

- Two capitals and two UNESCO Heritage sites Warsaw and Krakow, the former capital of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.
- The Wieliczka salt mine, also a UNESCO World Heritage monument
- Auschwitz, the former Nazi concentration camp, and hear about one of the most tragic chapters in world history.
- Medieval Malbork Castle, one of the biggest castles in the world (UNESCO World Heritage).
- Poznan one of the oldest cities in Poland, also called the cradle of Polish Christianity.
- Turun the home town of Nicolaus Copernicus, pervading his spirit for over 500 years.
- Colorful Gdansk with two neighboring seaside resorts Sopot and Gdynia. This is probably the least Polish city in Poland.

DESCRIPTION

Day 1, Warsaw

Highlights: Warsaw Old Town Warsaw city tour brings you to all must-see sights, including the Old Town, part of UNESCO World Heritage and a stroll along the Royal Route that links the former residences of Polish rulers and go down to the Vistula River to see the modern boulevards. Overnights: Warsaw

Day 2, Warsaw – Gdansk

Highlights: Wilanow Palace In the afternoon tour to Wilanow Palace & Park, often called "small Versailles", the royal summer residence with interiors of the 17th century.. Palace is surrounded by beautiful park with a variety of landscapes: English park, Italian Baroque garden and rose garden. Afternoon departure to Gdansk (450 km from Warsaw). Free evening in Gdansk. In this distinctive maritime city you will not feel like in the rest of Poland. Its architecture has been influenced by the wealthy merchants that have passed through the city's port, as well as the Prussian Teutonic Knights and Slavic Poland. Meals: B+L Overnight: Gdansk

Day 3, Gdansk

Highlights: Gdansk city tour, Sopot pier, Gdynia harbour, Westerplatte Monument Today you will explore Gdansk and its picturesque surroundings. Gdansk city tour will introduce you to almost 1000 years of the city history and show the main sights of destroyed and later restored Old Town during the WW2. If you have not bought a nice piece of amber jewellery, yet, you can definitely pick something at Mariacka Street, famous for its terraces full of amber jewellery. In the afternoon you will visit neighbouring seaside resorts – Sopot and Gdynia. Walk along the pier and admire Art Nouveau architecture in Sopot and continue to the leading Polish port –

Gdynia with a beautiful frigate "Gift of Pomerania". On the way back you will stop at the place where World War II started. Here you will see the Westerplatte Monument commemorating the heroic defence of Poles against Nazis. Meals: B+L Overnight: Gdansk

Day 4, Gdansk – Malbork – Torun – Poznan

Highlights: Malbork castle, Torun city tour Morning departure to Poznan. On the way you will stop to see two remarkable sites, both included into UNESCO World Heritage List. The Malbork Castle – an outstanding example of the castles of the Teutonic Order, which evolved in the frontiers of Medieval Western Europe. It is the largest brick building in Europe. Further drive to Torun. Torun sightseeing tour brings you to the Old Quarter with medeival monuments of Old and New Towns and the Teutonic Castle. Here, every step brings you closer to Nicolaus Copernicus's spirit pervading the city for over 500 years. The tour highlight is a visit of Copernicus museum, located in a lavish medieval patrician house, where Copernicus was born. Free evening in Poznan. Meals: B+L Overnight: Poznan

Day 5, Poznan – Wroclaw

Highlights: Poznan city tour, Wraslaw city tour Morning city tour will introduce you to Poznan – one of the oldest cities in Poland, also called a cradle of Polish Christianity. You will visit the oldest part of the city – the Cathedral Island, where the first Polish cathedral was built, admire Old Town Square with its Renaissance Town Hall and see the Imperial Castle of German Emperor. In the afternoon you will visit Wroclaw – another ancient Polish city built on 12 islands. The city has preserved a distictive Gothic architecture with magnificent Market Square and Tawn Hall. Here you will also visit Wraslaw University with an amazing Baroque hall. Meals: B+L Overnight: Wraslaw

Day 6, Wroclaw – Czestochowa – Auschwitz – Krakow

Highlights: Jasna Góra Monastery, former Nazi concentration camp "Auschwitz" Morning departure to Krakow with two stops en route: Jasna Góra Monastery – an ensemble of a Baroque church and a 15th-century Gothic chapel with the holy picture, also known as 'The Black Madonna' the heart of the sanctuary. It is one of the world's most important destinations for pilgrims. It is believed that St. Luke the Evangelist painted two pictures of the Virgin Mary on a tabletop once used by the Holy Family. Further drive to Auschwitz and a visit to the former Nazi concentration camp. It is the most well-known former concentration camp and place of genocide in the World, where around 1.5 million were killed by the Nazis. A Museum was established here two years after the war. Its main tasks are conservation of the original remains of the camp, document research and education. Free evening in Krakow. Meals: B+L Overnight: Krakow

Day 7, Krakow

Highlights: Krakow Old Town, Wieliczka salt mine Morning Krakow City tour will show the major sights of the maginifecnt Old Town, including the largest medieval square in Europe, Wawel Castle and Cathedral and the Royal route. Afternoon visit of Wieliczka salt mine, Europe's oldest salt mine, recognised by UNESCO as the World Heritage Monument. Be ready for an unforgettable attractionan – 2,5 km walk through the chambers and corridors decorated with sculptures and figures and magnificent chapels, captivating underground lakes. Overnight: Krakow Meals: B+L

Day 8, Krakow

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport. Departure.