



## LET'S TALK ABOUT POLAND

7 days from £1125

### Warsaw – Krakow - Zakopane

Poland is famed for its architectural and cultural heritage and nowadays is a popular travel destination for visitors from around the world. However, this Central European country can offer you much more:

Poland today, a cosmopolitan country buzzing with innovation and change.

The country is centrally located some 2½ hours from the UK.

Many fascinating, medieval cities are waiting to be discovered: some of them UNESCO World Heritage sites.

There is a unique and absolutely fantastic salt mine where you can experience subterranean adventure.

Modern life in Poland can be as interesting and exciting as its past: good cuisine and well developed nightlife is waiting for you.

Poland offers many cultural and musical events: Chopin music concerts, Jewish culture festival, etc.

There are twenty two National Parks preserving its pure nature in varied landscapes from the mountains, through the mystical marches and lakes to the beaches of the Baltic Sea. Poland a favourite destination for bird watchers and nature lovers.

### *Daily Itinerary*

#### **Day 1 - Saturday**

Depart Heathrow on scheduled British Airways flight to Warsaw where you will be met on arrival and transferred to the Hotel Radisson Blu.

16.00 hours - Guided visit of Warsaw, the city of contrasts. The tour includes the most significant highlights of the city: The Old Town Square, modern financial district and magnificent Royal Route leading to The Royal Castle.



*The castle was built when the capital of Poland was transferred from Kraków to Warsaw. The Old Town was razed to the ground by the Germans during World War II. After the war, the inhabitants of the city rebuilt some parts of the town, that now surrounds The Old Town Square. The reconstruction was completed in 1983. Today, terraces of cafes and restaurants make this place lively from early spring to late autumn.*

19.00 hours – Return to the hotel to freshen up.

20.00 hours – Dinner at a local restaurant (walking distance)

Overnight in Warsaw.

## Day 2 - Sunday

Breakfast in the hotel.

09.30 hours - After breakfast, visit to Żelazowa Wola. Small town located around fifty kilometres from Warsaw. In 1810 Frederick Chopin was born in the local manor. A few months after his birth, the Chopin family moved to Warsaw, however, Frederick visited Żelazowa Wola several times in his youth. The idea to commemorate the place was first proposed in 1870. Today, the house in Żelazowa Wola looks almost exactly like a typical 19th century manor. The collections of its museum include: 19th century furniture, tapestries, engravings and instruments. Possibility of listening to Chopin's music open-air concert (depending on the weather).

13.00 – 14.00 hours - Light lunch in a local restaurant.

16.00 hours – Return to Warsaw, to The Royal Park Łazienki. This is a part of the complex of buildings consisting of the Royal baths, palaces and a park. The Palace on the Water and the Theatre on the Island are magnificent. The first being the summer residence of the last Polish king Stanisław Poniatowski, who had the old baths turned into a palace. The theatre situated on an artificial island in the middle of the lake is decorated as an ancient temple of Baalbek. Chopin's most famous monument, surrounded with magnificent roses, is situated at the entrance to the park.



18.00 hours - Return to hotel

Free time for dinner on your own.

Overnight in Warsaw

## Day 3 - Monday

Breakfast in the hotel.

09.00 hours Check out after breakfast and excursion to Wilanów "Polish Versailles". Situated in the south of the capital, a bit off the main track, Wilanów remained in its intact form from the period of the Second World War.

*The history of the Palace began in 1677, when a village became the property of King Jan Sobieski III. At the beginning, the residence was small. The king's court architect, received the task of creating only a ground floor residence of a layout typical for the buildings of the republic of Poland. However, military successes and an increase of the importance of royalty in the coming years had a huge influence on expanding the initial project. Huge construction works were conducted in the years 1677-1696. After completion, the building comprised of elements of an aristocratic mansion, an Italian garden villa and a French palace in the style of Louis XIV.*



Transfer to Railway Station for train departing at approx 12.15 hours, arrive Kraków. at 14.45 hours.

Transfer on arrival to the Hotel Atrium.

*Kraków has always been, in many aspects, a charmed city. A city of majestic architectural monuments, cultural treasures, timeless courtyards, priceless artworks and legendary beer cellars and gardens. The historic centre of Kraków is situated at the foot of the Royal Wawel Castle. Kraków has Europe's largest market square and numerous historical houses, palaces and churches with their magnificent interiors.*

17.00 hours - Guided city sightseeing on foot. The visit includes the main sites of Kraków: the Main Market Square, with its historical monuments, open-air cafes, sound of bugle call from the tower of the Basilica. Entrance to St. Mary's Church situated on the Main Square which is the biggest medieval square in Europe.

20.00 hours – Dinner in a local restaurant in the Old Town.  
Overnight in Kraków.

#### Day 4 – Tuesday

Breakfast in the Hotel

09.00 hours - After breakfast, visit to the Royal Castle Wawel. Entrance to the cathedral included. *Situated on the left bank of the Vistula River, at an altitude of 228 metres above the sea level, is a place of great significance for the Polish nation. The Royal Castle and the Cathedral are situated on the hill. Polish Royalty and many distinguished Poles are interred in the Wawel Cathedral. Royal coronations took place there also. The Sigismund's Chapel is one of the most notable examples of architecture in Kraków. Financed by king Sigismund I of Poland, the chapel was built between 1519 and 1533 by Bartolomeo Berrecci and is the masterpiece of the Italian Renaissance*

11.00 hours - Departure to The Benedictine Abbey in Tyniec picturesquely situated on a limestone hill on the bank of the river Vistula, ca. 12 km from the city centre of Kraków. *The origins of Tyniec go back to the time of the very first Piasts, and scholars still argue about who its founder was. The monastery, which was founded by King Boleslaw the Brave, was built in the second half of the eleventh century. Very quickly it became a centre of spiritual and cultural life. In the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries the church was fundamentally rebuilt. The abbey was badly damaged by Russian soldiers during the Confederation of Bar, and deteriorated further during the nineteenth century. Rebuilding work was not begun until after World War II. The Church of Sts Peter and Paul was rebuilt in Baroque style in early seventeenth century. On the church courtyard we take a look at the wooden well-house, now a rare cultural monument from the Baroque age.*



Lunch in a small abbey restaurant serving typical Benedictine dishes.

13.00 hours - Continuation to Oświęcim to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau, the world's most famous cemetery and location of Genocide from World War II.

*Established by the Nazis in 1940 as a concentration camp for Polish political prisoners, it later became the site of the extermination of 1.5 million Jews, Poles, Gypsies, Russians and others. The exhibition consists of prisoners' blocks, gas chambers and crematorium, which have been preserved since the time of the camp's activity*

19.00 hours – return to hotel. Free time for dinner at own expense.  
Overnight in Kraków.

## Day 5 – Wednesday

Breakfast in the hotel.

08.00 hours - After breakfast, full day excursion to the mountains. A trip in wooden rafts on the Dunajec river, which is one of the most unforgettable experiences in Poland. The river flows between the gorges of the limestone rock formations in the picturesque mountain scenery. Wild and colourful environment are protected by the National Park. The rafting takes 2-3 hours, depending on the river level. It is an easy and safe activity, available for everyone.

13.00 hours - Lunch in a wooden restaurant serving local highlanders' dishes.

14.30 hours - After lunch, drive to Zakopane and a short stop to visit a wooden church situated on the way.

The church in Dębno is a splendid testimony of Polish culture and is numbered among the highest-class monuments. 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. The church was put on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List.



Arrival to Zakopane, a town situated in southern Poland, at the foot of the Tatra Mountains, the only alpine mountain range in the Carpathian Mountains. Zakopane has the highest elevation (up to 1000 m) of any town in Poland. The landscape and the mountains are protected by the Tatra National Park. The mountains provide many opportunities to hike and ski. Original customs and folk costumes are still preserved in the area of Zakopane. Inhabitants play original folk music and carve in wood.

Return to Kraków in the evening.

Dinner free. Overnight in Kraków.



## Day 6 – Thursday

Breakfast in the hotel.

09.00 hours - In the morning, fascinating excursion to the post communist district, called Nowa Huta. The excursion will be done on board of a tramway or bus, constructed in the communist period.

The main advantage of Nowa Huta is exceptional town planning and architecture. According to specialists, in comparison with other parts of former eastern bloc, Nowa Huta is the best example of a socialist realist city. Foreign visitors are delighted with the composition, showing the designers' eagerness to create a perfect socialist-realist city.

The architecture that was meant to be based on the Renaissance and which actually became a mixture of Renaissance, baroque and classicism, all in all looks very attractive and deserves attention. In the context of the political and social system in which it was created, Nowa Huta forms a kind of a magic gate to the era of socialist realism. Undoubtedly, it will arouse the interests of more demanding tourists searching for something new or different with a specific aesthetic sensitivity, and for a deeper look at architectural, social and political issues because it is these together that made that district. Nowa Huta needs to be seen in a much wider context, rejecting all ideological prejudices because only such an attitude can guarantee its appreciation as a phenomenon of the past and present.



11.30 hours - Return to the city centre to visit Jewish District, Kazimierz. Walking visit of Kazimierz with the entrance included to the synagogue.

*The district of Kazimierz was once a town in its own right. With its labyrinthine streets and low-standing houses, it feels like a different world to the Old Town, and indeed, it is easy to get lost there. Today, both its Jewish and Christian heritage is being restored, and colour has returned to its alleys and squares.*

Free time for lunch at own expense.

15.00 hours - Excursion to Wieliczka, a small town situated a few kilometres from Kraków, where the salt mine, considered one of the wonders of the world, is situated. In 1978 the Wieliczka Salt Mine was inscribed in UNESCO's First World List of Cultural and Natural Heritage, and in 1994 it was acknowledged as the National History Monument by the president of Poland.

The Salt Mine Wieliczka is the oldest salt enterprise on Polish land dating back to the Middle Ages. For centuries it was the source of the country's wealth and the material foundation of its culture. Today it is the most popular Polish tourist attraction.

*Several hundreds of years of rock salt exploitation have shaped the spatial arrangement of its excavated structure. Lying on nine levels, concealed under the town, the mine reaches down to the depth of 327 metres.*

*Subterranean Wieliczka consists of nearly 300 kilometres of corridors and almost 3,000 chambers. The tourist route accessible to visitors includes a 3.5-kilometres section located from 64 to 135 metres below ground level.*

Magnificent chapels, captivating underground lakes, original tools and equipment, traces of mining works allow to understand the human struggle against the elements, their work, their passion and their beliefs. The Wieliczka miners have left behind many salt carvings and murals. The excursion gives an opportunity to see how miners used to work in past and to admire a light and sound performance.



Return to Krakow

20.00 hours - Farewell dinner in The Old Town.

Overnight in Krakow.

#### **Day 7 - Friday**

Breakfast in the hotel.

Free time at leisure until your transfer to Krakow Airport to catch your Easyjet flight back to London.

**N.B** Programme details may be subject to change according to local conditions.

#### **Prices per person :**

Departures in 2011	Double	Single
30 April – 6 May	£1135	£1395
11 – 17 June	£1125	£1385
30 July – 5 August	£1225	£1485
17 – 23 September	£1145	£1405

Prices are based on a minimum of 4 persons travelling.

### Prices include:

- Scheduled flights in economy class to Warsaw and from Krakow
- Airport taxes
- Transfers on arrival and departure in each city
- 2 nights accommodation at the 4\* Hotel Radisson Blu, Warsaw with buffet breakfast
- 4 nights accommodation at the 3\* Hotel Atrium, Krakow with buffet breakfast
- 3 lunches (2 course menu)
- 3 dinners (3 course menu)
- Transportation in connection with the daily itinerary
- 2<sup>nd</sup> class train tickets Warsaw – Krakow
- Professional guide assistance throughout the trip
- Local guides in each city
- Entrance fees as applicable

### Not included:

- Travel insurance
- Any meals not specified as included
- Drinks with meals
- Tips for drivers, guides, porters, etc
- Items of a personal nature

If you prefer you can obtain your own flights and just take our tour – please contact us for prices.

### Radisson Blu Centrum Hotel - Warsaw



The five-star Radisson Blu Centrum Hotel is steps away from Palace of Culture and Science, the city's liveliest bars and cafes, extraordinary shopping centres, historic Old Town and the Royal Castle. All 311 air-conditioned rooms have safe deposit box and free Broadband including wireless Internet access, which is also available in public areas. Smoking rooms and rooms for disabled guests are available upon request.

### Hotel Atrium – Krakow



Built in 2001 and completely renovated in 2003 and 2006, the hotel offers single, double and triple rooms. Every room is equipped with satellite TV , radio, phone, fax connection, wireless Internet. The bathrooms in standard rooms are equipped with shower cabins and hairdryer. Smoking rooms and rooms for disabled guests are available upon request. The reception offers 24/7 room service, safe deposit box and left luggage office.

### Booking

Contact us to reserve a place and then download our booking form and forward to us with your deposit.

### Contact details

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