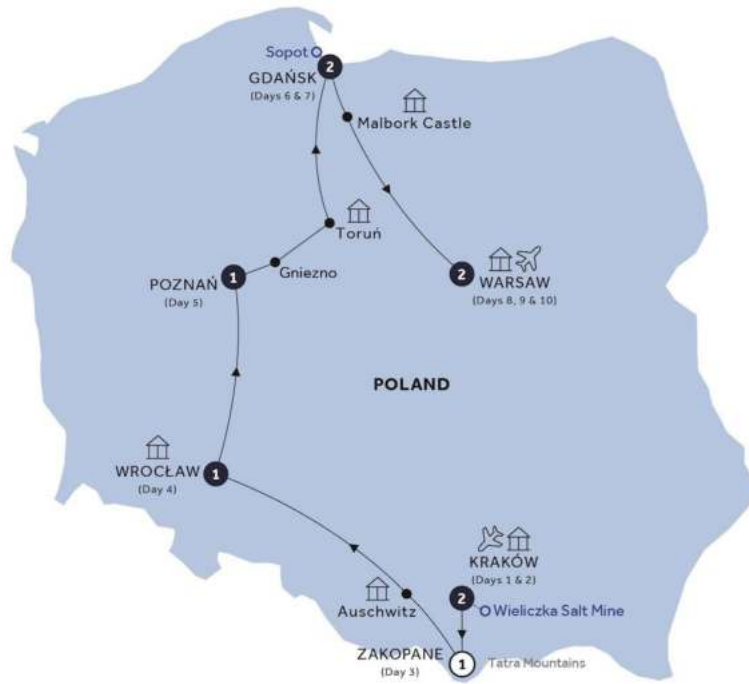



INSIGHT VACATIONS


Highlights of Poland





KEY

 Central
Hotels + Nights

 Scenic
Hotels + Nights


 Place Visited

 Optional Place
Visited

 Trip Option

 Cruise

 Train

 Join/Leave Options

 Included Flights

 UNESCO
Heritage Site

Day 1 | Welcome to Kraków



Your journey through Poland begins in picturesque Krakow. Meet your Travel Director at 17:00 for a walk around the Rynek Główny, Europe's largest and most beautiful town square. See the famous Sukiennice Cloth Hall, St. Mary's Church and the many historic townhouses, palaces and churches. Be sure to listen for the trumpeter's call! Later, enjoy getting to know your fellow guests over a fabulous dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Hotel: Vienna House Andel's Cracow, Kraków

Day 2 | The Damsels and Dragons of Kraków



This morning, you can join an Optional Experience to visit the Wieliczka Salt Mine. In the afternoon, ascend Wawel Hill to see the Renaissance castle with a Local Expert. Visit the cathedral, the final resting place of the Kings of Poland and the former seat of Archbishop Karol Wojtyła, later known to the world as Pope John Paul II. Head across the former Jewish Quarter of Kazimierz, and then to Podgórze to see Ghetto Square.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Vienna House Andel's Cracow, Kraków

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Salt Mine Excursion - Visit the 700-year-old UNESCO World Heritage listed salt mine, located on the outskirts of Krakow. On a guided tour, learn about the mine's long history, and explore the vast underground labyrinth of chambers filled with unique salt sculptures carved by the miners themselves.

Adult: 72.00 EUR

** This optional involves reservations and entrance prepayments. Should you decide to cancel the optional, a 50% cancellation fee will be incurred.*

Polish Karczma Dinner & Polka Party - Enjoy a generous selection of traditional Polish cuisine and drinks in the countryside outside Krakow. A local, beautifully-dressed folk group and live band will entertain you with songs and dances and you might even get to join them for a polka or two! Don't miss this enjoyable evening.

Adult: 83.00 EUR

Day 3 | To the High Tatra Mountains and Zakopane



Journey into the Tatras, the highest range of the Carpathian Mountains. Stay in the resort town of Zakopane, famous for its wooden houses and winter sports. On arrival, join your Travel Director for an orientation of the city. Spend free time shopping for local specialties in the markets of Krupówki Street or ascend a nearby mountain for panoramic views across the Tatras into Slovakia. In the evening, enjoy a rousing dinner, accompanied by Goral Highlander folklore entertainment at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Radisson Blu Hotel & Residences, Zakopane

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Zakopane Treasures - Hear legends of Zakopane from our Local Expert and immerse yourself in Goral culture. Discover the most famous examples of the traditional wooden architecture and craftsmanship of the 'Zakopane Style', invented by Stanislaw Witkiewicz, during a visit to the beautiful nineteenth century Villa Koliba, as well as the nearby meritorious cemetery with its sorrowful Jesus and wooden statues. Pass by Zakopane's ski jumping arena which hosts the best athletes from around the world every year during the World Cup and finally travel into the mountain forests of Tatra National Park and visit the famous Jaszczurowka Chapel.

Adult: 47.00 EUR

Day 4 | Reflect on Auschwitz, then on to Wrocław, the Venice of Poland



Travelling past the birthplace of Pope John Paul II, your first stop will be the city of Oświęcim, better known throughout the world by its German name, Auschwitz. With a Memorial Guide-Educator, experience a moving visit to the memorial and museum of Auschwitz and a stop at Birkenau. Travel along the Oder River to the city of Wrocław, known in Polish as Miasto Spotkań or the meeting place. During its long history, Wrocław has belonged to Poland, Bohemia, Austria, Prussia and Germany. With your Local Expert, see the brightly coloured facades of the noble mansions and the flower markets on the Plac Solny. Take in the Baroque splendour of the Rynek, and be introduced to Wrocław's cheeky gnomes. This evening, join your Travel Director for a Craft Beer at the Piwnica Świdnicka, the oldest restaurant/cellar in Poland, founded in 1273.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Radisson Blu Hotel, Wrocław

Day 5 | Poznań, Cradle of the Polish nation



Continue on to Poznan where you will drive out to Ostrów Tumski, known as Cathedral Island. It's considered as the birthplace of Poland in the 10th century and is a fascinating place of legend, often overlooked by other visitors. Explore Poznan with Insight Choice. Choose to immerse yourself in the history of the city and enjoy a walking tour. Alternatively, learn the secrets behind the St. Martin's croissant, a local delicacy, and enjoy a tasting.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Sheraton Poznań

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Raclawice Panorama & The Treasures of Wroclaw - This morning, with our Local Expert, we'll visit Poland's most famous battle scene painting, the Raclawice Panorama. It's the only cycloramic painting in the country and one of only a few in Europe. It depicts the Battle of Raclawice when Tadeusz Kościuszko's troops emerged victorious against Russia in 1794. An entire museum was built to house this one painting! We'll also learn about the Battle of Breslau, one of the last major actions of WWII, and visit the moving Katyn memorial. Then, we'll cross several branches of the Oder river to see Wroclaw's islands. The area, known as 'Polish Venice', is home to the 13th-century Cathedral of St John the Baptist, an iconic symbol of Wroclaw. Finally, we'll take a leisurely stroll through the park to see UNESCO-listed Centennial Hall, an early landmark of reinforced concrete, built by German architect Max Berg in 1913. A great way to enjoy this historic city!

Adult: 55.00 EUR

Day 6 | Toruń, the Gothic Glory on the Vistula and Gdańsk



Stop at Gniezno to visit the cathedral and see the famous two-winged bronze doors. Then continue to Toruń, founded by the Teutonic Knights in 1233 and birthplace of astronomer, Nicolaus Copernicus. Join a Local Expert to discover this outstanding example of medieval architecture, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, meet an artisan baker for a taste of gingerbread, baked following a traditional recipe and using only locally sourced ingredients. Spend time exploring at your own pace. Follow the Vistula River north to magnificent Gdansk, Poland's Baltic trading port with more than 1000 years of history. As evening descends, a dinner of Baltic specialities is highly recommended, followed by a walk through Gdańsk's illuminated historic district.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Radisson Hotel & Suites Gdansk

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Dinner In Gdansk - This evening join us in one of Gdansk's best dining venues, located in a former 17th-century granary on the bank of the Motława river. We'll enjoy a superb dinner of local Baltic specialities and be introduced to the thousand-year-old brewing tradition of Gdansk by tasting several of the restaurant's very own micro-brewed craft beers. In the Middle Ages, Gdansk was one of the wealthiest ports of the powerful Hanseatic League, and its fine buildings continue to be painstakingly rebuilt following WWII. After dinner enjoy a short walk through the illuminated old city.

Adult: 83.00 EUR

Day 7 | The Baltic Belles of Gdańsk



Spend the morning with a passionate Local Expert. Learn captivating and fun facts about the city and see the Westerplatte, the scene of the first fighting between Polish and German troops in 1939, and the Gdańsk Shipyards where Lech Wałęsa formed the anti-Soviet Solidarność in 1980. Continue through the medieval city, where buildings date back to the time of the Hanseatic League. Enjoy a free afternoon and perhaps choose to visit the elegant seaside town of Sopot?

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Radisson Hotel & Suites Gdansk

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Sopot By The Sea & Oliwa Organ Concert - Join our Local Expert for a relaxing trip to Sopot, Poland's beach capital. Famous for its Art Nouveau cafes and grand turn of the century resorts, we'll enjoy a walk along the longest wooden pier in Europe, stretching into the Bay of Gdańsk. Then enjoy a performance of the famous Oliwa Cathedral Organ. Built between 1755 and 1780 by organ master Johann Wulf, the Oliwa Cathedral Organ was at the time the largest organ of its type in Europe. It features moving cherubs, trumpet-playing angels and has a staggering 7,896 pipes and 110 registers allowing for an incredible range of pitch and sounds including rippling water, animal cries and human voices; hear it for yourself to believe it!

Adult: 48.00 EUR

Day 8 | Malbork Castle and Warsaw



With a Local Expert, visit the Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork, founded in 1274 by the Teutonic Knights on the banks of the Nogat River. The castle is a stunning example of a medieval fortress and the largest brick Gothic castle in the world. Next, travel south to the capital of Warsaw. With the rest of the day at your leisure, perhaps attend an evening concert of Poland's best-loved composer, Frédéric Chopin?

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: The Westin Warsaw

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Chopin Concert - The spirit of Warsaw and the music of Chopin go hand in hand. In a concert venue located in the centre of Warsaw, enjoy an enchanting recital of his music performed by a celebrated Polish pianist. Sparkling wine is served during the intermission.

Adult: 57.00 EUR

Day 9 | Exploring the Proud Polish Capital of Warsaw



See the Palace of Culture and the Chopin Monument in Łazienki Park with a Local Expert. Visit the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, followed by a walk through Warsaw's Old Town, entirely rebuilt since World War II. At your dinner, enjoy a fine selection of local dishes with wine at a cosy Warsaw restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: The Westin Warsaw

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Wilanów Palace - To the Polish people, Wilanów is more than just a palace – it's a national treasure, the embodiment of an era from which much has been lost. Join a Local Expert for a guided visit to the 'Polish Versailles'. Walk within the baroque royal residence to admire the stunning collection of furniture, portraits and china which forms part of the National Museum.

Adult: 48.00 EUR

Day 10 | Depart Warsaw



Time to say goodbye to your new friends as your journey through Poland comes to an end.

Meals: Breakfast