



**OFFER
FOR
THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA/USA**

Dates: May 06-20, 2012
Group: The Capitals of Poland
Pax: 20-30
Place: Krakow, Czestochowa, Poznan, Torun, Gdansk, Warsaw

Krakow is the most recognized "brand" among Polish cities. It is a city of inspiring contrasts: rich tradition and history, a treasury of national heritage, historical architecture and art and at the same time an open, dynamically growing, "young-at-heart" place. There is a multitude of architectural monuments - estimated at 6,000 buildings and other structures. This is supplemented by approximately 2.5 million artifacts collected and displayed in museums, churches and archives. Thanks to the extraordinary accumulation of cultural wealth, the city was registered as one of the 12 sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

It is impossible to describe or even list all the tourist attractions in Krakow, but each visitor will discover his own "magical" Krakow. While some will follow the footsteps of Nicholas Copernicus, others will be interested in sites linked with John Paul II. Some will be fascinated by the worldwide unique underground corridors of the Wieliczka Salt Mine, others will wander round the Kazimierz Jewish district and many will stand enchanted in front of the Witt Stwosz altar which is on display at the St. Mary's Church.



Czestochowa its most valuable treasure is Jasna Gora Monastery with the miraculous painting of Our Lady. Because of this painting, Jasna Gora became Poland's most famous sanctuary among the numerous sites to Marian devotion throughout the country. But it is not just the tradition, which considers Luke the Apostle as the artist, or the influence of monarchs to whom Jasna Gora has always been dear that made this place famous above all others. It is the Miraculous presence of the image which has always attracted pilgrims not only from all over Poland but from all over the world, as the numerous votive offerings show.

The painting of Our Lady is the very core of Jasna Gora drawing crowds of pilgrims to it. This sanctuary was not built after a Marian apparition as is usually the case for major holy sites. Without the painting, Jasna Gora would be nothing but a building complex, a museum of artworks which are undoubtedly precious and beautiful but devoid of any vitality. The painting is the mystery, the fulcrum, the atmosphere of the Jasna Gora sanctuary.



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Poznan is a city in west-central Poland, located by the Warta River, it is one of the oldest cities in Poland, making it an important historical center and a vibrant center of trade, industry, and education. Poznan is Poland's fifth largest city and fourth biggest industrial center. Poznan is not only a business and industrial centre; it has a significant historical importance. Worth visiting are the Renaissance Town Hall, the Cathedral Island and the stern Prussian castle. Although the city was largely destroyed during World War II, it has been restored thoroughly and now you may fully enjoy its charming Old Town and some of its fine museums and restaurants.

On the island of Ostrow Tumski, surrounded by the waters of the Warta, stands a 10th century cathedral containing the tombs of ancient Polish rulers.

Poznan is known around the world as an important international trade-fair center. Every year about 30 international and national events are held there.



Torun is one of the most beautiful cities of Poland. Picturesquely located on the both banks of the Vistula River, at a site of intersection of ancient trade routes, it has been propagating its traditional economy and openness to the world for nearly 800 years.

The whole complex of Torun Old Quarter, of unique value, measured by world standards, consists of three urban sections: Old City (1233), New City (1264) and the Teutonic Knights' Castle (mid. 13th c.). It is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The medieval urban and architectonic complex has preserved on the whole and constitutes a precious document of tradition and past. The more precious as it is one of the not numerous cities that hasn't been destroyed during the world war II.

Torun is also one of the most important science and cultural centers in Poland with its biggest and oldest university in the North.



Tri City: Gdansk-Sopot-Gdynia

Gdansk is a city of the Solidarity-the most attractive monuments are found along the Royal Way, including Long Street (Długa Street) and Long Market (Długi Targ) lined up with richly ornamented old houses and public historical buildings. The Gothic Town Hall houses the Historical Museum of Gdansk. The showpiece is a carillon, a replica of the 13th c instrument. The Artus Court, one of the most magnificent building of this type in Europe. The Neptune Fountain-a symbol of Gdansk. On the Motława River waterfront stands the conspicuous Gdansk Crane-the biggest port crane in medieval Europe. The Gothic St Mary's Church is the largest brick church in Europe (view from the tower) which can seat 25,000 people. Worth a visit are the Gothic St Catherine's Church and the Oliwa Cathedral famous for its 18th c organ. The Oliwa monastery buildings shelter interesting museums. The Monument to the Shipyard Workers was erected in memory of the workers killed in December riots of 1970.

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Other attractions of Gdansk include sandy beaches, sea cruises and a wealth of cultural events: international organ festivals, street fairs, parades and performances by street theatres.

Sopot is a seaside resort with the longest wooden pier-attractive holiday centre, seaside resort and spa. Many fine villas from the 19th and 20th c were built in the Art Nouveau or eclectic style. Sopot's main pedestrian mall is Bohaterow Monte Cassino Street that leads tourists to Poland's longest pier (512 m) and the sandy beach. The Northern Baths raised in 1907 are a good example of old spa buildings. Sopot is known for its International Song Festival and a great number of sports and cultural events.

Gdynia are ships-museums and sea aquarium-the panoramic view of the city the best admired from Mt Kamienna. Tourist usually flock to Kosciuszko Square and the Southern Pire where two museum ships are moored: the frigate "Dar Pomorza" and the destroyer "Blyskawica". The Oceanographic Museum and Aquarium with hundreds of fauna and flora exhibits is also located near the pier. Excellent conditions for practicing water sports. International sailing events: Gdynia Sailing Days, Cutty Surk Tall Ships Race. Lots of cultural events.



Warsaw is an unusual city situated in the center of Europe, on the intersection of communication routes connecting the West with the East and the North with the South of the Continent. It fascinates visitors with history, climate, monuments. Arouses curiosity with its individualism. Intrigues with its multifaceted culture – the sequel of mutual influence of the Western and Eastern Europe. Adopts changes brought by new epochs and preserves tradition at the same time. Every day, surprises with dynamic growth manifesting itself in the conspicuous changeability of its image.



Accommodation

The Galaxy 4* Hotel in Krakow

Newly opened, luxurious, located over the Vistula River, close to the city center, 10 min walk from Kazimierz and 20 min walk from the Wawel Castle. Offers 205 modernly furnished, air-conditioned rooms. Restaurant overlooks the Vistula river and serves international cuisine. Among many available facilities is Spa & Wellness Centre with indoor swimming pool.



The Best Western Symfonia 3* Hotel in Osjakow

Best Western Hotels Chain, located near Wielun in the Czestochowa area, on the main road connecting Warsaw with Wroclaw, newly opened, offering 35 modern, air-conditioned rooms. Restaurant serves Polish and international cuisine.



The IBB Andersia 4* Hotel in Poznan

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IBB Hotels Chain, located in the city center, design. Offers 171 modern, air-conditioned rooms, all with a comfortable chaise-lounge with a table. Two restaurants, one of them serving Polish and international cuisine and a lobby bar. Spa & Wellness Centre with indoor swimming pool.



The Bulwar 4* Hotel in Torun

Located along the banks of the Vistula river next to the famous Leaning Tower, 350 m from the Old Town Market Square. Offers 98 modern, air-conditioned rooms, all decorated with wooden features. Most with stunning view of the city's Gothic architecture and the river. Restaurant serves international cuisine. There is also Spa & Wellness Centre.



The Qubus 4* Hotel in Gdansk

Qubus Hotels Chain, located in the city center, 5 min walk from the Old Town. Offers 110 modern, luxurious, air-conditioned rooms overlooking the Motlawa river and the Old Town. Restaurant serves Polish and international cuisine. Lobby bar – variety of cocktails and selection of wines. There is also sauna and fitness center.



The Westin 5* Hotel in Warsaw

Located in the bustling city center of Warsaw. Luxurious living accommodations in this modern metropolis. Fitness center.





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Itinerary

POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA 'S CAPITALS OF POLAND TRIP #6 *** designates UNESCO World Heritage site**

SUN MAY 06, Arrive in Krakow. Meet at hotel. Greeting Dinner.

MON May 07 Enroute to Zakopane, the Winter Capital of Poland, we visit the Shrine of the Divine Mercy., a modern devotional point. In Zakopane a visit to Gulobowka mountain by *funicula*. Dinner at a highlander restaurant with entertainment.

TUE MAY 08 Tour of Krakow, Poland's Royal And Cultural Capital including the Wawel Castle* and Cathedral; historic City Center* St. Mary's Church. In the late afternoon a tour of the old Jewish quarter, Kazimierz with the old Rem synagogue and cemetery, the Schindler Museum. Dinner at a Jewish restaurant with Klezmer music.

WED MAY 09 Tour of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska*, Wieliczka Salt Mine*, and Wadowice, birthplace of Pope John Paul II. Return to Krakow, Leisure time.

THU MAY 10 Depart Krakow. Tour the Nazi German concentration camp of Aushchwitz*,Arrival and tour of Marian Shrine -Czestochowa. Overnight & Dinner at Best Western-Osajkow. .

FRI MAY 11 . Depart for Poznan. Dinner at Hotel.

SAT MAY 12 All Day tour of Poznan. Noon at the Town Hall to see the mechanical goats. Visit to the historic center of the city. Ostrow Tumski location of the Cathedral. Poznan in Miniature, the Lech Brewery, Fairgrounds.

SUN MAY 13 Visit to Gniezno, historic Cathedral and first capital of Poland. Visit to Biskupin, proto-Slavic settlement. Motor on to Torun. Hotel and Dinner in Torun.

MON MAY 14 All day visit in Torun: Old Town*, the Piernik Museum, and Planetarium. Cruise on the Vistula.

TUE MAY 15 Depart Torun. Visit Malbork Castle* the largest medieval fortress complex in Europe. Hotel and Dinner in Gdansk or tri-city area

WED MAY 16 All day tour of the Tri-City area including the Amber markets , the old Town Hall, the rebuilt Marian Church. Organ concert in Oliwa. The Grand Hotel and Boardwalk in Sopot and the Art Deco port of Gdynia.

THU MAY 17 Depart Tri-City area. Cruise on the Elblak Canal, a unique engineering marvel where the boats go up on rails to go from lake to lake. Arrive in Warsaw for hotel and dinner.

FRI MAY 18. All day tour of Warsaw to include the Old Town*, the Ghetto area, The Warsaw Uprising Museum, the Gardens of the Library of Warsaw University. .

SAT MAY 19 The Lazinek Park, Wilanow Palace and the Poster Museum. Farewell Dinner

SUN MAY 20 Departure from the hotel and to Chopin Airport, or those who wish to extend their stay can visit other parts of Poland or Europe. Arrival in United States Sunday afternoon.

Package price (Land Only)

Package price for a grp of min 20 pax in dbl/twin is:

\$2,300 USD p/pax in dbl/twin

Package price for a grp of min 25 pax in dbl/twin is:

\$2,125 USD p/pax in dbl/twin

Package price for a grp of min 30 pax in dbl/twin is:

\$2,050 USD p/pax in dbl/twin

Sgl sup is:

\$700 USD p/pax

Services included:

-accommodation – 14 overnights:

- 4 o/n at the Galaxy 4* Htl in Krakow
- 1 o/n at the Best Western Symfonia 3* Htl in Osjakow
- 2 o/n at the IBB Andersia 4* Htl in Poznan
- 2 o/n at the Bulwar 4* Htl in Torun
- 2 o/n at the Qubus 4* Htl in Gdansk
- 3 o/n at the Westin 5* Htl in Warsaw

-meals: buffet breakfast at the htls daily, 9 dinners – as per the itinerary

(including dinner with traditional highlanders folklore at a local restaurant on the way from Zakopane to Krakow and dinner with Klezmer Music concert at a local Jewish style restaurant in Krakow)

Dinners three course with tea/coffee, mineral water included

Free of charge welcome and farewell glass of house wine to dinners

-sightseeing with local English speaking guides and entrances where applicable – as per the itinerary

-English speaking tour escort and transportation by a full size coach (49 seater with AC, WC) throughout the group's stay in Poland

-local tax in Krakow and in Gdansk

Not included in the package price:

- Portorage at the htls in/out - usually 4 EUR p/pax, in/out. Remember that all airlines Limit passangers to one large suitcase no more than 50lbs and one carryon. With mostsuitcases being on wheels, we can pass on the savings to you. Contact us if this a concern.



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Practical information

CURRENCY

Polish currency is Polish Zloty /PLN divided into 100 groszy. Money can be exchanged at hotels, banks or exchange counters. Major credit cards are widely accepted.

Banks are open 9.00 am-06.00 pm.

Loss of a credit card should be reported immediately: ph. +48 22 515 31 50 or 151 30 00 (24 h service).

TIME

1 hour ahead of GMT. Six hours ahead of Eastern, Seven hours ahead of Central time

TAXI SERVICES

There are no fixed rates for taxi services. Passengers should be charged according to a meter. To avoid being overcharged please always ask for "radio taxi" which may be ordered by phone: EURO TAXI : +48 12 9664, WAWEL TAXI + 48 12 9666, TAXI 919 +48 12 9191

SHOPPING

Shops are open usually from 11.00 am to 07.00 pm (weekdays) and on Saturdays 10.00 am – 02.00 pm, shopping malls are usually open throughout the week until 09.00 pm. Many souvenir shops and shopping malls are open on Sundays, too. The most popular local goods include: amber, silver, leather goods, crystal, woodcarvings and handcrafts.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance: 999

Fire brigade: 998

Police: 997

Mobile Phone Holders Assistance: 112

Visitors to Poland can use the following emergency number in operation during the summer season: 0-800 200 300, +48 608 599 999

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

Customs rules and procedures are similar to those prevailing in the majority of EU countries. Detailed information is available from the Ministry of Finance ph. +48 22 694 31 94; www.mf.gov.pl/sluzba_celna

YES I AM INTERESTED SEND ME MORE INFORMATION

NUMBER THAT WILL TRAVEL _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

E-MAIL _____

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