

**The Grand Tour of Poland
17 days – 16 nights**

Warsaw, Radzymin, Bielsk Podlaski, Białystok, Białowieża, Grabarka, Kazimierz Dolny, Lublin, Zamosc, Bilgoraj, Lezajsk, Lancut, Rzeszow, Wieliczka, Krakow, Zakopane, Auschwitz, Czestochowa, Wroclaw, Poznan, Gniezno, Biskupin, Gdansk, Malbork, Kanal Ostrodzko, Elblag
Discovery, Culture, History

Day 1 - Mon: Warsaw

After your arrival at Chopin Airport in Warsaw, you will be met by our representative and escorted to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to rest and relax. Dinner is included at the hotel. [D]

Day 2 - Tue: Warsaw

After breakfast start a full-day sightseeing tour visiting the Old City, Main Square, Cathedral, Royal Castle, Warsaw Barbican and defensive wall, Miodowa Street, Krakowskie Przedmieście Street – the most typical street of the city -, Warsaw Uprising Monument, Ghetto Heroes Monument, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Royal Łazienki Museum and the park. After the visit enjoy dinner at an authentic Polish local restaurant. Return to the hotel for overnight [B/D].

Day 3 - Wed: Warsaw, Radzymin, Bielsk Podlaski, Białystok

Following breakfast, we'll take a short drive to Radzymin to visit the military cemetery from 1920. The Soviet-Polish war, or Russo-Polish war (February 1919-March 1921) is one of the consequences of the First World War. The borders between the two nascent states, Soviet Russia and the Second Republic of Poland were not clearly defined by the Treaty of Versailles. This armed struggle had a twofold stake: political (Soviet Russia was trying to join Soviet Hungary and the German revolutionaries by introducing a communist Poland in the process) and territorial (Polish desires to recover the territories lost during the partition of Poland in the late eighteenth century, and Soviets to recover those of Imperial Russia in 1914. The two states claim victory in this conflict, but the treaty of 1921 satisfies more the objectives of Poland than those of the Soviets. On your way stop at Bielsk Podlaski – the center of the Eastern Orthodox Church in Poland that includes four churches and the school of icon-painting. Continue to Białystok for dinner and accommodation at the hotel. [BD]

Day 4 - Thu: Białystok, Białowieża

Today we'll spend most of day walking around in Białowieski National Park near Narodowy. The park includes wooded areas with mixed species, characterized by the diversity of vegetation cover preserved in its natural state. Many tree species reach sizes rarely recorded elsewhere in Europe. The park's wildlife is of unparalleled richness. The great diversity of vegetation creates excellent conditions for the growth of the mammal population such as the European bison, deer, wolf, lynx, beaver, but also birds. There are more than 120 feathered species. After the tour continue to Białowieża for dinner in a local restaurant and overnight at the hotel. [B/D]

Day 5 - Fri: Białowieża, Grabarka, Kazimierz Dolny, Lublin

After breakfast, we start our drive to Lublin making a first stop in Grabarka, the place of worship for the Eastern Orthodox Church believers. Then, we continue to Kazimierz Dolny visit to a Renaissance town, including a walking tour along enchanting streets and by the Vistula river. This historic little town in Poland is an excellent destination for its pre-communist, pre-war charm. Kazimierz Dolny is the art center in Poland. There are galleries, in almost every street, selling sculptures, stained glass and fine art paintings. On the market you will find folk art at unbeatable prices. Enjoy visiting this picturesque city with its beautiful natural landscapes with wooded areas, fields, orchards and hop plantations. After the town visit, we continue to Lublin for dinner at a local restaurant and overnight at the hotel. [B/D]

Day 6 - Sat: Lublin, Zamosc

Lublin is the largest city in eastern Poland and the capital of of the Lublin Voivodeship. It has about 350 000 inhabitants to which are added tens of thousands of students who represent a significant

part of the local society. Because of its geographical location on the eastern border of the Euro Union, the city is an important center of cooperation between countries of Western and Eastern Europe. The city is distinguished by a history rich and multi-secular whose traces hide on the walls of the remarkable well-preserved architectural ensemble that is the old city. The historical legacy of Lublin, full of tradition and ethnic brewing, cultural and religious, has created a magical climate that is felt and experienced by walking its streets. Today's sightseeing will take us to the Old City visiting St. John's Cathedral and the Trinitarian Tower - the highest observation point in Lublin -, the Dominican Church from 1342, the Lublin Castle, Krakowska and Grodzka Gates, Litewski Square – the place where the Polish-Lithuanian Union was signed. Then. We continue to Zamość, an architectural ensemble with the urban planning ordinance unique in the world and very close to the notion of "ideal city". It is sometimes referred to as the "pearl of the Renaissance" because it is here that are found priceless works of art of great beauty and historical value. There are a number of historical monuments in Zamość, among which stand out the town hall with its slender tower, probably the most beautiful in Poland, the houses with arcaded galleries lining the main Market Square, especially the mansions with rich ornamental motifs that belonged to Armenian merchants. The interior of the cathedral houses works of art of great value. The Zamoyski Palace and the Zamość Academy, adapted to their contemporary functions, have lost much of their former splendor, but the powerful walls of the defensive system, reaching in places up to 23 ft. thick, produce a great impression. They form the enclosure of this old city inscribed by UNESCO on the World Heritage List. After the walk in the city, we stop for dinner at a local restaurant and then continue to the hotel for overnight. [B/D]

Day 7 - Sun: Zamosc, Bilgoraj, Lezajsk, Lancut, Rzeszow

Today's drive will take us to Rzeszow. On the way we'll make a short visit to Biłgoraj well-known for its wickerwork products that you may buy or simply admire. Our second stop will be at Leżajsk to visit a Baroque cathedral with an extraordinary organ and the Jewish cemetery. A short drive will take us to Łańcut where we'll visit the castle. Łańcut Castle is one of the most beautiful aristocratic residences in Poland. It is famous for its magnificent residential interiors as well as its particularly interesting collection of horse cars. The castle complex surrounds an old, picturesque English-style park, which is home to many pavilions and agricultural buildings, once closely linked to the daily life of Łańcut's residence. Another short drive to arrive in Rzeszów for dinner and overnight at the hotel. [B/D]

Day 8 - Mon: Rzeszow, Wieliczka, Krakow

After breakfast we drive to Wieliczka best known for its cathedral carved in a salt mine. We visit the mine that has been operating continuously since the Middle Ages until 1996 and is one of the most visited tourist sites in Poland. This rock salt mine, whose formation dates back to a few million years ago, consists of a series of underground workings spread over nine levels, going up to 1,073 feet deep. It includes more than 185 miles of galleries and about 3000 rooms cut in salt deposits. But what makes it quite unique is that it was dug by miners whose job was handed down from generation to generation. And many of them were artists-sculptors. The mine is a work of art in itself and has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1978. It is also a real city, where cultural events and exhibitions are held. In the afternoon we continue to Krakow for a short walk around the Main Square and a free time for you to discover the city on your own before dinner at a local restaurant. After dinner join your hotel for overnight. [B/D]

Day 9 - Tue: Krakow

Krakow is the capital of Lesser Poland Voivodeship. Founded in the 7th century, the legend attributes its origin to the imaginary king Krakus. A testimony of the twelfth century, attributed to Vincent Kadlubek, bishop of Krakow, says that the ruler founded the city after killing a dragon whose cave was dug into the cliff of Wawel. The city still bears the name of its mythological founder. Krakow is one of the oldest cities in Poland and was its capital before Warsaw. Its historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city of Pope John Paul II and astronomer Copernicus remains the cultural and scientific center of the country. The second oldest university in Central Europe is there. Once freed from the yoke of the USSR and communism, the old people's democracy adapts to a free-trade economy. Krakow now hosts fifty multinational companies. Krakow is the second most visited city in

Poland, behind Warsaw, the capital. Today will be fully dedicated a tour of the city visiting the Main Square, the Cloth Hall, St. Mary's Church, historic churches around the Old City, the Jagiellonian University, Collegium Maius, Wawel the Royal Castle and the Wawel the Cathedral. In the afternoon we'll take a walking tour around Kazimierz, the historical Jewish district and, now, the hip center of the city full of galleries, little shops and clothing stores. Dinner in an authentic Cracow style restaurant and overnight at the hotel. [B/D]

Day 10 - Wed: Krakaw (Zakopane)

Departure to Zakopane, the capital of Poland's Tatra Mountain region. Walk in the city with free time. Zakopane is the capital of the Polish Carpathians, famous for its original folklore and for the beauty of its landscapes appreciated by all, sportsmen and artists included since several hundred years. In the summer many hiking trails crisscross the Tatra National Park (Tatrzański Park Narodowy). The most traveled path is the one leading to Mount Giewont. For more tranquility, you will have to sink deeper or avoid periods of greater affluence. In the winter you have Zakopane's 17 miles of slopes spread over 10 ski areas. On the program: Downhill and cross-country skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing. Many rental shops offer all the necessary equipment. Late afternoon we go back to Krakow for dinner at a local restaurant and accommodation at your hotel. [B/D]

Day 11 - Thu: Krakaw, Auschwitz, Czestochowa

After breakfast we leave Krakow on our way to Czestochowa. On the way we will stop at Auschwitz. Visiting the camp is something moving, strong. What happened here? How was it? You may have a lot of questions, even after studying the subject at length in school or in documentaries. It may not be an easy day for you but going to the former concentration and extermination camps for Jews will allow you to see and know. Auschwitz consists mainly of barracks. Here, many photos, scenes, objects (we think of piles of hair, prostheses, glasses, luggage, etc ...). We learn here the life of the camp prisoners and therefore the horrors and cruelties committed by the Nazis. Auschwitz-Birkenau is the second camp, the one where the famous one is with the rails. Here we find all the barracks which served to house the prisoners before sending them to the cremation ovens. The place is huge! Some visitors find the experience quite upsetting. We arrive in Czestochowa late afternoon and visit the Jasna Góra Monastery. In 1382, a group of Paulians came to Czestochowa, taking possession of a small wooden church in Jasna Góra. Władysław Jagiełło asked to build a monastery and place the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa, restored, already famous for her grace. This made the pilgrimage grow in the sanctuary. King Władysław IV in the 17th century made Jasna Góra a fortress. The basilica, in its present form, with the monastery was built in the seventeenth century. Inside is an altar made of ebony and silver and the famous Jasna Gora icon. The image of the Virgin Mary, called the Black Madonna, famous for miracles, according to legend, was painted by Saint Luke. With short breaks, the painting is in the Jasna Gora Monastery for over 600 years, being the object of worship and the goal of millions of pilgrims from around the world. Today we have dinner and accommodation at a hotel in Czestochowa. [B/D]

Day 12 - Fri: Czestochowa, Wroclaw

This morning we'll head to Wroclaw, considered by many as the Polish Venice! The city is one of the oldest and most beautiful in Poland, in the heart of Lower Silesia, built on a multitude of small arms of the Odra, on islands and islets that earned it the name of "little Venice". It is also an important cultural center and a student city with 8 institutes of higher education. Wroclaw was elected European Capital of Culture in 2016 and is now the fourth largest city in Poland with a population of almost 640,000 as well as the administrative, industrial and cultural center of the whole region. The tour of the city encompasses the Market Square, the Old Town Hall and the Cathedral Island Ostrów Tumski. Visit to Wroclaw University and Baroque Aula Leopoldina with free time to continue discovering the city on your own. After dinner at a local restaurant we return to the hotel for overnight. [B/D]

Day 13 - Sat: Wroclaw, Poznan

On our tour of Poland's cities, today we reach Poznan, one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in the country. Much of the city's charm lies in its old town, the historical and cultural center of the city. The old

town is first discovered by the old square, built in 1253 at the time of the founding of Poznan. Today, it is the favorite meeting place for Poznan residents and visitors. The Town Hall, in renaissance style, dominates the old square. The façade, with its arcades, is surmounted by a frieze depicting the kings of the Jagiellonian dynasty. The town hall is surrounded by small arcaded fishmonger houses with a certain charm. A walk in the city will take us to Old Market Square and the Baroque Parish Church. Tonight, we'll have dinner at a local authentic Polish restaurant before going to the hotel for overnight. [B/D]

Day 14 - Sun: Poznan, Gniezno, Biskupin, Gdansk

On our way north we stop in Gniezno, the first capital of Poland and visit the cathedral and the tomb of St. Adalbert of Prague. Our second stop is Biskupin, an archaeological open-air museum and life-size model of an Iron Age fortified settlement, a unique place in Central Europe. A Neolithic site located in the Biskupin Archaeological Reserve, is being rebuilt thanks to the financial support of the European Union. This new achievement will further enrich the archaeological site discovered in 1933 which testifies to the life of a at the hotel. [B/D]

Day 15 - Mon: Gdansk (Sopot)

This morning is dedicated to Gdansk. Like Warsaw, most of the city of Gdansk was destroyed at the end of the Second World War and the Old Town was rebuilt identically during the post-war period, allowing us today to give an account of the past greatness of the city, which was the richest city of the Kingdom of Poland, and one of the most powerful cities of Europe, in the 16th and the 17th century. The main axis of the old town (Glowne Miasto) is the Royal Way (Trakt Królewski). Along the street there are pretty colorful houses, the best-known of which is the Maison Dorée, the former home of a wealthy merchant. Visit the Main Town Hall, Artus Court, Uphagen house one of a few 18th century merchant town houses in Europe open to visitors and the only one in Poland. Nest to Gdansk is Sopot, also known as the "Pearl of the Baltic". It's the most popular Polish seaside resort and also a hotspot for balneotherapy ("sopot" means "source"). With its "belle époque" style houses, its gardens and its long pier walk, Sopot is the charming asset of the Tricity. Walk along the pier which is 1700 ft. long and enjoy the Baltic breeze reminding you of where you are.. Dinner in a authentic Polish restaurant before returning to your hotel for overnight. [B/D]

Day 16 - Tue: Gdansk, Malbork, Kanal Ostrodzko, Elblag, Warsaw

Drive to Malbork for a visit to the Malbork Castle Museum originally built in stages from the beginning of the 1270s, becoming over time a fundamental element of the Teutonic Knights' fortress system in Prussia. In 1410, after the defeat of the Teutonic Knights at Grunwald, the fortress of Malbork, which the Polish-Lithuanian army could not conquer, allowed the Teutonic Order to escape destruction. In the year 1457, the Polish king bought Malbork from Germanic mercenaries. Following the first partition of Poland (in 1772), the lands of the north of the Republic Nobiliaria, including Malbork found themselves in the borders of Prussia. During the Prussian occupation, the castle was used as barracks and warehouse. Severely devastated, it found its Gothic style through reconstructions made in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1997, Malbork Castle was inscribed on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List. One of the most important rooms of the castle is the Great Refectory, which in the Middle Ages was the largest reception hall of the fortress of Malbork. The great masters of the Teutonic Knights welcomed their many visitors from all over Europe. After the visit, continue to Ostróda for a cruise on the Elbląg Canal. Built between 1848 and 1876, the Ostróda-Elbląg



Canal connected the Baltic Sea with southern Prussia at the time. Thanks to the ingenious engineering solutions used by the Dutch J.G. Steenke who planned it, it is considered a masterpiece of hydrographic art unique in the world. 50 miles long, including 25 miles of channels dug between the six lakes, it has unique technical facilities on the passage of the 327 ft. difference in the canal between the villages of Całuny Nowe and Buczyniec: instead of the usual locks, a system of five ramps makes it possible to hoist the boats and to pull them on the ground, using trolleys on rails. Continue to Warsaw arriving in the evening for dinner in an authentic Polish restaurant. Overnight at the hotel. [B/D]

Day 17 - Wed: Warsaw, USA

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and have some free time depending on your flighty schedule. At the appointed time you'll be picked-up and transferred to the airport to board your flight back home. [B]

[B] = Breakfast | [D] = Dinner | [B/D] = Breakfast and Dinner

Your Tour includes:

- Round-trip airfare USA-Warsaw
- Arrival and departure transfers
- 16 nights' accommodation:
 - Warsaw - 2 nights
 - Białystok – 1 night
 - Białowieża – 1 night
 - Lublin – 1 night
 - Zamość – 1 night
 - Rzeszów – 1 night
 - Kraków – 4 nights
 - Czestochowa – 1 night
 - Wroclaw – 1 night
 - Poznan – 1 night
 - Gdansk – 2 nights
- Meals:
 - Breakfast daily
 - 16 dinners
- Elbląg Canal cruise
- Sightseeing of:
 - Warsaw
 - Wrocław

- Krakow
- Auschwitz
- Wieliczka
- Gdańsk
- Białowieski Park Narodowy
- Zamość
- Czestochowa
- Entrance fees to places visited
- English speaking tour guide throughout the tour
- English speaking local guides
- Transportation on A/C vehicle
- Hotel taxes

Your Tour does not include:

- Taxes or surcharges related to airline tickets
- Travel insurance
- All alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks
- Other meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Extras and gratuities
- Early check-in, late check-out
- Expenses of personal nature

Hotels in your Tour:

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
First Class		
Warsaw	Mercure City Center	4
	Radisson Blu Sobieski	4
Białystok	Branicki	4.5
Białowieża	Zubrówka	4.5
Lublin	Korona	4.5
Zamość	Artis	4
Rzeszów	Rzeszów	4.5
Kraków	Mercure Old Town	5
Czestochowa	Arche	4.5
Wroclaw	Scandic	4
Poznan	Novotel	3.5
Gdansk	Scandic	4

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Prices:

From: \$3,675 including airfare

Add-ons available from all US gateways.

Prices are per person and may change without notice

This program can be customized for individuals and groups.

Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request

• **Airfare**

We also be glad to adjust the airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares

• **Program**

You may add or remove;

- Trip days
- Cities and sites
- Meals

• **Other options**

- The program was designed with private services, however, we may substitute shared sightseeing where available
- If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private guide and concierge service.

• **Quotation**

Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

Tour Code: PL03WAW21PI

Options:

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.
- Private arrival and/or departure transfer

Group Quotations:

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.
- Private arrival and/or departure transfer
- The options suggested in the itinerary will be quoted at time of booking
- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the land journey.
- Booking both air and land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and

- longtime relationship with the airlines.
- We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.