

Grand Tour of Poland hosted by John Gora

From the Tatra Mountains to the Baltic Sea

August 14 - 27, 2024



Warsaw ♦ Krakow ♦ Wieliczka ♦ Auschwitz ♦ Zakopane
Dunajec River Rafting ♦ Czestochowa ♦ Bydgoszcz ♦ Torun ♦ Gdansk

WED, AUG 14 Depart on transatlantic flight to Warsaw. Flight not included – ask for options from your hometown.

THU, AUG 15 Arrive Warsaw (WELCOME DINNER)

Arrive Warsaw and transfer to our hotel. Depending on your arrival time enjoy the afternoon at your leisure. Join us tonight for our Welcome dinner – food, music and a chance to meet the group!

Overnight in Warsaw at the Sofitel Victoria, ul. Krolewska 11, tel: 48 22 657 8011

FRI, AUG 16 WARSAW (BREAKFAST, LUNCH)

Our walking tour of the Old Town includes the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Castle Square, and Old Town Square. We then continue by coach for a driving tour that takes us past the Palace of Science and Culture, the former Warsaw Ghetto and National Opera House. Stopping at Lazienki Park we visit the famous Chopin Monument and then stroll through this wonderful green space to see the Palace on the Water (weather permitting). After lunch, the rest of the day is at your leisure. *Suggestions for your free time: The Chopin Museum, POLIN Museum of Polish Jews, or the 1944 Uprising Museum.*

Overnight in Warsaw at the Sofitel Victoria, ul. Krolewska 11, tel: 48 22 657 8011

SAT, AUG 17 WARSAW – KRAKOW (BREAKFAST, LUNCH OR WINE-TASTING – to be advised -)

Driving south from Warsaw we drive to the magical medieval city of Krakow. We will stop enroute for lunch or wine-tasting before arriving at our hotel around 3 pm for check-in. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy at your leisure.

Overnight in Krakow at the Andel's Hotel, ul. Pawia 3, tel: 48-12-660-0288

SUN, AUG 18 KRAKOW – WIELICZKA – KRAKOW (BREAKFAST, DINNER)

In the late morning our walking tour will get you acquainted with this lovely medieval town. We will visit Wawel Hill, Florianska Gate, and the Barbican. This 13th-century merchants' town has Europe's largest Market Square, with the Cloth Hall as its centerpiece as well as St. Mary's Church. Free time for lunch and in the late afternoon we drive to the outskirts of Krakow to visit the Wieliczka Salt Mine, a UNESCO Heritage Site. This salt mine has been operating since the 13th century. An unforgettable attraction with underground chambers, grottoes and chapels all carved from salt. Afterwards, we take a short ride to the restaurant for dinner that will be accompanied by a colorful local song & dance performance.

Overnight in Krakow at the Andel's Hotel, ul. Pawia 3, tel: 48-12-660-0288

MON, AUG 19 KRAKOW - DAY AT LEISURE (BREAKFAST)

Today is yours to explore Krakow as you wish. If you have any special requests please let us know and we may be able to help you make the arrangements. You will receive a list of attractions and dining options with your final documents.

Overnight in Krakow at the Andel's Hotel, ul. Pawia 3, tel: 48-12-660-0288

TUE, AUG 20 KRAKOW – AUSCHWITZ – ZYWIEC - ZAKOPANE (B , BREWERY TOUR & TASTING, DINNER)

It will be a somber morning as we visit the Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp that was operated by Nazi Germany in occupied Poland during World War II. After our visit we continue to Zywiec to visit one of Poland's most famous breweries and then on to Zakopane at the very southern tip of Poland. Tonight we enjoy a casual "grill" dinner at our hotel .

Overnight in Zakopane at Aries Hotel & Spa, ul. Zaruskiego 5, tel +48 18 544 4444

AUG 21, WED ZAKOPANE (BREAKFAST, HIGHLANDER DINNER)

Morning tour by bus to see the highlights of Zakopane including the wooden chapel at Jaszczurowka, the ski-jumphill and the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. We end our tour with a cable car (funicular) ride to the top of Gubalowka Mountain for a great view of the Tatra Mountains. After descending from Gubalowka you have free time to shop the colorful open market. This evening we are off for a fulfilled evening at a highlander inn featuring local song and dance followed by a bonfire (weather permitting).

Overnight in Zakopane at Aries Hotel & Spa, ul. Zaruskiego 5, tel +48 18 544 4444

AUG 22, THU ZAKOPANE - SPLYW – ZAKOPANE (BREAKFAST, LUNCH)

After breakfast we drive about an hour out of Zakopane to embark on our river rafting experience on the Dunajec River. Winding through the spectacular scenery of the Pieniny National Park we will be zig-zagging back and forth across the Polish and Slovak border. Lunch at a local restaurant and then we return to Zakopane where you can enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure.

Overnight in Zakopane at Aries Hotel & Spa, ul. Zaruskiego 5, tel +48 18 544 4444

AUG 23, FRI ZAKOPANE – CZESTOCHOWA – BYDGOSZCZ (BREAKFAST, LUNCH)

We start our journey north today. Arriving in Czestochowa , We visit the Jasna Gora Monastery, Poland's most important shrine with the Black Madonna. Lunch and then we continue to Bydgoszcz for overnight and an evening stroll through the old town.

Overnight in Torun at Hotel Mercure Bydgoszcz Sepia, ul. Focha 20, tel +48 52 525 2410

AUG 24, SAT BYDGOSZCZ - TORUN – KASZUBY - GDANSK (BREAKFAST, LUNCH)

From Bydgoszcz a short drive to Torun for a walking tour of this medieval town where Nicolaus Copernicus was born. Torun has long been famous as a center of gingerbread and is truly one of the most magnificent historic cities of Poland, its Old Town has been included on the UNESCO list. Continuing north we will stop in the Kaszubian region for lunch with a touch of folklore. Continue to Gdansk for overnight. Evening at your leisure.

Overnight in Gdansk at the Hilton Hotel, Targ Rybny 1, tel: +48 58 778 7100

AUG 25, SUN GDANSK (BREAKFAST)

After breakfast, you have the opportunity to attend mass at St. Bridget's Church, best known as a sanctuary for the leaders of Solidarity Movement under Martial Law. The church is also known for its remarkable amber altar. In the late morning we will meet our local guide to explore Gdansk. We sail (weather permitting) to historic Westerplatte where the German invasion of Poland on September 1st, 1939 officially marked the beginning of World War II. From Westerplatte we board our coach to take a short drive to the Solidarity Monument and the European Solidarity Centre, which is a museum devoted to the history of Solidarity, the Polish trade union and civil resistance movement, and other opposition movements of Communist Eastern Europe. The museum is located next to the entrance to the famous Gdansk shipyard. From here we will go to the old town for our walking tour of Gdansk which will highlight the main sights such as the Golden Gate, the Long Market, St. Mary's Basilica, and Mariacka Street. The rest of the day is at your leisure.

Overnight in Gdansk at the Hilton Hotel, Targ Rybny 1, tel: +48 58 778 7100

AUG 26, MON GDANSK – OLIWA - SOPOT – GDANSK (BREAKFAST, FAREWELL DINNER)

The morning is yours to explore on your own. Suggestion: Museum of Amber.

In the afternoon we drive to the Oliwa district near Gdansk that is famous for its Cathedral with its one-of-a-kind pipe organ that was originally designed and constructed by a Cistercian Monk between 1763 and 1783. After a short recital we continue to Sopot.

Free time to stroll the pier and explore the fashionable seaside resort. Don't miss the pedestrian street "Monte Cassino" with its many restaurants and cafes as well as the famous Crooked House. In the evening join us for a casual farewell dinner at "Bulaj" restaurant by the seaside in Sopot. Return to Gdansk for overnight.

Overnight in Gdansk at the Hilton Hotel, Targ Rybny 1, tel: +48 58 778 7100

AUG 27, TUE DEPARTURE FROM GDANSK – END OF TOUR (BREAKFAST)

**** Itinerary is subject to minor adjustment that may be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances ****

TICO REG # 4343943

❖ For more information please contact wanda@chopintours.com or call 1-800-533-0369 ❖

POLAND WITH JOHN GORA

August 14 – 27, 2024

Land only price is \$ 2995 USD / 3599 CAD per person based on double occupancy.

Land only tour starts in Warsaw on August 15, 2024

Single room supplement \$ 825 USD / 975 CAD

Terms and Conditions

LAND TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Transfer from airport to hotel in Warsaw on August 15, 2024 and transfer from Gdansk hotel to airport on August 27, 2024
- all transportation within Poland by air-conditioned motorcoach or mini - bus transfers where required
- English speaking local guides where required
- sightseeing and entrance fees as per itinerary
- Meals: buffet breakfast daily at hotel, 5 lunches, 5 dinners
- Hotels: All rooms with private bath or shower, based on two person sharing a room.

A limited number of single rooms are available at a supplement of \$ 825 USD / 975 CAD
Chopin Tours reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category, when and if necessary.

NAMES: At time of registration please ensure that name is provided to us EXACTLY as it appears in the passport as well as date of birth.

DEPOSIT: A deposit of \$ 500 per person is required with the registration form to confirm the reservation.
This may be by Check, Visa or Mastercard. Please make checks payable to: Chopin Express Tours.

FINAL PAYMENT: Is due by May 15, 2024. If reservation is made less than 91 days prior to departure full payment will be due at time of booking.
If we do not receive final payment, by this date, we reserve the right to cancel the reservation.
Payment may be made by Check, VISA or Mastercard. Please make checks payable to: Chopin Express Tours.

IN THE EVENT YOU ARE FORCED TO CANCEL YOUR TRIP THE FOLLOWING CANCELLATION PENALTIES WILL APPLY:

Cancellation up to and including May 15 : \$ 500 non-refundable (per person)

Cancellation after May 15 : NO REFUND

All cancellations must be received in writing (or by email). The above conditions apply to all cancellations/absences regardless of cause.

We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation & interruption insurance to cover the cost of your investment.

It is the traveler's responsibility to purchase travel insurance. Please consult the insurance company you normally deal with or call us for recommendations (see also paragraph about travel insurance on next page).

CANCELLATION BY TOUR OPERATOR: The tour operator reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure. In the unlikely event of such a cancellations, you will be offered a different tour on the same day, the same tour at a later date, or a full refund of all monies paid.

BAGGAGE: Due to limitation of space for baggage, one average-size suitcase per person + carry on is permitted throughout the tour. All baggage is carried at owner's risk. Every care will be taken to protect your luggage but the tour operator can accept no responsibility for loss or damage to baggage or belongings. Small items must be entirely in the care of the owner.

SIGHTSEEING: Complete sightseeing program as shown in each itinerary including ground transportation by motor-coach or other local conveyance, the services of an English-speaking guide and entrance fees to places visited as per itinerary.

TOUR ESCORTS: English-speaking escort will be provided throughout tour.

TIPS AND TAXES: Service charges and taxes imposed by government authorities are included. Standard tips to local guides and to restaurant staff at group meals are included. Tips to driver is not included – recommended amount of 50-60 \$ per person at end of tour is suggested.

NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR TOUR: Excess baggage charges, insurance of any kind, wine, liquors, mineral water, coffee or tea, food or beverages not on the regular menus of the included meals. Items of personal nature such as: laundry, telephone calls, tips.

VISAS AND PASSPORTS: All passengers traveling on this tour are required to have a passport valid for at least 6 months beyond travel date. For other nationalities and destinations please check requirements.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly suggest the purchase of Emergency Out of Country Hospital / Medical coverage, Trip Cancellation & Interruption Insurance, as well as Flight Accident and Baggage Insurance. Please check with your Insurance provider for full details and costs of coverage. Many of our clients purchase from Travelguard please check at www.travelguard.com or speak to an agent at 1-800-826-5248 (USA) If you are a AAA member you can check if they have any special offer or you may also wish to check with your Bank/Credit Card, as some cardholder agreements may provide some travel insurance coverage.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Chopin Tours / John Gora reserve all rights to publish in printed media and web photographs and video taken during the tour. Participants in the tour agree to grant permission to use photographs in which they may appear.

RESPONSIBILITY: CHOPIN EXPRESS TOURS, their affiliates or subsidiaries (hereinafter called the Company) , act only as agents for the hotels, airlines, bus companies, railroads, or owners, operators, or contractors providing accommodations, transportations, meals, tours or other services, and all coupons, exchange orders, receipts, contracts and tickets issued by the Company are issued subject to any and all tariffs, terms and conditions under which the foregoing or any other services whatsoever are provided by such hotels, airlines, bus companies, railroad, operators or contractors. By the acceptance of such coupons, exchange orders, receipts, contracts and tickets, the tour member agrees to the foregoing, and also agree that the Company shall not be or become liable or responsible for any loss, injury, or damage to person, property or otherwise in connection with any transportation, accommodation, meals, tours or other services referred to herein, or resulting from the neglect or default of any person, firm, corporation or other entity engaged to supply the same. The tour operator reserves the right to withdraw a tour, to refuse to accept or retain any person as a member of a tour at any time, or to make changes in the itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant; or if such changes result from circumstances beyond the control of the tour operator; or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of the passengers. They can accept no responsibility for the losses or additional expenses due to the delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses must be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time specified. Such alterations may be made without penalty to the tour operator. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the passengers. In all cases a full refund shall not exceed the amount paid by the passenger.

*****TRAVELLING IN THE TIME OF COVID19*****

THE SITUATION IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING AS ARE THE GUIDELINES AND LOCAL REGULATIONS. YOU WILL BE OBLIGATED TO FOLLOW ALL GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS THAT WILL BE IN FORCE DURING THE TOUR, WE WILL ASSIST AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO KEEP YOU ADVISED OF REQUIREMENTS HOWEVER THE RESPONSIBILITY AND RISK IS SOLELY UPON THE TRAVELLER TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL NECESSARY OBLIGATIONS ARE FULFILLED, CHOPIN EXPRESS TOURS/ POLIMEX TRAVEL INC, JOHN GORA, WILL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE AT PRESENT THERE ARE NO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS TO ENTER THE EUROPEAN UNION. PLEASE CHECK UP TO DATE COVID REQUIREMENTS AT THE FOLLOWING SITES:

Info for Poland: <https://www.gov.pl/web/coronavirus/travel>

<https://www.strazgraniczna.pl/pl/cudzoziemcy/covid-epidemia-koronawi/8578,Outbreak-of-coronavirus-rules-of-entry-and-stay-on-the-territory-of-the-Republic.html>

Info for Canada: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>

Info for United States: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel/index.html>

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE ADEQUATE INSURANCE COVERAGE TO COVER ALL MEDICAL EMERGENCIES (INCLUDING COVID) WHILE TRAVELLING ABROAD, AS WELL AS TRIP CANCELLATION AND INTERRUPTION PROTECTION. IN ADDITION TO MEDICAL COSTS THE INSURANCE SHOULD ALSO COVER EXPENSES THAT MAY BE INCURRED DUE TO QUARANTINE SHOULD YOU PROVE POSITIVE AT ANY TIME DURING YOUR TRIP. (SEE TRAVEL INSURANCE PARAGRAPH BELOW AS WELL)

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