



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Notes

Poland Encompassed

Tour Duration – 13 Days



Tour Rating

Fitness ●●●● | Adventure ●●●● | Culture ●●●●● | History ●●●●● | Wildlife ●●●●

Tour Highlights

- ✓ A high emphasis on local culture and important historical sites
- ✓ Old towns of Wroclaw, Gdansk and Krakow
- ✓ UNESCO sites of the wooden Churches of Peace and Wielicska Salt Mine
- ✓ Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau
- ✓ Cruise along the famous Elblag Canal, one of the new seven tourist wonders of Poland





Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Map



Tour Essentials

- Accommodation:** Comfortable hotels with private bathrooms
Included Meals: Daily breakfast (B), plus lunches (L) and dinners (D) as shown in the itinerary.
Group Size: Maximum of 12
Start Point: Warsaw – you can arrive any time on day 1
End Point: Warsaw – you can depart any time on day 13
Transport: Air-conditioned van or minibus (depending on group size)
Country Visited: Poland



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Poland Encompassed

There is much more to Poland than meets the eye. From stunning architecture and fairytale castles, to bustling arts scene and beautiful scenery. Starting in Warsaw with a visit to the well-preserved old town, we head into the countryside to the birthplace of Frederick Chopin. We head west to Wroclaw and the Wooden Churches of Peace (UNESCO) then south to the foot of the Tatra Mountains. Spend some time in nature at Morskie Oko lake before continuing on to Krakow. Before heading north, we visit the Wieliczka Salt Mine (UNESCO) and Auschwitz-Birkenau before travelling to the beautiful city of Gdansk on the Baltic Sea. We spend some time exploring this delightful city before heading back to Poland's capital for our final night.

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested and on occasions alternative accommodation, of a similar standard to that named below, will be used.

Tour Guide

Our guides are a key strength, chosen for their knowledge of and passion for the areas in which they work. All of our guides are carefully hand-picked, and are not just passing through these countries, but are usually locally born. Unlike some companies it should be noted we do not send a guide or tour leader from Undiscovered Destinations in the UK as we have every confidence in our locally appointed representative who is responsible for operating the tour on our behalf. Where possible you will have the same guide throughout your trip but on occasions it may be necessary to change the guide at one or more points during the tour.

Itinerary

Day 1 – Arrive Warsaw

Arrive in Warsaw and transfer to your hotel. Depending on your arrival there may be time to explore the city independently. No meals or activities included today. Overnight Chopin Boutique B&B or similar

Warsaw.

Warsaw, Poland's capital, is a delightful blend of old and new; gleaming office buildings mixed with old communist-style apartments. Its well-preserved old town is definitely worth a visit, as well as the fairytale-like palaces to the north of the city.

Day 2 – Warsaw Sightseeing

Today explore the delights of Warsaw. This morning visit the Łazienki Garden and enjoy a guided walk to the Palace and the Frederick Chopin monument. After lunch explore the Old Town, beautifully rebuilt after World War II, with the impressive Royal Castle, the seat of the kings of Poland. Here the Constitution of May 3rd was proclaimed in 1791, the second oldest constitution in the world after the US Constitution. Later this evening enjoy a musical concert of Frederic Chopin's music concert. Overnight Chopin Boutique B&B or similar (BL)

Day 3 – To Wroclaw (approx. driving time 4.5 hours)

After breakfast we leave Warsaw and head south to Wroclaw. On the way we stop in Zelazowa Wola – the birthplace of Frederick Chopin. Visit the museum located at his family home – a beautiful manor house. Next, continue to Łowicz, a typical Mazovian town famous for folk art. Especially noteworthy are the colourful costumes and beautiful paper cut-outs. Visit the local museum and a separate open air museum. After lunch we continue to Wroclaw, where we expect to arrive early evening. Overnight Qubus Hotel or similar (BL)





Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Wroclaw

Wroclaw is Poland's fourth-largest city and located on the banks of the River Oder. Known for its stunning architecture and colourful buildings that line the main square, Wroclaw is one of Poland's most popular destinations. Having previously hosted the Euro 2012 championship and 2016 European Capital of Culture, it's European and international profile is growing. The city is renowned for its high-quality teaching, and its university has produced nine Nobel prize laureates.

Day 4 – Wroclaw – Swidnica - Wroclaw

Explore Wroclaw on a half day tour. Visit the Old Town, Ostrów Tumski Island, Centennial Hall. This afternoon we head to the city of Swidnica (approx. 30km from Wroclaw) where we visit the unique wooden Churches of Peace, listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Return to Wroclaw where the rest of the evening is at leisure. Overnight Qubus Hotel or similar (BL)

Day 5 – To Zakopane (approx. driving time 5 hours)

Today we head for Zakopane. Depending on the group, we make an optional stop in Zabrze to visit a museum located at the Old Coal Mine, where you learn about the history of coal mining in Silesia (additional cost to be paid locally). Arrive into Zakopane in the early evening, beautifully situated at the foot of the Tatra Mountains in the valley between Gubalowka and Giewont. It is the most popular resort and one of the most beautiful places in Poland owing to its picturesque location. Overnight Czarny Potok Hotel or similar (BL)

Day 6 – Morskie Oko Lake

After breakfast we head to Morskie Oko lake located in the Tatra Mountains. Enjoy a walk along the trails and a short horse-drawn carriage ride to the shelter at Morskie Oko, where you can enjoy a wonderful view of the highest peaks of the Polish Tatra Mountains. After lunch we return to Zakopane where we take a drive around the city before returning to the hotel Overnight Czarny Potok Hotel or similar (BL)

Day 7 – Wieliczka Salt Mine – Krakow (approx. driving time 3 hours)

After an early breakfast depart for Wieliczka to visit the famous Wieliczka Salt Mine (UNESCO). Continue to Krakow where we take a short city tour. Visit the Wawel Royal Castle, home to three dynasties of Poland's monarchs. Its stately halls and exquisite chambers are filled with priceless art, valuable period furniture and rare ancient objects. The collection of monumental 16th century tapestries is matchless. We also visit Wawel Cathedral, the place of the cult of St. Stanislaw and St. Jadwiga, Queen of Poland. The 18 chapels are true architectural masterpieces. The giant bell, Zygmunt from 1520 ranks with the world's largest. This is the place where Polish kings were crowned and buried. After lunch visit Krakow's old town, with its restored main square of magnificent houses and palaces. Stop at St. Mary's Basilica to see the magnificent wooden altar by Wit Stwosz. In the middle of the square is Cloth Hall built before 1349, but renovated in the 16th century with many shopping stalls inside. Overnight Wit Stwosz Hotel or similar (BL)

Krakow

Poland's capital city until 1596, Krakow is now a leading centre of Polish academic, economic, cultural and artistic life. One of Poland's oldest cities, it covers both banks of the Wisla river and located at the foot of the Carpathian Mountains. Its beautifully restored old town, a UNESCO listed site, is a wonder to explore and home to Wawel Castle – the residence of three dynasties of Poland monarchs.

Day 8 – Auschwitz-Birkenau

Today visit Oswiecim, the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp; an eerie and haunting place that drives home the terrible atrocities which took place here during World War II. There is an option to stop in Wadowice, the hometown of John Paul II before your visit to Auschwitz. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Overnight Wit Stwosz Hotel or similar (BL)



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Day 9 – Sandomierz – Kazimierz Dolny (approx. driving time 4 hours)

After breakfast we leave Krakow and head to the city of Sandomierz, an example of Renaissance architecture in Poland. Take a walk through the streets of the old town and visit the castle and St. Jacob's Church with its Dominican Monastery. We continue to Kazimierz Dolny, a beautifully located old town on the Vistula river banks, known also as a place especially cherished by artists. We take a short city tour before heading to your hotel. Overnight at Kazimierzowka Hotel or similar (BL)

Day 10 – Gdansk (approx. driving time 5.5 hours)

Today we head to Gdansk. We stop in Torun – the city of Nicolas Copernicus, the famous Polish astronomer – where we walk through the streets of the old town and visit the museum, Copernicus's home, Crooked Tower, and taste the local famous gingerbread. Arrive in Gdansk in the evening. Overnight Dom Muzyka Hotel or similar (BL)

Gdansk

Although destroyed during WWII, Gdansk was beautifully rebuilt and now known as being one of the most beautiful cities on the Baltic. The city is considered to be one of Europe's most important port cities with its stunning architecture, historic city centre and spectacular beaches, and is a popular destination for Poles and foreigners alike.

Day 11 - Gdansk

Today take a guided tour of Gdansk's old town. Visits include the St. Mary Basilica, Neptun Monument, Zuraw Gdanski, the harbour, the "Roads to Freedom" exposition and the "Monument of the Fallen Shipyard Workers". Next visit the monument at Westerplatte, where WWII began. Visit the Gothic Cathedral in Oliwa where you can listen to a concert on a baroque pipe organ. After lunch continue to Sopot – a famous Polish spa at the Baltic seaside, and famous for the longest wooden pier in Europe. Overnight at Dom Muzyka Hotel or similar (BL)

Day 12 – Malbork – Warsaw (approx. driving time 4 hours)

Early departure this morning to Malbork for a visit to the medieval fortress of Teutonic Knights, the largest brick castle in Europe. The Malbork Castle, a 15th c. powerful stronghold of the Teutonic Knights, is one of the best examples of medieval fortification in Europe. We then return to Warsaw. We break up the journey with a 2-hour cruise along the famous Elblag Canal which is considered one of the new seven Poland tourist wonders. It was built in the 19th c. and renovated again but a few years ago. You cross 4 water ramps during the cruise also on... grass. We arrive into Warsaw in the evening. Overnight Chopin Boutique B&B Hotel or similar (BL)

Day 13 – Warsaw Departure

At leisure until you are transferred to the airport for your departure flight (B)

Tour Inclusions / Exclusions

Inclusions:

- Arrival and departure transfers
- All accommodation
- All transportation throughout with a professional driver
- Services of English-speaking guides
- Meals as listed (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)
- Entrance fees for sites listed as part of the itinerary





Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Excluded:

International flights
Any airport taxes
Travel Insurance
Items of personal nature
Visas
Drinks
Tips

Important Information

Foreign Travel Advice Warnings

We constantly monitor the advice posted by the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). In particular we will always advise clients of any travel warnings. At present there are no warnings against travel to Poland. Please feel free to contact us should you have any specific concerns or would like to know in detail what measures are being taken to ensure visits remain trouble free and without incident.

It should be noted that this information applies to British citizens. Other nationals are asked to check the current position of their respective government.

Accommodation and Meals

Hotel Check-in Times

As a general rule most hotels will allow guests to check-in from 2pm. Please note that the price of your tour does not include guaranteed early check-in. Therefore, please advise us if you would like to ensure that your room is available for an earlier arrival. This is particularly relevant on the first day of the tour and for early morning arrivals.

One option is to pre-book and pay for an extra night at the beginning of your tour which will guarantee your accommodation is available irrespective of what time you arrive. Please contact us for information and costs.

It should also be noted that on many of our tours we have set-aside Day 1 of the itinerary as an 'arrival day'. For this reason and because tour participants are likely to be arriving at different times, and often from different countries, guided sightseeing or other activities are not included. If you are arriving early or before the start date of the tour and would like to organise some extra arrangements on a private basis, please contact us.

Accommodation Rating

At Undiscovered Destinations we know our travellers prefer to stay in comfortable, mid-range accommodation which meets our own exacting standards. With a few exceptions you can expect rooms to be en-suite, with private bathroom and when necessary, air-conditioning will be provided. In general, you will find your hotel has a restaurant and/or bar.

We welcome solo travellers and single rooms will be allocated subject to the applicable tour supplement. Please note that on occasions you may not always be allocated a double or twin room, as some hotels have designated single rooms. These may be smaller in size. However, the supplement payable takes this into consideration.



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Food & Drink

The daily meal basis is shown in the tour itinerary; breakfast (B), lunch and dinner (D). Please note that lunch may be a picnic. Drinks are not included and will be payable locally in cash.

Dietary Requirements

If you have any special dietary requirements, you must notify us at the time of booking. While we will make every effort to cater for you, we cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide for a 3-course meal with water. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Evening Meal £10 - £15

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general, you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Bottle of local beer £1.50 - £2 depending on location

Bottle of mineral water £1

Tipping – Guide and Drivers

If your local guide has been helpful, then you could think about tipping. This amount can obviously be left to you. For our group tour, a reasonable amount to tip the guide would be around EUR25-40 per person, depending on group size.

Foreign Exchange

ATM Availability: In the cities and larger towns, the larger banks have ATMs.

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Cards are widely accepted except in rural locations

Local Currency: Polish Zloty

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Euro

Where to Exchange: Your guide will advise you.

Flight Information

Our advertised prices do not include the cost of international flights. Please contact us if you would like a quotation to book a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a free airport transfer, both on arrival and departure. In order that the transfer can be arranged please ensure that you advise us of your flight information once available. Please advise the date, time and flight number for your arrival/departure. If we



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

have not been advised of this information at least 2 weeks before travel, then you will be required to make your own way to the hotel on Day 1 of your tour.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Undiscovered Destinations that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country and be valid for the entire duration of your holiday.

Visa Information

At the time of writing British, US and Australian nationals do not require a visa for a short-term tourist visit to Poland.

As it is the travellers' responsibility to ensure that they meet all entry requirements it is essential that you check the rules and any other conditions at the time of booking and again when making your balance payment. In addition, we would strongly advise that you make a final check around two weeks before your arrival. This is important as requirements can change at short notice. Undiscovered Destinations, when possible, will provide guidance about entry rules, but in the first instance please contact the relevant authorities, including the applicable embassy or consulate for assistance. Contact details can be found by visiting the following websites.

British Nationals - www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

US Nationals - <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html>

Australian Nationals - www.smartraveller.gov.au/

Other nationals should check the latest requirements with the authorities in their home country, or with the destination's nearest embassy or consulate.

Passports

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, valid for at least six months after the date of return to your country.

We strongly advise that your passport contains a minimum of two blank pages, as this may be a requirement of the local immigration authorities. In addition, certain countries will stipulate that the two blank pages are opposite each other. If you are unable to meet these requirements, you may be refused boarding by your airline or denied entry by the immigration authorities.

For specific information about the requirements for your destination please check with the country's embassy or consulate. Alternatively, UK citizens can visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

Vaccinations & Protection

We strongly recommend that you contact your doctor's surgery or a specialist travel clinic for up-to-date information, advice and the necessary vaccinations. For a visit of less than one month, almost certainly you will be advised to have immunisations against the following: Diphtheria and Tetanus, Hepatitis A and B, Polio and Typhoid.

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or purchased in your home country can be different in other countries. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on [best practice when travelling with medicines](#). For further information on the legal



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you're travelling to.

Preparing for your tour

Climate

Poland winters can be very cold, with significant snowfall. The best time to visit the country is from April / May to September / October. April is generally a cooler time to visit than the other departures, but absolutely fine to visit everywhere on tour.

Clothing

Our general recommendation is to bring light clothing with a couple of fleeces or jumpers for cooler evenings. You should also bring a waterproof jacket for any days that it may rain. You should bring at least one long sleeved top for any churches that you will visit.

Equipment

The first thing on your list should be a first aid kit. Whilst there is no undue cause for alarm, travellers are best advised to travel well-prepared: adequately immunized, with sufficient supplies of prescription drugs, along with a medical kit. Suncream/sunblock is a must – you should not rely on being able to find it in smaller towns in Poland. Insect repellent, including a bite spray will be useful to have. You should also bring a torch / flashlight.

Footwear

Footwear is a main priority on this tour. Comfortable walking shoes/boots are recommended.

Luggage on tour

Your luggage should not exceed 20kgs (44lbs). One large rucksack, and one small hand luggage rucksack is acceptable. We advise you to travel with a rucksack or soft bag rather than a suitcase.

Electric Supply & Plugs

Electrical supply is 200V AC (50 Hz) and uses European two circular pin style plugs.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour, but small changes may just be added to these tour notes. These tour notes were updated 17 October 2023.