

## A country of a rich history and magical myths and legends

Poland's roots go back to the turn of the first millennium, leaving you a thousand years of twists and turns and kings and castles to explore. Its culture is passionate, like its mystical dragons and famous vodka! This is a country full of magic - scenic landscapes and extraordinary historical sites - from chic medieval hot spots like Kraków and Gdańsk to the energetic Warsaw and Wrocław. Country has survived centuries of conflict to emerge as a proud, independent country, ready to assume her new role in modern history.

Discover Poland with us, and explore this unassuming corner of Europe, waiting to welcome you with open arms!

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Old meets New:** explore the contrasts of modern-day Warsaw
- **Musical Legacy:** marvel at Chopin's masterpieces at piano recital, and visit his home town
- **City of Rainbows:** marvel at the mansion facades of Gdansk
- **Land of Kaszuby:** discover rich culture of the Kaszubians - from pottery to lunch at the home of locals
- **Mountain scenery:** relax in the Tatra Mountains in Zakopane.
- **Breathtaking Nature:** see the mountains the best way - raft down the Dunajec River!
- **Pay respects:** visit the Auschwitz Concentration Camp memorial & museum
- **City of dragons:** wander Krakow's centuries-old boulevards
- **Cobblestone Exclusives:** attend private concerts, cultural events, and workshops exclusively for Cobblestone freeway travellers.



## Day 1 TOUR START DATE | Warsaw (-/-/D)

“Witamy w Polsce!” Welcome to Poland! Upon arrival in Warsaw, you’ll be met at the airport by your Tour Leader and chauffeured to your hotel, located in the heart of the city center.

*Your **Tour Leader** will be with you throughout your entire trip – every step of the way. More than just a guide - they will be your personal travel host, along with your private driver and vehicle. Together, they’ll make sure you get where you need to go, and be available to stop when you need along the way. Not to mention, they’ll show you the best places to eat, and help you with all the small details, from using the bank machines to showing you where to find the best gifts at the market - and negotiating for the best price! They’ll share the best of Poland, tell you about its history, and show you the modern Poland. And if there are any problems, they will make sure everything gets worked out. You’re in good hands!*

After check-in and some free time to freshen up, we will provide you with a **city orientation**, so you will know the closest exchange places, ATMs, and best souvenir and convenience stores.

Later on, we will enjoy a delicious **Welcome Dinner** in one of our favorite restaurants with traditional Polish food!

## Day 2 | Warsaw (B/L/-)

We begin our tour of Poland in Warsaw, a colourful city with a complex history that has recently blossomed into a diverse display of restored gothic architecture and cosmopolitan modernism.

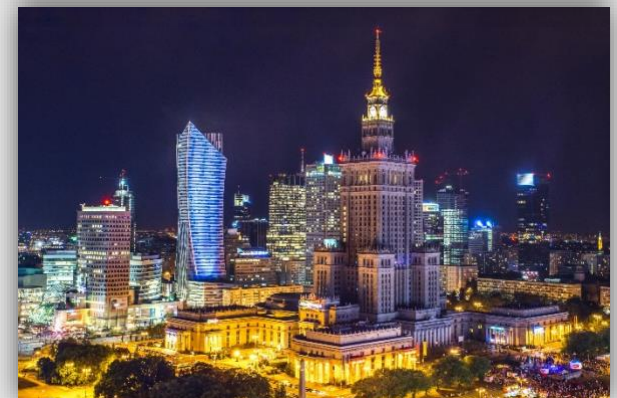
Today we will introduce you to this beautiful city on a **city tour**. We’ll show you the Old Town, beautifully rebuilt after World War II. Marvel at the impressive Royal Castle, seat of the kings of Poland. Here a Constitution was proclaimed on May 3rd in 1791, the second oldest constitution in the world after the US Constitution!

We’ll stop for lunch at a local restaurant in Old Town, before we continue our tour with a drive to the area of the former **Warsaw Ghetto**. En route, you will see the National Opera House and Town Hall. Discover more of this city’s past and rich and complicated history.

This evening you will take an unforgettable musical journey, through the world famous compositions of Poland’s greatest composer, **Frederic Chopin**, at a **piano recital**!

## HOTEL:

[Radisson Sobieski Hotel](#) or similar | Warsaw  
2 Nights





## The Destination

### Day 3 | Warsaw – Zelazowa Wola – Lowicz - Gdansk (B/L/-)

Today we'll get out of the city, and drive into the Masovian countryside. We'll visit the birthplace of Frederic Chopin, **Żelazowa Wola**. Discover more about the life of this famous composer, and visit his house museum.

Then we will stop in Lowicz, a typical **Mazovian town** famous for its folk art: colorful costumes and beautiful paper cut-outs. You will be invited to the home of a **local family** for lunch, whose charming cottage is located at the foot of the former Lowicz Castle. You will be welcomed in a typical Polish way, with bread & salt, and enjoy your meal served by the young married couple in their lovely home! Get to know them and learn about local life in Poland, over dessert in a beautiful garden.

We will then travel to Gdansk. Check-in to your hotel and take the evening to relax.

### Day 4 | Gdansk – Gdynia – Sopot - Gdansk (B/-/D)

After the breakfast at the hotel, it's time to explore the northern, Baltic Sea port city of **Gdansk**! Breathe in the fresh sea air as you explore the quaint streets, and the reconstructed facades of the many mansions. Like many cities in Poland, Gdansk has a varied and complicated history. For hundreds of years, Gdansk bounced between Polish and German rule. After heavy air raids in WWII, much of the city was destroyed, so in the 50s and 60s the city was rebuilt in a traditional Polish style.

On a **guided tour** of the city, you will see fragments of the city's ancient fortifications - relics of the Gothic defense walls from the 15th century, including the Prison Tower and the Torture House! Pass through the Long Market - a magnificent street, with Parisian mansions decorated with late Renaissance and Baroque facades - a real feast for the eyes! Visit the Main Town Hall, admire the Artus Court - a building used for Hanseatic League meetings, the most beautiful court in all the Hanseatic cities. On our way back we pass by Mariacka Street, with its gabled terraced houses and elegant boutiques, leading to the Long Wharf on the Motława River.

After lunch, we will travel to **Gdynia**, just up the coast from Gdansk, and neighbouring **Sopot**, a famous and fashionable seaside resort. Here you can still see the oldest and longest wooden pier in Europe! Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the promenade, or relax at the beach.

Return to Gdansk in the evening. Dinner will be served at Brovarnia restaurant in Gdansk.

## Gdansk

### HOTEL:

[Hanza Hotel](#) or similar | Gdansk  
3 Nights



## The Destination

## Gdansk - Torun

### Day 5 | Gdansk – Kaszuby - Gdansk (B/L/-)

Enjoy a day trip to **Kaszuby**, a beautiful land of green forests and lakes. Kashubian people are a separate ethnic group, whose culture is vivid and enchanting.

Firstly, you are invited to see a **pottery workshop**, where traditional Kashubians create beautiful work: the workshop of the **Necel family**, situated in Chmielno. The style of the Necel pottery stands apart from all other pottery in Poland, regional or national, due to its unique patterns. There are seven unique patterns, which have not changed for the last 150 years. They are widely recognized as traditional Kaszubian pottery decorations. See the pottery museum, the workshop and the huge pottery furnace. There is also a small shop, where the unique Necel pottery is sold.

After, we'll pay a visit to the **Ethnographic Museum in Wdzydze Kiszewskie**, whose history goes back to the year 1906. The museum stretches over 22 hectares, located on the banks of the Gołun Lake, and consists of objects of regional architecture: reconstructed interiors furnished authentically, traditional farm and industrial machines. The picturesque location makes this place magical!

We'll stop for lunch in a restaurant beautifully situated by the lake Ostrzyce, where you can try traditional **Kashubian cuisine**.

After lunch, we will see the very **heart of Kaszuby**. One of the highlights of Kaszuby is the viewing point on Wiezyca hill, which is the highest hill of the south coast of the Baltic Sea (328 m). On the top of it there is a viewing tower from which you can enjoy the beauty of the surrounding area. In the evening drive back to Gdansk.

### Day 6 | Gdansk - Torun (B/L/-)

In the morning we will travel to **Torun**.

Lunch at the local restaurant and visit the town of Torun. It is the birthplace of Nicolaus Copernicus and considered one of the most magnificent historic cities of Poland. Its Old Town has been included in UNESCO's list for its impressive 13th century Town Hall, superb churches and historic streets preserving Torun's past glory.

Afternoon at your leisure.

### Day 7 | Torun - Wroclaw (B/L/-)

After breakfast we will check out and depart for **Wroclaw**, the capital of Lower Silesia. This city has always been a bone of contention, changing hands many times throughout its long history. As a result, Wroclaw is the mixture of many different religions and cultures, and sports a unique character from years of Bohemian, Austrian, and Prussian influences.

Upon arrival we'll take a **walking tour** of this beautiful city. Walk through the beautiful heart of Wroclaw, the Market Square with its beautiful buildings, and the Town Hall that is recognised as gem of Gothic-Renaissance urban architecture.

Evening at your leisure.

#### **HOTEL:**

[Bulwar Hotel](#) or similar | Torun

1 Night





## The Destination

### Day 8 | Wroclaw - Oswiecim (B/L/-)

In the morning we depart for **Oświęcim**. Lunch at the local restaurant in Oświęcim.

In the afternoon visit the former Nazi death camp, **Auschwitz-Birkenau**, where German Nazis deported at least 1.3 million people. This number included 20 nationalities, mainly of whom were Jews and Poles. It should be said that when humanity scoured the depths of depravity, it also reached the heights of heroism. One example of such is Saint Kolbe, less known is Witold Pilecki, an Auschwitz volunteer, whose firsthand account of the Holocaust was a key source of intelligence for the Western Allies.

Once the tour is over, we will get checked-in at your hotel in Oswiecim. Evening at your leisure and dinner on own.

### Day 9 | Oswiecim - Zakopane (B/-/D)

In the morning we depart for Zakopane.

We leave the large cities behind, and head up into the mountain region of **Podhale** - an enchanted world of regional arts and crafts. Our destination is **Zakopane**. Once, a small mountain village, Zakopane became a fashionable artist's retreat at the beginning of the 20th century. Today, it is the most popular resort in Poland and one of the most beautiful places in all of Poland, owing to its picturesque location. It is also home to a rich folk culture, and the center of a proud Polish highlander tradition. This is most clearly noticed in the mountain dwellings, folk costumes, lively music, and distinctive cooking. Take the rest of the day to relax in Zakopane.

Waking up in the mountains, soak up the clean, fresh air and enjoy the views of **Zakopane**. Take a **sightseeing tour** of Zakopane, whose wooden architecture blends with the natural landscapes and it is copied in other parts of Poland and is known as Zakopianski Style. Visit the **Jaszczurowka Chapel**, a great example of the wooden architecture in Zakopane, and shop for souvenirs of arts and crafts of the Highlanders (Gorale) in the local shops. Take a ride on a **funicular railway** to the top of Mt. Gubalowka, (weather permitting), to see a wonderful panoramic view of the Tatras.

Music makes up an integral part of this highlander culture. Tonight we will enjoy a **traditional dinner** with folk music and highland cuisine!

## Wroclaw - Oswiecim - Zakopane

### HOTELS:

[HP Park Plaza Hotel](#) or similar | Wroclaw  
1 Night

[Hampton by Hilton Hotel](#) or similar | Oswiecim  
1 Night



## The Destination

### **Day 10 | Zakopane (B/L/-)**

Enjoy a free day at leisure. Lunch will be included.

### **Day 11 | Zakopane – Raft Trip on Dunajec - Krakow (B/-/D)**

In the morning we will depart for **Krakow**.

Before we continue on to Krakow, take a spectacular **rafting trip** on the Dunajec River in Pieniny National Park. Enjoy the beautiful scenery as you glide over the open water and breathe in the fresh mountain air!

Arriving into Krakow, we'll check you in to your hotel, before taking you out to dinner to be in the Krakow Old Town.

### **Day 12 | Krakow (B/L/-)**

Welcome to **Krakow**! Today you'll get a taste of this mythical city. Enjoy a **multimedia presentation** of Krakow. In thirty minutes, we tell the history of Krakow - we selected a dozen of events that took place in Krakow. Take a trip through 1000 years of the history of the city, the changes it underwent and fire it struggled with.

After presentation enjoy **sightseeing tour** of Krakow. Today we will explore the royal splendor of Krakow. We will visit the impressive Wawel Royal Castle, which sits on a hill overlooking the city, and marvel at its grand, arcaded courtyard. See the grand apartment rooms within the castle with their ancient tapestries, and marvel at Sigismund's Chapel - the unquestioned pearl of the Renaissance at Wawel Cathedral.

After, we will explore the Jewish Quarter of Kazimierz, and area which thrived in the 16thC, filled with merchants and traders, a period that also witnessed the foundation of Poland's oldest Judaic shrine. Kazimierz, is a bustling, bohemian neighborhood, well-known for its associations with Schindler and Spielberg. The rest of the day is yours to explore!

### **Day 13 | Krakow (B/-/D)**

After breakfast, you have time to explore more of Krakow on your own. Then, we than will visit the unique **Wieliczka Salt Mines**. Here, over 700 years, many generations of Polish miners created an underground world from salt. Navigate the underground trails and salt galleries, and chambers up to 135 meters underground – even a chapel carved out of the salt! We'll have a final farewell dinner with a **folkloric show** in Wieliczka, before we drive back to Krakow.

### **Day 14 TOUR END DATE | Krakow (B/-/-)**

After a free morning to stock up on souvenirs we will transfer you to the airport where, sadly, we will have to say our goodbyes!

## Zakopane - Krakow

### **HOTEL:**

[Radisson Blu Hotel & Residences Hotel](#) or similar | Zakopane

2 Nights

[Golden Tulip City Center Hotel](#) or similar | Krakow

3 Nights



## Tour Details

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Airport Transfers
- All land transportation
- Escorted tour with full time Tour Leader
- Tour in English
- 2 meals a day
- 13 nights in hand-Selected hotels
- All Events included in the Itinerary
- Internet in hotels when possible
- Interaction with local artists, craftsmen, and performers
- Special events exclusively for Cobblestone travellers
- Cobblestone Freeway t-shirt

### NOT INCLUDED:

- Extra days before/after the tour
- Events and Services not included in the itinerary or marked as **Optional**
- Alcoholic beverages
- Meals not listed in Itinerary
- Flights not listed in Itinerary
- Tips for guides / drivers/ maids
- Travel Insurance
- Laundry & Telephone Services



### OPTIONAL ADD-ONS:

- Extend your trip
- Upgrade your room / Get a single room
- Do a side trip – visit Family
- Polish Family History researched with our Genealogy service



## *On our Cobblestone Freeway Tour, enjoy:*

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(780) 436-7482



[www.cobblestonefreeway.ca](http://www.cobblestonefreeway.ca)



[info@cobblestonefreeway.ca](mailto:info@cobblestonefreeway.ca)



10515 - 111 Street NW Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5H 3E8

