

American Celebration of Music in Poland

Standard Tour #1 (6 nights / 8 days)

Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to Krakow, Poland

Day 2

Krakow

(D)

Arrive in Krakow. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for transfer to your hotel via a panoramic tour of Old Krakow en route

Stop in the Main Market Square for lunch and shopping

Welcome Dinner and overnight

Krakow (Cracow), seat of Poland's oldest university and once the nation's capital (before relinquishing the honor to Warsaw in 1611) is one of the few Polish cities that escaped devastation during World War II. Today Krakow's fine towers, facades, and churches illustrating seven centuries of Polish architecture, make it a major attraction for visitors. Listed by UNESCO in 1978 as one of the 12 great historic cities of the world, Krakow represents a great repository of Polish history, art and architecture

Day 3

Krakow

(B,D)

Take a guided sightseeing tour of this ancient capital of Poland, a royal city on the Vistula, lying at the foot of Wawel, a limestone hill on whose peak raises a splendid royal palace and the Cathedral of Sts. Stanislaw and Waclaw. Start with the Royal Castle and Cathedral on the Wawel Hill, which were remodeled according to the new Renaissance taste in the beginning of the 16th century. It is the place where Polish Kings were crowned and buried. Afterwards, drive to the Old Town with its Main Market Square and its magnificent houses and palaces. In the middle of the square is the Cloth Hall, built before 1349 but altered in the 16th century with many shopping stalls inside

For choirs only: participate/sing in an evening Mass and concert in St. Catherine's Church as part of the American Celebration of Music in Poland

Day 4

Krakow / Lagiewniki / Kalvaria Zebrzydowska / Wadowice (B,D)

Full-day excursion some of the most inspiring sites in the life of Pope John Paul II. Start in the outskirts of Krakow in Lagiewniki, location of the Sanctuary of Our Lord's Mercy, and the modern Basilica of The Divine Mercy, site of the Lord's Mercy icon created by the visionary Polish nun Saint Faustina

Continue on to Kalvaria Zebrzydowska, site of the oldest and most unusual Stations of the Cross in Poland, consisting of 40 chapels built in the 17th century, planned to replicate the layout of Jerusalem

Continue on to Wadowice, where you will visit the birthplace of Pope John Paul II and also the Church of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary, where he was baptized

Return to Krakow for dinner and overnight



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Day 5**Krakow / Auschwitz****(B,D)**

Guided tour of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp outside of Krakow. The death camp at Oswiecim (known as Konzentrationslager Auschwitz) was in fact a complex of camps, the largest Nazi death factory, where four million people, mostly Jews, perished. Auschwitz consisted of several units, including the largest one at Birkenau. Of the millions of people brought there in the period of 1940 - 1944, only 60 to 70 thousand utterly emaciated victims were alive at the time of liberation of the camp. The National Museum of Oswiecim is presently situated on the site of the former camp

Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Krakow. Motorcoaches and Tour Managers are at the group's disposal for additional sightseeing, museum visits, shopping etc.

For choirs only: participate/sing in an early evening Mass in Krakow

**Day 6****Krakow / Czestochowa****(B,D)**

A full-day sightseeing tour in Czestochowa, includes the entrance to the Monastery of Jasna Góra. There, a local monk will guide your visit to the Basilica of the Holy Cross and the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, which holds the Black Madonna, the monastery's most precious treasure. Also see the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin, Knight's Hall, Treasury, and Arsenal

For choirs only: Conduct an afternoon/evening Mass in Czestochowa

Return to Krakow for dinner and overnight

**Day 7****Krakow / Wieliczka****(B,D)**

Excursion to Wieliczka to see the underground world of the oldest salt mine in Europe. You will admire the gorgeous underground world of salt lakes, galleries and chapels created by many generations of Polish miners. We can see up to 20 excavated chambers on 3 levels, full of beautiful statues carved from salt. Also visit the Salt Works Museum

For choirs only: optional a cappella recital in the cathedral in the mine

Return to Krakow for an evening Farewell Dinner

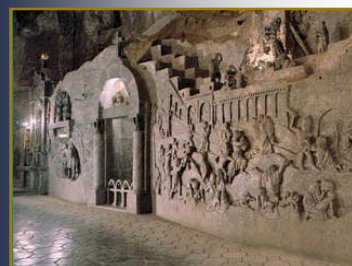
**Day 8****Depart for home**

Transfer to Krakow's International Airport for return flight

Arrive home in the evening of the same day

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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