

American Celebration of Music in Poland

Followed by a visit to Hungary

Standard Tour #5 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to Warsaw, Poland

Day 2

Warsaw

(D)

Arrive in Warsaw. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for a panoramic tour of Warsaw's highlights. Take a tour of the Royal Castle, seat of kings of Poland. It was here that the Third of May Constitution was promulgated in 1791, the second constitution in the world, next to the US Constitution. The interior (300 rooms!) was carefully restored to look as it did centuries ago. Continue on to the historic Rynek (Market Square) for time at leisure. Late afternoon hotel check-in and Welcome Dinner

Warsaw, the capital of recently-liberated Poland, was 75% destroyed by Hitler's armies in 1944, and it was rebuilt in the "functional" communist styles of the 1950s and 60s. The reconstructed areas of the city — the historic Old Town area, rebuilt brick by brick in the 1950s; the Royal Castle, the Ujazdowski Palace — are moving tributes to the Poles' ability to survive and preserve their history and traditions. Since liberation, Warsaw is quickly changing into a modern, cosmopolitan, major European capital

Day 3

Warsaw

(B,D)

Half-day sightseeing includes visits to the Cathedral of St. John, the Łazienki Park and Palace (the "Palace on the Water"), the Monument to the Heroes of the Ghetto (erected in 1948 when the city was still in ruins), and the Monument to the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure. ***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Poland***

Day 4

Czestochowa / Krakow

(B,D)

Transfer to Krakow

Stop en route for a guided tour in Czestochowa that includes entrance to the Monastery of Jasna Góra. There, a 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. Continue on to Krakow for 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



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity

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

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 rises a splendid royal palace and the Cathedral of Sts. Stanislaw and Waclaw. Start with the Royal Castle and Cathedral on the Wawel Hill, which was 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 the 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. Also visit the Church of St. Mary, located on the Main Market Square

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Poland

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

Excursion to Wieliczka to see the underground world of the oldest Salt Mine in Europe. Admire the gorgeous underground world of salt lakes, galleries and chapels created by many generations of Polish miners. See up to 20 excavated chambers on 3 levels, full of beautiful statues carved from salt as well as the Salt Works Museum

For choirs only: sing a recital in the Saint Kinga Chapel

Return to Krakow for an afternoon at your leisure in the Old Market Square

Day 7 **Zakopane / Budapest, Hungary** **(B,D)**

Transfer to Budapest via Zakopane - the winter capital of Poland and one of the most picturesque places in the country

Budapest, the modern combination of Pest (the larger city, sprawling on the Great Hungarian Plain) and Buda (Castle Hill) is considered one of Europe's greatest cities. Two opera houses, five concert halls, numerous theaters are only the beginning of the dazzling entertainment in this beautiful city

Day 8 **Budapest** **(B,D)**

A morning guided tour of Budapest includes the Parliament, Chain Bridge, Royal Castle Hill (for an incredible view of the city), St. Stephen's Cathedral, Matthias Church, entrance to the Fisherman's Bastion (which occupies the site of Buda's old defensive walls and a medieval square where fish was once sold) and the National Gallery. Walk the grounds of Vajdahunyad Castle and visit the picturesque streets of Táncsis Mihály utca, Uri utca and Fortuna utca

Performance in Budapest

Day 9 **Budapest / Hungarian Puszta** **(B,L,D)**

Full-day excursion to the Hungarian Puszta, the great Hungarian plain stretching from the Danube to the country's eastern border, including a typical Hungarian Gypsy lunch, horse riding shows, and carriage ride

Return to Budapest in the late afternoon

Evening Farewell Dinner Cruise on the Danube

Day 10 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Transfer to Budapest'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.

