

American Celebration of Music in Poland

Standard Tour #6 (10 nights / 12 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 changing fast, 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. Afternoon at leisure

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Poland

Day 4

Poznan

(B,D)

Transfer to Poznan

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Poland

Poznan was founded as a fortified settlement on an island in the River Warta, and was one of the two main centers of the early Polish state, and the seat of its first bishop. The Cathedral is the spiritual and tourist heart of the city. Many of the prosperous city's streets are lined with eighteenth-century houses, many restored to their original Gothic appearance following the war. Poznan offers many attractions, including the Town Hall, National Museum, Gorkow Palace, medieval walls, and typical example of Polish life

Day 5

Poznan / Gniezno

(B,D)

Enjoy a morning guided tour of the city that includes a visit to the Old Market Square and entrance to the Museum of Musical Instruments as well as the Cathedral on Cathedral Island

Afternoon excursion to Gniezno, the first capital of Poland and the first seat of Christianity in the country. Visit the Cathedral of the Assumption, the



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normal seat of the Primate of Poland. View its famous 12th century bronze doors that depict scenes of the life and martyrdom of St. Adalbert
Return to Poznan for dinner and overnight

Day 6 **Wroclaw** **(B,D)**

Transfer to Wroclaw. Half-day sightseeing in Wroclaw includes the breathtaking Aula Leopoldina at Wroclaw University, Old Town Square, Piasek Island (with its Church of St. Mary on Piasek, the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, and the Church of the Holy Cross)

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Poland

Wroclaw is Poland's fourth largest city. It is a city with a fascinating and complex history. It dates to the 10th century, when the Ostrow Tumski islet on the Odra became a fortified Slav settlement. There are now some 100 bridges spanning the city's 90-kilometer network of slow-moving canals and tributaries, giving Wroclaw its particular charm. Indeed, after Venice and St. Petersburg, Wroclaw is the city with the third-largest number of bridges in Europe. Wroclaw's greatest architectural attractions are its many brick Gothic churches

Day 7 **Wroclaw** **(B,D)**

Morning at leisure in Wroclaw, with Tour Manager and motorcoach are at the group's disposal for shopping and sightseeing

Afternoon visit to the National Museum and the Panorama of Raclawice, which depicts the Battle of Raclawice when the Poles defeated the Russians in 1794. The Panorama is 400ft. long and 16ft. high

Day 8 **Auschwitz / Krakow** **(B,D)**

Transfer to Krakow by way of Auschwitz to take a tour of the famous Nazi camp. The death camp at Oswiecim was the largest Nazi death factory, where four million people, mostly Jews, perished. Auschwitz consisted of several units, including the largest one at Brzezinka [Birkenau]. Of the millions of people brought there in the period between 1940 and 1944, only 60 to 70 thousand utterly emaciated victims were alive at the time of liberation of the camp. At present, the National Museum of Oswiecim is situated on the site of the former camp

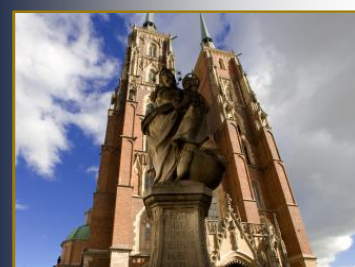
Continue on to Krakow for dinner and overnight

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

Day 9 **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 right on the Main Market Square

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Day 10 **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 11 **Krakow / Zakopane** **(B,D)**

Full-day tour to Zakopane, the winter capital of Poland and one of the country's most picturesque places. Enjoy the incredible scenic views from the windows of your cable car as you ascend to the summit of Mt. Kasprowy Wierch in the Tatra Mountains

Return to Krakow for Farewell Dinner and overnight

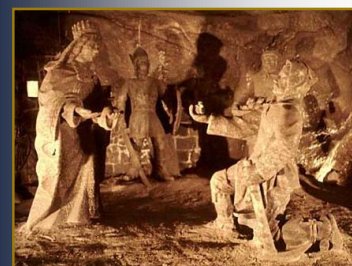
Day 12 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Transfer to Krakow's International Airport for return

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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