



# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## Pre-Departure Itinerary

### Highlights of Poland

Warsaw, Czestochowa, Auschwitz, Krakow

Friday, October 2 – Friday, October 9, 2009

Poland has a fascinating history and cultural heritage and a vibrant present—this inaugural trip for SOMC highlights Poland’s unique characteristics. Almost completely destroyed during WWII, Warsaw is a city where East crosses West. Visit the Old Town with its impressive Royal Castle, the former Jewish Ghetto and be treated to a **Frederic Chopin** concert. In **Czestochowa**, Poland’s spiritual heart, you’ll visit the **Jasna Gora Monastery**, home to the famous Black Madonna. Continue to **Auschwitz** for a tour of the Holocaust Museum and later arrive in Wadowice, birthplace of beloved Pope John Paul II. **Krakow**’s preserved medieval center is a UNESCO World Heritage site where you’ll enjoy exploring before free time and an evening excursion to the historic Jewish District. An 18th-century observation claimed that the **Wieliczka Salt Mine** was “no less magnificent than the Egyptian pyramids.” You’ll see for yourself during an excursion to this underground world of passages, caverns, lakes and chapels where nine centuries of mining produced 200 kilometers of passages. Amazing scenery, sacred and somber places, fairy-tale charm and a subterranean world—all punctuated by the heavenly music of Chopin. What a feast for the heart and soul!

#### Includes

- Round-trip air transportation on regularly scheduled **Air France** flights from Boston to Warsaw, via Paris
- Six nights' four star accommodations
- Breakfast daily
- Welcome dinner in a local restaurant
- Lunch during Warsaw tour
- Frederic Chopin Concert with one glass of wine
- Round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers with assistance
- Services of a profession local tour manager

#### Rates

**\$1,999** per person double occupancy  
**\$2,459** single reservations

Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Add \$405 for current taxes, fees charges and surcharges. Passport required.

#### Trip Planner

**Day 1:** Overnight flight from Boston  
**Days 2-3:** Radisson SAS or Hotel Polonia Palace, Warsaw  
**Days 4-6:** Hotel Qubus, Krakow  
**Day 7:** Radisson SAS or Hotel Polonia Palace, Warsaw  
**Day 8:** Return flight to Boston

## DAILY ITINERARY

### Day 1: Departure from Boston

Depart from Boston on your Air France flight to Paris.

### Day 2: Arrive Paris – transfer to Warsaw

Continental breakfast will be served before landing in Paris. Proceed to your connecting flight to Warsaw. Upon arrival in Warsaw retrieve your luggage and meet your local representative who will assist you with your transfer to your hotel and check in. In the evening there will be a welcome dinner with your fellow travelers at a local restaurant in Old Town for your enjoyment. **(D)**

### Day 3: Warsaw

After breakfast at the hotel depart with an English speaking local guide for a full-day tour of Warsaw. Warsaw is an extraordinary city, often called “heroic” because of the dramatic history. Today Warsaw is full of energy as a

modern city of business. The sightseeing tour will include the city highlights, such as the Old Town beautifully rebuilt after World War II with its impressive Royal Castle also the area of the former Jewish Ghetto. During the tour there will be a short mid morning break for a typical Polish doughnut (paczek) at the famous Warsaw coffee shop "U Bliklego" Lunch will also be provided in an Old Town local restaurant. In the afternoon continue touring along the elegant Royal Route including the Palace on the Water and famous Lazienki park. In the evening you will enjoy a special concert of the most famous works of Frederic Chopin and served a glass of wine at the interval. Overnight at the hotel. **(B, L)**

#### **Day 4: Warsaw – Czestochowa – Oswiecim – Wadowice – Cracow**

This morning after breakfast depart Warsaw by motorcoach for Cracow via Czestochowa. On the way to the south of Poland you'll stop for a guided visit by a Pauline monk of the Jasna Gora Monastery. It is here that many pilgrimages are made to view the world famous Black Madonna. Continue on to Oswiecim (Auschwitz) which has become the sad symbol of tragic history of the twentieth century. Your tour will include the Holocaust Museum-the former concentration camp. The next brief stop will be Wadowice, the birthplace of Pope John Paul II to see the Wadowice Basilica and the museum of the devoted Karol Wojtyla. Arrival into Cracow. Overnight at the hotel. **(B)**

#### **Day 5: Cracow**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel this morning before departing for a full day tour of Cracow. Cracow is a city wrapped in legend, where time flows differently, and where every moment becomes a moment of history. For centuries Cracow was the capital of Poland, the seat of kings, drawing great scholars and artists from the whole world. It is their talents and imagination we must thank for the city's rich legacy of unique historical relics, which reflect the most important trends in European culture. Your tour begins with the exploration of the medieval part of the city particularly the picturesque Barbican Gate and the Main Market Square. You will also view the world's biggest wooden altar in the Church of the Virgin Mary. Your afternoon is at leisure and in the early evening you will regroup for an evening excursion to the unique atmosphere of the Jewish District. **(B)**

#### **Day 6: Cracow – Zakopane**

Depart the hotel this morning after breakfast for a full-day tour of Zakopane beautifully sited at the foot of the Tatra Mountains. Zakopane is the most popular resort in Poland with spa architecture. Once a small mountain village Zakopane became a fashionable winter resort for artists at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Your afternoon is free for exploring or shopping in the famous Krupowki street area which is filled with folk art and crafts. Return to Cracow for overnight. **(B)**

#### **Day 7 : Cracow – Wieliczka – Warsaw**

Depart Cracow this morning after breakfast for a half-day excursion to Wieliczka to see the oldest Salt Mine in Europe. The Wieliczka Salt Mine, located in southern Poland, has been worked as a source of rock salt since the late 13th century. The mine consists of over 200 km of underground passages, connecting more than 2000 excavation chambers on 9 underground levels extending down to 327m below the surface. Over the centuries, miners have established a tradition of carving sculptures out of the native rock salt. As a result, the mine contains entire underground churches, altars, bas-reliefs, and dozens of life-size or larger statues. It also houses an underground museum and has a number of special purpose chambers such as a sanatorium for people suffering from respiratory ailments. Continue on to Warsaw. Afternoon and evening at leisure. Overnight in Warsaw. **(B)**

#### **Day 8: Warsaw – Boston**

Transfer this morning to the Warsaw Airport for your return flight to Boston, via Paris. **(B)**

**Proof of Citizenship** is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require valid Passport. Passports are the responsibility of each client.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*