

# EXPLORE!

## Family Slovakia Winter Adventure

8 days

Poland, Slovakia - Trip code FPW



## Family Slovakia Winter Adventure

This adventure allows us to explore the stunning natural beauty of Poland's and Slovakia's landscape with its snow-covered mountains and beautiful towns. We also have the opportunity to experience a wide range of unusual and typical winter activities including; funtools, a type of bike on skis, riding in a snow cat vehicle, snow tubing on air-filled wheels and night sledging as well as snowshoeing, ice skating and cross country skiing.... a real winter adventure. **TRIPLE ROOMS** This trip allows the option for triple rooms to be included within the booking on a selected number of night stops within the holiday. If you would like this option, a discount may be applicable on the cost of the trip - please ask our Sales team for further information.

## Trip highlights

### ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

#### Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

### TRIP PACE:

#### Moderate

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

**GROUP SIZE:****10 - 16**

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

# Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

## DAY 1 - Join trip in Krakow which we explore by foot

We check in to our hotel and have an orientation walk of the capital. Dating from the 13th century, Krakow is a picture-postcard city of narrow streets, grand buildings and al-fresco cafes. We visit Rynek Glowny, Europe's largest medieval square with its quirky town houses and historic buildings that surround the area including Sukiennice which is the most famous and is still in use today as a covered market. We also explore the delightful Old Town; a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the only major Polish district to escape the war unscathed. Overlooking all this is the fairy-tale Wawel Castle, where past kings and queens are buried and the home of many treasures that have been collected by the Polish monarchy. There is also the opportunity this evening to explore the former Jewish Kazimierz District, which was the Jewish Ghetto in World War II and the setting for the film Schindler's List. Nowadays this area is probably the most vibrant part of the city with unique cafes, bars and restaurants and it offers an interesting insight into how the Krakow Jews lived during the war years.



**Accommodation: Hotel Aleksander II** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Meals Provided: None

## DAY 2 - Drive to Tatraska Lomnica and snow shoe trip

We travel this morning on to Tatraska Lomnica in the High Tatras. This picturesque town is known for its skiing in winter and hiking and mountaineering in the summer and is located in the heart of the mountain range with stunning views of the Tatras Basin below. The Tatras Mountain range is strictly protected, and despite the area's popularity, the town still has many traditional wooden buildings and its alpine culture still strongly evident. On arrival, we'll enjoy a gentle walk around the town before donning our snowshoes for an introductory walk near Tatraska Lomnica. These trails provide the opportunity to enjoy the tranquil splendour of mountain scenery and beech trees that are covered in layers of blanketing snow. Snowshoeing is fairly easily mastered and we should need just a few minutes to feel confident enough to head off on our afternoon's exploration which lasts for around 2 ½ hours. Your Explore Leader will adjust the duration and distance to match the requirements of the group. Snowshoes and hiking poles are provided although it is worth bringing your own flask to take hot drinks along the way. Please note, the order of the itinerary may vary depending upon the weather conditions.



**Accommodation: Pension Slalom** (or similar)



Standard Guesthouse



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 3 - The challenge of the avalanche action exercise

Avalanche action awaits us today! We take a funicular up to a mountain village where we either walk a short distance to Rainerova or depending upon the weather, an hour's walk to Velka Studena dolina. During our walk, an unexpected event happens! You are challenged to find hidden objects under piles of snow - you will receive a special device to search for the object as well as shovels and detectors. All the families have to work together and act as a team to uncover what lies beneath! Hot refreshments are provided. The afternoon is free for optional activities including skiing and snowboarding in the Tatranska Lomnica area which has a range of slopes available to suit the beginner or intermediate skier.



**Accommodation: Pension Slalom** (or similar)



Standard Guesthouse



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 4 - Cross country skiing and night sledging

This morning we drive to Cerveny Klastor where we try out cross country skiing by the beautiful Dunajec River which runs through the Pieniny Mountains. The area has some of the most interesting geological structures and ecosystems in the country. The group may be divided according to physical activity level with the option to travel along a 2-4km pathway or continue with a local guide to Lesnica, which extends the distance to 9 km in total. The whole group meet at Lesnica for a typical Slovak lunch before driving back to Tatranska Lomnica where we can relax before trying out night sledging. We take a funicular train up the mountain to reach the start of the 2.6km sledge track which leads from Hrebienok down the mountain to Tatranska Lomnica.



**Accommodation: Pension Slalom** (or similar)



Standard Guesthouse



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

## DAY 5 - Ice skating and snowcat ride to a mountain restaurant

We spend the morning ice skating with the afternoon left free to enjoy the skiing in the area or alternatively spend time in a wellness centre in a local hotel. A real treat waits for us in the evening - we experience a ride in a snowcat as we travel up to the mountain to the restaurant Pizza and Pasta Start which is located at the altitude of 1173m. The evening starts with a welcome drink in the Apres Ski bar in Tatranska Lomnica and then we travel by snowcat to our restaurant where we enjoy a five course gourmet dinner. The evening ends with the snow cat ride back down to Tatranska Lomnica.



**Accommodation: Pension Slalom** (or similar)



Standard Guesthouse



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

## DAY 6 - Snowtubing, Funtools and cooking lesson

Today we try out a range of activities that are lots of fun. First, snowtubing - these are fast inflatable tubes that you sit on and enjoy the ride back down the ski slope. All you have to do is sit into a rubber wheel, tie yourself to a ski-tow, let yourself be pulled a few meters upwards and slide downhill. No experience is necessary and you enjoy five rides. We then try Funtools which is a bicycle with mini skis instead of wheels that you sit on to manoeuvre along the snow - a perfect activity for non-skiers. The afternoon is spent learning how to cook a traditional Slovakian dish involving all the family.



**Accommodation: Pension Slalom** (or similar)

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Standard Guesthouse

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Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

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## DAY 7 - Travel back to Krakow with afternoon free to explore

After breakfast we drive back to Krakow where we have the afternoon free to enjoy this city further.



**Accommodation: Hotel Aleksander II** (or similar)

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Standard Hotel

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Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 8 - Tour ends in Krakow

Trip ends after breakfast when we transfer to the airport.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## Family information

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### TRIPLE ROOMS

This trip allows the option for triple rooms to be included within the booking on a selected number of night stops within the holiday. If you would like this option, a discount may be applicable on the cost of the trip - please ask our Sales team for further information.

### Minimum age

7



## Why book this trip

The adventure is designed for families wanting an unusual winter adventure that allows some time for skiing - there are numerous included activities within the itinerary and a number of unusual experiences that you would not necessarily find in other ski destinations - try out funtools, a type of bike on skis and ride in a snow cat vehicle plus discover the dramatic scenery as we snowshoe, ice skate and cross country ski through the winter landscapes in Slovakia with a tour of the beautiful Krakow in Poland.

## What's included?



### Included meals

Breakfast: 7  
Lunch: 1  
Dinner: 2



### Transport

Bus  
On Foot



### Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader  
Activity Guide(s)  
Driver(s)



### Accommodation

5 nights standard guesthouse  
2 nights standard hotel

## Trip information

### Country information

### Poland Holidays & Tours

#### Climate

Poland has a temperate, changeable climate. September and October are cooler and gradually become damper until late November when temperatures fall below freezing with snowfall, particularly in mountainous areas. Cold temperatures last through to March, but are tolerable. Snow can lie for up to three months in the mountains.

#### Time difference to GMT

+1

#### Plugs

2 Pin Round

**Religion**

Roman Catholic

**Language**

Polish

## Slovakia Trips

**Climate**

Summers are short in the mountains. July to August is the hottest period, when daytime temperatures average 20-22°C, though it may be much cooler in the early morning or late evening. During the winter, snow and ice is not uncommon, with snow generally starting in December and continuing to early February. Mountain weather is notoriously changeable and it can be cold at any time of year, so be prepared.. Early July is the best time for flowers.

**Time difference to GMT**

+1

**Plugs**

2 Pin Round

**Religion**

Roman Catholic

**Language**

Slovak

## Budgeting and packing

### Optional activities

A selection of optional activities are listed below to help you budget for your Family adventure. Whilst the basic tour price you pay before you travel includes a great selection of highlights, we have also built in free time to allow you the flexibility to choose from a carefully selected range of additional excursions and activities or take time to relax, the choice is yours. At certain destinations along the way there may be several options to choose from and it may not be possible to fit all the activities in; your Explore Leader will be able to give advice on which are the most suitable for your family. Tatranská Lomnica Day 3 / 5: Afternoon skiing. The Tatranská Lomnica ski region located in the High Tatras, the highest in Slovakia, offers 12km of slopes and 8 ski lifts (mixture of modern chairlifts and cable cars) to an elevation of 2,196 meters; ideal for full or half day of skiing. Ski pass: 1 day ski pass €39 per adult, €31 per child aged 12 to 18 with a valid ID card or passport, €27 per child under 12, €31 per child aged 12 to 18 with a valid ID card or passport, €27 per child under 12. Cheaper prices are available by booking 3 or more days in advance at <https://www.vt.sk/en/price-lists/price-list/cennik-vysoke-tatry-201718-first-snow/> Ski and snowboard rental: Ski or snowboard €20, boots €7, helmet €5 Day 3 / 5: Lomnický peak cable car. For the ultimate view in the Tatras take a cable to reach the majestic Lomnický peak at 2,634 meters. Early booking is essential - visit <https://www.vt.sk/en/activities/cableway-trips/lomnicky-peak/> to book your ticket. Adult return €46, Junior (12 - 18) €39, Child €34 per person Hotel Titris wellness centre. 1 hour €6.60, 2 hours €10, 3 hours €12.80 discounts available for children and family tickets. Krakow Day 7: Visit the nearby salt mine known for its magnificent 3 kilometres of meandering corridors and chambers chiselled out in rock salt, underground saline lakes and statues sculpted in salt. Adult PLN79 per person, child PLN64 per person.

### Clothing

Pack for cold mountain conditions. It's best to dress in warm layers of breathable fabrics. You'll need waterproofs and plenty of warm clothing including a warm waterproof jacket, jumper, fleece, gaiters, gloves, hat, scarf and thermal underwear.

### Footwear

Warm waterproof walking boots with a good tread and ankle support are required for snowshoeing. Trainers for relaxing.

### Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and a daypack for personal items. Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

### Equipment

Bring a water bottle, flash, torch, binoculars, camera, sunglasses and suncream.

# Tipping

## Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

## Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly you should allow approximately £15.00 for gratuities for local staff. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

## Country Information

### Poland Holidays & Tours

#### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

**Lunch price**

£8

**Dinner price**

£18.00 - 22.00

**Beer price**

£1.50 - 3.00

**Water price**

£0.8

#### Foreign Exchange

**Local currency**

Polish Zloty2

**Recommended Currency For Exchange**

British Pounds Sterling, US Dollars and Euros are all accepted at exchange offices and banks2

**Where To Exchange**

Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival

**ATM Availability**

Available in all major cities

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Credit cards are widely accepted in all major cities

**Travellers Cheques**

Easily exchanged

### Slovakia Trips

#### Food and drink

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**Lunch price**

£7

**Dinner price**

£15

**Beer price**

£2

**Water price**  
£1

## Foreign Exchange

**Local currency**  
Euro

**Recommended Currency For Exchange**  
British Pounds Sterling, US Dollars and Euros are accepted at exchange offices and banks

**Where To Exchange**  
Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival

**ATM Availability**  
Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival, but please be aware that some ATMs will charge 5% commission and outside of the main cities ATM's can sometimes be difficult to find

**Credit Card Acceptance**  
At most shops and restaurants

**Travellers Cheques**  
Travellers Cheques can be difficult to exchange

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bus, On Foot

### Accommodation notes

#### Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

The hotel is situated in the centre of Tatranska Lomnica, near to the ski slopes and at the foot of Lomnický Peak, the second-highest point in the High Tatra Mountains. All the en-suite rooms are comfortably furnished with most having balconies with views of the mountains of the High Tatras or Tatranska Lomnica. There is also a restaurant and cafe which has free Wi-Fi access.

## Essential information

### FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

#### Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)



## Visa Information

Poland: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

## Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

## Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer click [here](#)

## Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

### Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## Non refundable permits

## Poland Holidays & Tours

### Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Tickborne encephalitis is recommended by some medical sources if travelling in certain areas of Europe, at specific times of the year. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and

from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

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## Slovakia Trips

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