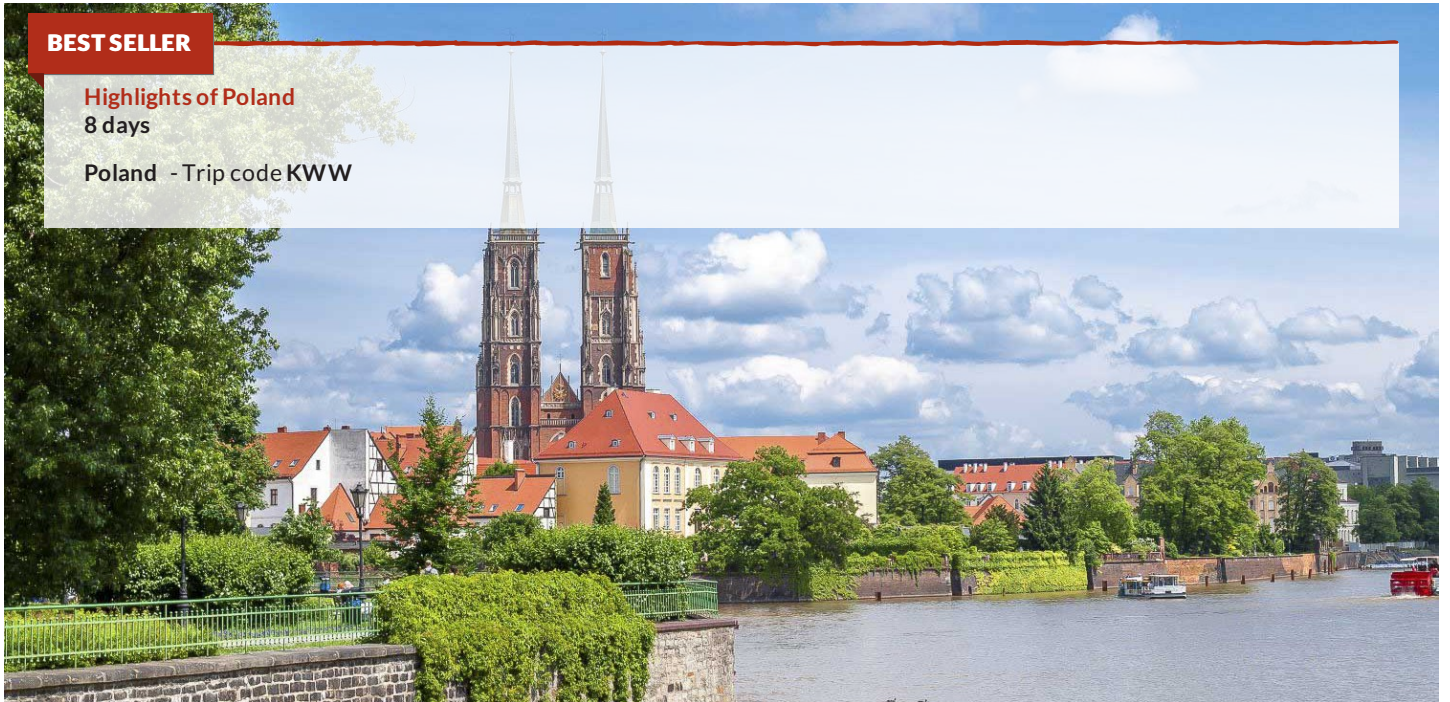


# EXPLORE!

**BEST SELLER**

**Highlights of Poland**  
8 days

Poland - Trip code KWW



## Highlights of Poland

Explore the historical highlights of Poland and the country's greatest cities, Warsaw, Wrocław and Krakow. We travel between the cities by train, passing through glorious countryside, before immersing ourselves in Medieval buildings, historical squares, chic pavement cafes and micro-breweries. We explore the cities on foot with local guides and visit the impressive Wieliczka Salt Mines. You'll also have the opportunity to learn more about Poland's troubled past by visiting Auschwitz and Schindler's Factory.

## Trip highlights

- ★ **Warsaw** - Explore the colourful Old Town and Łazienki Palace
- ★ **Wrocław** - One of the oldest and most beautiful cities in Poland
- ★ **Krakow** - Europe's best-preserved Medieval market square
- ★ **Wieliczka Salt Mines** - Marvel at the amazing salt sculptures and impressive ballroom
- ★ **Auschwitz** - Opportunity to visit the emotive site

### 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:**

**12 - 18**

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 Warsaw

Arrive in Warsaw-Chopin Airport and then check-in to our hotel. Poland's capital is a wonderfully dynamic and modern city, but reminders of its turbulent history are easy to uncover. After World War II around 85% of its buildings were left in ruins; however, the city has been impressively rebuilt and restored to its former glory with the Old Town or Stare Miasto as its centrepiece. Buskers, street artists and open air cafes give the area a unique energy and atmosphere, making a visit that little bit more special.



**Accommodation: Hotel MDM** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

## DAY 2 - Explore Warsaw Old Town; chance to visit Wilanow Palace

This morning we head out on foot to explore the Old Town district. With cobblestone streets, historic squares and gothic churches, it's easy to understand why the Old Town is top of every visitor's 'must see' list. We take in all the main sites including the 17th century rust red Royal Castle and the Lazienki Palace or 'Palace on the Water' with its attractive architecture and lush gardens. There are several options for the afternoon; Warsaw has plenty to keep you occupied if you wish to continue exploring independently. Alternatively, you can visit Wilanow Palace, a splendid 17th century palace often referred to as the 'Polish Versailles', or the fascinating Museum of the History of Polish Jews, which was voted as the European Museum of the Year in 2016.



**Accommodation: Hotel MDM** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 3 - Train to Wroclaw; afternoon city tour and gnome spotting

The morning train takes us to the 'Venice of Poland', Wroclaw, a charming old city built on 12 islands surrounded by canals and rivers. More than 120 bridges link the islands which are adorned with delightful buildings reflecting the city's past. You'll see Bohemian, Hungarian, Austrian, Prussian and German influences as the city has been coveted by all of these empires throughout its long history. Keep your eyes peeled and after a while you'll start to notice something popping up in doorways, alleyways and on street corners; perhaps Wroclaw's most famous inhabitants, Gnomes! An important part of Polish folk law they also became associated with the protest movements of the 1980's and a symbol of resistance to communist control.



**Accommodation: Piast Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 4 - Free time in Wroclaw; option to visit the Panorama of Raclawice

Today you'll have free time in Wroclaw or you may choose to visit the Panorama of Raclawice, an enormous circular painting (more than 100 metre long) depicting the battle of Raclawice. Wroclaw is home to many small and quirky bars and micro-breweries so there are plenty of options available to quench your thirst after a day spent exploring. Further afield you might like to join an excursion to the historic city of Zagan, which was formerly the German city of Sagan and home to the prisoner of war camp for captured allied airmen, which is famous as the location of 'The Great Escape'. It will take either 2 hours by minibus or 2.5 hours by train per way to get there. Whilst here you might like to visit the 13th century Augustine monastery and library which houses many old books and globes and is known for its whispering gallery and unusual acoustics. Alternatively you could visit the castle which was previously owned by the wealthy Bohemian Lobkowitz family or spend time discovering the charming Old Town and climb to the top of the Post-Evangelical Church Tower to get the best views over the streets below. Instead you might like to visit Ksiaz Castle and Landscape Park, which is best known for its stunning Rococo architecture. It will take either 1 hour by minibus or by train per way to reach here. If we travel by train then we will pass near to the location of the reputed 'gold train' site where many people believe a train packed with Nazi gold from World War II was hidden in a secret tunnel that has yet to be found. At the castle you can either visit just the main fort or also the World War II tunnels which formed part of the Nazi 'Riese' complex. This 13th century castle was home to the powerful Hochbergs family, but in 1941 it was confiscated by the Nazi's and received significant damage during this time, but they also created a network of mysterious tunnel under the castle. The castle was fully restored in the 1950's to its former grandeur and today you can explore many of the rooms, terraces and gardens.



**Accommodation: Piast Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 5 - Train to Krakow; explore the beautiful Old Town square

This morning's train journey sees us arriving in Krakow, Poland's capital until 1596 and still its most charming city. Dating from the 13th century, Krakow is a picture-postcard city of narrow streets, grand buildings and al-fresco cafes just begging to be explored. In the afternoon we begin to uncover the city's delights with a visit to the fabulous Rynek Glowny, Europe's largest medieval square. The square is still now very much at the heart of Krakow local life. Quirky town houses and historic buildings adorn the square with the most famous being the Sukiennice, a vast cloth hall where goods would have been sold in Medieval times, which is still in use now as a covered market. Inside you'll find vendors peddling a multitude of local wares from wooden toys to beautiful amber jewellery.



**Accommodation: Hotel Kazimierz III** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 6 - Discover the Wieliczka Salt Mines and Krakow Old Town

We start today by visiting the Wieliczka Salt Mines, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, by local train (the journey takes us around 20 minutes each way). At up to 300 metres underground we'll see a 400 year old chapel, a subterranean salt lake and chambers large enough to take the Eiffel Tower! The Chapel of Saint Kinga is the mines most spectacular feature and we will no doubt be amazed by what can be sculpted from salt. Please note that there are 350 steps down into the mine at the beginning of the tour and then a further 450 on the route through the various corridors and 20 chambers visited. The temperature underground can be much cooler than on the surface, so be sure to bring a jumper. Back in Krakow later this afternoon we head out on foot with a local guide to explore the delightful Old Town; another UNESCO World Heritage Site! and the only major Polish city to escape the war unscathed. Many of the streets are still very much as they were hundreds of years ago with historic buildings and elegant frontages. Overlooking all this is the fairy-tale Wawel Castle and Wawel Cathedral, where past kings and queens rest in peace. We will go inside the castle which houses exquisite treasures collected by the monarchy of Poland over the years. This evening you will have the opportunity to join a cooking class at a local restaurant where the chef will show you how to create a tantalising polish speciality.



**Accommodation: Hotel Kazimierz III** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 7 - Chance to go to Auschwitz; visit the Kazimierz District and try traditional Jewish food

This morning is free for you to discover more of Krakow or you may choose to join an optional excursion to Oswiecim, the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp; an eerie and haunting place that drives home the terrible atrocities which took place here during World War II. This afternoon we visit the UNESCO listed Jewish Podgorze District, the location of the Jewish Ghetto in World War II and the setting for the film 'Schindler's List'. Along the way we will grab a 'zapiekanka', an open faced toasted baguette sandwich, which is a popular local fast food option. Whilst in this area you'll have the opportunity to visit the Old Synagogue, Schindler's Factory and the Museum of Jewish Life, which provide fascinating insights into the life of Krakow Jews and the war years. In the evening we commiserate the end of a great tour with a traditional Jewish dinner accompanied by Klezmer music with its expressive melodies, said to be reminiscent of the human voice. Following dinner, if you wish to join them, your Explore Leader will take you to a few local bars and pubs to give you the chance to try the typical Polish beers and the extensive local vodka varieties.



**Accommodation: Hotel Kazimierz III** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

## DAY 8 - Trip ends in Krakow

Your trip ends this morning after breakfast, in Krakow.

 Meals Provided: Breakfast



## What's included?



### Included meals

Breakfast: 7  
Dinner: 1



### Transport

Bus  
Train



### Trip staff

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



### Accommodation

7 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

## Budgeting and packing

### Optional activities

Warsaw: Wilanow Palace PLN 20.00, Museum of History of Polish Jews PLN 25.00. Wroclaw: Panorama of Raclawice PLN 30.00, Zagan excursion transport from PLN 80.00 and entrance to the monastery PLN 18.00, palace entrance PLN 7.00 plus PLN 100.00 for a guided tour and PLN 5.00 to climb the towers viewing tower, Rococo castle at Ksiaz excursion transportation from PLN 45.00 and entrance to the castle PLN 30.00 or PLN 50.00 to visit the Nazi tunnel complex as well. Price for Zagari and Ksiaz excursions will depend on how many passengers wish to participate and whether a minibus or train transportation is used). Krakow: Excursion to Auschwitz by bus including entrance and guiding in English PLN 155.00, cooking lesson €35.00 per person (duration 2.5 hours).

### Clothing

We recommend taking lightweight clothing for during the day plus some warmer clothes for colder nights.

### Footwear

Comfortable shoes are recommended for walking around city streets.

### Luggage

20kg

### Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and a day pack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

### Equipment

We recommend taking sunglasses, a sun hat, sunscreen and a torch. You may also find an umbrella useful. Also, don't forget your camera. Please note that in many of the museums in Poland larger bags will need to be placed in a locker and there may be an additional charge for taking photographs whilst inside.

### Tipping

#### Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Explore 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 please allow £15.00 for tipping. In order to make things easier for you, the Explore Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the trip.

### 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

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bus, Train

### 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.

Please note that the majority of hotels in Poland don't have air-conditioning.

## 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 not required by citizens of the UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

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.



## Included activities

This trip is designed to acquaint you with the highlights of Poland in just 8 days. We make the most of our time by using trains between the cities and in order to experience travelling like the locals do. Once we're in the cities our explorations are mostly done on foot, so please bring sensible footwear and be prepared for the busy nature of this enthralling holiday.

## 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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