

EXPLORE!

Polish Winter Adventure

5 days

Poland - Trip code PW



Polish Winter Adventure

The beautiful Pieniny Mountains provide the perfect backdrop for this long weekend in the crisp Polish winter. We spend an exhilarating few days snowshoeing through the stunning snow-covered surroundings. We also take a torch-lit sleigh ride, enjoy an evening of traditional food and music with the locals and uncover the architectural delights of Krakow.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Dunajec Gorge** - Beautiful riverside walk between the snowy, beech-covered mountains
- ★ **Pieniny Mountains** - Snowshoeing in the spectacular winter alpine scenery
- ★ **Krakow** - Explore one of Europe's most stunning Medieval cities
- ★ **Szczawnica** - Take a torch-lit sleigh ride of the town and enjoy an evening of traditional food and music

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:**8 - 14**

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 Krakow airport and drive to Szczawnica

Join the trip at Krakow airport. Our trip begins at Krakow airport where we will meet and transfer towards the Carpathians and the picturesque resort town of Szczawnica. Nestling amongst the beautiful Pieniny Mountains this lovely spa town is the ideal base from which to explore the scenic and natural diversity of this pristine region.



Accommodation: Hotel Navigator (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Walking in Dunajec River Gorge; snowshoeing and a sleigh ride in Szczawnica

Our first full day sees us crossing the border into neighbouring Slovakia, heading towards the small village of Cerveny Klastor, home to a 14th century Cartesian monastery and the starting point for our walk along the beautiful Pieniny Way. Following the Dunajec River we meander along the bottom of the spectacular gorge that bears its name, passing a landscape of towering limestone cliffs, blanketed in lush forests of fir, beech, larch and spruce. Part of the Pieniny National Park, the gorge is without doubt one of the most stunning in Europe and its verdant slopes attract a diverse collection of wildlife, including lynx, wolf, stag and some 14 species of bats. If you are incredibly lucky you may spot eagle and pygmy owls, three toed woodpeckers or rare black storks along the river's edge. The Dunajec River has been a famous attraction since the middle of the 19th century, when tourists came here to raft down the gorge and today its gentle waters still attract those who prefer to float along through this beautiful landscape although this is an activity restricted to summer months. Returning to Szczawnica this afternoon we don snowshoes for an introductory walk along some trails of the Pieniny Mountains. 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. The Pieniny ranges fall between the Tatras to the west and the Beskid Sadecki to the east. We'll enjoy the tranquil splendour of the mountain scenery, its spruce and beech trees covered in layers of blanketing snow. Later this afternoon we plan to take a lovely torch-lit sleigh ride through the town; the perfect way to end a full and active day. We spend the evening here enjoying the hospitality of the locals with a traditional evening of food and musical entertainment. Please note: Snow shoes will only be used should the snow be deep enough. Where there has been little snow fall hiking boots alone will suffice.



Accommodation: Hotel Navigator (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

DAY 3 - Snowshoeing in the mountains

This morning we take a longer walk amongst the high slopes of the Pieniny Mountains, enjoying the crisp, clean air and the spectacular views across the Tatras. Our afternoon has been left free for you to relax or to enjoy other winter activities available for you to book in the area.



Accommodation: Hotel Navigator (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Drive to Krakow; Krakow walking tour

This morning we leave the majestic setting of the mountains behind and head back towards Krakow. Arriving mid-morning we have the opportunity to explore Poland's former capital. Its Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and it's one of Europe's most distinctive and emotive cities. Your Explore Leader will introduce you to the delights of the Old Town on a guided walking tour. We walk through a maze of narrow streets, opening out on to the huge market square - the largest in medieval Europe. The Sukiennice, a vast cloth hall in medieval times and now a covered market, is a distinctive sight and the vendors' wares vary from wooden toys to beautiful amber jewellery. If time allows, you may wish to pay a visit to the Royal Castle on Wawel Hill which overlooks the old town.



Accommodation: Hotel Kazimierz III (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 5 - Trip ends Krakow

Our trip ends in Krakow after breakfast.



Meals Provided: Breakfast



What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 4
Dinner: 1



Transport

Bus



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Driver(s)



Accommodation

4 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

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

Krakow - Guided tour of Wawel Castle £16.00; Cooking lesson for a local dish €2.00; Schindler's Factory €5.00

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

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and a daypack for personal items.

Equipment

Bring a water bottle, 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

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus

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 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

Please note that if the weather is milder than expected for the time of year and there hasn't been enough snow for us to enjoy the normal included trip activities then the snowshoeing will be changed for walking/hiking along the same trails and routes, so that you will still be able to see the breathtaking mountain scenery. Please ensure you pack a pair of comfortable and waterproof walking shoes. On day 3 the sleigh ride will be exchanged for a similar experience on a traditional horse and cart.

Non refundable permits

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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.