



## Family Slovakia Winter Adventure

POLAND, SLOVAKIA - TRIP CODE FPW

FAMILY

### Why book this trip?

Explore the stunning natural beauty of Poland and Slovakia's winter landscape with its snow-covered mountains and beautiful towns. Experience a wide range of unusual winter activities including skifox, a type of bike on skis, riding in a snow cat vehicle, snow tubing on an air-filled ring and night sledging as well as snowshoeing, ice skating and cross country skiing.... a real winter adventure.

- **Snow tubing** - Discover snow tubing, a ride in an air filled ring
- **Snow cat** - Ride on a snow cat up to the mountain followed by dinner at a mountain retreat
- **Avalanche challenge** - Find a hidden object under piles of snow

**INCLUDED MEALS**

Breakfast: 7  
Lunch: 1  
Dinner: 2

**TRIP STAFF**

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

**TRANSPORT**

Bus  
On Foot

**ACCOMMODATION**

7 nights  
comfortable hotel

**TRIP PACE:**

Moderate

**GROUP SIZE:**

10 - 16

## Itinerary

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

### **DAY 1 - Join trip in Krakow. Explore the city on foot.**

Arrive in Krakow. Dating from the 13th century, Krakow is a picture-postcard maze of narrow streets, grand buildings and al-fresco cafes.

For those arriving on time today our Leader plans to meet you in the hotel reception at 5pm for the welcome meeting and to take us on an orientation walk of the city.

If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into Krakow's John Paul II International Airport (airport code KRK), which is 18km, around 30 minutes from the hotel.

Please note that if you wish to join the orientation walk today, you must arrive at the hotel by 5pm. If you are booking your own flights, we recommend giving yourself at least 1 hour to clear the airport. From the airport to the hotel is around 30 minutes' drive, so therefore the latest your flight can arrive is 3.30pm. Should you miss the welcome meeting, your Leader will inform you of any essential information as soon as you catch up.

On this evenings walk we will 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 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 is 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 Polonia (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

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## **DAY 2 - Drive to our base in the village of Novy Smokovec, Slovakia. Afternoon head out on a snowshoe trail through the forests.**

We travel this morning crossing the border from Poland into Slovakia, a journey of around three hours. Our destination is Novy Smokovec. This village with Stary Smokovec, Tatranska Lomnica and Strbske Pleso are the most frequently visited tourist places in the High Tatras. Novy Smokovec was also a spa centre which continues up to the present times. It 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 to get our bearings, before donning snowshoes for an introductory walk close to our hotel. The 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 before heading off on our afternoon's exploration which should last 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. Please note, the order of the itinerary may vary depending upon the weather conditions.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Villa Siesta (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## **DAY 3 - Avalanche activity challenge. Find hidden objects hidden in the snow.**

Avalanche action awaits us today! We take a train to the neighbouring village of Stary Smokovec. From here it's a few minutes to the funicular base station. We board the funicular and ascend to a high mountain village where many of the snow activities take place. From here we take a half hour's walk to Velka Studena dolina. During our walk, an unexpected event happens! We are challenged to find hidden objects under piles of snow - we receive a special device to search for the object as well as shovels and

detectors. We all have to work together as a team to discover what lies beneath. Hot refreshments are provided.

The afternoon is free for optional activities including skiing and snowboarding in the Stary Smokovec or the Tatranska Lomnica area which have a range of slopes available to suit the beginner or intermediate skier. The Tatranska 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. For details of prices please see the budgeting section. If you would intend to book ski or snowboard lessons we strongly suggest booking in advance.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Villa Siesta (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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#### **DAY 4 - Cross country skiing followed by 2.6km exhilarating night sledging track**

This morning we drive to Cerveny Klastor on the Slovakia/Polish border where we try out cross country skiing by the beautiful Dunajec River running 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 ability 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 reunite and meet at Lesnica for a typical Slovak lunch before driving back to Tatranska Lomnica.

There is time to relax for a few hours back at the hotel before venturing out for our night sledging activity. We take the funicular train up the mountain to reach the start of the 2.6km sledge track which leads from Hrebienok down the mountain to Stary Smokovec. The route is flood lit and its a race to the bottom!



ACCOMMODATION:  
Villa Siesta (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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## **DAY 5 - Ice skating. Free afternoon for optional skiing. Snowcat ride to a mountain restaurant for dinner.**

We spend the morning ice skating on a large frozen lake. The afternoon is left free to enjoy the skiing in the area or alternatively relax in the wellness centre of a local hotel. If you wish to book ski lessons we suggest these are booked well in advance as ski lessons in the school holidays are in high demand. There is an easy ski slope close to the hotel, for lessons we recommend heading to Tatranska Lomnica where tonight's dinner and snow cat ride will be taking place.

This evening a real treat awaits us. We travel the short distance by train to the bottom of the ski slopes in Tatranska Lomnica and board a snow cat. Sitting in a small compartment behind the driver, the enormous ski tracks carry us high into the mountains to our restaurant located at the altitude of 1173m. Here we enjoy a five course gourmet dinner. The evening ends with the snow cat ride back down to Tatranska Lomnica, where we take a train back to our hotel in Novy Smokovec.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Villa Siesta (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

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## **DAY 6 - Snowtubing, Skifox and local cookery class where we prepare a traditional Slovakian dish.**

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 like a bicycle with mini skis instead of wheels that you sit on to manoeuvre along the snow - a perfect activity for non-skiers.

Later this afternoon we walk to our cooking class which takes place in one of the local hotels. We learn how to cook a selection of traditional Slovakian dishes. This involves all the family as we split into groups to prepare a starter, main and dessert. We then sit down and enjoy our creations at the end of the class.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Villa Siesta (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



### **DAY 7 - Travel back to Krakow with afternoon free to explore the historic city.**

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



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Polonia (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 8 - Trip ends in Krakow.**

The trip ends after breakfast at our hotel in Krakow.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Krakow at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day, luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to depart from Krakow's John Paul II International Airport (airport code KRK), which is 18km, around 30 minutes from the hotel.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## **Trip information**

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### **Country information**

#### **Poland**

##### **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 | Plugs       | Religion       | Language |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------|
| +1                     | 2 Pin Round | Roman Catholic | Polish   |

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## Slovakia

### 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 | Plugs       | Religion       | Language |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------|
| +1                     | 2 Pin Round | Roman Catholic | Slovak   |

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### Budgeting and packing

### Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

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 €49 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. Trainers for relaxing in the hotel.

## **Luggage: On tour**

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

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

## **Equipment**

Bring a water bottle, camera, sunglasses and suncream.

## **Tipping**

### **Explore leader**

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. You may however, want to recognise a leader that has done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It is a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we would recommend £15 per family member as a guideline.

### **Local crew**

Although 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 £10 of local currency per family member.

In order to make things easier for you, the Explore Leader may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the trip.

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.



## Poland

### 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.

|                    |                     |                   |                    |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Lunch price</b> | <b>Dinner price</b> | <b>Beer price</b> | <b>Water price</b> |
| £8                 | £18.00 - 22.00      | £1.50 - 3.00      | £0.8               |

### Foreign Exchange

#### Local currency

Polish Zloty

#### Recommended Currency For Exchange

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

#### 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

### 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.

|                    |                     |                   |                    |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Lunch price</b> | <b>Dinner price</b> | <b>Beer price</b> | <b>Water price</b> |
| £7                 | £15                 | £2                | £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

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## **Transport, Accommodation & Meals**

### **Transport Information**

Bus, On Foot

### **Accommodation notes**

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 are a limited number of interconnecting family rooms. There is also a restaurant and cafe which has free Wi-Fi access.

The resort also has a host of restaurants with great variety and choice for children as well as adults.

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## **Essential Information**

### **Government Travel Safety 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.

### **Price Guarantee**

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 and Passport 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 be able to apply 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.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

## 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 complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

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, Polar, 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. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. 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.

## **Ability to swim**

An ability to swim is preferably for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you wish to participate in these activities then we advise that you are able to swim.

## **Poland**

### **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 Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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## **Slovakia**

### **Vaccinations**

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Tick-borne 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 Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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## Family information



Snow fun! Tobogganing in Velka Studena, Slovakia

**Family winter adventure holiday:** For the majority of families, if you mention a winter snow holiday you think of finely groomed piste in a ski resort. For those families new to skiing or those looking for a taster of skiing with plenty of other activities to keep the family entertained, our winter family holiday in Slovakia is ideal.

The winter months offer an activity playground for families and we have so many experiences to share. Ride in a snow cat up the mountain to enjoy a four course dinner in style, try out a ski fox, take up the avalanche action challenge finding a hidden object under piles of snow, experience a Slovenian traditional cookery class and try cross country skiing in the wilderness, there really is something for everyone, with the added bonus of the chance to try out skiing or snowboarding!

**Triple Rooms:** This trip allows the option for triple rooms to be included within your booking both in Krakow and Tatranska Lomnica, Slovakia. Our hotel in Slovakia also has a limited number of interconnecting rooms. If you would like this option please ask our Sales team for further information.

**Average Age:** As a guide we have identified the actual average age of the children who have travelled on this trip over the last 5 years, to help you decide whether it's the right one for your family. The average age on this trip is 12 years old.

**Minimum age:** This trip is suitable for children of all ages from 7 upwards. On certain

trips there may be some flexibility to accept children from the age of 5 if travelling with older siblings, please speak to our reservations team for details.

### Additional Information



## Why book this trip

This adventure is designed for families wanting a varied and unusual winter holiday which allows some time for skiing. There are numerous included activities within the itinerary and many 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 landscape of Slovakia and also include a tour of the beautiful Krakow in Poland.

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## Reviews

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**AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS**