

NEW

Slovakia Winter Adventure

POLAND, SLOVAKIA - TRIP CODE PSW

MULTI-ACTIVITY



Why book this trip?

Explore the stunning natural beauty of Poland and Slovakia's winter landscape with its snow-covered mountains and beautiful towns. Spend the week trying out snowshoeing, cross country skiing as well as ice skating and learning about how avalanche rescues take place ... a real winter adventure.

- **Krakow** - See Europe's best-preserved medieval market square, with a lively Christmas market in December.
- **Night sledging** - Take the funicular from Stary Smokovec to Hrebienok to experience the thrill of a 2.5 km sledge track all lit up.
- **Cookery class** - Learn how to cook a selection of traditional Slovakian dishes.



INCLUDED MEALS
Breakfast: 7
Lunch: 1
Dinner: 2



TRIP STAFF
Explore Tour
Leader
Local Guide(s)



TRANSPORT
Bus
On Foot
Train



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 Wyspianski (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Drive to our base in the village of Tatranska Lomnica, Slovakia, stopping to explore the Tatra Mountains on the way.

We travel this morning crossing the border from Poland into Slovakia, a journey of around three hours, making a stop at Zdiar en-route, a pretty Tatra village just across the boarder from Poland.

Our destination is Tatranska Lomnica. This village with Stary Smokovec, Novy Smokovec and Strbske Pleso are the most frequently visited tourist places in the High Tatras. Tatranska Lomnica 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, Please note, the order of the itinerary may vary depending upon the weather conditions.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Titris (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



DAY 3 - Travel by train to Starý Smokovec, heading out on a snowshoe trail through the forests. Afternoon ice skating.

Head out after breakfast catching a local train to the neighbouring village of Starý Smokovec.

After donning snowshoes and an introduction lesson, head out to explore the trails. There is nothing to beat the tranquil splendour of mountain scenery and beech trees that are covered in layers of blanketing snow as we gently glide along the forest trails. Snowshoeing is fairly easily mastered and we should need just a few minutes to feel confident enough before heading off on our morning's exploration which should last around 2 ½ hours. Your Leader will adjust the duration and distance to match the requirements of the group.

Snowshoes and hiking poles are provided. Snowshoes and hiking poles are provided although it is worth bringing your own flask to take hot drinks along the way.

Returning to Tatranska Lomnica by train, we head to a local lake to try our hand at ice skating followed by a warming glass of mulled wine (or a cup of tea). All equipment is provided.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Titris (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 4 - Cross country skiing in Strbske Pleso followed by 2.6km exhilarating night sledging track

This morning we drive to Strbske Pleso further up the valley where we try out cross country skiing. Strbske Pleso is the highest village in the High Tatras with the nearby lake an ideal location to learn to cross country ski offering flat terrain with a stunning mountain backdrop.

The group may be divided according to physical ability with an initial 0.7km loop to get aquatinted. Proficient skiers can try the medium loops of up to 2 km with an instructor and there is a more technical loop of 5 km also available, for experienced skiers only.

The whole group reunite at the nearby local restaurant to enjoy a typical Slovak lunch typically bean, cabbage or garlic soup followed by sheep cheese gnocchi (halushky) or pierogi, goulash and schnitzel washed down with local beer or wine before being driven 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:
Hotel Titris (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

DAY 5 - Morning avalanche activity challenge, free afternoon for optional skiing or wellness centre

This morning we take a train to the neighbouring village of Stary Smokovec once again. 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. The high elevation offers spectacular views down the valley and provides the setting for this afternoons informative and interactive talk on avalanche rescue techniques brought to life as we find hidden objects under piles of snow using 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 left free to enjoy the skiing in the area or alternatively relax in the wellness centre of our hotel. If you wish to book ski lessons we suggest these are booked well in advance as ski lessons are in high demand.

Tatranska Lomnica is the highest ski resort in Slovakia and includes a 6.5 km long slope from 2196 m down to the base back in the town. The resort offers eight lifts, with most being ultra modern high speed six or eight person chairlifts or gondola lifts. There is an easy ski slope close to the hotel with more advanced slopes further up the mountain. For current prices see the budgeting section.





ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Titris (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

DAY 6 - Free morning. Traditional Slovak cookery lesson

The morning is free to once again enjoy the skiing in the area. Most hire shops rent equipment for 24 hour blocks, so you shouldn't have to pay again if you hired equipment the previous afternoon. Alternatively take a break from the outdoors and relax in one of the numerous wellness centres found in the town.

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 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:
Hotel Titris (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



DAY 7 - Travel back to Krakow with a 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 Wyspianski (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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

Trip information

Climate and 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

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

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 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.

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. 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

Hotel Titris wellness centre. 1 hour €6.60, 2 hours €10, 3 hours €12.80

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. PLN79 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

20Kg

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.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£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.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£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

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, On Foot, Train

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 is also a restaurant and cafe which has free Wi-Fi access.

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 citizens, check the latest Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice.

Please refer to our COVID-19 entry requirements page for any country-specific conditions of entry. Whilst we strive to update this on a regular basis we recommend you also check the FCDO website for the latest advice on entry requirements in this fast-evolving situation. Information can change at any time.

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

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 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 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.

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.

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.

Additional Information



Why book this trip

This adventure is designed for those wanting a varied and unusual winter holiday which allows some time for skiing or snow boarding. There are numerous included activities within the itinerary and many experiences that you would not necessarily find in other ski destinations. Explore the dramatic scenery of the Tatra mountains as we snowshoe, ice skate and cross country ski through the winter landscape of Slovakia and also experience the delights of beautiful Krakow in Poland.

Reviews



**AWARD WINNING
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT
TRANSFERS**