

EXPLORE!



BEST SELLER

Polish Winter Adventure

POLAND - TRIP CODE PW

SHORT BREAKS

Why book this trip?

The pine covered peaks of the Pieniny Mountains are the perfect backdrop for this short break in the crisp Polish winter. A highlight is the torch-lit horse-drawn sleigh ride and evening spent eating rustic Polish food and listening to folk music.

- **Dunajec Gorge** - Experience a riverside walk between the snowy, beech-covered mountains
- **Krakow** - Uncover the architectural delights of this UNESCO-Listed medieval city
- **Pieniny Mountains** - Go snowshoeing in the pristine winter alpine scenery

**INCLUDED MEALS**

Breakfast: 4
Dinner: 1

TRIP STAFF

Explore Tour
Leader
Driver(s)

TRANSPORT

Bus

ACCOMMODATION

4 nights
comfortable hotel

TRIP PACE:

Moderate

GROUP SIZE:

8 - 14

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 Batory (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Walking in Dunajec River Gorge; 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, if time allows. 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. Today's 1 to 2km walk is expected to take 1.5 hours and you will ascend 100m and descend 100m. 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.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Batory (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable 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. Today's 8km walk is expected to take 4 hours and you will ascend 200m and descend 200m. Our afternoon has been left free for you to relax or to enjoy other winter activities available for you to book in the area. Perhaps you may like to try skiing or snowboarding, or go snowmobiling at Polana Sosny.

Please note that snow shoes will only be used should the snow be deep enough. Where there has been little snowfall hiking boots alone will suffice. If there hasn't been enough snow to go snow shoeing then we will take an alternative walking route to Trzy Korony, which has an gentler ascent. This path is approximately seven kilometres long and has an ascent/descent of 578 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Batory (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable 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)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 5 - Trip ends Krakow

Our trip ends in Krakow after breakfast.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

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

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.

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

Polana Sosny - Skiing 50 PLN (day rental of skis, ski boots and ski poles), and 50 PLN (minibus transport to ski slope and back); Snowboarding 40 PLN (day rental of snowboard and snowboard boots); Snowmobiling 450 PLN (for 2 hours), and 50 PLN (minibus transport per person).

Please check that your travel insurance fully covers you for medical and repatriation expenses if you intend to go snowmobiling.

The snow mobile operator reserves the right to charge you for any damage you cause to the snowmobile. An excess may be payable in the event of any damage to your snowmobile; this excess, together with any third party liability (damage to someone else or someone else's property whilst driving a snowmobile) may not be covered by your travel insurance policy.

Clothing

Weather conditions can change rapidly - sunshine, drizzle, rain and snow may all occur in the same day. In winter temperatures can drop to -10 degrees centigrade. You'll need to take very warm clothing for

outdoor activities, so pack warm layers of breathable fabrics. A good quality heavy duty wind and waterproof jacket and trousers are essential.

We'd also strongly recommend packing thermal underwear, fleece under trousers, a fleece jumper, woolly hat, thick socks, scarf or snood and gloves (and glove liners for when you're taking photos). You may also find ski trousers, salopettes or gaiters, and a ski face/neck mask useful.

Ladies should take a headscarf and ensure their shoulders are covered when entering churches.

For our Christmas Eve dinner at our hotel you might like to take the opportunity to dress up for the evening in smart or smart casual clothing.

Footwear

Bring warm waterproof walking boots that have sufficient grip and ankle support for the snow shoeing and for use in icy and snowy conditions. You may wish to bring a spare pair in case your feet get wet and your boots don't dry out overnight. You may also find a pair of snow boots useful and trainers for using indoors in the hotels.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

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

Equipment

Bring binoculars and a camera along with spare camera batteries as these do not usually last long in cold weather. In case of emergency we also recommend that you carry a torch and a first aid kit. Sunglasses, sun hat and sunscreen may be beneficial on clear blue sky days as the sun can be very strong. We also recommend bringing your own water bottle to reduce plastic consumption. You may find taking some over shoe ice grips to be of use and walking poles in case of icy conditions.

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 to £20 per person per week 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 £15 of local currency for tipping.

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.

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

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus

Accommodation notes

In Czorsztyn we will stay at the Kinga Hotel Wellness, which affords views of the Trzy Korony Mountains, Czorsztyn Lake and the Dunajec River. All rooms are decorated in warm colours, are en suite and equipped with complimentary Wi-Fi and hairdryer, and tea and coffee making facilities are available on request. The hotel has a restaurant, bar, swimming pool and spa.

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.

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 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.

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.

Ability to swim

No

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.

Additional Information



PW



PW Christmas itinerary

Why book this trip

This trip receives excellent reviews as it offers the chance to stay in an authentic Polish mountain resort, to take part in winter activities such as snow shoeing and to sample hearty Polish food.

Reviews



AWARD WINNING
EXPLORE LEADERS



PRICE GUARANTEE
PROMISE



AIRPORT
TRANSFERS