



Poland, the Heart of Europe: Krakow, Warsaw, Torun & Gdansk 2021

9 JUN – 21 JUN 2021

Code: 22123

Tour Leaders **Dr Iva Rosario, Tony Rosario**

Physical Ratings 

Explore Poland's medieval to modern history in exquisite Krakow, grand Warsaw, picturesque Torun & charming Gdansk; includes Teutonic castles, Baroque palaces & Renaissance merchant streetscapes.

Overview

This tour is limited to 22 participants

- Join [Dr Iva Rosario](#) on an unforgettable cultural tour of Poland examining the development of four of Central Europe's most beautiful cities: Krakow, Warsaw, Torun and the medieval port of Gdansk.
- Enjoy extended stays in these cities so that you may achieve a full understanding of their historical development and present character.
- Explore the magnificent old cities of Krakow, Torun and Gdansk, with lovely Byzantine, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque churches and palaces – the equal of cities such as Prague.
- View some of Central Europe's grandest castles, including the headquarters of the Teutonic Knights, Malbork Castle.
- Visit the 13th-century royal Wieliczka Salt Mine, which features an entire cathedral carved out of the rock salt.
- Admire masterpieces in royal art collections, including one of Leonardo's loveliest and most famous portraits, *Lady with an Ermine*.
- Visit the UNESCO-listed Auschwitz-Birkenau, a key place of memory for the whole of humankind for the holocaust, as well as a monument to the strength of the human spirit.
- Attend musical performances in Krakow and in Warsaw.

Testimonial

The tour gave a wonderful insight into Poland's history and civilization. The cities we visited were an absolute revelation with a wealth of historic buildings, many expertly reconstructed following war carnage. I would heartily recommend the tour, which proved to be immensely worthwhile. John, VIC.

13-day Cultural Tour of Poland

Overnight Krakow (4 nights) • Warsaw (4 nights) • Torun (1 night) • Gdansk (3 nights)

Overview

We explore the rich, turbulent history of Poland through the lens of urbanism, architecture and art in four of Central Europe's most beautiful cities: Krakow, Warsaw, Torun and Gdansk. Through great churches, royal and aristocratic palaces, fine market precincts with beautiful merchant houses, and some of Europe's grandest castles, we explore the fascinating rise of Central Europe's most powerful Renaissance state. Annihilated after 1795 and reborn after WWI, subjected by the Soviets after WWII, it led the fight for liberation against the USSR during the 1980s. In dynastic monuments such as Krakow's Wawel Royal Castle and Warsaw's Royal Palace, we explore the creative adaption of Western Gothic and Renaissance form. We examine Poland's role as bastion of Catholicism against Russian Orthodoxy, Swedish Protestantism, Turkish Islam and Communist secularism, at Krakow's Saints Stanislaus and Wenceslas and Warsaw's St John's Cathedral and beautiful city churches. In the north we investigate Polish interaction with the fearsome Teutonic Knights at the vast Malbork Castle; and relations with the Hanseatic League in Gdansk's fascinating medieval port and Torun's lovely merchant houses. Medieval Poland derived incredible riches from salt, mined at the vast Wieliczka Salt Mine, incorporating incredible subterranean chapels carved entirely from salt. Poland's great wealth and sophisticated medieval culture encouraged the inauguration of Krakow's University, one of the world's oldest, where the great Nicholas Copernicus was a student. We'll encounter other great Poles, like Frédéric Chopin and Marie Curie, in the places where they lived and

worked. In royal collections we'll see masterpieces including Leonardo's *Lady with an Ermine* and on our journeys between Poland's magnificent Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque cities, we'll enjoy a lovely rural landscape largely untouched by the ravages of industrial modernity.

Leaders



Dr Iva Rosario

Australian-born Prague resident & world authority on Bohemian culture during the reign of Emperor Charles IV. Iva has lectured on ASA tours to Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria & Poland since 1998.

Dr Iva Rosario is the daughter of Czech parents who endowed her with a love of the language, history and culture of their homeland. Her early education was completed in Western Australia, where she obtained a BA, B.Ed and B.Mus (Hons) at the University of Western Australia. In 1992 she completed a B.Litt (Hons) at the University of Melbourne followed by a Ph.D in Fine Arts. Her doctoral dissertation examined the art and political propaganda in the fourteenth-century Czech court of Emperor Charles IV and its relation to the broader European context. This study has been published under the title: *Art and Propaganda: Charles IV of Bohemia, 1346-1378*, Boydell Press, 2000. She maintains her contact with The University of Melbourne as an honorary Senior Fellow. Iva joined ASA in 1997 and has since led over 50 tours for ASA to the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Austria and Poland. Iva is currently resident in Prague.



Tony Rosario

Former banker with a special interest in WWII and in the society, politics & culture of post-communist Europe. Tony has led ASA tours to Spain, Germany, Poland and the UK since 2004.

Harold (Tony) Rosario has a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Western Australia and a Master of Finance from RMIT. He is an ex-banker and spent many years working abroad in Hong Kong and Tokyo. He is currently resident in Prague with his wife Iva Rosario and takes a keen interest in the social, political and cultural developments in the post-communist countries in Europe. He is an avid (albeit high-handicap) golfer and lover of classical music. He is a keen amateur photographer and traveller, combining both these pleasures on frequent excursions around Central and Western Europe. Tony first joined ASA as tour manager in 2004.

Combine this tour with

Romania Revealed: Saxon Villages, Transylvanian Cities and Byzantine Monasteries 2021

26 MAY – 8 JUN 2021



Itinerary

The following itinerary lists a range of site visits which we plan to visit. Many are accessible to the public, but some require special permission which may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure. Furthermore, a number of the sites have not confirmed their opening hours for 2020. Therefore the daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours, renovation works, train schedules and confirmation of music performances. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents. The tour includes breakfast daily, lunch and evening meals as indicated in the detailed itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=evening meal.

Krakow - 4 nights

Day 1: Wednesday 9 June, Arrive Krakow

- Orientation Walk (optional)
- Introductory meeting
- Welcome Dinner

Travellers arriving in Krakow on the ASA 'designated' flight will be transferred to the [Holiday Inn](#). Note: if you are not arriving on the ASA 'designated' flight you will be required to make your own way to the hotel, or you may wish to contact ASA to arrange a private transfer.

After checking into our hotel, there will be time at leisure followed by an optional orientation walk within the vicinity of our hotel. This evening we will have a short introductory meeting before dining at the hotel's restaurant. (Overnight Krakow) D

Day 2: Thursday 10 June, Krakow

- Krakow Old Town: Collegium Maius (courtyard only), Church of St Anne, the Market Square, Church

of St Adalbert, Church of St Barbara (exterior), Church of St Mary (Veit Stoss altarpiece) & the Town Hall Tower

- Afternoon at leisure

We commence our tour of Poland with a walking tour of Krakow's old town. After visiting Collegium Maius (courtyard only) and the Collegiate Church of St Anne, we proceed to the famous, World Heritage-listed Market Square, which was laid out in 1257 when the city received its new municipal charter from Boleslaw the Chaste. One of the largest and most beautiful in Europe, this square is a virtual architectural museum with historic façades as well as shops, stalls and outdoor cafes. Ancient buildings include the imposing Renaissance Cloth Hall, the Gothic Town Hall Tower, the magnificent Gothic-Renaissance-Baroque Church of St Mary, splendid Neo-classical palaces and the tiny Romanesque Church of St Adalbert. Its cellars house a small but very interesting museum devoted to the history of the Market Square.

The monumental Church of St Mary dominates the north-east corner of the square. Its façade, regarded by some as surpassing even that of Wawel Cathedral, is a quintessential example of Krakovian ecclesiastical architecture. Although an earlier church predated the Market Square, the present Gothic brick basilica was completed in the late 14th century under the supervision of the Prague builder, Nicholas Werner. Later periods saw the addition of tracery and Renaissance spires, and a Baroque porch. There are many treasures in the interior but undoubtedly the most important is the outstanding High Altar by the great German master Veit Stoss (completed c.1490). This massive late Gothic polyptych (13m by 11m) carved of lime wood is devoted to the life of the Virgin Mary and is regarded as one of the master's greatest works. Another fine element is the church's 14th-century choir windows, influenced by French Gothic models. They display 40 scenes from the book of *Genesis* and from the lives of Jesus and the Virgin.

Our program is designed to conclude at approximately 2.30pm with the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. You may wish to visit the Rynek Underground Museum situated below the Market Square.
(Overnight Krakow) B

Day 3: Friday 11 June, Krakow

- The 'Royal Way'
- Wawel Royal Castle: State Rooms, Courtyard and Royal Apartments
- Wawel Royal Cathedral of SS. Stanislaus and Wenceslas: Nave, choir, chapels & Royal Crypts
- Evening Music Performance (*details to be confirmed in 2021*)

This morning we shall follow the so-called 'Royal Way', which was the traditional route taken by Polish monarchs to their coronations in the cathedral on Wawel Hill. We will then visit the Wawel Hill, where the Vistulians built a medieval fortress which, with time, became a large castle and cathedral. As the site of royal coronations and burials for 500 years, the cathedral and castle were extended and embellished by successive rulers. More than any other place in Poland, it is a showcase of the country's history. As a symbol of national identity, the cathedral and castle at Wawel hold a similar position in the hearts of the Poles as the Prague Cathedral and Castle do for the Czechs.

We begin in the Royal Castle. An earlier Gothic fortress was rebuilt in 1502-6 for Sigismund I Jagiellon as a splendid Renaissance four-winged palace, designed by the Italian architects. It has retained this aspect despite some later alterations. After the court transferred to Warsaw, Wawel castle was neglected. Yet, despite the depredations of the Swedes, Prussians and Austrians (who replaced the original Gothic fortifications with the present massive brick walls) and the loss of many treasures, the complex, restored since World War II, is undoubtedly one of the most splendid Renaissance residences in Central Europe.

The castle's courtyard has magnificent arcades and windows in pristine Florentine Renaissance style. We visit the State Rooms including the spectacular Senators' Hall and Throne Hall. Among the treasure in these rooms are the 140 or so Flemish tapestries that were commissioned by the last Jagiellon king, Sigismund August, in the late 15th century. This collection, featuring biblical themes, landscapes and mythological subjects, is one of the largest and most important in Europe.

After lunch we visit the Cathedral of Saints Stanislaus and Wenceslas. This essentially Gothic church, the third to be erected on this site, was built in 1320-64. Inside, the most important treasures are: the Shrine of St Stanislaus (the 11th-century bishop of Krakow and patron saint of Poland) designed by Giovanni Trevano (1626-9); the Czartoryski Chapel; the Crypt of St Leonard, which is the most important remnant of the previous Romanesque cathedral; the Sigismund Chapel, often described as 'the pearl of the Renaissance, north of the Alps'; the Chapel of the Holy Cross with its outstanding tomb for Casimir the Jagiellon by Veit Stoss (1492). If time permits, we shall also visit the Royal Crypts where such national heroes as Thaddeus Kosciuszko are buried.

In the evening we will attend a music performance (*details to be confirmed in 2020*). Krakow has a proud history of classical music, with a symphonic orchestra playing concerts in the city from as early as 1909 until the outbreak of World War II. During the war, the General Government Philharmonic was composed of Polish musicians and conducted by Germans. The orchestra even became known as one of the best in Europe, as well as being a haven for musicians who would otherwise have faced concentration camps and death. After the war, the Krakow Philharmonic was established in February 1945 as the first one in Poland, and used their current building, a former Catholic House built in 1931 at ul. Zwierzyniecka 1, as the philharmonic hall from that time. Of particular significance is the magnificent organ by Johannes Klais-Organbau. (Overnight Krakow) B

Day 4: Saturday 12 June, Krakow – Wieliczka – Auschwitz – Krakow

- Wieliczka Salt Mine
- Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum

About 12 kilometres south of Krakow is the Wieliczka Salt Mine, which has functioned for over seven centuries. In the Middle Ages, the salt mines here provided one-third of royal revenue and drove the development of medieval Krakow and Southern Poland. Approximately two kilometres of the 200 kilometres of galleries and chambers are open to the public. The depth reached is 135 metres and the temperature is constant at about 14 degrees Celsius. The chambers contain fascinating underground chapels where every article – pulpits, altars, sacred objects – is carved in salt. Outstanding chapels include the Chapel of Blessed Kings (19th century), the Chapel of St Anthony and the Chapel of the Holy Cross. These unique mines now appear on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

In the afternoon we visit the UNESCO-listed Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum. This sobering half-day trip will have a lasting impact, commemorating the lives of those who died in the extermination camps during the Holocaust of World War II. (Overnight Krakow) B

Warsaw - 4 nights

Day 5: Sunday 13 June, Krakow – Warsaw

- National Museum: Leonardo Da Vinci's *Lady with an Ermine*
- Orientation walk, Warsaw
- Evening Meal at Restaurant Podwale 25

This morning we visit the National Museum to admire Leonardo da Vinci's splendid *Lady with an Ermine*. One of Leonardo's undisputed masterpieces, it is the portrait of the beloved mistress of Ludovico Sforza 'Il Moro', duke of Milan.

After an early lunch at leisure we travel from Krakow to Warsaw. On arrival, we take a short orientation walk before dining together at a local restaurant. (Overnight Warsaw) BD

Day 6: Monday 14 June, Warsaw

- The 'Royal Way': Krakowskie Przedmiescie, Nowy Swiat Avenue incl. St Mary's Visitation Church, President's Palace (exterior), University of Warsaw (exterior), Church of the Holy Cross
- Morning tea at the historic Blikle Café
- Palace of Science and Culture, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and other monuments
- Afternoon at leisure in Warsaw

The avenues Krakowskie Przedmiescie, Nowy Swiat and Ujazdowskie make up one boulevard which stretches from the King's official residence in Royal Square, Old Town, to his private palaces in Lazienki and Wilanow. When King Sigismund Vasa moved the capital of Poland to Warsaw from Krakow (1596), these streets gradually came to be lined with aristocratic palaces and wealthy burgher residences. On coronation day, the royal procession would proceed along this avenue, which would be decorated with numerous triumphal arches to celebrate the new ruler – hence its name: the 'Royal Way'. In the 19th century, the 'Royal Way' saw many major political demonstrations and patriotic marches. Much of this area was destroyed during World War II and was rebuilt. Often, all that has been reconstructed is the historic façades behind which are completely new buildings. Nevertheless, these streets are among the most elegant and charming in Warsaw with many special cafés, shops, luxurious tenement houses and palaces which today house government departments and embassies. Along the route we'll also encounter a host of fine monuments and churches.

We begin at Castle Square and walk along the tree-lined Krakowskie Przedmiescie Avenue, which is one of the most historic and beautiful streets in Warsaw. Among the many interesting sights are: The Church of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary, containing altar figures which are among the best examples of 17th-century wooden sculpture in Warsaw; the Church of St Anne, which has some excellent 16th-century Baroque murals by Zbrowski; the President's Palace; the Church of St Joseph the Guardian, which is one of the few churches to have escaped destruction and thus boasts an original 18th-century interior. We'll also see the University of Warsaw with many fine buildings; the Nicholas Copernicus Monument (1830); the Adam Mickiewicz Monument (1898); the 18th-century Potocki Palace; our own Bristol Hotel (one of the grandest hotels in Poland); the Church of the Holy Cross, which is an outstanding example of Warsovian late 17th-century architecture – it contains the heart of Chopin in the lower church – and the Ostrogski Palace, which is the headquarters of the International Chopin society.

We continue along Nowy Swiat Avenue. It was, and still is, the smartest street in Warsaw. Here, on the tree-lined avenue, it will be difficult to refrain from investigating the many lovely shops and cafés. We can treat ourselves to a snack at one of these – the Blikle patisserie/café, which is one of the most famous historic coffee houses in Warsaw and was, at the start of the century, renowned for its doughnuts and other delicacies. Our walking tour will end with the Palace of Science and Culture with its splendid view of Warsaw, and with a visit to Tomb of the unknown soldier. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. (Overnight Warsaw) B

Day 7: Tuesday 15 June, Warsaw

- Old Town: Royal Square, Royal Castle (exterior & interior), Town Square, Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Kanonia Street, City Walls and Barbican
- New Town and Monument to the 1944 Warsaw Uprising

Our tour today commences with the Castle Square in Old Town. We examine the Monument to King Sigismund III Vasa, who moved the capital of the kingdom from Krakow to Warsaw in 1596. Carved in stone by Constantino Tencalla in the mid-16th century, the monument symbolised the glory of the Vasa dynasty. We next visit the Royal Castle that dominates the square. It was reconstructed from rubble (1971-88) after the Germans destroyed it in World War II. The red brick façade of the Royal Castle now appears exactly as it looked in the 17th century, when King Sigismund Vasa adapted it to the needs of a royal residence as well as the meeting place for the parliament. It was at this time that the castle received its present early-Baroque form – a 5-winged pentagon around an inner courtyard. The Italian architect Giovanni Trevano oversaw its construction. Today, the Royal Castle retains much of its original splendour.

We shall tour the Castle interior, where many of the fascinating historical state rooms and private apartments are open to the public. Many of the original furnishings have been returned after they were hidden during the Second World War. Among the highlights are the King's Apartments, the Ballroom, Knight's Hall, Marble Room, Throne Room and the wonderful Canaletto Room with twenty-three paintings by Canaletto's nephew and pupil, Bernardo Bellotto. These paintings are largely townscapes of Warsaw painted between 1767 and 1780, which, because of their meticulous detail, served as invaluable guides in the reconstruction of the historic parts of the city.

A short walk from the Royal Castle brings us to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. The unusual early 15th-century façade is in the original Mazovian Gothic style. Originally a parish church, the building became a cathedral in 1789. It witnessed several important events like the coronation of the last Polish king, Stanislaw August Poniatowski, in 1764. Although largely reconstructed, the interior contains several interesting items including tombstones and sacred objects. In the crypt is the tomb of one of Poland's best-known authors and Nobel Prize winner in 1905, Henryk Sienkiewicz (author of *Quo Vadis*).

Close by is the Old Town Square, which is undoubtedly the loveliest market square in Warsaw. This open space experienced several reconstructions from its inception in the early Middle Ages. Today, the house façades of the wealthy burgher houses are mainly in the 17th-century style. Although completely reconstructed after World War II, this delightful square is a restorer's showcase and the visitor is hard-pressed to remember that all of the buildings were resurrected from rubble. Our tour of Old Town will end with a stroll along charming Kanonia Street, and an investigation of the Barbican and the city fortifications.

We shall also make a short excursion into adjacent New Town, which, although more modest than its affluent neighbour, has its own charming atmosphere and is a welcome respite from the crowded streets of the Old Town. Our tour will conclude with a visit to the striking Monument to the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. Located in central Warsaw, the monument, unveiled in 1989, depicts figures emerging from the wartime rubble. (Overnight Warsaw) B

Day 8: Wednesday 16 June, Warsaw

- Royal Lazienki Park: Chopin Monument, Palace on the Water and Myslewicki Palace
- Evening Music Performance (*details to be confirmed in 2020*)

A short public bus ride along the Royal Route brings us to the Royal Lazienki Park (Lazienki Krolewskie).

Along with the Palace on the Water, the park is closely associated with the last king of Poland, Stanislaw August Poniatowski, who transformed what was once a game park into one of the great palatial complexes in Poland. His greatest legacy is the summer residence, the Palace on the Water (Palac Na Wodzie), which he commissioned from the Italian architect Domenico Merlini in the last decades of the 18th century. Originally, a small bathhouse (*lazienki* means bath in Polish) was located on the canal in the park but, by the time Merlini completed his project in 1793, the modest structure was transformed into the magnificent Palace on the Water. It is unquestionably one of the finest examples of the Neo-classical style in Poland. The surroundings of the residence were not neglected and were redesigned to accommodate orangeries, romantic structures such as a Greek temple, a hermitage and a theatre on the island in the Greek style. Sadly, King Stanislaw could not enjoy his summer palace for long because, in 1795, following the Third partition of Poland, he was forced to abdicate and left the realm permanently. We shall tour the interior rooms which feature the stunning Ballroom, Dining Room (where famous Thursday dinners were held with leading intellectuals and artists), Picture Gallery and the Bathing Room. We shall next visit the recently renovated Myslewicki Palace.

Tonight, we will attend a music performance (*details to be confirmed in 2021*). (Overnight Warsaw) B

Torun - 1 night

Day 9: Thursday 17 June, Warsaw – Torun

- Old Town Square
- Town Hall (exterior)
- Town walk including Church of St. Mary
- Medieval Fortifications
- Nicholas Copernicus Museum (exterior)
- Church of Saints John the Baptist & John the Evangelist
- Ruins of the Castle of the Teutonic Knights

We drive to Torun to explore this beautiful town on the banks of the Vistula River. We begin in Torun's Old Town Square with its wonderful collection of well-preserved burgher houses and magnificent Town Hall. We also visit the adjacent Church of St Mary, which dominates the south-west corner of the square. A fine example of Vistulian Gothic, it features an unusually ornate east gable and octagonal towers. The church, erected by the Franciscan friars in 1263-1300, boasts a splendid Baroque main altar and 15th-century stalls.

Our town walk takes us past the Nicholas Copernicus Museum, dedicated to the town's most famous son. Nearby, we visit the imposing Medieval Church of Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist, with its outstanding collection of artworks, including altarpieces, furniture and frescoes. Finally, we explore the ruins of the ancient Castle of the Teutonic Knights that allows a fine panorama of the Vistula River. (Overnight Torun) BD

Gdansk - 3 nights

Day 10: Friday 18 June, Torun – Malbork Castle – Gdansk

- Malbork Castle

Our journey from Torun to Gdansk will feature a tour of Malbork Castle, which is rightly regarded as the finest example of secular medieval architecture on the European mainland. The vast expanse of the fortress covers an area of some 21 hectares. The history of the castle is inextricably linked to that of the Teutonic Order of the Hospital of St Mary in Jerusalem, more commonly known as the Teutonic Knights. Founded in

1191, this strict military-religious Order settled in Poland in 1226 to aid in the Christianisation of the pagan Prussians. However, the knights began to establish an independent state by occupying various castles and by finally, in 1274, constructing a new fortress in Marienburg (Malbork in Polish). In 1309, with the Order's expulsion from other parts of Europe, Malbork became its chief refuge. The Knights grew in strength and power until 1466 when, following their final defeat in battle, the castle passed to Polish royal rule. Although the fortress suffered neglect and fell into decay, it was restored in the 19th century. Further restoration was required after major damage in 1945.

The Castle is divided into the Lower (outer) Castle, Middle Castle and Upper Castle. The most important is the Middle Castle, which contained the Great Refectory and the magnificent Grand Master's Palace. This 14th-century palace was one of the grandest Gothic residences in Europe, not unlike the Papal Palace at Avignon. The Upper Castle is the oldest part of the complex. It contains the impressive Gothic chapter house, which boasts one of the earliest interlocking star vaults in Europe, as well as 14th-century frescoes of the Grand Masters. Not to be missed is also the Church of St Mary with its beautifully embellished Golden Gate. After thoroughly investigating this huge castle, we drive into the great Baltic port of Gdansk. Tonight, we dine together at our hotel overlooking the river. (Overnight Gdansk) BD

Day 11: Saturday 19 June, Gdansk

- Main Town including: the 'Royal Way', Długa Street, Długi Targ, Highland Gate, Prison Tower, Golden Gate and St George's Court, Neptune Fountain, the Green Gate, Golden House, Main Town Hall (interior) and Artus Court (interior)
- Waterfront, including: Seven Gothic watergates/storehouses, promenade along the Motława River, Zuraw (exterior)
- Museum of the Second World War

Situated on the Vistula delta, Gdansk (German: Danzig) was established in the 10th century by Mieszko I of Poland as his realm's major port. It has retained this status today. Its strategic importance is well known to historians of German-Polish 20th-century relations. From the 13th century, when Gdansk was first granted civic privileges, the port became an immensely wealthy trading and manufacturing city. It was a member of the important northern trading confederation, the Hanseatic League. It gained a large cosmopolitan population – German merchants and tradesmen mixed with Poles, Jews, Dutch, Swedes and even Scots. Throughout its subsequent history, Gdansk fought to preserve its civic privileges, trapped in struggles between Poland and Prussia, which both recognised its strategic significance. On the one hand it separated East Prussia from the rest of the German lands. On the other, it was vital to Poland as the country's only seaport and trade outlet.

We begin our sojourn in Gdansk by exploring the historic Main Town. The most important streets of Main Town are the Długa and the Długi Targ, which boast most of the finest burgher houses and monuments erected during the late Middle Ages. Our walk starts at the west end of Długa Street with the Highland Gate (16th century) that was a part of the city's fortifications. Next to the gate is the medieval Prison Tower that forms part of the 15th-century Gothic walls. Close by is the 'Golden Gate' (1612-1640) adorned with fine Renaissance sculptural decoration. To the left is St George's Court, an impressive example of Flemish Gothic style.

Długa Street and Długi Targ formed what was referred to as the 'Royal Way'. This street was one of the finest examples of urban architecture in Poland until it was destroyed in 1945. Everything has been painstakingly rebuilt. We make our way along this street to the Main Town Hall. Its present façade is in the Renaissance style, following the remodelling from the original Gothic in the 16th century by several eminent architects. Its interiors were sumptuously decorated and often served as a royal residence. Our tour of the

interior will include the Red Hall, the Winter Room and the Small Court Room.

We continue our tour with an investigation of the important buildings on Dlugi Targ, which begins at the Town Hall (interior) and ends at the Motlawa River. A feature of this last section of the 'Royal Way' is the raised terraces that give a unique flavour to Main Town. Among the many magnificent residences along this street, of particular note are the 'Golden House' with its outstanding façade and the Artus Court. Erected in the late 15th century, Artus Court functioned as the town's merchant union and guilds' headquarters. We visit the interiors that were reopened in 1997 after extensive refurbishment.

After admiring the Neptune Fountain, cast in 1613, we examine the Green Gate (16th century), which was a palace rather than a gate. Its façade has rich stonework, sculptures and door surrounds. Our tour of the Main Town ends with a walk along the riverside promenade. Here, we can view the various medieval gates-turned-storehouses that line the bank and remind us of Gdansk's importance as a Hanseatic port.

This afternoon, we visit the recently inaugurated Museum of the Second World War. The heart of the museum is the permanent exhibition of 5000 square metres, which makes it one of the largest historical collections in the world. The exhibition explores the course of the Second World War, putting a particular emphasis on the fate of individuals, communities, nations, and on the everyday lives of civilians and soldiers. (Overnight Gdansk) B

Day 12: Sunday 20 June, Gdansk

- The Gdansk Shipyard – the Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers of 1970
- The Old Town including the Great Mill, Old Town Hall and other buildings (exteriors)
- The Arsenal, St Mary's Church, Royal Chapel (exterior)
- Time at leisure
- Farewell Dinner at 'Goldwasser Restaurant'

A short walk brings us this morning to the entrance to the world-famous Gdansk Shipyard, where the Solidarity movement was born in 1980. This movement not only initiated the demise of the Communist regime in Poland, but also initiated a chain reaction which led to the fall of the iron curtain in 1989. We encounter the Monument to the 1970 Shipyard Workers, a poignant reminder of the tragic events of December 1970 when the police and army killed many shipyard workers who were protesting against Poland's repressive regime. The monument was not erected until 1980, on the 10th anniversary of this bloodbath. That same year, Lech Walesa signed the historic Gdansk agreements with the Communist authorities, leading to the formation of the Independent Solidarity Trade Union.

We next walk to the Old Town. Here, we admire the Great Mill, which is one of Gdansk's finest secular buildings. In the 14th century, this structure was the largest of its kind in Europe. We then explore the Old Town Hall, one of the few buildings in the Old Town to survive the events of World War II. Built in the 16th century, it has a fine façade and an impressive interior. Following further exploration of the Old Town, we walk to the nearby Arsenal, an outstanding example of Flemish Mannerism. We then explore St. Mary's Church, which was begun in 1343 and is one of the largest brick churches in the world. It is 5000 square metres in area and can accommodate 25,000 people. While the exterior is reminiscent of a fortress, the vast interior contains many treasures.

The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Tonight we will enjoy our farewell meal at the charming Goldwasser Restaurant located in the historical centre. (Overnight Gdansk) BD

Day 13: Monday 21 June, Depart Gdansk

The tour ends in Gdansk. Participants taking ASA's 'designated' flight will transfer to Gdansk airport for their flight to Australia. If you have made your own arrangements, you may take a taxi to the airport, or ASA staff can organise a transfer for you. **B**

Accommodation

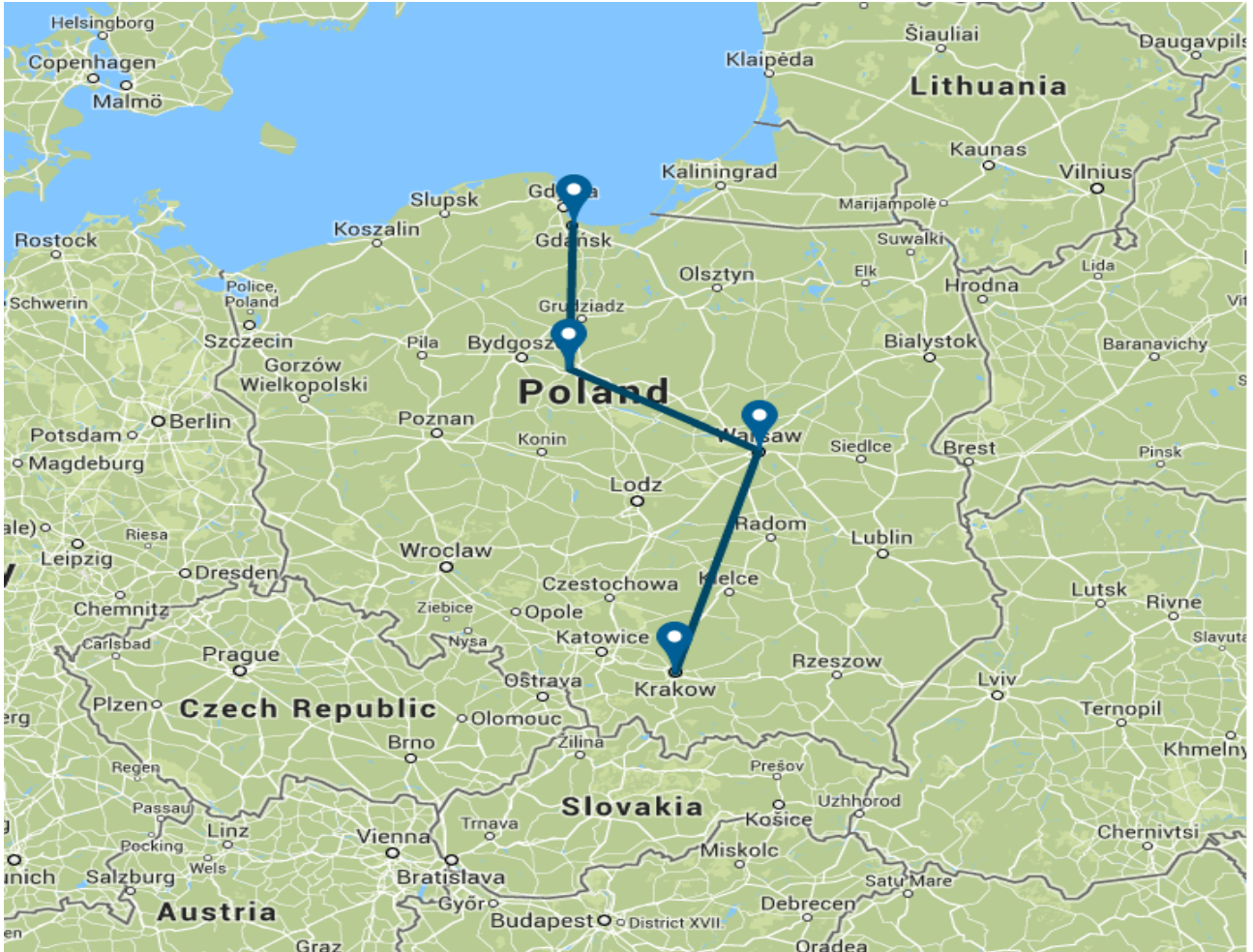
13-day Cultural Tour of Poland

All hotels are rated 4- to 5-stars locally and are comfortable and conveniently situated. All rooms have an en suite bathroom. Double/twin rooms for single occupancy may be requested – and are subject to availability and payment of the Single Supplement.

- Krakow (4 nights): 5-star Holiday Inn – housed in the beautifully renovated Panskich Palace near the Main Market Square in the historical centre. www.holidayinn.com/Krakow
- Warsaw (4 nights): 5-star Bristol Hotel – situated next to the Presidential Palace and within easy walking distance of the old town. www.hotelbristolwarsaw.pl
- Torun (1 night): 4-star Hotel 1231 – housed in a restored 13th-century building by the ruins of the Teutonic Castle. www.hotel1231.pl
- Gdansk (3 nights): 4-star Hanza Hotel – situated on a historic bank of the Motlawa river, near the famous Gdansk Crane. www.hotelhanza.pl

Note: Hotels are subject to change. In this instance, a hotel of similar standard will be provided.

Tour Map



Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$TBA Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 31 July 2020

AUD \$TBA Land Content Only

AUD \$TBA Single Supplement

For competitive Economy, Business or First Class airfares and/or group airfares please contact ASA for further information.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 4- to 5-star hotels
- Breakfast daily & evening meals where: **B**=breakfast & **D**=evening meal
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Airport-hotel transfers if travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach; travel by train from Krakow to Warsaw (Day 5)
- Portorage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels (not at airports or railway stations)
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Local guides
- Entrance fees
- 2 musical performances
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tour reference book
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia-Krakow, Gdansk-Australia
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers if not travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Visa (if applicable)



Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings 

The number of flags is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, seven to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless, all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion. Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 13-day Cultural Tour of Poland involves:

- Extensive walking (usually 9.00am-5.00pm), use of city public transport, and standing during museum and other site visits.
- Walking on uneven terrain, cobbled streets, and up and down hills and/or flights of stairs.
- This tour includes the use of audio headsets which amplify the voice of your guide (despite noisy surroundings). This technology also allows you to move freely during site visits without missing any information.

Other considerations:

- 4- and 5-star hotels, with three hotel changes.
- Train travel Day 5: Krakow-Warsaw.
- Long-distance coach travel: Day 9: Warsaw-Torun (210kms); Day 10: Torun-Malbork-Gdansk (224kms).
- You must be able to carry your own hand luggage. Hotel portage includes 1 piece of luggage per person.

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the

group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether this is a suitable tour for you.

Please note: it is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. For further information please refer to the ASA Reservation Application Form.

Practical Information

Prior to departure, tour members will receive practical notes which include information on visa requirements, health, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances and food. The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website has advice for travellers: www.smarttraveller.gov.au

Visas

Australian passport holders are permitted to stay visa free in countries listed under the Schengen agreement, for a maximum of 90 days within a 6 month period.

Booking Conditions

Making a Tentative Reservation before the tour price has been published

ASA INTENTION TO TRAVEL APPLICATION FORM

Some ASA tours fill almost immediately. Don't miss out! You can register your 'Intention to Travel' by completing this application and returning this to ASA with a AUD \$100.00 per person deposit. Once the tour price has been published, the itinerary and ASA Reservation Application Form will be sent to you. From the time you receive the itinerary you will have two weeks to either:

- Send us a completed ASA Reservation Application Form together with an additional deposit of AUD \$400.00 per person. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation. At this time your deposit of AUD \$500.00 is subject to the tour's Booking Conditions.

Or

- CANCEL your Intention to Travel in writing. ASA will refund your AUD \$100.00 per person deposit, less a \$33.00 service fee (including GST).

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all

activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. ASA's ability to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs, your health and safety and the health and safety of other tour members, is of paramount importance to us. For this reason the ASA Reservation Application includes a Medical Information section. As a general guideline, you must be able to accomplish each of these activities without assistance or support:-

- walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions
- walk confidently on and over uneven surfaces
- climb at least 3 flights of stairs
- embark and disembark from ferries, buses and trains
- walk up and down steep slopes
- walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15-20 minutes
- organise, manage and carry your own luggage
- follow and remember tour instructions
- meet punctually at designated times and places
- administer your own medication

Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation is for sole occupancy throughout the tour. The number of spaces available for single occupancy is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.



Intention to Travel Application

TOUR NAME _____

TOUR DATES _____

Booking before the tour price is available

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OR

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Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr Other _____

FIRST NAME _____ Preferred FIRST NAME _____

MIDDLE NAME _____ SURNAME _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTCODE _____

TEL. (AH) () _____ TEL. (BH) () _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

Date of birth ____ / ____ / _____ GENDER Male Female

Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: a twin-bedded room a double-bedded room a room for sole occupancy

I am travelling: on my own with a friend/family member Travel Companion _____

Meals

I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

fish poultry red meat dairy products

eggs pork nuts

Other _____

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence Postal Mail Email Address _____

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- walk up and down steep slopes
- walk at a steady pace and no less than 1 km every 15 - 20 minutes
- organise, manage and carry your own luggage
- follow and remember tour instructions
- meet punctually at designated times and places
- administer your own medication.

Applicant's Signature _____

Dated _____

Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1 _____

Name of Traveller 2 _____

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$ _____ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

Payment by (please indicate): Cheque Direct Debit (see below) Credit Card (see below)

International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg. Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

Australians Studying Abroad bank details

Bank ANZ
 Branch 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic
 Swift Code ANZBAU3M
 BSB 013-423
 Account No 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. _____

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

Date Money Transferred _____

Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard & Visa 2%
 American Express 2%

Please debit my: Mastercard Visa American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____

Security Code (CVC) _____

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ)

Cardholders Name _____

Cardholders Billing Address _____

Postcode _____

State _____

Country _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Cardholders Signature _____