

Poland:

The Pearls of Pomerania and the Great Mazurian Lakes



Malbork Castle

September 5 to 16, 2011

Optional unguided extension: Sept 16 to 18

\$2,800 per person, double occupancy

\$3,100 per person, single occupancy

Not including international airfare

Poland:

The Pearls of Pomerania and the Great Mazurian Lakes

OVERVIEW

Poland is a land of castles, music, history, lakes and mountains. It boasts glorious architecture from every period, art, scientific discovery, picturesque country churches, stunning cathedrals, humble mosques, and modern synagogues. Early September is the best time to travel in Poland. The weather is much like the Indian Summers of the Northwest, warm and sunny. Much overlooked as a tourist destination because of its association with the tragic history of World War II, **Poland is one of today's best travel bargains.** Poland has been coveted by Sweden, Austria, Germany, Russia, and many other countries over the past 12 centuries for its rich agricultural lands and natural resources. Join us on this journey of discovery as we explore the Pearls of Pomerania and the Great Mazurian Lakes, where we'll eat and sleep in the castles of Teutonic Knights and Kings!

ROUTE MAP



ITINERARY

Day 1: September 5 – Depart the US

You will need to leave the US on September 5 in order to arrive in Warsaw on September 6.

Day 2: September 6 – Arrive in Warsaw

Arriving in Warsaw at the Frederic Chopin Airport, you will be welcomed by your tour guide, Aneta Studzinska. You will be transferred to a cozy hotel and receive a welcome dinner. After dinner there will be time to visit Warsaw by night and take a leisurely stroll of **the Old City**. Despite being badly damaged during World War II, the old city district of Warsaw was rebuilt in just two years, with detailed attention to its historic architecture.

Included meals: dinner
Overnight in Warsaw

Day 3: September 7



The Royal Castle in Warsaw

Our adventure in Poland begins with a guided tour of Warsaw. This three-hour tour will introduce you to the history of the city and the process of rebuilding it after World War II. You will also visit one of the top must-see attractions—**The Warsaw Uprising Museum**. The museum uses all the most modern techniques to lead you through the story of the Uprising and show you the life of ordinary people under the Nazi occupation. A truly unforgettable experience will be a short 3-D aerial film re-creating a picture of the desolation of “liberated” Warsaw in March 1945. Late afternoon is time for a surprise and a tasty dinner.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner
Overnight in Warsaw

Day 4: September 8

Today we'll begin by travelling for one hour to Zelazowa Wola, the home of Frederik Chopin. Here, we will visit the Chopin Museum and his restored home, and also walk in the beautiful garden park surrounding the home. We will have lunch and a nice rest stop before continuing our three-hour drive to **Torun**. In the magical city of Nicolaus Copernicus, you will be enchanted by the original medieval architecture. A stroll through the streets, surrounded by many outstanding buildings of red brick, will be a journey to the past. There will be free time to purchase some souvenirs or taste the world famous **Gingerbread**. You will re-board the van for a half-hour drive to our lodgings in the **Teutonic Knight's Castle** in **Golub-Dobrzyn**. Your day will come to a peaceful close as you enjoy a lovely traditional dinner in the relaxing atmosphere of the castle chamber.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner
Overnight in Golub-Dobrzyn

Day 5: September 9



Jan III Sobieski Castle in Rzucewo

This morning we will take a 2-hour drive to visit the biggest Gothic Castle in Europe—the splendid **Malbork Castle** (pictured on opening page). The castle is a supreme example of a medieval brick castle, and since the 14th century (the time of their greatest prosperity), it was the seat of the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order. After lunch, you will be transferred to your lodgings in the **Jan III Sobieski Castle** in **Rzucewo**, a 1.5-hour drive. The Castle is located in an historic park, next to the small, private beach on the Baltic Sea. Your hosts will greet you in the castle dining room with a tasty dinner.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner
Overnight in Rzucewo

Day 6: September 10



The Baltic Sea coastline

After breakfast, we will take a ride along the Baltic coastline to discover its secrets. You'll also see something unique in all of Europe—the **Slovinski National Park**. This seaside park maintains a dune belt of spits with moving dunes. There will also be a chance to see the reconstruction of the Slovinian (a small Pomeranian ethnic group) village in **Kluki**, which consists of seven farms, storage and a fisherman's hut. Today you'll have plenty of time to relax and enjoy spectacular landscapes.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner
Overnight in Rzucewo

Day 7: September 11

We'll begin today with a short ride to **Gdansk**, a legendary Hanseatic City. You will be guided through the Gdansk shipyard where workers, led by Lech Walesa, fought for their rights and the freedom of all Poles in the 1980s. In the "capital of amber" you will discover all the secrets of this precious stone in the jeweler's workshop. Following a guided tour, you will have the opportunity to shop for souvenirs in the most fashionable boutiques, galleries, and small artisan stores. In the late afternoon you will taste the traditional Kashubian dishes in a charming restaurant in the city center.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner
Overnight in Rzucewo

Day 8: September 12



The Crooked House in Sopot

Today we will head to **Sopot**, the renowned seaside resort on the Baltic Sea, with the longest pier in Poland. You will enjoy the boat ride to **Hel**. Located on the tip of the Hel Peninsula some 33 kilometers from the Polish mainland, the small town of Hel serves primarily as a yacht marina. You will have the chance to see the old timber-framed fishing houses and examples of naval armaments exhibited throughout the town. Hel also houses a sea life biological laboratory and has a lighthouse built in 1942. Your dinner will be provided in Sopot.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner
Overnight in Rzucewo

Day 9: September 13

We'll head out to spend time in **the Center of Folk Architecture in Szymbark**. You'll love its many attractions. You will cross the threshold of a house standing upside down, and sit at the longest table in the world made of one piece of wood. You will see the largest piano in the world and enjoy a beer in a local brewery, as well as take in the famous Kashubian tobacco. You will take part in the artisan workshop and much more. In the evening you will relax and have dinner in our castle hotel.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner
Overnight in Rzucewo

Day 10: September 14

Today we will travel to the Mazurian Lake District. After our pleasant 3-hour drive we will take a boat ride through the **Elblag Canal**. You will experience the ride across dry land on rail mounted



The Mazurian fields

trolleys, which are unique in the world as a monument of hydro-engineering art. Once we exit the Canal, it's just a short 1.5-hour drive to the Mazury Region, which invites you with landscapes of unparalleled beauty. To make you feel like real kings or queens, we will be accommodated in one of the top ranked hotels in Poland, the **Ryn Castle**. The luxurious interiors of the castle, an underground swimming pool, sauna, Jacuzzi and other attractions, as well as a lovely welcome dinner, will make for a very pleasant evening.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner
Overnight in Ryn

Day 11: September 15

After breakfast, we will be transferred by van to **Warsaw**. The trip from Ryn to Warsaw takes about 4 hours. On the way, we'll stop to listen to an organ concert in the most beautiful Baroque Church in Poland, **Saint Lipka**. We'll also visit the **Wolf's Lair** (Adolf's Hitler's World War II military headquarters), where the mystery of the famous attempt on Hitler's life, depicted in the recent movie *Valkyrie* with Tom Cruise, will be revealed to you. Our farewell dinner will be enjoyed in our hotel in Warsaw where we can relax and share memories of our special time together.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner
Overnight in Warsaw

Day 12: September 16

If you are returning to the United States, you'll be transported to the airport for your return flight.

For those extending their trip over the weekend, you'll be transported to a centrally located hotel with service to the airport. You will be provided with recommendations for places to visit that are not on this itinerary.

Welcome Home!

PRICING

The land-only cost is \$2,800 per person, double occupancy.
The land-only cost is \$3,100 per person, single occupancy.

What's Included

- An excellent English-speaking guide
- Meals as listed in the itinerary
- Accommodations as listed in the itinerary
- All hotel rooms are double occupancy unless you have requested a single room
- All rooms have a private bath or shower
- All sightseeing with entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary
- Tips for bus drivers, hotel staff, etc.

What's Not Included

- International airfare
- Airport departure taxes, as applicable
- Tips for the guide
- Beverages not listed as included in the program
- Trip cancellation insurance (highly recommended and available through Pat and Mike's Travel)
- Any personal items
- Anything not mentioned as included in the itinerary

Maximum of 8 travelers plus the guide

INTERNATIONAL AIR

Stephanie Carmel at Pat and Mike's Travel can assist you with your international flight arrangements. She can be reached by email at Stephanie@patandmiketravel.com or by phone at 503.288.7842 (toll-free: 800.898.9963).

DEPOSIT/PAYMENT

Deposit: \$1,400 per person, due no later than **June 1, 2011**.

Final payment date: **August 1, 2011**.

As with all international trips, the pricing was based on exchange rates, air taxes/fuel surcharges, and air cost in effect at the time of pricing and is subject to change until the final payment has been made.

PASSPORTS

Passports are required. Visas are not. Please check to make sure your passport will be valid for at least three months after the date you return from your trip. Make sure you have enough blank pages for the customs officials to put their entry/exit stamps. Renewals or extra pages may be needed.

EXTENSIONS

Yes, you can extend for an additional two days in Warsaw. This is unguided time at additional cost.

TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Trip cancellation insurance is always recommended and is available through Stephanie Carmel at Pat and Mike's Travel. She can be reached by email at Stephanie@patandmiketravel.com or by phone at 503.288.7842 (toll-free: 800.898.9963).

To schedule this trip or obtain additional information contact trip hostess:

Linda Harrington

Phone: 1-800-545-6913

Cell: 1-541-350-9947

E-mail: lindaharrington600@msn.com

NOTE: Please tell Linda if you heard about the trip through Pat and Mike's Travel.

SIGN-UP PAGES

Trip: Poland, September 5 to 16, 2011

Please apply the deposit to the following option:

_____ Land-only package at the cash-discounted price of \$2,800 (per person, double occupancy).

_____ Land-only package at the cash-discounted price of \$3,100 (single occupancy).

First / Middle / Last Name(s) EXACTLY as printed on your **passport(s)**:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

(Home) phone _____ (Work/Cell) phone _____

e-mail _____

Person to contact in case of emergency, with their phone/fax/e-mail numbers:

EXTENSIONS

Are you **extending** your trip? _____yes _____no

DEPOSIT

The per-person deposit of \$1,400 is being paid by:

_____ Check _____ Credit card (Visa or MasterCard)

INTERNATIONAL AIR

_____ I/we want to fly from _____ [city] to Warsaw and home again. I would like Pat & Mike's Travel to make these reservations.

_____ I/we will make my/our own air reservations from the USA to Warsaw and home again. I understand that I need to be in Warsaw no later than September 6, 2011. I agree that I will arrange my own transfer from the airport to the hotel and back again if I am not arriving or leaving close to the same times as the group is.

Mail deposit and sign-up sheet to Linda Harrington as follows:

Before May 1: 440 W. F Street, Burns, OR 97720

After May 1: Strawberry Mountain Inn Bed & Breakfast
710 NE Front Street, Prairie City, OR 97869

Credit card deposits (Visa or MasterCard) can be made over the phone at 800.545.6913 (Strawberry Mt. Inn) or 541.573.2755 (home) or 541.350.9947 (cell).