

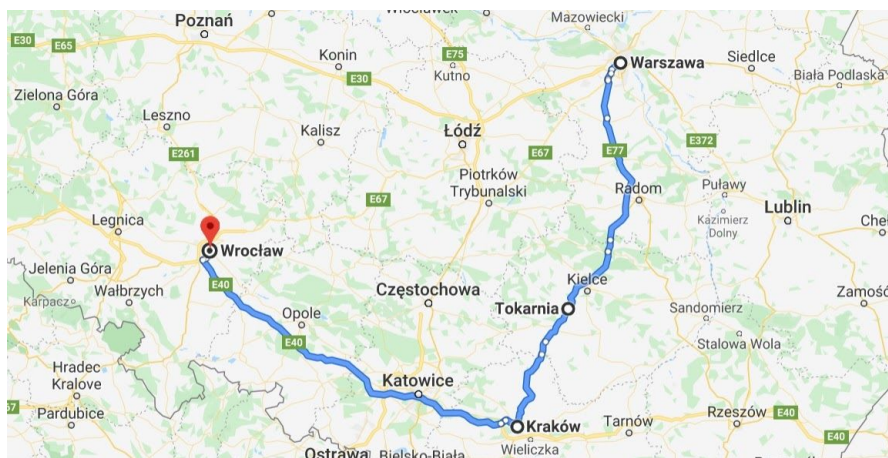


The itinerary of PolishOrigins Christmas Tour

Guests' number: 4-12
Term: 5-13 December 2020

Itinerary:

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/uuhS7BgYVHQdBhnW7>



General notices and remarks:

- The assistance of an English speaking guide and transportation by air-conditioned minibus is included throughout the itinerary.
- We recommend you to have some little amount of Polish zlotys in cash with you: to buy some snacks in local shops, to buy traditional products or souvenirs on local

markets etc. In such places you can often pay only by cash.

- Please note that not all dinners/lunches are included (see in the itinerary). This will give you more flexibility in choosing the meals from the menu as per your preferences.

- You will have wi-fi (wireless Internet connection) in all your hotels.

Day 1 (Saturday) December 5, 2020 Warsaw - your arrival

Your arrival in Warsaw. We will arrange the transfer from the airport to the hotel in the center of Warsaw.

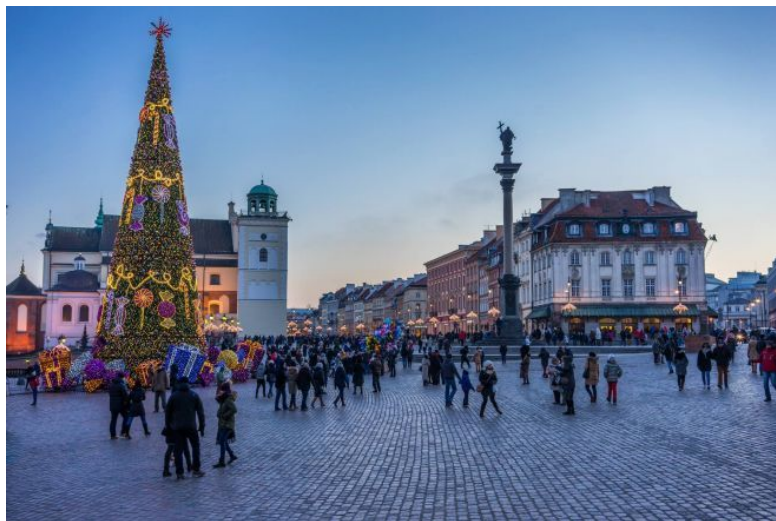
Some time to rest after the journey and prepare for the adventure.

No guide's assistance on that day. No dinner included on that day.

Accommodation: Comfort class boutique hotel in the center of Warsaw.

Day 2 (Sunday) December 6, 2020 Warsaw - Christmas lights and decorations

Morning meeting with your tour leader and the tourist guide from Warsaw. You will have a guided tour introducing you the capital of Poland with its Old Town, which was meticulously rebuilt after World War II. It is an outstanding example of a near-total reconstruction of a span of history covering the 13th to the 20th centuries, and as a result, was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.



Picture source: warszawa.eska.pl

After the guided tour you will have some free time for lunch.

After sunset we will invite you to the Royal Garden of Light in the Wilanów Park. This is an open-air exhibition with thousands of colorful lights, despite the autumn and winter aura, you can admire the King's Winter Garden, Music Garden and projection mapping.



Picture source: warszawawpigulce.pl



Picture source: warszawa.eska.pl

Dinner in Warsaw: 3 course menu with water, tea and coffee

After dinner come back to your hotel.

Accommodation: Comfort class boutique hotel in the center of Warsaw.

Day 3 (Monday) December 7, 2020 Warsaw - at the crossroads of cultures

In the morning we will invite you to visit POLIN - The Museum of The History of Polish Jews. We want to show you how diverse, multicultural, sometimes mysterious and exotic this land used to be! Did you know that over 30 percent of the population of the Polish towns and cities before World War 2 were Jews? In December they are celebrating one of the most important holidays: Hanukkah. How they used to celebrate it in Poland?

Today we would like to show you some of their history and culture in one of the best

museums in Poland!

In the afternoon, we will come back to the Old Town to visit the popular Christmas Market "Barbican Decorated with Craft", where you might taste the local specialties, such as mulled wine, grilled sausage, bigos, oscypek. After the short tour on the market with our guide, you will have some free time to explore on your own (no dinner included on that day)

In the evening come back to your hotel.

Accommodation: Comfort class boutique hotel in the center of Warsaw.

Day 4 (Tuesday) December 8, 2020 Christmas in the house of your ancestors

After breakfast check out from your hotel and departure from Warsaw. We will drive to Kraków and on the way we will stop in the Ethnographic Park in Tokarnia. You will have a guided tour in the museum and we will tell you the story about the everyday life in Poland in the 18th and 19th centuries... How did they prepare for Christmas? How was the house decorated? What did they eat? What were the customs and traditions? Why on the Christmas Eve you have to put the coins and hay under the tablecloth? Why it was not allowed to borrow anything? What is podłaźniczka? We will try to answer these and many more questions.



Picture source: mwk.com.pl

In the afternoon arrive in Kraków, check in at the hotel.

Dinner in Kraków: 3 course menu with water, tea and coffee.

Accommodation: 3* Hotel in the center of Kraków

Day 5 (Wednesday) December 9, 2019 "Rorate caeli desuper". Kraków from dusk till dawn

Throughout the Advent period in Catholic churches, first morning liturgy, at the time

of the sunrise is celebrated in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is known as "Roraty" from the first words of the Gregorian chant known as The Advent Prose: Rorate Caeli, which means "Drop down ye heavens from above." People bring with them small wax candles or lanterns to light the dark church.

This morning (at 6:30 A.M.) we will invite volunteers to participate in the roraty at the Dominican Church. They celebrate it in a very traditional way.

After the celebration we will come back to the hotel for breakfast and about 10:00 A.M. we will begin the guided tour in Kraków. We will take a walk with our local guide in the Wawel Hill, which is the centre of Polish history and culture, with the Sigismund Bell, king's tombs in the cathedral and of course the castle.

We will walk in the narrow, romantic streets of the Old town. We will show you the courtyard of Jagiellonian University with its famous clock show and we will stop in the medieval Cloth Hall where traditional souvenirs can be bought. We will listen to St. Mary's trumpet call (called "hejnal").



Mysterious Krakow at dusk. Fot. Paweł Krzeń, picture source: http://www.krakow4u.pl/eng_index.php?parametr=eng_glowna_s

In the afternoon you will have free time to explore Kraków, to do some shopping or have some rest. No dinner included on that day.

It is possible to book the side trip to Wieliczka Salt Mine on that day - please contact us if you are interested.

Accommodation: 3* Hotel in the center of Kraków

Day 6 (Thursday) December 10, 2020 Kraków's Nativity scenes

This morning we will invite you to visit the exhibition of the famous Kraków Nativity Scenes. There is no other place on earth to produce equally unique creations! The tradition evolved in the 19th century and is passed down from generation to generation. The scene should be inspired by the city's architecture, but also the

historical and political events. Sometimes they present legends or famous people. All of them are colorful, some are moving and making sounds.



Source: wikipedia.pl

In the afternoon we will leave Kraków for a while and drive to one of the villages nearby for the pierogi cooking classes! You will have the opportunity to prepare the dough, cook pierogi and, of course, to taste some other local specialties.

Without pierogi there are no real Polish Christmas! (during the workshops you will, of course have an opportunity to taste them, so no "regular" dinner in the restaurant is included)

In the evening, come back to the hotel in Kraków.

Accommodation: 3* Hotel in the center of Kraków

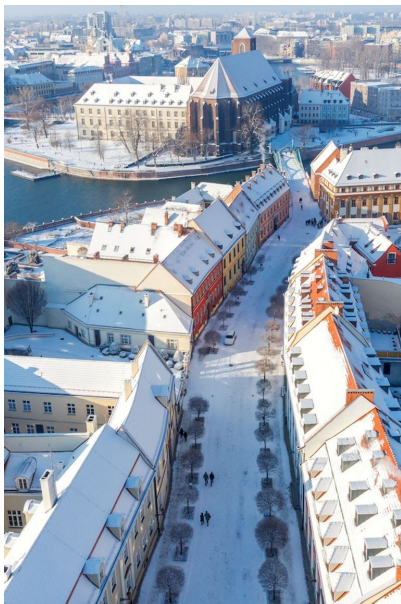
Day 7 (Friday) December 11, 2020 Wrocław - the western traditions

In the morning we will depart to Wrocław (about 3h drive). Many modern Christmas traditions came to Poland from Germany: decorating the Christmas tree, some popular carols, Christmas gifts. Wrocław, the capital of Lower Silesia, was a German city for many centuries. We will try to show you its complicated history and many cultures that are nowadays present in the city.

After check-in at the hotel you will have the guided tour in the Old Town. See the Main Square with historic pillory

- Wrocław's dwarfs and their history
- University of Wrocław with the entrance to the Mathematical Tower
- Ostrów Tumski with the cathedral

After the guided tour we will spend the evening on famous Wrocław's Christmas Market. There will be some mulled wine and we cannot miss the stands with the Bolesławiec pottery.



Picture source: pозwiedzane.pl

Dinner in Wrocław: 3 course menu with water, tea and coffee

Accommodation: 4* Hotel in the center of Wrocław

Day 8 (Saturday) December 12, 2020 Wrocław - Kraków. The Polish Wigilia.

Come back to Kraków and continuation of exploring the city. Entrance to Rynek Underground Museum.

In the evening we will invite you to dinner in the real Polish house, where you will have the opportunity to taste the traditional Christmas dishes.



Accommodation: 3* Hotel in the center of Kraków

Day 9 (Sunday) December 15, 2019 Kraków - departures

The day of your departure from Kraków. We will arrange the driver to assist you to the airport.

If it is more convenient for you to fly home from Warsaw, it is possible to have a train to Warsaw. Please contact us if you have any questions (email: tours@polishorigins.com)

Costs:

8500 Polish zlotys per person in DBL or TWIN room accommodation

(US\$ 2203 according to today's average currency exchange rate. Please be aware that we accept payments in Polish zlotys and this amount expressed in US\$ is only for information purposes, not distorted by charges collected in form of spreads (difference between currency buy and sell rates) by financial institutions. The current Polish zlotys (PLN) / US Dollars (USD) average exchange rate you will find here: <http://themoneyconverter.com/PLN/USD.aspx>)

SGL room supplement: 1590 Polish zlotys

For a group or family of 4, who will join the tour together, there will be a discount of 500 Polish zlotys per person.

If you are returning PolishOrigins Tours client or want to combine Polish Christmas Tour with tailor-made Genealogy Tour or Family & Friends Tour then you are entitled to a 500 PLN discount. Discounts do not combine.

Tour cost includes:

- As assist of the experienced, English speaking guide
- accommodations in centrally located hotels in DBL or TWIN rooms with private bath or shower
- Breakfasts in all hotels
- transportation by air-conditioned, comfortable van or minibus (suitable for the final number of guests)
- sightseeing tours as specified in the tour itinerary: local guides in Warsaw, Wrocław and Kraków, entrances to museums and markets listed above, pierogi workshop
- Five meals: in Warsaw on Dec 6, in Kraków on Dec 10, in Wrocław on Dec 11, pierogi workshops and farewell dinner with traditional Christmas dishes in the

Polish house

- transfers on arrival and departure from and to the airports or hotels.
- **Not included** in the tour cost are items of personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, mini-bar, gratuity to guides and drivers, air transportation to and from Poland, meals other than listed above in the included section. There is a possibility of an optional trip to Wieliczka Salt Mine and travel back to Warsaw on your departure day. For those services supplement will apply.

Reservations and payment:

For reservation make a deposit of 800 Polish zlotys per person and fill out the reservation form on the page:

<https://polishorigins.com/tours/polish-christmas-tour/#deposit>

The deposit is non-refundable, unless we will not have the minimal number of participants before October 5, 2020.

The remaining amount of payment is due 30 days before the planned date of starting the Tour. The rates are in Polish zlotys. We operate in Poland as a licensed Polish business entity and we accept payments in Polish zlotys (PLN).

Should you decide to take a Tour with us, we will send you a contract to sign. Until then, you may review the Tour agreement and the Rules for Participation to get acquainted with them at the following links:

http://polishorigins.com/tour/service_agreement_english.pdf

<http://polishorigins.com/tour/general-terms-of-participation-english.pdf>

Check also (pdf): [A standard information form for contracts for the participation in a tourism event.](#)

Emergency contacts to your tour manager:
ph. 0048 664 407 089 or 0048 531 579 095,
email: tours@polishorigins.com .