

2014 POLISH HARVEST TOUR

September 9 - 23, 2014

Hosted by David Motak and Jack Samuels,
Cracow Creche Workshop, Pittsburgh, PA
and coordinated by Chopin Tours
Starting in Warsaw: Sept. 10, 2014

INCLUDED SERVICES:

- Roundtrip airfare Chicago/Warsaw
- Airport transfers in Warsaw
- Qualified and licensed English speaking tour manager during the entire trip
- English speaking local guides
- Private air conditioned motor coach
- Two meals per day per itinerary:
B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner
- Sightseeing & entrance fees per itinerary
- Room charges and taxes in first-class hotels in central locations close to attractions
- Knight's Banquet in Baranow Castle, and other special events and tastings per itinerary

2014 Polish Harvest Tour - Tour Itinerary

Sept 9 / Tues - Depart USA via Chicago (or NYC) for Warsaw.

Sept 10 / Wed - WARSAW Upon arriving in the Polish capital, we will be treated to a bus tour en route to our hotel. After checking in will have free time before our Welcome Dinner in one of historic Warsaw's atmospheric restaurants. Overnight Warsaw Intercontinental Hotel. (D)

Sept 11 / Thurs - Warsaw - Sandomierz - BARANÓW After breakfast we depart Warsaw and drive south towards Sandomierz, a favorite location for the Polish film industry and the scene of the popular "Ojciec Mateusz" television series. We will have a walking tour of the old town and free time for lunch. We continue to Baranów Sandomierski a perfectly preserved Renaissance residence from the 16th century. After checking in to the Castle Hotel, we will tour the castle which is considered one of the finest examples of Mannerist architecture in Poland. Dinner at the Castle tonight will be a Polish Medieval Knight's Feast. Overnight Baranów Castle (B, D)

Sept 12 / Fri - Baranów - LUBLIN After enjoying a leisurely breakfast, we will tour Baranow Castle and gardens, then continue to Lublin. The largest city in Eastern Poland Lublin is one of the most alluring urban centers in the country, thanks in large part to the evocative hive of alleys that constitute its magnificent Old Town which came through WWII relatively undamaged. After checking in to the Grand Lublinianka Hotel we will enjoy a brief walking tour of the lovely Old Town and an optional lunch on your own. This evening we will enjoy a group dinner in one of Old Town's popular restaurants. (B, D)

Sept 13 / Sat - LUBLIN After breakfast, we will enjoy an excursion to nearby Kazimierz Dolny, located along the banks of the Vistula River, a jewel of the Polish Renaissance and mecca for artists and artisans. We will view the main attractions and have some leisure time for strolling, shopping at the various galleries and artists stalls and enjoy a group lunch. In mid-afternoon we return to Lublin where you may wish to enjoy visiting the Old Town and having dinner on your own. (B, L)

Sept 14 / Sun - Lublin - Zamość - Przemyśl - KRASICZYN Our first stop on our eastern journey will be in the town of Zamość, a UNESCO World Heritage site that is regarded as the "Pearl of the Renaissance" which was established in 1580 by Hetman Jan Zamoyski who desired to create an "ideal town" based on classic principles. We will have a short orientation of the Old Town Square and time for lunch on your own. We then visit the quaint border town of Przemyśl picturesquely situated in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains and one of the oldest and most beautiful of Polish towns. We will have a short tour of the most important attractions followed by free time for coffee and a snack. We continue to the ornately decorated Krasiczyn Castle, one of Poland's most impressive Renaissance palaces built by the aristocratic Krasicki family in 1580. The castle boasts richly sculpted portals, loggias, arcades, and unique sgraffito wall decorations. We will have time to enjoy the castle and its gardens prior to dinner and overnight in the castle's guest wing. (B, D)

OPTIONAL EXCURSION: We had originally planned to stay in the city of Lwów for two nights, unfortunately, the political situation in Ukraine has required us to alter these plans. However, for those who may wish to still visit Lwów, which is approx. 50 miles over the Polish border, we may offer a short day excursion. This will depend on the political situation prior to our departure. We will provide additional information prior to the tour's departure.

Sept 15 / Mon - Krasiczyn - Sanok - Bardejov - ZAKOPANE Today we travel to the town of Sanok. Here we will visit Poland's largest open air museum with over 100 traditional buildings that provide insight into the cultural heritage and mix of the ethnic groups of this region including Poles and Rusyns. We will also visit the impressive Icon Museum, that boasts the second largest and most impressive Eastern Rite icon collection in the world. After a late lunch, we continue our journey traversing the Carpathian mountains and traveling through northern Slovakia to the Polish mountain resort of Zakopane in the captivating Tatra Mountains. En route, we will make a brief stop in the picturesque town of Bardejov, the historical gem of eastern Slovakia and a UNESCO World Heritage site. We will have time to enjoy coffee and dessert as we explore the unspoiled cobbled town square that is a picture postcard view of town life in late medieval and early renaissance Europe. Like Kraków, Bardejov was rebuilt after being raided by Mongol hordes in the 13th century and now proudly features historic churches and rows of affluent merchant houses in a variety of architectural styles and periods from authentic gothic to gothic revival. After exploring Bardejov we continue northwest to return to Poland and arrive in Zakopane. This evening you may wish to enjoy some of the amenities of our luxury Grand Starmy Hotel before our group dinner in a lively Góralski restaurant with folk entertainment. (B, D)



Sept 16 / Tue - ZAKOPANE Today we will explore Zakopane and environs, including a cable car ride to the top of Gubalówka Mountain for a panoramic view of the surrounding area. Weather permitting, we will travel today to enjoy a leisurely raft excursion on the Dunajec River, meandering back and forth across the Slovak border through the scenic Pieniny Mountain Range. You will have time this afternoon for shopping and lunch on your own. You may wish to explore Zakopane's market area where you can find local folkcrafts, leather goods, wooden carvings and traditional oscypek cheeses. You may also wish to pamper yourself at our hotel with a swim or an optional spa treatment. Our dinner tonight will be a special treat at a local Highlander Inn with folklore entertainment and an "ognisko" camp fire evening complete with sing-along of traditional Polish music. (B, D)

Sept 17 / Wed - Zakopane - KRAKÓW Today is our day to explore the regional foods of Poland's Malopolska Region. En route to Kraków, we will visit the Lorek Family near the village of Szczrzyca, where we will sample their artisan meats and cheeses and learn about the age-old Polish tradition of "grzybobranie" or mushroom picking. After a special lunch featuring regional specialties, we continue to Krakow making a brief stop at Łagiewniki and the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy and the tomb of Saint Faustina Kowalska. We arrive in Kraków in the afternoon where you can enjoy the rest of the day shopping in the historic Old Town and dinner on your own in one of Kraków's many fine restaurants. Overnight at the Wielopole Hotel (B, L)

Sept 18 / Thur - KRAKÓW After breakfast we will enjoy a half-day walking tour of Kraków with our local guide including: the Royal Wawel Hill, the Royal Route and the Old Town Square, the Cloth Hall, the Medieval Barbican/Floriańska Gate, and St. Mary's Basilica with its impressive high altar. Group dinner this evening at the popular local restaurant "Kogel-Mogel" (B, D)

OPTIONAL EXCURSION: The stunning Wieliczka Salt Mines, dating back to the early Middle Ages and a world famous UNESCO World Heritage site is located in the Kraków suburbs and well worth a visit. If you wish to visit Wieliczka, we will make these arrangements for you for the afternoon.

Sept 19 / Fri - KRAKÓW Today has been set aside for you to enjoy Krakow, its shops, museums and special attractions. We will help you plan your day according to your special needs. You may wish to visit the amazing new attraction in Kraków, the high-tech Underground History Museum at the main Market Square which requires advanced reserved tickets which will be reserved for you if you are interested. There are also the Czartoryski Museum featuring DaVinci's famous Lady with Ermine, as well as the National Museum. Around Kraków are four historic mounds (called "kopiec"), the oldest of which, Kopiec Wandy and Kopiec Kraka date back over 1,000 years to pagan times. There is also the Kopiec Pilsudski, constructed prior to World War II, and the largest and most well known, Kopiec Kosciuszki, which stands over 1,000 feet above sea level. Hand-built by the people of Poland in 1823 to honor Polish and American hero Thadeusz Kosciuszko, the Kosciuszko Mound offers a panoramic view of the Vistula River and Poland's historic capital. Weather permitting, for those who are interested, we are planning a special excursion to these four historic mounds. We will enjoy a group dinner this evening in Old Town. (B, D)

OPTIONAL EXCURSION: You may also wish to spend part of this day visiting Auschwitz / Oswiecim Memorial with a brief stop in Wadowice, home of St. John Paul II. Special arrangements can be made for you to take this optional side trip.

Sept 20 / Sat Kraków - Częstochowa - CHLEWISKA Departing Poland's former capital, we travel north to Częstochowa where we will stop to visit the Jasna Góra Monastery and the Black Madonna Shrine. After a short visit we continue our journey arriving at the Pałac Odrowążów Manor House Resort Spa to enjoy the facilities of this beautifully restored 16-th century complex, including spa, indoor pool, wellness center, gardens and stables. This evening we meet in the palace cellars for dinner followed by a special Tasting of traditional Polish Honey Liqueurs. Overnight at Pałac Odrowążów Manor House. (B, D)

Sept 21 / Sun Chelwiska - Tomaszów - Spała - CHLEWISKA Have your cameras ready for a special day! Today we have the rare opportunity to take part in "Dożynki Prezydenckie". We will begin by boarding an old vintage steam locomotive in Tomaszów for the short train excursion to Spała, a small town that has been a summer retreat for many Polish Presidents and which hosts the Presidential Harvest Festival. This annual national event attracts representatives from all over Poland in their rich regional costumes, with many delegations carrying huge "korony" large ornamental crowns constructed from wheat and grain. President Komorowski and the First Lady are expected to be in attendance at the official "Dożynki" festivities including an outdoor mass, performances of local and national folk ensembles and an outdoor market featuring folk crafts and numerous food vendors offering traditional Polish delicacies. In the late afternoon we return to Pałac Odrowążów Manor House in Chlewiska for relaxation before our special dinner and overnight. (B, D)

Sept 22 / Mon Chlewiska - Sulejów - WARSAW After breakfast we travel to Sulejów to view the impressive Zamek Pod Klasztorze, an old restored Cisterian Abbey. We then continue to Warsaw where we will visit the historic Old Town, which was painstakingly rebuilt after the devastation of WWII. Here we will view a very interesting documentary film at the History Museum about Warsaw's martyrdom and rebirth. We will take a short walking tour of Old Town with time for strolling and shopping. The rest of the day is at your leisure. For our final night in Poland, we will be treated to a special Farewell Banquet in one of the capital's leading restaurants. Overnight Warsaw Intercontinental Hotel. (B, D)

Sept 23 / Tues - Warsaw - USA After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our departure home. (B)

TOTAL TOUR PRICE: \$3,750 per person for ground package and r/t international air from Chicago to Warsaw. (Please contact us about pricing from NYC)

GROUND PACKAGE PRICE: \$2,900 pp.

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: \$590.00 pp.

DEPOSIT: An initial deposit of \$500 per person is required to hold a reservation.

DOMESTIC AIR ARRANGEMENTS:

If you do not wish to make your own flight arrangements from your home city and Chicago, please feel free to contact Wanda at Chopin Tours who will gladly assist you.

Wanda Grzesik 1-800-533-0369
email: wanda@chopintours.com

Your Hotels:

- 1 night in Warsaw at the Intercontinental
- 1 night in Baranow Sandomierski at Baranow Castle Hotel
- 2 nights in Lublin at the Grand Lubianka
- 1 night in Krasiczyn at Krasiczyn Castle
- 2 nights in Zakopane at Grand Starmary
- 3 nights in Krakow at Wielopole Hotel
- 2 nights in Chlewiska at the Pałac Odrowążów Manor House Resort Spa
- 1 night in Warsaw at the Intercontinental

Please note: The tour operators reserve the right to substitute for comparable hotels if circumstances dictate.

Please visit our tour web site for additional photos of sites to be visited and images of our hotels at www.harvesttour.net

Call or email us with any questions or for a copy of the Tour Terms and Conditions and Registration Form. 1-800-533-0369 or 412-835-0539