

8 days from £769

June & September

Poland - Krakow & the High Tatras

Two of Poland's most spectacular sites, Krakow and Zakopane, are brought together in this holiday of contrasts. Firstly, the medieval UNESCO-listed university city of Krakow, for centuries Poland's capital, and hometown of Pope John Paul II. Your second base is Zakopane, Poland's highest city, amidst the spectacular Tatra Mountains and situated 800m above sea level. Zakopane is famous for its unique wooden architecture, featuring pretty, wood-fronted, 19th-century villas with high, sloped roofs! Your journey between Krakow and Zakopane will take a little longer than you might have expected – you will spend 2-3 hours gently meandering through the Dunajec River Gorge on rafts! This will allow you to fully appreciate the rocky landscapes of the Pieniny Mountains. (Note: the coach continues with your luggage – if weather conditions dictate, or if anyone prefers, the land route by coach may be used).

- 3 nights bb Krakow, 4 nights bb Zakopane • Raft trip through the Dunajec Gorge • Walking tour of Krakow
- 3 varied guided walks, 1 near Krakow and 2 near Zakopane

PROGRAMME

Throughout the holiday you are on a bed and breakfast basis. There is a wide variety of lunch and dinner options available in all price ranges in both Krakow and Zakopane.

DAY ONE: Flight to Krakow. On arrival you meet our representative and transfer to your hotel in Krakow for three nights bed and breakfast accommodation.

DAYS TWO AND THREE: Included half day walking tour of Old Krakow, also known as Stare Miasto. There is also an optional afternoon excursion to the stunning Wieliczka Salt Mine.

Walk 1: From Krakow there is also an included walking excursion. You travel by local bus for a 5-mile walk in the forested Ojcowski National Park, Poland's smallest National Park, located 8 miles north of Krakow. Ascent and descent of 100m.

DAY FOUR: Today you travel to Zakopane, but instead of doing all the journey by road, you take 2-3 hours rafting gently through the stunning scenery of the Dunajec River Gorge, before arriving at Zakopane, in the heart of the Tatra Mountains. Four nights are spent here on a bed & breakfast basis.

DAYS FIVE TO SEVEN: In Zakopane, with two included guided walks.

Walk 2: You take the local bus to walk through the Koscieliska Valley, Przyslop Mietusi Pass and Malej Laki Valley to the Grzybowiec Pass at a height of 1330m. You then walk down the Strazyska Valley to Zakopane. The walk is about 8 miles with ascent of 500m and descent of 400m.

Walk 3: You travel out of Zakopane by bus to start your walk near to the Slovakian border. The walk follows a trail through Hala Gasienicowa alpine meadow (1500m) and then back to Zakopane. The walk is about 8 miles and with 550m of ascent and 600m of descent.

While staying in Zakopane you also have the opportunity to cross the border into Slovakia, Poland's southern neighbour, on an optional excursion. The High Tatra Mountains straddle the Polish-Slovakian border, and you will be able to experience the fantastic scenery from

a different perspective – the cable car from Stary Smokovec to the mountain town of Hrebienok, at an altitude of 1200m. There is the chance to take a walk along marked paths to the scenic waterfalls of the area.

DAY EIGHT: Free time until your departure transfer to the airport and your return flight home. Depending on flight times, there may be some time in Krakow en route to the airport.

YOUR HOTELS

HOTEL WYSPIANSKI ★★★, Krakow (three nights)

The hotel is named after the famous Polish artist, poet and playwright, Stanislaw Wyspianski, who once lived in a house at the site of the hotel. It is located right in the centre of Krakow, the proverbial stone's throw from the main square. Rooms are fully equipped with bath/shower, wc, hairdryer, satellite tv, telephone and radio. There is also a restaurant and a bar. (www.hotel-wyspianski.pl)

HOTEL WERSAL ★★★, Zakopane (four nights)

This hotel is located in a quiet, yet central, area of Zakopane. It has 42 rooms with bath/shower, wc, hairdryer, satellite tv, radio and telephone. There is a restaurant offering both traditional Polish and international cuisine and a bar serving hot and cold drinks. (www.hotelwersal.pl)

If you have friends who are not walkers interested in this itinerary, it is featured in our Escorted Holidays brochure with a touring programme.

