



In The Footsteps of Pope John Paul the Great

A Musical Pilgrimage for Choirs

Standard Tour #1 (6 nights / 8 days)

Day 1

Departure from USA via scheduled airline service to **Krakow, Poland**. Enjoy full meal/beverage service and in-flight entertainment during this trans-Atlantic flight.

Day 2 Krakow

Arrive in Krakow. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for transfer to your hotel via a panoramic tour of Old Krakow en route. Welcome Dinner and overnight.

Krakow (Cracow), seat of Poland's oldest university and once the nation's capital (before relinquishing the honor to Warsaw in 1611) is one of the few Polish cities that escaped devastation during World War II. Today Krakow's fine towers, facades, and churches illustrating seven centuries of Polish architecture, make it a major attraction for visitors. Listed by UNESCO in 1978 as one of the 12 great historic cities of the world, Krakow represents a great repository of Polish history, art and architecture.

Day 3 Krakow

Take a guided sightseeing tour of this ancient capital of Poland, a royal city on the Vistula, lying at the foot of Wawel, a limestone hill on whose peak raises a splendid royal palace and the Cathedral of Sts. Stanislaw and Waclaw. Start with the Royal Castle and Cathedral on the Wawel Hill, which were remodeled according to the new Renaissance taste in the beginning of the 16th century. It is the place where Polish Kings were crowned and buried. Afterwards, drive to the Old Town with its Main Market Square and its magnificent houses and palaces. In the middle of the square is the Cloth Hall, built before 1349 but altered in the 16th century with many shopping stalls inside. ***Participate/sing in an evening Mass in the Church of St. Mary***, the famous basilica located right on the Main Market Square.

Day 4 Krakow/Lagiewniki/Kalvaria Zebrzydowska/Wadowice

Full-day excursion some of the most inspiring sites in the life of Pope John Paul II. Start in the outskirts of Krakow in Lagiewniki, location of the Sanctuary of Our Lord's Mercy, and the modern Basilica of The Divine Mercy, site of the Lord's Mercy icon created by the visionary Polish nun Saint Faustina. Continue on to Kalvaria Zebrzydowska, site of the oldest and most unusual Stations of the Cross in Poland, consisting of 40 chapels built in the 17th century, planned to replicate the layout of Jerusalem. Continue on to Wadowice, where you will visit the birthplace of Pope John Paul II and also the Church of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary, where he was baptized. Return to Krakow for dinner and overnight.



Day 5 Krakow/Auschwitz

Guided tour of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp outside of Krakow. The death camp at Oswiecim (known as Konzentrationslager Auschwitz) was in fact a complex of camps, the largest Nazi death factory, where four million people, mostly Jews, perished. Auschwitz consisted of several units, including the largest one at Birkenau. Of the millions of people brought there in the period of 1940 - 1944, only 60 to 70 thousand utterly emaciated victims were alive at the time of liberation of the camp. The National Museum of Oswiecim is presently situated on the site of the former camp. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Krakow. Motorcoaches and Tour Managers are at the group's disposal for additional sightseeing, museum visits, shopping etc. *Participate/sing in an early evening Mass in Krakow.*



Day 6 Krakow/Czestochowa

A full-day sightseeing tour in Czestochowa, includes the entrance to the Monastery of Jasna Góra. There, a local monk will guide your visit to the Basilica of the Holy Cross and the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, which holds the Black Madonna, the monastery's most precious treasure. Also see the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin, Knight's Hall, Treasury, and Arsenal. *Conduct an afternoon/evening concert in Czestochowa.* Return to Krakow.



Day 7 Krakow/Wieliczka

Excursion to Wieliczka to see the underground world of the oldest salt mine in Europe. You will admire the gorgeous underground world of salt lakes, galleries and chapels created by many generations of Polish miners. We can see up to 20 excavated chambers on 3 levels, full of beautiful statues carved from salt. Also visit the Salt Works Museum. *Optional a cappella recital in the cathedral in the mine.* Return to Krakow for an evening Farewell Dinner.



Day 8 Depart for home

Transfer to Krakow's International Airport for return flight to USA. Arrive home in the evening of the same day.



Black Madonna

