

PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND

REV. MSGR. EDWARD LOFTON AND FR. ARTUR PRZYWARA

MAY 6 – 17, 2013

11-day journey to the most holy, most famous, and most beautiful places in Poland



REV. MSGR. EDWARD LOFTON & FR. ARTUR PRZYWARA

St. Theresa the Little Flower

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Day 1. May 6. - Monday - USA

Afternoon departure for Warsaw. Dinner and breakfast aboard.

Day 2. May 7. - Tuesday - Arrival in WARSAW (D.)

Upon arrival meeting with your tour guide and transfer to hotel. Welcome dinner and short walking tour of beautiful Old Town with colorful houses, art galleries, quaint restaurants, fashionable boutiques and antique shops. Overnight in Warsaw.

Day 3. May 8. - Wednesday - WARSAW (B.L)

City tour of Warsaw including the Royal Castle, Lazienki Palace and Park, site of former Warsaw Ghetto, **Holy Cross Church with urn of Chopin's heart.** Overnight in Warsaw.

Day 4. May 9. - Thursday - MALBORK - GDANSK (B.L)

After breakfast you leave for Gdansk, the pearl of the Baltic Sea. On the way we stop in Malbork to tour **the largest in Europe brick castle, built by the crusading Teutonic Knights in 1236.** This magnificent fortress covers area of 40 football fields, and has walls which at most points are 20 inches thick. An early evening arrival in Gdansk. Overnight in Gdansk.

Day 5. May 10. - Friday - GDANSK (B.L.)

Sightseeing of amazingly beautiful Gdansk – first mentioned as a Polish city in 997 or 999, granted municipal autonomy in 1260. You visit a stunning Town Hall, Artus Court, Neptune's Fountain and **St. Mary's Basilica, the largest brick church in the world** and two famous avenues; Dlugi Targ and Mariacka, lined with cozy boutiques, jewelry and art shops. We'll stop by **newly unveiled a statue of former President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II,** Overnight in Gdansk.

Day 6. May 11. - Saturday - GDANSK-TORUN - WLOCLAWEK - LODZ (B.L.)

Today we visit Torun, one of the most beautiful cities in Poland, founded in the mid-13th century by the Teutonic Order, **the birthplace N. Copernicus,** great Polish astronomer. Our next stop is Wloclawek, where we visit the second most famous in Poland artistically decorated faience factory. We'll also visit a **breathhtaking Wloclawek Cathedral with the greatest - late Renaissance chapel of the Virgin Mary with the stained glass of about 1360 - the oldest in the catholic church in Poland.**

Overnight in Lodz, the capitol of Polish textile, home of more than 400 textile companies and 60 privately own palaces until the WWII.

Day 7. May 12. - Sunday - LODZ - CZESTOCHOWA - KRAKOW (B.L)

Short tour of Lodz includes the second-largest ghetto established for Jews in Poland. Home of one of the largest in the world Jewish Cemetery with mausoleums of the most successful Jewish industrialists in Poland. We continue to Czestochowa, to tour Jasna Gora, (Bright Mountain Monastery) the most famous shrine to the Virgin Mary and the holiest place in Poland housing the Black Madonna icon to which miraculous powers are attributed. We continue to Krakow passing through picturesque Ojcow National Park, ranked as one of Europe's most beautiful nature reserves with lime rocks of fantastic shapes. Overnight in Krakow

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Day 8. May 13. - Monday - KRAKOW - WIELICZKA (B.L.)

Sightseeing of magical Krakow: Wawel Castle including the Chapels with crypts of most Polish kings, their family members and national heroes. Afternoon trip to 900 years old (the oldest in Europe) Wieliczka salt mines full of unique underground labyrinthine passages, giant caverns, underground lakes and chapels with sculptures in the crystalline salt. Overnight in Krakow.

Day 9. May 14. - Tuesday - KRAKOW - LAGIEWNIKI - ZAKOPANE (B.D.)

Short drive to Lagiewniki, home of the **Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, housing the relics of St. Faustina, the first saint declared in the 21st century in April 2000 The Divine Mercy devotion is now followed by over 100 million Catholics.** We continue to Zakopane, a premier mountain resort, famous for its unique folklore and charming architecture. Cable car ride to Gubalowka Mountain to admire spectacular view of Zakopane and Tatra mountains followed by walking tour of Krupowki Ave. Dinner with folkloristic entertainment. Overnight in Zakopane

Day 10. May 15. - Wednesday - ZAKOPANE - OSWIECIM - WADOWICE - KRAKOW (B.L.)

Today we tour the former Nazi German concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau where about 3 million people lost their lives during World War II murdered by Nazis. From here we travel to Wadowice, birthplace of Pope John Paul II. You will visit the house he was born in and St. Mary's basilica where he was baptized. Overnight in Krakow

Day 11. May 16. - Thursday - KRAKOW - WARSAW (B.D.)

Walking tour of: Medieval Market Square, Old Town, Cloth Hall, St. Mary's Church the largest in Krakow with the magnificent stained-glass windows, constructed in the late XIV century and the famous Veit Stwosch's extraordinary altar-piece. Both are masterpieces in their own right. Departure for Warsaw. In the evening very elegant farewell dinner.

Day 12. May 17. - Friday - WARSAW (B.)

After breakfast transfer to F. Chopin International Airport in Warsaw.



\$3,699.-P/P

(accommodation in double room)

Included:

RT flight from South Carolina to Warsaw

Deluxe air-conditioned minibus coach transportation

First Class hotel accommodation with private bath or shower

Service of English speaking chaperone and local tour guides

Comprehensive sightseeing program with entry tickets

Elegant meals (11 breakfasts - 7 lunches - 3 dinners)

Single room accommodation: additional \$490.-

Optional holy mass in: Warsaw, Gdansk, Czestochowa, Krakow