

THE FORMATION OF POLAND

WARSAW (3) – CRACOW (3)

Forever sandwiched between powerful neighbours, Poland has defended its freedom and sovereignty on innumerable occasions over the centuries, only to be overrun and subjugated to occupation by foreign powers time and time again. It went in the 18th century from being the biggest state in Europe to completely disappearing off the world map. Yet it is testament to the astounding resilience of the Polish people that Poland has not only bounced back from every crushing blow but has also had the energy to hold strong to its own culture and spirit. We invite you on an unforgettable journey to the country of Fryderyk Chopin, Adam Mickiewicz, John Paul II and many other remarkable Poles who have played an important role in the formation of Polish national identity.

DAY 01: ARRIVAL IN WARSAW

Arrival in Warsaw. Transfer for a 3-night stay in an executive room at the **Hotel Bristol – Luxury Collection*******, check-in. Champagne and strawberries upon arrival.

20:00 **Dinner at Restaurant Polska Rozana**, Polish haute cuisine in a romantic villa with antique furnishings and liberal sprinklings of flowers.

DAY 02: WARSAW

09:00–13:00 The morning sightseeing tour includes a visit to the **Old Town** and the **Royal Castle**, where you will visit the King's Apartments with all the splendours of the castle, St. John's Cathedral, the Old Town Market Square and the Barbican. You will also visit the **Mickiewicz Museum of Literature**, commemorating Adam Mickiewicz, the greatest Polish poet. Afterwards you will travel along the **Royal Route** to the **Royal Lazienki Park** and the **Palace on the Water**. During the visit to the park you are invited for a short **private ride in a gondola** on Lazienki Lake, next to the famous Palace on the Water.

13:00 **Lunch at Restaurant Belvedere**, traditional Polish cuisine in a delightful and classy restaurant located in the New Orangery of the Royal Lazienki Park.

14:30–17:00 You will now continue to the **Wilanow Palace**, the royal summer residence of King Jan III

Sobieski and his beloved Marie Casimire. The highlights of the palace are the 2-storey Grand Entrance Hall, the Grand Dining Room and the Gallery of Polish Portraits. Before you go back to the hotel you will visit **Wedel's Chocolate Lounge** to drink chocolate and taste an original sweet dessert.

DAY 03: WARSAW

09:00–15:00 Today you will follow in the steps of Fryderyk Chopin, the most distinguished Polish composer as well as a leading pianist and representative of the music of the Romantic period. The excursion will take you to the tranquillity of **Zelazowa Wola** to visit the house where the famous composer was born in 1810 and to the nearby **Brochow Church**, where he was baptized.

19:00 The evening is reserved for a visit to a performance at the **Grand Theatre**.

21:30 **Dinner at Restaurant Nowa La Boheme**, exquisite international and Polish cuisine in a stylish restaurant located within the building of the Grand Theatre.

DAY 04: WARSAW– CZESTOCHOWA–CRACOW

09:00 Through the flat low-laying plain of central Poland you travel southbound to Czestochowa,





the country's spiritual heart, to visit the **Pauline Monastery of Jasna Gora with the Black Madonna**.

15:00 After a lunch break you will continue to Cracow.

17:00 Arrival and check-in for a 3-night stay in a deluxe room at the **Hotel Sheraton Cracow*******. Champagne and strawberries upon arrival.

20:00 **Dinner at Restaurant Amadeus**, classic Polish cuisine taken to new heights in the sumptuous surroundings of a restored 17th century building in the historical centre.

DAY 05: CRACOW

09:00–12:00 The morning sightseeing tour takes you to the **Old Town** with the Old Town Market Square, the **Cloth Hall** dating back to the 14th century, **St. Mary's Church** with its medieval altar made by Wit Stwosz and the Jagiellonian University.

13:00 **Lunch at Restaurant Hawelka**, top quality Polish cuisine in an elegant setting on the first floor of the historic Spiski Palace.

13:30–17:00 During the visit to **Wawel Royal Castle** you will see the state rooms and guest apartments on the second floor and their collections of priceless tapestries, paintings and furniture; the Eagle Room, a formal room where during sessions of the Sejm at Wawel monarchs held a royal law court, the Senator's Hall, designated for sessions of the Senate and important state and court ceremonies and the Envoy's Room. Once inside the **Wawel Cathedral** you are lost in a maze of sarcophagi, tombstones and altarpieces. You will see the beautiful Zygmund Chapel, the Leonard's Crypt, a remnant of the 12th century Romanesque cathedral, the Royal Crypt with the kings and national heroes of Poland and the Poets' Crypt where Adam Mickiewicz is buried.

DAY 06: CRACOW

09:00–13:00 Today you will embark on an unusual escapade to the **Wieliczka Salt Mine**. You will visit a

3.5-kilometre section of the salt mine located between 64 and 135 metres below ground level before you return to Cracow.

15:00–18:00 You will visit the **Czartoryski Museum**, a real jewel among museums.

20:00 **A private ride in a horse-drawn carriage to dinner at Restaurant Wierzynek**, an exclusive restaurant on the Old Market Square, famous for its long tradition of excellence in Polish and international cuisine.

DAY 07: DEPARTURE FROM CRACOW

A farewell Polish souvenir to take away with you for your great memories of Poland. Transfer to the airport, departure.

Including: 3 overnights in an executive room in Warsaw, 3 overnights in a deluxe room in Cracow, 6 x sumptuous buffet breakfast, 2 x exquisite 3-course lunches, 4 x 4-course haute cuisine dinners, all transfers, sightseeing tours and excursions with private car and guide, entrance to the Royal Castle in Warsaw, Adam Mickiewicz Museum, Royal Lazienki Park and Palace on the Water, Wilanow Palace, Zelazowa Wola, Brochow Church, Jasna Gora Monastery, Cloth Hall, St. Mary's Church, Wawel Royal Castle, Wawel Cathedral, Wieliczka Salt Mine, Czartoryski Museum, private Gondola ride, visit to Wedel's Chocolate Lounge, tickets to the Grand Theater in Warsaw, horse-drawn transfer to dinner at Restaurant Wierzynek, portage at hotels.

