

Poland

4th – 30th June 2024



Discover magical places in Poland

From its majestic mountain ranges and stunning rivers to Warsaw's urban pulse and Gdansk's stately maritime heritage, not forgetting its delicious food and tasty beer, often overlooked Poland really does have something for everyone. Our tour begins in the university city of Poznań where a collage of architectural styles, cobblestones and colourful burgher houses awaits you. From here we travel to Wroclaw, now part of Poland it's a city shaped by a chequered history of previous Bohemia, Hungary, Austrian, Prussian and German occupation. Next to Krakow to discover Poland's second largest city. Traditionally the home of the Polish monarchy, many were crowned and laid to rest in its magnificent Wawel Cathedral. Today Krakow is a thriving city waiting to be discovered. From Krakow we have an excursion to the extraordinary Wieliczka Salt Mines, designated a UNESCO World Heritage site with miles of tunnels richly decorated in salt sculptures and ornamented walls. Also, not far from Krakow is a reminder of Poland's difficult past when we visit the moving Memorial and Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau

On to Poland's capital Warsaw, a phoenix-like city that has seen many wars throughout its long history and was reduced to rubble during World War Two. Today Warsaw has been painstakingly rebuilt into a vibrant city where aristocratic mansions sit alongside graceful Art Nouveau buildings, Soviet socialist realism and contemporary glass skyscrapers. For the final part of our tour we travel to the medieval city of Torun, birthplace and home of astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus, and the cultural melting pot port city of Gdansk for a visit to the extraordinary Elblag to Ostroda Canal.

Having completed the tour, you will understand why Poland really does have something for everyone

Susanna & Ted Brooking – Poland 2022

'Would we have gone to Poland without GB Motorhome Tours? - probable not, but so glad we came. Fabulous, this was almost a "half board" tour with so many meals included and looked after so well by Ron & Sue, Brilliant.'

Pauline & Gerry Gibson – Poland 2022

'Our first time on a guided tour and we have loved every moment of it. Thank you, Ron & Sue, for putting together a brilliant itinerary and always being there if and when needed.'

Caroline & Ally Noble – Poland 2022

'Ron & Sue were again exceptional tour leaders making sure at every point that things were right for everyone. We were given the opportunity to visit a country with an amazing history, fully explained to us by excellent guides. We would recommend this tour to anyone interested in European History and we return home with a completely different view on Poland, and have enjoyed the journey immensely.'

This tour can be followed by the Baltic States tour that starts in Poland 3 days and 200 miles from the finish of this tour, to extend your holiday by a further 23 nights.

26 Nights

Day One – Tuesday 4th June

We meet at a campsite in Berlin Germany. This evening we will have an informal Drinks Reception, an opportunity for everyone to get together for the first time.

Day Two – Wednesday 5th June

We arrive in Poland today at a site in Poznań where we will stay for the next three nights. This evening there will be a group dinner in the campsite restaurant. **200 miles**

Day Three – Thursday 6th June

Today we will have a guided walking tour. The university city of Poznań is one of the oldest in Poland and occupies a strategic position on the Warta River in west-central Poland. During the 13th century it was the capital city and is now an important centre of trade and industry. Crowded with churches, cobblestones and colourful burgher houses, Poznań's Old Town is a collage of architectural styles which we will see during the tour. Lunch included in the city.

Day Four – Friday 7th June

Free Day, an opportunity to walk around Lake Malta, one of the oldest man-made rowing venues in Europe and dates back to 1952 and has held a number of Rowing World Cup events

Day Five – Saturday 8th June

We drive to our next campsite near the Olympic Stadium, Wroclaw for a three night stay. **125 miles**

Day Six – Sunday 9th June

Wroclaw has been fought over for many centuries. In the 19th century it became part of the German Empire and its name was Germanized to Breslau. In the 1930s it became one of the strongest support bases for the Nazis who won control of the city by a massive majority in the elections of 1932. It became part of Poland at the end of World War Two and reverted to its original name of Wroclaw. Today it is a unique European city of mixed heritage and was the 2016 European City of Culture. Today we will have a guided walking tour with lunch included.

Day Seven – Monday 10th June

Free Day – Take the tram to the city from outside the campsite.

Day Eight – Tuesday 11th June

A drive today to our campsite near Krakow, we will stay for six nights. **185 miles**



Day Nine – Wednesday 12th June

There has been a human settlement on the site of what is now Krakow since at least 200,000 BC and by 965 it was regarded as the bustling trade centre of Slavonic Europe. For centuries, it was the traditional home of the Polish monarchy, many of whom were crowned and buried in the magnificent Wawel Cathedral. Today it is Poland's second city and vies with Warsaw for cultural supremacy. We will have a city tour and lunch.

Day Ten – Thursday 13th June

There will be an excursion to the Memorial and Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The memorial and museum occupy two parts of the network of concentration and extermination camps built and operated by the Third Reich in Polish areas annexed by Nazi Germany during World War Two – this can be a moving experience.

Day Eleven – Friday 14th June

Free day today. For those who would like to return to Krakow for more sightseeing/shopping there is a bus stop just outside the campsite.

Day Twelve – Saturday 15th June

A full days excursion for our visit to Zakopane at the base of the Tatra Mountains in the south of Poland. The town is also known for its turn-of-the-20th-century wooden chalets.

Day Thirteen – Sunday 16th June

An excursion to the remarkable Wieliczka Salt Mines. The mines have been worked for 900 years, producing 200 kilometres of passageways and 2,040 caverns, many with underground lakes and chapels. However, it is perhaps, the sculptures and ornamentation carved into the crystalline salt that make the mines so unique and have won its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The tour route is 2.5 kilometres long and there are 400 steps in all but there is a lift to carry visitors back to the surface. Lunch included



Day Fourteen – Monday 17th June

Today we drive to the nation's capital, our campsite is on the outskirts of Warsaw. **200 miles**

Day Fifteen – Tuesday 18th June

We visit the city, located astride the River Vistula, Warsaw is a phoenix-like city having survived so many wars through its history. During World War Two it was reduced to rubble, but the Old Town has been painstakingly reconstructed to such an extent that it is hard to believe it is only fifty years old. Known as the 'City of Palaces' its many aristocratic mansions now sit alongside subtle Art Nouveau buildings, and contemporary glass skyscrapers. Lunch is in a city restaurant.

Day Sixteen – Wednesday 19th June

Today we visit the Birthplace of the famous Polish composer Fryderyk Chopin and the Park in Zelazowa Wola.

Day Seventeen – Thursday 20th June

Free Day to return to Warsaw.

Day Eighteen – Friday 21st June

We leave Warsaw today and drive to Torun in the north of Poland. **140 miles**

Day Nineteen – Saturday 22nd June

Torun is one of the oldest cities in Poland and is regarded as particularly special because it avoided destruction during World War Two. Its origins date back to the 3rd century when the Teutonic Order of Knights built a castle here. The city has preserved the original medieval street pattern and many outstanding buildings remain from the 14th and 15th Century, including the house of the astronomer, Nicolaus Copernicus, who was born in Torun. We will have a guided tour today with lunch included.

Day Twenty – Sunday 23rd June

A free day. In the evening, we will have a group dinner in the campsite restaurant

Day Twenty-One – Monday 24th June

We move on to our next campsite in Malbork. **90 miles**

Day Twenty-Two – Tuesday 25th June

We will take a trip to Malbork Castle, one of the mightiest fortresses of medieval Europe. Building began in the 13th century and was expanded considerably when Malbork became the capital of the Teutonic Order of Knights. The red brick walls of the Middle and High Castles are surrounded by defensive walls interspersed with towers and gates. The Castle's enormous size can best be appreciated from the banks of the Nogat River. The Museum inside offers many attractions including several displays of ancient armaments, amber, porcelain and handicrafts. Lunch included within Castle Grounds.



Day Twenty-Three – Wednesday 26th June

Today we will visit the extraordinary Elblag to Ostroda Canal, named as one of the 'Seven Wonders of Poland' and a protected Historic Monument. The canal was built in the 19th century to carry trading barges

from Lake Druzno to Lake Jeziorak, a distance of 80.5 kilometres. The water level changes by 100 metres in between, too steep for conventional locks to cope with. The problem was overcome by an ingenious system of slipways bordered by parallel rail tracks upon which the specially built boats were carried over the dry land on trolleys. Lunch included in an Elblag restaurant

Day Twenty-Four – Thursday 27th June

Moving on to our last destination of the tour, to the south of the ship-building city of Gdansk. We shall stay here for three nights. **40 miles**

Day Twenty-Five – Friday 28th June

On the Baltic coast, the one thousand-year old city of Gdansk, or Danzig in its Germanized form, was, and remains, Poland's principal seaport. Located close to the medieval boundary between Slavic and German held lands the city was a melting pot of both cultures and diverse ethnic groups. It is the influence of this blend of cultures and people that gives Gdansk its unique feel.

It was here on the 1st September 1939 at 4.30 in the morning that the first shot of World War Two was fired. The Nazi German battleship 'Schleswig-Holstein', ostensibly on a goodwill visit, sailed up the Vistula and fired at point blank range on the Westerplatte Garrison buildings. It was here too that the Trade Union movement, Solidarity, was formed, an act that triggered the eventual collapse of the Soviet Empire. We will have a guided tour of this fascinating city with lunch included.

Day Twenty-Six – Saturday 29th June

A free day. This evening we will have our Farewell Dinner.

Day Twenty-Seven – Sunday 30th June

Our tour ends this morning. Note the Tour Directors will not be returning to the UK at this time as they are proceeding on to the Baltic States tour.

PRICE

TOUR DEPOSIT £500

Motorhome with 2 people = £2299.00 per person

Motorhome with 1 person = £3199.00

INCLUDED IN PRICE

- 26 Campsite nights with hook-ups
- All transport required for Excursions/Events as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees as described in the itinerary
- Tour information pack with suggested routes & GPS Coordinates
- Services of Tour Directors travelling in their own motorhome
- Michelin National Poland Map
- DK Poland Guidebook

Excursions, Events & Meals

- Drinks reception
- Group Dinner in Poznan campsite restaurant
- Walking tour of Poznan, including Lunch
- Excursion to Wroclaw, including Lunch
- Entry to Panorama Raclawicka
- City Tour of Krakow, including Lunch
- Excursion to Auschwitz-Birkenau
- Excursion to Zakopane, including Lunch
- Excursion to Wieliczka Salt Mines, including Lunch
- City visit to Warsaw, including Lunch
- Excursion to Chopin's Birthplace, including Lunch

- Walking tour of Torun, including Lunch
- Visit to Malbork Castle, including Lunch
- Excursion to the Elblag & Ostroda Canal, including Lunch
- Excursion to the Old City of Gdansk, including Lunch
- Farewell Dinner, with Drinks



This tour starts in Berlin Germany, but if you would like to travel out from the UK at the same time as the Tour Directors, please book the optional tour package so that everything can be arranged on your behalf, including the flexible cross channel ferry with club lounge.

OPTIONAL EXTRA PACKAGE

- Return Dover/Calais Ferry with Flexible Ticket + Club Class Lounge
- Five additional campsite nights starting in Kent on Thursday 30th May followed by Belgium, Holland & Germany x 2
- Dinner at the campsite in Holland
- Tour information pack with suggested routes & GPS Coordinates
- Services of Tour Directors travelling in their own motorhome

OPTIONAL PACKAGE PRICE

Motorhome with 2 people @ £419 per person

Motorhome with 1 person @ £679