

CHOPIN'S POLAND

Warsaw, Krakow – 10 days

Departure: April 02, 2018

Return: April 11, 2018

As requested by several H.A.T. Tours family members to hear operas and concerts in Poland, we are returning to Warsaw, birthplace of the legendary Polish composer Frederik Chopin, and Krakow. We will also visit Lodz, birthplace of the renowned pianist Arthur Rubinstein.



Our hotels are two centrally located deluxe, Bristol in Warsaw and Radisson Blu in Krakow. Near Krakow, we will visit the amazing 700 years old Wieliczka Salt

Mine, still working.

Opera Performances

In Warsaw:

Concert

April 04 - Mazurkas by Chopin at Ostrogoki Castle

Opera

April 05 – **Turando** by Puccini at National Opera

April 10 – To be announced

In Krakow:

April 07 – To be announced



Monday, April 02. (D)* HOME – WARSAW

Depart this evening on any airline of your choice to Warsaw, Poland, arriving the next morning. Dinner and light breakfast served on the plane.

Tuesday, April 03. (B,D). WARSAW

Upon arrival at the Warsaw International Airport, take a taxi to the deluxe, centrally located HOTEL BRISTOL, where we stay three nights. We will reimburse the taxi fare. Briefing and Gala Welcome Dinner at the hotel.

WARSAW: The beginnings of the city go back to the turn of the 13th century when the Dukes of Mazovia built wooden buildings that were gradually replaced by the Royal Castle. In 1569 Warsaw became the site of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Two Nations, Poland and Lithuania. The city was severely damaged in the mid-17th century during the Swedish invasion. During the glorious reign of the last King of Poland, Stanislas Augustus from 1764 to 1772, Warsaw once again reached to glory. After that year, Russia, Prussia and Austria partitioned the country. Poland regained independence in 1918, only to be partitioned again by Germany and Russia in 1939, which started the Second World War. At the end of November 1944, the Nazis blew up 85% of the city. It took 43 years after the war ended to completely restore the exteriors and interiors of the Old Town.

Wednesday, April 04. (B). WARSAW

Panoramic sightseeing this morning will include the Monument of the Warsaw uprising, the Ghetto Memorial, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Chopin Monument and the St. Cross Church where Chopin's heart brought from Paris is placed. This evening, listen to the world-famous works of Mazurkas by Chopin at Ostrogoki Castle.

Thursday, April 05. (B). WARSAW

Today we visit the Royal Castle lovingly restored to its original condition after it was totally destroyed by the Nazis in 1944, the St. John's Cathedral and walk through the Old Town. Afternoon free. This evening we will see the opera **Turando** by Puccini at the National Opera.

Friday, April 06. (B,L). KRAKOW

This morning we drive south from Warsaw to Krakow. Lunch en route. Arrive in Krakow where we stay three nights at the centrally located RADISSON BLU HOTEL. This evening or the next you will see an opera at the Slowacki Theater.



KRAKOW: The one-time capital of Poland, going back to 1040, with its medieval town-planning arrangement, and priceless monuments of the past, was included on the list of the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage in 1978. Among its 30 museums is the National Gallery where one can see Leonardo da Vinci's beautiful painting of "Lady with the Ermine," and Rembrandt's "Landscape with a Merciful Samaritan." The Main Market Square, 200 yds. by 200 yds., is one of the greatest of this type in Europe. The Wawel Hill on the Vistula River constituted a suitable point for defense. Through the centuries, the Royal Castle and the Cathedral Church were erected here, along with many social and administrative buildings.

Saturday, April 07. (B,D). KRAKOW

This morning we visit the Wawel Castle and the Wawel Cathedral where Poland's Kings were once crowned. Afternoon free to stroll in the Market Square considered to be one of the largest town squares in Europe, with surroundings that have remained unchanged for almost 700 years. Enjoy a private Klezmer music concert while having dinner at one of the charming Kazimierz restaurants.

Sunday, April 08. (B). WIELICZKA – KRAKOW

This afternoon we drive to visit the Wieliczka Salt Mine, still in production after more than 700 years. You will see the amazing sculptures, chapels and galleries hewn out of rock salt, more than a mile-deep underground. This evening you will see an opera or hear a concert at the Slowacki Theater.

Monday, April 9. (B,L). LODZ – WARSAW

Today we drive north to visit Lodz, the city of three cultures – Polish, Jewish and German, to see the birthplace of the world-famous pianist of Jewish origin, Arthur Rubenstein. Lunch en route. Afternoon arrival in Warsaw, where we stay two more nights at the deluxe HOTEL BRISTOL.

Tuesday, April 10. (B,D). ZELAZOWA WOLA – LOWICZ – WARSAW

Today we first drive to Zelazowa Wola, the birthplace of Chopin, to see his home, now a museum set in a beautiful park. Then we drive to Lowicz, where the "Polish Schubert" Stanislaw Moniuszko was born. You will enjoy a private recital of Moniuszko's solo songs while in a wooden cottage at the Lowicz' Castle ruins.

Drive back to Warsaw. Gala Farewell Dinner at the elegant dining room of the Bristol Hotel



Wednesday, April 11. (B). WARSAW – BACK HOME

We transfer you to the airport for your flight back home arriving the same afternoon. See you on another European Opera Tour.

* B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner (including wine)



LAND COST

DOUBLE: \$5,390 PER PERSON

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1,150

TOUR INCLUDES

- 1st Category orchestra level seats in theatres
 - Centrally located deluxe hotels
 - Buffet breakfast daily, 3 dinners with wine in gourmet restaurants and one lunch
 - Welcome reception with cocktails
 - Private sightseeing in each city
 - Experienced English speaking guides
 - Entrance fees to museums
 - Intercity luxury coach services
 - Transportation to and from theatres
 - Guide, driver and bellboys gratuities
 - Complete package with details of operas listed
 - Transfers from and to airports on published arrival and departure days only
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