

An invitation to visit the New Poland from THE POLISH CHAPTER OF THE EXPLORERS CLUB



THE MYSTIQUE OF POLAND

11 days: August 24 - September 03, 2001



You will see and explore:

WARSAW – Poland's capital with its castle & old town; **The GDANSK shipyard** – the birthplace of **SOLIDARNOSC**, **TORU** – the birthplace of **Nicolaus Copernicus**; **CZESTOCHOWA** – famous **Black Madonna Shrine**, **Auschwitz** – Nazis concentration camp from the WW II; **WADOWICE** - the home town of pope John Paul II, **ZAKOPANE** – winter capital of Poland with Tatra Mountains National Park; **Wieliczka Salt Mine** - the world's biggest underground chapel and **CRACOW** – historical and cultural capital of Poland with its castles, churches, old town and second oldest University in Europe *and much much more...*

OUTLINE ITINERARY

This voyage is exclusively prepared for members of the Explorers Club

Day 0. Aug.23. Thursday: DEPART JFK/NYC

Meet at the JFK Int'l Airport Terminal 8, at LOT Polish Airlines counter 2 hours before departure. Yurek Majcherczyk honorary member of the Polish Chapter of our Club will assist you at check in. Flight departs at 6:40pm non-stop to Warsaw. Dinner & breakfast served on board Boeing 767 plane.

Day 1. Aug. 24. Friday: ARRIVE WARSAW

Arrive at *Frederic Chopin* Int'l Airport in Warsaw at 9:35am. You will be welcomed by Monika Rogozinska and Maciej Kuczynski who will assist you on your private bus transfer to the Deluxe Class Hotel, located in the city center. In the afternoon, depart for a walk in the Old Town. Welcome dinner at Cafe Castle with the Poland Minister of Tourism. (D)



Day 2. Aug. 25. Saturday: CITY TOUR OF WARSAW

This morning you will get acquainted with Poland's capital, rebuilt after total destruction in WW II, visiting: Wilanow Palace -the baroque summer residence of King Jan III Sobieski, Ghetto Memorial, Royal Route, _azienki Park with Frederic Chopin monument and Palace on the Water. Lunch at the restaurant in _azienki with members of the Polish Chapter. Continuation of the sightseeing tour of Warsaw. Evening concert of Chopin music. Overnight at your hotel in Warsaw. (B, L)

Day 3. Aug. 26. Sunday: DRIVE: WARSAW – MALBORK - GDANSK

After breakfast depart for Tricity (Gda_sk, Gdynia, Sopot) via Malbork where a tour of a fascinating structure – the Malbork Castle, a 15th c. powerful stronghold of the Teutonic Knights, one of the best examples of medieval fortification in Europe. Dinner and overnight accommodations in a first class hotel in Gda_sk. (B, L, D)

Day 4. Aug. 27. Monday: VIST GDANSK & TORUN - CZESTOCHOWA

The sightseeing tour of the maritime center of Poland: historical port town of Gda_sk, home of **Solidarity**, then Sopot health resort with the longest boardwalk in Europe. In the Gothic Cathedral in Oliwa you can listen to a concert on a magnificent baroque pipe organ. Noon time depart for Toru_. Lunch on the route. Walking tour of Toru_ - the birthplace of Nicolaus Copernicus. Dinner and overnight in Czestochowa. (B,L,D)



Letter from Maciej Kuczynski Chairman of The Polish Chapter

*Dear Explorers Club members,
Polish Chapter of the Explorers Club heartily invites all of you with your families to take part in the group visit to Poland – a country with 1000 years of history of a nation who brought an end to the communist empire You will cross Poland from north to south, from the Baltic Sea, through the land of thousand lakes to the Tatra rocky mountains, the highest part of the Karpatian Range. During the 11 days lasting sightseeing of Poland's treasures of nature and culture, friendly accompanied by Monika Rogozinska Chapter's secretary and myself, you will follow a route of historical spots from medieval to contemporary times visiting several monuments from the UNESCO's World Heritage List like a powerful medieval Malbork Castle of Teutonic Knights, Torun, the birth-place of Nicolaus Copernicus, the old town of Kraków with its 1000 years old cathedral, place of coronation and burial of kings, one of the 7 holy chakrams of the Planet, 800 years old salt mine Wieliczka and others. There will be time for religious contemplation at the world famous Christian sanctuary in Chestochowa and for the deep reflection at the place of nazi's extermination camp in Auschwitz. There will be adventure too: an mountain excursion to the real jewel of nature: a miniature rocky Tatra Mountains with its beautiful lakes, then rafting on log rafts with up Landers on the Dunajec River making its way through picturesque rocky hills. There will be opportunities to meet members of the Polish Chapter in their hometowns and to exchange stories on explorations and travels. You will travel in a luxury bus, rest in a first and deluxe class hotels and taste excellent food with regional specialties of the polish kitchen in a folk style inns.*

Welcome in Poland!

POLAND'S Monuments on the UNESCO's World Heritage List which we will visit:

- * Historic Center of Warsaw
- * The Medieval Town of Toru_ *
- * Auschwitz Concentration Camp
- * Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork
- * Krakow's Historic Center * Wieliczka Salt Mine *

Day 5. Aug. 28. Tuesday: DRIVE: CZESTOCHOWA - CRACOW

Visit Cz_stochowa, the pilgrimage center of Poland. The Pauline Fathers will introduce you to the Jasna Góra Monastery, its history, treasures and the miraculous icon of the *Black Madonna*. Continue to Krakow via scenic route of Ogrodzieniec with ruins of medieval castles, where you will enjoy lunch watching the medieval knight's tournaments. Dinner and overnight in first class hotel in Cracow.
(B, L, D)

Day 6. Aug. 29. Wednesday: CITY TOUR OF KRAKOW

This day you will see the most important sites of this charming city. Not destroyed during the war, Kraków is a treasure house of architecture and art since 10th century. Today's tour includes the Old Town surrounded by defense walls with Barbican; Market Square dominated by St.Mary's Church with the famous 15th c. linden wood altar, then the Cloth Hall, housing a multitude of souvenir shops. Special tour of Jagiellonian University, one of the oldest in Europe, includes a visit to its unique museum. Visit to Wawel Hill - tour of the Royal Castle and Coronation Cathedral, burial place of kings and famous Poles. In the royal chambers you can discover the priceless collection of Flemish tapestries. After lunch visit to Kazimierz, the Jewish Quarter with synagogues. Dinner in typical Jewish restaurant. (B, L, D)



TRIP RATE (per person in DBL. Room).

Land Costs: - \$1,795.00

Sgl supplement - **\$540.00**

Air Tickets on LOT - **\$ 850** in Economy Class

Air Tickets on LOT - **\$1850** in Business Class

Price included:

- * accommodation in First and Deluxe Class hotels *
- * English speaking private guides and private deluxe bus
 - * * most meals including all breakfasts (American or Buffet) * * entrances to all museums and churches as in Itinerary. *
 - * portage in /out at the hotels *

Not included:

U.S. Departure tax - \$65.00. Tips & gratuities;
Services not provided in the Itinerary.

**Day 7. Aug. 30. Thursday: DRIVE:
KRAKOW-AUSCHWITZ – WADOWICE - ZAKOPANE**

Depart for Zakopane via O_wi_cim to visit the former Auschwitz nazi concentration camp and now a martyrdom museum. Next stop in Wadowice – the birthplace of Pope John Paul II, continue to Zakopane via up Landers' old wooden village Chocho_ów. Short city tour of Zakopane, Poland's „winter capital”. Dinner and overnight in your hotel in Zakopane. (B, D)

**Day 8. Aug. 31. Friday: EXPLORING THE
TATRA MOUNTAINS**

The whole day excursion to the mountain Morskie Oko Lake. Part of your excursion is by horse-drawn carriage and part hiking on mountain path. After lunch in mountain shelter, back to your hotel. Dinner with mountaineer's folklore presentation. (B, L, D)

**Day 9. Sep. 01. Saturday: RAFTING DUNAJEC
RIVER**

& BACK TO KRAKOW

After breakfast transfer to the river's shore and rafting down the Dunajec Whitewater River with up Lander's log-rafts. The route leads through the rocky Pieniny National Park with its white lime-stone peaks. Lunch at the Nidzica Castle. On the way to Krakow stop in D_bno to visit the 15th c. Church, one of the oldest exam-ples of wooden Gothic

architecture. Dinner at one of the best local restaurant. Overnight at your hotel in Cracow. (B, L, D)

**Day 10. Sep. 02. Sunday: VISIT WIELCZKA &
KRAKOW**

In the morning visiting 800-year-old Wieliczka Salt Mine, the oldest salt mine in Europe. Walk through the underground salt stone world - splendid St.Kinga's chapel with salt sculptures and relief's, corridors housing the origi-nal constructions and post excavation chambers as well as the subterranean salt lakes. Return to Krakow. Evening farewell diner in the famous *Wierzynek* restaurant with the Mayor and the members of the Polish Chapter of our Club residences of Cracow. (B, L, D)

Day 11. Sep. 03. Monday: FLIGHT: KRAKOW – JFK

Morning free for your city exploration or shopping. At noon, transfer to *John Paul II Int'l Airport* in Krakow. Depart at 2:40pm. Lunch and dinner will be served on board of the plane, Boeing 767. Arrive JFK/NYC Airport at 8:05pm. (B)

Note: **B**– Breakfast; **L** - Lunch; **D**-Dinner;

*****END OF YOUR TRIP *****

Also enjoy: * **RAFTING DOWN The DUNAJEC RIVER** *
**EXHIBITIONS OF REGIONAL FOLK ART,
DANCING & MUSIC IN WARSAW, KRAKOW & ZAKOPANE**

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Reservations.

A deposit of \$300 per person (issued to **The Explorers Club**) and completed Trip Application is required to confirm reservation. Reservation is taken on a first come - first serve basis and has to be made before June 25, 2001. Full payment is due 45 days before to departure date. Please mail your application and payment to:

The Explorers Club

46 East 70th Str.

New York, NY 10021

Tel: 212-628-8383, ext 26- Marisa C.

Cancellations.

Cancellation must be in writing to us and must be signed by the person who made the original reservation. Cancellation between 60 and 45 days of departure date will be subject to 20% of total trip costs charges. Cancellation between 45 and 15 days of departure date will subject to 50% of total trip cost. Cancellation between 14 and 3 days of departure date will subject to 75% of total trip cost. Cancellation less then 3 days will be subject to NO REFUND of any payment

Insurance:

Insurance is not included in the tour price. We strongly recommend that you purchase one on your own.