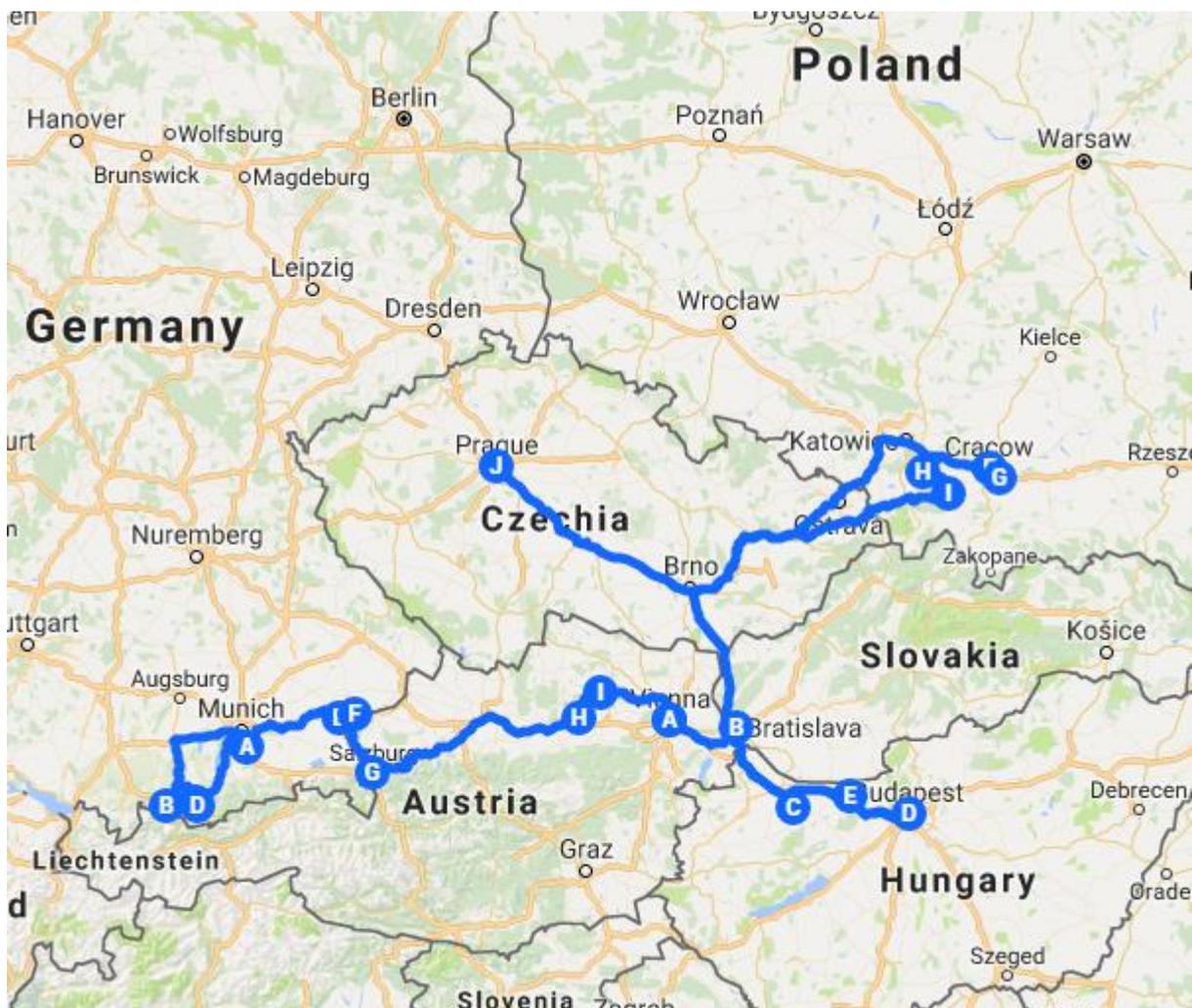


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Great Sanctuaries of Central and Eastern Europe *12 days*

A pilgrimage that during 12 days will take you to many places related to the two popes: starting in the Alps' footsteps in Bavaria (Germany) – Benedict XVI homeland, visiting also Munich and Bavarian sanctuaries then continues through fairytale Alpine landscapes to millenary monasteries like Melk in Austria upon the vine covered banks of Danube River or Pannonhalma in Hungary, continuing to “the distant land” of Poland, visiting Karol Wojtyła’s hometown Wadowice, his former diocese city Krakow with the Divine Mercy Sanctuary and Black Madonna Sanctuary of Czestochowa. It also includes 4 capital cities of these countries: Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest and Warsaw.



Day 1.

xx.yy

Munich

Arrival to Munich (Germany). Meeting the Ernesto Travel tour leader. Transfer to the city centre. /40km/

Visit city of Munich. It is one of the best places to visit in Germany with a great culture scene. The capital of the Bavarian region, seen by many as a World Capital of Beer, at least during the famous *Oktoberfest*. You will stroll through the Munich Old Town, admiring the Marienplatz, the Town Hall and the tall towers of Frauenkirche Church – Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary, city's landmark, hiding an intriguing curiosity – *Teufelstritt*, the Devil's footprint.

20.00

Welcome dinner in a traditional Bavarian restaurant, with local dishes.

Overnight in Munich.

Day 2.

Munich – Neuschwanstein – Oberammergau – Ettal – Munich

7.30

Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

8.00

Departure to Neuschwanstein. /130km/

10.30

Arrival and visit to the impressive Neuschwanstein Castle. Neuschwanstein is seen as a symbol of Southern Germany, the most romantic of all the romantic castles. Its history is related to the eccentric person of a duke, exceptional location on a top of a high rock, its mysterious silhouette overlooks the surrounding lands and mountains.

13.00

Lunch in nearby Füssen.

14.30

Departure to Oberammergau. /50km/

15.30

Arrival to Oberammergau, short visit. This village is world renowned for its Passion Plays, performed every 10 years since the 17th century, engaging many (if not all) inhabitants – around 2.000 persons in one play. Between the two Plays there is also much to see – the houses of Oberammergau are beautifully painted with scenes from The Holy Bible and other the religious motives.

16.30

Transfer to Ettal. /5km/

16.45

Visit to the Ettal Abbey. It's an interesting fact, that in a village with less than 800 inhabitants stands such a grand benedictine abbey. It was founded back in 1330, as a simple and small convent. However, a reconstruction after a fire in 1744 turned it into what can be admired today – an impressive baroque construction. The abbey has been a pilgrimage spot for many generations of the Bavarians for centuries, being one of the most important sanctuary of the Alps.

18.00

Return to Munich. /85km/.

19.30

Arrival to Munich. Dinner. Overnight in Munich.

Day 3.

Munich – Altötting – Marktl – Salzburg

7.30

Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Check out.

8.00

Departure for Altötting. /96km/

9.30

Arrival to Altötting. Visit to the Sanctuary of Altötting. Benedict XVI called it *the heart of Germany*

Munich



Neuschwanstein Castle



Oberammergau



Ettal



Altötting



and one of the hearts of Europe, it's one of the Europe's oldest Marian sanctuaries. Every year more than 1 million of pilgrims come here to visit the Black Madonna in the Chapel of Grace. The first baptistery was built here 1300 years ago, in the end of the 7th century, the cult of Virgin Mary has always been present here since that time. The place was visited by Joseph Ratzinger / Benedict XVI many times – well, it's only 16km from his birthplace, Marktl.

Altötting



- 11.00 Transfer to Marktl. /16km/
- 11.30 Arrival to Marktl, visit to the museum of Josef Ratzinger – pope Benedict XVI.
- 13.00 Lunch in Marktl.
- 14.30 Departure for Salzburg. /70km/
- 15.30 Arrival to Salzburg. Visit of the city. Not forgetting about its picturesque location, Salzburg is firstly known as the city of Mozart. We will visit the old town as well as the Saint Peter Abbey, established in 696, probably the oldest convent in the northern part of Alps.
- 18.00 Check in. Dinner. Overnight in Salzburg.

Marktl



Day 4. Salzburg – Melk – Krems – Vienna

- 7.30 Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Check out.
- 8.00 Departure for Melk, passing through the region of *Salzkammergut* – a lake district, classified World Heritage by UNESCO in 1997. /215km/
- 11.30 Arrival to Melk. Visit of Melk: the Melk Abbey is a magnificent baroque monastery, the biggest benedictine convent in all Europe. Its terrace offers a great view over the Danube River and its vine covered banks. Transfer to the ferry port.
- 13.50 → Cruise down the Danube River through the romantic landscapes of the wine region Wachau with a lunch on board.
- 15.35 Arrival to Krems. Free time.
- 16.30 Continue to Vienna. /80km/
- 18.00 Arrival in Vienna. Check in. Free time. Dinner. Overnight in Vienna.

Salzburg



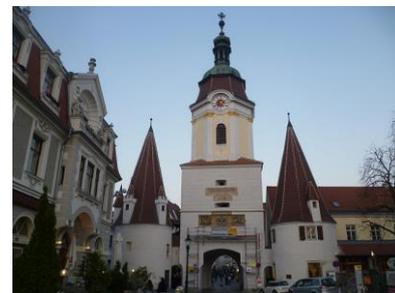
Day 5. Vienna

- 8.00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.
- 9.00 Visit of Vienna. The Austrian capital city remembers the times of its glory, of a capital of a great Habsburg Empire which used to unite many nations and cultures of Central and Eastern Europe. We will roam the *Ringstrasse* which circles the Old Town, with its interesting spots, such as the Vienna State Opera, Museums of Fine Arts and Natural History in the Museum Quarter, the Houses of Parliament, the Town Hall and the Imperial Palace Hofburg. Later we will continue on foot, visiting the St Stephen Cathedral, Hofburg Palace, Belvedere Palace Gardens.
- 13.00 Lunch.

Melk



Krems



Vienna



14.30 Transfer and visit to the Schönbrunn Palace. The kings of France had the Versailles, the Austrian Emperors had their Schönbrunn. A palace which through its dimensions reflects the power of the old empire. Built on the fringes of the city, on a hill, occupies a vast area. Nowadays it's a trace of the old times and also a place for an afternoon rest time for many Viennese. It is also an obligatory spot for tourists who come here for the fine views of Vienna. Return to the centre.

19.30 Dinner. Overnight in Vienna.

Day 6. Vienna – Bratislava – Pannonhalma – Budapest

8.00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Check out.

8.30 Departure for Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. /85km/
10.00 Arrival. A walk through the streets of Slovak capital. Between the two greater powers – Austria and Hungary, Bratislava (Pressburg, Pozsony along the centuries) was one of the most significant cities in the Austro-Hungarian empire. However, after the World War II, it was left in the Soviet sphere of influence which might be seen in today's city architecture. We'll stroll around the Old Town – a mixture of the old monuments and the communist era buildings plus the recent years modern constructions.

13.00 Lunch.

14.30 Continue to Pannonhalma. /95km/

16.00 Visit to the Pannonhalma monastery: since its foundation some ten centuries ago, the abbey occupied a special role in the history of Hungary. It has been a pilgrimage destination for ages, visited by many remarkable pilgrims like the first king of Hungary – Saint Stephen, Saint John Paul II or Dalai Lama. It was founded in 996 where according to the legend, St Martin – the bishop of Tours was born. In 2011, the Basilica's cript became a place of eternal rest of Otto von Habsburg's heart, fulfilling his wish.

18.00 Departure for Budapest. /130km/

20.30 Arrival to Budapest. Dinner. Check in. Overnight in Budapest.

Day 7. Budapest

8.00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

9.00 City sightseeing. The Hungarian capital is a city of many influences: Hungarian, German, Turkish, Slovak. Today we'll know the main attractions as well as the the tasteful and spicy cuisine of the Attila's country. We'll see the exceptional Houses of Parliament buildings, the best view from the *Citadella* on the top of the Gellért Hill along with other places. We'll go past the Chain Bridge and the Isabel Bridge to pass from Buda to Pest – earlier two independent cities. We won't forget to include the famous Váci Utca, known for its shops and stalls. At the end of the street you'll find the vibrant Central

Vienna



Bratislava



Pannonhalma

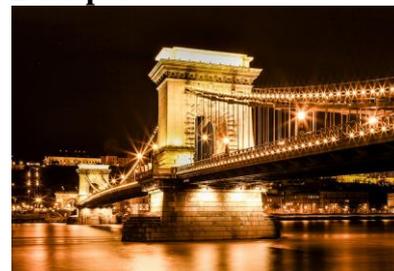


Budapest



Market Hall – *Nagycsarnok*, with countless opportunities to spend some money on tacky souvenirs. Not forgetting about the religious side of the trip, we will visit Matthias Church and impressive St Stephen Basilica – the biggest church in Budapest.

Budapest



13.30

Lunch.

15.00

Continue of the visit.

17.00

Free time.

19.30

Dinner with traditional Hungarian dishes (semi-Oriental cuisine). Overnight in Budapest.

Day 8.

Budapest – Esztergom – Krakow

8.00

Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Check out.

8.30

Departure for Esztergom. /50km/

9.30

Visit to the Esztergom Basilica – the biggest church in Hungary, the See of the primate of the Catholic Church in Hungary.

11.00

Continue to Cracow, passing across Slovakia /360km/.

Lunch in a restaurant on the way to Poland.

18.30

Arrival to Krakow. Check in. Free time. Dinner. Overnight in Krakow.



Esztergom



Day 9.

Krakow – Lagiewniki – Wieliczka – Krakow

8.00

Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

8.30

Visit of Krakow. The old capital of the Polish Kingdom, one of the Europe's biggest empires in the Middle Ages: we will walk up the Wawel Hill to see the Royal Castle and the Cathedral – the place of coronation and last resting of many Polish kings. Also here, in the Roman Crypt of Saint Leonard, Fr. Karol Wojtyla celebrated his first holy mass on the 2nd November 1946.

We will continue to the Old Town with its lively Main Market Square *Rynek* – the biggest medieval market square in Europe, embellished by many monuments, including the Cloth Hall *Sukiennice* and the Saint Mary Church with its fine wooden altar carved by the medieval master, Wit Stwosz. We will continue to places related with Fr. Wojtyla, Franciscan Church with a bench where he used to pray and the nearby *Papal Window* where he used to talk with the youth who gathered below, during his pilgrimages to Poland. Krakow Old Town was declared the World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1978.

13.30

Lunch in the centre of Krakow.

15.00

Transfer to the Divine Mercy Sanctuary in Lagiewniki, located on the Krakow outskirts. /9km/

15.30

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

A visit to the Divine Mercy Sanctuary with the famous painting *Jesus, I trust in you*. Place related with the life of St Faustina who founded and strengthened the cult of the Divine Mercy in the World. Lagiewniki is also a place of her last resting. During his visit in 2002, John Paul II called Lagiewniki the centre of the Divine Mercy. He died on the Divine Mercy Sunday's Eve –

Krakow



Lagiewniki



an annual celebration which he introduced.

17.30

Departure for Wieliczka. /13km/

18.00

Wieliczka is one the most beautiful places listed by UNESCO in Poland. You'll see a hidden underground world, a true labyrinth of over 300 kilometers of tunnels drilled in rock salt. Chapels, lakes, chambers and even an underground church – hidden deep beneath the surface. The place has a long tourism tradition – the remarkable visitors list is long and includes, naming just these three: Goethe, Copernicus, John Paul II.

21.00

Dinner. Return to hotel. Overnight in Krakow.

Day 10.

Krakow – Oswiecim/Auschwitz – Wadowice – Krakow

8.00

Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

8.30

Transfer to the museum of the former camp in Auschwitz. /50km/

10.00

Guided tour at the former concentration camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau. The camp was built by Nazis during the Nazi occupation of Poland. More than a million people from different nationalities were killed in this place, the majority of Jewish origin. Today this place is listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

13.00

Lunch in Oswiecim.

14.30

Transfer to Wadowice, Karol Wojtyla's homeland. /35km/

15.30

Visit to the parish church where Karol was baptized on 20th November 1920.

16.00

Visit to the house-museum of John Paul II. Here, in a small town of Wadowice, surrounded by the gentle hills of Beskidy, Karol Wojtyla was born. The museum tells the story of his life.

17.30

Return to Krakow. /50km/

18.30

Free time. Dinner. Overnight in Krakow.

Day 11.

Krakow – Prague

7.00

Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out from the hotel.

9.00

Free time in Krakow.

11.00

Departure for Prague.

13.30

Lunch on the route.

evening

Arrival in Prague. Check-in at the hotel Expo ****.

Dinner at the hotel. Overnight stay in Prague.

Day 12.

Prague (the capital of Czech Republic)

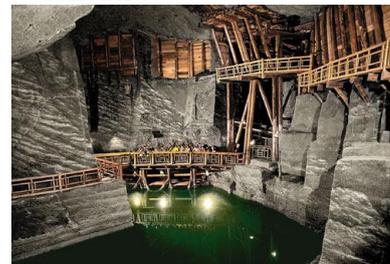
8.00

Breakfast at the hotel.

9.00

The first part of the tour around Prague. The religious side of Prague: the church of the House of Nazareth – Prague's Loreto, a visit at the castle and of St. Vitus' Cathedral along with the funeral chapel of St. Venceslao, the patron of Czech Republic. The cathedral is also the eternal resting place of St. John Nepomucen. Visiting St. George's Basilica, the Church of Our Lady of Victory with the famous statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague. Holy Mass in the cathedral or in the church of the Infant Jesus.

Wieliczka



Auschwitz-Birkenau



Wadowice



Czestochowa



Prague



Vienna



- 13.30 Lunch at a brewery.
15.00 Second part of the tour: Bohemian Prague: walking along Paris street to Jozefov, the former Jewish Quarter. Charles' Bridge, walking along the Royal Route: Celetna Street, Na Prikope Street. The Market Square with the Municipal House.
18.00 Leisure time in the city centre.
20.00 Dinner at the hotel. The last night in Prague.

Day 13.

Prague

- 7.00 Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out from the hotel.
9.00 Transfer to the airport, departure from Prague.

Ernesto Travel Services:

- Hotels as mentioned in the programme, on the BB basis (buffet breakfasts included), double & twin rooms.
- Meals: full board, starting with the dinner on the first day and ending with lunch on the last day. Every lunch/ dinner includes: 1st meal, main dish, dessert. Bread and water included.
- Tour leader in English during the whole duration of the trip.
- Admissions and local guides in English:
 - Munich – local guide, 3 hours, no entrances;
 - Neuschwanstein – local guide, entrance included;
 - Oberammergau – free admission;
 - Ettal – local guide, free admission;
 - Altötting – local guide, free admission;
 - Marktl – local guide, admission included;
 - Salzburg – local guide, 3 hours, no entrances;
 - Melk – local guide, admission included;
 - Cruise on the Danube River between Melk and Krems with a lunch on board;
 - Vienna – local guide, full day, free entrances;
 - Schönbrunn in Vienna – visit with audioguides;
 - Bratislava – local guide, free entrances;
 - Pannonhalma – local guide, admission included;
 - Budapest – local guide, full day, admissions included in: the Houses of Parliament, Matthias Church, St Stephen Basilica;
 - Esztergom – free admission, with the local guide;
 - Krakow – local guide, full day, admissions included to the Royal Cathedral, Saint Virgin Mary Church;
 - Salt Mines in Wieliczka – local guide, admission included;
 - Łagiewniki Sanctuary – free admission, local guide;
 - Auschwitz & Auschwitz-Birkenau – free admission, local guide included, obligatory earphones included;
 - Wadowice – admissions and local guide included;
 - Czestochowa – local guide, earphones, admission included;
 - Prague – local guide, no entrances.
- Transport service for the whole programme, with AC. Drivers' expenses, tolls and parking fees included.

Not included:

1. Coffee, tea, soft drinks nor alcoholic drinks during the lunches and dinners (except water).
2. Meals not stated in the programme.
3. Personal expanses, tips, baggage portorage fees.
4. Air tickets.
5. Medical and travel insurance.
6. Other services not stated in the “Ernesto Travel Services”.