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## Easter in Krakow

### *Easter in Krakow*

*Easter in Krakow. The programme includes the following places: Krakow, Kazimierz – the former Jewish district in Krakow, Wieliczka – the Salt Mine, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Czestochowa, Wadowice – the hometown of Pope John Paul II, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska.*

#### **Holy Wed. Arrival in Krakow**

x Arrival in Krakow by plane or coach. Meeting with the tour leader from Ernesto Travel and transfer by coach to the hotel in Krakow. Check-in at the hotel. Dinner at the hotel or at a restaurant in the centre of Krakow (depending on the arrival time). [It's possible to begin the programme in Warsaw, Katowice or another city according to the flight schedule]. Overnight stay in Krakow.

#### **Holy Thu. Krakow – the heart of Poland, Kazimierz – Jewish district and Wieliczka – the Salt Mine**

8.00 Breakfast at the hotel.

9.00 Guided tour of Krakow. The Wawel Hill with the castle (optional sightseeing inside), its beautiful courtyard and the Cathedral (sightseeing inside). Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture of the Old Town (Stare Miasto), the biggest market square in Europe (Rynek Główny), the Town Hall, Collegium Maius – an ancient building belonging to the Jagiellonian University, the Cloth Hall (Sukiennice), Saint Mary's Church (Kosciol Mariacki – sightseeing inside) with the famous altar by Veit Stoss. A walk to the antique walls of the Old Town through Florianska Gate and to the Barbican. The Czartoryski Museum with Leonardo Da Vinci's famous painting called "*Lady with an Ermine*". During the sightseeing, there will be a multimedia presentation about the history of amber, called "*Polish Gold*". In 1978, Krakow was put on the World Heritage List by UNESCO.

13.30 Lunch at a restaurant in Krakow.

15.00 Visiting the former Jewish district – Kazimierz. This part of Krakow was the centre of the Jewish community's religious and social life until the deportations during the Nazi occupation (sightseeing inside 1 or 2 synagogues). A short stop in front of Schindler's Factory on the way to the Salt Mine in Wieliczka.

17.00 Transfer to Wieliczka (10 km from Krakow).

17.30 Guided tour in Wieliczka Salt Mine – one of the oldest salt mines in the world. Many famous people have visited the place, such as Mikolaj Kopernik, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Dmitrij Mendeleev, Boleslaw Prus, Ignacy Paderewski, Karol Wojtyla, etc. In 1978 year, Wieliczka Salt Mine was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

20.00 Dinner at a traditional Polish restaurant in Wieliczka combined with a folk music

concert. Return to the hotel and the night is spent in Krakow.

- Good Fri. Krakow – Oswiecim (Auschwitz-Birkenau) – Czestochowa – Krakow**
- 7.30 Breakfast at the hotel.
- 8.00 Departure for the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum.
- 10.00 Guided tour of the area of the former concentration camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau. The camp was built by Nazis during the Nazi occupation of Poland. Today this place is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- 13.00 Lunch at a restaurant.
- 14.00 Departure for Czestochowa.
- 16.00 Guided tour of the most important pilgrimage place in Poland – the monastery in Czestochowa: Jasna Gora with the miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary – *the Black Madonna*.
- 18.00 Departure for Krakow.
- 21.00 Arrival in Krakow and dinner at the hotel.
- Easter Sat. Krakow – Kalwaria Zebrzydowska – Wadowice – Lagiewniki – Krakow**
- 8.00 Breakfast at the hotel.
- 8.30 Departure for Kalwaria Zebrzydowska and sightseeing at the Bernardine Monastery complex in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, one of the most famous sanctuaries in Poland. The entire Mannerist complex (including the sanctuary and the park) is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- 11.00 Transfer to Wadowice,
- 11.30 Sightseeing in the town where John Paul II was born in 1920. Visiting the Pope's home and the church where he was baptised.
- 13.00 Lunch at the restaurant in Wadowice.
- 15.00 '*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy*'. Visiting the Monastery in Lagiewniki, the site of the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, where Saint Faustina Kowalska lived and died. This Monastery was proclaimed '*The center of Divine Mercy*' by Pope John Paul II during his stay in Poland in 2002. On Divine Mercy Sunday (a week after Easter), thousands of people come there to participate in masses and pray in the antique church where Saint Faustina Kowalska (founder of the cult of Divine Mercy) was buried. Leisure time.
- 18.00 Passion concert in one of the churches in Krakow.
- 20.00 Dinner at a restaurant in Krakow. Night spent in Krakow.
- Easter Sun. Krakow**
- 9.00 Polish traditional Easter breakfast and participation in the Liturgy of the Resurrection of Christ. Leisure time.
- 20.00 Dinner at the hotel or at a restaurant. Overnight stay in Krakow.
- Easter Mon. Departure from Poland.**
- x Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out from the hotel in Krakow.
- y Transfer to the airport. Departure from Poland.