

Address: Grodzka 54
31-044 Kraków, Polska
tel./fax: +48 12 633 65 56
tel.mob: +48 502 53 54 58
e-mail: ernesto@ernesto-travel.pl
www: www.ernesto-travel.pl
skype: ernesto-travel



AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU STUDY TOUR

To keep it in our memories

Auschwitz was established by Germans in 1940, in Oswiecim, a Polish city that was annexed to the Third Reich by the Nazis. Its name was changed into Auschwitz. Nowadays it is known all over the world as a symbol of terror, genocide, and the Holocaust. The direct reason for the establishment of the camp was the fact that mass arrests of Poles were increasing beyond the capacity of existing local prisons. In 1942, it became the largest death camp in Europe.

1st day **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.

2nd day **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. Wawel Hill with the castle (optional sightseeing inside) and its beautiful courtyard and 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 the famous Leonardo Da Vinci painting "Lady with an Ermine". During the sightseeing: multimedia presentation about the story of amber called "Polish Gold". In 1978, Krakow was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

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 in 1 or 2 synagogues). 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 the Wieliczka Salt Mine – one of the oldest salt mines in the world. Many famous people have visited this place, such as Mikolaj Kopernik, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Dmitrij Mendeleev, Boleslaw Prus, Ignacy Paderewski, Karol Wojtyła, etc. In 1978, the 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.

3rd day Krakow – Oswiecim (Auschwitz – Birkenau) – 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 World Heritage Site of The UNESCO.

13.00 Lunch at a restaurant in Oswiecim.

14.00 Continuation of the visit at the former concentration camp.

16.00 Departure to Krakow. Free time.

20.00 Dinner with typical Polish food at the hotel or at a restaurant with a Jewish music (*Klezmer*) concert in Krakow.

4th day Departure from Krakow and from Poland.

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

y Transfer to the airport.