



Panorama of Poland Tour 2018 - Trains, Trolleys & Tradition

September 10 - 24, 2018

Hosted by Jack Samuels and Dave Motak

MON - SEPT 10 - Transatlantic overnight flight to Warsaw.

TUES - SEPT 11 WARSAW (D) Arrive Warsaw - Welcome Dinner at one of Warsaw's top restaurants.

WED - SEPT 12 WARSAW (B, D) Sightseeing of Poland's capital, lovingly restored from near total destruction in WWII. Tour includes the Old Town, the Royal Castle and optional visits to the high-tech Chopin Museum and the new, highly acclaimed POLIN Museum showcasing 1,000 years of Jewish culture in Poland and named European Museum of the Year in 2016.

THURS - SEPT 13 WARSAW (B, D) Morning visit to Wilanów Palace, home of King Jan III Sobieski built in 1681. Free time for lunch, shopping or visiting other sites such as the award-winning Warsaw Uprising Museum dedicated to the heroic defenders of Warsaw. Special activities will also be available today for group members who are Transportation Buffs.

FRI - SEPT 14 - LIDZBARK WARMIŃSKI (B, L, D)

While our bus transports our luggage, we travel today to Malbork aboard Poland's new Pendolino High Speed Train. Lunch and tour of Malbork Castle, built by the Teutonic Knights in 1280 as the largest Medieval fortification in Europe. Afterward, we travel by bus to Giertzwałd to enjoy a lively folklore dinner at *Karczma Warmińska*. Continue to Lidzbark Warmiński and the beautiful Hotel Krasicki & Spa located in a historic castle complex built in 1380 and a former residence of famous astronomer Nicholas Copernicus.

SAT - SEPT 15 - LIDZBARK WARMIŃSKI (B, D) Group cruise on historic Elbląg Canal. Built in 1844 and one of Europe's technological marvels, the Canal traverses rivers, lakes and hills. Return to Hotel Krasicki for optional spa use or strolling the picturesque town. After dinner, we will be joined by an astronomer for a special Stargazing Evening from the Castle bastion where Copernicus once studied the night sky.

SUN - SEPT 16 - GDAŃSK (B, L) Today we visit Gdańsk, the Pearl of the Polish Baltic Coast. Afternoon sightseeing with Vintage Trolley Excursion and a visit to the highly acclaimed new WWII Museum. Enjoy dinner on your own in one of Old Town's many atmospheric restaurants.

MON - SEPT 17 - GDAŃSK (B, D) We continue our tour of the TriCity area of Gdańsk, Sopot and Gdynia. Concert on the Baroque Organ in Oliwa Cathedral, one of the largest in Europe with over 5,100

pipes and mechanical figures. Time for strolling and shopping for gifts and Baltic Amber before a group dinner in Gdańsk's beautiful Old Town.

TUES - SEPT 18 - WOLKOWO (B, D) Depart Gdańsk for Medieval Toruń birthplace of Nicholas Copernicus and renowned for centuries for its delicious Gingerbread tradition. City Tour, then time for lunch and shopping at gingerbread stores. Our next stop is Rogalin Palace with its beautiful gardens and impressive collection of paintings and sculpture from the Polish Romantic Period. Continue to Szczepowice Palace in Wolkowo for dinner and overnight.

WED - SEPT 19 - WOLKOWO (B, D) Today we offer you two options: *Transportation Buffs*: Depart early morning aboard steam locomotive from nearby Poznań to the Wolsztyn Steam Locomotive Museum, one of the top vintage train collections in the world. Tour the museum, ride the collection, have lunch and return in the late afternoon to Poznań.

Alternate Group: Late morning tour and shopping in Poznań Old Town, visit to Croissant Museum for hands-on lesson on making the Poznań specialty pastry, St. Martin's *Rogale*. The entire group meets in the evening for dinner in one of Poznań's leading restaurants. Return to Szczepowice Palace for overnight.

THUR - SEPT 20 - KRAKÓW (B, L, D) Morning departure for Sulejów for lunch in Podklasztorze located in a large, restored 12th century Cistercian Monastery complex. Continue to Poland's ancient capital, Kraków, untouched by WWII and Poland's most alluring city. After checking in to our hotel, we'll enjoy a group dinner in Old Town.

FRI - SEPT 21 - KRAKÓW (B, L) Walking tour includes the Old Town, St. Mary's Basilica with its massive main altar built by Medieval master Wit Stwosz, Wawel Cathedral, the Medieval buildings of the Jagiellonian University (1364) and an optional visit to the state-of-the-art Underground Kraków History Museum beneath the Market Square. Enjoy dinner on your own in one of Kraków's many great restaurants.

SAT - SEPT 22 - KRAKÓW (B, D) Free day for shopping and sightseeing or have lunch and people-watch on the impressive Rynek Main Market Square, one of the largest squares in Europe, or opt for a visit to the famous Wieliczka Salt Mine, a UNESCO Heritage site dating back to the early Middle Ages. Arrangements will also be made for Transportation Buffs to visit the Museum of Municipal Engineering and Vintage Tram Collection. Get ready for a very memorable group dinner at *Szara Gęś Restaurant*, one of Kraków's leading culinary experiences.

SUN - SEPT 23 - KRAKÓW (B, D) We depart this morning for the Małopolska Scenic Railway excursion through the beautiful countryside in the foothills of the Tatra Mountains. Our bus will then escort us to nearby Bacówka "Biały Jeleń" in Iwkowa Village, ancestral home of tour host Dave Motak. Here we will celebrate the conclusion of our tour with an old-fashioned "ognisko" cook-out featuring traditional regional foods and smoked meats made by Dave's family according to old family recipes. We will also enjoy folk entertainment by the local folk ensemble, *Iwkowanie*. Return by bus to Kraków for overnight.

MON - SEPT 24 (B) End of Tour and transfer from hotel to airport.