

# Sacred Poland & Divine Mercy

## St. John Paul II Footsteps Pilgrimage - 9 days



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Tel. 207 193 5459 (UK), 347 441 4107 (USA), Email: [info@dlitravel.com](mailto:info@dlitravel.com)





## DAY 0

Arrival at Warsaw Airport and transfer to the Hotel.

The rest part of the day is dedicated to your recuperation after the long travel.

You can order DINNER that night in the hotel.

## DAY 1

The whole day is dedicated to the Warsaw sightseeing. We will take a guided city tour along the famous Royal Way. We will see the Pilsudski Square and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Presidential Palace, St. Anna's Church. We will eventually reach Sigismund's Column, commemorating King Sigismund Vasa III, who moved Poland's capital from Krakow to Warsaw. Then we will see the Castle Square and stroll around the Old Town.

In the afternoon we will relax while visiting the Lazienki Park with its famous Palace on the Isle, which survived the World War II and the famous monument of Frederic Chopin.

## DINNER

Welcome dinner in a traditional Polish restaurant „Gościniec” known for the best traditional dumpling recipe, inherited from our grandmothers. We will have a chance to taste delicious world-famous Polish dumplings.





## DAY 2

After late breakfast we will visit the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, where, in July 1924, Helena Kowalska (later known as St. Faustina) came to the convent in Żytnia Street, entered the religious order and became "a gift from God for our times". We will meet with one of the Sisters to tell us more about their core spirituality that can be summarized in one word: MERCY.

In the afternoon we will visit the Warsaw Uprising Museum dedicated to the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. The Museum is a tribute of Warsaw's residents to those who fought and died for independent Poland and its free capital. This is a very important piece of Warsaw history and thus, it is worth a visit.

## DINNER

Another delicious Dinner in the heart of Warsaw.

In the evening, we will participate in the Chopin concert. "A Varsovian by birth, a Pole in his heart, a citizen of the world by virtue of his talent," is how Polish poet Cyprian Kamil Norwid described Frederic Chopin. The brilliant composer lived in Warsaw for over half of his life and his memory lives on in the places he lived and performed in.





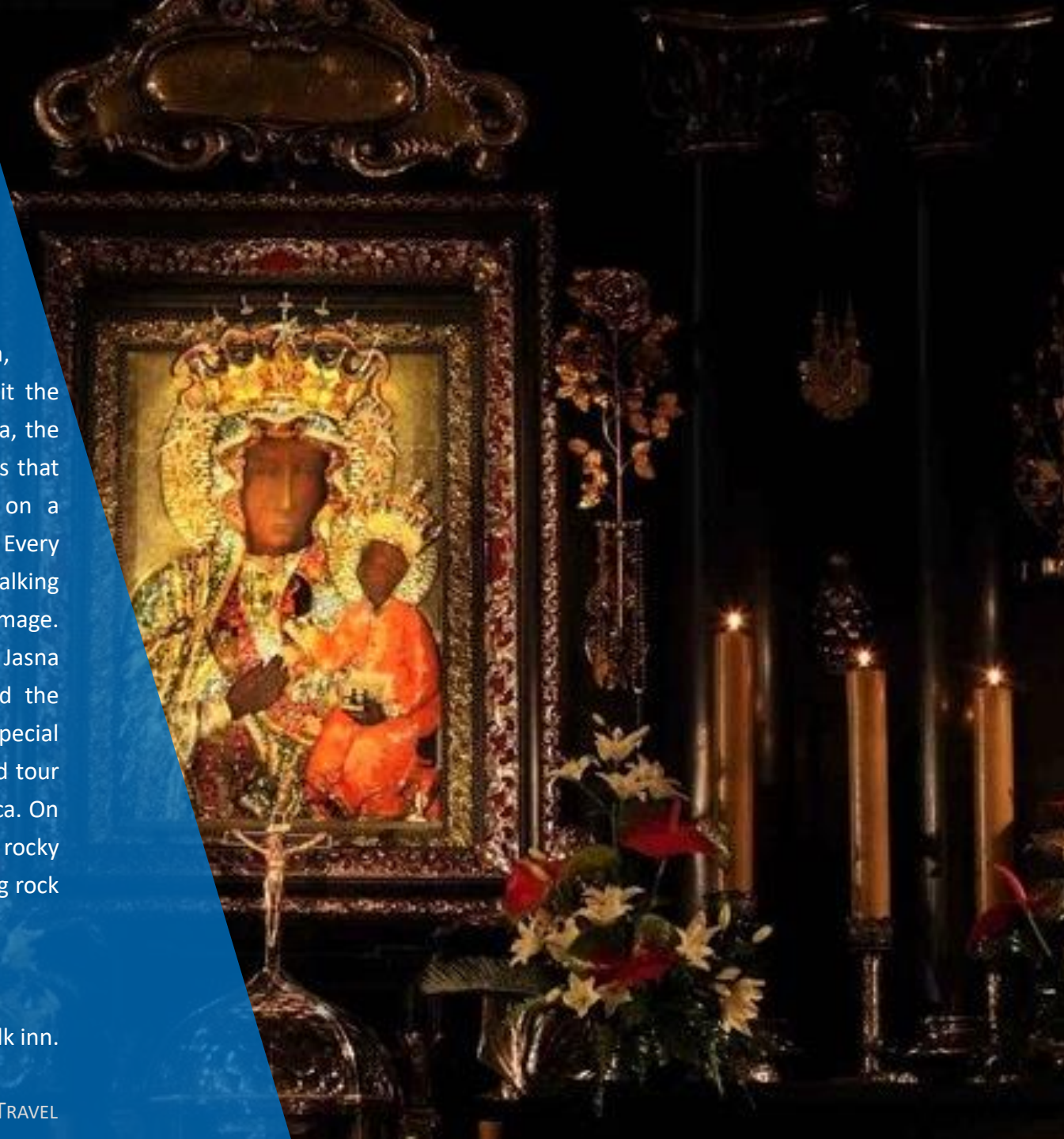
### DAY 3

This morning we will drive to the village of Niepokalanow proud to have been founded by St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, a martyr who offered his life in exchange of his co-prisoner's life in the concentration camp in Auschwitz.

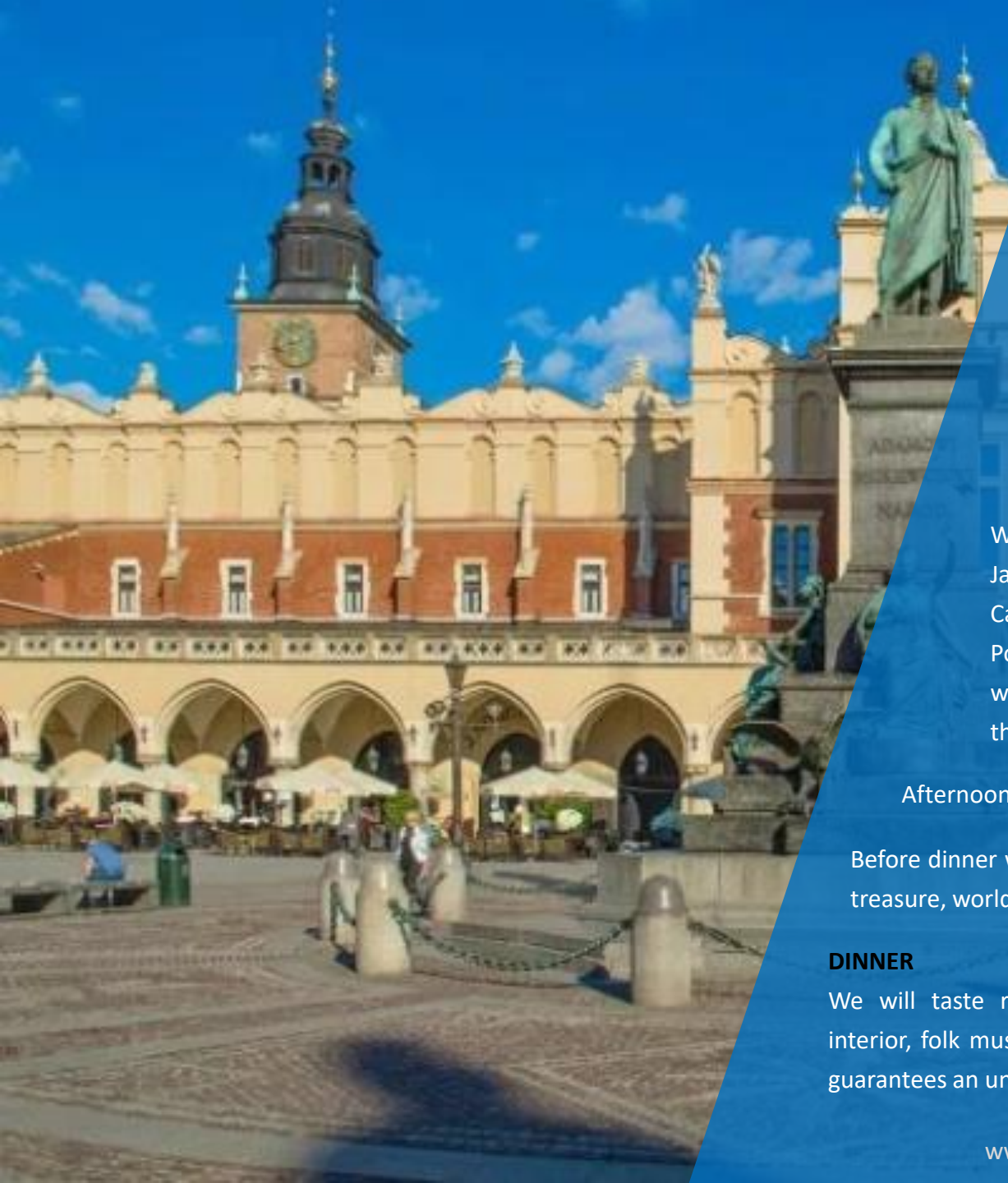
Then, we will continue our journey to Czestochowa, the biggest Marian Shrine of Poland. We will visit the magnificent 14th century Monastery of Jasna Gora, the home of the Black Madonna icon. The legend says that the icon was painted by Luke the Evangelist on a wooden plank from the table of the Holy Family. Every summer thousands of pilgrims make a walking pilgrimage to the footsteps of the miraculous image. Our Holy Father John Paul II has frequently visited Jasna Gora. Poles worship Black Madonna, Mother and the Queen of Poland asking her intercession during a special prayer, every night at 21:00. We will have a guided tour of the monastery and celebrate Mass at the Basilica. On the way to Krakow we will drive through the white rocky limestone trail adorned with castles and interesting rock formations.

### DINNER

A Unique Traditional Polish Dinner in a very nice folk inn.







#### **DAY 4**

After Breakfast we will visit the Old Town with the biggest medieval Market Square in Europe (Rynek), the Cloth Hall (Sukiennice) which is one of the city's most recognizable icons. We will follow the Royal Route, starting from St. Florian's Gate (Florińska). Then, we will reach St Mary's Basilica (Mariacki), which is one of the most stunning pieces of architecture in Krakow and hosts the largest gothic alter in the world.

We will visit Collegium Maius - the oldest building of the Jagiellonian University, which was established in 1364 by Casimir III the Great. This university is the oldest university in Poland and the second oldest in Central Europe. During the whole tour we will listen to numerous legends blended with the rich history of the city.

Afternoon break, to enjoy the medieval Old Town at your own peace.

Before dinner we will visit Baltic Amber Gallery to discover another Polish treasure, world- famous "Fossil Resin" formed over 45 million years ago.

#### **DINNER**

We will taste regional Polish cuisine enjoying a traditional wooden interior, folk music and traditional folklore outfits of waitresses. All that guarantees an unforgettable authentic Polish experience.









## DAY 5

In the morning we will visit the Divine Mercy Shrine. We will get to know St. Faustina's spirituality presented by a nun from the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. We will participate in the Holy Mass in one of the beautiful chapels under the Basilica, which was built between 1999–2002. Three Popes have visited the shrine and millions of pilgrims from around the world continue to visit it every year. At 3 o'clock we will take part in the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

We will have free time for private prayers and to venerate the world-famous image of Merciful Jesus and the relics of Sister Faustina.

Late afternoon we will leave for Wieliczka, the oldest Salt Mine in Europe (UNESCO). The mine excavated salt from the 13th century until 2007, as one of the world's oldest operating salt mines. It's a unique salt maze, where beautifully decorated chapels, crucifixes and halls are carved out of salt and connected by two kilometers of passages. In 1978 Wieliczka Salt Mine was added to UNESCO's 1st World List of Cultural and Natural Heritage. The chapel of St. Kinga is the biggest underground chapel in the world.

## DINNER

Dinner organized inside the Salt Mine... a truly unique experience!



## DAY 6

In the morning we will visit Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Museum (UNESCO). Auschwitz has become a symbol of terror, genocide, and the Holocaust. It was established by the Nazis in 1940, in the suburbs of the city of Oswiecim. The name of the city of Oswiecim was changed to Auschwitz, which became the name of the camp as well. Over the following years, the camp was expanded and consisted of three main parts: Auschwitz I, Auschwitz II-Birkenau, and Auschwitz III-Monowitz. In the years 1940-45 the Nazis killed there about 1.5 million people, mainly Jews. We will also listen to the story about Father Maximilian Maria Kolbe and see the cell where he was murdered by Nazis.

Later we will visit Wadowice, hometown of St. John Paul II. We will have a tour of the house where he was born and lived from 1920 until 1938. We will also visit the basilica where he was baptized and received the First Holy Communion.

**LUNCH** is the main meal of the day. It is organized in the Medieval Mansion from the first part of 19th century, famous for its elegant and stylish interiors.

On the way to Krakow, we will visit Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, a UNESCO site, known as the replica of Calvary. It's a beautiful baroque pilgrimage site dear to Pope John Paul II. This cultural landscape with a Bernardine monastery and 44 chapels relating to the Passion of Jesus Christ and the life of the Virgin Mary create a sanctuary of a great spiritual significance and a popular pilgrimage site.







## DAY 7

We will spend the whole day in Zakopane, a beautiful resort village nestled at the base of the Tatra Mountains. Originally a 17th Century forestry settlement, Zakopane is now a sprawling town and a popular departure point for winter sports and summertime mountain climbing and hiking.

We will take a funicular car to the Gubalowka hill and get mesmerizing mountain views.

On the way we will visit a UNESCO village, Chocholow, the region's only example of the well preserved traditional wooden architecture complex.

Then, we will go to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima in Krzeptowki which was built as a votive offering in gratitude for the sparing of the life of Pope John Paul II after his attempted assassination in 1981.

Traditional highlander's style local market, famous for wood craft, leather and other souvenir, will definitely be an attraction.

We will finish the mountain experience in the relaxing hot springs of a Thermal SPA.

### **DINNER**

Entering Krakow, we will make the last stop for an amazing dinner to appreciate the timeless taste of Polish cuisine in an intimate atmosphere created by an old-style countryside house decor.



## DAY 8

In the morning we will have a guided tour of the **Wawel Hill**. We will see the Renaissance-style Wawel Castle reconstructed between 1504 – 1535. Then, we will visit the **Wawel Cathedral** which is more than 900 years old. It is the Polish national sanctuary and traditionally has served as coronation and burial site of the Polish monarchs. We will see its spectacular chapels, medieval tombs and numerous sarcophagi. The Cathedral holds relics of 11th century martyr, St. Stanislaw (patron of Krakow) and St. Jadwiga (Queen of Poland).

St. John Paul II, as Karol Wojtyła, the day after his ordination to the priesthood offered his first Mass as a priest in the Crypt of the Cathedral on 2 November 1946 and was ordained Kraków's auxiliary bishop in the Cathedral in September 1958.

Later, we will visit Baltic Amber Gallery to discover another natural treasure of Poland.

Afternoon at leisure. Optional individual visit to the former Jewish district and Schidler's Factory Museum.

## DINNER

Spend an unforgettable evening in a splendid scenery, accompanied by traditional Polish music, and enjoy traditional Polish dishes and drinks.

## DAY 9

After Breakfast transfer to Krakow Airport.











Restaurant "Morskie Oko" in the Art Nouveau building, at Plac Szczepański, recreates every detail of the atmosphere of a Polish highland inn.

The restaurant has a special charm: candlelit tables, a pleasant smell of wood-smoke in the air, traditional highland singers in the background. This is a unique place where you can taste regional Polish cuisine.

The dishes are primarily meat based: lamb, veal, sirloin, ribs, pork knuckle, served with fragrant sauces prepared according to unique recipes. Other homemade specialties include dumplings and delicious cakes for dessert. The professional service and the traditional wooden interior will guarantee an unforgettable Polish highland experience.



We would like to invite you to the elegant, stylish interiors of the restaurant "Dworek Mikołaj". It's a classical building from the first part of the 19th century.

From the beginning "Dworek Mikołaj" has been famous for its delicious Polish delicacies. The restaurant is proud of its gastronomical experience and high standard of service. The restaurants special recipes are full of unique flavors. The cooks put their hearts in making the dishes taste perfectly.





Sometimes it is worth the while to descend into the depth of the undergrounds to feel the delicious taste, literally! The dishes served in the “Wieliczka” Salt Mine possess a genuinely rich taste.

The menu offers a wide variety of traditional Polish dishes, as well as authentic chef specialties, excellent desserts and appetizers. The salt mine also provides a full selection of wines and spirits from all over the world.

The meals are prepared on the spot in the underground kitchens using only fresh products of the highest quality.

It is worth to celebrate a meal in the underground chambers, nowhere else to be found. A unique dining experience is guaranteed.



Karczma is a type of a restaurant with a unique character of a traditional highlander’s style. Karczma’s traditional wooden decor resembles old country farmhouse. Traditional Polish food, old Polish folk music and waitresses dressed in traditional folk dresses make everything like unforgettable journey back in time.

Try it! You will not be disappointed!



**THE PRICE/ pp : 1 760 USD\***

**Single Supplement/ pp : 335 USD**

*Extra night (after arrival) is included*

**THE PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Tourism Coach (1st Class) for the tour
- Official Tour Escort for the whole tour
- 9 nights Accommodation in 3\* or 4\* hotels with Breakfasts in **Warsaw & Krakow**
- 8 amazing Dinners (first Dinner after arrival is at your own expense)
- Chopin Concert
- Folk night with the tast of Polish culture
- City tours with a local guide in Warsaw, Krakow,
- Entrance tickets with guided tours: Warsaw Uprising Museum, Wawel Cathedral, St. Mary's Basilica, Czestochowa Monastery (Black Madonna), Wadowice (Birthplace of John Paul II), Auschwitz Concentration Camp, Wieliczka Salt Mine, Thermal SPA)

**THE PRICE DOESN'T INCLUDE:**

- Flights
- Transport from the airport to the hotel on DAY 0 and from the hotel to the airport on the last day.
- Lunches
- Personal shopping
- Entrance tickets and monuments not listed as included entries
- Tips (approx. \$40)
- Mass Offerings

**\* The price/pp valid for a group of MIN. 7 paying clients**





**DLI TRAVEL**

UL. RUBINOWA 11, 32-010 LUBORZYCA, POLAND

Tel. (+48) 12 394 58 59 (PL)

(+44) 207 193 5459 (UK)

(+1) 347 441 4107 (USA)

Email: [info@dlitravel.com](mailto:info@dlitravel.com)

[www.DiscoverRealEurope.com](http://www.DiscoverRealEurope.com)