

An In Quest of the Classics' Special - Shrines of Poland.

A 6-day itinerary

Day 1: Upon arrival at Warsaw airport, guests are met and transferred to the selected hotel. Overnight in Warsaw. Half board accommodation (breakfast and dinner daily) will be provided throughout the pilgrimage.



Day 2: This morning visit the **Church of St Stanislaw Kostka** (a sanctuary situated in the district of Zoliborz in Warsaw) and the grave of **Fr Jerzy Popieluszkko**, murdered by agents of the communist secret police in 1984. This afternoon a panoramic sightseeing tour of the city. Dinner and overnight in Warsaw.

Day 3: This morning drive to **Niepokalanow**, where a visit to the Basilica of the Blessed Virgin and the Franciscan Monastery founded by Maximilian Kolbe. This afternoon drive to Czestochowa for dinner and overnight.

Day 4: A morning visit to the Basilica of **Jasna Gora** Monastery, one of the most important sites in the Christian world and often called the Religious Capital of Poland. Millions of pilgrims, including over 100,000 foreigners, come here every year to pray at the miraculous Black Madonna Shrine. Historians date the famous painting to the 14th century. But a legend says Saint Luke made it the Evangelist on a piece of wood from the table used by the Virgin Mary in Nazareth. Now the famous icon is part of the Baroque altar made of silver and ebony. The painting is covered with precious decoration, forming royal gowns for the Virgin Mary and her Child. Only a mysterious, dark face with two scars on the cheek can be seen.

Drive to Krakow for dinner and overnight.



Day 5: A morning visit to the **Lagiewniki Monastery**, the international shrine to the Divine Mercy, where St Faustina lived and where she is now buried. If time allows, a visit to **Wawel Cathedral** will be included. The Gothic Royal Cathedral contains reminders of the first Romanesque cathedral, dating back to the 11th century. Also (if time permits) we'll visit **St Mary's Church**. Dating back to the year 1221, it owes its present shape to the 14th century. However it contains Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque elements. The Witt Stwosz altar inside, made at the end of the 15th century, is one of the most precious Gothic altars

in Europe. Dinner and overnight in Krakow.



Day 6: Departure to Krakow airport for the flight back home.

An 8-day itinerary

Day 1 to Day 4: As the 6 day-itinerary.

Day 5: A morning drive to **Kalwaria Zebrzydowska**. The Sanctuary comprises a baroque basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, a Franciscan (OFM) monastery and a group of churches and chapels in baroque and mannerist style located on the area of 6 square kilometres and located in the picturesque setting of the Beskidy. The whole complex resembles holy places in Jerusalem with its topographic and architectural composition. Thus it is a specific copy of Jerusalem's Via Dolorosa, with its chapels to practice considerations on the Passion of Christ and Our Lady's Life



Mysteries. Continue to **Wadowice** - former home of Pope John Paul II. Lunch in Wadowice before visiting the former concentration camp of **Auschwitz**. It is a grim reminder of Nazi terror and the holocaust. Auschwitz - now the Museum of Martyrdom - consists of brick barracks with tons of hair, shoes, glasses and other belongings of victims. Continue to **Piekary Slaskie**, where a special devotion to Our Lady dates back to 15th century. Pray at the famous painting of St Mary of Piekary, recognised as miraculous. Dinner and overnight in Krakow.

Day 6: Depart for **Zakopane** to visit the famous church built in thanks to Our Lady of Fatima for Pope John Paul II being saved from an assassin's bullet in St Peter's Square in 1981. Mass will be said here. Tour of the town. Return to Krakow for dinner and overnight.

Day 7: Visit the **Lagiewniki Monastery**, the international shrine to the Divine Mercy, where St Faustina lived and where she is now buried. If time allows, visit **Wawel Cathedral** and **St Mary's Church**. Dinner and overnight in Krakow.

Day 8: Departure for the flight back home.