Echoes of Poland: Royal Capitals to Baltic Shores

September 2029

💖**Poland:** Warsaw, Gdańsk, Toruń, Kraków

Discover the rich history, remarkable resilience, and cultural treasures of Poland on an unforgettable journey through its historic cities, medieval castles, and picturesque countryside. Follow in the footsteps of legendary figures like Frédéric Chopin and Nicolaus Copernicus as you explore Warsaw's beautifully restored Old Town, the Gothic splendor of Gdańsk, and the medieval charm of Toruń. Marvel at the magnificent Malbork Castle, wander Kraków's historic streets and grand market square, and venture beneath the earth to discover the extraordinary Wieliczka Salt Mines. Along the way, uncover Poland's fascinating heritage, from the rise of the Solidarity movement to the profound history of World War II, including a moving visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Experience authentic Polish life through a home-hosted dinner, a visit to a rural farming community, and opportunities to savor traditional cuisine and local hospitality. Blending architectural wonders, cultural discoveries, meaningful encounters, and captivating history, this journey reveals the enduring spirit and timeless beauty of Poland.

What to Expect On This Incredible Trip

An immersive journey through Poland's royal heritage, medieval treasures, and remarkable history, where beautifully restored cities, centuries-old traditions, and the enduring spirit of the Polish people come together. You will experience…

- Magnificent historic landmarks and UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Warsaw's Old Town, the medieval city of Toruń, Malbork Castle, and Kraków's historic center
- Guided explorations of Poland's fascinating cities, including Warsaw, Gdańsk, Toruń, and Kraków, each offering its own unique blend of architecture, culture, and history
- Extraordinary architectural wonders, from Gothic cathedrals and royal castles to the underground chapels and intricate salt sculptures of the Wieliczka Salt Mines
- Powerful historical discoveries, including the birthplace of the Solidarity movement in Gdańsk, the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, and a moving visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau
- Authentic cultural exchanges, including a home-hosted dinner with a Polish family and a visit to a rural farming community to experience traditional countryside life
- Rich artistic and intellectual heritage, following in the footsteps of Frédéric Chopin and Nicolaus Copernicus, with an optional classical piano recital in Warsaw
- Traditional Polish cuisine, local hospitality, and opportunities to experience everyday life through regional specialties, charming markets, and meaningful conversations
- A rewarding blend of guided sightseeing, cultural immersion, scenic countryside journeys, and free time for personal exploration

It balances:

- Royal grandeur, medieval architecture, and UNESCO-listed historic treasures
- Centuries of Polish history, wartime remembrance, and stories of resilience and freedom
- Vibrant city life, charming cobblestone streets, and picturesque countryside
- Classical music, scientific discoveries, and rich artistic and intellectual traditions
- Authentic cultural encounters, traditional Polish cuisine, and warm local hospitality
- Historic landmarks, meaningful reflection, and enriching personal discoveries



📌 Trip Overview

Poland: *Warsaw, Gdańsk, Toruń, Kraków*

Exact site order and itinerary subject to final O.A.T. itinerary for the year.

Dates: September 2029
Base Trip Price: $8,749 per person*
Single Supplement:
Airfare from DTW: TBD
Duration: 13 Days

!!Please note: *Prices are subject to change**

🗓️ Expected Itinerary Overview

Day 1: Depart USA

Depart the United States on your overnight international flight to Warsaw, Poland.

Begin your journey to a country filled with magnificent castles, historic cities, rich cultural traditions, and remarkable stories of resilience and freedom.

Day 2: Arrive Warsaw, Poland

Arrive in Warsaw, Poland's vibrant capital and the starting point of your adventure.

Upon arrival:

- *Meet your local representative at the airport*
- *Transfer to your hotel in Warsaw*
- *Settle in and relax after your international journey*
- *Meet fellow travelers, including those arriving from the optional Dresden & Berlin pre-trip extension*
- *Enjoy an orientation walk with your Trip Experience Leader*

Discover Warsaw, nicknamed the "Phoenix City" for its extraordinary reconstruction following World War II.

Evening:

- *Free time to explore your surroundings*
- *Discover the city's blend of historic architecture and modern landmarks*
- *Dinner on your own at a local restaurant*

Day 3: Warsaw • Historic Old Town • Welcome Dinner

Explore Poland's fascinating capital, where beautifully restored medieval architecture meets vibrant modern city life.

Morning guided exploration:

- *Enjoy a panoramic sightseeing tour of Warsaw*
- *Discover the city's contemporary neighborhoods and historic landmarks*
- *Explore Warsaw's UNESCO-listed Old Town*
- *Admire the magnificent Royal Castle*
- *See the 14th-century city walls and historic Barbican*
- *Learn how Warsaw painstakingly rebuilt its historic center following World War II*

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Afternoon free for independent exploration.

Suggested discoveries:

- *Stroll along the historic Royal Route*
- *Visit the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Museum, dedicated to the two-time Nobel Prize winner*
- *Enjoy a scenic boat ride along the Vistula River*
- *Climb St. Anne's Church bell tower for panoramic city views*

Evening:

- *Gather with fellow travelers for a special Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant*
- *Enjoy an evening at leisure in Warsaw*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Day 4: Warsaw • POLIN Museum • Optional Chopin Recital

Discover Poland's rich Jewish heritage and celebrate the musical legacy of one of its most famous composers.

Morning visit to the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews:

- *Explore more than 1,000 years of Jewish life in Poland*
- *Learn about the country's historic Jewish communities*
- *Discover stories of Polish Jewish culture, traditions, and everyday life*
- *Reflect on the impact of World War II and the Holocaust*
- *Explore how Jewish life in Poland has evolved through the centuries*

Afternoon free to explore Warsaw independently.

Optional Chopin Recital Experience:

- *Discover the musical legacy of Frédéric Chopin, Poland's celebrated composer*
- *Enjoy a classical piano recital featuring his renowned compositions*
- *Learn about Chopin's influence on Polish music and culture*
- *Enjoy an included dinner following the performance*

Travelers not participating in the optional excursion may enjoy dinner independently.

Evening at leisure.

Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 5: Warsaw • Scenic Polish Countryside • Gdańsk

Journey north through Poland's picturesque countryside toward the historic Baltic port city of Gdańsk.

Morning scenic journey:

- *Depart Warsaw and travel through the Mazovia region*
- *Admire landscapes of forests, rivers, and rural farmland*
- *Discover a quieter side of Polish life beyond the major cities*
- *Learn about the country's agricultural heritage and natural surroundings*

Enjoy lunch along the way.

Afternoon arrival in Gdańsk:

- *Check into your hotel*
- *Enjoy free time to relax or begin exploring*
- *Join your Trip Experience Leader for an orientation walk*
- *Discover the city's fascinating blend of Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, and modern architecture*
- *Learn about Gdańsk's history as a prosperous Baltic trading port during the Hanseatic League*

Evening:

- *Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant with fellow travelers*
- *Free time to explore Gdańsk's charming streets and waterfront*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Day 6: Gdańsk • Solidarity Museum • Historic Old Town • Home-Hosted Dinner

Discover Gdańsk, a beautifully preserved Baltic city that played a pivotal role in Poland's journey toward democracy.

Morning Historical Discovery:

- *Visit the European Solidarity Centre*
- *Learn about the Solidarity workers' movement that began in the Gdańsk shipyards*
- *Discover how peaceful protests helped bring an end to Communist rule in Poland*
- *Explore exhibits documenting the country's struggle for freedom*

Continue with a guided tour of Gdańsk:

- *Explore the historic Long Market*
- *Admire the famous Neptune Fountain*
- *Discover the elegant Green Gate*
- *See Artus Court, a historic meeting place for wealthy merchants*
- *Learn about the city's rich maritime and trading heritage*

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Afternoon free for independent exploration.

Suggested discoveries:

- *See the historic Żuraw Crane, a symbol of Gdańsk's maritime past*
- *Climb St. Mary's Church tower for sweeping city views*
- *Visit the Museum of the Second World War*
- *Wander Mariacka Street, famous for its beautiful amber shops*

Exclusive Cultural Experience:

- *Visit the home of a local Polish family*
- *Enjoy an authentic home-cooked dinner*
- *Share stories and conversations with your hosts*
- *Gain firsthand insights into everyday life, customs, and traditions in Poland*

Evening at leisure.

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Day 7: Gdańsk • Malbork Castle • Toruń

Step back into medieval history with a visit to one of Europe's most extraordinary castles before continuing to the charming city of Toruń.

Morning visit to Malbork Castle:

- *Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site*
- *Discover the world's largest brick castle*
- *Learn about the Teutonic Knights who once occupied this imposing medieval fortress*
- *Admire the castle's remarkable Gothic architecture*
- *See displays of historic armor, Baltic amber, and medieval artifacts*
- *Enjoy free time to explore the castle grounds*

Lunch on your own in Malbork.

Afternoon journey to Toruń:

- *Travel through the Polish countryside*
- *Arrive in the UNESCO-listed medieval city of Toruń*
- *Discover the birthplace of astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus*
- *Learn about the city's famous gingerbread-making traditions*
- *Join your Trip Experience Leader for an orientation walk*

Evening:

- *Enjoy dinner with fellow travelers*
- *Explore Toruń's atmospheric streets or relax at your hotel*

Meals: *Breakfast & Dinner*

Day 8: Toruń • Polish Countryside Experience • Cultural Discussion

Experience authentic rural Polish life through meaningful encounters with local residents and a visit to a traditional farming community.

Morning Exclusive Cultural Experience:

- *Travel into the Polish countryside*
- *Visit a local farm that welcomes travelers*
- *Meet Polish farmers and learn about their daily lives*
- *Discover traditional agricultural practices and regional customs*
- *Learn about the growing role of agritourism in rural Poland*
- *Experience the hospitality and traditions of Poland's heartland*

Enjoy an included lunch during your countryside visit.

Afternoon:

- *Return to Toruń for free time*
- *Explore the city's beautifully preserved medieval Old Town*
- *Visit St. John's Cathedral*
- *Discover the Living Museum of Gingerbread*
- *See Toruń's own Leaning Tower, known as Krzywa Wieża*

Cultural Discussion:

- *Join a local expert for a discussion about a controversial issue involving the Catholic Church and a money-laundering scandal*
- *Gain insight into contemporary Polish society and the intersection of religion and public life*

Dinner on your own.

Consider sampling traditional Polish specialties, including pierogi, the country's famous stuffed dumplings.

Evening at leisure.

Meals: *Breakfast & Lunch*

Day 9: Toruń • Jasna Góra Monastery • Kraków

Journey south through Poland toward Kraków, with a visit to one of the country's most important religious and cultural landmarks.

Morning:

- *Depart Toruń and travel toward Częstochowa*
- *Enjoy scenic views of the Polish countryside*

- *Learn about the country's longstanding religious traditions*

Enjoy lunch in Częstochowa.

Afternoon visit to Jasna Góra Monastery:

- *Explore one of the world's most important Christian pilgrimage destinations*
- *Discover the historic monastery founded in the 14th century*
- *Learn about its role in Polish religious and national history*
- *See the revered icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa, known as the Black Madonna*
- *Discover the legends and traditions surrounding this sacred painting*

Continue to Kraków:

- *Arrive in one of Poland's most beautiful and historic cities*
- *Check into your hotel*
- *Join your Trip Experience Leader for an introductory walk*
- *Admire the city's impressive Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture*

Dinner on your own.

Evening at leisure to begin exploring Kraków.

Meals: *Breakfast & Lunch*

Day 10: Kraków • Jewish Quarter • Wawel Hill • Market Square

Discover Kraków, Poland's former royal capital and one of Europe's most beautifully preserved medieval cities.

Morning guided walking tour:

- *Explore the historic Kazimierz Jewish Quarter*
- *Discover centuries-old synagogues and charming cafés*
- *Learn about Kraków's rich Jewish cultural heritage*
- *Visit the former Podgórze Ghetto*
- *Reflect on the experiences of Jewish residents during World War II*

Continue to Wawel Hill:

- *Admire the magnificent Wawel Royal Castle*
- *See the historic Wawel Cathedral*

- *Learn about the Polish kings and queens who once ruled from Kraków*
- *Discover the legends surrounding the Dragon's Den*

Explore Kraków's historic center:

- *Visit Rynek Główny, one of Europe's largest medieval market squares*
- *Admire the city's remarkable historic architecture*
- *Experience the lively atmosphere of its bustling central square*

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Afternoon free for independent exploration.

Suggested discoveries:

- *Visit Oskar Schindler's former factory and its historical museum*
- *Explore the magnificent St. Mary's Basilica*
- *Browse the historic Cloth Hall, home to art and cultural treasures*
- *Wander Kraków's charming cobblestone streets and local shops*

Evening:

- *Enjoy dinner with fellow travelers at a local restaurant*
- *Free time to experience Kraków after dark*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Day 11: Kraków • Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial & Museum

Experience a meaningful and somber day of historical reflection during a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Morning Historical Visit:

- *Travel from Kraków to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum*
- *Learn about the history of the former Nazi German concentration and extermination camp*
- *Discover the experiences of those imprisoned and murdered during the Holocaust*
- *Explore preserved camp buildings and historical exhibits*
- *View personal belongings and artifacts that bear witness to the victims' experiences*

- *Reflect on one of the darkest chapters in modern history*

This important visit offers an opportunity to honor the victims and deepen your understanding of the Holocaust and its lasting significance.

Enjoy an included boxed lunch during the return journey to Kraków.

Afternoon free for personal exploration.

Suggested discoveries:

- *Visit Jagiellonian University, where Nicolaus Copernicus once studied*
- *Discover the historic Collegium Maius and its famous clock*
- *Stroll through the university's beautiful Botanical Garden*
- *Explore more of Kraków's historic neighborhoods*

Dinner on your own.

Evening at leisure.

Meals: *Breakfast & Lunch*

Day 12: Kraków • Wieliczka Salt Mines • Farewell Dinner

Discover one of Poland's most extraordinary underground wonders before celebrating the conclusion of your journey.

Morning visit to the Wieliczka Salt Mines:

- *Explore this remarkable UNESCO World Heritage Site*
- *Descend deep beneath the earth into historic salt mining chambers*
- *Discover centuries of mining history dating back to the 13th century*
- *Admire intricate sculptures and passageways carved entirely from salt*
- *Visit an impressive underground chapel featuring salt-carved statues and chandeliers*
- *Learn about the incredible craftsmanship and engineering behind this underground masterpiece*

Activity Note: This approximately three-hour guided tour involves descending around 800 steps and requires a sustained walking pace.

Lunch on your own.

Afternoon free to explore Kraków independently.

Suggested discoveries:

- *Stroll through Planty Park, a beautiful green space surrounding the Old Town*
- *Explore Nowa Huta, a district developed as a model Communist-era city*
- *Browse local markets and shops for authentic Polish keepsakes*
- *Enjoy a final afternoon surrounded by Kraków's remarkable architecture*

Evening Farewell Celebration:

- *Gather with your fellow travelers for a special Farewell Dinner*
- *Enjoy traditional Polish hospitality at a local restaurant*
- *Share memories and favorite experiences from your journey*
- *Celebrate the remarkable history, culture, and beauty of Poland*

Meals: *Breakfast & Dinner*

Day 13: Kraków • Return Home

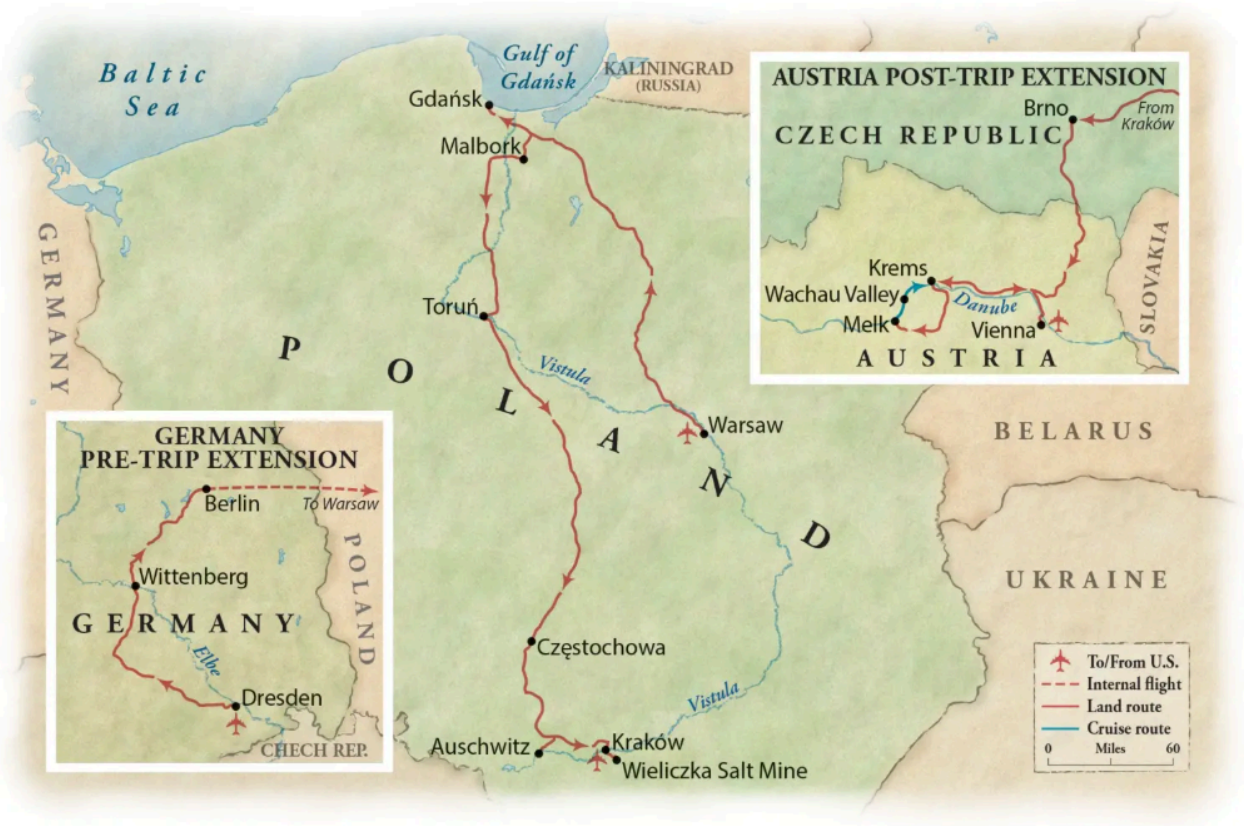
Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before transferring to Kraków's airport for your return flight to the United States.

Travelers wishing to extend their European adventure may continue with the optional The Spirit of Austria: Wachau Valley & the City of Music post-trip extension.

Return home with unforgettable memories of Poland's historic cities, magnificent castles, artistic treasures, meaningful cultural encounters, and extraordinary stories of resilience.

Meals: *Breakfast*

***Exact details for this tour will be updated on the O.A.T. travel site once the official itinerary is confirmed. This more detailed O.A.T. itinerary can be found by clicking here.*



✅ What's Included

- 11 nights' accommodations
- 24 meals—11 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 6 dinners (including 1 Home-Hosted Dinner)
- All transportation and transfers
- International airfare, airport transfers, taxes, fees & fuel surcharges
- Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- 13 activities, including A Day in the Life of the Polish countryside, and exploring the majestic Wieliczka Salt Mines
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers

✈️ Flight Booking Notes

When confirming your deposit, please specify:

- Travel class preference (Coach, Premium Select, Business)
- Aisle or window seating
- Any special requests or meal preferences

ℹ️ Additional Notes

- **Prices subject to change**, especially airfare and fees.
- Customizations and optional extensions are available.
- Physical Requirements: Activity level is **moderate (Level 3 out of 5)**





Online Reservations: www.TravelwithScottandCurtis.com
Phone Reservations: (269) 209-5889