



PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND!

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St. Jerome Parish

Essential Facts

\$3,700 early bird per person price in a shared room if paid by check or cash

\$3,900 early per person in a shared room if paid by credit card

Past early bird deadline add \$200 to above prices

\$700 supplement for a single room

Deadline to register: June 30, 2024

Final payment due date: August 1, 2024

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Day 1:

Depart Chicago O'Hare Airport on flight to Warsaw, Poland, in the afternoon or evening. The flight may have a layover through a major European or American City. Everyone must arrive at O'Hare on their own unless a bus is organized from the parish to O'Hare.

Day 2:

Flight arrives in Warsaw in the morning hours. After going through customs and immigration, a professional guide and a comfortable coach bus will meet the group and take you to your hotel in central Warsaw. After a break to get refreshed after the long flight, start touring Warsaw. You'll tour the totally reconstructed Castle and extensive Old Town. It was obliterated at the end of World War II but has been impeccably reconstructed. After touring these sites with a local guide, the group will enjoy a wonderful Polish dinner in the heart of Warsaw. And then back to the hotel to get rested for the week to come.

Day 3:

Breakfast at the hotel. Sunday Mass at the church where martyr Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko is buried. Fr. Jerzy was a parish priest who has been beatified by the Church. He was cruelly murdered by communist thugs in 1984, his body dumped in a reservoir. After Mass the group will visit the Museum of the Warsaw Uprising, which chronicles Warsaw's resistance to two powers, both the Nazis and the Russians, during World War II. The evening will be free for a walk along the Vistula river or to explore Warsaw. Dinner on your own.

Day 4:

Breakfast at the hotel. Leave Warsaw and take the bus to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, the Black Madonna, Queen of Poland. It's about two and half hours from Warsaw. The group will have Mass and take a tour of this impressive sanctuary to Mary, with time to pray. Group lunch in Czestochowa. After the visit continue about an hour and a half to the hotel in central Krakow. After a day of traveling and walking, the evening will be free to acquaint yourself with the charming old town of one of Europe's most beautiful cities. Dinner on your own.

Day 5:

Breakfast at the hotel. A guide will lead the group on a tour of various sites in Krakow, which was never bombarded or destroyed during World War II. Krakow is an intact, outdoor, museum of beautiful squares, parks, and interesting buildings. The group will tour historic Wawel Cathedral and the Royal Castle, housing the tombs of Polish Kings and Saints, St. Mary's Basilica on the Market Square, and other well-known sites in the city center. Group dinner in central Krakow in the evening.

Day 6:

Breakfast at the hotel. The group will take the bus to the Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz, about an hour from Krakow. Auschwitz is a museum to many things - hate, martyrdom, and the worst aspects of the 20th century. After a guided tour of the camp,

the group will have a group lunch and then, traffic depending, travel to the Wieliczka Salt Mine, an 800 year-old underground mine with salt sculptures, saints' statues, and subterranean salt lakes. Return to Krakow for a free evening. Dinner on your own.

Day 7:

Breakfast at the hotel. Bus transport to the small town of Wadowice, the home-town of Pope St. John Paul II, to visit the Basilica where he was baptized and the home where he grew up, which is now a museum. Group lunch in Wadowice. Then visit the impressive monastery shrine of Kalwaria Zdebridozka, a vast forested park with huge stations of the cross surrounding a beautiful Church. In the late afternoon return to Krakow for a free evening. Dinner on your own.

Day 8:

Breakfast at the hotel. Mass at the Shrine of the Divine Mercy on the outskirts of Krakow. This shrine is the world famous convent where Jesus appeared to St. Faustina to give her his message of God's mercy for all mankind. It is a very popular pilgrimage site. The group will then visit the nearby Pope St. John Paul II Center and later the historic Benedictine Monastery of Tyniec, the oldest in Poland. After returning to Krakow, there will some free time before a farewell group dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 9:

Departure from the hotel early to make check-in on a flight to Chicago through Warsaw. Arrive at O'Hare in the afternoon.

Questions and Answers

The following is not written in "legalese" or in a tiny font. It is not difficult to understand. It is assumed that every traveler is familiar with the policies and deadlines in this document upon registering.

How much does it cost? The early bird special price is \$3,700 U.S. dollars per person, if paid by check or cash. This price will be effective until.... As of the price of the trip will increase to \$3,900 per person. Both prices presuppose double occupancy. A single room supplement will increase the cost of the trip by \$700. Single rooms should be requested as soon as possible to registering. Triples may also be available.

When is payment due? A deposit of \$1,000 per person is due by to obtain the early bird price. As of... a \$1,000 per person deposit is needed to reserve a place at the non-early bird cost. The final trip payment is due by.... Please make checks payable to "Peregrino Tours" and send checks, or money orders, to PO Box 1882, Chicago, IL, 60641. Please do **not** send your check via certified mail. Regular First Class mail is sufficient.

Can I pay with a credit card? Peregrino Tours can process a credit card payment on our website - MyPeregrinoTour.com - but not over the phone. You can either use a Paypal portal on our site or use your credit card directly.

What does the cost include? Round trip flight Chicago - Warsaw/Krakow, all airline taxes and fuel surcharges, bus transfer to and from airport to hotel, coach bus per itinerary in Poland, clean, private bath, 3 star or better hotel room; all museum entrance fees; audio headsets; all guides; tips; six breakfasts; three lunches; and three dinners.

What does the cost *not* include? Any incidental hotel costs such as mini bar, room service, or laundry. Also not covered: meals not specified in the itinerary, taxi fares, items of a personal nature, personal gratuities for your priest, and the carrying of luggage from the airport baggage claim area to the bus, and to and from the bus to the hotel. Although most transport on the pilgrimage will be by coach bus, we recommend bringing about \$40 - \$50 for taxis and always sharing taxi rides.

What is the cancellation policy? All cancellations must be made in writing by the same person(s) who registered for the trip. The following penalties are applicable if you cancel:

From date of reservation until \$500 is non-refundable, but transferable to a person replacing the person cancelling, for the same tour and dates.

From ... until... \$1,000 is non-refundable, but transferable to a person replacing the person cancelling, for the same tour and dates.

As of... 100% of the tour price is non-refundable and non-transferable per person.

Is there a registration form? There is no registration form. Peregrino tries to make registration as easy as possible. To register for the trip send an e-mail to travel@myperegrinotour.com with the name, address, phone, and e-mail for each pilgrim who would like to go. Please indicate the parents or legal guardians of minor travelers. You will be officially notified of your registration via e-mail the day your check is deposited or your credit card payment is made.

Do I need a passport? Yes, you will need a passport to travel to Poland. Passports are required for everyone, even children and infants. The expiration date of the passport must be beyond six months after the date of re-entry into the U.S. A copy of the ID page of that passport must be received by Peregrino Tours via the U.S. mail or via email prior to the final registration and payment deadline. The copy of the passport and its information will be shared with no one. All documentary or digital traces of the copy of the passport will be destroyed at the conclusion of the tour. Please consult the official website of the U.S. State Department for further information.

Do I need to obtain a visa? U.S. citizens do not need a visa to enter Poland for fewer than 90 days. Non U.S. citizens must verify with a Polish consulate if they need a visa to

enter Poland, and with the U.S. State Department regarding their ability to re-enter the U.S.

Is there any chance the trip would be cancelled? In the remote possibility that the trip is cancelled due to a lack of sufficient numbers, the entire cost of the trip will be reimbursed. An extraordinary event such as an airline strike, weather event, act of God (e.g. an earthquake) or international incident will not necessarily cause the trip to be cancelled. Trip insurance would provide total protection against such unlikely eventualities.

I'd like to go, but I don't have a roommate to share the cost. What can I do? You can either pay the single occupancy supplement or be willing to be assigned a roommate if one is available. That will depend, of course, on the number of solo travelers of the same sex, but Peregrino will keep track of who needs roommates and coordinate as needed. If a roommate is available but is refused, the traveler will be required to pay the single supplement. And if there is an odd number of pilgrims and no roommate can be found for a single traveler, the single supplement must be paid, with the latest registrant being obligated to purchase a single room. If non spouses or non family members would like to share a room with another pilgrim they must each communicate said intent to Peregrino in an e-mail.

Can I reserve a place even though I have not paid in full? You can reserve your place on the trip by making a deposit of \$1,000, or by paying the full amount, upon initial registration. The balance must be received by

What about travel insurance? Peregrino Tours does not offer travel insurance. But for the protection of our pilgrims we recommend they purchase travel insurance. Links are available on our website. These recommendations are not an endorsement of any company but only the result of prior travelers' experiences. Every pilgrim must either provide Peregrino proof of the purchase of insurance or digitally accept the general waiver on the Peregrino website.

Why would I want travel insurance? Insurance is a good idea for those who have an unpredictable medical condition and for those who have a family member whose ill health, or even death, may preclude going on the pilgrimage. Travel insurance must normally be purchased shortly after registering for the trip. It normally cannot be purchased close to the date of departure, or it may be priced exorbitantly.

Can I use airline miles or points? As of ...pilgrims not flying with the group can register for the trip. Peregrino prefers that all pilgrims fly together both to and from their destination and arrive at, and leave from, their hotel together. Our experience is that solo travelers require special transport and communication needs, miss meals and tours, and otherwise compromise the quality of the trip for themselves and others. Nonetheless, Peregrino will allow experienced travelers to purchase their own airline

tickets, or to use airline miles or points, on or after.... To find out the cost of the ground portion of the trip contact Peregrino on ...or later. Solo pilgrims will be responsible for arriving at the Warsaw hotel on their own, and must initiate contact with the group leaders at the hotel.

Can I upgrade my plane seating or otherwise arrange to sit with family and friends?

Peregrino organizes its tour pricing based on coach seating. Any desire for business or first class seats, aisle seats, or other upgrades must be handled by the individual traveler. The traveler must call the airline after the flight information is shared with all the pilgrims, which will be about 5-6 weeks before departure. Any and all costs related to upgrades or special seating must be paid by the individual traveler. Peregrino tries to accommodate friends and family who request to sit together on flights. But plane seating is ultimately a decision for each airline and airlines are not always transparent about how seating is apportioned.

Where can I exchange U.S. dollars for Polish currency? Talk to your local bank to see if they offer that service. Otherwise you can change money at O'Hare airport or in Poland. ATM machines in Poland also accept Visa and Mastercard credit cards and dispense Polish Zloty. To use a credit card at an ATM in Poland will require a PIN. Almost all American banks charge a fixed fee for foreign ATM withdrawals and/or a percentage of the amount withdrawn. ATM's in Poland will normally not accept debit cards from regional banks.

How many people can go on this trip? The limit is 50 people.

What about travelers with special needs? Any pilgrim with special needs or dietary restrictions must inform Peregrino at the time of registration. There will be considerable walking on the tour so being physically able to stand for long periods and to walk long distances is presumed upon registering. A physically capable companion must accompany travelers who need assistance. Coach buses are not equipped with ramps, so all travelers must be able to mount steps into a bus. European buildings are also less handicap accessible than American buildings.

Can anyone go on the trip? Although this will be a Catholic focused pilgrimage, non Catholics are welcome to come. Minors are welcome provided they travel with family. In order to ensure a rewarding, positive, and faith filled experience for all pilgrims, Peregrino reserves the right to reject any guest, either before or during the trip, whose comportment contradicts or is otherwise harmful to the interests of the group.

Will there be a pre-trip meeting? There will be a non-mandatory pre-trip meeting with the date and time to be determined. At that meeting there will be a discussion about the possibility of group transport from the parish to O'Hare and back.

What if I have more questions? Most questions about this pilgrimage can be answered through this sheet, by contacting Peregrino Tour at travel@myperegrinotour.com or by calling 305-488-1473.