

Multi-day Tours

Pricing TBA

Pueri Contores Music Festival **Krakow, Poland, the Home of John Paul II** **11-day Tour** **July 9 - 19, 2007**



"The harmony of music and song, which knows no religious or social barriers, may be a constant invitation for believers and all people of good will to seek together the universal language of love, which makes men capable of building a world justice and solidarity, of hope and peace." Pope Benedict XVI

Day 1: Toronto to Warsaw

Departure from Pearson International Airport in Toronto for our overnight flight to Warsaw. Meals will be served in flight.

Day 2: Warsaw (D)

Arrival in Warsaw. Warsaw is an old city with unique architecture and beautiful surroundings. This morning your group will be met by a professional tour manager with a private motor coach at your disposal for the next nine days. Guided city tour with visit to St. John's Cathedral, built in the 14th century and the oldest and the most famous religious building in Warsaw, built in. Other interesting places to visit are the Castle Square, famous for its excellent architecture and charming, narrow streets, and Church of the Holy Cross, designed by Italian architect Bellotti and built between 1679 and 1696 on the site of a wooden church; the heart of Frederic Chopin is kept here. Dinner this evening is included. Overnight at the Hotel Mercure Fryderyk Chopin or similar.

Day 3: Krakow (B/D)

Following a hot buffet breakfast, we depart from the hotel for Krakow. We stop in Czestochova for a guided visit to the Monastery to see the "Queen of Peace and Mercy - Black Madonna". The tradition holds that St. Luke painted the portrait on the top of a cypress-wood table that came from the home of the Holy Family. At the request of the faithful, Mary sat for the portrait. When it was finished, she was pleased, saying that "My grace shall accompany it.", and thus began the wonderful history of the painting. Entrance is included to the Monastery at Jasna Gora with a tour guided by a monk. We continue on to Krakow for dinner at a local restaurant and overnight at the Hotel System Premium. Option this evening to attend the President's meeting on your own.

Included in tour cost:

- Round trip airfare from Toronto to Warsaw, Prague to Toronto
- 9 nights accommodation
- 9 breakfasts, 9 dinners
- Services of professional tour manager throughout
- All transfers and transportation by deluxe motor coach
- Pueri Cantores Music Festival and all related events
- Half-day guided tour of Warsaw including admission to St. John's Cathedral
- Guided visit to Monastery at Jasna Gora
- Half-day guided tour of Krakow with entrance fees to Wawel Castle
- Afternoon sightseeing tour with guide to Wieliczka Salt Mine Museum
- Sightseeing tour to Auschwitz with entrance fees and museum guide
- Excursion to Wadowice, birthplace of John Paul II
- Half-day guided sightseeing tour of Prague including entrance to the Prague Castle and Loreta Church
- All tipping of local guides, tour manager and coach driver

Day 4: Krakow (B/D)

Continental breakfast followed by half-day guided tour of Krakow including admission to Wawel Castle, home to three dynasties of Poland's monarchs. Its stately halls and exquisite chambers are filled with priceless art, best period furniture and rare ancient objects. Some free time this afternoon to explore the famous sites: the 700-year-old City Walls, the 500-year-old Great Barbican and Krakow's Basilica of the Virgin Mary's. Following dinner at a local restaurant, your choir will participate in evening opening ceremonies in the Market Square. Overnight Hotel System Premium.

Day 5: Krakow (B/D)

Continental breakfast followed by morning rehearsal for Sunday Liturgy. Afternoon prayer for peace in Divine Mercy Basilica. Dinner at our hotel followed by the Evening Gala Concert.

Day 6: Krakow (B/D)

Continental breakfast followed by morning rehearsal for Sunday Liturgy. Afternoon sightseeing tour with entrance fees to the Wieliczka Salt Mine Museum, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Millions of visitors, including crowned heads and such celebrities as Goethe and Sarah Bernhardt, have enthused over the subterranean world of labyrinthine passages, giant caverns, underground lakes and chapels with sculptures in the crystalline salt and rich ornamentation carved in the salt rock. The last 900 years, when the Wieliczka Salt Mine has been worked, produced 200 kilometers of passages as well as 2040 caverns of varied size. Dinner at our hotel followed by participation in evening masses in various churches around Krakow.

Day 7: Krakow (B/D)

Continental breakfast followed by morning celebration of solemn Eucharistic liturgy. Afternoon sightseeing to the Auschwitz UNESCO World Heritage Site, with entrance fees and museum guide included. The site of the Nazi notorious Auschwitz death camp is an hour's drive from Krakow. Between June 1941 and January 1945 about one million men, women and children perished in the Auschwitz concentration camps. Dinner at our hotel and balance of evening free.

Day 8: Krakow (B/D)

Continental breakfast followed by an excursion to Wadowice, the birthplace of Pope John Paul II. You will visit his Holiness' family house, now a museum, where Karol Wojtyla spent his formative years. The rest of the day is at leisure or to explore this interesting city, perhaps visiting Krakow Old Town Historical, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Krakow was the country's capitol from 1038 to 1791 and is Poland's most popular tourist attraction.

Day 9: Prague (B/D)

We say farewell to Krakow as we journey today to Prague in the Czech Republic. Prague contains some of the most well-preserved and varied architecture in Europe. UNESCO designated the whole historic centre of the city - all 866 hectares - as a world heritage site in 1992. Standard dinner and overnight at the Hotel Expo Prague.

Day 10: Prague (B/D)

Hot buffet breakfast this morning followed by a half-day guided tour of this remarkable city. Entrance fees are included to the Prague Castle, the official residence and seat of Czech rulers throughout history, with foundations of the castle dating from the 9th century. The royal gardens are where the first European tulips were cultivated. After visiting the Prague Castle, the group will be transferred to visit the Loreta Church. This extraordinary baroque pilgrimage church was built in 1626 with funds donated by Countess Lobkowitz. The church played a role in Ferdinand II's campaign to re-Catholicize the Czechs. Dinner at a local restaurant and overnight at the Hotel Expo Prague.

Day 11: Prague to Toronto (B)

Hot buffet breakfast and time for some last minute shopping before we head to the airport for our return flight home. Meals in flight.

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