

INSIGHT VACATIONS






The Art of Travelling in Style

**CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF POLAND,
PRAGUE & GERMANY**





KEY

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Central
Hotels + Nights |  Cruise |
| ① Scenic
Hotels + Nights |  Train |
| ● Place Visited |  Join/Leave Options |
| ○ Optional Place
Visited |  Included Flights |
| ▮ Trip Option |  UNESCO
Heritage Site |

Day 1 | Welcome to Kraków



Transfers for your hotel depart Kraków airport at 12:30 and 15:00. Meet your Travel Director and fellow travellers at 17:00 for a Welcome Dinner with wine at a local restaurant. Afterwards, get your first taste of Polish old-world charm with a walk around the magnificent Cloth Hall in the Market Square. Wrapped in romantic gabled townhouses and Gothic spires, the festive Christmas Market stalls are a Disneyesque dream, offering all sorts of delicacies and delights - from Highland woollen slippers to amber jewellery from the Baltic. Maybe try the traditional oscypek cheese with cranberries, a delicacy from the Tatra mountains?

Meals: Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Vienna House Andel's Cracow, Kraków

Day 2 | Kraków



Ascend Wawel Hill with your Local Expert to see the Renaissance castle and visit the cathedral – the final resting place of the Kings of Poland. Then cross the former Jewish Quarter of Kazimierz to Old Podgórze, the Old Town, to see Ghetto Square and remains of the Ghetto Wall. The rest of the day is at leisure or perhaps choose to visit the Wieliczka Salt Mine? There is time to explore the traditional Christmas Market located in the Old Town's historic district. You'll find yourself immersed in festive spirit as you shop for authentic Christmas decorations, gifts, toys and tasty treats.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Vienna House Andel's Cracow, Kraków

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Salt Mine Excursion - Visit the 700-year-old UNESCO World Heritage listed salt mine, located on the outskirts of Krakow. On a guided tour, learn about the mine's long history, and explore the vast underground labyrinth of chambers filled with unique salt sculptures carved by the miners themselves.

Adult: 68.00 EUR

** This optional involves reservations and entrance prepayments. Should you decide to cancel the optional, a 50% cancellation fee will be incurred.*

Polish Karczma Dinner & Polka Party - Enjoy a generous selection of traditional Polish cuisine and drinks in the countryside outside Krakow. A local, beautifully-dressed folk group and live band will entertain you with songs and dances and you might even get to join them for a polka or two! Don't miss this enjoyable evening.

Adult: 79.00 EUR

Day 3 | Wrocław, the Venice of Poland



Journey to the city of Wrocław, known as the Venice of Poland, made up of five rivers, 12 islands and over 150 bridges. Rated as one of the finest in Europe, Wrocław's Christmas Market offers a delightful, fairy-tale charm. Enjoy an orientation of the market, located in Rynek, the historic main square which is surrounded by Baroque splendour and adorned with thousands of twinkling lights. Enjoy a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you taste delicious gingerbread. Using only local ingredients, they are baked following the traditional recipes of Lower Silesia region. Spend time exploring the vast array of stalls bursting with local crafts and tasty treats.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Radisson Blu Hotel, Wrocław

Day 4 | Onwards to Prague



This morning leave your hotel in Wrocław and cross the Czech border, continuing your travels to the historic capital of Prague.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Royal, Prague

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Raclawice Panorama & The Treasures of Wrocław - This morning, with our Local Expert, we'll visit Poland's most famous battle scene painting, the Raclawice Panorama. It's the only cycloramic painting in the country and one of only a few in Europe. It depicts the Battle of Raclawice when Tadeusz Kościuszko's troops emerged victorious against Russia in 1794. An entire museum was built to house this one painting! We'll also learn about the Battle of Breslau, one of the last major actions of WWII, and visit the moving Katyn memorial. Then, we'll cross several branches of the Oder river to see Wrocław's islands. The area, known as 'Polish Venice', is home to the 13th-century Cathedral of St John the Baptist, an iconic symbol of Wrocław. Finally, we'll take a leisurely stroll through the park to see UNESCO-listed Centennial Hall, an early landmark of reinforced concrete, built by German architect Max Berg in 1913. A great way to enjoy this historic city!

Adult: 52.00 EUR

Day 5 | Prague, City of a Hundred Spires



Explore Prague with Insight Choice. Choose to walk the courtyards of the Castle and visit the imposing St. Vitus Cathedral. Alternatively, join your Local Expert through the Jewish Quarter and hear about the history, traditions and legends of the Jewish people. Then, down at the Old Town Square, Prague's colourful Christmas Market contrasts with the Gothic skyline. Beneath a giant Christmas tree, draped in a blaze of lights, locals browse the decorative wooden stalls. Meet a local stallholder and savour a glass of Svařák, traditional mulled wine, along with the local Trdelník pastry.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Royal, Prague

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Magical Prague - A wonderful introduction to the 'Golden City'. Accompanied by our Local Expert, begin with spectacular views over Prague and the Vltava River from the heights of the historic Strahov Monastery. Discover the hidden world of Prague's Malá Strana district on foot. Enjoy a drink amongst the locals in a typical Czech 'beer pub' whilst enjoying some musical entertainment, and walk across the famous Charles Bridge, built in 1357, and an icon of the city!

Adult: 51.00 EUR

Traditional Dinner & Folklore Entertainment - Hearty and delicious, Czech cuisine borrows heavily from its Central European neighbours, but also boasts a few unique twists of its own. In a local restaurant, enjoy a traditional Czech meal accompanied by the planet's most perfect pilsner. During dinner, lively musicians in traditional dress set the mood with songs and dances from Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia.

Adult: 73.00 EUR

Day 6 | Dresden and Berlin



Cross the German border to Dresden. Gaze up at the Frauenkirche, risen once again from wartime ashes. Your guided exploration with a Local Expert will continue past the colossal 'Procession of the Dukes' mosaic, the cathedral, Semper Opera House and Zwinger Palace. During your free time perhaps seek out the delicious Christstollen, a Christmas cake recipe dating back to medieval times, or shop for a traditional Christmas pyramid. Then journey on to Berlin.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Crowne Plaza Berlin City Centre

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Berlin By Night And Dinner - This evening you are treated to traditional Berliner cuisine in a lively local restaurant with live music and drinks. Guten Appetit and Prost! Afterwards embark on a scenic illuminations drive through the centre of Berlin, with splendid views of the historic buildings and monuments, lit up in all their glory. See the Unter den Linden, Brandenburg Gate and more.

Adult: 72.00 EUR

Day 7 | The Spirit of Berlin



Join a Local Expert to see the Brandenburg Gate, State Opera House, remnants of the Berlin Wall, Unter den Linden, and the beautifully-restored Reichstag building. Feel free to soak up the Weihnachtszauber, or Christmas magic, at the Gendarmenmarkt, which is Berlin's most magnificent square. In the evening, join your friends for a festive Celebration Dinner with wine and good cheer at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Crowne Plaza Berlin City Centre

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Highlights of Former East Berlin - Explore the shadows of the past with our Local Expert and visit the staggering Holocaust Memorial. Stop for a photo at 'Checkpoint Charlie', location of the tense stand-offs between U.S. & Soviet forces during the Cold War. Then a real highlight as we visit the Berlin Wall Memorial. The memorial contains the last section of the Berlin Wall with a guard tower and preserved grounds and is thus able to convey an impression of how the border fortifications developed until the end of the 1980s. Learn about this focal point of 20th-century history and of the fate of those who attempted to cross it.

Adult: 35.00 EUR

** If your hotel is located near Checkpoint Charlie you will visit East Side Gallery instead.*

Day 8 | Auf Wiedersehen Berlin

Your journey draws to a close after breakfast. Departure transfers arrive at Berlin airport at 07:00 and 10:00.

Meals: Breakfast