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FOLLOWING CHOPIN'S FOOTSTEPS

Memoirs of Polish Composer and Virtuoso Pianist Frederic Chopin

7 days cultural trip through Poland including places, where you can enjoy Chopin's footsteps. The programme includes mentioned places: Warsaw, Zelazowa Wola, Wilanow, Czestochowa, Krakow, Kazimierz – the former Jewish district in Krakow, Wieliczka – The Salt Mine, Pieniny – rafting on The Dunajec River, Debno Podhalanskie, Wadowice – John Paul II home place, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Auschwitz-Birkenau.

- 1st day** **Arrival to Warsaw**
x Arrival to Warsaw by plane (Warsaw Frederic Chopin Airport) or coach. Meeting with the tour leader from Ernesto Travel and transfer by coach to the hotel in Warsaw. Check-in the hotel. Dinner at the hotel or at the restaurant in the centre of Warsaw (depends on the arrival time). [There is a possibility to begin the programme in Krakow, Katowice or another city according to the flights schedule]. Stay in Warsaw.
- 2nd day** **Warsaw – Chopin's city**
8.00 Breakfast at the hotel.
9.00 Guided tour of Warsaw: Lazienkowski Park with the monument of Frederic Chopin (A 1:1-scale replica of Szymanowski's *Art Nouveau* statue is found in Warsaw's sister city of Hamamatsu in Japan). The Warsaw Ghetto and Umschlagplatz – from here thousands of the Jews were deported to the concentration camps, The Tomb of The Unknown Soldier, Palace of Culture and Science, Krakowskie Przedmiescie Street (optionally visiting The Chopin Family Drawing-Room at The Academy of Fine Arts – it was a part of Chopin Family's House before moving abroad). The Old Town (inscribed on The World Heritage List of The UNESCO), The St. John's Cathedral

(entrance), Main Market Square. The Old Town was fully destroyed during The World War II and reconstructed thanks to the commitment of the whole Polish nation.

13.00 Lunch at one of the restaurants in the centre of Warsaw.

14.30 Visiting The Royal Castle (entrance).

16.30 Leisure in the centre of Warsaw. Optionally – concert in Warsaw's Grand Theatre or Lazienkowski Park.

20.00 Dinner with the music concert at one of the local restaurants (optionally). Stay in Warsaw.

3rd day Warsaw – Zelazowa Wola – Wilanow – Warsaw

8.00 Breakfast at the hotel.

9.00 Departure for Zelazowa Wola – the place where Frederic Chopin was born. Visiting famous Chopin House Museum (*closed until 2nd March 2010 due to renovation*). The concert of his music (*depends on the tourist season*).

Departure for Wilanow and visiting estate residence of Polish Kings – The Palace and park.

13.00 Return to Warsaw. Lunch at one of the restaurants in The Old Town.

14.30 Visiting the Warsaw's Holly Cross Church with the pillar containing Chopin's heart (entrance). Later visiting The Fryderyk Chopin Museum in Ostrogski Castle (*closed until 2nd March 2010 due to renovation*).

20.00 Dinner at the restaurant. Return to the hotel. Stay in Warsaw.

4th day Warsaw – Czestochowa – Krakow

8.00 Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out the hotel in Warsaw.

9.00 Departure for Krakow via Czestochowa.

13.00 Late lunch at the restaurant in Czestochowa.

14.30 Guided tour of the most important pilgrimage place in Poland - The Monastery in Czestochowa: Jasna Gora with miraculous icon of Virgin Mary – The Black Madonna.

17.30 Departure for Krakow.

20.00 Arrival to Krakow. Check - in the hotel.

Dinner at the hotel or at the restaurant in the city centre.

5th day Krakow – the heart of Poland, Kazimierz – Jewish district and Wieliczka – The Salt Mine

8.00 Breakfast at the hotel.

9.00 Krakow's guided tour. Wawel Hill with the castle (optional entrance) and its beautiful yard and The Cathedral (entrance). Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture of The Old Town (Stare Miasto), the biggest Market Square in Europe (Rynek Glowny), The Town Hall, Collegium Maius – the ancient building of The Jagiellonian University – the exhibition includes Chopin's piano, called 'Pleyel', he was playing on in 1848 (entrance), The Cloth Hall (Sukiennice), Saint Mary's Church (Kosciol Mariacki – entrance) with the famous Wit Stwoszcz's altar. Walking to the antique walls of The Old Town with Florianska Gate and The Barbican. During the sightseeing: multimedia presentation about the story of amber called Polish Gold. In the year 1978 Krakow was inscribed on The World Heritage List of The UNESCO.

13.30 Lunch at the restaurant in Krakow.

15.00 Visiting the former Jewish district – Kazimierz. This part of Krakow was a centre of religious and social life of the Jewish community in Krakow until the deportations during the Nazi occupation (entrance to 1 or 2 synagogues). Short stop in front of The Schindler's Factory on the way to The Salt Mine in Wieliczka.

- 17.00 Transfer to Wieliczka. 10 km from Krakow.
 17.30 Guided tour in Wieliczka Salt Mine – one of the oldest salt mines in the world. There are many famous people who visited the place such as Mikolaj Kopernik, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Dmitrij Mendeleev, Boleslaw Prus, Ignacy Paderewski, Karol Wojtyla, etc. In 1978 year, Wieliczka Salt Mine was inscribed on The World Heritage List of The UNESCO.
 20.00 Dinner at the traditional Polish restaurant in Wieliczka – the concert of the folklore music. Return to the hotel and the night in Krakow.

6th day Krakow – Pieniny and Dunajec – Debno Podhalanskie – Wadowice – Kalwaria Zebrzydowska – Krakow

- 7.30 Breakfast at the hotel.
 8.00 Departure by coach for Sromowce Wyzne.
 10.00 Rafting on the traditional rafts down The Dunajec River, across The Pieninski National Park. *[Attention: if because of the rain, there is no possibility to pursue rafting down The Dunajec River, a trip to the capital of The Polish Mountain: Zakopane. Visiting the town and ride on a cable and ground railway on Gubalowka with the beautiful view of The Tatra Moutains.]*
 13.00 Lunch at the restaurant in Szczawnica (Wadowice or Zakopane, if there is no rafting).
 14.00 Transfer to Debno Podhalanskie. Visiting the wooden Gothic church: one of the wooden churches on the south of Poland inscribed on The World Heritage List of The UNESCO.
 15.00 Transfer to Wadowice, where John Paul II was born in 1920.
 17.00 Visiting Pope's home and the church where he was baptized. Transfer to Kalwaria Zebrzydowska.
 18.30 Visiting The Bernardine Monastery complex in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, one of the most famous sanctuaries in Poland. All the mannerist complex (sanctuary, park) is inscribed on The World Heritage List of The UNESCO.
 19.30 Departure for Krakow.
 20.00 Dinner at the restaurant (Chopin's music concert during the dinner or after dinner – depends on availability).

7th day Departure from Poland

- x Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out the hotel in Krakow.
 y Transfer to the airport. Departure from Poland.