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*The Tatras, highest peaks of the Carpathian Mountain Range, in the vicinity of Zakopane, Poland
(photo by ptk78@wp.p free of copyright c/o Wikimedia Commons)*

CENTRAL EUROPE FROM THE CARPATHIANS TO THE DANUBE

An exploration of Poland, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic, including twelve UNESCO World Heritage Sites!

14 days, Tuesday, August 17, to Monday, August 30, 2021

This leisurely coach tour covers Central Europe from Krakow, the fabulous former capital of Poland, one of Europe's most beautiful cities, and the Carpathian mountain peaks, to the vineyard-covered hills of mysterious Moravia and its hub, the city of Brno, in the Czech Republic, all the way to Slovakia's charming capital, Bratislava, nestled on the banks of the mighty Danube. We return via Wroclaw (formerly Breslau) in Silesia, to Warsaw. This tour is conducted by historian Jacques Pauwels, author of 'The Myth of the Good War,' 'Beneath the Dust of Time,' and 'The Great Class War 1914-1918,' who will lecture on the fascinating though often tragic history of this part of Europe. This tour will feature a combination of deluxe and first-class hotels as well as excellent food!

Tour cost, based on double occupancy, from Toronto: \$4,895, INCLUDING all taxes and other surcharges - "land only": \$3,775 - Single room supplement: \$775

PROPOSED ITINERARY:

Day 1 - Tuesday, August 17: Late evening departure from Toronto for Warsaw on a non-stop flight of LOT Polish Airlines. Dinner and a light breakfast will be served on board.

Day 2 - Wednesday, August 18: Arrival at 12:40 PM in Warsaw, where a private coach will be waiting to take us via **Lublin**, once the home of a thriving Jewish community (short visit if time permits), to **Zamosc**, a small town in southeastern Poland. Dinner and overnight in the centrally located four-star/first-class Hotel Zamojski (<http://www.hotelzamojski.pl>).

Day 3 - Thursday, August 19: Morning visit to the old town of Zamosc, created in the 16th century as an 'ideal city' by the standards of the (Italian) Renaissance and the first of numerous UNESCO World Heritage Sites visited on this trip (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/564>). Our exploration of this urbanistic and architectural jewel will include the breathtaking main square, Rynek Wielki, with the city hall and the 'Armenian' houses, the palace of the town's founder, Jan Zamoyski, the Cathedral, and the fortifications (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zamo%C5%9B%C4%87>). We also visit the excellent regional museum, bursting with works of art, religious objects, ancient furniture and clothes, weapons, etc. (<http://muzeum-zamojskie.pl/o-muzeum>). Afternoon at leisure, and dinner in a typical restaurant.

Day 4 - Friday, August 20: Departure from Zamosc after breakfast. We motor to one of the greatest attractions of this part of Poland, the impressive baroque/rococo castle of **Lancut** and its park (<https://www.zamek-lancut.pl/en>). In the afternoon we continue to the amazing Salt Mine of Wieliczka, a UNESCO World Heritage Site described as "a labyrinth of underground galleries, dating back to the Middle Ages, with works of art, underground chapels and statues sculpted in the salt, making a fascinating pilgrimage into the past" (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/32>). Early evening arrival in Krakow, Poland's third largest city and capital for three centuries, a major cultural centre, and the home of a famous university, founded in 1364, where Copernicus was a student. Accommodation in the 4-star/first-class Hotel Park Inn, located just outside the historical city centre (<https://www.parkinn.com/hotel-krakow>), and dinner in its restaurant.

TWELVE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES SCHEDULED TO BE VISITED ON THIS TOUR:

1 Old City of Zamosc - 2 Church of St. Michael in Debno - 3 Wieliczka Salt Mine - 4 Historic Centre of Krakow - 5 Auschwitz Birkenau Nazi Extermination Camp - 6 The Dunajec River Gorge - 7 Holy Trinity Column in Olomouc - 8 Tugendhat Villa in Brno - 9 Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape - 10 Churches of Peace in Jawor and Swidnica - 11 Centennial Hall in Wrocław - 12 Historic Centre of Warsaw

Please note that visits to some of these sites (e.g. the Dunajec River Gorge) are subject to weather conditions and time constraints!

Day 5 - Saturday, August 21: After a leisurely breakfast, comprehensive sightseeing tour of Krakow, one of Europe's most beautiful and interesting old cities, with all the great sights, especially Wawel Royal Palace, Rynek Główny, Europe's largest medieval market square, the medieval Cloth Hall, the Church of Our Lady, the Gothic buildings of the Jagellonian University, the statue of Copernicus, picturesque streets such as Ulica Kłonicza, the superb Gothic Cathedral, and the Jewish Kazimierz District with the Temple Synagogue, Corpus Christi Church and Ulica Szeroka. Old Krakow is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/29>). The rest of the day is free to explore this wonderful city on your own. A classical music concert or folklore show may be available this evening on an optional basis.



< Krakow's magnificent main square (photo by Lestat c/o Wikimedia Commons)

Day 6 - Sunday, August 22: Excursion to nearby Oswięcim, better known by its German name, **Auschwitz**, for a visit to the emblem of the horrors of the Holocaust, the biggest and most infamous of all Nazi camps, not just a concentration camp, but an extermination camp, now a memorial and a museum – and perhaps the saddest of all UNESCO World Heritage Sites (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/31>).

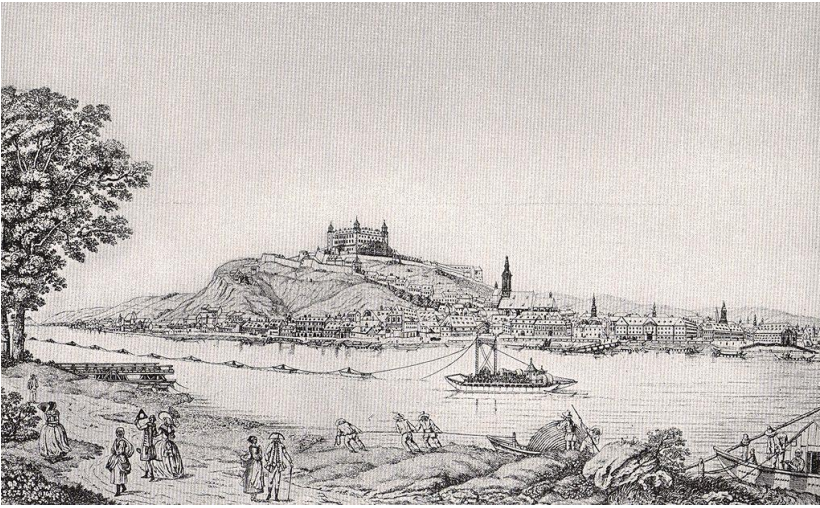
Return to Krakow in the afternoon and free time until dinner in the hotel or in a nearby restaurant.

Day 7 - Monday, August 23: Departure from Krakow after breakfast. We drive south and visit the wooden medieval Church of St. Michael in **Debno** (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/114514>). Then we enter the **Tatras**, the highest and most rugged range of the Carpathian Mountains, a kind of natural border between Poland and Slovakia. Together with its Slovak counterpart, the Polish Tatras are classified as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Our sightseeing will focus on the resort of **Zakopane** and surrounding area. Weather conditions permitting, we will ride on a raft through the **Dunajec River Gorge**, a tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/2102>) and ride on a raft, at least if time and weather permit. Arrival in the famous mountain resort of **Zakopane** and cable car to the summit of Gubalowka hill for a lovely view of the Tatras. Dinner and overnight in the 4-star/first-class Grand Hotel Stary (<https://stamary.pl/en>).

Day 8 - Tuesday, August 24: leaving Zakopane, we cross into the Czech Republic's eastern reaches, an historical land known as Moravia. In the picturesque and lively university city of **Olomouc**, once the region's capital, we break for lunch and for some sightseeing, focusing on the main square, featuring the huge renaissance Town Hall (with its astronomical clock) and the baroque Holy Trinity Column, a UNESCO World Heritage Site (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/859>); other sights of interest are two baroque fountains and the Cathedral, named after legendary St. Wenceslas. In the afternoon we continue through the fertile Hana plain to the Czech Republic's largest city after Prague, **Brno**. Our home here for three nights will be the centrally located five-star/deluxe Hotel Grandezza (<https://www.grandezzahotel.com>). Dinner in the hotel's restaurant.

Day 9 - Wednesday, August 25: Morning sightseeing in Brno, with as highlights the city's castles, Freedom Square, Old City Hall, St. Peter and Paul Cathedral on Petrov hill, fine historic churches and palaces in styles ranging from Renaissance to Art Nouveau, and attractive green spaces such as Luzanky Park and Denis Gardens. But the absolute highlight is likely to be our visit to the local UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Tugendhat House, a villa built by famous Bauhaus architect Mies van der Rohe around 1930 for a local Jewish industrialist (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1052>). Afternoon free for shopping and/or individual exploring. Amateurs of the genre may want to visit the St. James Church's ossuary, the biggest in Europe after the Paris Catacombs, and/or the Capuchin Monastery where some mummified monks are displayed in an underground tomb. Brno also has a number of excellent museums, such as the Moravian Gallery, the second largest art gallery in the Czech Republic, the Museum of Applied Arts, the Museum of Romani (a.k.a. Gypsies) Culture, the Museum of Decorative Arts, and the Museum of Genetics named after Mendel, the famous biologist, "the father of genetics," who worked and died in Brno. This evening, dinner of Moravian specialties and wine in a typical restaurant, likely enlivened by traditional folk music!

Day 10 - Thursday, August 26: Full-day excursion to **Bratislava**, the small but very attractive capital of Slovakia, nestled on the banks of the mighty Danube at only a stone's throw from the Austrian border. The main sights here are the hilltop castle and adjoining Slavin Monument, with great views of the city, the Cathedral, the New Bridge across the Danube, and the attractive medieval inner city with narrow, winding streets as well as fine square featuring historic churches, monasteries, palaces, and monuments to Slovak poets and national heroes. Also some free time to shop, explore on your own, and have lunch. Returning to Brno in the afternoon, we will view some of the sights in the **Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape**, yet another UNESCO World Heritage Site (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/763>). No group dinner this evening.



Day 11 - Friday, August 27: We leave Brno early because today will be a long but interesting day! We head north, via Olomouc, to **Bouzov**, a village dominated by a mighty castle that used to belong to the Teutonic Knights but was taken over by the SS during the Nazi occupation. On into northern Moravia's **High Ash Mountains** (Hruby Jeseník), better known by its German name, Altvatergebirge, as this area was long inhabited by the Sudeten Germans. En route, your guide will give a talk about the history of Czechoslovakia from its birth in 1918 to 2003, when Czechs and Slovaks decided to separate – or, as some would argue, separation was imposed on them. Crossing back into Poland, we are in Silesia, a region that belonged to Germany until 1945. Lunch break in the ancient town of **Klodzko**. In the afternoon visit to the “Churches of Peace” in **Swidnica**, a Protestant place of worship in a predominantly Catholic region, classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1054/gallery>). Arrival in late afternoon or early evening at our 5-star/deluxe Hotel Radisson Blu in the Silesian capital, **Wroclaw**, known in German as Breslau (<https://www.radissonblu.com/en/hotel-wroclaw>).

Day 12 - Saturday, August 28: Morning sightseeing tour of Wroclaw, with focus on the very attractive old town, known as “Polish Venice” because of its scenic location of a number of arms of the Oder River, featuring an impressive main square, an exuberant city hall, a baroque university building, and the usual array of fine palaces and churches. We also visit the city's UNESCO World Heritage Site, Centennial Hall, a pioneering work of modern engineering and architecture, created in 1911-1913 by the architect Max Berg (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1165>). No group dinner this evening.



Wroclaw, “Polish Venice”, on the banks of the Oder River (c/o Wikimedia Commons)

Day 13 - Sunday, August 29: After breakfast, departure from Wroclaw. We motor to **Lodz**, the country's third-largest city, an industrial powerhouse since the 19th century but also a major cultural centre. Here we will visit the Museum of Modern Art, focusing on avant-garde art and featuring works by Chagall, Picasso, Klee, Nolde, Ernst, etc. (<https://msl.org.pl/en/ms/for-visitors.html>) In the afternoon we continue to the village of **Zelazowa Wola**, located in the bucolic countryside of Mazovia Province, for a visit to the little manor house, surrounded by lovely gardens, where Frederic Chopin, the famous Polish composer, was born in 1810. Early evening arrival in **Warsaw**, where we check into the historic first-class/4-star Hotel Polonia Palace (<https://www.poloniapalace.com>). Final group dinner in the hotel's fine restaurant.

Day 14 - Monday, August 30: After breakfast, panoramic tour of Warsaw's historic city centre, the final UNESCO World Heritage Site on our tour (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/30>), with monuments such as the picturesque Old Town Square, the imposing Royal Castle, St. John's Cathedral and many other fine churches, the monument to the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, City Hall, and the Saxon Gardens with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. In the afternoon, transfer to the airport and return LOT flight to Toronto, departing at 5:05 PM and arriving at 8:20 PM.

Tour cost, based on double occupancy, from Toronto: \$4,895, INCLUDING all taxes and other surcharges - "land only": \$3,775 - Single room supplement: \$775

Included in the tour price are:

- Return flight Toronto-Warsaw, including all applicable airport taxes/security fees/fuel surcharges;
- Overland travel by private coach;
- Accommodation based on double occupancy in a combination of five-star/deluxe and four-star/first-class hotels (the single room supplement is \$775);
- Daily breakfast, mostly buffet-style, and all but three dinners (or full lunches);
- All visits and sightseeing, including admission to museums and monuments, as shown in the itinerary;
- Gratuities for the coach driver and local guides;
- Only for participants booking the entire tour at least 90 days prior to departure including flights from/back to Canada: lounge pass for use on day of departure at Toronto Airport.

Not included are:

- All items of a personal nature;
- Meals other than those shown above, and wine/beer/coffee etc. with dinners;
- Travel insurance is available on request, please call for rates.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and registration form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 61 days before departure: 25% of tour cost

60 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost

Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. We also reserve the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. We reserve the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, travel warnings by the Canadian Government etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable.

By commencing the tour, I agree to the release and agreement as included below.

RELEASE & AGREEMENT:

By placing my deposit and commencing the tour I understand and agree to the following:

1. That all tours are delivered in conjunction with other service providers, including but not limited to travel agent and booking services, airlines, hotel and accommodation providers, transportation providers including but not limited to coach, train and ferry services, restaurant providers, and local guides. Pauwels Travel shall not be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotels, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally.
2. I know that tour programs include walking, and may include hiking and fitness programs that have potential hazardous activities associated with them. I should not participate prior to approval by my physician. I assume any and all other risks associated with these events included but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and/or humidity.
3. To release, indemnify and hold harmless Pauwels Travel Bureau and their affiliates (which term shall include parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of Pauwels Travel Bureau as well as Pauwels Travel themselves) (the "Released Parties") from, and agree not to sue the Released Parties for, any claims that I may have arising from, or in connection with, any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from any cause whatsoever related in any way to my participation in this tour. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from, and agree not to sue them for any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from the Released Parties' negligence other than from intentional or reckless acts by such parties. I further agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all acts of God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorist activities, incidents of politically motivated violence, illness or quarantine, strikes or government restrictions or the acts or omissions of any other agents over which the Released Parties have no direct or indirect control,

including, without limitation, airlines, railways, bus companies, hotels, shipping companies, guides and sub-contracted agents or tour operators. This release also includes activities not offered that may be considered risky. I further release any Tour Directors, bus drivers or other individuals involved in my tour.

4. That the air carrier's liability for loss of or damage to baggage or property, or for death or injury to person, is limited by their tariffs, or the Warsaw Convention, or both.
5. That Pauwels Travel Bureau shall have no liability or responsibility for me when I am absent from activities, such as visits to friends or relatives or during stay-ahead/stay-behind option periods if the stay-ahead/stay-behind period does not include the services of a Tour Director.
6. To abide by directions of my Tour Director or other leadership personnel during my tour. Failure to do so may result in my termination from tour immediately. I understand that to disobey such rules or directions are to waive the right to any refund, and that I may be sent home at my own expense. The participant and family undertake full financial responsibility for any damage caused by the participant and agree to pay his/her return home on the first available flight, should his/her behavior be deemed detrimental to the welfare of the group.
7. To abide by all local laws when in Canada and abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. (Minors must have parents' permission to use alcohol even if the local law would otherwise permit them to.) I understand that if I abuse or disobey such laws, even unintentionally, I waive my right to a refund, and Pauwels Travel may send me home at my own expense. I also understand that should local authorities be involved, I will be subject to the laws of the country I am visiting.
8. That if I become ill or incapacitated, Pauwels Travel and its employees, or a designated chaperone may take any action they deem necessary for my safety and well-being, including securing medical treatment (at my own expense) and transporting me home. Pauwels Travel retains the right, in its sole discretion, to contact the traveller's parent(s) and/or guardian or emergency contact with regard to health issues or any matters whatsoever that relate to the traveller's tour. These rights transcend any and all privacy regulations that may apply. In the event of a medical emergency, Pauwels Travel will attempt to cause appropriate treatment to be administered, and the traveller authorizes Pauwels Travel to do so. Pauwels Travel, however, makes no warranty that it will be able to cause effective (or any) emergency treatment to be administered.
9. That Pauwels Travel may use any film likenesses taken of me and any of my comments while on a tour for future publication and also use my contact information for future Pauwels Travel communications.

A WORD ABOUT *GROUP* AIRFARES:

Please note that when booking one of our air inclusive tours, Pauwels Travel has negotiated reduced rates with the airline that we are able to confirm and lock in up to 359 days before travel. While it is wonderful to share the savings and flexibility this provides with you, our valued guests, the privilege does come with some restrictions. In some cases it may not be possible to collect frequent flyer miles, you may not be able to check in online 24 hours before travel, or you may need to try checking in with your ticket number rather than your booking reference and, in **almost ALL cases we are not able to offer advanced seat selection.**

It is the airline that makes the reservation and has control over the booking so it is their policy, not ours, that prevents us from assigning specific seats. If a request is made, it is passed on to the airline by our staff when they submit the names to the airline, i.e., 30-60 days prior to departure. Calling us several days before you leave will not change this fact nor will getting upset with our staff.

If a certain type of seat is indispensable to you, we suggest that you book our tour on a "land only" basis and make individual flight arrangements, in which case you may be able to get the seat of your choice; Pauwels Travel would be happy to assist you with that reservation at absolutely no additional charge. We will offer you the best fare available, but please note that this can only be done once a tour is a guaranteed departure because your individual airfare's conditions are likely to involve cancellation penalties. We thank you in advance for your kind understanding of the above!

REGISTRATION FORM

Please book ___ seat(s) on the “Central Europe from Carpathians to the Danube” tour of August 17 to 30, 2021.

Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)

Please indicate with an X if you intend to travel on Group flights _____ or Land only _____.

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for an interim payment of \$1500.00 and the balance due 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS AFTER TOUR TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR REGISTRATION.

PASSPORT NAME(S): **Please** indicate the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. “Liz” for “Mary Elizabeth”) _____

ADDRESS _____

Postal Code: _____ PHONE: _____ (Email) _____

If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED? YES _____ NO _____

If sharing, what is your bed preference: twin _____ double _____?

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc here. We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

Insurance, Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I /we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

All-inclusive Package _____ Non-medical Package _____

Other _____ **OR** Decline Insurance _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa Mastercard American Express

Amount Paid: _____ Card Number: _____

Expiry: _____ Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

“I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment”.

Date _____ **(Signature)(s)** _____

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:

PAUWELS TRAVEL BUREAU LTD.

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