A Jewish Heritage Tour of Warsaw and Krakow with your personal English-speaking guides

Featuring Exeter International Extraordinary Experiences
Private Visit to the Zabinski Villa

(The following is just a suggested daily tour schedule. You will have complete control over your daily schedule and may change your plans at any time by simply telling your guide.)

Day 1
Warsaw
Midday arrival into Warsaw. You will be met outside of customs by your guide and transfer to your deluxe hotel in the heart of Warsaw.

The remainder of your evening is at leisure. Fantastic restaurants and cafes are just steps from your hotel in Old Town Square and along the Royal Route. We recommend taking advantage of one of Warsaw’s specialty restaurants tonight.

Exeter Services: Transfer Only
Hotel: Bristol Warsaw
Day 2
Warsaw
This morning your guide will meet you in your hotel lobby at 10AM for a visit to the historic Old Town.

Warsaw, the capital of Poland, was almost completely destroyed during World War II. Its rebuilding was an act of determination and self-belief. Today the city again features fine views of Castle Square, the Royal Castle and King Zygmunt III Vasa. On a walking tour with your guide have a stroll through Warsaw’s renowned Castle Square. In the Castle Square, you’ll find street artists, small cafes and shops among the rebuilt gothic mansions of Warsaw’s nobility. View Zygmunt Column, built to honor King Zygmunt III Wasa, who moved Poland’s capital from Krakow to Warsaw in the 17th-century.

If you are interested, your guide will take you to the Royal Castle, which boasts one of the most magnificent art collections of the city, including famous views of Warsaw by Bellotto, the nephew and student of the famous Venetian painter Canaletto. Bellotto was the court painter of King Stanislaw August and his paintings of Warsaw were used for rebuilding the city after its near complete destruction in World War II.

After a break for lunch, payable locally, meet your driver for the remainder of the afternoon. Today you will have the chance to explore the somber Museum of the Warsaw Uprising. This new museum has garnered raves for its unflinching view of Warsaw’s darkest time. The museum, which opened on Aug. 1, 2004 to mark the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the fight for Warsaw, is a tribute paid by residents of the city to those who fought and died to bring freedom to Poland and its capital. The exhibition displays all aspects of the battle as well as everyday
life in Warsaw against the background of the German Nazi occupation. It also explains the complicated international situation of that time, including the communist terror after the end of World War II and the persecution of insurgents in communist Poland. More than 500 exhibit items, plus about 1,000 photographs, films and sound recordings, depict the days leading up to the outbreak of the uprising, its day-by-day development, the forced evacuation of the fighters from Warsaw, and their ordeal after their heroic fight was over.

Finally this afternoon, head to Łazienki Park, one of the most beautiful and serene areas of Warsaw and a favorite of the local residents. The highlight of Łazienki Park is the Palace on the Water. It is one of the finest examples of Neo-Classical architecture in Poland. King Stanisław August Poniatowski converted this 17th century pavilion into a palace, which has been fully restored.

If it’s Sunday, at 4PM enjoy a local summer tradition in Warsaw by grabbing a seat in the park for an open-air Chopin concert. The schedule is always subject to change, but today’s pianist is scheduled to be Tomas Pawłowski, a soloist with the Warsaw Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra.

Note: Some touring today is on foot. Please wear comfortable footwear.

Exeter Services: Half-Day Vehicle & Driver (4 Hours); Full-Day Guide (8 Hours)
Hotel: Bristol Warsaw
Day 3

Warsaw

This morning you may wish to visit the major places of Jewish Interest in Warsaw. Before World War II, Poland’s capital was the most important Jewish center in Europe. Out of all the cities in the world, only New York had a greater Jewish population.

The first stop on any itinerary of Jewish Warsaw is the Nozyk Synagogue, the only one of the ghetto’s three synagogues still standing. A short distance away is the Ghetto Heroes Monument. Unveiled in 1948 on the fifth anniversary of the Ghetto Uprising, the monument recalls both the immense courage of the Jewish resistance.

The Jewish Cemetery, established in 1806, is one of the very few Jewish cemeteries still in use in Poland today. Scattered among the plots are the graves of eminent Polish Jews. Also worth seeking out is a powerful sculpted monument to Janusz Korczak, founder of the prewar orphanage.

Nearby you will have time to explore the new Museum of the History of Polish Jews (POLIN) that just opened in October 2014. This is a massive timeline of Jewish life in the region, stretching back 1000 years. Unlike many museums, this exhibit doesn’t focus on the Holocaust. Rather, it focuses on the development of Jewish life and community. The museum is quite intensive and has a nice café, so take your time and afterwards, if you like, enjoy a light lunch or snack before heading out.
Exeter International Extraordinary Experience
This afternoon you have a private tour of the former villa of Jan Zabinski in the Warsaw Zoo. Dr. Zabinski was the director of the Warsaw Zoo before and during WWII. Upon the creation of the Warsaw Ghetto, Dr. Zabinski and his wife started hiding Jews in his villa and, unbelievably, in the Zoo itself. This was documented in Diane Akerman’s excellent book, The Zookeeper’s Wife.

Exeter Services: Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours)
Hotel: Bristol Warsaw

Day 4
Warsaw – Krakow
This morning meet your driver and your English-speaking transfer assistant for the journey to the station to meet your high-speed train to Krakow. First class tickets are included.

Upon arrival in Krakow, your private driver and guide will meet you at the station for your short transfer to the city center. After time to check-in and freshen up, meet your guide in the lobby for an exploration of Krakow’s Old Town.
Well preserved through the ages, Krakow is a city of medieval architecture delighting visitors with beautiful manor houses and splendid squares. Your guide will take you to the famous Florian Gate, the Main Market Square, the Cloth Hall, and the Town Hall Tower.

Begin your tour of the Old Town with the beautiful Florian Gate, built around 1300 on one of the streets laid out according to the town plan of 1257. The Gothic houses of the 13th-century burgesses still remain, although they were rebuilt and given Renaissance or neoclassical facades. The medieval Sukiennice, rebuilt in the 1550’s, is one of the most distinctive sights in the country – a vast cloth hall, topped by a sixteenth-century attic dripping with gargoyles. Its commercial traditions are perpetuated by a covered market, which bustles with tourists and street sellers at almost every time of the year. The tall tower next to the Cloth Hall is all that remains of the original, fourteenth-century town hall, pulled down in the 1820’s. It’s worth the climb for an excellent overview of the city.

Today you will enter one of Krakow’s newest and best museums. The new Rynek Underground museum is built on the site of an archeological excavation under the Cloth Hall that reveals secrets of Krakow’s development since its founding in the Middle Ages. The interactive museum showcases elements of medieval architecture and, through multimedia and interactive exhibits, medieval Krakow comes alive.

We highly recommend a visit to the newly reopened Gallery of 19th Century Polish Art, located in the Cloth Hall. This just reopened from a major renovation in September 2010 and the gallery is gorgeous. Do not miss the room featuring Piotr Michalowski and the great rooftop café is perfect for an afternoon break.

Note: All touring today is on foot through mostly pedestrian areas. Please wear appropriate footwear.

**Exeter Services:** Transfers (Warsaw & Krakow)
Half-Day Guide (4 Hours) (Krakow)
**Hotel:** Sheraton Krakow

**Day 5**

*Krakow*

This morning your driver and guide will meet you for your visit to the memorial at Auschwitz–Birkenau. Auschwitz-Birkenau is located approximately 35 miles away from Krakow, near the industrial town of Oswiecim. Upon arrival, a special Auschwitz guide will meet you and will take you through the remains of the Auschwitz concentration camp. You will see the somber and sometimes shocking exhibits located throughout the camp.
After your tour of Auschwitz, you may also visit Birkenau, where the majority of captives lived and died. You may wander around the barracks. Do not miss the monument to the dead, inscribed in ten languages, located between the ruins of the gas chambers and crematoria.

This afternoon, back in the city, visit Krakow’s former Jewish district, Kazimierz, to visit its most important Jewish heritage sights.

You will first see the Old Synagogue, dating back from the 16th Century, which also houses a branch of the Historical Museum, where artifacts used in Jewish rituals and documents pertaining to the history of the local Jewish community are on display.

You will continue to the Remuh Synagogue and cemetery. The small Renaissance-style synagogue was built in the 16th Century and is one of the two that are still in use. Just behind the Remuh Synagogue, you will visit one of the most important Jewish cemeteries in Europe, which, although badly damaged during the Second World War, still holds some old tombstones.

This whole area was immortalized by Spielberg’ film Schindler’s List and has many shops and kosher restaurant with live traditional Jewish music.
Today you may also wish to visit the Galicia Jewish Museum, located a few minutes away from the Old Synagogue in Krakow’s Jewish Quarter. Housed in a former Jewish factory, it is dedicated not to just the death, but the life that the Jews lead in Galicia, today’s Malopolska region of Poland, which includes the city of Krakow. The permanent photographic exhibit on display shows the traces of Jewish memory that continue to linger in this region from the lives they lead prior to the Holocaust.

Note: Touring in Auschwitz is on foot and involves stairs. Please wear comfortable footwear.

Exeter Services: Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours)
Hotel: Sheraton Krakow

Day 6
Krakow
Today you may want to explore some of the history of Krakow during World War II. One of our favorite museums in the city is in the old Schindler Factory. Appalled by the raids on the Krakow Ghetto, where soldiers were used to round up the inhabitants for shipment to the concentration camps, Oscar Schindler increasingly used all of his skills and connections to protect the Jews working in his factory, often calling on his persuasiveness and ingratiating manner to save his workers and their families.

The factory reopened in March, 2009, as a new branch of the Krakow History Museum, focusing on the history of Krakow during the years 1939 – 1945.
Nearby you can also visit the Pharmacy Under the Eagle. This pharmacy in what became the new Jewish ghetto was run by Tadeusz Pankiewicz, a non-Jew. He decided to keep the pharmacy running during the occupation to try to help Jews living in the Ghetto. He has been recognized as one of the Righteous Among Nations and the pharmacy is a small museum portraying life in the ghetto.

This afternoon walk to Wawel Hill to visit the Renaissance Royal Castle and Cathedral. Converted from a Gothic style in the early 1500’s by a Florentine architect, the tiered courtyard of the castle is reminiscent of an opulent Italian palazzo. Inside the castle view the State Rooms, which feature the splendid assembly of Flanders tapestries, scattered throughout the first and second floors. There is also an amazing ceiling with woodcarvings of 30 human heads, which is worth a look.

The Skarbiec (Royal Treasury and Armory) with its display of crown jewels and lesser royal possessions including rings, crosses, the coronation shoes and burial crown of Zygmunt August are not to be missed. The Armory rooms of the castle contain a variety of items including finely crafted weapons, shields and helmets. Items of serious warfare are also on display with weapons captured over five centuries from Poland's host of foreign invaders.

A highlight of visiting the castle today will be the opportunity to see Leonardo da Vinci’s Lady with an Ermine. This rare painting is usually exhibited at the Czartoryski Musuem, which has been closed for renovations for a few years. After touring Europe, this, one of Leonardo's best preserved paintings, is back at home in Krakow.
The cathedral, as in few cathedrals of the world, speaks the history of Poland. Evoked by former Archbishop Karol Wojtyla of Krakow, as with Westminster Abbey or St. Peter’s, the moment you enter Wawel Cathedral, you know you’re in a place resonant to the core with national history. Adorned with a mass of side chapels, endowed by subsequent Polish monarchs and aristocratic families too, the present brick and sandstone basilica is essentially Gothic, dating from the year 1306. Look for the collection of prehistoric animal bones as you enter the cathedral – as long as they remain, so legend maintains, the cathedral will too.

Note: Touring today is on foot through mostly pedestrian areas. Please wear appropriate footwear.

Exeter Services: Half-Day Vehicle & Driver (4 Hours); Full-Day Guide (8 Hours)
Hotel: Sheraton Krakow

Day 7
Krakow – Onward
Meet your driver for your transfer to the airport to meet your departing flight.

Exeter Services: Transfer
Your itinerary includes...

Accommodations

Warsaw

One Executive Room for Three (3) nights at the Bristol; Tax and Buffet Breakfast included daily.

This wonderful historic hotel was built in 1899 and combines 19th century ambience and charm with 21st century luxury and technology. It just completed a remodel in 2012 and has now reclaimed its spot as the top hotel in the city. Located in the heart of the capital, the Bristol has been Warsaw’s leading hotel and the meeting place for high society and international dignitaries for over a century. Situated on King’s Walk, Warsaw’s most fashionable street, and overlooking the Presidential Palace, the hotel is just a few minutes on foot from the historic Old Town, the Royal Castle and the National Theater.

The art nouveau façade welcomes guests in grand style and inside guests will find the highly regarded Marconi Restaurant along with the famous Viennese-style Café Bristol. An indoor pool and fitness center add to the long list of guest amenities. As this is a historic hotel, guest rooms vary widely in size and layout. All guest rooms are individually designed and some offer majestic high ceilings, French doors and balconies. All rooms feature satellite television, iPod docking station and evening turndown service.

Executive Rooms: These spacious (from 322 to 624 square feet!), very comfortable rooms are our top choice for most guests. All rooms feature a choice of one king or two twin beds as well as a comfortable sitting area. Rooms are overlooking Warsaw’s most fashionable street - the historical "King’s Walk," the park, or overlook the quiet inner courtyard.
Krakow

**One Deluxe Room for Three (3) nights** at the Sheraton; Tax and Buffet Breakfast included daily.

This newer hotel (just opened in 2005) is ideally located near Wawel Castle on the bank of the Vistula River with stunning views of both. It is just a 10-minute walk to the famous Market Square and Old Town. The hotel features a spectacular Atrium with a glass roof and a traditional Old Town feel that belies its very modern exterior. Krakow’s first truly 5 star international hotel features 233 guestrooms and suites, all comfortably appointed and equipped with the latest communication technology. It includes an all-day dining restaurant, lobby lounge & café plus a lively bar & pub. The hotel also includes an indoor pool, fully equipped fitness facility, lobby shop and parking.

**Deluxe Rooms:** These rooms feature approximately 300 square feet of space and the same amenities as Classic Rooms. They have either one king or two twin beds. The highlight of this room category is the beautiful view of the Vistula River, which runs in front of the hotel. Some of these rooms also have views of Wawel Castle.

**Meals**

No meals included, other than breakfast as described above. Your final documents will include our top recommendations. *Your guides will recommend restaurants that fit your exact needs daily.*

**Services**

Private vehicle, driver and guide at your service as described. A full day is generally eight hours in duration. A half-day is generally three hours in duration. The timing for each day is noted in your program.

Exeter International’s local offices are available for your assistance 24 hours per day while you are traveling. Our local staff may also assist you with restaurant reservations and purchasing of additional theater and museum tickets at your request.

**Transportation**

All transfers to and from airports are included in the program. Unless otherwise noted, all transfer service is with a driver only, not a guide. In general, drivers have limited English-speaking skills. Evening transportation is not included unless specifically noted in your itinerary. Timing for each day is noted in your program.

**Guides**

Hand chosen for their knowledge on local history, art & architecture. Guides are at your disposal as noted in your itinerary.

**Theater**

None included. Full listings of events will be provided well before departure.
Tickets
All entrance tickets as described in the program.

Rail Tickets
First Class tickets from Warsaw to Krakow are included.

Air
None Included.

Exeter International Independent Travel Programs

BAGGAGE
The vehicles reserved for your itinerary can accommodate up to two medium-sized suitcases per person. If you intend to travel with additional luggage, please advise your travel consultant so appropriate arrangements may be made. In general, we schedule a sedan for parties of two, a minivan for parties of three to four and a minibus for parties of five or more.

SIGHTSEEING
Sightseeing arrangements have been made with your special interests in mind. Your drivers and guides are at your disposal for full or half-day sightseeing programs as indicated in the itinerary. Within those time and mileage guidelines, your driver and guide are at your disposal, so you are free to modify your program as you please. Should you require additional time or mileage, the costs will be quoted on request and may be paid for locally in the local currency or U.S. Dollars.

Every effort has been made to confirm that scheduled sightseeing venues will be open at the time you plan to visit them. However, individual estates, museums, gardens and other points of interest can change their hours of operation at short notice. In the event that a particular attraction is closed on the day or time of your visit, your guide will offer alternative arrangements or rearrange your sightseeing to accommodate these unexpected events.

OPTIONAL EXPENSES
Charges for extra meals, transport, sightseeing services or other optional additions to your established itinerary are your responsibility and must be paid locally in the local currency.

GRATUITIES
Gratuities are not included in your tour price. Gratuities are at your own discretion. We recommend $15-$20 per person, per day for your guide and $5 - $10 per person, per day for your driver. For your airport or station transfer, a gratuity of $5 - $10 is customary, based on service. Dollars, Euros and any local currency are all accepted.

DINING WITH YOUR GUIDE
On days when dinner and lunch costs have not been included in your itinerary (or in your tour cost), you may, at your discretion, choose to invite your guide to dine with your party. You are under no obligation to do so but, if you do extend such an invitation, the guide is your guest and you will be responsible for the cost of his/her meal.
BOOKING CONDITIONS

PAYMENT
Exeter International must receive a deposit of 25% of the total program cost before reservations for your independent travel program can be initiated. The balance of payment is due 60 days prior to departure. No reservations are made on your behalf until this deposit has been received. Availability and pricing is subject to change until this deposit is received. All deposits are nonrefundable.

CANCELLATION
Written cancellations received less than 60 days prior to departure are subject to the following forfeit of tour cost
• 59-14 days prior to departure, 50% of total tour cost
• 14 or less days prior to departure, 100% of tour cost.

REFUNDS
We regret that refunds cannot be issued for arrangements confirmed on your itinerary but unused once your tour has begun.

INSURANCE
Exeter International strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance to protect your investment. You will find insurance costs noted on your invoice and insurance coverage information in your original booking packet.

PRICES AND ARRANGEMENTS
Once an itinerary is finalized and final payment has been made, a $100 revision fee will be charged if the itinerary is changed.

The tour price includes planning, handling and operational charges. Rates are quoted in US Dollars on the current rate of exchange and tariff as of 2015. Exeter International reserves the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs and taxes, and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets. Devaluation of a foreign currency will be weighed against any tariff increases imposed. Exeter International does not breakdown costs involved in any Small Group or Individual Travel Program.

All arrangements are subject to availability and modification if necessary.

Prices are subject to change if necessary until paid in full.

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