

Join the Light of the World Catholic Church of Littleton, CO

A Summer Pilgrimage to Poland: Encountering the Saints of Divine Mercy

This extraordinary pilgrimage features six nights in Krakow, one night in Lodz, and two nights in Warsaw. Daily Mass, celebrated by our pilgrimage chaplain Fr. Mateusz Ratajczak, will serve as the spiritual cornerstone of each day, complemented by a comprehensive Catholic touring program designed to immerse pilgrims in the lives of Poland's great saints, with particular emphasis on St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Faustina Kowalska, and Pope Saint John Paul II.

Pilgrimage highlights include St. Maximilian Kolbe's Niepokalanów monastery, the National Shrine of Divine Mercy, the historic Wieliczka Salt Mines, Pope Saint John Paul II's birthplace in Wadowice, the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial site, an optional excursion to Zakopane, the Jasna Góra monastery housing Our Lady of Czestochowa, and numerous other churches and sacred sites throughout Poland.

The pilgrimage package includes roundtrip airfare and accommodations at beautifully appointed, centrally located hotels. A dedicated ProRome tour manager will accompany the group throughout the entire pilgrimage. Additionally, the package includes private motorcoach transportation, professional Catholic tour guides, all tours and entrance tickets, daily breakfast, and either lunch or dinner each day.

August 7 -17, 2026

\$3620 per person, Land Only \$4890 per person, Airfare Included



Every day of pilgrimage will include the celebration of Holy Mass, locations to be determined based on availability. Additionally, every day will include breakfast and either lunch or dinner. Thus pilgrims will be provided two meals daily. The exception would be on the arrival day and departure day when pilgrims will receive one meal.

Friday, August 7 Departure

Departure information from the Denver airport is forthcoming.

Saturday, August 8 Arrival In Poland

Upon arrival in Krakow, we will be met by our guide and private coach. We'll then depart directly for our five-star hotel (TBD). Dinner and overnight stay in Krakow. Welcome to Poland!

Sunday, August 9 Krakow

Today we will enjoy a comprehensive tour of the incredible city of Krakow, highlighting the various places associated with Pope Saint John Paul II. Along the way we'll learn Karol Wojdyla's story, from when he first came here as a student in 1944 until his canonization on October 22, 2013! The many years in between these two events are full of incredible stories, and Krakow played a central role in each of them. Our tour includes visits to the following: Saint Florian's Church, Market Square (the largest market area in Europe), Saint Mary's Basilica, and the towering Wawel Hill overlooking Krakow, complete with a tour of the Wawel Royal Castle! Our day will conclude with a visit to the Sanctuary of St. Brother Albert where we will have the opportunity to pray at the famous Ecce Homo painting. Dinner and overnight stay in Krakow.

Monday, August 10 Łagiewniki (Divine Mercy) | Wieliczka Salt Mine | Wadowice

Following breakfast we will drive to the Congregation of Sisters of the Divine Mother of Mercy in the Lagiewniki neighborhood of Krakow to visit the tomb of Sister Faustina. She lived, worked and died here. We will see the convent chapel as well as the nearby Shrine of Divine Mercy with the new basilica. John Paul II visited the sanctuary twice – in 1997 and in 2002. We will also visit the sanctuary that houses the image of Merciful Jesus and the relics of St. Faustina. Interestingly, the sanctuary is situated close to a quarry where young Karol Wojtyła was employed as a manual worker during WWII.

We will then proceed to the Wieliczka Salt Mine for a subterranean tour of the world famous mines! Visited by more than one million tourists per year, this UNESCO world heritage site is simply stunning. On this tour we will walk 2.5 km through 3 underground levels down to 135 meters below ground level. We will see underground lakes, various interesting geological forms, galleries, chambers and St. Kinga's Chapel where everything is made of salt: crystal chandeliers, altars, sculptures and floor paving carved in the layer of salt.

Following lunch we will then depart for Wadowice – the birthplace of the Pope **John Paul II**! Here we will visit the house in which he was born and the church in which he was baptized! We will then return to Krakow. Dinner and overnight in Krakow.

Tuesday, August 11 Markowa | Wal-Ruda

After breakfast we will depart for a day trip outside of Krakow. We will begin with a trip to Markowa where we will have the unique

opportunity to visit the The Ulma Family Museum of Poles Saving Jews in World War II. Here we will learn the incredible story of the Ulma Family who were beatified on September 10, 2023. After ample time visiting the museum, we will break for an independent lunch in the nearby town of Lancut.

After lunch, we will depart Lancut for the small town of Wal-Ruda. Here we will learn the story of Blessed Karolina Kozkowna, also known as the Polish Maria Goretti, who was martyred in 1914 and beatified by John Paul II in 1987. We will visit the museum and chapel built over the site of Karolina's family home, in addition to praying at the nearby Shrine of Blessed Karolina Kozkowna in Zabawa where her relics are housed. We will then return to Krakow. Dinner and overnight in Krakow.

Wednesday, August 12 Krakow | Zakopane

Today you have the choice of a free day in Krakow visiting the many churches and sites within walking distance, or an excursion into the Tatra Mountains to the town of Zakopane, a famous resort village and a favorite of Pope Saint **John Paul II!**

Here we will enjoy a tour of key places connected to John Paul II including The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima in Krzeptówki, built as a votive offering for saving the Pope's life after the 1981 assassination attempt. Our tour will also include a small wooden chapel in Jaszczurówka, which Pope John Paul II visited and admired for its unique Zakopane-style architecture. Additionally, we will visit the papal altar at Wielka Krokiew, where he celebrated a Mass during his pilgrimage in 1997. Lastly, we will finish our day trip by taking the funicular up to Gubałówka hill, which offers a stunning panoramic view of the entire Tatra range. In the evening we will rendezvous at the hotel for dinner. Overnight in Krakow.

Thursday, August 13 Free Day Or Optional Day-trip to Auschwitz

After breakfast and Mass we will depart on an optional day-trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, a place of horror, inhumanity and the Holocaust. In 1979 the former concentration camp was entered on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Here we will visit **St. Maximilian Kolbe's** cell. We will visit barracks in Auschwitz I, and the extensive, depressing area of the large wooden extermination camp at Auschwitz II – Birkenau. The biggest impression is made by the shocking gas chambers, the crematoria, death cells, barbed wire and the creepy,



silent watchtowers. We'll then return to Krakow for some free time. Pilgrims are welcome to use the free time to revisit nearby sites or to explore new ones. Dinner and overnight in Krakow.

Friday, August 14 Częstochowa

Following breakfast we depart Krakow for Czestochowa, where we will stop at the Jasna Gora Monastery, the most famous Marian shrine in central Europe! Second in visitors only to Fatima and Lourdes, Jasna Gora is one of the most important pilgrimage sites of the entire Christian world. Every year millions of pilgrims come here to pray before the miraculous picture of Our Lady of Czestochowa, the heart of Polish devotion to Our Lady and one of the most powerful places of prayer! Here we will celebrate Mass (pending availability) and venerate the famous Black Madonna, followed by a tour of the monastery premises. The tour will be led by a resident Pauline monk. After the visit we will depart for Lodz. Upon our arrival, we will check-in to our hotel (TBD). Dinner and overnight stay in Lodz.

Saturday, August 15 Lodz | Świnice Warckie | Niepokalanów

Following breakfast we will visit the park where Jesus appeared to St. Faustina in a vision, along with the Archcathedral Basilica of St. Stanislaus Kostka. We will then depart Lodz for Swinice Warckie to visit where Faustina received her baptism, first communion and confession. And finally nearby we will also encounter the birthplace and family home of St. Faustina. We will then continue our journey until we arrive in Niepokalanow. Here we will break for lunch before visiting the Franciscan monastery where Maximillian Kolbe lived and worked, learning his story and praying for his intercession. Here we will celebrate

We then continue the last leg of our trip and finally arrive in Warsaw, where we will check in at our five-star hotel (TBD). We will then enjoy dinner before retiring for the evening for some much needed rest. Overnight in Warsaw.

Holy Mass together (pending availability).

Sunday, August 16 Warsaw

Today we will enter into the history of Poland's capital by beginning with a tour of the Warsaw Uprising Museum, where we will be educated on the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. From here we will then depart for the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, the convent where **Saint Faustina** entered into religious life. Here we will receive a guided tour, before breaking for an independent lunch.

After lunch we will continue with our tour, visiting the Basilica of the Holy Cross, St.

John's Archcathedral, and finally St. Stanislaw Kostka Church, where we will pray at the tomb of the 20th century Catholic martyr Father Jerzy Popieluszko and celebrate Holy Mass (pending availability). Father Popieluszko was brutally murdered by militant secret police in 1984. His story is intertwined with the story of Poland and the story of Pope Saint John Paul II, and we'll begin to learn just how influential the Holy Father was during these years, combating Soviet ideology and giving strength and hope to the people of Poland. Dinner and overnight in Warsaw.

Monday, August 17 Departure

Following breakfast we'll depart for the Warsaw airport for our return flights home. Safe travels!





Payment Schedule

More Details

Final Cost

• \$300 - ProRome Registration Fee - Due upon Registration

• \$2295 - First Installment - Due February 10, 2026

• \$2295 - Second Installment - Due April 10, 2026

• TBD - Single Occupancy Surcharge (If Applicable) - Due April 10, 2026

Price Inclusions

- Nine nights lodging in double occupancy room
 - Six nights at the five-star Sheraton Grand Krakow (or similar) in Krakow
 - One night at a four-star hotel in Lodz
 - Two nights at the five-star Sheraton Grand Warsaw (or similar) in Warsaw
- ProRome Tour Manager throughout the course of the trip
- Professional English-speaking guides for all visits according to the above itinerary
- Tours and all entry-tickets
- Daily buffet breakfast (without choice of menus)
- Daily lunch or dinner
- Deluxe A/C coach when required (note that we will still walk 3-7 miles per day)
- Audio guiding system throughout the course of the trip

Price Exclusions

- Any personal expenses
- Beverages at meals
- One daily meal (either lunch or dinner)
- Trip Insurance (available for purchase through ProRome)
- Gratuities for the Tour Manager and Driver- Suggested \$20-\$30 per person for both the tour manager and the bus driver



