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1st INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM AND PILGRIMAGES

KRAKOW, POLAND 8-12.11.2017

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT JOHN PAUL II

8.11, Wed Day 1. Arrivals to Krakow

all day Arrivals to Krakow. Check-in at one of the hotels: Hotel Galaxy 4****, Park Inn 4****, Plus Q 4**** or similar *** or **** centrally located. Free time. Overnight in Krakow. No dinner included.

9.11, Thu Day 2. Krakow – Lagiewniki – Krakow

7.00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

8.00 Transfer to the John Paul II Center.

9.00 Holy Mass with Krakow Church authorities, at the Sanctuary of Saint John Paul II in Krakow, Totus Tuus 32 street.

10.00 Congress opening ceremony – His Eminence Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, secretary of Saint John Paul II.

10.15 Congress opening ceremony – prof. Jacek Majchrowski, the President of Krakow.

10.30 Congress opening ceremony – Jacek Krupa, Marshal of the Małopolska Region.

11.00 World Youth Day – preparation, performance, impact on the city – a Town Hall representative's speech.

11.15 The religious tourism and pilgrimages in Krakow and Poland – a speech by Ernest Mirosław, the director of Ernesto Travel – the leading incoming tour operator in Poland.

12.00 *Expo fair session* – an opportunity to meet the local attractions representatives: sanctuaries, local tourism offices, places of interest.

- 14.00 Lunch.
- 15.00 Visit of the Divine Mercy Sanctuary. „the Divine Mercy will save the World!“. In a place where Faustina Kowalska spent a part of her life, next to the convent, a sanctuary was built. It now houses the famous picture „Jesus, I trust in you“ and also the relics of St Faustina Kowalska. The sanctuary was founded by John Paul II and is nowadays amongst the most important sanctuaries in Poland and Europe.
- 16.30 Visit of Krakow with a local guide. The old capital of the Polish Kingdom, one of the Europe's biggest empires in the Middle Ages: we will walk up the Wawel Hill to see the Royal Castle and the Cathedral – the place of coronation and last resting of many Polish kings. Also here, in the Roman Cript of Saint Leonard, Fr. Karol Wojtyla celebrated his first holy mass on the 2nd November 1946. We will continue to the Old Town with its lively Main Market Square *Rynek* – the biggest medieval market square in Europe, embellished by many monuments, including the Cloth Hall *Sukiennice* and the Saint Mary Church with its fine wooden altar carved by the medieval master, Wit Stwosz. We will continue to places related with Fr. Wojtyla, Franciscan Church with a bench where he used to pray and the nearby *Papal Window* where he used to talk with the youth who gathered below, during his pilgrimages to Poland. Krakow Old Town was declared the World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1978.
- 20.00 Dinner with a klezmer music concert. Return to the hotel. Overnight in Krakow.
- 10.11, Fri Day 3. Krakow – Auschwitz-Birkenau – Wieliczka – Krakow**
- 6.30 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.
- 7.00 Transfer to Oswiecim (Auschwitz in German).
- 8.30 Guided tour at the former German Nazi concentration camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau. The camp was built by Nazis during the German occupation of Poland. More than a million people from different nationalities were killed in this place, the majority of Jewish origin. Today this place is listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
- 11.30 Transfer to Wieliczka.
- 13.30 Lunch.
- 15.00 We visit Wieliczka to see the oldest salt mine in Europe. Wieliczka is a unique place where many generations of Polish miners have created an underground world of tunnels and underground salt lakes with a rich interior of decorated chapels including the famous Blessed Kings Chapel, plus other galleries and works made of salt. Wieliczka is one the most beautiful places listed by UNESCO in Poland.
- 20.00 Gala dinner in the Cloth Hall – invited by the President Prof. Jacek Majchrowski. Overnight in Krakow.

11.11, Sat Day 4. Krakow – Kalwaria Zebrzydowska – Wadowice – Czestochowa – Krakow

- 7.00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.
- 7.30 Transfer to Kalwaria Zebrzydowska.
- 9.00 Visit at the Bernardine Monastery in Kalwaria, the 3rd most famous shrine in Poland. The whole Mannerist complex (including the sanctuary and a park) is also listed as a World Heritage site by UNESCO. Karol Wojtyla would visit this place since his childhood, kept coming even as a Pope.
- 10.30 Visit to the Parish church of Wadowice where Karol Wojtyla was baptised. Continue to the museum of John Paul II, recently renovated and reopened, a place that tells the story of the Greatest of the Poles, from his early years in small multicultural town of Wadowice until his last days as a bishop of Rome.
- 12.30 Lunch.
- 14.00 Transfer to Czestochowa.
- 16.00 The sanctuary of Black Madonna with its famous painting (said to be the work of St John) is a symbolic place for all the Poles. Along many, sometimes difficult, centuries of the Polish country, the Polish arrived and still arrive here to ask for help of the Blessed Virgin. The Mother of God was pronounced the Queen of Poland by the King John Casimirus in the 17th century. It is one of the main European pilgrimage destinations, receiving between 3 and 4 million of pilgrims every year. The Sanctuary is also a fortress, an interesting architectural complex.
- 18.00 Return to Krakow.
- 20.00 Dinner with a show of Polish folclore. Return to the hotel. Overnight in Krakow.

12.11, Sun Day 5. The departures

morning Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Check out.

Participation fees:

Price per person in a twin, double otr triple room	200,00 €
Price per person in a SGL room	250,00 €

Included:

1. Accommodation: 4 nights with buffet breakfast.
2. Full board from the breakfast on the 2nd day until the breakfast on the last day. Every lunch and dinner includes: 1st meal, 2nd meal, dessert. Water and bread for the meals included.
3. Tour guides during the transfers.
4. Visits as follows:
 - **Krakow** with a local guide,
 - **Wieliczka Salt Mine** with a local guide, entrance included;

- **Wadowice** with a local guide, entrance at the John Paul II museum included, free entrance to the Parish church in Wadowice included;
- **Kalwaria Zebrzydowska Sanctuary** – with a tour leader, free entrance;
- **Czestochowa Sanctuary** with a local guide included;
- Museum of the Former Nazi German Concentration Camp of **Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birneka** in Oswiecim with a local guide, earphones and free entrance included.

Not included:

1. Alcoholic drinks; coffee and tea;
2. 1st dinner on the 8th November;
3. Arrival and departure transfers to- and from the airport.
4. Flight tickets;
5. Luggage service;
6. Tips and pocket money;
7. Health insurance and travel insurance;
8. Other services that are not mentioned in this programme.