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2nd INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM AND PILGRIMAGES

KRAKOW, POLAND 7-11.11.2017

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

7.11, 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****, Legend 3**** and INX 4****, all centrally located. Free time. Overnight in Krakow. No dinner included.

8.11, Thu Day 2. Krakow – Biale Morza – Lagiewniki – Krakow

7.00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

7.45 Transfer to the John Paul II Center.

8.30 Opening Holy Mass led by His Excellency Bishop Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz, at the Sanctuary of Saint John Paul II in Krakow, Totus Tuus 32 street. The opening of the Congress.

9.30 Registration of the participants, preparations for the opening.

10.00 Congress opening ceremony: Jacek Majhrowski, the President of Krakow (or his representative).

10.10 Congress opening ceremony – Leszek Zegzda, the Marshall of the Malopolska Region.

10.20 Krakow – Malopolska – Poland in the pilgrimage map of the World – the past, the presence and the future – Dr Franciszek Mróz.

10.35 “Let's stay in touch!” – the youth as the religious tourism target – Szymon Gatlik, Krakow Town Hall.

- 10.50 St John Paul II Sanctuary in Krakow Presentation – Fr. Jan Kabziński.
- 11.00 Wieliczka Salt Mine Presentation – Agnieszka Wolańska.
- 11.10 John Paul II Museum in Wadowice Presentation – “John Paul II – a pilgrim “ – Fr. Dr. Jacek Pietruszka.
- 11.20 Auschwitz-Birkenau – a Place of Memory, a place of Pilgrimage – Dir. Andrzej Kacorzyk.
- 11.30 The Divine Mercy Sanctuary in Łagiewniki Presentation – Sr. Elżbieta Siepak.
- 11.40 The Black Madonna Sanctuary in Czestochowa.
- 11.50 The religious tourism and pilgrimages in Krakow and Poland as seen by a local entrepreneur – Ernest Mirosław Ernesto Travel, the trips and pilgrimages to Poland and Europe.
- 12.30-13.30 Visit of the Divine Mercy Sanctuary. „The Divine Mercy will save the World!”. In a place where Sr. 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.
- 13.30 Lunch at the Pastoral House (Dom Duszpasterski) and the Restaurant at the Divine Mercy Sanctuary (Restauracja Siostry Faustyny) at Łagiewniki.
- 15.00 – 19.00 For the participants of the Congress: Expo – meetings with the local expositors – sanctuaries, local informations offices, places of interest, local companies.
- 19.00 Return to the hotels.
- 20.00 Dinner with a folclore music concert at the restaurants. Return to the hotel. Overnight in Krakow.
- 9.11, 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.
- 12.00 Lunch at a local restaurant.
- 13.30 Transfer to Wieliczka.

- 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 Saint Kunegunda Chapel, plus other galleries and works made of salt. Wieliczka is one the most beautiful places listed by UNESCO in Poland.
- 20.00 Dinner. Overnight in Krakow.
- 10.11, Sat Day 4. Krakow – Kalwaria Zebrzydowska – Wadowice – Czestochowa – Krakow**
- 7.00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.
- 7.30 Transfer to Kalwaria Zebrzydowska.
- 8.30 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, kepted coming even as a Pope. Continue to Wadowice.
- 9.50 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 Departure to Czestochowa.
- 14.30 Lunch at the local restaurants.
- 16.30 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 would come and still come 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 local Polish dishes and a concert of the traditional local Jewish music – *klezmer*. Return to the hotel. Overnight in Krakow.
- 11.11, Sun Day 5. The departures**
- 8.00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Check out.
- 9.00 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. We will then 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. Krakow Old Town was declared the World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1978. We will also visit places related to Karol Wojtyła, the archbishop of Krakow, such as the Franciscan Church, the „Papal Window” at the Archbishop's Palace and other places.

PM Departures.

This is not the final program. It is subject to slight changes upon the availability of the places included.

Participation fees:

Price per person in a twin, double or 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, including the arrival and departure transfers to- and from the airport.
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**u in Oswiecim with a local guide, earphones and free entrance included.

Not included:

1. Alcoholic beverages; coffee and tea;
2. 1st dinner on the 7th November;
3. Flight tickets;
4. Luggage service;
5. Tips and pocket money;
6. Health insurance and travel insurance;
7. Other services that are not mentioned in this programme.