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2nd INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM AND PILGRIMAGES

KRAKOW, POLAND 7-11.11.2018

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

7.11, Wed Day 1. Arrivals to Krakow

all day Arrivals to Krakow. Meetings with the drivers according to the schedule of arrivals. 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 – Białe Morza – Lagiewniki – Krakow

7.00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

7.45 Transfer to the John Paul II Center.

8.30 Opening Holy Mass at the Sanctuary of Saint John Paul II in Krakow, Totus Tuus 32 street.

9.30 Registration of the participants, preparations for the opening.

10.00 Congress opening ceremony: Leszek Zegzda, the Marshall of the Malopolska Region or his delegate.

10.10 *Congress opening ceremony:* Aneta Ksiazek, Polish Convention Bureau, Polish Tourism Organization.

10.20 *Events – are they usefull for the town? World Youth Day and its impact on the city:* prof. Agata Niemczyk, Krakow University of Economy.

10.30 Wieliczka Salt Mine Presentation – Agnieszka Wolańska.

- 10.40 John Paul II Museum in Wadowice Presentation.
- 10.50 *Religious life in Auschwitz-Birkenau camp* – Teresa Wontor-Cichy.
- 11.00 The Divine Mercy Sanctuary in Łagiewniki Presentation.
- 11.10 St John Paul II Sanctuary in Krakow Presentation – Fr. Jan Kabziński.
- 11.20 The religious tourism and pilgrimages in Krakow and Poland – Ernest Mirosław Ernesto Travel.
- 11.30 Krakow Airport
- 11.40 Lithuania.
- 11.50 Greece.
- 12.00 Indie.
- 12.10 Fatima.
- 12.20 Izrael.
- 12.30 Italy
- 12.40 Medjugorje.
- 13.30 Lunch at the Restaurant at the Divine Mercy Sanctuary (Restauracja Siostry Faustyny) at Łagiewniki.
- 15.00 – 17.00 Expo – meetings with the local expositors – sanctuaries, local informations offices, places of interest, local companies.
- 17.00-19.00 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.
- 20.00 Dinner at the Pastoral House (Dom Duszpasterski) at Łagiewniki with a concert of the traditional local Jewish music – *klezmer*. Return to the hotel. Overnight in Krakow.

9.11, Fri Day 3. Krakow – Auschwitz-Birkenau – Czestochowa – Krakow

- 7.00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.
- 7.30 Transfer to Oswiecim (Auschwitz in German).
- 9.30 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.

- 13.00 Lunch in the restaurant of the hotel Imperiale at Auschwitz.
- 14.00 Departure 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 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 Casimir 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.
- 17.30 Holy Mass.
- 19.00 Dinner in Karczma restaurant in Czestochowa and return to Krakow. Overnight in Krakow.
- 10.11, Sat Day 4. Krakow – Kalwaria Zebrzydowska – Wadowice – Wieliczka – 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, kept coming even as a Pope.
- 9.00 Holy Mass. Departure to Wadowice after the Mass.
- 10.40 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.
- 13.00 Lunch in Dworek Mikolaj restaurant in Wadowice.
- 14.00 Transfer to Krakow and some rest.
- 16.30 Transfer to Wieliczka.
- 17.00 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 of the most beautiful places listed by UNESCO in Poland.
- 19.00 Dinner with local Polish dishes and a folklore music concert. 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 Wojtyla, 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** 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.