Vent Nouveau s.a.l.
TRAVEL & TOURISM
Since 1970

# POLAND
## Family Friendly Program
## 10 - Day Itinerary

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**Day 1 – Warsaw, Welcome Dinner**

Arrival in Warsaw. After a time for check in and refresh after your flight our guide will meet you at the hotel. Visit the beautifully renovated Royal Route with its historical monuments and residences. Stop at Castle Square for a short walk through Old Town, and then welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

**Day 2 – Warsaw**

This morning, we introduce you to the highlights of Warsaw. A half-day sightseeing tour includes Old Town, beautifully rebuilt after World War II, with the impressive Royal Castle, seat of the kings of Poland. Here the Constitution of May 3rd was proclaimed in 1791, the second oldest constitution, after the US Constitution, in the world. You will admire some of its 300 rooms and see the Canaletto Room with 23 of his paintings, the Throne Room, the magnificent Knight's Hall with six large paintings by Marcello Bacciarelli, the Marble room with its 22 portraits of Polish kings and the largest and most impressive of all the castle's chambers, the Ballroom. Continue our tour with a drive to the area of the former Warsaw Ghetto. En route, you will see the building of the National Opera House and Town Hall. Lunch to be enjoyed at a local restaurant. In the afternoon we will take you to the famous Copernicus Science Centre, a science museum containing over 450 interactive exhibits that enable visitors and especially children, to single-handedly carry out experiments and discover the laws of science for themselves. This is the biggest such institution in Poland. The exhibition is divided into six sections concerning various fields of knowledge: On the Move, Humans and the Environment, Buzzz! - gallery for preschool children, Light-Zone, Roots of Civilization and RE: generation - gallery for young adults.

**Day 3 – Warsaw - Krakow**

After breakfast, we depart for Krakow - the unique city in Poland, the former capital from the 11th to the end of the 16th century. It has survived turns of history retaining approximately 3000 historical buildings from various periods. Krakow is both the witness and the monument of Polish history and culture; the scene of coronations and eternal resting place of Polish kings. Following arrival check in at the hotel and enjoy an afternoon half day walking tour of Krakow's Old Town Main Market Square - one of the largest town squares in the Mediaeval Europe, surrounded with palaces and old town houses. The square includes the double row of 13th century merchants' stalls later converted into the Renaissance Cloth Halls and the Gothic Church of St. Mary's - from which the "hejnal" bugler daily heralds the arrival of the midday and which interiors are housing the masterpiece of European Gothic art - the 15th century wooden altar by Wit Stwosz. The Old Town of Krakow belongs to the UNESCO Treasures. Following the walk we will invite you and your children for a special visit to the Interactive Museum of Obwarzanek. These inconspicuous parboiled dough rings have been part of Krakow's history for over 600 years! The first known mention dates back to 1394 when in financial

books of the King Vladislaus II Jagiełło and Queen Hedwig's court, it had been noted: "For the queen pro circulis obrazky 1 grosz". Beloved by citizens, tourists and pigeons! It's been known since medieval times – kings ate it, knights ate it, even Wawel's dragon ate it! The obwarzanek has been awarded the status of Protected Geographical Indication (PGI). In 2010, the European Commission recognized that this round dainty is a part of the culinary heritage of Krakow as well as the tradition of the city. The certificate strictly determines the weight, shape and the production process of the obwarzanki, and it can only be given to the bakers from the city of Krakow or Krakow and Wieliczka counties. The special visit and workshops will be the opportunity to learn more and discover what makes them unique. Each participant gets a piece of dough and leaves with their very own obwarzanek. In the evening dinner at the local restaurant.

**Day 4 – Krakow**

The morning we will take you to Wawel Hill to visit the home of three dynasties of Poland's monarchs. We begin with visiting Wawel Royal Castle with its stately halls and exquisite chambers filled with priceless art, valuable period furniture and rare ancient objects. The richest time for the castle started in the early 16th century when the Italian Renaissance began. The last descendant of the Jagiellonian dynasty, Sigismund II Augustus enriched the castle's interiors with a magnificent collection of tapestries woven. The Wawel Royal Cathedral used to be the scene of coronations and is the eternal resting place of the kings of Poland. The building is surrounded by chapels dating from various periods, among which the most important is the Sigismund Chapel with its golden dome. Enjoy lunch at the local restaurant. This afternoon we invite you to Ciuciu Cukier Artist - the Smallest Factory of Sweets in the World which produces sweets by hand on the basis of the technology taken from small manufactures of the 17th and 18th century. During the show you can watch from the very beginning till the very end how we create our candies and lollipops, you will have the opportunity to feel the airborne aroma of caramel.

**Day 5 – Krakow - Torun**

After breakfast, we leave for Torun. On the way, we will stop in Lowicz, a typical Mazovian town famous for folk art: colorful costumes and beautiful paper cut-outs. You will be invited for a home-hosted lunch by a local family, whose charming cottage is located at the foot of the former Lowicz Castle. You will be welcomed in a typical Polish way, with bread & salt, and enjoy your meal served by the young married couple in their lovely house. You will have time to talk about their day to day life and have your dessert in a beautiful garden. We continue to Torun, where the balance of the day is at leisure.

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**Day 6 – Toruń - Gdańsk**

In the morning, we see the highlights of Torun. It is the birthplace of Nicolaus Copernicus and considered one of the most magnificent historic cities of Poland. Its Old Town has been included in UNESCO's list for its impressive 13th century Town Hall, superb churches and historic streets preserving Torun's past glory. A visit to Copernicus Museum including a special film for children about the famous astronomer. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant in Torun. In the afternoon, we drive to Gdansk. Upon arrival, we take a brief walk through the town's Old Town.

**Day 7 – Gdańsk**

Today, we tour Gdansk in depth. We start from the Upland Gate - a fragment of the city's former fortifications and one of its main gates. Just behind it, we pass by a baked-brick construction consisting of the Prison Tower and the Torture House - relics of the 15th century Gothic defense walls. The Golden Gate, situated next to the Prison Tower, opens onto Long Market - a magnificent street, with grand mansions decorated with late Renaissance and Baroque facades. A real feast for the eyes!!! It is here that the richest burghers of Gdansk once lived. Next, we come upon the Main Town and the Artus Court - a building used for Hanseatic League meetings. It is renowned as the most beautiful court among all of Europe's Hanseatic cities. Just behind it stands the tower of St. Mary's Basilica, a part of the most precious and largest red-brick Gothic church in Gdansk. On our way back we pass by Mariacka Street, with its gabled terraced houses and elegant boutiques. Lunch will be served at the local restaurant and in the afternoon we will take you to a special Hewelianum Centre - located at the former military fort of Gradowa Mountain. The project was to combine the historical aspects of the old fortification with the future related to education. In this way the Hewelianum Centre has become the first place in Europe where historical military buildings are used as the basis for a contemporary science center. The Centre has six permanent interactive exhibitions located in various historical buildings, as well as educational laboratories for children and students. The exhibitions focus on renewable energy "The Energy, Sky and Sun", geography and geology "Around the World", mathematics "Puzzle", history "Time Machine – fun with History" and "Time Machine - Man and Missile" and the turbulent history of Gradowa Mountain "No Barriers Hewelianum". Excellent places for children to feel the science.

**Day 8 – Gdańsk, Gdynia, Sopot**

After breakfast we drive to Gdynia, the youngest of the tri-city complex, which also includes Sopot, the famous and fashionable seaside resort. Here you can still see the oldest and longest wooden pier in Europe. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. In the afternoon enjoy free time at the hotel and at the beach.

**Day 9 – Gdańsk - Warsaw**

After breakfast, drive to Gdansk to visit the Maritime Culture Centre located next to the famous Gdansk's Crane. Spread over 4 floors, kids will find interactive displays of interest as they learn about the sea, marine technology and how the two work together. There is a permanent exhibition entitled Boats of the Peoples of the World (Working Boats), which presents scores of small craft from all over the world, including Native American dugout canoes, a fabulous little English coracle and numerous small fishing and trade vessels from the Far East. The third floor currently houses an interesting temporary exhibition telling the stories and displaying the treasures recovered from local shipwrecks and a second call Ships - Our Passion. Farewell lunch at the local restaurant in Gdansk. In the afternoon we drive to Warsaw.

**Day 10 – Warsaw**

Departure transfer.