Poland is the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum’s newest destination, and this coming year, we are featuring a 10 night tour of Poland highlighting its best known cities, sights and gardens. Poland is a country with a very interesting and checkered history, and like other Eastern European countries, you will find in Poland a unique mixture of Europe as it once was along with a modern vibrancy which propels the country into the 21st century. Everyone in the country is eager and proud to show off their homeland. Our tour of Poland is designed to be a leisurely circuit of a portion of the country, by no means covering it entirely, but featuring some of the finest botanical gardens, palace gardens and arboretums in the country, along with cultural highlights, landscapes and backroads, and other great sightseeing as well.

We begin our tour in Warsaw, Poland’s capital and economic, political, and cultural center. Warsaw is a bustling metropolis and features an unforgettable history, having risen from the ashes of World War II, when the Nazis destroyed a majority of the city, and where over 600,000 residents perished. It is a city where a fourth of the terrain is covered by parkland. In Warsaw, we’ll visit the University of Warsaw’s Botanical Garden and the University library’s rooftop garden, along with the splendid garden at Wilanow Palace, built in the 18th century as a summer residence for King Jan III Sobieski.

We’ll visit the botanical gardens at Nieborow Castle, redesigned as a garden in the 18th century by Princess Radziwill, along with the neighboring romantic garden known as Arkadia, also designed by the Princess. These two gardens are among the best in Poland. We’ll overnight in Lodz, second in size only to Warsaw, now a modern city deeply rooted in tradition, a city of the industrial revolution. From the 19th century Lodz has been the Promised Land for many people: Poles, Germans, Jews and Russians.

Wroclaw was once described as “the holy blossom of Europe, a beautiful gem among cities”, and fought over numerous times throughout history. In the past, Wroclaw has belonged to Poles, Czechs, Austrians, Hungarians and Germans. Settlers here have included Walloons, Jews, Italians and Ruthenians. The mixture of many different religions and cultures, has also contributed a lot to the city. Wroclaw lies in the middle of the Silesian Lowland, where the Oder River branches out to form twelve islands. The city is spanned by more than 100 bridges. The heart of Wroclaw is the Market Square, one of the most beautiful and largest urban squares in Poland.

We’ll also take time to remember the sad, brutal legacy of World War II with a visit to Auschwitz (Oswiecim, in Polish), where terrible brutalities were inflicted on the Jewish, as well as other unfortunate populations in Europe, by the Nazis who occupied much of Europe during WWII.

Krakow, with a population of nearly one million inhabitants, is one of the most frequently visited cities in Poland -- an important center of science with its renowned Jagiellonian University one of the oldest schools in Europe (est. 1364). Krakow’s Main Market Square is the largest medieval urban center in Europe. Kazimierz is a historical municipality on the outskirts of Krakow and today it is one of the city’s most up and coming districts, once home to the larger part of the Jewish population of Krakow until 1939. Here we find the famous Remuh Synagogue and the Alte Schule, Poland’s oldest synagogue, today an important museum of the district.

Also on our tour are overnight stays in Poznan and the small town of Raciborz, very near the southern border, and nestled in the mountains separating Poland and Moravia. We will be visiting gardens near these cities as well.

All in all, we have designed a tour to give you a broad overview of Poland, its people, culture, and gardens. It is a journey that you won’t want to miss out on. Join Peter Olin on this journey to one of Eastern Europe’s most interesting countries – Poland.

Tour Price: $3,095  land only, dbl. occ.
EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT--$2,995 if you book by October 1

Tour cost is exclusive of airfare, airline taxes and fuel surcharges. Prices are per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement $795 extra. Note: est. airfare (not included) approx. $1300-$1400.
Monday, June 3  Home/Warsaw
Today you travel from your home city to Warsaw on your overnight flight.

Tuesday, June 4  Warsaw
You are met at the airport in Warsaw, and from there we begin our tour of Poland. Our first stop at Wilanow Palace, where will visit the castle and garden. The Wilanow Palace is an example of the Baroque style of architecture, built in the late 17th century for the King Jan III Sobieski. The garden is spectacular. The two-level garden somehow manages to combine a stylish Baroque garden, a romantic English-Chinese park, an English landscape park and a neo-Renaissance garden into a stylish and harmonious whole. The eastern part of the grounds is surrounded by a lake, with a cascading water feature at one end. The whole of the garden is decorated with sculptures, fountains and miniature samples of architecture. We then check in to our hotel, take some time to freshen up, and in the afternoon enjoy a city tour to see main sights. We’ll have lunch first before visiting the Old Town, Market Square, The Barbican, the Warsaw Ghetto monument, and Lazienki Park and Palace. There is a welcome dinner this evening, B L

Wednesday, June 5  Warsaw
Today is a full day of touring in Warsaw. A mixture of Western and Eastern European influences converge in this city, and historic buildings, palaces, and churches which were destroyed during World War II have been reconstructed with great care to preserve its old world charm. We begin with a visit to the University of Warsaw library roof garden. The library was founded in 1816 and maintains a beautiful garden on its rooftop, designed by the landscape architect Irena Bajerska and opened 10 years ago. It has a surface of 2.5 acres and along with its beautiful garden it also gives one an amazing view of the River Vistula and the city of Warsaw. From here we visit the Botanic Garden at the University of Warsaw, one of the oldest and smallest botanic gardens in Poland. In about 12 acres over 5000 species and varieties of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants are grown. Lunch is included today, and afterwards you will be taken to the ‘Castle Square’ where you may want to visit the Royal Castle or just have some time on your own to stroll around on your own before returning to the hotel in the late afternoon, B L

Thursday, June 6  Warsaw/Lodz
After breakfast we journey towards Lodz. En route we stop In Nieborow, where you will visit the Nieborow Palace garden and Arkadia Park, with its English landscape, created after 1778 by Princess Helena Radziwil. There will be some time to stroll through the palace and gardens before heading south to Rógow to visit its arboretum, one of the largest botanical gardens of its kind in Poland. At the conclusion of our visit we continue on to Łódż for your next overnight. We’ll have lunch during our journey today. This evening is on your own in one of the many fine restaurants in Łódź, B L

Friday, June 7  Poznan
After breakfast today we continue our journey to Poznan. We first stop at the Arboretum in Komik, the largest and oldest arboretum in Poland. It covers over 100 acres and is famous for rich collections of rhododendrons, azaleas, conifers, lilacs and other woody species from around the world. We then journey to Poznan, where we have lunch. After lunch, we visit the Botanical Garden. In the afternoon we check into our hotel in Poznan. Dinner is on your own tonight, B L

Saturday, June 8  Wroclaw
Depart Poznan and head south, where we stop at the Arboretum at Wojslawice. The park was established in the 1820s. In 1880 the Silesian landholder, an accomplished expert on plant life, undertook with great sensitivity (and perfect knowledge of local soil conditions) the construction of this park. Fortunately the Second World War brought no significant damage. Today the arboretum is a scientific and research center and the Botanical Garden for the University of Wroclaw. The arboretum is still in service to science and to the thousands of guests, who are drawn here by the lush beauty of one of Poland’s largest collections of rhododendrons. You end your trip today in Wroclaw. Lunch is included during our day’s touring. Dinner is on your own tonight. Overnight in Wroclaw, B L

Sunday, June 9  Raciborz
This morning visit the Moravian Gate Arboretum, a specially designed botanical garden of different types of trees grown for scientific, cultivating and educational study. Here you can choose one of the 2 walking routes each about 1.5 miles in length -- one route more over terrain which shows the diverse vegetation of forested areas in a relatively small area, while the other is more dedicated to the ecology of the flora and fauna found in forested regions. We will stop for lunch enroute and end the day in Raciborz. Dinner is on your own tonight in Raciborz, B L

Monday, June 10  Auschwitz/Krakow
Today is an emotional day, as we check out of our hotel in Raciborz and travel east towards Krakow. We stop enroute to visit the infamous Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz (Oswiecim). Our local guide will escort us through the structures and into the Martyrdom Museum, which recall the horrors of the Holocaust. Lunch is included today, and following our visit here we continue on towards Krakow. Dinner is on your own tonight, B L

TOUR ITINERARY
Tuesday, June 11  Krakow
Today a local guide will show you Kazimierz, the Jewish area in Krakow, once a separate city, and until WWII, a safe area for the Jews from all over Europe. During WWII Kazimierz was largely eradicated. Today the district is more vibrant than ever before, comparable to world famous districts such as London's Soho and Paris' Latin Quarter. After lunch today (included) we visit the Wieliczka Salt Mine, which has been worked for 900 years. It was one of the world's biggest and most profitable industrial establishments at a time when common salt was commercially the medieval equivalent of today's oil. The mine has been attracting tourists since the mid-18th century, and is a UNESCO listed sight. Return to Krakow where the evening is at leisure. Dinner is on your own tonight.

B  L

Wednesday, June 12.  Krakow
Meet your guide for a half day guided tour. See the Wawel Cathedral and explore the Market square. The surroundings of the square have remained unchanged for almost 700 years and hear the silver trumpet of the bugler from St. Mary's Tower. See the famous wooden altar. See the Town Hall, the Cloth Hall and the Burgher's Houses. We'll lunch together near the square in Krakow, and in the afternoon you will visit the Archeological Park and The Botanical Garden in Krakow. Dinner is on your own tonight. Overnight in Krakow.

B  L  D

Thursday, June 13.  Warsaw/Home
After breakfast you will travel back to where our journey began -- Warsaw. You will arrive here in the afternoon where you can spend some last hours for sightseeing or shopping after your lunch (included). We overnight at the same hotel in Warsaw -- this evening we have a farewell dinner with overnight in Warsaw.

B  L  D

Friday, June 14.  Flights home
After breakfast today, our coach will take us to the airport for our return flight home.

B

This outstanding value includes:
- 10 nights hotel accommodation
- Buffet Breakfast and lunch daily
- Welcome and farewell dinners
- Sightseeing as indicated in the itinerary
- Pre-departure information
- All taxes and service charges while on tour
- $200 tax-deductible donation to the Arboretum
- Escort by Peter Olin

Not included in the tour:
- Airfare from home city to Warsaw and return
- Airline departure taxes and fees
- Gratuities to driver and guides
- Personal expenditures—laundry, phone, etc.
- Items not specifically mentioned as included.

To register for this tour, contact Jim Glad at: Glad to Travel (612) 724-1915 or (612) 802-3315 e-mail: gladtotravel@earthlink.net

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
Deposit due with booking: $500 per person
Final payment due: February 1, 2013

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<th>Member’s Tour Cost: (land only)</th>
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<tr>
<td>$3,095 per person, double occupancy</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2,995 if booked and on deposit by Oct. 1</td>
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<td>$795 additional, single supplement</td>
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Note: In order to qualify for the member's price, each traveler must be a member of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Contact the Arboretum for membership info.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS TOUR
This tour has been priced at a land only rate. We will have group airfare from Minneapolis for flights to/from Warsaw, and will advise once this has been established. If you are departing from a city other than Minneapolis, Glad To Travel can assist you with your airline fights. If you are making your own arrangements, please contact Glad To Travel for details on arrival time and departure time requirements in Warsaw in order to avail yourself of the airport/hotel transfers included in the package. Arrangements can be made for pre- and/or post-tour extensions as well.

OUR HOTELS

Warsaw -- Hotel Sofitel Victoria Warsaw  
www.sofitel-victoria-warsaw.com
The luxurious Sofitel Warsaw Victoria hotel has elegant rooms which overlook the 18th century Saxon Gardens and the famous Pilsudski Square. The hotel is perfectly located in the very heart of Warsaw's Old Town, not far from the Grand Theatre, the Royal Palace and the most fashionable shops in the city. The rooms have the latest amenities including internet access. There is a restaurant and bar in the hotel.

Lodz -- Andel's Hotel Lodz  
www.andelslodz.com
The hotel has a central location on the grounds of Manufaktura, one of Poland’s biggest shopping and entertainment centres. Nearby Piotrkowska Street – over 4 miles long and the longest promenade of its kind in Europe – is lined with important institutions, banks, theatres, art galleries and book shops as well as restaurants, pubs and cafés.

Poznan – Hotel Novotel Poznan Centrum  
http://www.novotel.com/
The Novotel Poznan Centrum is situated in the city center, opposite the Old Brewery, and near the Old Town. The hotel has 480 air-conditioned rooms with free Internet access and satellite TV. There is a restaurant serving regional and international dishes.

Wrocław – Scandic Hotel Wroclaw  
www.scandichotels.com
Discover Wroclaw, Poland’s little Venice, from this central hotel. The Scandic Hotel Wroclaw is a modern hotel situated close to the popular sights, intimate cafés and shops. Wroclaw offers colorful culture and atmosphere, making the hotel a perfect base for exploring the city's exciting labyrinth of bridges and islands. Try Polish cuisine in the hotel restaurant or enjoy a classic Polish beer in the hotel bar. Work out in the hotel's gym and finish with a refreshing sauna.

To register for this tour, contact Jim Glad at: Glad to Travel (612) 724-1915 or (612) 802-3315 e-mail: gladtotravel@earthlink.net
OUR HOTELS – continued

Raciborz – Hotel Polonia Raciborz
www.polonia.raciborz.pl
This 3-star boutique style hotel is located in the heart of Raciborz, with old world glamour, cozy charm and superb comfort all modern facilities. All rooms feature free internet access. The restaurant offers traditional Polish and international cuisine.

Krakow – Andel’s Hotel Krakow
www.andelskrakow.com
Located right next door to Krakow’s Main Railway Station and Galeria Krakowska (the city’s premier shopping center), it is both accessible and offers plenty to do right on its doorstep. Just 5 minutes’ walk away you will find the Old Town, with its famous Market Square, close to restaurants and cafes. The hotel has a ground-floor restaurant offering Polish and international cuisine, and an open terrace during the summer that overlooks the square.