



# FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS OF POPES TCHEQUIE TOUR

## PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEART OF EUROPE



### DAY 1 – BAVARIA – THE HOME REGION OF POPE BENEDICT XVI (120 km)

Arrival at **Markt am Inn (Germany)**, guided tour of the **birthplace of Pope Benedict XVI (Joseph Ratzinger)**, departure for **Altötting**, a place of pilgrimage which nurtured the spiritual growth of the young Joseph Ratzinger during visits with his family. Guided tour through the historic town centre with its splendid churches and wooden Madonna, carved in Burgundy around 1300 and the subject of many legends. Lunch, departure for Munich where Ratzinger studied theology and philosophy at the Ducal Georgianum seminary of the University of Munich. In 1951 he was ordained a priest and became Archbishop of Munich in 1977. **He was elected pope in Rome in 2005**, succeeding John Paul II, thus becoming the first German pope in more than a millennium. Return to your hotel. Dinner and overnight stay in Munich.

### DAY 2 – BOHEMIA – HOLLY MOUNTAIN (390 km)

Departure from Munich, stop by the monastery of **Svatá Hora** (the Holy Mountain), the most important pilgrimage site in the **Czech Republic**. This gem of Baroque architecture overlooks the town of Příbram and is a focus for **Marian devotions**. Its statue of the **Virgin Mary** of the Holy Mountain was carved from wood in the Middle Ages by **Ernest of Pardubice**, the first archbishop of Prague. A tour of the pilgrimage site and monastery is followed by an organ concert at the basilica of **Our Lady's Assumption**. Lunch for pilgrims at the original baroque refectory organised by the parish. Departure for Prague, visit to the **Břevnov monastery**, the oldest Czech monastery founded in 993 by Duke Boleslav II of Bohemia and **Bishop Adalbert**, one of the most popular Czech saints together with **St. Wenceslas**. The monastery has the **oldest brewing tradition** in Bohemia and still brews its famous **Břevnovský Benedikt beers**. Additional opportunity to visit the brewery and enjoy a beer tasting. Dinner at your hotel in Prague.



### DAY 3 – PRAGUE – CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS ORDERS

In the morning transfer to the **Strahov Monastery**, the seat of the **Royal Canonry of Premonstratensians**, one of the oldest Premonstratensian abbeys in the world, tour of the library and the exterior of the Strahov basilica. Departure for Loreta Square with its array of splendid buildings and palaces. Here you will visit the **Church of the Nativity of Our Lord**, managed by the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, the **Loreta Carillon**, the **"Santa Casa" chapel** and the **Loreta treasure** with its famous monstrance adorned with 6,222 diamonds. Also known as the "Prague Sun", this jewel was made at the end of 17th century in Vienna. Lunch in a local restaurant, guided tour of **Prague Castle**, symbol of the Czech state and the seat of Czech kings and presidents, tour of **St. Vitus Cathedral** and the **Chapel of St. Wenceslas**, the erstwhile Duke of Bohemia and patron saint of the Czech lands. Depart for Malá Strana (Lesser quarter). The rest of the afternoon is free. Dinner at your hotel in Prague.



### DAY 4 – BOHEMIA – ASSISTANCE TO THE POOR AND NEEDY (90 km)

In the morning transfer to Malostranské Square to visit the **Church of Our Lady Victorious**, administered by the Discalced Carmelites. The church also contains the **Infant Jesus of Prague**, a wooden statuette covered with wax which was imported from Spain in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. You will see an exhibition of the Infant Jesus's wardrobe which comprises more than 40 different vestments, including gifts from world-famous personalities and statesmen. In 2009, Pope Benedict XVI also came to see the Infant Jesus. Depart for the hospital of the **Hospitaller Sisters** on Petřín Hill, visit the **house of St. Notburga in the convent of the Sisters of Mercy of St. Charles Borromeo**, tour of the hospital interior and different wards followed by a meeting with one of the sisters. Lunch at the refectory. Departure for Želiv Monastery, originally a Benedictine Abbey founded in the first half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century and later taken over by the Premonstratensians, the religious order which included the famous Hussite preacher Jan Želivský. Mass in the church, afterwards a nocturnal tour of the illuminated monastery.





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## DAY 5 – MORAVIA – MISSIONARIES AND PILGRIMAGE (240 km)

In the morning departure for **Velehrad**, one of the major pilgrimage sites in Moravia. It dates back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century when the **MISSIONARIES Cyril and Methodius** came to Moravia on the invitation of its ruler. These Byzantine brothers disseminated the Scriptures and, most importantly, conducted Masses for the people in a language they could understand, the Old Church Slavonic. Methodius later became an archbishop. In 1990, Pope John Paul II visited Velehrad and awarded the local church the title of minor basilica. Lunch. Departure for **Svatý Hostýn**, a Marian place of pilgrimage which is a key attraction of the region and the highest sacred site in Moravia with regular liturgical services. You will visit the splendid basilica of **Saint Mary of the Assumption** and walk the **Stations of the Cross** which commemorate the events of Easter from the **condemnation of Jesus to the resurrection**. Dinner and overnight stay at the pilgrim hostel in Svatý Hostýn.



## DAY 6 – LESSER POLAND – MARIAN DEVOTIONS (250 km)

After breakfast we depart from Svatý Hostýn for **Poland**. Arrival at **Czestochowa**, an important place of pilgrimage in Poland. Lunch. Visit to the monastery of Pauline monks in **Jasna Góra**, famous for its **miraculous icon of the Black Madonna**: tour of the Knights Hall, Treasury, Armoury and museum, which features among its exhibits the Nobel prize of Lech Wałęsa, the founder of Solidarity. Depart for **Krakow**. Arrival at the house for pilgrims. Dinner and overnight stay.

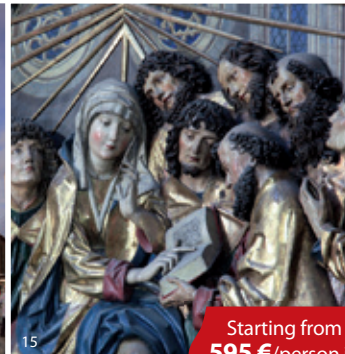


## DAY 7 – LESSER POLAND – PLACES OF REMEMBRANCE (80 km)

Breakfast and departure for Oświęcim. Guided tour of the concentration and extermination camp of **Auschwitz-Birkenau**, potent symbol of the Holocaust set up by the Nazis in 1940, including the railway platforms, the barracks, gas chambers, crematoriums... Individual lunch and departure for **Wadowice**. Visit of the birthplace of Pope John Paul II (born May 18<sup>th</sup> 1920) and the church where he was baptised. Depart for the sanctuary of **Kalwaria Zebrzydowska** – including the monastery and the pilgrimage park of the Bernardine Fathers, a UNESCO site since 1999. You will visit the Baroque church dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, famed for its miraculous icon of Our Lady of Calvary, and walk its Stations of the Cross, one of the preferred ways of contemplation for the young Karol Wojtyła, the future Pope John Paul II. Return to Krakow. Dinner.

## DAY 8 – LESSER POLAND – SEAT OF THE POPE JOHN PAUL II

Breakfast and meeting with our guide to explore the city, starting with **St. Florian's Basilica** where Karol Wojtyła worked with young students as a priest, then Jan Matejki Square and the Barbican where the Royal Route begins. You will pass through St. Florian's Gate and visit Main Market Square (the largest medieval square in Europe), **St Mary's Basilica** with its famous altarpiece by Veit Stoss – where Karol Wojtyła was a confessor, Cloth Hall, the **Jagiellonian University** where Karol Wojtyła was a student. You will pass by the front of the **Bishop's Palace** of Kraków where John Paul II lived for several years (with its famous window from where he spoke to the crowds during his pilgrimages to Poland). Tour of the **Franciscan Church** which still houses the bench on which the pope often prayed. Free time for lunch. Visit to the Wawel Cathedral and the **Wawel Castle** where Karol Wojtyła celebrated his first mass in 1946. Return to your country.



Starting from **595 €/person** in a double room

### RATES April – October (except public holidays)

starting from 595 €/person in a double room (based on 30 pax)

### SERVICES INCLUDED:

- 1 night including breakfast at a 3\* hotel, rooms with shower and WC, Munich (Germany)
- 2 nights including breakfast at a 3\* hotel, rooms with shower and WC, Prague (Czech Republic)
- 1 night including breakfast in the Želiv Monastery (Czech Republic), dormitory
- 1 night including breakfast in a pilgrim hostel, rooms with shower and WC, Svatý Hostýn (Czech Republic)
- 2 nights including breakfast in a pilgrim hostel, rooms with shower and WC, Tyniec-Kraków (Poland)
- 3 dinners in a hotel, 3 course menu, water, bread
- 1 dinner in the Želiv Monastery, pilgrim menu, water, bread
- 1 dinner in Svatý Hostýn, pilgrim menu
- 2 dinners in the pilgrim hostel in Tyniec-Kraków, 3 course menu, water, bread
- 4 lunches in a traditional restaurant, 3 course menu, 1 drink of your choice (beer 0.3 l or wine 0.2 l or a non-alcoholic drink 0.3 l)
- 1 lunch (in the hospital of Sisters of Mercy of St. Charles Borromeo), pilgrims menu, water, bread

- 1 lunch in the monastery of Svatá Hora, pilgrim menu, water, bread
- French guide for the entire trip
- guided tours of the cities, castles, churches, monasteries, abbeys, monuments and villages as per the programme
- admission fees: (Germany, Bavaria: the pope's birthplace in Markt Inn, Pilgrims Museum in Altötting, panorama of Altötting; Czech Republic: Svatá Hora in Příbram, Prague: Břevnov monastery, Baroque Library of the Strahov Monastery, Church of Our Lady in Loreta, Prague Castle with the Old Royal Palace, St Vitus Cathedral and the Golden Lane, hospital of the Sisters of Mercy of St. Charles Borromeo; Monastery of Želiv, Velehrad, Svatý Hostýn; Poland: Czestochowa – Monastery in Jasna Gora, Krakow: basilica of St. Florian, St Mary's Basilica, Franciscan Church, Wawel Castle, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Wadowice – birthplace of the pope)
- local taxes

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES:

- transport by coach

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