

Poland, the unguessed land for first time visitors and the favourite destination of repeaters. Its versatile charm combines what we traditionally consider the typical of the west, east and north of Europe. We can think of numerous reasons why to choose it as a next plain air destination - one cannot ask for more both geographically and culturally. Starting from the majestic Tatra peaks in the south, through the cities rich of cultural heritage and untouched natural sites, to the sabulous beaches along the Baltic coast, in Poland you will enjoy in full the liberty that is offered by camper travelling.

We will present an original itinerary composed of day by day 3 weeks ideas of getting to know the country that as it grows it simultaneously tries to maintain a certain degree of wilderness and is characterised by an unusual traffic calmness compared to the neighbouring states. Poland is one of the few countries that are quite licit when it comes to the free parking and cowboy camping, which basically means that you will always find some picturesque-view space for you camper. For those who prefer traditional campsites, the prices are still rather symbolic. You can flush and top up the water in your camper along the highways in the parking spaces thought for touristic couches.

Day 1-3: Zakopane and Tatra Mountains

The city called Zakopane is situated at the feet of the beautiful Tatra Mountains and the neighbouring National Park, famous for its well-known trekker – pope John Paul II. The city that used to be the cultural capital during the interwar period, developed a one of a kind architectural style characterised by some exquisite relief woodwork. The woodwork carries over throughout the city as we can buy it as a traditional souvenir. Apart from trekking, there is plenty of opportunities for winter sports and delicious cuisine made of based on game and wild forest berries.

Day 4-5: Cracow, the gem of southern Poland

A lot has been said and written about this one – two hours' drive from Zakopane, you will find yourselves in Cracow, the medieval pearl in the middle of Europe. You can easily park your camper in a campsite situated just 3 kms from the city centre (listed UNESCO) and walk through the most important city sites in as little as 2 days. The Market Square with its Sukiennice and St. Mary's Church, the legendary Wawel Castle and the vibrant little streets bursting with tourists and locals tasting traditional food and beverages will leave you wanting more of this beating nerve of Poland. For more info: <https://www.poland.travel/en/cities/krakow>

Day 6: The mine salt Wieliczka

We suggest that you spend the day entirely exploring the rest of the region, Malopolska. Hailed as one of the most beautiful in the world, the UNESCO Wieliczka Salt mine invites you for a 3,5 hour visit guided in main European languages. Once you are out of the breath-taking underworld, perfect for a ride, there is a famous itinerary of wooden architecture with over 253 objects among which you will find hidden churches that are sobering on the outside and baroque on the inside – and yet another Polish accents on the UNESCO list! Find out more on: <https://www.visitmalopolska.pl/web/visitmalopolska/strona-glowna>

Day 7-8: HollyLodz

There is a saying: if you want to know the Poland's past, go to Cracow; if you want to taste its present – go to Warsaw; but if you want to see its future, you've got to visit Lodz. The city centre has less than 200 years and it's the emblem of the post-industrial renowned city. Its nickname – Hollylodz- is by any means random: it used to be a point of reference for numerous directors such as Polanski and Kieslowski. Packed to bursting with little spots to visit, the most important venues are the Manufaktura – red brick edifice housing a vibrant shopping mall and a contemporary art museum, Experymentarium – an interactive museum for little ones and the Factory Museum where you can better understand the inhumane conditions of the factory workers of the time. Check out <https://www.poland.travel/en/cities/lodz>

9-11 day: Warsaw and surroundings

Before you get to the Polish capital, you should definitely check out the hidden gems on the way – two medieval forests of Nieborow and Arkadia that hide XVII palaces and a decadent atmosphere. Head down the forest and in the middle of nowhere you will find a camper site with close by a traditional restaurant with km 0 philosophy behind its every dish.

The capital city of Warsaw, once painfully swept off the world's map, now a vibrant tourist hub and a city of new business, doesn't forget the legacy of its famous children – Chopin and Curie – Sklodowska, who are fully present on colourful murals and interactive playing benches. The rebuilding process was long and gruelling, but the local residents are proud of how good Warsaw's Stare Miasto now looks and are even more content with the presence of the new museums that illustrate the complex history of the city: The Warsaw Uprising Museum, the Museum of Polish Jews POLIN and the Museum of Daily Life under the Communist Regime.

You can get a different taste of Warsaw depending on the season and we are definite enthusiasts of the summertime when you can just lie on the grass and listen to Chopin's live concert in the open of the Royal Park. Info: <https://www.poland.travel/en/cities/warsaw>

Day 12-16: the Warmia- Masuria Province – the Land of Thousand Lakes

Just 3 hours away from the country's capital, you arrive at what was considered one of the 7 New World Miracles – the Warmia – Masuria Province also known as The Land of Thousand Lakes. The length and variety of its lakes' tract is unique on the map of Europe and the activities you can carry through in the open are numerous: golf, canoe, boat and bike are some of the options, but it is a point of reference for those who want to go on infinitely beautiful canoe excursions. The most famous is the one on the Krutynia river that snakes through a nature reserve for over 100 km. For more info go to www.mazurypttk.pl.

For bike lovers, there is a number of bike lines and itineraries, of which the longest (2000 km) and most wide spread is the one called Green Velo (www.greenvelo.pl).

Day 16-18: Gdansk, the free city

Two hours' drive from Masuria, you will find the city that is a shiny little star on the European cities' firmament: Gdansk. For many years it shared the fate of this part of Europe being torn between Poland, Prussia and German Confederation, with a legendary episode of being a completely free and politically independent city. Nowadays, Gdansk is one of the most important port hubs of the Baltic Sea.

Info: <https://www.polonia.travel/it/cosa-vedere/monumenti-storici/itinerari-tematici/danzica>

Day 19 e 20: Slowinski National Park

The park was founded to preserve the beauty of the seaside coastline including lakes system, peat bogs, meadows and woods, but most importantly a belt of moving dunes. As they move along the Mierzeja Lebska (Lebska Spit), they uncover ancient tree stumps and the fossilized remains of forest once growing there. The area is famous for unique plants from dune grasses and coastal pinewoods to marsh plants. The park is also home to rare bird species including the white-tailed eagle, the eagle owl, cormorant, the black stork, and many of the aquatic birds. This biosphere reserve provides over 105 miles of paved paths for hiking.

Info: <https://www.poland.travel/en/heritage/national-parks/slowinski-national-park>

Day 21: Unconquerable Castle of Teutonic Order in Malbork

The Malbork castle is the mightiest fortress of medieval Europe with the construction begun in the 13th century. The castle was promoted to the status of being the capital of one of the most powerful states on the southern coast of the Baltic. The old structure apparently could not fulfil its new functions in its current form. Surrounded by deep moats and several rings of defensive walls, it housed several representative rooms. The Malbork Castle is a UNESCO Heritage Monument and member of the Polish Gothic Castles Association that represents historical buildings located in eight other cities of the region.

Practical info: best time to go is from the beginning of May to the beginning of September. The highway toll is collected in zloty or euro, most credit cards accepted. The official language is Polish but English is widely used. The official legal tender is zloty that divides in 100 groszy. You can enter with a Schengen identity card.