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In collaboration with The National WWII Museum



Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF
The Association of Former Students



WORLD WAR II IN POLAND: HOLOCAUST, RESISTANCE, AND REBIRTH

October 12–22, 2022 & Spring 2023



A moving journey that explores the history and heritage of Poland from the first moments of World War II through the fall of the Iron Curtain.

Kraków • Auschwitz • Westerplatte • Gdańsk • Wolf's Lair
Mikolajki • Treblinka • Warsaw





Howdy, Ags!

To fully comprehend World War II, one needs to understand its origins. In Europe, the journey to war began in the private meeting rooms and raucous public stadiums of Germany where the Nazis concocted and then promoted their designs for a new world order, one founded on conquest and racial-purity ideals.

As they launched the war by invading Poland on September 1, 1939, Hitler and his followers unleashed a hell that would cause immense suffering and leave the country vulnerable to Stalin's post-war ambitions for Soviet expansion. Through the German occupation and the following decades of Soviet oppression, the Polish people held strong in their push for freedom. World figures such as Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, and Pope John Paul II gave their support for a free Poland and bolstered the internal efforts of Lech Walesa, Władysław Bartoszewski, and many others inside Poland.

I invite you to join one of The National WWII Museum's most unique travel programs, *Poland: Genocide, Resistance, and Uprisings*. This poignant journey will trace the history of Poland from 1939 to the fall of communism and the rejuvenation of a country and its people. Our guests will travel through Poland, exploring historical sites and reflecting on how the Nazis rose to power and then brought destruction and misery to Europe. Visiting battlefields, museums, memorials, and interacting with locals, this tour immerses you in the expert storytelling of top local guides. For enthusiasts of the legacy of World War II, European History, and Global Politics, this is tour is one not to miss!

Gig 'em!

Marisa Liles

Manager of Traveling Aggies
The Association of Former Students

Bringing history to life™

Visit six unique museums that restore the memory of the rich culture and heritage of pre-war Poland.

Background photo: The Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, Warsaw, Poland.



POLAND UNDER OCCUPATION:A TIMELINE OF EVENTS



September 1, 1939

Westerplatte, Poland
Nazi Germany invades Poland and fires the first shots of World War II in Europe.



January 15, 1940

Krakov, Poland
Oskar Schindler opens his factory where he will go on to save more than a thousand Jews.



May 20, 1940

Oswiecim, Poland
Auschwitz is established by the SS and was initially populated with Polish political prisoners. The camp eventually becomes a site of mass extermination of European Jewry.



July 30, 1941

London, England
The Sikorski-Mayski Agreement frees Polish POWs held in Soviet camps, enlisting them to fight the Nazis on the Eastern Front.



April 19, 1943

Warsaw, Poland
Jewish Resistance to Nazi police and SS leads to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. In response, the Nazis kill 13,000 and ship those remaining to concentration camps



July 20, 1944

East Prussia, Germany
An assassination attempt on Hitler fails at the fortified command post known as "Wolf's Lair."



August 1, 1944

Warsaw, Poland
As Soviet forces near Warsaw, Polish freedom fighters take up arms, thus beginning the Warsaw Uprising.



May 8-9, 1945

Berlin, Germany
At an estate in the Karlshorst neighborhood, German Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel officially surrenders Germany's armed forces.



January 19, 1947

Poland
Parliamentary elections characterized by violence and persecution of opponents give full governing power to the communist Polish Workers Party.



August 31, 1980

Gdańsk, Poland
The Gdańsk Agreement legitimizes the Solidarity movement that would ultimately undermine the communist government.



July 4 & 18, 1989

Poland
Parliamentary elections result in a victory for Solidarity and spell the end for the communist Polish United Workers Party.



November 1989

Berlin, Germany
The fall of the Berlin Wall was a pivotal event in world history which marked the beginning of the fall of communism in Europe.

Photo credits page 4 (Left to Right, Top to Bottom): The Nazi propaganda photo shows the painting "Beschließung der Westerplatte" ("The bombardment of the Westerplatte") by artist Claus Bergen at the great art exhibit in Munich. Courtesy of dpa picture alliance/Alamy; Oskar Schindler, Frankfurt, Germany, 1963. Courtesy of Everett Collection Historical/Alamy; Captured Jews are led by German troops out of Warsaw. Courtesy of National Archives.; Adolf Hitler at a meeting at Wolf's Lair. Courtesy of Sueddeutsche Zeitung Photo/Alamy; Photograph of the Polish Communist politician Edward Gierek who replaced Władysław Gomułka as First Secretary of the ruling Polish United Workers' Party in the People's Republic of Poland. Courtesy of World History Archive/Alamy; A Women Address Striking Shipyard Workers in Gdańsk in 1980. Courtesy of Keystone Press/Alamy.

Photo credits page 5 (Left to Right, Top to Bottom): Entrance of Auschwitz. Courtesy of Matthew Taylor/Alamy; Sikorski-Mayski 1941 agreement. Courtesy of Archive PL/Alamy Stock Photo; The Warsaw Uprising. Courtesy of World History Archive/Alamy; Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel signing the surrender for the German Army. Courtesy of Everett Collection Inc./Alamy; Election campaign before Senate and Parliamentary elections in Warsaw, May 1989. Courtesy of agencja FORUM/Alamy; The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 at the Brandenburg Gate. Courtesy of Agencja Fotograficzna Caro/Alamy Stock Photo.



FEATURED MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Poland is home to some of the world's most inspiring museums. Included in this tour are various engaging exhibitions designed to teach the turbulent history, culture, and stories that impacted generations.

The Warsaw Uprising Museum, Warsaw, Poland (*Pictured above*)

This museum opened to the public on the 60th anniversary of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising and is one of the most visited places in Warsaw. It is a tribute to all those who fought and died to free Poland and depicts the struggle of everyday life during the horror of occupation. The exhibits feature photographs, recordings, and videos from before, during, and after the uprising; a replica of a Liberator B-24J bomber used by the Allies during air drops; a 3-D movie of the destruction of Warsaw during the uprising; and a recreation of sewer tunnels used by the Resistance to move around the city.



MEMORIAL STATUE AT AUSCHWITZ



INSIDE THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CENTER



THE POLIN MUSEUM

European Solidarity Center, Gdańsk, Poland

The European Solidarity Center is a state-of-the-art cultural institution that honors the Solidarity movement. The museum commemorates the revolution of Solidarity and the fall of communism in Europe. Over 3,000 square meters, the permanent exhibition tells the story of the birth of the solidarity movement in the Gdańsk shipyards and continues through the ramifications of the fall of communism apparent in the modern world.

Wieliczka Salt Mine, Wieliczka, Poland

Already declared a UNESCO World Heritage site before the closing of the salt mining operation in 1996, the mines feature landscapes unseen anywhere else. Saline lakes, elaborate chambers, and the world's largest church built underground are a few of the highlights. In St. Kinga's Church, view the elaborate salt sculptures including that of Pope John Paul II. During World War II, the occupying Nazis constructed an armaments factory in the mines, but it never became operational.

Museum of the Second World War, Gdańsk, Poland

Located where World War II began on September 1, 1939, this is the only WWII Museum in the world dedicated to putting the war into an international context and commemorating the losses of all nations that suffered under German occupation.

The Martyrdom Museum, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland

Housed in the former Nazi concentration and extermination camp, the preservation of the original buildings and relics has long evoked controversy. Through international support, this museum takes collective and individual memories into account, along with the accompanying reflections and emotions of its many visitors.

The POLIN Museum of the History of the Polish Jews, Warsaw, Poland

The POLIN Museum is located in the area the Nazis turned into the Jewish ghetto during World War II. Beyond the main exhibition that presents the history of Polish Jews, POLIN Museum also functions as an educational center with rich cultural programs working closely with the community at large.

WORLD WAR II IN POLAND:

HOLOCAUST, RESISTANCE, AND REBIRTH

~~\$6,899~~ **\$6,399*** double occupancy; ~~\$8,899~~ **\$8,399*** single occupancy.

\$229 taxes and fees per person are additional.



TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Exclusive itinerary designed by The National WWII Museum
- Special access to sites not offered on other tours
- Full-time logistical Tour Manager
- Expert local guides
- Roundtrip Airport Transfers (when arriving and departing on scheduled group tour dates)
- Inter-European flight from Kraków to Gdańsk
- Luxury five-star and deluxe four-star accommodations throughout the journey
- Private, first-class air conditioned motor coach transportation
- Personal listening devices on all included touring
- Included gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, and servers
- 10 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 5 Dinners, and 2 Receptions
- Beer, house wine, and soft drinks with included lunches and dinners
- Personalized luggage tags and name badge

PHOTO: AERIAL VIEW OF THE WAWEL CASTLE IN KRAKOW.



MAIN SQUARE IN KRAKÓW

- 1 - THE EXPERIENCE ARRIVE IN KRAKÓW

Fly into Kraków John Paul II International Airport (KRK) and transfer to the Radisson Blu Krakow. Enjoy free time this afternoon prior to this evening's welcome reception and dinner.

Accommodations: Radisson Blu Kraków (R, D)

- 2 - THE EXPERIENCE KRAKÓW

Explore Kraków, which was included on UNESCO's first World Heritage list in 1978. Since the Tatar raids in the 13th century, the Old Town has remained mostly intact, making it the only large Polish city to escape the destruction of World War II. The tour day begins at St. Mary's Basilica followed by free time for an independent lunch in the Old Town Square. Rynek Główny in Polish, the square is known for its quaint cafés and excellent shopping. The afternoon includes a visit to the Wawel Castle, the seat of Polish kings for hundreds of years, and the gothic Wawel Cathedral, where Polish kings were crowned and buried for centuries. During the war, Hans Frank, Governor General of the occupied Polish territories, installed himself in the Wawel Castle. Calling himself the "King of Poland," he surrounded himself with stolen art including Leonardo Da Vinci's Lady with an Ermine and wielded his terrifying power over the population. Continue on a walking tour to Jagiellonian University, founded in 1364 by Casimir III the Great. Over the centuries, the university has educated some of Europe's most respected figures, including Nicolaus Copernicus, Pope John Paul II, and Nobel Prize-winning poet Wisława Szymborska. Take a stroll through the university's lovely botanical garden, which is more than 200 years old. Return to Old Town to visit Cloth Hall, which historically functioned as the main marketplace of the town. The evening is free to explore Kraków.

Accommodations: Radisson Blu Kraków (B)



MAIN SQUARE IN KRAKÓW



- 3 - THE EXPERIENCE AUSCHWITZ

Thirty-miles west of Kraków is the Polish town of Oswiecim, known to history by its German name: *Auschwitz*. The German occupiers took over this former army barracks in 1940 and populated it with Polish political prisoners. As the war continued, the Nazis expanded and refined the camp, imprisoning Jews from all over Europe or sending them on to their deaths at nearby Birkenau. The Martyrdom Museum at Auschwitz is a ghastly reminder of the inhumanity which humans are capable of. An evening on your own allows for reflection on today's touring.

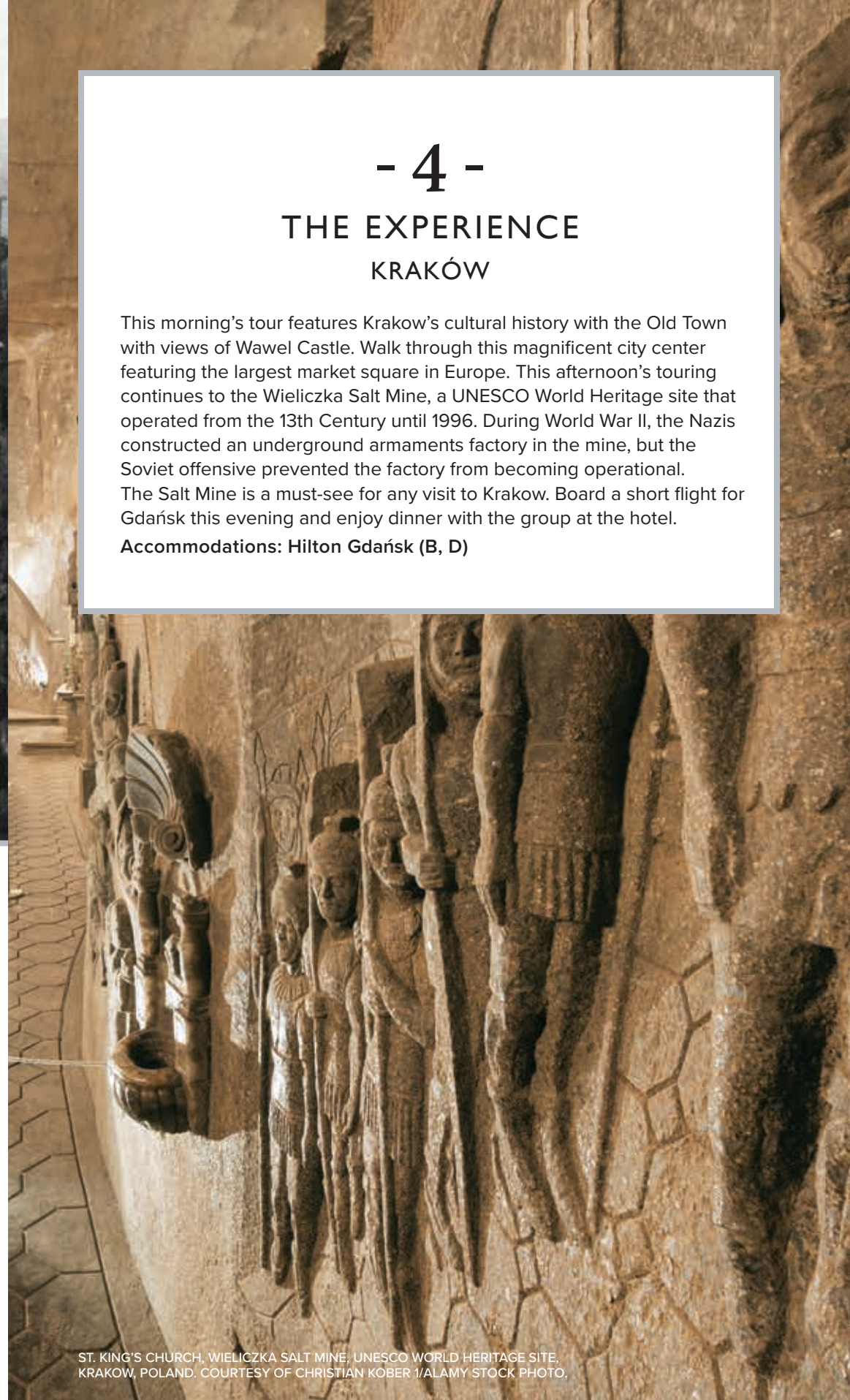
Accommodations: Radisson Blu Kraków (B, L)

MAIN GATES AT AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP IN POLAND. COURTESY OF CHRONICLE/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO.

- 4 - THE EXPERIENCE KRAKÓW

This morning's tour features Krakow's cultural history with the Old Town with views of Wawel Castle. Walk through this magnificent city center featuring the largest market square in Europe. This afternoon's touring continues to the Wieliczka Salt Mine, a UNESCO World Heritage site that operated from the 13th Century until 1996. During World War II, the Nazis constructed an underground armaments factory in the mine, but the Soviet offensive prevented the factory from becoming operational. The Salt Mine is a must-see for any visit to Krakow. Board a short flight for Gdańsk this evening and enjoy dinner with the group at the hotel.

Accommodations: Hilton Gdańsk (B, D)



ST. KING'S CHURCH, WIELICZKA SALT MINE, UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE, KRAKOW, POLAND. COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN KOBER 1/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO.

THROUGH THEIR EYES

WŁADYSŁAW BARTOSZEWSKI
1922-2015



The Economist magazine called him “The Great Survivor,” others referred to him as the “Polish Schindler.” He is one of the only people in the world to have been commemorated twice at Yad Vashem as a “Righteous Gentile.” Whatever the label, Władysław Bartoszewski was a remarkable figure. He witnessed some of the worst horrors of World War II, and yet he dedicated his life to the goals of reconciliation between former foes with humor, empathy, and compassion.

Bartoszewski was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1922. The son of a Roman Catholic banker, he grew up next to the Jewish Quarter with both Catholic and Jewish visitors to the house. On September 1, 1939, he awoke to the sound of bombs falling on Warsaw. Hitler had ordered the first mass terror bombing of the war, and 20,000 civilians died. Bartoszewski volunteered to work as a stretcher-bearer for the Red Cross.

WŁADYSŁAW BARTOSZEWSKI IN FRONT OF A PICTURE OF AUSCHWITZ / REUTERS / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

Bartoszewski’s formal schooling ended with the German invasion. Nazi rule in Poland was highly oppressive: schools and universities were closed, along with newspapers, publishing houses, and virtually all other Polish institutions. Bartoszewski continued to work for the Red Cross as a clerk. In September 1940, the Germans began random roundups of men between the ages of 18 and 65. Bartoszewski was 18 years old when the Nazis arrived at his house. They stormed in, grabbed him, and put him on the second-ever transport to a small town in southern Poland where a new camp, Auschwitz, was being built. There, he was photographed, put in striped prison uniform, and given the number 4427.

Life in Auschwitz was intolerable. He watched as friends were beaten to death in front of him; he was forced into slave labor pulling a gigantic concrete roller; food was scarce. By the end of the first year, he had become desperately ill. The Red Cross intervened and arranged for Bartoszewski and a number of other prisoners to be released—something which would have been impossible later in the war. He returned to Warsaw sick and too weak to function. His old friend Hanka Czaki, who worked for the Polish Underground, came to see him as he recovered, and over some weeks wrote down his testimony about Auschwitz. It was sent to London and published in April 1942 by the *Home Army* as “Memoir of a Prisoner.” It was the first-ever eyewitness testimony published about Auschwitz, and it was the first warning to the Allies about what was happening to the victims in the new concentration camps in German-occupied Poland.

In the spring of 1942, Bartoszewski was interviewed by Jan Karski, a later recipient of the American Presidential Medal of Freedom. As a result of this meeting, Bartoszewski was invited to join the Polish Home Army in August 1942. Disturbed by the increasing brutality directed against the Jews, he became a founding member of The Council for Aid to Jews, code-named “Żegota.” This operation was funded from London and helped approximately 50,000 Jews in occupied Poland. The exact number of those aided who survived the war is unknown, but it is thought to be less than 20%. During the course of his work Bartoszewski and the Żegota organization supported well-known activists, including Irene Sendler, who saved 2,500 Jewish children, and the “Zookeeper” Jan Żabiński, who saved Jews by hiding them at the Warsaw Zoo. Aside from his work at Żegota, Bartoszewski personally saved dozens of Jews. As a result, he was honored at Yad Vashem both for his work with Żegota and for his own individual contributions. He was also made an honorary citizen of the State of Israel.

After the war, Bartoszewski was arrested and spent seven years in a Stalinist prison. Between 1963 and 1989, he worked in secret for Radio Free Europe. Given his links with the Solidarity movement activists, he was arrested again on December 13, 1981, when the Polish Communist Government declared martial law. When Poland finally threw off the communist yoke in 1989, Bartoszewski became Polish Ambassador to Austria, and then was twice made Polish Foreign Minister. He served as Secretary of State in the Polish Prime Minister’s Office until his death on April 24, 2015.

Władysław Bartoszewski suffered through the horrors of Nazism and Stalinism, and as a result, he was determined to be a witness to history. He wrote hundreds of books and articles, gave countless interviews, and supported initiatives to remember the war. He was Chairman of the International Auschwitz Committee, and he worked tirelessly to promote ties between Poland and Israel, and between Poland and Germany. He was truly a “great survivor.”



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE THE KATYN MASSACRE

Ten days before the German invasion of Poland and the start of World War II in Europe, Germany and the Soviet Union formalized a non-aggression pact. Embedded within the agreement was a partition of Poland. The Soviet Union would gain control of eastern Poland, Latvia, Estonia, and Finland. Nazi Germany would control western Poland, Lithuania, and Danzig. Free from the threat of Soviet intervention, Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. The Red Army invaded Poland from the east on September 17, 1939. Poland's sovereignty was gone. The future of the Poles was now in the hands of two brutal dictators.

THE DISCOVERY OF THE MASS GRAVES IN THE KATYN FOREST BY THE GERMAN *WEHRMACHT* IN FEBRUARY 1943. COURTESY OF DPA PICTURE ALLIANCE/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO.

During the initial invasion, the Germans and Soviets captured thousands of Poles and sent them to various prisons and POW camps. Stalin, always paranoid and suspicious, knew there would be resistance to his regime, so he acted quickly against the Polish military prisoners. In March 1940, Stalin, along with five other members of the Politburo, ordered the execution of 25,000 prisoners.

Over the next two months, the Soviets executed tens of thousands of Polish prisoners and buried them in mass graves. The shootings took place in various areas; however, these executions became synonymous with the Katyn forest where a German officer discovered the first mass grave in 1943. The Nazis would then seize on the Katyn Massacre as a way to grow mistrust among the Allies.

Questions about the missing began in June 1941 during Operation Barbarossa when the Soviets and the Poles agreed to combat the Germans together. Polish General Władysław Anders, recently freed from prison, was assembling a force to counter the German advance. Anders asked the Soviets where he could find his fellow Polish officers. Stalin assured both Anders and Polish Prime Minister Władysław Sikorski that all of the Polish captives had previously been set free. Their whereabouts were simply unknown.

By 1943, the German gains in the east were crumbling, but Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels used the Katyn Massacre as an opportunity to wedge a divide between Poland, the Western Allies, and the Soviet Union. Goebbels gave strict instructions to broadcast the Katyn Massacre everywhere in Germany, and did so for weeks. The massacre was a useful opportunity to show the German people the horrors of the Bolsheviks while making Western Allies guilty by association.

Stalin vehemently denied the execution claims. Both Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt felt that the more important issue was not the relationship between the Poles and the Soviets but instead, the relationship between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union. Sikorski met with Churchill privately to share proof that Stalin had ordered the executions. Churchill believed in the capacity of the Soviets to murder the Polish prisoners but assured Stalin that he would oppose any investigation into the killings. On the American side, Navy Lieutenant Commander George Earle produced a report that claimed that the Soviets were responsible for the Katyn Massacre, but President Roosevelt rejected the report and declared that Germany was responsible for the executions. There was a war to win, and the common enemy was Hitler.

The Katyn Massacre was a low point in Poland's history, but the country would endure more executions, ethnic cleansings, and massacres before the end of World War II. After the war, the Poles adjusted to an existence as a puppet state dominated by the Soviet Union. Under Soviet influence, responsibility for the Katyn Massacre still fell to Germany. For over four decades, the Poles suffered behind the Iron Curtain before they threw off their Communist government and transitioned to democracy. In 1990, the crumbling Soviet Union announced that its own forces carried out the killings. In 2010, the Russian Parliament officially condemned Stalin and his government for the Katyn Massacre.

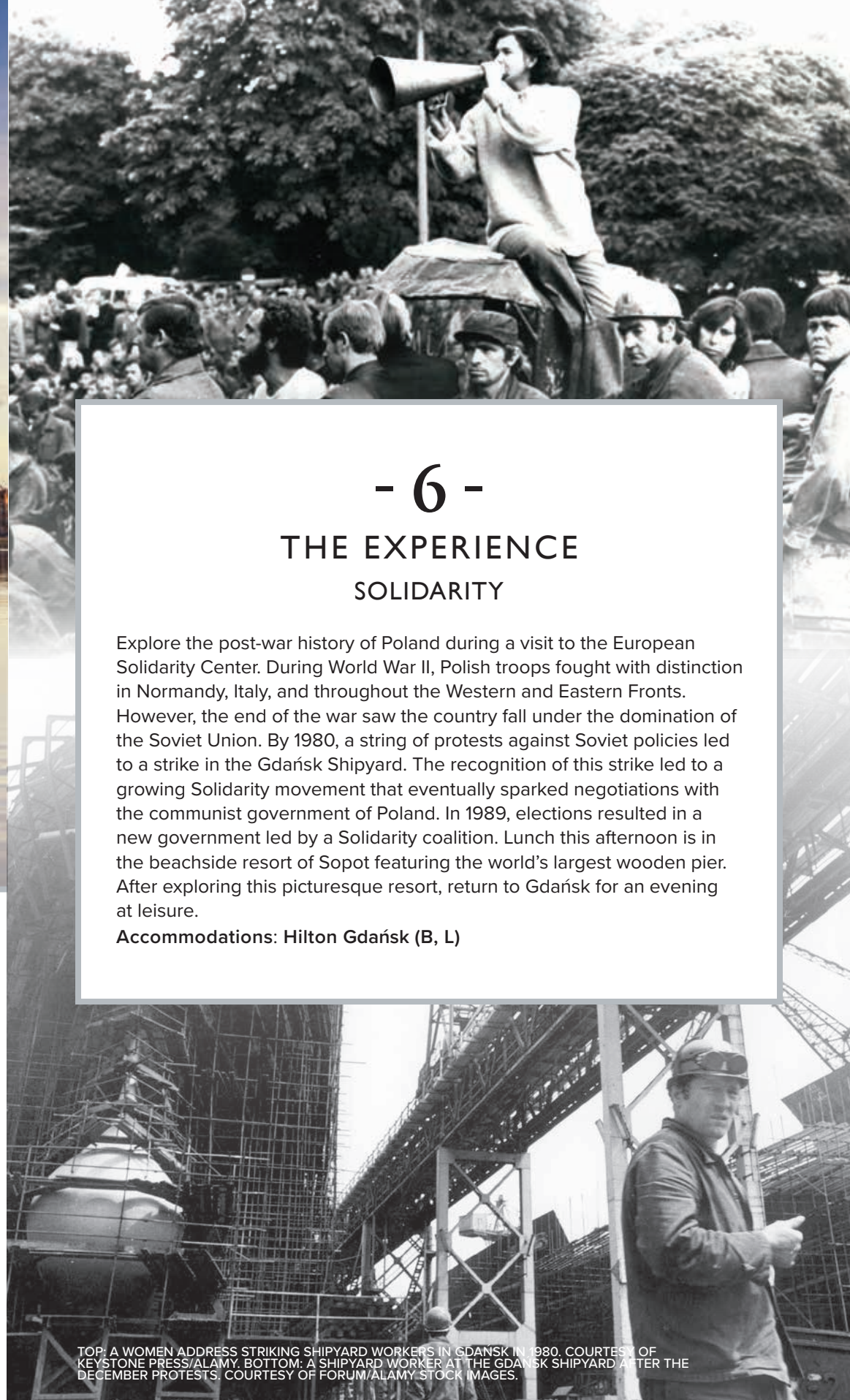


OLD TOWN OF GDANSK

- 5 - THE EXPERIENCE WESTERPLATTE

Poland's maritime city on the Baltic Sea, Gdańsk was first mentioned in historical documents in 997. In its millennium of existence, this venerable port city has changed hands numerous times – the prize in a long game of tug-of-war between Germany and Poland. This morning, visit Westerplatte, the place where the Germans fired the first shots of what became World War II. On September 1, 1939, a German battleship paying a “courtesy call” on Danzig began firing shells at the Polish garrison here. After lunch on your own and the option to take a walking tour of Gdańsk, visit the Museum of the Second World War. After ample time to explore the museum, your evening is free to enjoy dinner independently.

Accommodations: Hilton Gdańsk (B)



TOP: A WOMEN ADDRESS STRIKING SHIPYARD WORKERS IN GDANSK IN 1980. COURTESY OF KEYSTONE PRESS/ALAMY. BOTTOM: A SHIPYARD WORKER AT THE GDANSK SHIPYARD AFTER THE DECEMBER PROTESTS. COURTESY OF FORUM/ALAMY STOCK IMAGES.

- 6 - THE EXPERIENCE SOLIDARITY

Explore the post-war history of Poland during a visit to the European Solidarity Center. During World War II, Polish troops fought with distinction in Normandy, Italy, and throughout the Western and Eastern Fronts. However, the end of the war saw the country fall under the domination of the Soviet Union. By 1980, a string of protests against Soviet policies led to a strike in the Gdańsk Shipyard. The recognition of this strike led to a growing Solidarity movement that eventually sparked negotiations with the communist government of Poland. In 1989, elections resulted in a new government led by a Solidarity coalition. Lunch this afternoon is in the beachside resort of Sopot featuring the world's largest wooden pier. After exploring this picturesque resort, return to Gdańsk for an evening at leisure.

Accommodations: Hilton Gdańsk (B, L)



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE WESTERPLATTE

ADOLF HITLER REVIEWING THE BATTLESHIP SMS *SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN*, HAMBURG, GERMANY, 1936.
COURTESY OF THE PRINT COLLECTOR/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO.



By September 1939, signs of war signaled throughout the world. Japan's ambitions in China, Italy's conquest in Ethiopia, and Germany's territorial demands in Europe set the stage for the larger battles to come. Poland's leaders watched the world abandon Czechoslovakia at the negotiating table when Hitler demanded Czech territory. Taking steps to avoid a similar fate, Poland joined a military alliance with Britain and France in March 1939. Any attack on Poland would result in Germany going to war on two fronts.

Danzig proved to be the main point of contention between Germany and Poland prior to the outbreak of war. At the start of World War I, Danzig was part of the German Empire. Following Germany's defeat in World War I, Poland's borders shifted to the west, but Danzig did not transfer to Poland. With a population that was 90% German, Danzig became a free city. Feeling a connection to the citizens of Danzig, Germany petitioned Poland for a new highway across a Polish corridor to connect the Germans in both places. The population of Danzig began to emphasize their German ethnicity through politics.

In the 1930s, the Nazi Party in Danzig was growing rapidly. Citizens of Danzig resented the new Polish city of Gdynia to the north and felt that the Poles were shifting business and money away from Danzig. The Danzig Senate followed many of the policies laid out by Nazi Germany including the Nuremberg Race Laws. The Polish government felt that giving Germany easy access to Danzig would lead to increasing demands for territory from Hitler.

In August 1939, both sides prepared for conflict. Poland constructed fortifications and stationed sentries near Danzig. The German battleship SMS *Schleswig-Holstein* sailed into Danzig Harbor under the guise of a courtesy call on August 25. A series of false flag operations undertaken by Nazi Germany in late August led to the *Schleswig-Holstein* firing on a Polish garrison on the Westerplatte Peninsula. The first rounds hit just before 5:00 AM on September 1, 1939.

After the first shots, German marines ran from the *Schleswig-Holstein* and encountered an ambush by the Poles. After 30 minutes of action, the Germans withdrew. The *Schleswig-Holstein* fired for several more hours as the Germans regrouped. A second German attack failed to breach the Polish defenses. For the next six days, the Germans bombarded the Polish positions with naval, artillery, and air attacks. The Poles continued to resist the Germans in Westerplatte, even as the Germans were on the outskirts of Warsaw. On September 7, 1939, Polish Major Henryk Sucharski surrendered the garrison to the Germans.



- 7 -

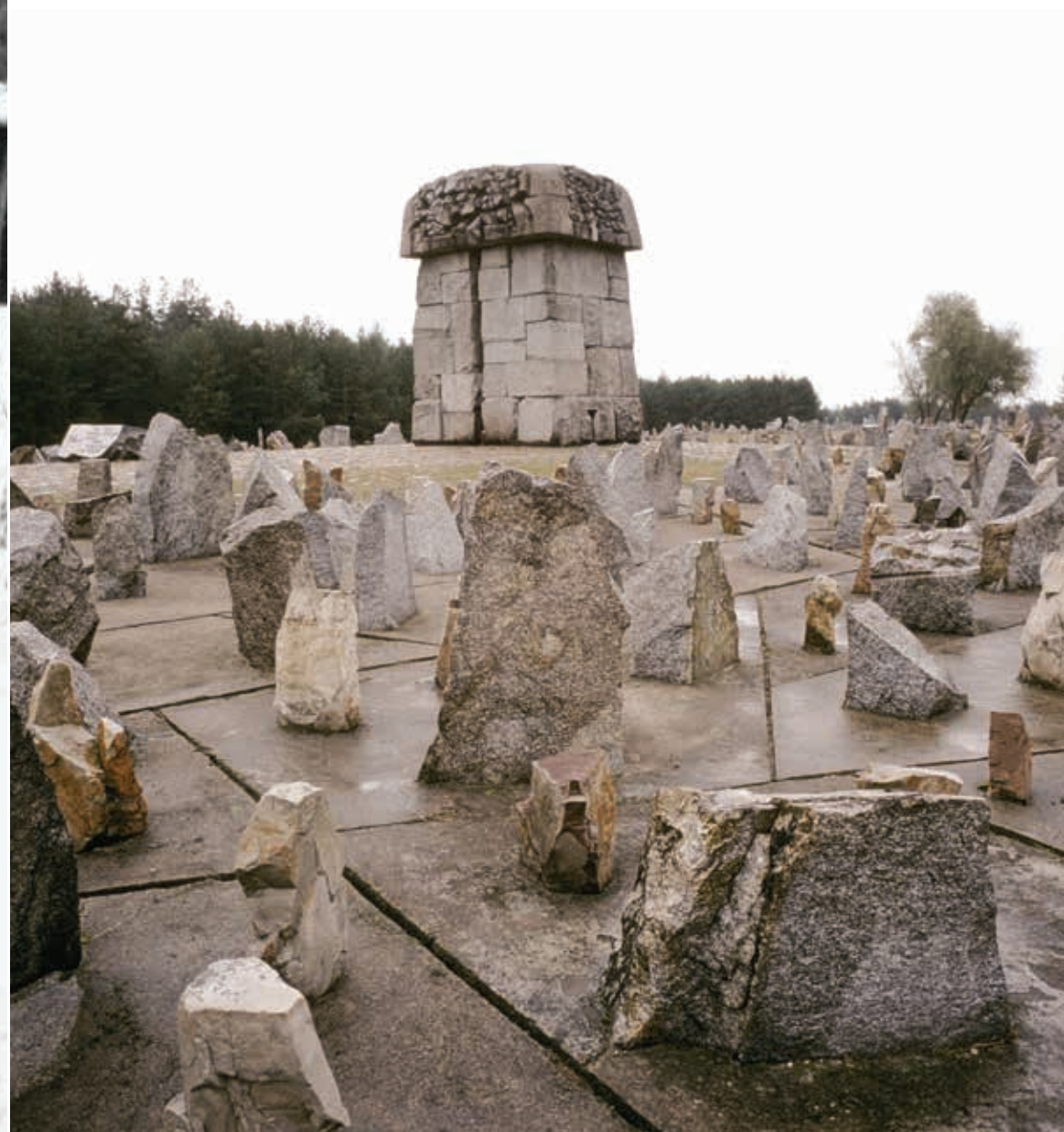
THE EXPERIENCE

WOLF'S LAIR AND MIKOLAJKI

Today, drive onward to Wolf's Lair, the English name for Hitler's secret, fortified Eastern Front command post *Wolfsschanze*. The failed 1944 assassination attempt on Hitler, portrayed in the 2008 movie *Valkyrie* (starring Tom Cruise) took place within the concrete complex. After lunch, visit the German command-and-control center at Mamerki. Virtually untouched since the war, this huge bunker complex is where many of the major decisions affecting the conduct of the war on the Eastern Front were made. Spend the evening in the resort town of Mikolajki.

Accommodations: Hotel Mikolajki (B, L, D)

HITLER AND FIELD MARSHAL FEDOR VON BOCK AT "WOLF'S LAIR" / CONTRIBUTOR ULLSTEIN BILD / GETTY



- 8 -

THE EXPERIENCE

TREBLINKA

Depart Mikolajki for Treblinka Extermination Camp. Opened by the Nazis in December 1941 as a forced labor camp, Treblinka expanded in 1942 as part of Operation Reinhard, the effort to eradicate the Jews of occupied Poland. Over 750,000 people were murdered at Treblinka, a total second only to Auschwitz. During an uprising inside the camp on August 2, 1943, approximately 200 prisoners managed to escape and several buildings were set on fire. The Nazis liquidated the camp in November 1943, and the grounds were made to look like a farm. In 1955, Treblinka became a memorial site paying tribute to all who died on the grounds.

Accommodations: Hotel Bristol (B)

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL AT THE TREBLINKA EXTERMINATION CAMP. COURTESY OF JUSTIN LEIGHTON/ALAMY STOCK.



- 9 - THE EXPERIENCE WARSAW

Spend the day exploring Warsaw, starting at the Genscher Cemetery, Warsaw's largest Jewish cemetery with over 250,000 people buried on site. Many prominent leaders of Warsaw's Jewish community are buried here, including Marek Edelman, a leader of the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto. Continue on to the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews for a guided tour of the exhibits. This afternoon features a walking tour of the Old Town—a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a visit to the Royal Castle.

Accommodations: Hotel Bristol (B)

CAPTURED JEWS ARE LED BY GERMAN TROOPS OUT OF WARSAW. COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES.



- 10 - THE EXPERIENCE WARSAW UPRISING

Set out on a walking tour this morning, beginning at the 1944 Warsaw Uprising Monument. Unveiled in 1989, the monument commemorates the valiant and tragic attempt of the Polish Resistance to take back the city of Warsaw from Nazi troops before the Soviet Army entered the city. Visit the Mausoleum of Struggle and Martyrdom, located in a former Gestapo headquarters. This afternoon, visit the Warsaw Uprising Museum. Opened in 2004 on the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Warsaw Uprising, this museum includes a collection of almost 1,000 photographs taken by photographer and Olympic athlete Eugeniusz Lokajski, who documented the uprising before he was killed in an artillery attack. This evening features a special Chopin concert in the Palace on the Isle followed by dinner at the Belevedere Palace.

Accommodations: Hotel Bristol (B, R, D)

JEWSH UPRISING MUSEUM IN WARSAW

- 11 -

THE EXPERIENCE

DEPARTURES

Bid farewell to Poland this morning and transfer to Warsaw Chopin Airport (WAW) for individual flights back to the United States. **(B)**

ROYAL CASTLE AND SIGISMUND COLUMN IN
WARSAW



SPOTLIGHT ON JANUSZ KORCZAK



On August 5, 1942, one of the most horrific scenes of the Nazi's assault on Warsaw's Jewish population took place. A line of 200 orphan children, with their caretaker Janusz Korczak leading the way, marched out of the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka Extermination Camp. For the 64-year-old Korczak, this was the fulfillment of his promise to never abandon the children in his care.

Janusz Korczak was born Henryk Goldsmit, but took on his new name during his burgeoning career as a writer. As a child, he experienced a prosperous family life, but he contemplated as early as the age of five that he “was bothered by the thought of what I could do that there should be no dirty, hungry, ragged children like the ones with whom I was not allowed to play in the yard.”

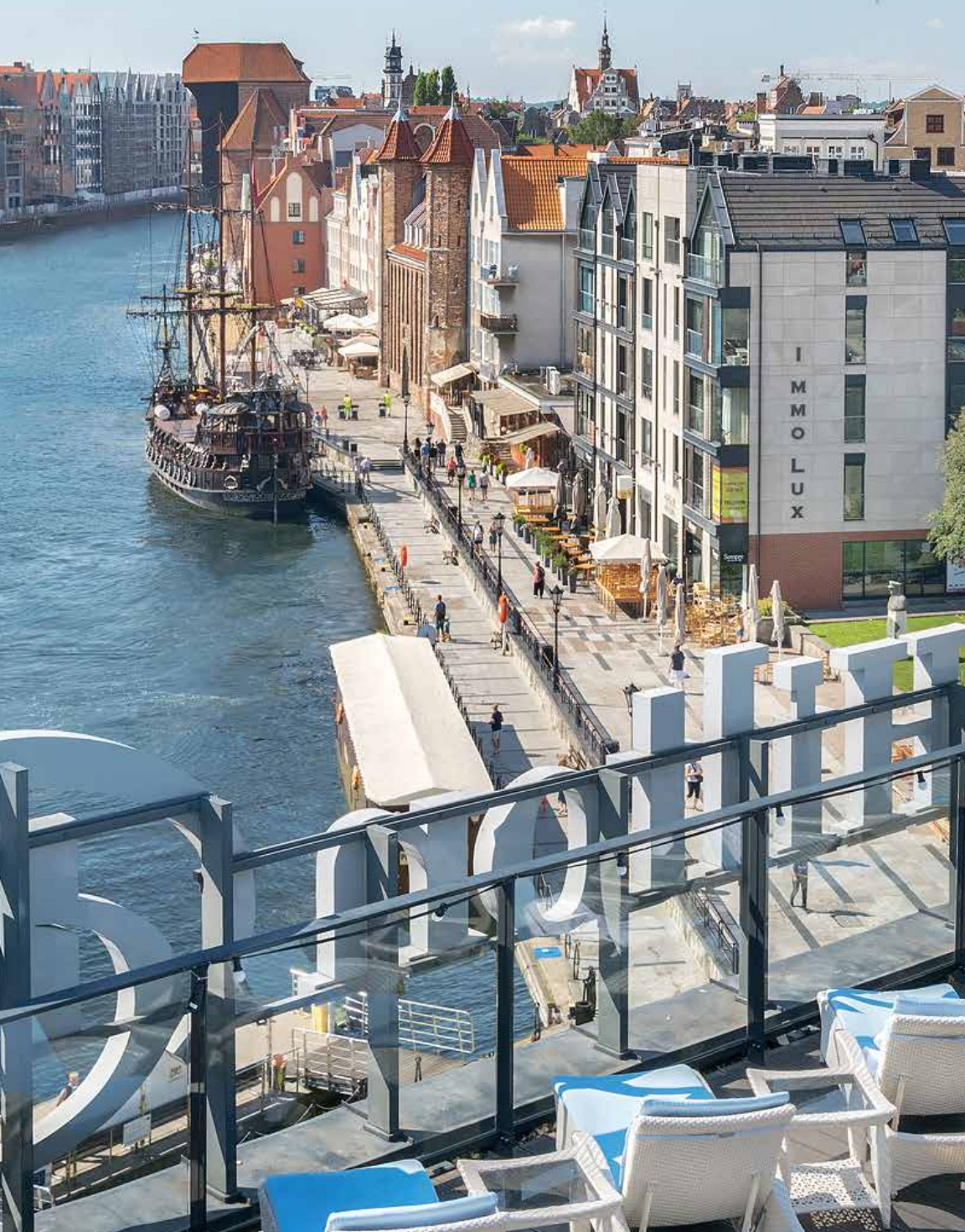
As an adult, Korczak entered a life of service as a doctor, writer, and educator. In 1912, Korczak founded the Jewish orphanage *Dom Sierot*, a building he designed himself to promote his progressive educational ideals. Jewish orphans stayed for free and attended Polish public schools and Jewish Sabbath Schools. Many of the children Korczak cared for had come from rough backgrounds. Survival in the slums without parental figures had left them distrusting of authority and with many fears and anxieties. Korczak ran his orphanage upon a philosophy of mutual respect with the children, avoiding the rules and regulations that were more appropriate for a military barracks. He wrote, “too much worrying about one’s own peace-and-quiet or convenience leads to a proliferation of orders and prohibitions that are only ostensibly issued for ‘the good of the child.’”

After the Germans occupied Warsaw, life for the orphans was a constant struggle. Korczak moved the orphanage to several different addresses as the Ghetto boundaries narrowed. Sympathetic Poles tried to move Korczak to the “Aryan” side of Warsaw, but he refused to leave his children behind. When the Nazis came to place the children on the train bound for Treblinka, Korczak led them onto the train with his head held high. One eyewitness described the march, “it was a silent but organized protest against the murderers, a march like which no human eye had ever seen before.”

A monument to Janusz Korczak and his children is located within the Warsaw Jewish Cemetery.

HAND-SELECTED ACCOMMODATIONS

*View of Old Town Gdańsk
from the rooftop of the Hilton Gdańsk.*



RADISSON BLU KRAKÓW

Within walking distance of Market Square and St. Mary's Basilica, the Radisson Blu Hotel, Kraków, welcomes you with stylish interiors and conveniences like 24-hour room service and free high-speed, wireless internet. The hotel offers two on-site restaurants, a bar, a fitness center with a sauna, and a beauty studio.



HILTON GDAŃSK

Overlooking the Motława River in the picturesque Old Town of Gdańsk, the Hilton Gdańsk hotel offers guests the perfect base to visit and explore this popular Polish city. This Gdańsk hotel boasts stylish riverside dining at Mercato Restaurant and unique High 5 Terrace Bar, the highest bar in the Old Town, with contemporary urban beach and terrace with a pool area.



HOTEL BRISTOL

This distinctive hotel is located just steps from the Presidential Palace, the Royal Castle, Old Town Square, Praga, and many other attractions in the capital. With art-deco inspired interiors, guests enjoy two onsite restaurants and bars, Bristol Spa and Fitness, and impeccable service.



HOTEL MIKOLAJKI

Inspired by its picturesque natural surroundings on Bird Island, rooms are designed with comfort and convenience in mind, and include air-conditioning, wireless internet, minibar, coffee maker, and spa-quality bathroom amenities. The spa facilities include a relaxation area and a signature Sauna World with incredible views of Mikolajskie Lake.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The National WWII Museum Affinity Travel Programs Terms & Conditions, Limits on Responsibility and Binding Arbitration Agreement

This Terms & Conditions, Limits on Responsibility, and Binding Arbitration Agreement is entered into by and between the Tour Participant and the National WWII Museum and co-sponsoring organization (collectively referred to as “the Museum”).

TOUR FARE

Your tour fare covers arrangements and services including hotel accommodations, meals as per the itinerary, gratuities, ground transportation, guiding services, and special tour inclusions as described within the travel program brochure. All fares are quoted in US Dollars, are per guest and are based on double occupancy. As indicated below, airfare to and from the tour destination is not included in your tour fare The Museum accepts no liability for the purchase of non-refundable airline tickets.

Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, up to the time of full payment the Museum reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to the Museum upon notice to the tour participant of such increases

NOT INCLUDED

Taxes, unless otherwise noted in the travel program brochure; passport, visas and associated fees; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and Internet access; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to ship and hotel personnel, unless otherwise noted in the travel program brochure; optional sightseeing excursions; airfare, baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air/airport taxes; and associated local taxes, airport facility and security taxes and federal inspection fees not listed as included in the travel program; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel/ship on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s); any overnight expenses on land due to flight schedule(s) or delays; meals, alcoholic or other beverages and all other services not specifically mentioned as included in the travel program.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

To reserve your participation, submit an initial deposit of \$1,000 per person within five (5) days of booking. A \$200 per person deposit is due for any pre and/or post program options that you select. Final payment must be received no later than 90 days prior to departure (See reservation form). Payment by check is preferred in order to reduce costs to the Museum. VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express are also accepted.

CANCELLATIONS

Should it be necessary to cancel your reservation, please contact The National WWII Museum in writing immediately. Cancellations for all or any part of tour including optional pre- and/or post-tour extension programs will not be effective until received in writing. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply:

CANCELLATION NOTICE RECEIVED BEFORE TOUR START DATE FEES	TOUR CANCELLATION FEES	PRE & POST OPTIONAL TOUR CANCELLATION FEES
By December 31, 2021	\$0 per person	\$0 per person
121 days or more	\$200 per person	\$50 per person
120-91 days	\$1,000 per person	\$200 per person
90-61 days	60% of full tour cost (incl Pre and/or Post Tour)*	
60 days or less, No Show or Early Return	100% of full tour cost (incl Pre and/or Post Tour)*	
*In addition, applicable cancellation fees for confirmed additional hotel nights may apply. Tour cost is defined as the cost of any cruise, land, or air element purchased from The National WWII Museum.		

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

Because our cancellation policy is strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation, trip cancellation insurance may be your only source of reimbursement.

HEALTH, MEDICAL AND TOUR REQUIREMENTS

All guests are required to advise in writing to the Museum at the time their reservation is made if they have:

- Any physical or mental condition that may require medical or professional treatment or attention during the tour;
- Any condition that may pose a risk to one's self and/or other participants on tour;
- Any condition that may require health aids, i.e.; oxygen, walkers, crutches, etc., or any intention or need to use a wheelchair while on the tour.

By booking passage the guest represents and warrants that he/she is physically and otherwise fit to travel and that guests will comply at all times with applicable rules and regulations of the Museum. The Museum reserves the right without liability to require a passenger to leave the tour or to refuse to accept a guest as a tour participant who, in the sole judgment of the Museum, is unfit to travel, is a danger to himself or herself or to others, does not follow instructions of the tour leader, may distract from the enjoyment of the trip by others, or may require care beyond that which the Museum is reasonably able to provide.

LUGGAGE

Luggage will be limited to one (1) suitcase and one (1) carry-on per person to ensure that there is enough room on the motor coach for all passenger luggage. All luggage must be securely packed and clearly labeled. We recommend that all participants secure baggage loss and damage insurance that may be purchased for this tour. Please see airline weight and size restrictions for luggage on international flights. The Museum is not responsible for loss or damage to luggage or any other personal item during air travel, while in a hotel during land programs, on a cruise or while on shore excursions. Under no circumstances may dangerous items (i.e. explosives, firearms, liquid oxygen, combustible or illegal substances) be taken on the tour. We recommend that you hand carry travel documents (passports and tour tickets), medications and valuables, and check with your airline regarding carry-on baggage restrictions. These items are the full responsibility of the guest at all times. The Museum shall not be responsible for the loss of or damage to such personal items.

LAND TOURS, LECTURES AND PERSONALITIES

All tours are operated by independent contractors. These independent contractors may impose additional terms and conditions and limitations of liability on tour participants. Other independent contractors retained by the Museum such as lecturers, guest personalities and entertainers are subject to change and/or cancellation without notice.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

All travel documents (air and tour tickets, passport) are the responsibility of the guest. It is also your responsibility to comply with all customs requirements. Without the required documents, you may be denied boarding and the Museum will not be liable for such denial or bear any financial responsibilities as a result thereof.

Security measures imposed by governments may change from time to time and you will be required to comply with them. We will endeavor to provide you with notice of measures which may affect you; but complying with any such requirement is your responsibility.

LIMITS ON THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM RESPONSIBILITY

The National World War II Museum Inc., a New Orleans, Louisiana-based nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization, and its employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (collectively “the Museum”), do not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for your trip including lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, the Museum is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity or of any other third party.

In addition and without limitation, the Museum is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, bites from or attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely. Participants assume all such risks as well as the risk of negligence by the Museum and specifically release the Museum therefrom.

If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person the Museum judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leaders or third parties, or who the Museum determines to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line.

The Museum reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and the Museum shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, special programs and guest lecture series (if applicable), are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. The Museum is not responsible therefore and is not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances.

The Museum may cancel a trip (or an option) for any reason whatsoever; if so, its sole responsibility is to refund monies paid by the participant to it. The Museum is not required to cancel any trip for any reason including without limitation, United States Department of State, World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. The Museum is not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if the Museum makes the flight arrangements or cancels the trip. The Museum reserves the right to substitute vessels, hotels, itineraries or attractions for those listed in this brochure.

BINDING ARBITRATION

I agree that any dispute concerning, relating or referring to this Agreement, the brochure or any other literature concerning my trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration pursuant to the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. §§1-16, either according to the then existing Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). Such proceedings will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) Louisiana law and will take place in New Orleans, LA. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. Please understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, you (and we) are waiving our right to a trial by jury. The Museum is not responsible for misprints in tour promotional material.

THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM

EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL PROGRAM

5 Museum Quick Facts



8 million+
visitors since the Museum
opened on June 6, 2000



\$2 billion+
in economic impact



160,000+
active Museum members



8,000+ travelers,
representing every US state



625,000+
social media followers

TRAVEL WITH EXPERTS



26 top historians
with
174 published books and
47 documentary credits

TRAVEL TO
27
COUNTRIES



covering
all theaters
of World War II



30 Tour Programs operated
on average per year, at
times **accompanied by**
WWII veterans

VISIT Overseas
American Battle
Monuments
Commission
**cemeteries &
memorials plus**
16
& 189
museums on our itineraries



ww2museumtours.org



**#1 ATTRACTION IN
NEW ORLEANS**



RESERVATION FORM



SEND TO:

The National WWII Museum Travel
945 Magazine Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Toll Free: 877-813-3329 x 325

Fax: 504-503-0995

Email: travel@nationalww2museum.org

Please make my/our reservation for **September 7–17, 2022:**

☐ ~~\$6,899~~ **\$6,399*** Double Occupancy ☐ ~~\$8,899~~ **\$8,399*** Single Occupancy

*When booked by March 11, 2022. \$229 per person taxes and fees are additional.

Scan the code with your
smartphone camera to book
online!



Bedding preference: ☐ Twin (2 beds) ☐ Queen

ALL PASSENGERS MUST TRAVEL WITH A PASSPORT VALID AT LEAST 6 MONTHS BEYOND THEIR RETURN DATE.

Guest 1: Full Legal Name (as it appears on your passport)

Title: _____ First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Ph: _____ / _____ Cell: _____ / _____

Roommate (if different from below): _____

Email Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ / _____ / _____ Preferred Name on Badge: _____

Guest 2: Full Legal Name (as it appears on your passport)

Title: _____ First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____

Email Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ / _____ / _____ Preferred Name on Badge: _____

DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is due with your reservation application. Final payments must be received no later than 90 (ninety) days prior to departure. Applicable taxes and fees will be added to your final invoice.

Please reserve _____ space(s). Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____. Deposits and FINAL payments may be made by personal check, American Express, MasterCard, Visa, and Discover.

☐ Accept my check made payable to The National WWII Museum

Charge my: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Signature as it appears on card: _____

Card # _____ CVV/Security Code _____ Expires _____ / _____

Making a deposit or acceptance or use of any vouchers, tickets, goods or services shall be deemed consent to and acceptance of the terms and conditions stated in the applicable Terms and Conditions agreement, including limitations on responsibility and liability.

No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.



Terms and conditions. By confirming the reservation with payment, the guest/travel agent acknowledges that they are aware of and will comply with our terms and conditions. We reserve the right to change our terms and conditions at any time, so scan the QR code for complete details, additional information, and updates or visit www.nationalww2museum.org/educational-travel/terms-and-conditions.



Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF
The Association of Former Students



OPERATION HOME FRONT

The war that changed the world

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tour to The National WWII Museum.

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