

Geographical Association International Working Group

Study Visit to Poland 28 July – 10 August 2010

Draft Itinerary:

1. Arrival Gdańsk airport. 2 nights in Gdańsk. Depending on time – an evening in the Old Town. Introduction to the programme and an outline of the geography of Poland by Aleksandra Zaparucha (Polish GA).
2. A day in Gdańsk – ship building industry (shipyards threatened with closure); foreign investments in Poland – Renault factory.
3. Gdańsk to Toruń (about 200 km). On the way – some farming issues (a visit to the area with previously state-owned farms, now privately owned but with serious social issues of unemployment being passed from generation to generation); a visit to Świecie paper factory – a successful privatization of once state-owned company. Toruń – 2 nights. A visit to the city centre by night and a presentation on tourism, shopping and other geographical issues (Alex).
4. Toruń – meeting at the City Council – foreign investment and EU funds in the area; a visit to the office of the European Capital of Culture 2016 program. Gingerbread making in the House of Copernicus. Toruń's Old Town as a shopping centre (field studies). A visit to a teacher training centre.
5. Toruń to Warsaw (about 200 km). 2 nights. On the way – a visit to Włocławek – a dam across the Vistula River. A visit to an organic farm near Płock.
6. Warsaw. Institute of Social Studies of the University of Warsaw, Centre for European Migration Studies – a presentation on emigration from Poland. Ministry of Education.
7. Warsaw to Częstochowa (about 300 km). 1 night. On the way – Łódź (Polish Manchester) – visit a successfully transformed old textile factories & city centre rejuvenation. Bełchatów open-cast brown coal mine – the largest of that type in Poland. A visit to Jasna Góra Monastery in Częstochowa (depending on time).
8. Częstochowa to Oświęcim (Auschwitz) (over 200 km). One night in Oświęcim. On the way – Katowice heavy industrial and coal mining region once infamous for its pollution, but now.....
9. Oświęcim to Zakopane in the Tatra Mts. (about 140 km). 3 nights in Zakopane. In the morning – Oświęcim Nazi Concentration Camp. On the way – Rabka – a health resort for children. In Zakopane – a walk onto the top of Gubałówka Hill (facing the Tatras' panorama). (a tram to the top also possible).
10. Zakopane – a walk in the Western Tatras – Kościeliska Valley (meeting rep. of Tatra National Park conservation & management and a walk)
11. Zakopane – the High Tatras from Kasprowy Wierch (a cable car to the top of Kasprowy and some walking – postglacial landscape)
12. Zakopane to Kraków (about 180 km). 2 nights in Kraków. On the way – a visit to the site of the Dam in Czorsztyn-Niedzica. Wieliczka Salt Mine.
13. Kraków – sightseeing the Old Town and a visit to Nowa Huta (steel town).
14. Departure.