



The Lira Ensemble

*Artist-in-Residence at Loyola University Chicago
renowned for its superb performances of Polish music, song & dance
and its excellent cultural tours of Poland*

**THE LIRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
invites you to be part of its highly praised**

2018 AUDIENCE TOUR OF CENTRAL & SOUTHERN POLAND THURSDAY, JUNE 21st – THURSDAY, JULY 5th

featuring music, culture, history and lots of fun

personally escorted by LUCYNA MIGALA

Artistic Director/General Manager of the Lira Ensemble & an Experienced Tour Director

**Lira will show you the Poland of your dreams during this 15-day tour of
WARSAW * KRAKOW * CZESTOCHOWA * JOHN PAUL II's BIRTHPLACE
ZAKOPANE * CHOPIN'S BIRTHPLACE * WROCLAW * AND MORE**

**The Lira Tour begins with a get-acquainted evening in Chicago
on Wednesday, June 20th with an authentic Polish dinner.**

**This year, the tour price DOES NOT INCLUDE YOUR AIRFARE.
You may choose to fly to Poland as you wish – and perhaps use your United Miles.**

**Lira recommends that you fly non-stop to & from Warsaw
on LOT Polish Airlines Boeing Dreamliner jets.**

Whatever you choose, we will purchase your airline tickets, if you like.

We travel in Poland on an ultra-modern, air-conditioned motor coach
with an emergency bathroom on board.

THIS TOUR INCLUDES:

**FIRST CLASS HOTELS * ALL TOURS & TRANSPORTATION IN POLAND*
ADMISSIONS TO CONCERTS & OTHER PERFORMANCES
ALL BAGGAGE HANDLING * MOST TIPS * THREE MEALS A DAY
EXCEPT FOR THREE LUNCHESES & TWO DINNERS ON YOUR OWN
AS INDICATED BELOW**

**Thursday
June 21**

We depart from O'Hare Airport on a LOT Airlines Boeing Dreamliner or any other flight you may choose. Just be sure to join the tour in Warsaw on Friday morning, June 22nd. If you take LOT, you'll enjoy dinner over the Atlantic. All meals/refreshments onboard, including wine and beer (should you want them), are covered in your tour price. Other alcohol is also available at reasonable prices. We nap/sleep or watch a movie or two on your private computer, then have breakfast over Europe. The Dreamliner has lots of electronic "toys" and services, so you may not want to nap. We land at Chopin Airport in Warsaw, Poland's heroic capital city, on Friday morning.

Friday
June 22

We arrive in Warsaw in the morning and immediately see the magnificent, recently restored Royal Castle, then on to Warsaw's historic Old Town and New Town Market. Experts have told us that you will have little or no jet lag if you do not go to sleep upon arrival in Europe, instead spend the day touring and sleep Friday night. It works! Plus, you will probably be too excited to sleep. We tour the entirely re-built Royal Castle, which is unforgettable. We enjoy a light lunch at the Bistro Warszawa. We see a short documentary film about the tragic plight of Warsaw during World War II. Then we stop at the Bristol to freshen up for our evening, which begins with a performance that is part of Warsaw's Annual Mozart Festival. Our welcoming dinner is at the Dom Polski Belvedere, one of Warsaw's best restaurants. Then we overnight at our hotel.

Saturday
June 23

We enjoy a breakfast buffet at our hotel, with a large choice of Polish, Continental, and American dishes. After breakfast, we follow Warsaw's Royal Route with its many palaces (now often embassies), churches and monuments and see more of the capital city. We visit Wilanow Palace, the summer residence of King Jan III Sobieski, one of Poland's greatest heroes. Lunch is at Delicja Restaurant, appropriately at the Dom Polonii – House of Poles Outside of Poland. After lunch, you will have time on your own and you'll have some time to freshen up. Dinner is at the stunning Ale Gloria Restaurant. Then we enjoy a private concert of Chopin music at the Hunter's Palace in Lazienki Park (Warsaw's Central Park.) Then back to our hotel. If you're not too tired, we recommend a short stroll from the hotel to see a bit of Warsaw night life on Old Town Square.

Sunday
June 24

We attend Mass (if you like) at Holy Cross Church where Chopin's heart is buried, then enjoy breakfast at the hotel before our drive into the countryside to visit Zelazowa Wola, the birthplace of Frederic Chopin. Lunch is at a darling country restaurant. Then, we drive to Lowicz, the Mazovian region known for its colorful paper cutouts and excellent embroidery. We enjoy a folk art presentation and entertainment at the unusual home of Kasia and Wojtek Groniecki. We tour the ruins of the ancient castle they are restoring. They serve us a homemade, mostly home-grown dinner in their charming cottage. We drive back to our hotel for the night.

Monday
June 25

Breakfast is at the hotel, then we drive southwest to the city of Lodz, Poland's second largest city, once an important industrial center and the home of three cultures: Polish-Jewish, Polish-Catholic and German. We do a short tour of Lodz (pronounced "WOULD-GE") to see how Poland is recovering from communism. Lunch will feature local specialties, then on to the city of Wroclaw (pronounced VROH-ts-wahf), the capital of Lower Silesia. We tour Wroclaw's charming Town Square. We have a group dinner reservation at one of the best spots in town, Wroclaw Restaurant, *where you have your first chance to make your own menu choices and pay individually in cash or credit card.* We will help with explanations. Then we overnight at the new AC Hotel by Marriot.

Tuesday
June 26

Our breakfast at the hotel is also a buffet, which is customary in Poland. Then we tour the city of Wroclaw with its Gothic architecture and Silesian style – different than in other parts of Poland. We visit the marvelous Aula Leopoldina at the University of Wroclaw, decorated in the ultimate Baroque Rococo style. We see the Raclawicka Panorama, the 360-degree painting of the Battle of Raclawice at which Tadeusz Kosciuszko led Polish troops in revolt against the Russians – and won the battle. Lunch is at a local restaurant with lots of atmosphere, followed by free time for shopping or resting. Dinner is a picnic in a castle in the countryside with a bonfire to personally roast your sausages. Be sure to try some Polish beer, which is included. Then back to the hotel for the night.

Wednesday
June 27

After breakfast at the hotel, we head southeast into the mountains. We stop at the Adoria Vineyard to sample some Polish wine – which did not exist before climate change in Europe. We stop at Swidnica to see an UNESCO Site, the Church of Peace – one the biggest timber-framed religious buildings in Europe with very unusual architecture. Lunch is at the charming Piwnica Ratuszowa in Swidnica, with lots of atmosphere. We continue our drive south through the gorgeous scenery of the foothills and the beautiful Tatra Mountains, part of the Carpathian chain. We arrive at Zakopane and check into the refurbished Kasprowy Hotel. For dinner, we try some of Zakopane’s unique folk cuisine at before we return to the hotel for the night.

Thursday
June 28

Breakfast is at our hotel, then we tour Zakopane with its distinctive architectural style of intricate wood carvings. Zakopane is Poland’s most popular ski resort town, so we go up into the High Tatras in a cable car. **Lunch is on your own today** and there is time for resting or shopping in the afternoon. There is much to buy here, especially unique mountaineer folk artifacts. Later, we visit the Orski Gallery of works by Polish-American artist Ryszard Orski. Our hearty dinner is at a highlanders’ inn with lots of atmosphere and folk entertainment. We overnight at the Kasprowy.

Friday
June 29

After a good rest in the clean mountain air, we breakfast at the hotel. We drive to a national park for a restful - totally not dangerous - raft ride down the Dunajec River Gorge at the very southern border of Poland. Slovakia is on the other side of the river and we actually enter Slovakian territory - a second country at no extra charge! We enjoy Polish country dishes for lunch at a local inn, then head for Krakow, the beloved capital of southern Poland, loved by many people. We check into the elegant Holiday Inn, which is walking distance from Old Town Square. Our dinner is at what is probably the oldest continuously operating restaurant in the world, and is also a Cracovian tradition – Wierzynek – in Old Town Square. Our gourmet meal will be delicious. We overnight at our hotel.

Saturday
June 30

Breakfast is at the hotel, then we tour scenic Krakow, the capital of Malopolska (Little Poland - the heartland). Conde Nast Traveler Magazine calls it “the most European of all cities.” We see Wawel Castle and Cathedral, St. Mary’s Church, Old Town Square, the Sukiennice (an historic shopping mall) and much more. Lunch is on at the famous Kawaleria Restaurant. Next is free time for shopping or anything you want to do. Dinner is at the upscale Wentzl Restaurant. Yes, we are spoiling you! Be sure to spend some time in the Old Town Square. It is fun on a Saturday night. Then we overnight at the Holiday Inn.

Sunday
July 1

We attend Mass (if you like) at Krakow’s Franciscan church with its beautiful “modern” stained glass windows. Breakfast at the hotel, then we drive to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Nazi German concentration camp - an unforgettable experience. It is an extremely tragic, but important part of Polish history. We stop at Wadowice, the birthplace of Pope John Paul the Great and tour his excellent new museum. We will lunch en route. We drive through Krakow’s former Jewish district, Kazimierz, with several interesting Jewish restaurants featuring terrific klezmer music. Since *dinner is on your own*, we can make a reservation for you in Kazimierz or elsewhere in Krakow. Since this has been a busy day, you may want to retire early at the Holiday Inn.

Monday
July 2

We rise early for breakfast at the hotel before our drive west to Czestochowa, the spiritual capital of Poland. We see the miraculous, historic painting of Our Lady and tour the monastery on the Mount of Light. We will have the opportunity to request Masses for your loved ones to be celebrated at the foot of the painting, and also a chance to buy religious souvenirs at Czestochowa. We lunch at the enchanting small palace in the village of Czarny Las. We drive back to Krakow to Lagiewniki, the new Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, a movement begun by one of Poland’s newest saints, Sister Faustina. We see the nearly completed St. John Paul II Center. Dinner is at another Krakow landmark restaurant, before overnighing at our hotel.

Tuesday
July 3

After breakfast at our hotel, we visit the Sukiennice Gallery of spectacular, 19th century Polish art. Next, we see Krakow’s newest attraction – the Underground Route under Old Town Square – a great way to learn about the history of this fantastic city. We have a light lunch together. We eat a lot on this tour – and it is all too lovely to decline. The afternoon and evening are on your own for shopping, resting, or whatever you want. *Dinner is on your own*, and we can recommend many great restaurants - or how about eating under an umbrella in Old Town Square. The food is very good and it’s not expensive. What’s more, it is the Krakow thing to do. Don’t be afraid of the street food and the street vendors. Again, not expensive and yummy. We overnight at the Holiday Inn.

Wednesday
July 4

Since you have been very good travelers and very busy, we offer you all the morning off. You can sleep in and have a leisurely late breakfast, do some final shopping, or start packing, or do anything else that makes you happy. ***Lunch is on your own***, but remember, you have a big dinner coming. We get together in the afternoon to visit the famous church in suburban Nowa Huta that launched St. John Paul II's career in the church. In the early evening, we tour the remarkable Wieliczka Salt Mine – which has to be seen to be believed. Our farewell dinner is in one of the salt chambers – a very unusual, enjoyable experience and an unforgettable venue to celebrate our National Holiday. We enjoy Cracovian folk song and dance and then return to the Holiday Inn.

Thursday
July 5

Do have a big breakfast, because this will be one of the longest days of your life, due to our trans-Atlantic flight. If you fly with the group, we must be at Krakow's John Paul II Airport early for our flight to Warsaw, where we catch our flight to Chicago. Since your bags have been checked through to Chicago, your hands are fairly free. If there is time, try to do a bit of duty-free airport shopping (or window shopping) at Krakow or Warsaw Airport. Our flight home will take about 10 hours later, but when we arrive in Chicago, it will be Thursday afternoon.

PLEASE NOTE: The tour itinerary is subject to change. And there will be some surprises!

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2018 TOUR OF SOUTHERN & CENTRAL POLAND

Tour prices and important notes

- **\$4,757.00** base charge per person, double occupancy, departing from Chicago. This is for a group of 15. If fewer than fifteen people sign up for this tour, the price will be \$850.00 more.
 - **\$1,100** single room supplement
 - We will purchase your airline ticket if you like, but not before we have a group of 15. The sooner we have 15, the better, because airfares are larger closer to the departure date.
 - The first deposit of **\$2,000.00** is due as soon as possible upon registration
 - A second payment of **\$2,000.00** on April 1, 2018
 - **The balance is due on May 1, 2018**
 - Tour payments may be made by check only. Sorry, no credit cards.
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- We can arrange departures from the Newark area at an adjusted price. You may also upgrade your seat from Economy Class to Premium Economy or Business Class (the LOT equivalent of First Class); ask us about availability and charges especially if you would like a larger seat.
 - Our prices are closely tied to value of the dollar abroad; if the dollar falls steeply, there may be an additional charge.
 - A portion of the tour price is deductible from your federal taxes. A tax receipt will be issued after the tour.
 - U.S. and Canadian citizens need only a valid passport to visit Poland; no visa is required. If you do not have a valid passport, please apply for one as soon as possible - the closer to summer, the longer the lines at the passport office and the longer it takes to get your passport.
 - **IMPORANT:** Your passport expiration date must be at least six months after your return to the United States.

*If you wish to remain in Poland after the tour, **there is an additional airfare charge** and you must send \$2,500 as your first payment. Lira can help arrange **HOTELS, TRANSPORTATION and TOURS** for your extended stay. If you want to find your family, your ancestral city, town or village in Poland, Lira can suggest a trusted specialist in Poland with excellent English.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 773-508-7040 - OUTSIDE OF ILLINOIS, CALL 1-800-547-LIRA

Ask us about taking both the Southern and Northern Tours this year!

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

HOTELS: Twin-bedded or double-bedded rooms with bath or shower in first class or deluxe hotels. A limited number of single rooms are available at the supplementary charge. Hotels are subject to change.

TIPS & TAXES: Service charges, as imposed by hotels and taxes by local administrations and government authorities on accommodations, meals, and transportation, are included. Tips to local guides and baggage handlers at the airport and at hotels are included. It is customary for tour members to tip the tour guide (“pilot”) and driver who travel with the tour, on the last day of the tour. These tips are not included.

SIGHTSEEING & TRANSFERS: Sightseeing is as specified in the itinerary, including entrance fees, and subject to change. Transfer upon arrival and departure overseas by motor coach between airport and hotel and vice versa if traveling with the tour group.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT: A deposit of \$2,000.00 per person is required at the time of booking. A second installment of \$2,000.00 is due April 1, 2018 and the balance is due on May 1, 2018. ***Reservations and payments are accepted with personal or bank checks only. Sorry, credit cards are not accepted for tour deposits or payments.***

TRIP CANCELLATION, BAGGAGE AND MEDICAL INSURANCE: It is advisable to purchase insurance coverage for cancellation due to illness or accident. Applications for suggested insurance as well as baggage and travel insurance will be provided once tour deposits are received.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS: Cancellations must be in writing. Cancellation charges will apply: *Within 90 days prior to departure - 30% of the cost; within 60 days prior to departure - 50% of the cost; within 30 days prior to departure – no refunds.*

YOUR RATE DOES NOT INCLUDE: Passport fees, taxes or tips on services not included in the itinerary; laundry or valet service; excess baggage charges; insurance of any kind; wines, beers, liquors, soft drinks or any food and beverages not on regular menus of included meals.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: A valid passport is required for all U.S. and Canadian citizens traveling to Poland. ***Your passport expiration date must be at least six months after your return date to the US.***

RESPONSIBILITY: The Lira Ensemble acts only as an agent for the hotels, airlines, bus companies or owners, operators or contractors providing accommodations, transportation, meals, tours, or other services. All vouchers, coupons, contracts and tickets issued are subject to any and all tariffs, terms and conditions under which the foregoing or any services whatsoever are provided by such hotels, airlines, bus companies or owners, operators or contractors. By the acceptance of the above, the tour member agrees to the foregoing and also agrees that the Lira Ensemble shall not be or become liable or responsible for any loss, injury or damage to person, property or otherwise in connection with any transportation, accommodation, meals, tour or other services referred to herein, or resulting from neglect or default of any person, corporation or other entity engaged to supply the same. The tour operator reserves the right to make changes in the itinerary, whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant; or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of the passengers. They can accept no responsibility for losses of additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine or other causes. All such losses must be borne by the passenger as tour rate provides for arrangement only for the specified. All alterations may be made without penalty to the tour operator. The airline concerned is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not aboard their planes or conveyance. The passenger contract in use by the airline concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and purchaser of this tour and/or passage.

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**THE LIRA ENSEMBLE 2018 TOUR
OF SOUTHERN & CENTRAL POLAND
TOUR REGISTRATION FORM
June 21 – July 5, 2018**

Please use a separate form for each individual joining the tour. Each individual must sign personally.
Please print or type. This form may be duplicated.

NAME (*exactly as it appears on your passport*) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME TELEPHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ *Please send all future tour information by e-mail* _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ CITIZENSHIP _____

PASSPORT NUMBER _____ PASSPORT EXPIRATION DATE _____

I PLAN TO DEPART FROM: CHICAGO _____ NEW YORK _____ OTHER _____

If you are not departing from Chicago, please contact us so that we can coordinate your transportation.

Would you like a single room throughout the tour? (Extra cost of \$1,100.00) _____

If not, with whom are you sharing a room? _____

Do you want us to find a roommate for you? _____ Do you smoke? _____

If you are traveling with your spouse, do you prefer twin beds? _____ Or a double bed? _____

Will you return with the tour on July 5th? _____ If not, what is your return date? _____

Note: An extended stay, past July 5th requires an additional airfare charge and a deposit of \$2,500.00 (rather than \$2,000). If you are planning an extended stay, please call the Lira office as soon as possible.

Would you like us to book hotels or arrange travel or tours for you in Poland after the tour? _____

Would you like us to contact an expert to do research for you in Poland, for a fee? _____

How did you learn of the Lira Tour? _____

DISCLAIMER: By making application for the above captioned trip sponsored by the Lira Ensemble, I hereby acknowledge that the Lira Ensemble (including its directors, officers, volunteers and employees) have no connection or responsibility with regard to the transportation or other facilities offered by the tour operator and airline making arrangements for the trip, and that the Lira Ensemble is not contracting parties with regard to any of the arrangements made or to be made. I understand that by signing this document I have contracted directly with the tour operator (Mazurkas Travel of Warsaw) and LOT Polish Airlines or other airline concerned and that contractual responsibilities, if any, are directly between Mazurkas Travel, the airlines, and me. I am fully cognizant of all risks of travel and arrangements for trip of this nature and fully disclaim, waive, and discharge the Lira Ensemble (including its directors, officers, volunteers, and employees) from any and all liability, claims, or responsibilities with regard to the proposed trip and arrangements made with respect thereto, even if caused by the negligence or purported negligence of the Lira Ensemble (including directors, officers, volunteers, and employees). **I certify that I have read and understand the Terms & Conditions of this tour.**

SIGNATURE OF TRAVELER _____ DATE _____

**Please send this completed form, with a \$2,000.00 deposit (or \$2,500 if you are staying beyond July 5th) as a check payable to the Lira Ensemble, as soon as possible, to:
The Lira Ensemble, 6525 N. Sheridan Road #CH-052, Chicago, Illinois 60626**

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