



the Wawel Dragon, a many-headed creature that lived in a cave at the base of the castle. The dragon was slayed after a terrifying reign by Krakus. We will see the dragon's den as we tour the castle, and admire the fire-breathing sculpture that has been installed to guard the den.

Following along the Royal Road, we'll visit one of Europe's largest market squares, Rynek Główny, which has been buzzing with activity since the 13th century. We'll see Kazimierz, the restored Jewish Quarter, which is now having a renaissance of its own.

After lunch, we'll head to the unique Wieliczka Salt Mine. The salt mine has been in use for 900 years, and is now on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Surprisingly, the salt mines are filled with hundreds of works of art, including statues and grand chapels, all created by the miners, and completely made of salt. The result is a whimsical and thought-provoking experience.

Day 6 Auschwitz Birkenau World Heritage Site and Schindler's Factory

Today we'll visit the tragic, historical site of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The museum is a

comprehensive memorial to those who were executed or imprisoned in these concentration camps, which operated from 1940 to the fall of the Third Reich in 1945. After our tour, we'll head back to Krakow to explore Oskar Schindler's factory, now a world-class museum. The exhibits focus on Krakow during the Nazi occupation and include historical documents, photographs, recordings, and artifacts.

Day 7 Krakow to Zakopane

This morning we'll say goodbye to Krakow and travel through the spectacular countryside of southern Poland. We will board a traditional wooden raft on the Dunajec River, for a leisurely float through a stunning gorge. The raftsmen have had their profession passed down from father to son for generations, and may even tell us folk tales as we float through the verdant canyon.

We'll then make our way to Zakopane, at the foot of the Tatra Mountains. Although Zakopane is a quintessential ski town, it buzzes with activity year-round. We'll walk through the main promenade, Krupowski Street, which is remarkable for its distinctive wooden architecture. We'll discover the artistic cemetery, in which notable Polish heroes lie, including poets, musicians, and resistance-fighters, as well as the mastermind behind the unique Zakopane architecture, Stanislaw Witkiewicz. The cemetery is striking due to the fanciful grave markers that adorn the plots. In the evening enjoy a Highlander feast, a chance to sample southern Poland's hospitality and delicacies.

Day 8 Zakopane & Tatra Mountains

Today we'll board a modern cable car and zoom to the top of Kasprowy Wierch, 6,500 feet above sea level. The views from the peak and the ride up and down the mountain are outstanding! Marvel at the dwarf-pine-covered valleys below, and take a short hike to the meteorological observatory, which is the highest building in Poland.



**AAAS Travels
ACS & Sigma Xi Expeditions
The Planetary Society**

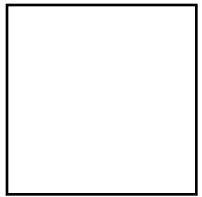
BETCHART EXPEDITIONS Inc.
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435



**World Heritage of
Central Europe!**

Poland - Czech Republic - Slovakia

September 26 - October 9, 2018



FIRST CLASS

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Expedition Fee: \$4,295 per person twin share (plus air fare of approx. \$895 from JFK or Chicago to Warsaw, with return from Prague. Single Supplement is \$795.

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transport; group airport transfers; accommodations twin share; breakfasts, 6 lunches, 2 dinners; tips to drivers and local guides; entrance fees; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Air fare; independent airport transfers; some meals; gratuities to expedition leader; personal items such as laundry, phone calls, beverages at meals, alcoholic beverages, sodas, snacks, personal insurance, or baggage handling (please bring wheeled luggage); or passport.

What to Expect: This expedition is planned for travelers who would enjoy exploring the World Heritage of the central European nations of Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, with a talented local leader. Learn about the historical and cultural heritage and scenic landscapes of these fascinating nations while you explore renowned sites from the 13th century to WWII.

This expedition will be a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure who would like to explore this renowned region.

The group will take time for both planned and spontaneous stops to walk, photograph, and talk with local people. Weather should be fall-like with vibrant days, golden and red leaves, and chilly nights. We will have a grand adventure of discovery! (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals, please.)

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: For the recommended flight schedule, please contact Marisa @ Betchart Expeditions, (800) 252-4910.

Accommodations: Are in comfortable first class hotels, all based on twin share. Limited singles are available for a supplement of \$795.

Reservations, Deposits, & Payments: Please mail a deposit of \$1,000 per person with the completed reservation form to:

**World Heritage of Central Europe 2018
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

The balance is due June 25, 2018.

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 90 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There is no refund after the 90-day period unless your place is resold, then only the \$100 handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals or other expedition features.

Questions?

Please call **Marisa Eide,**

Betchart Expeditions Inc.

Direct Line: (800) 467-9376

Betchart 800#: (800) 252-4910

or (408) 252-4910

Fax: (408) 252-1444

*Email:
marisa@betchartexpeditions.com*

*On the web:
www.betchartexpeditions.com*

