Prussian Partition “Head to Toe” Tour
Gdańsk to Wrocław
Especially designed for the PGSA by
Discovering Roots, Poznań

9-21 September 2019
13 days

Day 1 - Arrival in Gdańsk
Arrival in Gdańsk. We meet you at the airport for transfer to your comfortable 3-star hotel in central Gdańsk.

In the evening there will be a welcome dinner at one of the restaurants in Gdańsk.

Gdańsk Długa Street. Picture courtesy of Tony Monczewski
Day 2 - Gdańsk

Gdańsk is a city with 1000 years of history. It was almost completely destroyed during WWII; then rebuilt to become one of most popular tourist destinations in Poland. It was the cradle of the Solidarity trade movement, independent of the Communist government, which led Poland to freedom. Today you will stroll along the most beautiful street of the city – Ulica Długa (the long street) – to Długie Pobrzeże (the long riverbank) to view the picturesque waterfront with its shops against the marina of the Motława River. Here you will see the largest Medieval ship loading crane, now a symbol of the city. You will see the famous statue of Neptune, God of the Sea, who has been charming visitors of Gdansk for almost four centuries. Among the other sites are the medieval town hall and the world’s largest brick church – St. Mary’s – built to hold 25,000 people. You also will visit the monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers and see the iconic gate to former shipyard.

Afterwards you will visit the Cistercian church and Cathedral in Gdańsk-Oliwa to listen to music and see the most famous pipe organ from the 18th century. It has 8000 pipes. A walk through the Oliwa Park will remind you of the time when Cistercian monks developed this area of Gdańsk. The tour of the city will be led by a local guide.

We will also visit the State Archives in Gdańsk. In the evening there will be free time for shopping and strolling. Dinner is at a restaurant in Gdańsk.

Cathedral in Gdansk Oliwa. Picture – courtesy of Tony Monczewski 2018
Day 3 - Tour of Kashubia

Today you will travel to the heart of Kashubian territory, which is the part of Pomerania inhabited by Kashubians, the autochthonic residents of the area that speak a regional dialect known as Kashubian. You will travel in the Kashubian Landscape Park where the most beautiful parts of region can be seen. Because of its features, it is known as Kashubian Switzerland. You will see Kartuzy and Chmielno on the way to Wdzydze Ethnographical Park. This museum currently preserves 40 buildings including peasant and noblemen houses, manors, a school, windmill, lumber mill and a wooden church from Swornegacie. You will be able to see and understand better the life of your ancestors who could have lived once in this area. And you will go to class to learn some Kashubian!

Museum in Wdzydze Kiszewskie. Picture source podrozestarszegopana.radom.pl

Dinner will be at the local Kashubian restaurant.

In the evening you will return to Gdańsk.
Day 4 - Museum of Emigration, Malbork Castle and Żuławy

The recently opened Museum of Emigration, in Gdynia, collects and disseminates information about Polish emigrants, thus preserving the memory of those who were forced to leave and often could not return. You will explore why they left, what they took with them, how they travelled and where across the world they made new lives.

After a snack we will go to the most famous of Polish castles; probably the largest medieval brick castle in the world. Malbork, originally Marienburg, was the capital of the Teutonic Knights’ state and seat of their grand masters. With their defeat at Grunwald in 1410 by Polish and Lithuanian armies, the Polish King ultimately gained possession of the castle. Despite its destruction in WWII, thanks to later reconstruction we can admire all 3 parts of the complex: the low, middle and high castle. Some parts were started in 1280. You can admire the ancient central heating system and get to know the story of a baker who managed to steal money from the Knights.

In Żuławy you will visit the largest preserved Mennonite Cemetery, in Stogi. Dinner will be in Malbork or Gdańsk at a regional restaurant. Afterward you will return to Gdańsk.

In the evening we will have a genealogical presentation by Łukasz Bielecki at our hotel.
Day 5 - Pelplin Cathedral and Archives & tour of old Chełmno

Today you will see one of the Diocese Archives in Pelplin. You will learn about the collection of records they hold, how the archive works and what they have that the Mormons do not have. You will see the local church which from 1821 has been the seat of the diocese of Chełmno. It is a Cistercian Church built in Gothic style equipped with the second tallest high altar in Europe. It contains many fine works by Hermann Hann and Bartłomiej Strobel.

After a light lunch you will continue traveling to Chełmno itself. This town was created by the Teutonic Knights and served as the pattern for building new towns. You will explore the preserved defensive walls and several Gothic Churches. Afterwards we will visit the co-Cathedral church in Chełmża – until 1821 the seat of bishops of Chełmno. We will arrive in charming Toruń for dinner.

*Pelplin Cathedral – a bird eye view. Picture source: Pomorskie.travel*

*Stay at a 3-star hotel in Toruń.*
Day 6 - Toruń City, Copernicus & Pierniki Museums

Today you will walk through the magical gothic city where great architecture is visible everywhere in the old town. The famous astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus was born here in 1473 and baptized at the church of St. John, which still stands. Toruń survived the war untouched, and thanks to that it is on the UNESCO World Heritage List. You will admire two old towns created by Teutonic Knights surrounded by the common wall and divided by a castle – one that residents annihilated. You will see the church of St. John and Our Lady as well as St. James. You can try to stand against the Leaning Tower, part of the defensive walls, to see if you are truthful. Toruń is the home of Pierniki, the local gingerbread cookie, and our visit to the Pierniki Museum will help you learn how to make this delightful baked treat. At the Copernicus Museum you will see the interior of a 15th century merchant’s house.

View of New Town in Toruń. Picture source DiscoveringRoots.pl

The tour of the town will be provided by a local city guide.

Dinner will be at the restaurant in the Old Town of Toruń.

In the evening it is possible to go to a Mass and for a concert of organ music.

It is another night in at the hotel in Toruń.
Day 7 - Golub-Dobrzyń and Ciechocinek

Today you will make a trip to what was the border of a partitioned country, in the towns of Golub (in the 19th century part of Imperial Germany) and Dobrzyo (in the Russian Empire). Today these towns are merged into one. Golub is a walled city built during the time of the Teutonic Knights. It is known for the castle built atop a hill on the edge of the Drwęca River. After the knights, the castle belonged to the sister of King Sigismund Vasa, Anna Jagiełłonka. She turned it into renaissance beauty which is now a museum well worth seeing. Inside you will find a wide staircase used by armed knights on horses. From the top of the terrace on which the castle stands you will find breathtaking views of the area including old town of Golub.

In the afternoon you will visit a resort town – Ciechocinek – known for its spa, brines and system of spreading a salt aerosol into the air by use of graduation towers. The oldest in Ciechocinek were built in 1824-1833 and are among the oldest in Europe.

You will walk along the towers and also see a flower carpet and clock made of flowers that are changed each day. There will be time to enjoy a stroll through the beautiful town and maybe take advantage of some treatments they offer.

Graduation towers in Ciechocinek date back to 1824. Source of picture znpciechocinek.pl

Dinner in Ciechocinek/Toruń.
Day 8 - First capital of Poland - Gniezno and its archives, then to the necropolis of Polish rulers...Poznań

Today you will see country’s first capital and coronation place – Gniezno. However, before your arrival you will stop in Strzelno. It is a small town with an unusual treasure – two ancient churches dating to the beginning of Christianity in Poland: the rotunda church of St. Prokop, and Holy Trinity parish church. The Baroque exterior hides Romanesque columns within. Both churches belonged to Norberthan nuns. You will see an altar that is the most ancient relic in Poland, dating from 658.

Later you will visit the Archdiocese Archives in Gniezno to see some treasures in their collection. The Cathedral church in Gniezno is the coronation site of Polish Kings, and the place of rest of St. Wojciech (aka St. Adalbert), who is one of the two major Polish saints. You will see the royal bronze door cast in the 12 century showing the life of St. Wojciech, plus his relics. Many centuries have passed and his name is still very popular among Poles.

*Light lunch will be at the restaurant in Gniezno.*

Then you will arrive at the capital of Greater Poland – Poznań. It was once the burial site of Polish rulers and kings. Today it is a vibrant city with over half-a-million inhabitants.

This evening we will get to know the city a little with a visit to Cathedral Island (Ostrów Tumski) – the cradle where, with the Piast dynasty, the history of the Polish nation and church was born – as St. Pope John Paul II said in 1983 when he visited Poznań.

You will also experience 20th century Poznań with Castle Square and the memorial to the Poznan uprising of June 1956. You will see the Imperial Castle built in 1910 for William II, which was used by Poznań University and where 3 great Polish cryptologists broke the Enigma code. And you will see the actual enigma machine.

*Your stay will be in the center of Poznan.*
**Day 9 - Poznań**

Today we will visit the State Archives in Poznań, known as a pioneer of digitization among the Polish State Archives. Will everything be online at one point? What can I find in Poznań only? What is being indexed? Perhaps we will gain some answers.

Afterward you will explore more of the cradle of Poland – the Old Market Place with its Renaissance Town Hall where Billy Goats butt heads every day at noon. You will go to the top of the Castle to admire the view of the old city. Then take a stroll through the town and experience the beautiful Baroque Church of St. Stanislaus built for Jesuits and a college visited by Fredrick Chopin and Napoleon. Lunch is in Poznań.

![Old Market Place](image)

After lunch you will go to see how people lived in the past by visiting the Open-Air Museum in Dziekanowice. There is no better way to visualize life in the 19th century Poznań region, and how it differed in some ways from other areas of Poland such as Kaszubia, than stepping into these original structures. It is a must-see place for all genealogists!

![Open-Air Museum](image)
Day 10 - Aristocratic residences near Poznań – Rogalin and Kórnik

Today you will see two aristocratic family residences who were highly devoted to the nation. Rogalin palace was built in the 18th century. Refurbished after World War II, the details of different rooms were faithfully recreated. You can admire the collection of paintings of European and Polish artists including Jan Matejko, Olga Boznaoska and Jacek Malczewski. We will stroll through the formal and landscape parks.

The Castle in Kórnik is a museum of interiors, but also shows the efforts of another family, the Działyoskich, to keep Polish culture alive at a time when the country did not exist. You will learn why sentences from the Koran were written on the ceiling of their home.

At the end of the day you will return to Poznan for dinner. Afterward you will visit the museum of Brama Poznania showing the history of Cathedral Island. What did royal graves of one thousand years ago look like? Let us take a look. How did the early Polish kings live and rule? Let us discover.

A walk though Ostrów Tumski and Śródka will help you envision the past of this place. Śródka derived its name from środa, Wednesday, the day of the week its market was held. Today Śródka is a changed part of the city with nice atmosphere, its own market square and 3D murals.

Dinner will be in the center of Poznan.
Manor house in Koszuty by Środa Wielkopolska. Picture museo.pl

You will see a typical Polish manor house and the way it was built and maintained.

Later you will go to the museum of agriculture in Szreniawa. It documents the history of agriculture in Poland from medieval times until the present and is one of the largest such museums in Europe. Because most of our ancestors were once farmers, it is well worth knowing what farming was like, what tools they used and how they lived.

Then we arrive in Wrocław, known in German as Breslau, the capital of Lower Silesia. It is known for its architecture and the sculptures of gnomes scattered around the city. We will stay in central Wrocław to provide easy walking around this delightful city.

Dinner will be at a restaurant in Wrocław.

Our stay in Wrocław will be at the comfortable 3-star hotel.
Day 12 - Wrocław

Sightseeing in Wrocław – the city of Gothic churches and Gnomes.

First, the Ostrów Tumski, an historic island of churches where, among other sites, you will take the elevator to enjoy a bird’s eye view of this charming city.

Next is the monumental panoramic painting showing Battle of Racławice during the Kościuszko Uprising. The painting is one of only a few preserved relics of a genre of 19th-century mass-culture art, and the oldest in Poland.

Afterwards you will return to the Market Square to see the town hall, the beautiful square, and visit St. Elisabeth’s church to see the houses named Little John and Margareth. Also, we will not miss Leopold’s Hall – Aula Leopoldina – at the old University building.

During your walks keep an eye out for some of the several hundred gnomes found lurking around the city. Photograph as many as you can.

Dinner will be at Wrocław Center.

Our stay in Wrocław will be at a comfortable 3-star hotel.
Day 13 - Departure

Leave for home. Transfers to the airport.

Pre- or Post-Tour Individual Genealogical Services

Before or after your PGSA tour, we offer you our personalized tour service by which you can explore more of the history of your particular family lines.

– We can perform research as directed by you based on your needs, the “brick walls” you have come upon or to expand or deepen what you already have completed.

– Want to visit the actual soil of where your ancient roots lie? Let us take you to the areas and towns where your ancestors lived, to the churches where they worshipped, and possibly to the fields in which they worked and the cemeteries where they were buried.

To coordinate these plans, begin your contact with us through PGSA as you register for your PGSA tour.

Tour Costs

– $2,685 per person ($207/day)
– $ 555 single supplement

Included in the tour:

– 12 nights including all local travel
– 11 guided days
– 12 breakfasts
– 12 dinners or lunches, 11 snacks
– Entrance fees to the listed museums
– Transfers from and to the airport in Gdańsk and Wrocław
Not included in the tour cost are:

- Items of personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, mini-bar
- Gratuity to guides and drivers
- Air transportation to and from Poland

______________________________________________

Special Notes:

- Passport (not expiring within six months of return travel); No visa requirement
- Please advise us of any dietary or health restrictions
- On the PGSA website, please refer to “Some Important Points” on the Itinerary page and the “Terms and Conditions” on the Registration Form for further details.

______________________________________________