

May 28: VILNIUS - TRAKAI – VILNIUS
Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning panoramic visit of the city of Vilnius, capital of Lithuania. In the fourteenth century it was declared capital of Lithuania, the Grand Duke Gediminas, who in 1323 invited many craftsmen and traders across Europe in order to give a boost to trade and structural development of the city.

The old town of Vilnius is one of the greatest of all Eastern Europe. It has a total of 359 hectares in which there are distributed nearly 1,500 buildings, giving a perfect blend of different architectural styles, from Gothic to postmodernism. In 1994 this part of the city was included in the list of world heritage sites of UNESCO. Especially the churches of St Ann and St Peter and St Paul, and the cathedral are worth visiting. The court of the old Vilnius University (founded in 1579, is the oldest university in Eastern Europe) is also a remarkable place to visit, next the Gediminas Castle Tower with breathtaking views of the entire city; the famous "Gates of Dawn" and Amber Gallery.

Transfer and visit to Trakai, the ancient capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania situated 27 Km from Vilnius. It is also one of the favorite places to hike for Vilnius citizens. Trakai Castle is situated on an island in Lake Galve. It is the most famous and mostly photographed castle throughout Lithuania. This fortification made of red brick, was built by Grand Duke Vytautas in the second half of the fourteenth century. Vytautas brought Tatars of Crimea as bodyguards, they were called the Karaites, ethnic group of Turkish origin who practice a unique and particular religion; their descendants still retain all the traditions of their ancestors. Return to Vilnius. Dinner and overnight.

May 29: VILNIUS – HILL OF CRUCES - RUNDALE – RIGA
Breakfast at the hotel. Departure towards Latvia and on route visit of "Hill of Crosses" in Siauliai, spiritual place. The crosses were put by the people of the region to honor the dead of the anti-tsarist revolt of 1831. Currently over 50,000 crosses bear witness to the spirit of the Lithuanian people. The hill was visited by Pope John Paul II during his visit to Lithuania in 1993. Afterwards trip to Rundale, a former summer residence of the Dukes of Courland. It was built in the first half of the eighteenth century by the Italian architect Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli. Visit of the interiors and gardens of the palace. Arrival to Riga. Accommodation and dinner at the hotel.

May 30: RIGA
After breakfast, sightseeing of Riga. The guided tour includes the most interesting places of this ancient Hanseatic city. We will see Arsenal Tower, the National Theatre, Art Nouveau buildings, the Freedom Monument, the Opera House, the University of Riga, and the many bridges over the Daugava river. During the walk we will see medieval remainings, numerous streets, parks, river channels where different architectural styles mingle from medieval to neoclassical. Dinner and accommodation at the hotel.

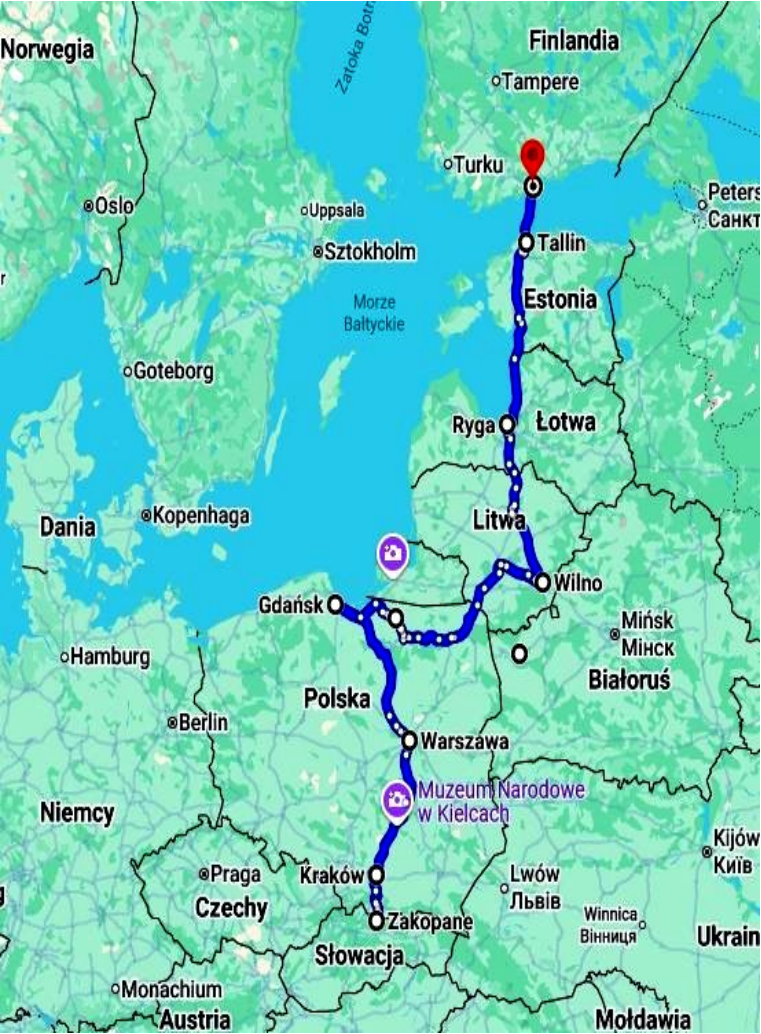
May 31: RIGA - TURaida – SIGULDA – GUTMANIS - PARNU – TALLIN
Breakfast at the hotel. Trip to Sigulda. Visit the best preserved medieval castle in Latvia - Turaida. We will also see the tomb of Turaida, the History Museum and the Gutmann cave, as well as Daina Park, sculpture park dedicated to Latvian folklore. Departure to Pärnu. Travel to Tallinn. Arrival to Tallinn, capital of Estonia sometimes called the "

Forgotten Pearl of the Baltic ". Accommodation and dinner at the hotel.

June 1: TALLIN
After breakfast panoramic visit of Tallin. The old town is included in the UNESCO World Heritage. Visit of towers "Long Hermann" and "chubby Margarete" , the Town Hall Square and the churches of St. Nicholas and St. Olaf. Toompea Hill is where a large concentration of historical monuments, Orthodox cathedral of Alexander Nevsky, and Lutheran of Tallinn 1233; Estonia's parliament set in Toompea Castle; Art Museum of Estonia; and Kiek-in-de-Kök tower-museum built in 1475. Free time.

June 2: TALLIN - HELSINKI
Breakfast, transfer to the Ferry station: Express Cruise from Tallin to Helsinki. Arrival and guided tour of Helsinki (3h). Helsinki, established in 1550 and the capital of Finland since 1812, is one of the smallest capital cities in the world, with approximately half a million inhabitants. The large Market Square next to the southern part of the port is where the city opens up to the world; it is where the elegant Esplanadi boulevard begins. The belt of islands and islets surrounding the coast offers a wide variety of destinations to visit. Check in. Free time for a visit to one of the many cafés and terraces where you can sample Finnish beer is a must. At the agreed-upon time, transfer to the port Transfer to the hotel. Dinner and accommodation at the hotel.

June 3: HELSINKI - DEPARTURE
After the breakfast departure to the airport.



POLAND AND BALTIC STATES

Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland

May 18-June 3, 2026

Led by Franciscan Fr. Mario DiCicco

In conjunction with Santours (#2092786-40)

Land Cost Only in Double Occupancy: \$6,650

Single Supplement: \$1,575

4% surcharge if paid by credit card.

Air fare based on the city of departure.



ITINERARY

May 18: DEPARTURE FROM THE STATES

May 19: ARRIVAL IN CRACOW

Arrival to Cracow JP2 airport and meeting with English speaking guide. Transfer to the hotel.

Dinner. Accommodation at the hotel.

May 20: CRACOW- LAGIEWNIKI - WIELICZKA - CRACOW

After breakfast, we visit the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Lagiewniki, blessed by Pope John Paul II in 2002. Here we see the image of Merciful Jesus and the relics of St. Faustina Kowalska, author of "Journal". She lived in the convent.

City tour of Krakow-former capital of Poland, rich in history, art and architecture in which mainly emphasizes Wawel Hill with its Royal Castle and the Royal Renaissance Chambers, Gothic Cathedral (entrance included) on the Old Town with Market Square, one of the largest in Europe, the famous Cloth Hall that hosts inside small craft shops and a large collection of Polish paintings, Church of St Mary (Mariacki) (admission included) with Vito Stoss altar, which is considered a jewel of Gothic art, one of the most beautiful altar in Europe. Free lunch. Free time.

Excursion to Wieliczka – the oldest salt mine (XIII) in Europe. The impressive vaults sculpted in salt by the miners. Dinner with folk music and return to hotel.

May 21: CRACOW - AUSCHWITZ - WADOWICE - CRACOW

After breakfast we travel to Oswiecim, guided tour of the former museum of Nazi concentration camp museum Auschwitz – Birkenau, a place of Martyrdom of Humanity. Continue to Wadowice where Karol Wojtyla was born to see the birthplace of Pope John Paul II, with memories of Wojtyla family and visit of the church where he was baptized. Return to Krakow. Dinner. Accommodation in Krakow.

May 22: CRACOW – KALWARIA ZEBRZYDOWSKA – ZAKOPANE

After breakfast we travel the Tatra Mountains. On the road we stop in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Sanctuary, Mannerist buildings of the Sanctuary has such an exceptional value, that they were put on the UNESCO World Heritage List Mikołaj Zebrzydowski, founder of the complex of the 17th century. The main inspiration was the work of Dutch theologian called Adrichomius, who described the Holy Land (the way it looked in the time of Christ). Apart from the magnificent Basilica and Bernardine Monastery, many beautiful chapels dedicated to the different stages of the Passion and events from the life of Vrgin Mary were built there. It was the first foundation of that kind in Poland! Nowadays, the chapels – each one of them is a real gem of architecture – are hidden in a greenery and connected by the paths hiking through the hills (called Golgotha, Mount Zion, Mount of the Olives).The beauty of this complex and its perfect fitting into the landscape is breath-taking!

Transfer to Zakopane.

Visit Zakopane, a village in the Tatry Mountains, famous not only among winter sports enthusiasts but also among art and architecture connoisseurs. The town itself and its surroundings are notable for their unique wooden architecture, represented in numerous houses and churches with characteristic pointed roofs. Stroll down Krupowki Street and visit one of the village's wooden churches. Stary Kosciolatek funicular to the Gubalowka mountain. Dinner. Accommodation in Zakopane.

May 23: ZAKOPANE - CZESTOCHOWA - WARSAW

Breakfast, trip to Czestochowa to visit the Jasna Gora Sanctuary where this with his famous image of the Black Madonna (icon XIV century). The Black Madonna is the patron saint of Poland. Visit the shrine of the Pauline Fathers in the sacristy and its frescoes of the XVII century the Knights' Hall, the Treasury, the Library more than 40,000 volumes and cloister. Continuing the journey to Warsaw. Dinner and accommodation.

May 24: WARSAW

Breakfast, city tour: Palace of Culture and Science (240 m tall) buildings and other monuments communists after Umschlagplatz - instead of deporting the Jews of the Warsaw Getto fields concentration during the Nazi occupation, the Lazienki Royal Gardens, where the monument is Chopin. Walk through the Old Town of the City, Sigismund's Column, Market Square, the President's palace, the Cathedral of San Juan, St. Anne's Church, Church of Santa Cruz where the heart of Chopin, Pilsudskiego Square - in it are made the biggest ceremonies in Poland. Lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, holy mess in the Popieuszko Church. Return to Warsaw, Chopin music Recital. Dinner. Accommodation in Warsaw.

May 25: WARSAW - NIEPOKALANOW – TORUN

Breakfast. Trip to Torun. Stop in Niepokalanow , visit of the Shrine of Our Mary Immaculate and St. Maximilian Kolbe . Continue the drive to Toruń, the UNESCO-listed birthplace of astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus. Guided tour of the city, a gem of Polish Gothic architecture. We'll see the house where Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus was born, the Town Hall, the Vistula River, Arthur's Court, the University, and the City Walls. We recommend the gingerbread cookies (Copernicus's Pierniki). Departure to Gdansk. Check in. Dinner. Accommodation in Gdansk.

May 26: TORUN - MALBORK - FROMBOR (concert) – LIDZBARK WARMINSKI

Breakfast. Trip to Malbork. Visit the Teutonic Castle in Malbork - the invincible capital of the Knights of the Teutonic Order. Today a museum. The Knights were the last Order to participate in the Crusades. They were invited to Polish lands in 1226 by the Polish Duke Konrad Mazowiecki to Christianize the barbarian peoples of Inflanty, Pomerania, and Masuria. They formed a complex of castles and fortresses in northeastern Poland. The largest is Malbork, which remained the capital until the 16th century. This castle was never conquered. Visit the Upper and Middle Castles and the Amber Museum in Malbork. Departure and visit Frombork. We will see the cathedral where Nicolaus Copernicus worked as a canon and wrote The Revolution of the Celestial Orbits. Organ concert. We continue our journey to the Warmia region. We arrive at the castle of the Bishops of Warmia (built in the 15th century). Dinner in a restaurant in the medieval hall. Accommodation.

May 27: LIDZBARK - WOLF'S LAIR - LAKE CRUISE – VILNIUS

In the morning, departure to Lithuania. Stop in Wolfsschanze to see the Wolf's Lair, the largest and most recognizable field command headquarters of Adolf Hitler, which was in use from 1941 to 1945. We continue our journey and arrive in Gizycko, known as the capital of sailors. The town is located on Lake Negocin and Lake Takhty. A one-hour boat ride takes usbetween the lakes, passing through one of the canals. Continue trip to Vilnius, accommodation at hotel, dinner and overnight.

Continued on back cover

Dear Pilgrims,

This journey I have planned will complete our adventure through Eastern Europe. In Poland we will be pilgrims to the Shrine of Divine Mercy, to famous Our Lady of Czestochowa, to Wadowice, home of St. John Paul II, to amazing Kalwaria Zebrzydowski, acres upon acres of the Stations of the Cross ministered by our Franciscans which St. John Paul II loved very much, to spectacular mountainous Zakopane. Cracow is another adventure of beauty and culture, not destroyed in World War II. You will have an incredible experience of the famous salt mines near Warsaw, in existence since the 13th century, 400 feet below the earth which contain a cathedral and statues made completely of salt! After Poland, we shall visit famous medieval cities of Vilnius, Riga, Tallinn, Helsinki, capitals respectively of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Finland. This is a uniquely designed journey. Browse the itinerary and see for yourself what is in store. We will fly into Cracow and leave back to the States from Helsinki. I hope you will join me.

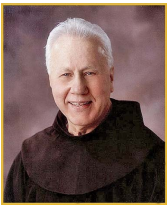
Fr. Mario DiCicco, O.F.M.

Trip Includes:

- 5-Star Hotels
- Tipping to Guides and Drivers

For additional information and reservations, please contact:

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REGISTRATION FORM

Fr. Mario DiCicco

Poland and the Baltic States

May 18-June 3, 2026

Room Preference:

Single ☐ Double ☐

Roommate_____

PRINT FIRST AND LAST NAME CLEARLY AND EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____

State:_____ Zip:_____

Cell Phone:_____

Email:_____

Emergency Contact: Name:_____

Phone:_____

Email:_____

I am enclosing \$_____ (\$1,000 deposit per person)

Make deposit payable to Santours Inc.

Send registration form, deposit and copy of passport to:

Fr. Mario DiCicco, O.F.M.
St. Peter's Church
110 West Madison Street Chicago, IL 60602