Vassar Travel Program
Educational Excursions for Alumnae/i, Family and Friends

The History, Art and Culture of
Poland

Warsaw • Kraków

July 11 to 19, 2020

With Vassar host Paulina Bren
Adjunct Associate Professor
of International Studies

SAVE $600 PER COUPLE!

EARLY BOOKING
RESERVE BY MARCH 31, 2020

SAVINGS
Dear Vassar Travelers,

I am delighted to welcome you to Vassar’s first-ever trip to Poland, a country of great beauty and complex histories. Within the UNESCO World Heritage-designated cities of Warsaw and Kraków, timeless traditions unfold against a mosaic of neoclassical palaces, Gothic churches and Renaissance castles. In the terra incognita of Poland’s rural heartlands, cultural pride and spiritual devotion unite and define a nation still evolving democratically while flourishing economically.

As a historian of 20th Century Europe, I am excited to have you and your family and friends join me on this trip, which promises new discoveries and great conversations! Together we will enjoy a private piano recital of Frédéric Chopin’s music in neoclassical Łazienki Palace and view Poland’s most treasured artworks, including Leonardo da Vinci’s Lady with an Ermine in the Czartoryski Museum and paintings by Bernardo Bellotto in the opulent Canaletto Room of Warsaw’s Royal Castle. We will explore the wonder and devotion inspired by the Black Madonna at the national shrine of Jasna Góra in Poland’s spiritual capital of Częstochowa and see, by special invitation, the medieval illuminated manuscripts and 18th-century frescoes of the Jasna Góra Library. We will travel through Poland’s bucolic countryside to the UNESCO-designated Wieliczka Salt Mine, a subterranean labyrinth of ornately sculptured chapels and chambers, but also visit pivotal sights of World War II history.

Join me as we wander through Warsaw’s colorful Old Town Market Square and Kraków’s Rynek Główny (Main Square), where the magnificent Cloth Hall has housed a bustling market since the 14th century. Together we will discover Kraków’s revitalized Jewish Quarter of Kazimierz and learn more about Poland’s centuries-old culture and contemporary life during the exclusive TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE® FORUM with local Kraków residents. Experience quintessential Polish hospitality and regional cuisine while staying in elegant, deluxe hotels in the very heart of Warsaw and Kraków’s vibrant Old Towns!

If you have ever considered visiting Poland, this might well be the time! I cannot imagine a better way of traveling there than with this carefully curated, one-of-a-kind, small-group travel program that offers exceptional value and a fascinating immersion into Poland’s history, culture and spirit. I encourage you to book now while Early Booking Savings and space are still available. Hope to see you this coming summer!

Sincerely,
Paulina Bren

Paulina Bren was born in the former Czechoslovakia shortly before the Warsaw Pact invasion in 1968, after which her family moved to the U.K., and later to the United States. Paulina received her B.A. from Wesleyan University, her M.A. from the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle, and her Ph.D. in Modern European history from New York University. Paulina is an adjunct Associate Professor of International Studies at Vassar, also teaching in Women’s Studies and Media Studies. She is the recipient of numerous grants and fellowships, most recently the National Endowment for the Humanities. She is just finishing up a book, titled The Barbizon, about New York’s women-only hotel. It will be published by Simon & Schuster in 2020, and has been optioned by HBO (fingers crossed!). She is also the author of two previous books: her first, The Greengrocer and His TV: The Culture of Communism after the 1968 Prague Spring, won the Council for European Studies 2012 Book Prize, the Austrian Studies Association 2012 Book Prize, and was shortlisted for the 2011 Vucinich Book Award; her second is a co-edited collection of essays entitled Communism Unwrapped: Consumption in Cold War Eastern Europe. In January 2017, she co-organized with Lisa Kaul (now the Director of Vassar’s Community-Engaged Learning) the Poughkeepsie Women’s March Across the Hudson, with over 6000 people participating. To learn still more, visit www.paulinabren.com.

View Poland’s extraordinary cultural treasures, including Leonardo Da Vinci’s Lady with an Ermine, one of the most important works of Western art.

Cover: Discover Mariacki (St. Mary’s) Basilica, the sublime centerpiece of Kraków’s medieval Main Square, one of the finest urban designs of its kind.
Baltic Sea
Itinerary
Gdańsk Pre-Program Option*

1 Depart the U.S.
2 Warsaw, Poland
   ∗ Check into the Five-Star Hotel Bristol.
3 Warsaw
   Panoramic city tour, featuring the Jewish Ghetto, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Palace of Culture and Sciences.
   Walking tour of the Stare Miasto (Old Town) with a visit to St. John's Archcathedral.
   Cultural Enrichments:
   ∗ Visit to the Warsaw Uprising Museum.
   ∗ Visit to the POLIN Museum.
4 Warsaw
   Excursion to Łazienki Park and a visit to Łazienki Palace.
   Cultural Enrichments:
   ∗ Tour of the Royal Castle to see the Canaletto Room and two Rembrandt paintings.
   ∗ Exclusively arranged piano recital of Chopin’s music.
5 Warsaw/Częstochowa/Kraków
   ∗ Check into the deluxe Sheraton Grand Kraków hotel.
   Cultural Enrichments:
   ∗ Excursion to Częstochowa to see the revered Black Madonna.
   ∗ Exclusively arranged visit to the Jasna Góra Monastery Library (closed to the public).
6 Kraków
   Walking tour of the Old Town; visit to 14th-century Mariacki (St. Mary’s) Basilica.
   Cultural Enrichments:
   ∗ Visit to Czartoryski Museum to see da Vinci’s Lady with an Ermine.
   ∗ Tour of the Jewish Quarter, Kazimierz.
   ∗ Town & Country Life® Forum.
7 Kraków
   Cultural Enrichments:
   ∗ Walking tour of Wawel Castle, part of Kraków’s Old Town.
   ∗ Excursion to Wieliczka Salt Mine.
8 Kraków/Oświęcim/Kraków
   ∗ Tour of the memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau.
9 Kraków/Return to the U.S.

Wrocław Post-Program Option*
"Available at additional cost.

Discover authentic Poland, its cultural rebirth, steadfast traditions and rhythms of daily life. Immerse yourself in the historic, artistic, social and religious legacies of UNESCO-inscribed Kraków and Warsaw, evident in restored Baroque, Gothic, neoclassical and Renaissance architecture grounded in the changing tides of history and evolving into the 21st century. Enjoy Poland’s national treasures during custom-designed, culturally enriched excursions, including a visit to see the revered Black Madonna and a viewing of da Vinci’s renowned Lady with an Ermine. Experience Poland’s unexplored countryside where, amidst rolling woodlands, green pastures and glistening lakes, a generations-old way of life holds sway in small villages dotted with shrines and chapels. Hear stories of historical triumph and endurance from locals during the specially arranged Town & Country Life® Forum. This exclusive program, one of our popular Town & Country Life® series, engages you in an intimate, comprehensive travel experience at just the right pace and features ideally located accommodations, specially arranged meals and all excursions—an excellent value.

Stroll through Warsaw’s 13th-century Rynek Stare Miasto, a harmonious Old Town Market Square.
Warsaw, Poland

Warsaw is a thriving city, rich with architectural jewels and cultural treasures, and its rebirth makes it one of the most interesting cities in Europe. The Historic Centre of Warsaw is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and includes the Stare Miasto (Old Town) which showcases a masterful recreation of Gothic and Baroque structures with exquisite period detailing. Timeless rituals echo through the Old Town Market Square, the city's heart and soul, where 17th-century merchant houses with decorative, multi-hued facades now contain acclaimed museums, wine cellars and restaurants. Cobblestone streets lead to the magnificent 14th-century St. John's Archcathedral, a sublime Gothic reconstruction striking in its simplicity.

Castle Square is the nation's historic stage for momentous events, including where, in 1997, former U.S. President Bill Clinton formally welcomed Poland as a member of NATO. Dominating the square, the monumental red-brick Royal Castle was a stronghold of the dukes of Mazovia in the 14th-century and became one of Europe's most lavish royal palaces during the mid-17th-century. The Throne Room and Knight's Hall brim with authentic period furniture, priceless antiques, tapestries and artistic masterpieces, including two paintings by Rembrandt, *The Scholar at the Lectern* and *The Girl in a Picture Frame.*

One of the finest examples of neoclassical architecture in Poland, Łazienki Palace, or the “Palace on the Isle,” is the crowning jewel of Łazienki Park. The park was acquired by King Stanisław August Poniatowski in 1764 and landscaped over centuries with romantic English-style gardens and French-style manicured lawns that surround palaces, museums and monuments, including the art nouveau Chopin Monument, sculpted by Waclaw Szymanowski, depicting Warsaw's favorite son.

Cultural Enrichments:
Visit the immersive Warsaw Uprising Museum outlining the history of Poland's Uprising starting in 1944. Tour the architecturally striking POLIN Museum, the only museum in the world to illustrate, in quite extraordinary detail, Jewish history from the Middle Ages to the present day. Admire the lavish interiors and splendid grounds, highlights of Warsaw's neoclassical Łazienki Palace.
Admire the Royal Castle’s magnificent Canaletto Room’s lauded paintings by Bernardo Belloto (better known in Poland as Canaletto).

Enjoy a specially arranged, private piano recital of Chopin’s music in Łazienki Palace.

**Monastery of Jasna Góra (Częstochowa)**

Częstochowa was established as Poland’s spiritual capital in 1382 when the Hungarian Paulite order erected the hill-top Jasna Góra (Bright Hill) Monastery. Today, the monastery’s original Gothic chapel preserves Poland’s national shrine of the Black Madonna, an important Catholic pilgrimage site.

**Cultural Enrichments:**

View an unveiling of the Black Madonna, famous for over 600 years as a miracle worker and guarantor of Poland’s very existence; throughout history, each of Poland’s non-Catholic enemies have attempted to destroy Jasna Góra and failed.

Enjoy a specially arranged, private visit to Częstochowa’s ornate Jasna Góra Library to see 18th-century frescoes, medieval illuminated manuscripts and rare artifacts from the Jagiellonian dynasty.

**Kraków**

For more than one thousand years, Kraków has reigned as the academic, artistic and trading capital of Poland. Kraków emerged from World War II relatively unscathed, and its Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage site whose unique treasures have been nearly perfectly preserved.

The lively Rynek Główny (Main Square) is a remarkable public space ringed by 800-year-old nobleman’s houses and towering spires. Dominating the square, the beautiful Cloth Hall was the epicenter of Kraków’s medieval clothing trade and today its arcaded galleries are home to craft shops and art exhibitions. The 14th-century Mariacki (St. Mary’s) Basilica, one of the finest Gothic structures in Poland, is lauded for its extraordinary triptych high altar (1477–89) by Wit Stwosz. From the tower, a lone trumpeter’s haunting call every hour on the hour commemorates the warning of an impending attack by the Tatars in medieval times. Kraków is eternally linked with its beloved son, Pope John Paul II, who lived here for 40 years before he assumed the papacy.

**Cultural Enrichments:**

Enjoy a walking tour of the historic Kazimierz district, known for its Jewish community which thrived from the 14th century until March 1943, now a fashionable enclave of museums, cafés and workshops.

Visit the sublime Czartoryski Museum to see da Vinci’s *Lady with an Ermine*—one of only four portraits of women painted by da Vinci.

Follow in the footsteps of Balzac, Copernicus and Goethe in discovering the unique salt mine carvings in Wieliczka.
Wawel Royal Castle
Overlooking the Vistula River, Wawel Royal Castle has become a cherished national symbol and the nation’s most storied castle complex. For more than 500 years, the castle formed the axis of secular and ecclesiastical power and stood as the home of Polish royalty, where all of Poland’s kings were crowned and buried. The Cathedral of Saints Stanislaus and Wenceslaus is known for its crypt where 45 Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque royal tombs and side chapels showcase a timeline of European artistic movements.

Cultural Enrichment:
Discover the richly ornamented chambers of Poland’s Wieliczka Salt Mine, a UNESCO World Heritage site open to visitors since 1772. A prized commodity during the Middle Ages, salt provided the financing for much of Kraków’s architectural splendor. The Chapel of St. Kinga, where stairs, banisters, altar, chandeliers and intricate sculptures are entirely carved from salt, is extraordinary. The chapel’s famed acoustics have provided a concert venue for visiting dignitaries, including late former U.S. President George H.W. Bush.

Ideally Located Hotels

**Hotel Bristol, Warsaw**
A landmark on the city skyline, the legendary, Five-Star Hotel Bristol has been restored to its former glory. Elegant art nouveau interiors have retained their historic character and the comfortable rooms are the most luxurious in Poland. Since its grand unveiling in 1901, the Hotel Bristol has played an integral role in Warsaw life, hosting visiting dignitaries and heads of royal families. Located at the heart of the historic Old Town, the hotel provides attentive service, a welcoming ambiance and Five-Star amenities.

**Sheraton Grand Kraków**
Set along the Vistula River, at the foot of Wawel Castle, the deluxe Sheraton Grand Kraków is the perfect, centrally located base from which to explore the city’s cultural treasures. The extremely comfortable rooms are modern, spacious and well-appointed, and the personable staff provide warm and attentive service. Amenities include restaurants/bars, an indoor pool, fitness center and sauna. The rooftop terrace provides memorable views over Wawel Royal Castle.

**Oświęcim/ Auschwitz-Birkenau**
Auschwitz-Birkenau has become the foremost symbol of the Holocaust. On July 2, 1947, it was preserved by the Polish government as the Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau, a testament to this epic human tragedy; in 1979 it was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. Enter through the main gate and tour the museum’s exhibits.
Included Features

In Warsaw
- Three nights in the ideally located, Five-Star Hotel Bristol with breakfast each morning and one dinner.
- Welcome Reception in the hotel.
- City tour of Warsaw, featuring the Jewish Ghetto, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Palace of Culture and Sciences.
- Walking tour of Warsaw’s UNESCO-inscribed Stare Miasto (Old Town).
- Excursion to Lazienki Park and tour of 17th-century Lazienki Palace; dinner this evening.

In Kraków
- Four nights in the deluxe, centrally located Sheraton Grand Kraków hotel, with breakfast each morning.
- Farewell Reception in the hotel.
- Walking tour of Kraków’s Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site; dinner this evening.
- Walking tour of the grounds of Wawel Hill to see the Royal Castle and the 14th-century Cathedral of Saints Stanislaus and Wenceslaus.
- Guided excursion to the poignant Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Exclusive Cultural Enrichments
- Visit to the emotive Warsaw Uprising Museum.
- Visit to Warsaw’s POLIN Museum, which traces 1000 years of Jewish history.
- Specially arranged, private piano recital of Chopin’s music in Lazienki Palace.
- Excursion to the pilgrimage site of Jasna Góra Monastery in Częstochowa to see an unveiling of the revered Black Madonna, with lunch.
- Visit to 14th-century Mariacki (St. Mary’s) Basilica.
- Visit to the Czartoryski Museum to see da Vinci’s Lady with an Ermine.
- Walking tour of the Jewish Quarter of Kazimierz.
- Tour of Warsaw’s lavishly appointed Royal Castle, featuring priceless artworks in the Canaletto Room.
- Excursion to the chambers of the UNESCO-designated Wieliczka Salt Mine, with lunch.
- TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE® Forum with local residents.
- Specially arranged meals above feature distinctive Polish flavors.

Always Included
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad if arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- Experienced, English-speaking local guides for all included excursions.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Complimentary bottled water provided on motorcoaches during excursions.
- Hospitality desk in the hotels.
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Program Director at your service.
- Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
The Cradle of Solidarity
Gdańsk • Malbork Castle • Toruń
Pre-Program Option

Northern Poland forms an essential piece in the nation’s history. Gdańsk’s Stare Miasto (Old Town) overflows with architectural remnants of Poland’s Hanseatic Golden Age while 13th-century Malbork Castle—the largest castle in the world—reveals the Gothic legacy of the medieval Teutonic Order. Visit Gdańsk’s European Solidarity Center which expounds the founding of Lech Wałęsa’s Solidarity movement and tour UNESCO-designated Toruń, a perfectly preserved Gothic complex and a rich cultural center where Nicolaus Copernicus, “the man who stopped the Sun and moved the Earth,” was born. Accommodations are for three nights in the centrally located, deluxe Radisson Blu Gdańsk.

Undiscovered Wrocław
Post-Program Option

Forward-looking Wrocław provides a soul-stirring finale to your Poland sojourn. A magnificent architectural timeline spanning Bohemian, Austrian and Prussian influences unfurls along the idyllic banks of the River Oder, where serene islands have earned the city its sobriquet, Poland’s “Venice of the North.” Visit the opulent, 13th-century Pszczyna Castle and gain ethnographic insight in Nikiszowiec, a self-sufficient, 20th-century community created for miners. Accommodations are for two nights in the deluxe, centrally located AC Hotel by Marriott Wrocław.

Pre- and Post-Program Options are available at additional cost. Details will be included with your reservation confirmation.

Fall under the spell of Wrocław’s magnificent Rynek (Market Square) one of the largest in all of Europe.
Visit Warsaw’s POLIN Museum, where exhibits include a community-led reconstruction of the timber roof structure and polychrome wooden ceiling of the lost 17th-century wooden synagogue of Gwoździec.

**LAND TARIFF excluding taxes**

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<th>Per person, based on double occupancy</th>
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Singles are available upon request for an additional $1000.*

*Taxes are an additional $195 per person and are subject to change.

Send to: Gohagan & Company
209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446
(312) 609-1140

Please make my/our reservation(s):

- **Double occupancy (two twin beds).**
- **Double occupancy (one double bed).**
- **Single accommodations.**
- **I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).**

Please make my/our reservation(s):

**The Cradle of Solidarity Pre-Program Option**
- **Double at $1145 per person.**
- **Single at $1395 per person.**
- **I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations.**

**Undiscovered Wroclaw Post-Program Option**
- **Double at $895 per person.**
- **Single at $1095 per person.**
- **I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations.**

- **I/We want you to book my/our air, at additional cost to be advised,** from:

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*Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

- **I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.**

The undersigned has read the program itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risk inherent therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Vassar College and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licensees, from any and all liability for delays, injuries or death or for the loss of or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, the program.

Each Participant Must Sign:

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Feel the historic resonance of Kraków echo through the Cloth Hall where commercial traditions still prevail.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: Gohagan & Company and the Vassar Travel Program/Vassar College, and its and their employees, shareholders, sub-charters, sub-contractors, agents, representatives, successors, assigns, or trustees, in each case, collectively "Gohagan!", do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your program including, for example, hotels, restaurants, airlines, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity or of any other third party.

Gohagan reserves the right to substitute vessels, hotels or attractions of a similar assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely.

Gohagan reserves the right to substitute motorcoach transportation using hotels, inns or lodges for cruise accommodations if necessary due to weather, water conditions or levels, other events of force majeure, assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, from flight schedule(s); meals, alcoholic or other beverages and all other services not specifically mentioned in the "Included Features" section.

AIRFARE: Airfare is subject to change and availability and, depending on the fare basis, likely is nonrefundable. Your airline ticket constitutes a contract to and due to flight schedule(s); meals, alcoholic or other beverages and all other services not specifically mentioned in the "Included Features" section.

TRAVELERS INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice. In the event of program cancelation of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

REGISTRATION: CST#: 2031868-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OST#: TA 0905. BOUNDARY ARBITRATION: Any dispute concerning, relating or referring to this Agreement, the brochure or any other literature concerning the program, or the program itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration pursuant to the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Sections 1-16, either according to the then existing Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). Such proceedings will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) Illinois law and will take place in Chicago, IL. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, application, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or invalid. Please understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, the participant and Gohagan are waiving the right to a trial by jury.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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