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In collaboration with The National WWII Museum



# WORLD WAR II IN POLAND: HOLOCAUST, RESISTANCE, AND REBIRTH

A moving journey that explores the history and heritage of Poland from the first moments of World War II through the fall of the Iron Curtain.

Kraków • Auschwitz • Westerplatte • Gdańsk • Wolf's Lair  
Mikolajki • Treblinka • Warsaw







Dear Graduates and Friends of West Point,

To fully comprehend World War II, one needs to understand its origins. In Europe, the journey to war began in the private meeting rooms and raucous public stadiums of Germany where the Nazis concocted and then promoted their designs for a new world order, one founded on conquest and racial-purity ideals.

As they launched the war by invading Poland on September 1, 1939, Hitler and his followers unleashed a hell that would cause immense suffering and leave the country vulnerable to Stalin's post-war ambitions for Soviet expansion. Through the German occupation and the following decades of Soviet oppression, the Polish people held strong in their push for freedom. World figures such as Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, and Pope John Paul II gave their support for a free Poland and bolstered the internal efforts of Lech Walesa, Władysław Bartoszewski, and many others inside Poland.

I invite you to join one of The National WWII Museum's most unique travel programs, *World War II in Poland: Holocaust, Resistance, and Rebirth*. This poignant journey will trace the history of Poland from 1939 to the fall of communism and the rejuvenation of a country and its people. Our guests will travel through Poland, exploring historical sites and reflecting on how the Nazis rose to power and then brought destruction and misery to Europe. Visiting battlefields, museums, memorials, and interacting with locals, this tour immerses you in the expert storytelling of top local guides. For enthusiasts of the legacy of World War II, European History, and Global Politics, this tour is one not to miss!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark".

Mark D. Bieger '91  
Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)  
*The Honorable & Mrs. Robert A. McDonald '75* President & CEO  
West Point Association of Graduates

## Bringing history to life

Visit six unique museums that restore the memory of the rich culture and heritage of pre-war Poland.

Background photo: The Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, Warsaw, Poland.



Cover photo left: Witold Pilecki, founder of the TAP organization and the secret agent of Polish resistance in Auschwitz. Photo by FLHC 220C, courtesy of Alamy Stock Photo. Cover photo center: Oskar Schindler, German industrialist and a member of the Nazi Party who is credited with saving the lives of 1,200 Jews during the Holocaust by employing them in his factories. Photo by GLArchive, courtesy of Alamy Stock Photo. Cover photo right: Marek Edelman, the last surviving leader of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Courtesy of Historic Collection / Alamy Stock Photo.



POLAND UNDER OCCUPATION:A TIMELINE OF EVENTS



September 1, 1939

**Westerplatte, Poland**  
Nazi Germany invades Poland and fires the first shots of World War II in Europe.



January 15, 1940

**Krakow, Poland**  
Oskar Schindler opens his factory where he will go on to save more than a thousand Jews.



May 20, 1940

**Oswiecim, Poland**  
Auschwitz is established by the SS and was initially populated with Polish political prisoners. The camp eventually becomes a site of mass extermination of European Jewry.



July 30, 1941

**London, England**  
The Sikorski–Mayski Agreement frees Polish POWs held in Soviet camps, enlisting them to fight the Nazis on the Eastern Front.



April 19, 1943

**Warsaw, Poland**  
Jewish Resistance to Nazi police and SS leads to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. In response, the Nazis kill 13,000 and ship those remaining to concentration camps



July 20, 1944

**East Prussia, Germany**  
An assassination attempt on Hitler fails at the fortified command post known as “Wolf’s Lair.”



August 1, 1944

**Warsaw, Poland**  
As Soviet forces near Warsaw, Polish freedom fighters take up arms, thus beginning the Warsaw Uprising.



May 8–9, 1945

**Berlin, Germany**  
At an estate in the Karlshorst neighborhood, German Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel officially surrenders Germany’s armed forces.



January 19, 1947

**Poland**  
Parliamentary elections characterized by violence and persecution of opponents give full governing power to the communist Polish Workers Party.



August 31, 1980

**Gdańsk, Poland**  
The Gdańsk Agreement legitimizes the Solidarity movement that would ultimately undermine the communist government.



July 4 & 18, 1989

**Poland**  
Parliamentary elections result in a victory for Solidarity and spell the end for the communist Polish United Workers Party.



November 1989

**Berlin, Germany**  
The fall of the Berlin Wall was a pivotal event in world history which marked the beginning of the fall of communism in Europe.

Photo credits page 4 (Left to Right, Top to Bottom): The Nazi propaganda photo shows the painting “Beschließung der Westerplatte” (“The bombardment of the Westerplatte”) by artist Claus Bergen at the great art exhibit in Munich. Courtesy of dpa picture alliance/Alamy; Oskar Schindler, Frankfurt, Germany, 1963. Courtesy of Everett Collection Historical/Alamy; Captured Jews are led by German troops out of Warsaw. Courtesy of National Archives.; Adolf Hitler at a meeting at Wolf’s Lair. Courtesy of Sueddeutsche Zeitung Photo/Alamy; Photograph of the Polish Communist politician Edward Gierek who replaced Władysław Gomułka as First Secretary of the ruling Polish United Workers’ Party in the People’s Republic of Poland. Courtesy of World History Archive/Alamy; A Women Address Striking Shipyard Workers In Gdańsk in 1980. Courtesy of Keystone Press/Alamy.

Photo credits page 5 (Left to Right, Top to Bottom): Entrance of Auschwitz. Courtesy of Matthew Taylor/Alamy; Sikorski-Mayski 1941 agreement. Courtesy of Archive PL/Alamy Stock Photo; The Warsaw Uprising. Courtesy of World History Archive/Alamy; Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel signing the surrender for the German Army. Courtesy of Everett Collection Inc./Alamy; Election campaign before Senate and Parliamentary elections in Warsaw, May 1989. Courtesy of agencja FORUM/Alamy; The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 at the Brandenburg Gate. Courtesy of Agencja Fotograficzna Caro/Alamy Stock Photo.





## FEATURED MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Poland is home to some of the world's most inspiring museums. Included in this tour are various engaging exhibitions designed to teach the turbulent history, culture, and stories that impacted generations.

### The Warsaw Uprising Museum, Warsaw, Poland (Pictured above)

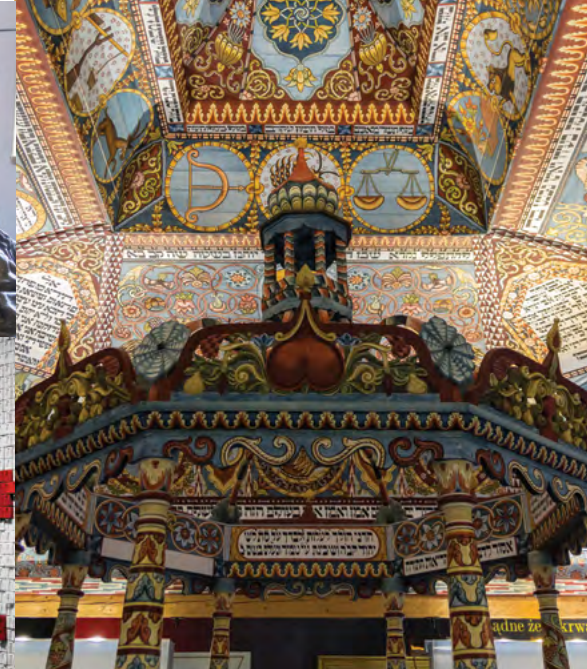
This museum opened to the public on the 60th anniversary of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising and is one of the most visited places in Warsaw. It is a tribute to all those who fought and died to free Poland and depicts the struggle of everyday life during the horror of occupation. The exhibits feature photographs, recordings, and videos from before, during, and after the uprising; a replica of a Liberator B-24J bomber used by the Allies during air drops; a 3-D movie of the destruction of Warsaw during the uprising; and a recreation of sewer tunnels used by the Resistance to move around the city.



MEMORIAL STATUE AT AUSCHWITZ



INSIDE THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CENTER



THE POLIN MUSEUM

### European Solidarity Center, Gdańsk, Poland

The European Solidarity Center is a state-of-the-art cultural institution that honors the Solidarity movement. The museum commemorates the revolution of Solidarity and the fall of communism in Europe. Over 3,000 square meters, the permanent exhibition tells the story of the birth of the solidarity movement in the Gdańsk shipyards and continues through the ramifications of the fall of communism apparent in the modern world.

### Wieliczka Salt Mine, Wieliczka, Poland

Already declared a UNESCO World Heritage site before the closing of the salt mining operation in 1996, the mines feature landscapes unseen anywhere else. Saline lakes, elaborate chambers, and the world's largest church built underground are a few of the highlights. In St. Kinga's Church, view the elaborate salt sculptures including that of Pope John Paul II. During World War II, the occupying Nazis constructed an armaments factory in the mines, but it never became operational.

### Museum of the Second World War, Gdańsk, Poland

Located where World War II began on September 1, 1939, this is the only WWII Museum in the world dedicated to putting the war into an international context and commemorating the losses of all nations that suffered under German occupation.

### The Martyrdom Museum, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland

Housed in the former Nazi concentration and extermination camp, the preservation of the original buildings and relics has long evoked controversy. Through international support, this museum takes collective and individual memories into account, along with the accompanying reflections and emotions of its many visitors.

### The POLIN Museum of the History of the Polish Jews, Warsaw, Poland

The POLIN Museum is located in the area the Nazis turned into the Jewish ghetto during World War II. Beyond the main exhibition that presents the history of Polish Jews, POLIN Museum also functions as an educational center with rich cultural programs working closely with the community at large.



# WORLD WAR II IN POLAND:

## HOLOCAUST, RESISTANCE, AND REBIRTH

~~\$6,899~~ **\$6,399\*** double occupancy; ~~\$8,899~~ **\$8,399\*** single occupancy.

*\*\$229 taxes and fees per person are additional.*



### TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Exclusive itinerary designed by The National WWII Museum
- Special access to sites not offered on other tours
- Full-time logistical Tour Manager
- Expert local guides
- Roundtrip Airport Transfers (when arriving and departing on scheduled group tour dates)
- Inter-European flight from Kraków to Gdańsk
- Luxury five-star and deluxe four-star accommodations throughout the journey
- Private, first-class air conditioned motor coach transportation
- Personal listening devices on all included touring
- Included gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, and servers
- 10 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 5 Dinners, and 2 Receptions
- Beer, house wine, and soft drinks with included lunches and dinners
- Personalized luggage tags and name badge

PHOTO: AERIAL VIEW OF THE WAWEL CASTLE IN KRAKOW.





MAIN SQUARE IN KRAKÓW

## - 1 - THE EXPERIENCE ARRIVE IN KRAKÓW

Fly into Kraków John Paul II International Airport (KRK) and transfer to the Radisson Blu Krakow. Enjoy free time this afternoon prior to this evening's welcome reception and dinner.

**Accommodations: Radisson Blu Kraków (R, D)**

## - 2 - THE EXPERIENCE KRAKÓW

Explore Kraków, which was included on UNESCO's first World Heritage list in 1978. Since the Tatar raids in the 13th century, the Old Town has remained mostly intact, making it the only large Polish city to escape the destruction of World War II. The tour day begins at St. Mary's Basilica followed by free time for an independent lunch in the Old Town Square. Rynek Główny in Polish, the square is known for its quaint cafés and excellent shopping. The afternoon includes a visit to the Wawel Castle, the seat of Polish kings for hundreds of years, and the gothic Wawel Cathedral, where Polish kings were crowned and buried for centuries. During the war, Hans Frank, Governor General of the occupied Polish territories, installed himself in the Wawel Castle. Calling himself the "King of Poland," he surrounded himself with stolen art including Leonardo Da Vinci's Lady with an Ermine and wielded his terrifying power over the population. Continue on a walking tour to Jagiellonian University, founded in 1364 by Casimir III the Great. Over the centuries, the university has educated some of Europe's most respected figures, including Nicolaus Copernicus, Pope John Paul II, and Nobel Prize-winning poet Wisława Szymborska. Take a stroll through the university's lovely botanical garden, which is more than 200 years old. Return to Old Town to visit Cloth Hall, which historically functioned as the main marketplace of the town. The evening is free to explore Kraków.

**Accommodations: Radisson Blu Kraków (B)**



MAIN SQUARE IN KRAKÓW





## - 3 - THE EXPERIENCE AUSCHWITZ

Thirty-miles west of Kraków is the Polish town of Oswiecim, known to history by its German name: *Auschwitz*. The German occupiers took over this former army barracks in 1940 and populated it with Polish political prisoners. As the war continued, the Nazis expanded and refined the camp, imprisoning Jews from all over Europe or sending them on to their deaths at nearby Birkenau. The Martyrdom Museum at Auschwitz is a ghastly reminder of the inhumanity which humans are capable of. An evening on your own allows for reflection on today's touring.

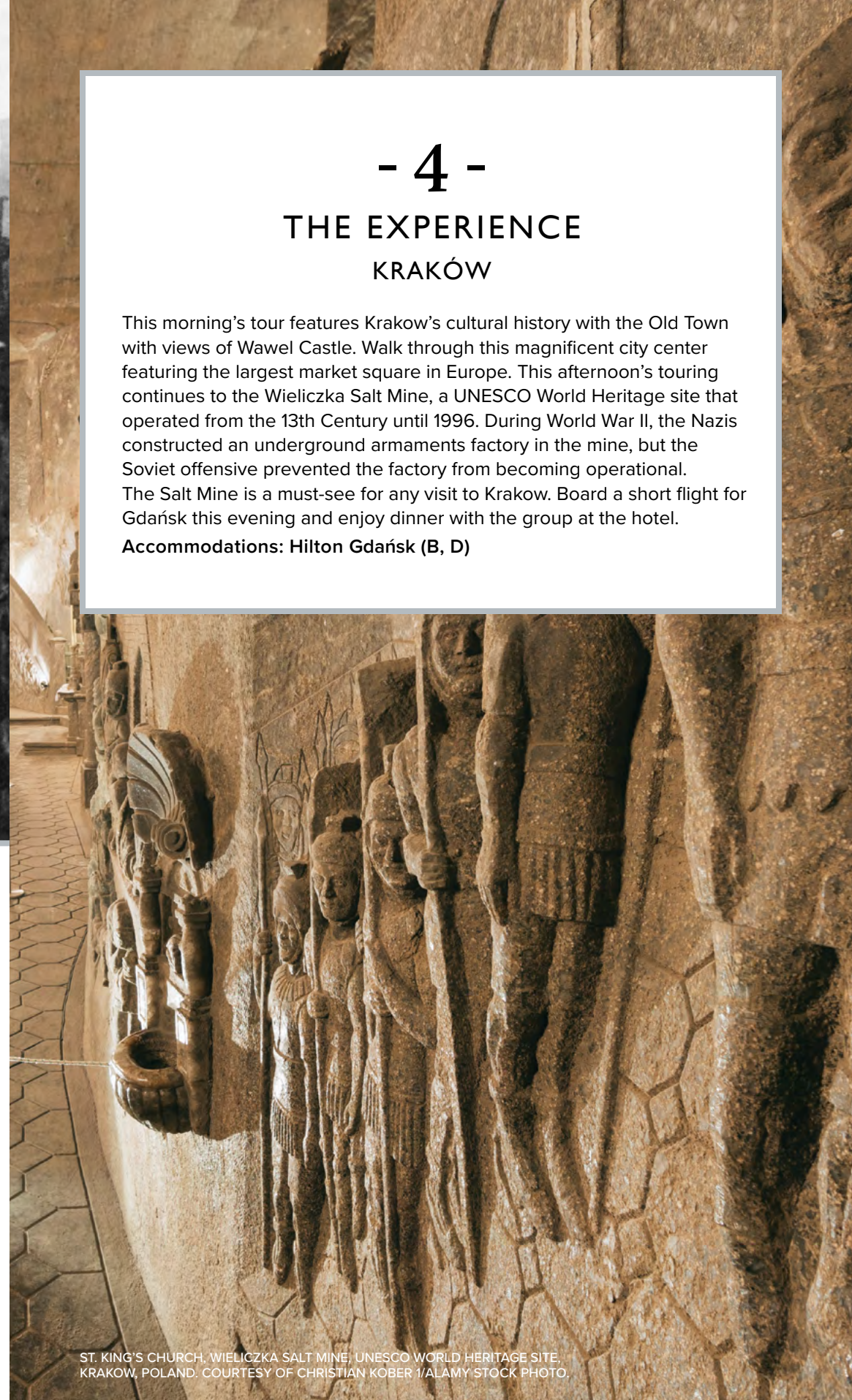
**Accommodations: Radisson Blu Kraków (B, L)**

MAIN GATES AT AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP IN POLAND. COURTESY OF CHRONICLE/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO.

## - 4 - THE EXPERIENCE KRAKÓW

This morning's tour features Krakow's cultural history with the Old Town with views of Wawel Castle. Walk through this magnificent city center featuring the largest market square in Europe. This afternoon's touring continues to the Wieliczka Salt Mine, a UNESCO World Heritage site that operated from the 13th Century until 1996. During World War II, the Nazis constructed an underground armaments factory in the mine, but the Soviet offensive prevented the factory from becoming operational. The Salt Mine is a must-see for any visit to Krakow. Board a short flight for Gdańsk this evening and enjoy dinner with the group at the hotel.

**Accommodations: Hilton Gdańsk (B, D)**



ST. KING'S CHURCH, WIELICZKA SALT MINE, UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE, KRAKOW, POLAND. COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN KOBER /ALAMY STOCK PHOTO.



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# THROUGH THEIR EYES

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WŁADYSŁAW BARTOSZEWSKI  
1922-2015



The Economist magazine called him “The Great Survivor,” others referred to him as the “Polish Schindler.” He is one of the only people in the world to have been commemorated twice at Yad Vashem as a “Righteous Gentile.” Whatever the label, Władysław Bartoszewski was a remarkable figure. He witnessed some of the worst horrors of World War II, and yet he dedicated his life to the goals of reconciliation between former foes with humor, empathy, and compassion.

Bartoszewski was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1922. The son of a Roman Catholic banker, he grew up next to the Jewish Quarter with both Catholic and Jewish visitors to the house. On September 1, 1939, he awoke to the sound of bombs falling on Warsaw. Hitler had ordered the first mass terror bombing of the war, and 20,000 civilians died. Bartoszewski volunteered to work as a stretcher-bearer for the Red Cross.

WŁADYSŁAW BARTOSZEWSKI IN FRONT OF A PICTURE OF AUSCHWITZ / REUTERS / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

Bartoszewski’s formal schooling ended with the German invasion. Nazi rule in Poland was highly oppressive: schools and universities were closed, along with newspapers, publishing houses, and virtually all other Polish institutions. Bartoszewski continued to work for the Red Cross as a clerk. In September 1940, the Germans began random roundups of men between the ages of 18 and 65. Bartoszewski was 18 years old when the Nazis arrived at his house. They stormed in, grabbed him, and put him on the second-ever transport to a small town in southern Poland where a new camp, Auschwitz, was being built. There, he was photographed, put in striped prison uniform, and given the number 4427.

Life in Auschwitz was intolerable. He watched as friends were beaten to death in front of him; he was forced into slave labor pulling a gigantic concrete roller; food was scarce. By the end of the first year, he had become desperately ill. The Red Cross intervened and arranged for Bartoszewski and a number of other prisoners to be released—something which would have been impossible later in the war. He returned to Warsaw sick and too weak to function. His old friend Hanka Czaki, who worked for the Polish Underground, came to see him as he recovered, and over some weeks wrote down his testimony about Auschwitz. It was sent to London and published in April 1942 by the *Home Army* as “Memoir of a Prisoner.” It was the first-ever eyewitness testimony published about Auschwitz, and it was the first warning to the Allies about what was happening to the victims in the new concentration camps in German-occupied Poland.

In the spring of 1942, Bartoszewski was interviewed by Jan Karski, a later recipient of the American Presidential Medal of Freedom. As a result of this meeting, Bartoszewski was invited to join the Polish Home Army in August 1942. Disturbed by the increasing brutality directed against the Jews, he became a founding member of The Council for Aid to Jews, code-named “Żegota.” This operation was funded from London and helped approximately 50,000 Jews in occupied Poland. The exact number of those aided who survived the war is unknown, but it is thought to be less than 20%. During the course of his work Bartoszewski and the Żegota organization supported well-known activists, including Irene Sendler, who saved 2,500 Jewish children, and the “Zookeeper” Jan Żabiński, who saved Jews by hiding them at the Warsaw Zoo. Aside from his work at Żegota, Bartoszewski personally saved dozens of Jews. As a result, he was honored at Yad Vashem both for his work with Żegota and for his own individual contributions. He was also made an honorary citizen of the State of Israel.

After the war, Bartoszewski was arrested and spent seven years in a Stalinist prison. Between 1963 and 1989, he worked in secret for Radio Free Europe. Given his links with the Solidarity movement activists, he was arrested again on December 13, 1981, when the Polish Communist Government declared martial law. When Poland finally threw off the communist yoke in 1989, Bartoszewski became Polish Ambassador to Austria, and then was twice made Polish Foreign Minister. He served as Secretary of State in the Polish Prime Minister’s Office until his death on April 24, 2015.

Władysław Bartoszewski suffered through the horrors of Nazism and Stalinism, and as a result, he was determined to be a witness to history. He wrote hundreds of books and articles, gave countless interviews, and supported initiatives to remember the war. He was Chairman of the International Auschwitz Committee, and he worked tirelessly to promote ties between Poland and Israel, and between Poland and Germany. He was truly a “great survivor.”



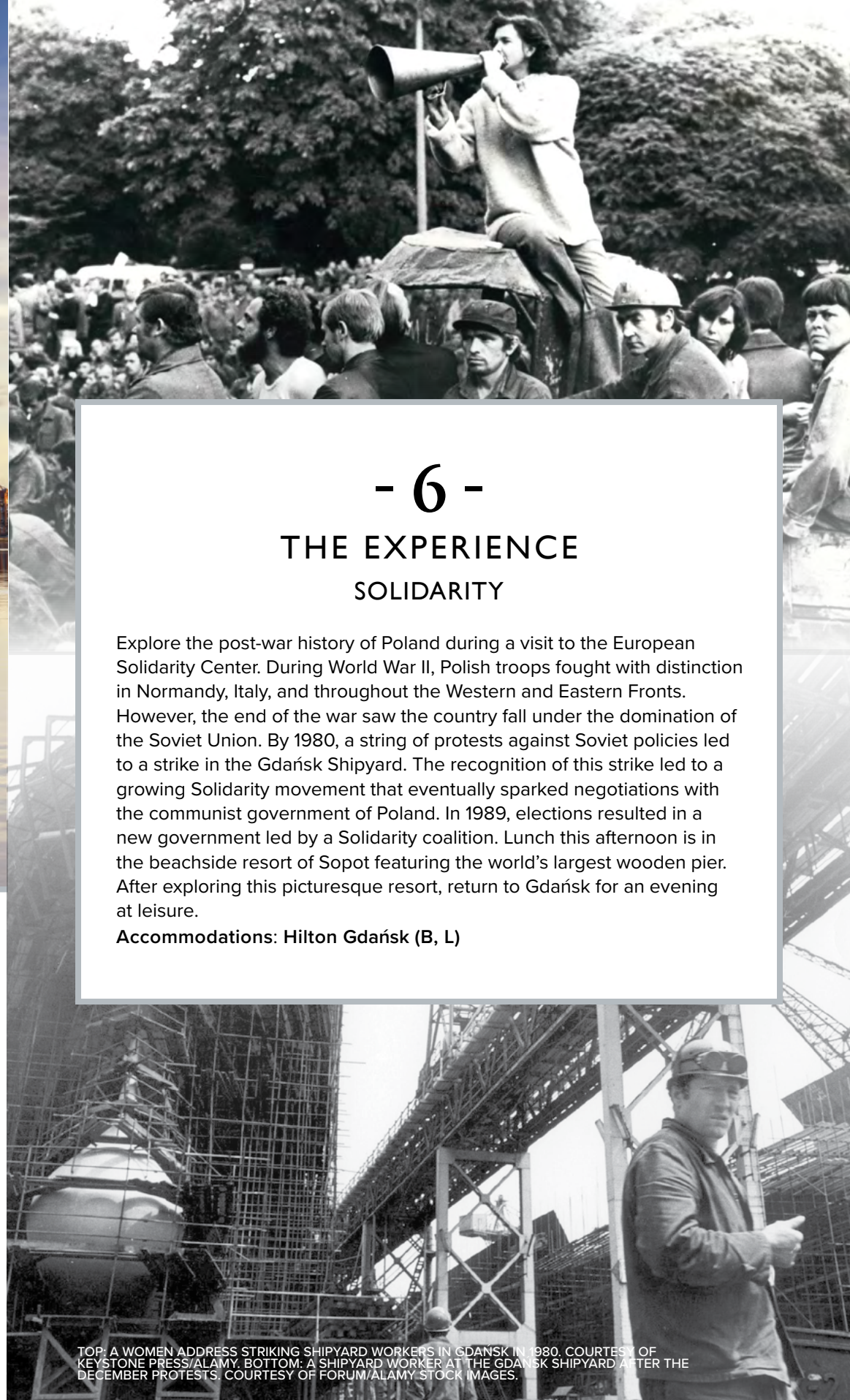


OLD TOWN OF GDANSK

## - 5 - THE EXPERIENCE WESTERPLATTE

Poland's maritime city on the Baltic Sea, Gdańsk was first mentioned in historical documents in 997. In its millennium of existence, this venerable port city has changed hands numerous times – the prize in a long game of tug-of-war between Germany and Poland. This morning, visit Westerplatte, the place where the Germans fired the first shots of what became World War II. On September 1, 1939, a German battleship paying a “courtesy call” on Danzig began firing shells at the Polish garrison here. After lunch on your own and the option to take a walking tour of Gdańsk, visit the Museum of the Second World War. After ample time to explore the museum, your evening is free to enjoy dinner independently.

**Accommodations: Hilton Gdańsk (B)**



## - 6 - THE EXPERIENCE SOLIDARITY

Explore the post-war history of Poland during a visit to the European Solidarity Center. During World War II, Polish troops fought with distinction in Normandy, Italy, and throughout the Western and Eastern Fronts. However, the end of the war saw the country fall under the domination of the Soviet Union. By 1980, a string of protests against Soviet policies led to a strike in the Gdańsk Shipyard. The recognition of this strike led to a growing Solidarity movement that eventually sparked negotiations with the communist government of Poland. In 1989, elections resulted in a new government led by a Solidarity coalition. Lunch this afternoon is in the beachside resort of Sopot featuring the world's largest wooden pier. After exploring this picturesque resort, return to Gdańsk for an evening at leisure.

**Accommodations: Hilton Gdańsk (B, L)**

TOP: A WOMEN ADDRESS STRIKING SHIPYARD WORKERS IN GDANSK IN 1980. COURTESY OF KEYSTONE PRESS/ALAMY. BOTTOM: A SHIPYARD WORKER AT THE GDANSK SHIPYARD AFTER THE DECEMBER PROTESTS. COURTESY OF FORUM/ALAMY STOCK IMAGES.





## HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE WESTERPLATTE

ADOLF HITLER REVIEWING THE BATTLESHIP SMS *SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN*, HAMBURG, GERMANY, 1936.  
COURTESY OF THE PRINT COLLECTOR/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO.



By September 1939, signs of war signaled throughout the world. Japan's ambitions in China, Italy's conquest in Ethiopia, and Germany's territorial demands in Europe set the stage for the larger battles to come. Poland's leaders watched the world abandon Czechoslovakia at the negotiating table when Hitler demanded Czech territory. Taking steps to avoid a similar fate, Poland joined a military alliance with Britain and France in March 1939. Any attack on Poland would result in Germany going to war on two fronts.

Danzig proved to be the main point of contention between Germany and Poland prior to the outbreak of war. At the start of World War I, Danzig was part of the German Empire. Following Germany's defeat in World War I, Poland's borders shifted to the west, but Danzig did not transfer to Poland. With a population that was 90% German, Danzig became a free city. Feeling a connection to the citizens of Danzig, Germany petitioned Poland for a new highway across a Polish corridor to connect the Germans in both places. The population of Danzig began to emphasize their German ethnicity through politics.

In the 1930s, the Nazi Party in Danzig was growing rapidly. Citizens of Danzig resented the new Polish city of Gdynia to the north and felt that the Poles were shifting business and money away from Danzig. The Danzig Senate followed many of the policies laid out by Nazi Germany including the Nuremberg Race Laws. The Polish government felt that giving Germany easy access to Danzig would lead to increasing demands for territory from Hitler.

In August 1939, both sides prepared for conflict. Poland constructed fortifications and stationed sentries near Danzig. The German battleship SMS *Schleswig-Holstein* sailed into Danzig Harbor under the guise of a courtesy call on August 25. A series of false flag operations undertaken by Nazi Germany in late August led to the *Schleswig-Holstein* firing on a Polish garrison on the Westerplatte Peninsula. The first rounds hit just before 5:00 AM on September 1, 1939.

After the first shots, German marines ran from the *Schleswig-Holstein* and encountered an ambush by the Poles. After 30 minutes of action, the Germans withdrew. The *Schleswig-Holstein* fired for several more hours as the Germans regrouped. A second German attack failed to breach the Polish defenses. For the next six days, the Germans bombarded the Polish positions with naval, artillery, and air attacks. The Poles continued to resist the Germans in Westerplatte, even as the Germans were on the outskirts of Warsaw. On September 7, 1939, Polish Major Henryk Sucharski surrendered the garrison to the Germans.





- 7 -

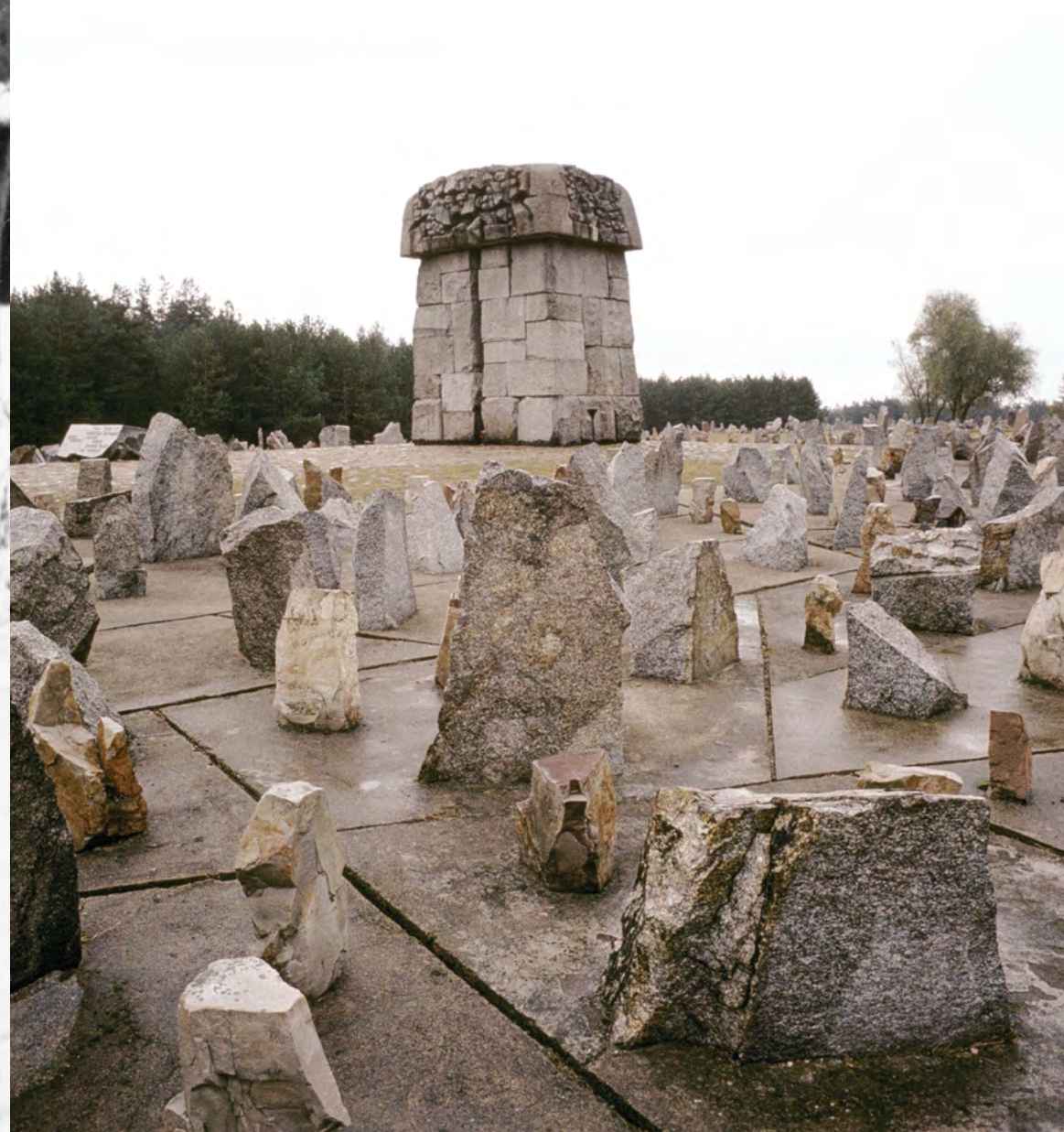
## THE EXPERIENCE

### WOLF'S LAIR AND MIKOLAJKI

Today, drive onward to Wolf's Lair, the English name for Hitler's secret, fortified Eastern Front command post *Wolfsschanze*. The failed 1944 assassination attempt on Hitler, portrayed in the 2008 movie *Valkyrie* (starring Tom Cruise) took place within the concrete complex. After lunch, visit the German command-and-control center at Mamerki. Virtually untouched since the war, this huge bunker complex is where many of the major decisions affecting the conduct of the war on the Eastern Front were made. Spend the evening in the resort town of Mikolajki.

**Accommodations: Hotel Mikolajki (B, L, D)**

HITLER AND FIELD MARSHAL FEDOR VON BOCK AT "WOLF'S LAIR" / CONTRIBUTOR ULLSTEIN BILD / GETTY.



- 8 -

## THE EXPERIENCE

### TREBLINKA

Depart Mikolajki for Treblinka Extermination Camp. Opened by the Nazis in December 1941 as a forced labor camp, Treblinka expanded in 1942 as part of Operation Reinhard, the effort to eradicate the Jews of occupied Poland. Over 750,000 people were murdered at Treblinka, a total second only to Auschwitz. During an uprising inside the camp on August 2, 1943, approximately 200 prisoners managed to escape and several buildings were set on fire. The Nazis liquidated the camp in November 1943, and the grounds were made to look like a farm. In 1955, Treblinka became a memorial site paying tribute to all who died on the grounds.

**Accommodations: Hotel Bristol (B)**

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL AT THE TREBLINKA EXTERMINATION CAMP. COURTESY OF JUSTIN LEIGHTON/ALAMY STOCK.





## - 9 - THE EXPERIENCE WARSAW

Spend the day exploring Warsaw, starting at the Genscher Cemetery, Warsaw's largest Jewish cemetery with over 250,000 people buried on site. Many prominent leaders of Warsaw's Jewish community are buried here, including Marek Edelman, a leader of the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto. Continue on to the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews for a guided tour of the exhibits. This afternoon features a walking tour of the Old Town—a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a visit to the Royal Castle.

**Accommodations: Hotel Bristol (B)**

CAPTURED JEWS ARE LED BY GERMAN TROOPS OUT OF WARSAW. COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES.



## - 10 - THE EXPERIENCE WARSAW UPRISING

Set out on a walking tour this morning, beginning at the 1944 Warsaw Uprising Monument. Unveiled in 1989, the monument commemorates the valiant and tragic attempt of the Polish Resistance to take back the city of Warsaw from Nazi troops before the Soviet Army entered the city. Visit the Mausoleum of Struggle and Martyrdom, located in a former Gestapo headquarters. This afternoon, visit the Warsaw Uprising Museum. Opened in 2004 on the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Warsaw Uprising, this museum includes a collection of almost 1,000 photographs taken by photographer and Olympic athlete Eugeniusz Lokajski, who documented the uprising before he was killed in an artillery attack. This evening, reflect on all you learned and saw at a special farewell dinner with the group.

**Accommodations: Hotel Bristol (B, R, D)**

JEWS IN WARSAW UPRISING MUSEUM



# - 11 -

## THE EXPERIENCE

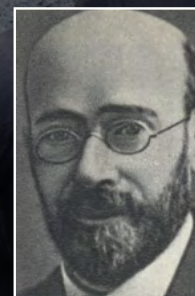
### DEPARTURES

Bid farewell to Poland this morning and transfer to Warsaw Chopin Airport (WAW) for individual flights back to the United States. **(B)**

ROYAL CASTLE AND SIGISMUND COLUMN IN  
WARSAW



## SPOTLIGHT ON JANUSZ KORCZAK



On August 5, 1942, one of the most horrific scenes of the Nazi's assault on Warsaw's Jewish population took place. A line of 200 orphan children, with their caretaker Janusz Korczak leading the way, marched out of the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka Extermination Camp. For the 64-year-old Korczak, this was the fulfillment of his promise to never abandon the children in his care.

Janusz Korczak was born Henryk Goldsmit, but took on his new name during his burgeoning career as a writer. As a child, he experienced a prosperous family life, but he contemplated as early as the age of five that he “was bothered by the thought of what I could do that there should be no dirty, hungry, ragged children like the ones with whom I was not allowed to play in the yard.”

As an adult, Korczak entered a life of service as a doctor, writer, and educator. In 1912, Korczak founded the Jewish orphanage *Dom Sierot*, a building he designed himself to promote his progressive educational ideals. Jewish orphans stayed for free and attended Polish public schools and Jewish Sabbath Schools. Many of the children Korczak cared for had come from rough backgrounds. Survival in the slums without parental figures had left them distrusting of authority and with many fears and anxieties. Korczak ran his orphanage upon a philosophy of mutual respect with the children, avoiding the rules and regulations that were more appropriate for a military barracks. He wrote, “too much worrying about one’s own peace-and-quiet or convenience leads to a proliferation of orders and prohibitions that are only ostensibly issued for ‘the good of the child.’”

After the Germans occupied Warsaw, life for the orphans was a constant struggle. Korczak moved the orphanage to several different addresses as the Ghetto boundaries narrowed. Sympathetic Poles tried to move Korczak to the “Aryan” side of Warsaw, but he refused to leave his children behind. When the Nazis came to place the children on the train bound for Treblinka, Korczak led them onto the train with his head held high. One eyewitness described the march, “it was a silent but organized protest against the murderers, a march like which no human eye had ever seen before.”

A monument to Janusz Korczak and his children is located within the Warsaw Jewish Cemetery.



## HAND-SELECTED ACCOMMODATIONS

*View of Old Town Gdańsk  
from the rooftop of the Hilton Gdańsk.*



## RADISSON BLU KRAKÓW

Within walking distance of Market Square and St. Mary's Basilica, the Radisson Blu Hotel, Kraków, welcomes you with stylish interiors and conveniences like 24-hour room service and free high-speed, wireless internet. The hotel offers two on-site restaurants, a bar, a fitness center with a sauna, and a beauty studio.



## HILTON GDAŃSK

Overlooking the Motława River in the picturesque Old Town of Gdańsk, the Hilton Gdańsk hotel offers guests the perfect base to visit and explore this popular Polish city. This Gdańsk hotel boasts stylish riverside dining at Mercato Restaurant and unique High 5 Terrace Bar, the highest bar in the Old Town, with contemporary urban beach and terrace with a pool area.





## HOTEL MIKOLAJKI

Inspired by its picturesque natural surroundings on Bird Island, rooms are designed with comfort and convenience in mind, and include air-conditioning, wireless internet, minibar, coffee maker, and spa-quality bathroom amenities. The spa facilities include a relaxation area and a signature Sauna World with incredible views of Mikolajskie Lake.

## HOTEL BRISTOL

This distinctive hotel is located just steps from the Presidential Palace, the Royal Castle, Old Town Square, Praga, and many other attractions in the capital. With art-deco inspired interiors, guests enjoy two onsite restaurants and bars, Bristol Spa and Fitness, and impeccable service.





# THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM

## EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL PROGRAM

CAMPAIGNS OF COURAGE  
CIVILIAN AND MILITARY THEATERS

### 5 Museum Quick Facts



**8 million+**  
visitors since the Museum  
opened on June 6, 2000



**\$2 billion+**  
in economic impact



**160,000+**  
active Museum members



**8,000+** travelers,  
representing every US state



**625,000+**  
social media followers

### TRAVEL WITH EXPERTS



**26** top historians  
with  
**174** published books and  
**47** documentary credits

TRAVEL TO  
**27**  
COUNTRIES



covering  
all theaters  
of World War II



**Tour Programs** operated  
on average per year, at  
times **accompanied by**  
**WWII veterans**

**VISIT** Overseas  
American Battle  
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**cemeteries &  
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**16**  
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**#1 ATTRACTION IN  
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## World War II in Poland: Holocaust, Resistance, and Rebirth Reservation Form

Reserve now! Three ways to secure your spot.

1 RESERVE ONLINE:  
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945 Magazine Street  
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☐ ~~\$6,899~~ **\$6,399\*** Double Occupancy ☐ ~~\$8,899~~ **\$8,399\*** Single Occupancy

\*\$229 per person taxes and fees are additional.

Bedding preference: ☐ Twin (2 beds) ☐ Queen

All passengers must travel with a passport valid at least 6 months beyond their return date.

Guest 1: Full Legal Name (as it appears on your passport)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate (if different from below): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name on Badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest 2: Full Legal Name (as it appears on your passport)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name on Badge: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT:** A deposit of \$1,000 per person (plus \$200 deposit per person for each Pre-Tour Extension, if applicable) is due with your reservation application. Final payment must be received no later than 90 (ninety) days prior to departure. Applicable taxes and fees will be added to the final invoice.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s). Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Deposits and FINAL payments may be made by personal check, American Express, MasterCard, Visa, and Discover.

☐ Accept my check made payable to The National WWII Museum.

Charge my: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Signature as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card#: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV/Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Making a deposit or acceptance or use of any vouchers, tickets, goods or services shall be deemed consent to and acceptance of the terms and conditions stated in the applicable Terms and Conditions agreement, including limitations on responsibility and liability.

**Terms and conditions.** By confirming the reservation with payment, the guest/travel agent acknowledges that they are aware of and will comply with our terms and conditions. We reserve the right to change our terms and conditions at any time, so scan the QR code for complete details, additional information, and updates.

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West Point

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# POLAND UNDER OCCUPATION:

## Genocide, Resistance, and Uprising

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Photo: *Wolfschanze*, Wolf's Lair, Poland. Courtesy of Szymon Mucha / Alamy Stock Photo.

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