

## Bicycle Tours in Slovakia: Cycling Krakow to Slovakia

### OVERVIEW

Bicycle between Krakow, Poland to Poprad, Slovakia. Part of our route follows the ancient "Amber Route" that connected the Baltic Sea with the Adriatic. This historic trade route is perfect for cyclists who love undiscovered regions and pedaling through beautiful landscapes.

Continue on through Hungary and end in Budapest with our [Cycling Krakow to Slovakia Plus! Budapest](#) tour which extends this itinerary by 5 days.

### HIGHLIGHTS

Krakow, Medieval Levoca and its wooden alter, Riding the hills of Central Slovakia, UNESCO World Heritage sites in Slovakia , Historic Poprad

### TOUR FACTS

<b>Tour Style</b>	📄 Classic: Learn more about our Classic tours at <a href="https://www.experienceplus.com/tours/bike-tour-styles/classic-tours">https://www.experienceplus.com/tours/bike-tour-styles/classic-tours</a>
<b>Includes</b>	8 days, 7 nights' accommodation; meals as noted in itinerary; and the usual (see below).
<b>Countries</b>	Poland, Slovakia
<b>Begin/End</b>	Krakow, Poland/ Poprad, Slovakia
<b>Arrive/Depart</b>	Krakow, Poland/ Poprad, Slovakia
<b>Total Distance</b>	400 km (249 miles)
<b>Avg. Daily Distance</b>	67 km (42 miles) per riding day
<b>Tour Level</b>	➤➤➤➤➤ Expect climbs in excess of 2,000 feet per day - days 2 and 5 will be over 3,000 feet.
<b>Keep in Mind</b>	We work hard to maintain consistency across all of our tours, but some trips have unique differences. Here are some things to keep in mind about this tour. It is rare to find air-conditioning at hotels in this part of the world.

**Please Note:** We may have small itinerary changes to this trip after you download this PDF document. If you have booked this trip and there are major changes, including changes to towns or activities, we'll email you directly. However, you should always be sure to refer to the 📄 [online itinerary](#) for the most up-to-date trip information including arrival and departure tips before you depart for your trip:

<https://www.experienceplus.com/guided-bike-tours/slovakia/bicycling-poland-to-slovakia>

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### DATES & PRICES

Dates	Price	Single Supplement*
📅 Jun 16-23, 2023	🏷️ USD\$3995	🏷️ USD\$550

\*We are happy to match solo travelers who would like to share a room with someone of the same gender. If no match exists, due to hotel pricing, we will charge 50% of the single supplement rate. This fee will be collected at the time of the final payment. If a roommate assignment is available this fee will be refunded at the conclusion of the tour.

### DAILY RIDE SUMMARY

Day	Distance/Gain	Terrain	Day Level	Notes
1	Test ride			
2	38km / 442m (24mi / 1450ft)	Rolling hills	▶▶▶▶▶	
3	79km / 1037m (49mi / 3401ft)	Hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
4	97km / 1164m (60mi / 3818ft)	Hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
5	76km / 1003m (48mi / 3290ft)	Mountainous	▶▶▶▶▶	
6	53km / 580m (33mi / 1902ft)	Hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
7	60km / 750m (38mi / 2460ft)	Hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
8				

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### ARRIVAL INFO

**Meeting time 2 p.m. - on Day 1, meet your fellow cyclists and Tour Leaders at the Day 1 Hotel specified on the itinerary.**

**Note:**

As you are planning, remember that the hotels listed in our itineraries are our primary hotels and are - in rare cases - subject to change. Before you make arrangements, **check with us** if your tour departure is guaranteed. If your tour departure is out further than 6 months, please also check with us as there might be slight changes to the itinerary.

The below information will help you plan your arrival. For more tips or other routes, you might like [Rome2Rio](#). The fare and timing information listed below is approximate.

**We recommend flying into the Krakow Airport (KRK):**

- \*Taxi from the airport to the Day 1 Hotel (30 min/PLN 70)

**\*Note:** We strongly recommend that you use the official airport taxi company, RADIO TAXI 9191, found at the airport taxi stand outside of the airport. If there are no cars at the stand, use the phone at the station to call them directly (they do speak English). You can also call +48 800 19 19 19 from a public phone, or from a mobile phone dial: +48 12 19191. Stick with the official taxi even if you are approached by a driver from another company. The fare estimate above should be the maximum, including tip (taxis use a meter).

### DEPARTURE INFO

We recommend flying out of the Krakow Airport (KRK)

**Your trip ends on the final day with a complimentary shuttle drop-off at Krakow Airport at 12:30 p.m.**

**Reservations are required. Please make your shuttle reservation by [emailing us](#) no later than 30 days prior to your tour start date.**

## Bicycle Tours in Slovakia: Cycling Krakow to Slovakia

### Tour begins in Krakow

**Highlights** Medieval Krakow, Krakow market square, Royal Wawel Castle, Vistula River

Krakow is one of Europe's most beautiful cities and has been on UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites since 1978. It was spared from devastation during World War II and retains a multitude of architectural and urban planning examples from the 12th century. The city is dominated by the Royal Wawel Castle sitting on a rise above the Vistula River. Below the castle lies the Medieval city, home to one of the largest market squares in Europe. You'll want to spend at least one extra day, if not two, in Krakow before our tour begins. We fit bicycles this afternoon and will enjoy an inaugural dinner together this evening.

### Krakow Loop

**Highlights** Wieliczka, Salt Mines

An invigorating loop out of Krakow takes us to the historic town of Wieliczka this morning. Wieliczka is famous for its salt mine, which operated continuously from the 13th century until 2007. Almost 300 kilometers of passageways spread under the town, and the mine boasts an underground lake, and four chapels carved from the salt by the miners. We'll return to Krakow this afternoon to see more of this stunning city.

### Bicycle from Krakow to Mszana Dolna

**Highlights** Open air skansen (museum village) in Dobczyce

We bicycle southeast out of Krakow passing through Dobczyce. This town shares a reservoir of the same name that boasts the remains of a 13th century castle and an open air village of 18th and 19th century traditional architecture. Stop for coffee and lunch supplies before continuing on to Mszana Dolna where we spend the night.

### DAY 1

**Meals** Dinner

**Lodging**  Hotel Wielopole

### DAY 2

**Distance** 38 km (24 mi)

**Gain** 442 m (1450 ft)

**Terrain** Rolling hills

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast

**Lodging**  Hotel Wielopole

### DAY 3

**Distance** 79 km (49 mi)

**Gain** 1037 m (3401 ft)

**Terrain** Hilly

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

**Lodging**  Folwark Stara Winiarnia

## Bicycle Tours in Slovakia: Cycling Krakow to Slovakia

### Mszana Dolna to Cervený Kláštor

**Highlights** Rolling hills, Pieniny National Park Poland & Slovakia

Today's ride takes us to the border between Poland and Slovakia and into the heart of the Pieniny National Park. The Pieniny Mountains are one of many small mountain ranges that make up the larger Carpathian Mountain chain and we will pass right through them as we enter Slovakia on a bike and pedestrian-only path along a scenic gorge. This is a rare opportunity and one of the only no-car border crossings we encounter. Our hotel tonight sits along the banks of the Dunajec River.

### DAY 4

**Distance** 97 km (60 mi)  
**Gain** 1164 m (3818 ft)  
**Terrain** Hilly  
**Level** >>>>>  
**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner  
**Lodging** 🏠 Kupele Cervený Kláštor

### Cervený Kláštor to Levoca

**Highlights** Levoca

Today's ride heads to the heart of the Spis region, a territory rich in northern Slovakian history. Once known for its wealthy traders, craftsmen, and miners, it's no wonder that two of Slovakia's five UNESCO World Heritage sites are located here. We'll continue pedaling through valleys of narrow fields, where grass is still hand-cut by scythes and carried in horse-drawn wagons. We'll have two nights in the ancient town of Levoca, once an important town for commerce. Today, Levoca is probably best known as the home of the medieval sculptor Master Paul of Levoca. Be on your best behavior today so as to not end up in the 17th century "Cage of Shame" in front of the town hall.

### DAY 5

**Distance** 76 km (48 mi)  
**Gain** 1003 m (3290 ft)  
**Terrain** Mountainous  
**Level** >>>>>  
**Meals** Breakfast  
**Lodging** 🏠 Hotel U Leva

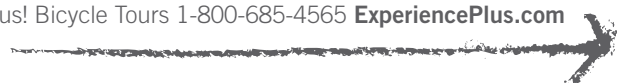
### Bicycle Levoca Loop

**Highlights** UNESCO Castle in Spis, Historic square of Spisska Nova Ves

Our ride today takes us to Spisska Hrad (UNESCO), the largest castle in Slovakia. With the silhouette of the Spis castle behind us, we ride by the French Chateau Markušovce towards Spisska Nova Ves. Enjoy its historic and stunning square and an amazing view of the town from the highest church tower in Slovakia (87 m). All of these sights along the Poprad River valley are recognized world heritage UNESCO sites.

### DAY 6

**Distance** 53 km (33 mi)  
**Gain** 580 m (1902 ft)  
**Terrain** Hilly  
**Level** >>>>>  
**Meals** Breakfast  
**Lodging** 🏠 Hotel U Leva



## Bicycle Tours in Slovakia: Cycling Krakow to Slovakia

### Levoca - Poprad

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**Highlights** Poprad, Slovak Paradise National Park

As you ride today you'll have the forests that make up part of the Slovak Paradise national park on one side and the High Tatra mountains on the other side. You'll also ride by the beautiful gothic chapel of Spissky Stvrtok, a church built by Master Hans Puchsbaum, the same architect to build St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna.

### DAY 7

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**Distance** 60 km (38 mi)

**Gain** 750 m (2460 ft)

**Terrain** Hilly

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast

**Lodging**  Restart House

### Tour ends today in Poprad, Slovakia.

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**Highlights** Extraordinary views of the High Tatra Mountains

Our trip ends after breakfast today; take time to explore this extraordinary city.

### DAY 8

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**Meals** Breakfast

**INCLUDED****BEFORE YOU LEAVE**

- Tour planning tips on what to bring, what to leave home, and what you might like to read before your trip.
- Bicycle Tour Training program designed specifically for your tour rating by renowned cycling coach, Joe Friel.
- Assistance with flights, trains and booking extra nights at your starting and ending tour hotels.
- A complimentary gift of your choice

**ON YOUR BICYCLE TOUR**

- Superb tour leaders who are great fun and also bilingual, bicultural experts, and avid cyclists. They're experienced to help you navigate confidently on and off the road.
- Comfortable lodging in 3-4 star hotels located in or near the town square with easy access to your favorite café (bar, gelato, espresso) of the day, always with a private bath.
- All breakfasts & at least half of your dinners each featuring multi-courses, fresh, seasonal specialties and wine or beer. See specific tour information for details.
- On many tours we also have 1 or 2 lunches—see specific tour itineraries for details.
- Use of a high quality bike—a Titanium road bike, hybrid, or an aluminum tandem in Continental Europe. For tours in South America, Scotland and Ireland we have aluminum frames. All of our bikes are geared specifically to cruise the flats and help ease you over the mountain.
- Our bikes come with a computer so you can track your miles. They also have an expandable rear rack pack to carry your stuff, and a water bottle that's yours to keep.
- Full van support to carry luggage - and tired cyclists, too!

- Special events like wine tastings and cultural visits as described in the trip itinerary.
- All tips and gratuities at tour hotels and group meals.
- Unique routes, marked with our signature chalk dust arrows that ensure you won't get lost. They also give you the freedom to travel at your own pace.
- Daily mileage options—for those folks who just can't get enough cycling, we'll suggest optional routes off our marked course.
- Detailed route map, and arrows that will lead you to hidden wonders on your bicycle ride.
- All the fun (and more) that you expect from your vacation.

**WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

- Transportation to and from the bicycling tour including airfare, or train travel
- Helmets - we ask that you bring your own to ensure the best fit
- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- Tour Leader gratuity

**AFTER YOUR BICYCLE TOUR**

- Deeply discounted tours with our "Re-Cycle Program." Your fifth tour with us will be discounted by 50% of the average price of your previous four tours; your tenth tour will be discounted by 100% of the average price of your previous nine tours!

 LEVEL RATINGS

Our itinerary descriptions provide daily mileage to help you determine if a bicycle tour is suited to your physical capabilities and interest. You'll also find a note about the trip's terrain on the "Tour Facts" page of each tour. The purpose of this page is to offer a general explanation of our rating categories.

**BIKE TOURS 101**

Perfect for people looking for mostly flat terrain, or those newer to cycling. Also great for families traveling with younger children (8—14).

- **Average daily mileage:** 50—57km (30 to 35 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** 101 tours offer flat to gently rolling terrain. You'll find specific information on the "Tour Facts" page of each itinerary where you see the tour rating.

**BIKE TOURS 201**

For riders who prefer a combination of flat and rolling terrain with moderate climbs on one or two days. An excellent compromise for friends who have diverse riding abilities.

- **Average daily mileage:** 50—57km (30 to 35 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** 201 tours feature mostly flat and rolling terrain with moderate climbs on one or two days where you might gain up to 2,000 feet. Some 201 tours may have some longer mileage days of up to 85 kms (50 miles) over fairly flat terrain. While others may have days of 30 - 45 kms (18—25 miles) with steeper climbs. You'll find specific information on the "Tour Facts" page of each itinerary where you see the tour rating.

**BIKE TOURS 301**

For riders who enjoy some climbing every day. These tours are best suited to intermediate level recreational riders. Fit beginners will likely do well but may want to shuttle on days with steeper climbs.

- **Average daily mileage:** 50 to 75 km (35—45 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** For 301 tours expect cumulative daily climbs of 1,500—2,000 feet and several days of climbing in excess of 3,000 feet. You might encounter some longer mileage 80—90 km (50-60 miles) days with rolling terrain. You'll find specific information on the "Tour Facts" page of each itinerary where you see the tour rating.

**BIKE TOURS 401**

For cyclists who love to climb (and descend)! If you haven't trained or are an inexperienced rider you will find these trips very challenging and will very likely need to shuttle regularly.

- **Average daily mileage:** 50 to 75 km (35—45 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** 401 tours are challenging. Expect the possibility of longer mileage days of 80 - 120 kms (50 to 70 miles) with rolling terrain, or some sustained hills for considerable distances - think mountain passes, or steeper (+5%) climbs that come with regularity and could be as long as 10 km (6+ miles). You will have gains of 1000 meters (3000 feet) on a third of the days. You'll find specific information on the "Tour Facts" page of each itinerary where you see the tour rating.

**BIKE TOURS 501**

Our ExpeditionPlus! tours designed for strong riders looking for the challenge of riding across countries or continents. Long daily mileages means limited van support so we recommended these tours for riders who feel confident that they can ride every mile.

- **Average daily mileage:** 120 km (75 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Expect and be prepared for any and everything.

**REMEMBER**

It is almost always possible to adapt the day's ride to how you are feeling either by taking advantage of the support van, or asking tour leaders for additional mileage.

**Need More Miles?** On just about every day of every tour it is possible to add miles to the day. Just talk to your tour leader about the options.

**Need Fewer Miles?** If you aren't sure about your abilities or how much you want to ride remember the support van is available to offer snacks, encouragement, a lift over the next hill, or to the next hotel. You are on vacation and we're here to help make it perfect for you.

**Chalk Dust Arrows.** Remember, no matter what level of tour you choose ExperiencePlus! uses chalk dust arrows to mark our routes so riders can take the day at their own pace! Whether you prefer to stop at every gelateria, take a hundred photos a day, or push to achieve a new personal best you'll be happy on our tours.



**WHAT TO EXPECT****BICYCLES**

Your bike comes with a pack for the rear rack, lock, cyclometer (bicycle computer), a spare tube and patch kit and pump. If you would like to bring your own pedals and shoes we recommend doing so—your tour leaders will install them during the bike fitting. We have flat pedals with or without cages and straps available. For safety and hygiene reasons you are responsible for bringing a helmet.

**Daily Routine (Procedures and Logistics)****DAYSHEETS**

Each day you'll receive a daysheet with information on the day's activities, meals and ride. These also include Tour Leader phone numbers, hotel information and interesting historical and cultural information about sites that you may want to stop and see along the route. Your Tour Leaders will also post daily announcements in the hotel lobby with information about sightseeing in town or restaurant recommendations for dinners on your own as well as important information about breakfast, luggage down and "arrows down" time.

**NAVIGATING ON TOUR**

At breakfast each day we will make the "Master Route Map" available so you can highlight your map for the day's ride. Of course, we also mark the route every day with our signature chalk dust arrows. Our arrows make navigating very easy—you may never need to look at the map! The arrows also allow you to ride at your own pace. There is no need to "keep up" with the group—this is your ride!

But what if it rains? What happens to the arrows? In a light rain, the arrows actually "set up" and become more permanent. In a heavy rain, they do wash away. If that happens, we'll re-group to cycle together for those who want to continue cycling while those who prefer to stay dry can shuttle.

**VAN SUPPORT**

The van carries luggage and supports cyclists. It also has water, fruit and snacks. Though the van has snacks, we encourage you to stop and enjoy markets and find your own favorite local specialty.

**HOTELS**

We have carefully chosen all of our accommodations for their charm and location. They are typically small, family run hotels that offer you a glimpse into the local culture.

We prefer hotels near interesting sites in the center of town located along the best cycling route in the area. Because many of the hotels are small not all of the rooms will be

exactly the same. We keep this in mind and do our best to distribute rooms fairly by the end of the tour. Our itinerary lists our primary hotels. On rare occasions, listed hotels are subject to change.

**MEALS AND RESTAURANTS**

Breakfasts: we work hard to arrange complete breakfasts but some hotels still serve continental style breakfasts; cycling is energy intensive so we do recommend you plan for a morning or mid-morning snack on the road at a local café or market.

Water is OK in almost all hotels and in country fountains; if there is a problem, we will advise you.

We'll recommend lunch locations en route and most itineraries include a few group picnics. We limit the number of picnics so you don't feel pressured to be at a certain place in the middle of your ride.

Dinners together are often pre-planned and pre-ordered. We'll ask you if you have special dietary requirements. Pre-planned meals allow us to provide a variety of regional specialties and facilitate efficient service. Water, wine and beer are included.

**TIPPING YOUR TOUR LEADER TEAM**

If you feel your tour leader team has demonstrated great expertise and service, common practice within the travel industry is to tip. Tipping is voluntary and greatly appreciated, and gratuity amounts vary widely. Should you decide to leave a tip, as a guideline, we suggest 5% of the tour cost per traveler – this for the entire tour leader team, not each Tour Leader. If you'd like to show your gratitude for your Tour Leaders' excellent service you can give the tip to any member of the tour leader team, as they share it evenly. In order to avoid social tensions, we encourage you to tip as individuals and not as a group. If you feel your Tour Leaders did not quite meet your expectations, then we would like to know about it. You will also have the opportunity to leave your comments in our evaluation survey which we email to you after your trip.

**PHOTOS**

We'll be taking photos throughout the tour and we encourage you to do the same. Please note that we may use these for promotional purposes. Please inform us if you prefer images of you not be used. We realize that many of our travelers are great photographers and often people want to share photos after the trip. We'd love to see and share your photos from the tour with the world so if you don't mind the possibility of being famous (at least in the ExperiencePlus! world) send us a link to your tour photo gallery, or upload your favorite 20 - 30 pictures to your tour departure gallery - we'll send you the link to that online photo gallery in your final email!

## CHECKLIST

### TO DO TODAY!

Read through your Reservation Confirmation Email, it has important information to help you plan your trip!

- Check the date on your passport. The expiration date should extend three months past your date of return to your home country
- Complete the Customer Information Form online at [www.experienceplus.com/travelinfo/tourcif](http://www.experienceplus.com/travelinfo/tourcif)
- Apply for trip cancellation/interruption insurance within 21 days of booking your tour. Find details at <http://www.experienceplus.com/assets/files/packingbicycle.pdf>
- Download the bicycle training program found on the Training Program Blog Page at [www.experienceplus.com/training](http://www.experienceplus.com/training)

### 3—6 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

- Reserve your flights after you know you have a confirmed tour departure. Please check with our office if you do not know if your trip is confirmed. As you make your plans refer to the Getting To and Away sent to you in your booking confirmation email it provides meeting times and the starting and ending hotels and shuttle information when applicable.
- Book your pre and post-tour hotel nights. Please refer to the Getting To and Away sheet you received in your Reservation Confirmation Email.
- 12 weeks before your tour begin your training program [www.experienceplus.com/training](http://www.experienceplus.com/training).
- Final payment is due 90 days prior to the tour start. Please refer to your Deposit Payment Invoice and the Final Payment Reminder e-mail you have received for detailed instructions.

### 6 WEEKS—2 WEEKS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

- Start reading one of the books or watching one of the movies from our Suggested Reading and Movie List which you'll find on the country page linked from the [www.experienceplus.com/travelinfo](http://www.experienceplus.com/travelinfo) page.
- Plan what you are going to pack and start packing! Refer to the Packing List on our website at [www.experienceplus.com/assets/files/packingbicycle.pdf](http://www.experienceplus.com/assets/files/packingbicycle.pdf).
- We'll email your Hotel Itinerary information 30 days prior to departure.

### DAY OF YOUR FLIGHT

Get as much sleep on the plane as you can. Pack your Getting To and Away information and one day of cycling gear in your carry-on. See you soon!