

CALIENTE COMMUNITY CHORUS

The Baltics Choral Festival

Festival Tour #3 (8 nights/10 days)

Day 1 Tuesday, July 6, 2027

Depart from Albuquerque International Sunport via scheduled air service to Vilnius, Lithuania

Day 2 Wednesday July 7 Vilnius (D)

Arrive in Vilnius

Meet your full-time local MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to your awaiting chartered motorcoach

Arrival time permitting, enjoy a short orientation tour of Vilnius

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Welcome Dinner included, and overnight

Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, is situated at the confluence of the Neris and Vilnia Rivers, set among rolling hills and surrounded by pine forests. The city boasts a wealth of architectural monuments, and the life and work of many revolutionaries, writers, scientists, and artists are linked with Vilnius. Vilnius played a vital role in Lithuania's peaceful struggle for independence during the Singing Revolution, when voices and song became powerful symbols of national unity and freedom

Day 3 Thursday, July 8 Vilnius (B,L)

Full buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning Rehearsal

Festival Welcome Lunch, included

Afternoon city tour including Cathedral Square, the Miracle Tile, Presidential Palace Square, Vilnius University, Vingis Park Song Festival Grounds (the location of several major rallies and demonstrations during the Lithuanian independence movement), the gothic corner with the churches of St. Anne and St. Bernardine, the old Jewish ghetto, Town Hall Square, the Gates of Dawn, and Pilies Street, the main pedestrian thoroughfare lined with shops, cafes, and historic buildings

Enjoy some late afternoon time at leisure with dinner, on own

Evening Rehearsal

Overnight in Vilnius

Day 4 Friday, July 9 Vilnius (B,D)

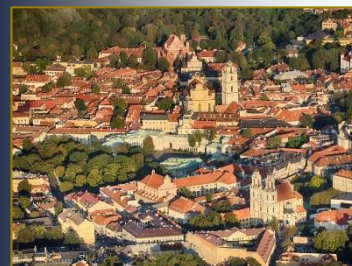
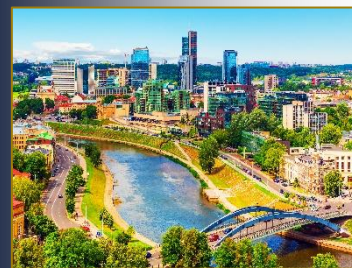
Full buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning Rehearsal

Lunch, on own

Enjoy your afternoon free at leisure in Vilnius, or choose one of the following afternoon activities (no additional cost – entire group chooses one)

Afternoon Option 1: Excursion to Kaunas, the second largest town of Lithuania. Enjoy a city tour upon arrival that includes: the Old Town of Kaunas with its St George's Church, Kaunas Castle, the courtyard of the Theological seminary, the Town Hall Square surrounded by former 16th - 18th century merchants' houses and baroque churches, the Church of Vytautas dating back to the 14th century and the Perkunas (Thunder) House



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Afternoon Option 2: Tour the Rumsiskes Open-Air Ethnographic Museum, an expansive cultural park that vividly illustrates the traditional rural life, architecture, and customs of Lithuania's four historical regions from the 18th to 20th centuries. Visitors can explore authentic farmsteads, wooden churches, windmills, and workshops that bring centuries of village life to life

Afternoon Option 3: Afternoon visit to the KGB Museum (Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights). Visitors are offered a powerful and haunting insight into Lithuania's turbulent 20th-century history. Housed in the former KGB headquarters, this museum provides a sobering look into the Soviet regime's repression of Lithuania. Visitors can explore prison cells, interrogation rooms, and execution chambers, learning about the harrowing experiences of political prisoners, resistance fighters, and victims of Soviet oppression. Also visit the Vilnius TV tower, the tallest building in the country, where visitors get to enjoy stunning views of Vilnius and its surroundings from the 67th floor bistro-bar. This sky-reaching structure has also become a symbol of the nation's freedom fighters
Dinner included, and overnight

Day 5 Saturday, July 10 Trakai / Vilnius (B,L,D)

Full buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning guided excursion to Trakai, the former capital of the Grand Duke of Lithuania, surrounded by three lakes, known as the biggest Karaites minority town. Visit and tour the 15th-century insular castle

Lunch, included

Afternoon return to Vilnius

Afternoon Dress Rehearsal in St. John's Church

Baltics Choral Festival Finale Concert in St. John's Church

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 6 Sunday, July 11 Grutas Park / Warsaw (B,L,D)

Full buffet breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Warsaw, via a visit to the Grutas National Park

Explore and tour Grutas National Park, a unique open-air museum featuring a vast collection of Soviet-era statues and monuments, thoughtfully arranged throughout a picturesque park landscape. Visitors can wander among these historical relics, reflecting on Lithuania's past under Soviet rule while enjoying the natural surroundings

Lunch, included

Continue to Warsaw with evening arrival

Dinner included, and overnight

Warsaw, the capital of Poland, was 75% destroyed by Hitler's armies in 1944 and later rebuilt in the "functional" communist styles of the 1950s and 60s. The reconstructed areas — including the historic Old Town, painstakingly rebuilt brick by brick; the Royal Castle; and the Ujazdowski Palace — stand as moving tributes to the Poles' resilience, courage, and determination to preserve their history and traditions. Over the decades, Warsaw has also become a symbol of Poland's enduring spirit of freedom, from resistance during wartime to the peaceful movements that ultimately restored democracy. Today, it is a rapidly evolving, modern, cosmopolitan European capital

Day 7 Monday, July 12 Warsaw (B)

Full buffet breakfast at the hotel



Morning guided sightseeing tour of Warsaw. Explore the city's rich history as you see St. Ann's Church, St. John's Cathedral, and the Royal Palace. Stroll through the beautiful Łazienki Palace & Park, learn about the Jewish Ghetto, and admire Old Town Square. See the Holy Cross Church, where Chopin's heart is preserved in an urn, and pay tribute at the Monument to the Heroes of the 1944 Ghetto Uprising

Lunch, on own

Enjoy your afternoon at leisure with dinner, on own

Overnight in Warsaw

Day 8 Tuesday, July 13 Auschwitz / Krakow (B,L)

Full buffet breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Morning transfer to Krakow via Auschwitz

Lunch, included

Visit Auschwitz and tour the Nazi camp and Memorial. The death camp at Oświęcim was the largest Nazi extermination site, where approximately four million people, mostly Jews, perished. Auschwitz comprised several units, including the vast Brzezinka (Birkenau) camp. Of the millions imprisoned there between 1940 and 1944, only 60,000–70,000 severely emaciated survivors remained at the time of liberation. Today, the site is preserved as the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, honoring the memory of its victims

Continue to Krakow for late afternoon or evening hotel check-in with the remainder of your day at leisure

Dinner on own, and overnight

***Krakow (Cracow)**, seat of Poland's oldest university and former capital before Warsaw assumed that role in 1611, is one of the few Polish cities to escape major destruction during World War II. Its fine towers, facades, and churches—spanning seven centuries of architecture—stand as enduring symbols of Polish culture, history, and resilience. Listed by UNESCO in 1978 as one of the 12 great historic cities of the world, Krakow has long been a center of learning, art, and civic spirit, and its streets and squares continue to echo the nation's enduring quest for freedom and self-expression*

Day 9 Wednesday, July 14 Wieliczka Salt Mines / Krakow (B,D)

Full buffet breakfast at the hotel

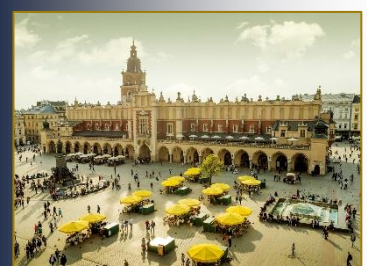
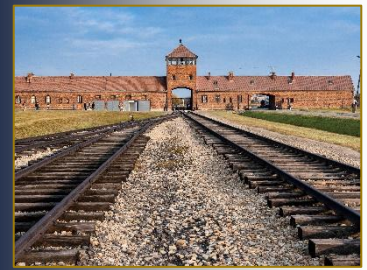
Enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of this ancient capital of Poland. Krakow is a royal city on the Vistula River. The origins of the city date back to the 7th century. Krakow was the official capital of Poland until 1596, and has traditionally been one of the leading centers of Polish academic, economic, cultural, and artistic life. Visit (entrance included) the Royal Castle. Next, visit the Cathedral of Saints Stanislaw and Waclaw also called the Cathedral on the Wawel Hill, which was remodeled according to the new Renaissance taste in the beginning of the 16th century

Lunch, on own

Excursion to Wieliczka to see the underground world of the oldest Salt Mine in Europe. Admire the gorgeous underground world of salt lakes, galleries and chapels created by many generations of Polish miners. See up to 20 excavated chambers on 3 levels, full of beautiful statues carved from salt as well as the Salt Works Museum. *Sing a short recital performance in the salt-carved **St. Kinga's Chapel***, located 330 feet underground.

Return to Krakow for the remainder of your afternoon at leisure

Farewell Dinner included, and overnight



Day 10 Thursday, July 15 Depart for home (B)

Full buffet breakfast at the hotel (or to-go breakfast, flight time permitting), followed by check-out
Transfer to the Krakow Airport for return flight home

***This is a very flexible itinerary.** Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.*

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