2028 DEPARTURE DATE ADDED DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

CASTLES & CULTURE IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

A unique escorted tour discovering
the castles & landscapes of Slovakia & Poland

10th to 20th September 2027 & 5th to 15th May 2028



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Spis Castle

Join us to discover the many unsung wonders of Slovakia and Poland, two Central European countries that offer a wonderfully diverse geography of stunning mountain scenery, sparkling emerald-green lakes, enchanting Medieval towns, centuries-old palaces, remarkable castles and magnificent cathedrals. We have been designing worldwide, bespoke escorted tours for thirty-five years but to date have neglected the marvels of Slovakia and Poland which are certainly deserving of their own itinerary, so we are delighted to present this brand-new tour which will appeal to those who enjoy our style of in-depth touring.



Situated at the crossroads of East and West, and shaped by centuries of varied influences, Slovakia boasts a wealth of fortified historic buildings, each reflecting the architectural style of its era. During our tour we will visit some of the finest examples, including the 13th century Cerveny Kamen Castle, the 18th century Galicia Nueva Castle Hotel, where we will enjoy an overnight stay, and the imposing Spis Castle, one of the largest castle complexes in Europe. We will also explore the charming Slovakian capital of Bratislava on the Danube River and the Polish city of Krakow with its beautifully preserved Medieval Old Town. Away from the towns and cities, there are numerous natural wonders to enjoy during our tour including Slovakia's Carpathian Mountains, where we will visit a vineyard for a tasting, the dramatic High Tatras, which form a natural border between Slovakia and Poland and offer spectacular peaks, forested valleys and alpine lakes and finally the picturesque Pieniny National Park, where we hope to enjoy a traditional raft ride along the Dunajec River.

Our unique itinerary has been designed for the genuine traveller and, in addition to the guided tours, there will be some time at leisure allowing you the freedom to explore independently. Travelling overland allows us to fully absorb the ever-changing landscapes, and over the course of ten nights we will stay in comfortable accommodation including the wonderful Grand Hotel Kempinski High Tatras, sample delicious regional cuisine and enjoy a range of authentic experiences.



Lake Strbske Pleso



Wawel Castle, Krakow



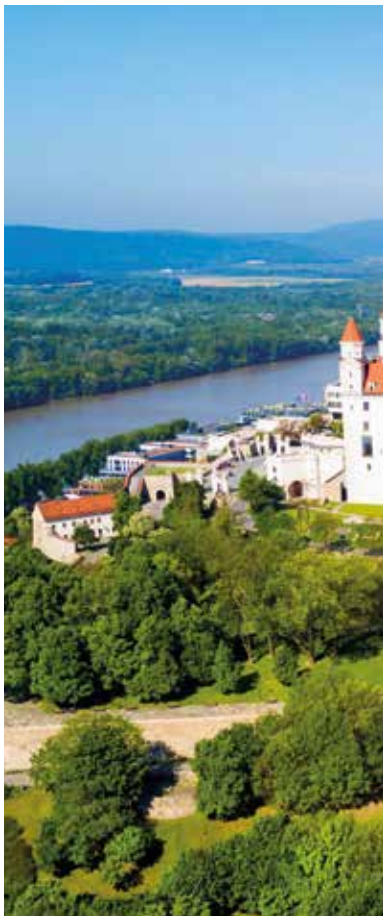
Levoca



Kazimierz



Pieniny



Bratislava

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Bratislava, Slovakia. Fly by scheduled flight to Vienna. On arrival we will transfer to our hotel in Bratislava for a three night stay. Settle in before joining the group this evening for a welcome dinner at the hotel. **(D)**

Day 2 Bratislava. Bratislava is one of the youngest capitals in Europe and during the time it was called Pressburg or Pozsony it was one of the most important cities in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Its location on the banks of the River Danube and at the crossroads of ancient trading routes, right at the heart of Europe, predestined it to become a meeting point of various cultures. The reign of Maria Theresa is regarded as a golden era in the city's history. During our guided city tour we will visit 13th century Bratislava Castle which sits on a hill 80 metres above the Danube. Here we can see the Historical Museum before strolling through the elegant Baroque gardens. We also visit St Martin's Cathedral which was built in the 13th century and served as the coronation church of Hungarian royalty. After our tour we have some free time before meeting for dinner this evening. **(B, D)**

Day 3 Cerveny Kamen Castle & Small Carpathian Wine Region. This morning we drive to the Cerveny Kamen Castle located in the Small Carpathian Mountains to the north of Bratislava. Originally built in the 13th century as part of a chain of defensive castles across the Kingdom of Hungary, Cerveny Kamen evolved under the noble Fugger and Palffy families. Today is one of the best preserved castles in Slovakia, surrounded by a beautiful park. After visiting the museum and viewing some of the historic rooms and furnishings, we continue to the nearby village of Dolna Krupa, renowned for its mead and honey production and home to Slovakia's largest rosarium, with more than 2,500 roses. After exploring the gardens, we will have lunch and sample some of the award winning mead and honey which is produced on site. Continue to Trnava which has the nickname of "Little Rome" due its role as a religious and cultural centre. It also has a rich history, Medieval city walls and is reputed to have the most churches in Slovakia some of which we see of our walking tour. As we return to Bratislava, we will stop at one of the vineyards of the Small Carpathian wine region which has a heritage dating back over two thousand years. Learn about the soils and growing conditions that produce such characterful wines before enjoying a tasting, followed by dinner. **(B, L, D)**

Day 4 Banska Stiavnica & Galicia Nueva. After checking out of our hotel we will drive to Banska Stiavnica. Located in central Slovakia, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of the country's most enchanting towns. Once a prosperous mining centre in the Middle Ages, it is today a quiet, atmospheric retreat filled with historic landmarks and stunning scenery. After exploring the cobbled streets and viewing the blend of Medieval and Renaissance architecture mixing with a thriving art scene of galleries and workshops we have some free time for an independent lunch. In the early afternoon we continue to the Galicia Nueva Castle Hotel, an historic property which dates from the 18th century. After checking in, enjoy some free time to relax, make use of the hotel's facilities, or wander through the landscaped gardens. Later, we will be welcomed on a private tour of the castle before gathering for dinner in the hotel's restaurant. **(B, D)**

Day 5 Salas & High Tatras. This morning we learn about Slovakia's long tradition of farming and sheep breeding with a visit to a salas, a traditional mountain farm. These working farms continue to use age-old methods and are renowned for their authentic Slovak specialities made from sheep's milk and cheese. After exploring the farmstead, we enjoy a lunch featuring locally sourced delicacies. In the afternoon we head to the High Tatras Mountains and check into the Kempinski Hotel located on Lake Strbske Pleso. There will be time to settle into our rooms or perhaps take a short stroll to the lake, where, on a calm day, the mirror-like surface reflects the surrounding peaks with remarkable clarity. Later we will meet for dinner in the hotel. **(B, L, D)**

Day 6 High Tatras. Today is free to simply relax and enjoy the views from the hotel or alternatively there will be an opportunity to take the funicular to the summit of Hrebienok for a hike to the Cold Creek Waterfalls or perhaps take the three kilometre nature trail around Lake Strbske. Tonight, we meet for dinner at the hotel. **(B, D)**

Day 7 Levoca & Spis Castle. After breakfast in the hotel we drive to the beautiful Medieval town of Levoca. Once a flourishing centre of trade, craftsmanship, and learning, Levoca remains remarkably untouched—its walled old town a masterpiece of Medieval urban design. Behind its fortifications lie elegant Renaissance merchant houses, the magnificent Town Hall and the 14th century Basilica of St James, home to one of Europe's greatest wooden Gothic altarpieces which soars over 18 metres high. After lunch we continue to nearby Spis Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the largest castle complexes in Europe covering over four hectares. Building commenced in the 12th century and was continually expanded in a variety of styles including Gothic, Romanesque and Renaissance. Over the years the castle has served as





Rosarium, Dolna Krupa



Vineyard, Small Carpathians



Trnava



High Tatras

a royal stronghold, noble seat, and frontier outpost before becoming a living museum. After our visit we return to our hotel and have the chance to dine independently this evening. **(B, L)**

Day 8 Pieniny & Krakow, Poland. Checking out after breakfast, we continue north to Pieniny National Park. Covering ten square miles, the park is situated within the Pieniny mountain range, a picturesque and rugged landscape characterised by steep limestone cliffs and lush forests, where the Dunajec River carves a dramatic path as it creates a natural border between Slovakia and Poland. Weather permitting, we will board wooden rafts to enjoy the stunning scenery from the water, with our raftsmen providing commentary. After lunch we make our way to Krakow, arriving in the late afternoon. There will be some free time to relax in the hotel or explore independently before we meet for dinner this evening in the city. **(B, L, D)**

Day 9 Krakow. Krakow is one of Europe's best-preserved Medieval cities and a cultural jewel of Poland. A morning tour of the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, offers a blend of history and architecture as we explore the cobbled streets. During the walk we will see the main market square, surrounded by townhouses and churches, St Mary's Basilica, and the Cloth Hall. Once a centre of international trade, this elegant 16th century market building now hosts local artisans. Lunch will be served in a central restaurant and the remainder of the afternoon and evening is free to explore the city independently. **(B, L)**

Day 10 Krakow. Today we discover Krakow's historic heart, Wawel Hill, which was the seat of Polish royalty for over five centuries. We will also visit Wawel Cathedral, an impressive Gothic structure and a spiritual and national symbol where monarchs were crowned and entombed. Also see Wawel Royal Castle, once the residence of kings, with its Renaissance courtyard and stately interiors which offer a glimpse into Poland's golden age. From the castle walls, take in the panoramic views of the Vistula River and the city skyline. There will be free time for an independent lunch before we spend the afternoon in Kazimierz, a historic district of Krakow. From its inception in the 14th century to the early 19th century, Kazimierz was an independent royal city of the Crown of the Polish Kingdom, located south of the Old Town of Krakow, separated from it by a branch of the Vistula River. For many centuries, Kazimierz was a place where ethnic Polish and Jewish cultures coexisted and intermingled. The north-eastern part of the district was historically Jewish. In 1941, the Jews of Krakow were forcibly relocated by the German occupying forces into the Krakow ghetto just across the river in Podgorze, and most did not survive the war. Today, Kazimierz is an important centre of cultural life in the city. After our tour we enjoy dinner accompanied by music. **(B, D)**

Day 11 Krakow to London. Transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight to London. **(B)**



Banska Stiavnica

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

	Sep 2027	May 2028
Twin	**£4995**	**£5295**
Single	**£5995**	**£6295**

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Three nights hotel accommodation in Bratislava, High Tatras & Krakow • Overnight hotel accommodation in Galicia Nueva • Meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner) • Wine, beer and soft drinks with each included lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Excursions as described with local guides • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

For our escorted tour of Slovakia and Poland we have selected some of the finest accommodation available and will be staying at the following properties:



Hotel Exterior

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Bratislava

Situated in the heart of Bratislava, opposite the Presidential Palace and just a short walk to the Old Town, the Crowne Plaza has been recently fully renovated and offers modern and elegant accommodation. The hotel features 224 rooms and suites, each equipped with amenities such as complimentary Wi-Fi, in-room safe, LED television and individual climate control. The Standard Rooms provide ample space and a choice of either double or twin beds. The hotel has two on-site restaurants - Fresh!, serving an extensive breakfast selection of hot and cold dishes, fresh pastries and coffee and Plaza Bar offering à la carte dining for lunch and dinner. In addition, the Summer Terrace is a relaxing spot for an al-fresco cocktail. The hotel also benefits from an on-site fitness centre.



Crown Plaza Restaurant



Standard Twin Room



The Hotel

Galicia Nueva Castle Hotel

After ten years of extensive reconstruction, the national cultural monument of Halic, a Renaissance-Baroque castle, reopened its gates in 2016. Set in the village of Halic, the 49-room Galicia Nueva Castle Hotel offers a tranquil retreat within a beautifully restored historic residence, where guests can relax and enjoy the romantic atmosphere of a bygone era. The Standard Rooms are furnished in a style that evokes the castle's heritage and provide comfortable accommodation, each equipped with a television and a well-appointed bathroom featuring either a shower or bathtub, along with bathrobes and slippers for added comfort. Begin the day with a generous breakfast buffet, unwind by the fireplace in the inviting hotel lobby, or indulge in rejuvenating treatments in the sauna and steam room. Additional facilities include an indoor pool, bar and lounge, 24-hour fitness centre, and bicycle rental for those wishing to explore the surrounding countryside.



Standard Room



Lobby



Lounge



Bar



Wellness Spa



The Hotel

Grand Hotel Kempinski High Tatras

On the shores of Lake Strbske Pleso stands the fairy-tale Grand Hotel Kempinski High Tatras, set amid the magnificent Tatras Mountains which straddle the Slovakian-Polish border. The turreted main building, originally constructed in 1903, has been gloriously renovated and expanded, with an annex in which many of the guest rooms are now located. Its 98 rooms and suites offer refined comfort, many overlooking the surrounding peaks and featuring oak floors, generous built-in wardrobes, and warm, welcoming colour palettes. Guests may unwind in the Lobby Bar, enjoy a board game in the Players' Lounge, or find a quiet corner in the library, while the lakeside terrace provides a delightful setting for a morning coffee in fine weather. The striking Grand Restaurant, centred around a vast stone fireplace and crowned with a lofty timber ceiling adorned with fin-de-siècle brass globe chandeliers, focuses on Continental cuisine. Meanwhile, the hotel's spa, fitness centre and indoor pool offer ample opportunity to relax after a day's exploration. Blending heritage, comfort and an enchanting lakeside setting, this luxurious retreat provides an ideal base from which to discover the High Tatras.



Deluxe Room



Restaurant



Hotel exterior

Grand Ascot Hotel, Krakow

Located on a quiet, charming street in the heart of Krakow's historic centre, the Grand Ascot Hotel provides a convenient and comfortable base from which to enjoy the highlights of Krakow and the atmospheric Old Town. The hotel combines elegance with modernism, thanks to the mix of a historical, renovated town house with a new contemporary building. The hotel features 63 air-conditioned rooms and apartments, all comfortably and thoughtfully furnished with a comfortable bed, tea and coffee making facilities, TV, fridge, and bathroom with shower and hairdryer. Guests may make use of the sauna and well-equipped gym during their free time. The Four Restaurant serves both classic Polish dishes and selected European favourites, while the bar offers a wide choice of wines, spirits and soft drinks, along with light snacks, desserts and coffee.



Standard Twin Room



Restaurant



Bar



Sauna



Standard Double Room

NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE
+44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk
www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Itinerary and accommodation subject to change.
Cover image: Wawel Castle, Krakow.