Stalag VIIIB Lamsdorf and the Death March

SEPTEMBER 2013

A poignant and fascinating tour to honor the brave men of the Commonwealth and other allied countries who endured imprisonment at one of the largest prisoner of war camps of the Second World War.

Stalag VIIIB, later renumbered Stalag 344, was located near the small town of Lamsdorf (now called Łambinowice) in Silesia, Poland. More than 100,000 English-speaking POWs were held there, either at the base camp or in over 600 working parties in the area.

The Lamsdorf story is an incredible mixture of bravery, endurance, ingenuity and resourcefulness, as well as the triumph of the human spirit over adversity, sometimes in the most extreme conditions. This is a story that is as little known as it is amazing.

There is much to discover through this two-part tour. You can take both parts of the tour, or either part, as you wish.

To book on-line click here: on-line booking
To see the booking conditions click here: booking conditions
TOUR SUMMARY

Part 1:

Krakow, Lamsdorf and the Working Parties

Monday 9th - Wednesday 11th September 2013
Price: $645 - A deposit of $150 is payable when booking, balance due by 15th July 2013

What is included:
- Coach transport from Krakow, Poland, to visit
  - Krakow Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery
- The former POW working party sites at Peiskretschaum (now Pyskowice), Blechhammer (now Kędzierzyn-Koźle) and Hirschfelde (now Kaniów)
  - At Blechhammer, admission to the museum and a lunch* stop
  - To Opole for 2-nights hotel accommodation*
- The site of Stalag VIIIB/344 at Lamsdorf (now Łambinowice)
- A tour of the Polish central Prisoner of War Museum, and the site of the camp, at Łambinowice with an expert guide
  - Video presentations
- Coach travel in comfortable and safe vehicles equipped with air conditioning, toilets, fridges, coffee and tea machines
- The services of an experienced Tour Manager throughout

Not included:
*Flights, Hotel accommodation and meals, Gratuities, Travel Insurance.
It is a condition of booking that you have adequate travel insurance.
For advice about booking flights, accommodation etc, see the relevant section below.

Part 2:

The Death March

Wednesday 11th - Saturday 14th September 2013
Price: $765 - A deposit of $150 is payable when booking, balance due by 15th July 2013

What is included:
- Coach transport from Opole, Poland, to visit places between Opole and Munich, Germany, associated with the 'Death March'
- Three stops for overnight hotel accommodation* and meal stops* as appropriate
- Coach travel in comfortable and safe vehicles equipped with air conditioning, toilets, fridges, coffee and tea machines
- The services of an experienced Tour Manager throughout

Not included:
*Flights, Hotel accommodation and meals, Gratuities, Travel Insurance
It is a condition of booking that you have adequate travel insurance.
For advice about booking flights, accommodation etc, see the relevant section below.

Next: TOUR DETAILS
TOUR DETAILS

Part 1:
Krakow, Lamsdorf and the Working Parties

Monday 9th September

Krakow

In the morning we visit the Commonwealth Cemetery where nearly 500 men who died whilst prisoners of war at Lamsdorf, are buried. Many died from illness whilst in the camp hospital, but others died in more tragic circumstances. We pay our respects to all these men and show that they are not forgotten.

Working Parties

There were hundreds of working parties in the area between Krakow and Lamsdorf, with prisoners made to work in mines, quarries, forests, factories, railways and many other situations. We will stop at Peiskreetscham (now Pyskowice) where Canadian and British POWs were involved in railway construction work, some of which can still be seen. Then on to Blechhammer (below) (Kędzierzyn-Koźle) where there were numerous working parties, especially in chemical factories. There is an excellent little museum here, privately run by very knowledgeable enthusiasts. Near the museum is a traditional Polish restaurant ideally situated for our lunch. In the afternoon we visit Hirschfelde (Kaniów) where the POWs were engaged in forestry work, not far from our final destination today, the city of Opole, where we spend two nights.

Next: LAMSDORF
Tuesday 10th September

Lamsdorf

Today is devoted to Lamsdorf itself. We will have an expert guide with us from the **Polish Central Prisoner of war Museum**, who is extremely knowledgeable about the Commonwealth POWs. We visit the site of Stalag VIIIB/344, beginning at the **railway halt** where most of the POWs were unloaded from cattle trucks. If you wish you can walk the mile to the camp in the footsteps of the prisoners (or stay on the coach if you prefer). We see the original **POW cemetery** dating from the Franco Prussian War, where the Commonwealth POWs were buried before being transferred to Krakow. The fascinating Museum itself is housed in the former German headquarters and gives an excellent, detailed presentation of the lives and experiences of the prisoners. You can spend as much time as you wish viewing the exhibits and our guide will be available to answer your questions. There will also be **video presentations** about the camp and about the Long March (Death March). Although there are very few remains of the camp, the original road through the camp remains, and you will be able to see some of the **huts** that housed Russian prisoners, including one that has been restored inside to its 1940s condition. There are various **memorials** to be visited on the site. The Museum staff will do their best to give help and advice about your own researches, and they might well be glad of information you can give them to add to their knowledge base. The Museum can provide hot drinks, but not meals, so we recommend that before leaving Opole in the morning you buy items with which to make a packed lunch (your tour manager will take you to somewhere suitable). The Museum will provide a place to eat your lunch. Later you return to your hotel in Opole for dinner and overnight.

Next: TOUR PART 2
Wednesday 11th September  
Part 2 of the tour begins.

There is coach transport back to Krakow and Krakow Airport for those who are finishing their tour today.

Part 2:

The Death March

The Death March was during the final months of the Second World War in Europe. About 30,000 Allied POWs were force-marched westward across Poland, Czechoslovakia and Germany in appalling winter conditions, lasting about four months from January to April 1945 - among the coldest winter months of the twentieth century. Most of the POWs were ill-prepared for the evacuation, having suffered years of poor rations and wearing clothing ill-suited to the appalling winter conditions. Groups of 250 - 300 men would march 20 to 40 kilometers a day - resting in factories, churches, barns and even in the open. Soon long columns of POWs were wandering over the northern part of Germany and neighboring countries with little or nothing in the way of food, clothing, shelter or medical care. Many did not survive. It was estimated that a large number of POWs had marched over five hundred miles by the time they were liberated, and some had walked nearly a thousand miles.

This part of the tour follows in the footsteps of many of these men, as detailed in diaries they kept of their experiences. They started their 1000 km, 100 day death march on Jan. 22, 1945. Their march started at Peiskretcham (now Pyskowice) near Opole and ended near Munich.

**Wednesday 11th September**  
*January 22nd - February 17th 1945*  
Poland and Czech Republic  
Opole to Vischka (Býšť).  
(Hotel stop at Hradec Králové)

**Thursday 12th September**  
*February 18th - March 8th 1945*  
Czech Republic  
Vischka (Býšť) to Furwitz (Hořovičky)  
( Hotel stop at Karlovy Vary)

**Friday 13th September**  
*March 9th - May 1st 1945*  
Czech Republic and Germany  
Furwitz (Hořovičky) to Buchbach - Liberation.  
( Hotel stop at Munich Airport)

For highlights of this 'Death March' route, click [HERE](#)  
For exact details of this 'Death March' route, click [HERE](#)

Next: YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS
ADVICE ON MAKING YOUR TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS

Information given below is correct as far as we know at the time of writing, but may be subject to change. Please check with the airlines, hotels etc for up-to-date details. The information given below is for guidance, but we cannot be held liable for any inaccuracies.

Please see our Travel Tips: click HERE

Travel / Accommodation
You should make your travel arrangements as soon as possible. Contact your travel agent if you need help to make these arrangements. Be sure to confirm your flight and accommodation arrangements with your travel agent before you depart for Europe. You will need to arrange your own transportation to and from the airport and to and from the tour departure points. You may wish to consult the Foreign Affairs Canada website. It contains information regarding security and safety, health and entry requirements. The website address is www.voyage.gc.ca.

Recommended Travel Consultant
Calgary, Alberta
Paul Takacs
Independent Travel Consultant
Phone: (403) 216-4632
E-mail: paul.takacs@tieronetravel.com

If you are booking just part 1 of the tour ..........

FLIGHTS
You need to arrive in Krakow*, Poland on Sunday 8th September, 2013 and depart from Krakow on Wednesday 11th September.
*Krakow Balice Airport also known as John Paul II Airport

TRANSFERS FROM KRAKOW AIRPORT TO YOUR HOTELS

- Here are some links for booking transfers from Krakow Airport to your hotel:
  Krakow Shuttle
  Transport4Cracow
  Private Krakow Tours
  Krakowtaxi4U

HOTEL IN KRAKOW

We recommend that all group members stay in Kraków’s Kazimierz District, which is the historic, former Jewish Quarter. We will then all be close together. The hotels there are pleasant, typically Polish, and mostly cheaper than in the city centre. If you want to walk into the city centre it is not far.

You need 1 night's accommodation in Krakow: Sunday 8th September, 2013.

- Here is a link for booking Krakow hotels in the Kazimierz District:
  Krakow Kazimierz Hotels

Next: OPOLE
HOTEL IN OPOLE

There are fewer hotels in Opole than in Krakow. We recommend the Hotel Mercure, which has been used several times for Lamsdorf tour groups, and it has proved to be ideal. There are other suitable hotels too, of course. The Mercure is near the railway station, so if you are booking a different hotel, something in the same area would be best.

You need **2 nights' accommodation in Opole:**
**Monday 9th September and Tuesday 10th September, 2013.**
- Here is a link for booking Opole hotels: [Opole Hotels](#)

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If you are booking both parts of the tour ...........

FLIGHTS

You need to arrive in Krakow on Sunday 8th September, 2013 and depart from Munich on Saturday 14th September.

TRANSFERS FROM KRAKOW AIRPORT TO YOUR HOTELS

- Here are some links for booking transfers from Krakow Airport to your hotel:
  - [Krakow Shuttle](#)
  - [Private Krakow Tours](#)
  - [Transport4Cracow](#)
  - [Krakowtaxi4U](#)

HOTEL IN KRAKOW

We recommend that all group members stay in **Kraków’s Kazimierz District**, which is the historic, former Jewish Quarter. We will then all be close together. The hotels there are pleasant, typically Polish, and mostly cheaper than in the city centre. If you want to walk into the city centre it is not far.

You need **1 night's accommodation in Krakow:** **Sunday 8th September, 2013.**
Here is a link for booking Krakow hotels in the Kazimierz District:
- Here is a link for booking Krakow hotels in the Kazimierz District: [Krakow Kazimierz Hotels](#)

HOTEL IN OPOLE

There are fewer hotels in Opole than in Krakow. We recommend the Hotel Mercure, which has been used several times for Lamsdorf tour groups, and it has proved to be ideal. There are other suitable hotels too, of course. The Mercure is near the railway station, so if you are booking a different hotel, something in the same area would be best.

You need **2 nights' accommodation in Opole:**
**Monday 9th September and Tuesday 10th September, 2013.**
- Here is a link for booking Opole hotels: [Opole Hotels](#)
HOTEL IN HRADEC KRALOVE

You need **1 night's accommodation in Hradec Králové:**
**Wednesday 11th September, 2013.**
We suggest the Hotel Cernigov.
- Here is a link for booking a hotel in Hradec Králové:
  [Hradec Králové Hotels](#)

HOTEL IN KARLOVY VARY

You need **1 night's accommodation in Karlovy Vary:**
**Thursday 12th September, 2013.**
We suggest the Hotel Kucera.
- Here is a link for booking a hotel in Karlovy Vary:
  [Karlovy Vary Hotels](#)

HOTEL AT MUNICH AIRPORT

You need **1 night's accommodation at Munich Airport:**
**Friday 13th September, 2013.**
- Here is a link for booking Krakow hotels at Munich Airport:
  [Munich Airport Hotels](#)

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If you are booking just part 2 of the tour ..........

FLIGHTS

You need to arrive in Krakow on Tuesday 10th September, 2013 and depart from Munich on Saturday 14th September.

TRANSFERS FROM KRAKOW AIRPORT TO OPOLE (115 miles / 185 km)
The options you have are:

- **Car Hire**
  Avis Car Hire has offices at Krakow Airport and also in Opole, so you could collect your car at the airport and leave it in Opole. To book this use this link:
  [Avis Poland](#)

- **Rail Travel**
  Krakow Airport railway is approximately 200 m away from the airport terminal (reachable by a shuttle service, though you can easily walk). The train takes passengers directly to the Krakow Central Railway Station (Kraków Główny), where you change to direct trains to Opole (direction Wrocław – every train going to Wrocław stops at the Opole Central Railway Station (Opole Główny).

  Train from Krakow Balice Airport to Krakow Glowny (17 minutes, every 30 minutes)
  Train from Krakow Glowny to Opole Głowne (3 hrs 47 minutes, every 30 minutes)
  For information about these trains use this link:
  [Krakow/Opole Trains](#)

Next: PRIVATE CAR TRANSFER
• Private Car Transfer
  This link might be helpful to you: [Car transfer Krakow Airport/Opole](#)

**HOTEL IN OPOLE**

We recommend the Hotel Mercure, which has been used several times for Lamsdorf tour groups, and it has proved to be ideal. There are other suitable hotels too, of course. The Mercure is near the railway station, so if you are booking a different hotel, something in the same area would be best.

You need **1 night's accommodation in Opole:**
**Tuesday 10th September, 2013.**
  • Here is a link for booking Opole hotels: [Opole Hotels](#)

**HOTEL IN HRADEC KRALOVE**

You need **1 night's accommodation in Hradec Králové:**
**Wednesday 11th September, 2013.**
We suggest the Hotel Cernigov.
  • Here is a link for booking a hotel in Hradec Králové: [Hradec Králové Hotels](#)

**HOTEL IN KARLOVY VARY**

You need **1 night's accommodation in Karlovy Vary:**
**Thursday 12th September, 2013.**
We suggest the Hotel Kucera.
  • Here is a link for booking a hotel in Karlovy Vary: [Karlovy Vary Hotels](#)

**HOTEL AT MUNICH AIRPORT**

You need **1 night's accommodation at Munich Airport:**
**Friday 13th September, 2013.**
  • Here is a link for booking Krakow hotels at Munich Airport: [Munich Airport Hotels](#)

Next: EXTEND YOUR TOUR?
WANT TO EXTEND YOUR TOUR?

Perhaps, being in Poland, there are other places you would like to visit.

Tour of Krakow
Auschwitz
Tatra Mountains
Zakopane
The Wieliczka Salt Mine
Ojcow National Park
etc

You can do this by arriving in Krakow a day or two before your tour begins, or by leaving a day or two after your tour finishes. Here are some links about the attractions of the Krakow area, and some tour companies that can make arrangements for you. You will also find that most hotels can make tour arrangements for you.

- Krakow Shuttle Tours
- Escape to Poland
- Point Travel
- Krakow Info
- Trip Advisor
- Polish Forums – Tours Around Krakow
- Ten Best Krakow Places
- Lonely Planet

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