



Ihr Kontakt in Deutschland:
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Mazurkas Travel Exclusive Music Program

*Polish Character in Music by Frederic Chopin
in its finest interpretations*

*Concerts of International Frederic Chopin Piano
Competition 2021*

International Chopin Piano Competition is one of the oldest music competitions in the world. It was founded by Prof. Jerzy Żurawlew (1887-1980) – extraordinary Polish pianist, teacher and composer. In the beginning it was a small contest with only 26 pianists from 8 countries, but throughout the years the competition gained more prestige and became one of the most important piano contests in the world.

Winning or being awarded one of many prizes in this special competition simplifies the future career of the participants. Among the prize winners there are i.a.: Lew Oborin, Stanisław Szpinalski, Aleksander Uniński, Jakov Zak, Witold Małcużyński, Jan Ekier, Halina Czerny Stefańska, Bella Davidovich, Barbara Hesse-Bukowska, Adam Harasiewicz, Wladimir Ashkenazy, Fou Ts'Ung, Lidia Grychtołówna, Maurizio Pollini, Martha Argerich, Garrick Ohlsson, Piotr Paleczny, Eugene Indjic, Krystian Zimerman, Dang Thai Son, Stanislav Bunin, Kevin Kenner, Alexei Sultanov, Yundi Li, Rafał Blechacz, Yulianna Avdeeva.

DAY 1 / Warsaw

After arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel in the heart of the city.

Orientation walk through the Old Town to get acquainted with the city of Warsaw, a city of Frederic Chopin. See the Castle's Square where between 1826-1831 a building stood belonging to Sisters Bernadine's with a music school lead by Joseph Elsner, Chopin's music teacher. Walk along the Krakowskie Przedmiescie street with stop by the building of Res Sacra Miser. It was here where young Chopin was giving his first public concerts, at Namiestnikowski Palace and the Church of Nuns of the Visitations, as well.

Check-in at the hotel.

Transfer to restaurant – Welcome Dinner in **DER ELEFANT** restaurant.

Restaurant was relaunched recently in a renovated building of the former Hotel Saski. Interior of Der Elefant has completely changed. The place is styled for New York lofts from outside. Allan Starski, well-known production designer, is responsible for the design of the restaurant. The menu features completely new dishes from different cuisines – among others burgers, ossobuco, canard cassis, Polish pierogi and Singapore noodles.

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Transfer back to the hotel and overnight.

DAY 2 / Warsaw

City tour "In the footsteps of Chopin"

See the Krasinski Palace with the Chopin Drawing Room where Chopin performed his etudes, some polonaises, and mazurkas for the first time. There is a commemorative plaque in the front of the building. Walk to the **Kazimierzowski Palace**, seat of the Warsaw Lycee which Chopin enters in 1823 and stop at the Zamoyski Palace, where Chopin's family lived and where was the famous Chopin's grand piano commemorated in the poem by Norwid "Chopin's Piano", who said about Chopin "Varsavian by birth, Pole by heart, global citizen by talent". Visit the **Holy Cross Church** where the urn with Chopin's heart is placed, brought by his sister secretly from France where Chopin died and before that asked for his heart to be taken back to his homeland.

Drive to **Ostrogski Castle**, a seat of the Chopin Museum. The cellar presents Chopin as a composer/pianist along with his followers. The ground floor presents Żelazowa Wola period, Chopin's room when he was a child room, Mr. Nicolas Chopin saloon and exhibit "Warsaw in the times of Chopin". First floor focuses on Parisian life, Nohant and on women in his life. Second and the last floor is dedicated to Chopin's European Journeys, his Personality and finally his death. Museum is fully interactive and most technically advanced. Each visitor receives a special token/chip which guides individual tourists through the exhibition. The token placed in one of the many readers allows to listen to the music, view rare manuscripts and listen to the information in many languages. The visitors will hear the noise of 19th Parisian street, sounds from the kitchen at Nohant mansion, smell the aroma of Chopin's favourite violets etc. Beside the rare and precious 800 manuscripts and autographs viewers will be able to see Chopin's personal belonging including his clothes, coffee cup, handkerchief, pens and jewelry. Entire museum sounds with Chopin's music except with the room commemorating his death which will be dark silent.

Chopin loved hot chocolate. Therefore we invite you to **visit Old-Fashioned Wedel Shop** – a former seat of the famous Polish chocolatier that started chocolate production in the 1850s and till today "Wedel" Factory is one of the most famous brands of chocolate in Poland. Enjoy your time with cup of coffee and Wedel famous chocolate and waffer cake in the beautiful interiors with décor to remind you of the splendour of the pre-war Warsaw and place where famous Polish writers used to meet, such as: Noble Prize Winner for Literature - Henry Sienkiewicz, the author of "Qvo-Vadis" novel brought on screen by Mervyn LeRoy in 1951.

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Drive to the **Royal Łazienki Park** to see the famous Chopin Monument and the Belvedere, a Classicist palace where Chopin used to give concerts as a young boy, invited by the Grand Duke Konstanty.

13:00 – 16:30 Spare Time

Early dinner in a local restaurant – for example Różana restaurant.

Transfer to the National Philharmonic Hall

Attend the 20th International Frederic Chopin Piano Competition

Transfer back to the hotel and overnight.

DAY 3, WARSAW-ZELAZOWA WOLA- WARSAW

Drive to **Zelazowa Wola**. This is where on February 22, 1810 Frederic Chopin was born to his French father and Polish mother. A museum devoted to great composer is located in the preserved annex of the former manor. Museum contains copies of marriage certificate of his parents, Frederic's certificate of birth and baptism, manuscripts, drawings and letters and other memorabilia. Visitors are particularly drawn to the "mother's room" where the huge bouquet of fresh flowers indicates place where Chopin was born.

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Afterwards, drive to **Brochów** to see the parish church where young Chopin was baptized. It is also here where Chopin's parents got married, as well as his sister Ludwika. There is an inscription "Baptized in this church on 23 April 1810 was Frederic Chopin, born on 22 February 1810 at Zelazowa Wola.

Continue to Nieborow to see the former residence of the aristocratic family of Radziwill. It houses a splendid collection of art, paintings and sculptures including the Head of Niobe – a Roman copy from the 1st or 2nd century A.D., made of the white marble. See the rich collection of Dutch ceramic tiles produced in Harlingen, magnificent library and collection of artistic majolica produced in the called a "sculpture center" established by the Radziwill aristocratic family in 1881.

Enjoy the **home hosted lunch** served in stylish old-polish table service. Completion to the atmosphere of this site, are owners of the castle ruins, young married couple, uncommon passionate types. Their extraordinary hobby combined with skills, results in amazing collection of the regional landscape paintings and jewellery made of materials dug out from the ruins.



Drive back to Warsaw to the hotel.

Dinner free.

OPT_1 Attend the 20th International Frederic Chopin Piano Competition

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OPT_2 Attend Opera or Ballet performance in the Polish National Opera House (the Grand Theatre).

For over 170 years the Grand Theatre (now "the Grand Theatre and Polish National Opera") has been Poland's grandest opera and ballet institution, its building houses the largest stage in Europe.

- *Opera: The Polish National Opera at the Grand Theatre continues its 200-year tradition, producing works by Polish composers from Karol Kurpiński, through Stanisław Moniuszko, to Krzysztof Penderecki. However, classic operas are also well represented: the company's repertoire includes the best operas by the major figures of opera, past and present.*
- *Ballet: Polish National Ballet (formerly Ballet of Teatr Wielki - Opera Narodowa) has worked with major international figures in the world of ballet as well as with many Polish choreographers, such as Leon Woizikovsky, Stanisław Mischczyk, Witold Gruca and Emil Wesółowski. Currently, works under direction of Krzysztof Pastor.*

Transfer back to the hotel and overnight.

DAY 4, Warsaw

Morning visit to one of the most splendid residence of Warsaw, the **Wilanow Palace and Royal Gardens**. It was the summer seat of the King Jan III Sobieski, the famous conqueror of the Turks in the battle of Vienna in 1683. You will see the beautiful royal interiors with the galley of portraits, as well as impressive collection of decorative art and sculpture. The palace is surrounded by magnificent park and gardens in a number of styles: a two-level Baroque Garden, a neo-Renaissance rose garden, an English landscape park and an English-Chinese landscape park. The Wilanow Palace and Park are a part of the prestigious Association of European Royal Residences.



***Experience an exclusive private concert with magnificent music of the Poet of the piano in one of the historic interiors – Palace on the Water in Łazienki Park or in one of other Warsaw's palaces.
Enjoy Mazurkas and Polonaises of Fryderyk Chopin and the intimate and romantic character of the concert.***

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Dinner in **ALE GLORIA** restaurant.

Magnificent, enjoyably over-the-top restaurant in the finest part of Warsaw where the strawberry-themed decor appears amazingly at home and where the food – often featuring strawberries – will leave you determined to come back for more. Interior is obviously a nice surprise for a visitor, very eclectic in design.



Transfer back to the hotel.

Overnight

DAY 5 / Warsaw

Spare time.

Last Lunch.

Transfer to the Warsaw Chopin Airport.