

The Empire of Samo

Tour Date
02.08.22 - 23.08.22
Cut-off Date: 20.05.2022




CHARACTERISTICS/IDEA BEHIND THIS TOUR

- + in the summer
- + diverse programme
- + good mix between town and country
- + leisure time in scenic places

PREPARATION:

Travel documents*: Passport or ID-Card, national driving license, green card

Visa*: Not required

CB-radio: Not required, should you like to travel with the tour leader, a cb-radio is recommended. 

Car Insurance:  All countries of this trip are part of the green card system.

Vaccinations: None are compulsory. A Covid-19 vaccination may be necessary to enter a country/ avoid quarantine. More information at www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

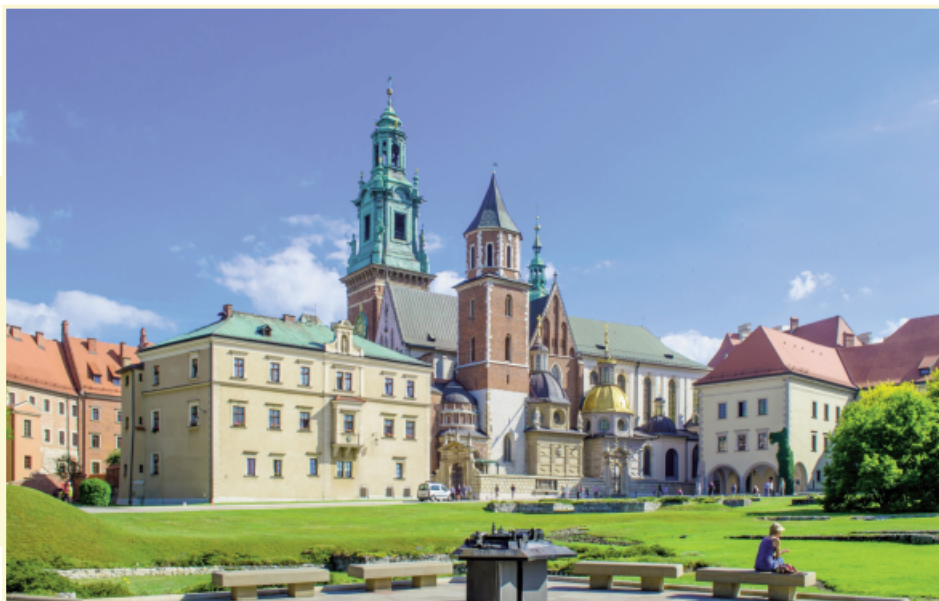
Pets:  require a pet passport

Pre-Tour Meeting: The pre-tour meeting in Germany, at which we also collect the copies of your passport takes place on June 11th and is only open to booked participants. As a service to our only-English speaking clients may take place as online meeting.

TOUR LOGISTICS:

Meeting Point: Official meeting point for tour start is Dresden.

Tour Leader: Your tour leader informs regularly about driving stages and daily programmes.




Driving Stages: You may drive all stages by yourselves. The tour leader offers to go with him/her.

Road Conditions: The roads in Poland, Czechia, Slovakia and Hungary are generally good.


Overnight Places:  The overnights are set at regular campsites of local standard.

Supplies: Electricity and water are available daily. Grey water disposal is available on most sites.


Safety & Security:  In the large touristy cities please watch out for pick-pockets.

Mobility Rating: 2

See catalogue "Your Journey with Mir Tours" point 7). The required degree of mobility usually only relates to some programmes and segments of the sightseeing. If your walking is not that great, you may still join this trip. To do this, you would skip one or the other programme item or shorten it. We would be happy to discuss the trip with you in this regard. In case you use a tool such as a rollator or travel wheelchair, please note that these may also have to be lifted into the means of transport.

Food Supply:  Supermarkets with a good selection, similar to western standards are available en-route. Gluten- and lactose-free products are available in larger supermarkets.

Climate: 

Clothing:  Pack something for all weathers. Swimwear shouldn't be missing, just like rain jackets and hiking gear.

MONEY MATTERS

Tour Price: 1.440,- € per person with the own car + caravan or camper when two persons travel in one vehicle. Additional charge for a single driver 10%


Fuel: On average, fuel prices are around 5 to 10% cheaper than in Germany.

Additional costs/travel funds:


Up to 60 - 150 € per vehicle for tolls, border fees and insurances approx. 20 € per person/day to cover your living expenses
Up to 2€ per person/day for tips

Also plan a little buffer for souvenirs, mishaps, doctor etc.

You will be able to pay with debit or credit card at petrol stations, souvenir shops and supermarkets.

Money Exchange: without problems  ATM machines are available for use of your debit or credit card.

 = like in Western Europe

 = will be discussed at length during the pre-tour meeting

All this information is subject to change and is meant for this route as part of a group tour. There might be differences if you book an individual tour to these countries.

* The information about visa and travel documents is considering that your passport is issued in a country that belongs to the EU or the Schengen area. For the other countries we will inform you individually.

MANDATORY INFORMATION

Cut-off Date: 20.05.2022

On this date we have to decide if sufficient participants to run this tour have been reached. Ideally, you should have booked by this point.

Booking Closes: 20.07.2022

Should you be unable to book earlier, this is the last day that booking is possible under the condition that you bring your documents in time and the required number of participants has been reached at the cut-off date.

Payments due: upon booking 10%

Final payment due by 03.07.2022

Cancellation fee: in percentage of tour price; is dependent on the time left to the tour start.

as of booking = 10%

day 54. - 30. before tour start = 20%

day 29. - 10. before tour start = 30%

from day 9. before tour start = 75%

GENERAL SERVICES:

Organization & Booking: We order the included programmes for your and book the overnight places. For us – as a registered tour operator – the compliance with travel law is obligatory.

Entry fees for included programme: The tour price includes the normal entry fees for the sights we have put in the programme.

Should there be additional parts (special exhibitions) that are not of interest for everyone they might be at your leisure. Example: We visit the Kremlin as part of the Moscow sightseeing and we pay the entry ticket. Should you opt to see the tsars' weapon chamber you pay this out of your own purse.

The German and English-speaking **tour leader** will meet you in the afternoon of the first day in Dresden and will accompany you until Day 22. His tasks are:

- to inform you regularly about overnight places, meals, stage, fuelling, shopping and leisure options.
- offer to join him on the driving stages.
- give you support in case of mishaps like illness or vehicle break-downs

The **resignation** (travel cancellation) **insurance** is covering if you cannot go on tour due to a insured reason. The **break-off** (travel curtailment) **insurance** refunds the part of the tour price that you did not partake in due to an insured reason. More details on insured reasons can be found in the annex.

During the **participant meeting** (including one camping fee) you can get to know other fellow travellers and clarify all open questions about the trip. Approx. 10 days after the physical meeting, we will have a virtual online meeting to clarify any questions that have arisen in the meantime.

Information Material: We create an information booklet for this tour. This informs about all relevant topics from equipment to customs. Forms, brochures, booklets about sites and stages are added by us. Also, you receive GPS waypoints and map material so all participants have the same opportunities.

USEFUL INFORMATION:

When putting this trip together, we are still in the situation that the SARS-Covid19 pandemic is affecting our lives and travels. Please note our general information on this topic in the travel catalogue, as well as our **Corona** promise.

We assume that everyone who goes on a group trip has also taken advantage of the vaccination offer in order to protect themselves and their fellow travellers from infection. Unvaccinated persons could be refused entry or, when crossing the border - regardless of the direction – may be quarantined, which cannot be reconciled with the travel plan. Should you suffer from a medical condition that prohibits a vaccination, please contact us.

The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU and the only recently concluded contracts for future cooperation may result in changes to the travel documents required. Please also note that there is a special information available for **customers from the UK**.

ITINERARY:

Day 1 02.08.2022

Dresden

This tour begins in Radeberg near Dresden, the capital of Saxony, one of Germany's federal states. The local town is known for the Radeberger brewery one of the most renowned breweries in Germany. If you arrive earlier, take a chance to visit downtown Dresden. In the late afternoon of this first tour day everyone meets for the official tour welcome. This is followed by dinner in the campsite's restaurant.

camping fee, dinner

Day 2 03.08.2022

Dresden - Wroclaw

Our first driving stage takes us straight east into Silesia, one of the traditional areas in Poland, some say its most industrious. After having been part of the Austrian Empire, for 200 years Silesia was part of Prussia and subsequently the

German Reich. Today Polish Silesia is divided into the Voivodeships of Lower Silesia, Opole and Silesia and is one of the most popular investment locations in Poland. After the Second World War, most of the German population was expelled. However, there are still a few places with more than 20% German-speaking population. Since the fall of the Iron Curtain, no expense or effort has been spared to restore the cities to their historical splendour. The extensive restoration program attracts visitors from near and far.

camping fee

Day 3 04.08.2022

Wroclaw / Bresslau

In the morning we take public transport from the campsite to the city centre. Our guided tour will start near the cathedral. We walk the Oder banks, see the university and passing through small alleys eventually reach the main square. Here nicely refurbished merchant and townhouses, with precious fronts are home to restau-

rants and cafes. The tour ends at the medieval town hall with the option to have lunch in the "Ratskeller", the town halls restaurant. In the afternoon it is your choice whether you want to stay in town or return quickly to the restaurant.

camping fee, transfer, local guide, entrance fee

Day 4 05.08.2022

Wroclaw - Podlesice

Having travelled around Poland you will have noticed that Christianity and specifically Catholicism plays a big part in society. John Paul II, the first Polish pope, is considered a national hero. The holiest place in Poland is the Jasna-Gora-monastery complex and home to the Black Madonna, an icon of byzantine origin, surrounded by legends. We will tour the monastery and also pay a visit to the Madonna. Since the local campsite is not in operation at the moment, we go out into the countryside a good hour away for the overnight stay.

camping fee, parking, local guide

Day 5 06.08.2022**Podlesice - Krakow**

A good 75km south of Podlesice and straight west of Krakow lies the town of Oswiecim which should be a normal town with the typical historic influence of the many masters that ruled here since the medieval times. Oswiecim is known for the terrible five years that the Nazis reigned here and established the concentration camp Auschwitz. Auschwitz should be a must-see, but we make this an optional stop, as this may be too emotional for some visitors.

camping fee

Day 6 07.08.2022**Krakow**

The local guide will pick us up by bus so we can see the city. Krakow is home to 140 churches, 70 palaces and 5000 well-maintained townhouses. UNESCO voted the town onto the list of the twelve most important historic cities worldwide. The city tour will show us the Wawel hill where one can view the river and "the dragon". We visit the castle square with the cathedral, the arcades with its medieval building and the old university. The rynek of Krakow is supposed to be the most picturesque market squares in Poland.

camping fee, transfer, local guide, entrance fee, lunch

Day 7 08.08.2022**Krakow**

Time for a leisure day, which you may use to explore some more of the wonderful city. Alternatively, take a rest, take care of your household chores or relax. There will be some more to see in the next days.

camping fee

Day 8 09.08.2022**Krakow – Nowy Targ**

It is south of Krakow, where we will meet up to visit the famous salt mine at Wieliczka. This being one of the oldest and best-known salt mines and the visit is not only about the mining of salt and the history of the place. This impressive tourist attraction also shows art made from salt and a church way below. Departing Wieliczka the road leads us through low mountains toward Zakopane and the Tatra Mountains can already be seen in the distance.

camping fee, local guide, parking, entrance fee

Day 9 10.08.2022**Pieninsky Nationalpark**

After breakfast, a small bus will take us to Katy on the bank of the Dunajec, where the

departure point for our excursion on the river is. The wooden rafts can each transport 12 people and are steered by two raftsmen; The craft can only be passed on within the family and there are strict rules for men, such as wearing hats and vests. We have to plan around three hours for the 18-kilometer drive through the Dunajec Gorge to Szczawnica, possibly we can stop at the Červený Kláštor (monastery) on the way. The water is mostly calm with some sandbars and shallows, but there are also a few gentle rapids where the spray splatters. Our river trip leads along the Slovakian border, initially with a view of the Three-Crown-Massif rising to the left of the river (982m above sea level), then through the gorge, the wooded slopes of which rise 200m on both sides of our fairway. From Szczawnica a bus brings us back to the campsite

camping fee, transfer, boat

Day 10 11.08.2022**Nowy Targ – Tatranska L.**

Today we say farewell to Poland to enter Slovakia. The short drive takes us through some scenic villages like Spišské Hanušovce with a baroque church. The forests are already part of the Carpathian mountain range that lies mainly in Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, but has foothills in Czechia, Austria and Hungary. After having set up camp you may use the afternoon at your leisure. In the evening we come together to enjoy local food and folklore.

camping fee, dinner, folklore

Day 11 12.08.2022**Tatranska Lomnica**

In the morning, when the first rays of the sun shine on to 2655m high rocky formation of the Tatra Mountains, you have a magnificent view accompanying your breakfast. Mid-morning we depart to enjoy the sun at the top of the mountains. The 6-hour excursion takes us up and down the mountain with a railed-cable-car and includes a 2½ hour walkabout with a local mountain guide, as well as a visit to a small natural-history museum.

camping fee, transfer, cable car, local guide, entrance fee

Day 12 13.08.2022**Tatranska Lomnica**

Time for a leisure day, which you may use to explore some more of the wonderful nature. Alternatively, take a rest, take care of your household chores or relax. There will be some more to see in the next days.

camping fee

Day 13 14.08.2022**Tatranska Lomnica – Kosice**

Today you have to decide between culture and nature when selecting your route. If you are into caves the Dobšinská Ice Cave may be your choice of sightseeing today, after all it is only 60km south of Tatranska Lomnica and means a 20km detour. It is one of the most important ice caves in the world and has been a World Heritage Site since 2000. On the direct route, the castle at Spiš towers over the plain and is definitely worth a sightseeing and/or a photo stop. There are many interesting stories and legends about this castle, which was mostly destroyed 300 years ago and we recommend a guided tour. During a barbecue dinner set up by our host today we exchange our experiences.

camping fee, barbecue

Day 14 15.08.2022**Kosice**

The second-largest city in Slovakia is the industrial centre of the region with several factories and steelworks. It is also a university town and a cultural centre with theatres and opera house. There will be plenty of historic buildings to see, especially since the main street is the largest conglomeration of historic buildings in Slovakia. Towering over it is the Elizabeth-Cathedral. After the sightseeing with the local guide, you will have the chance to enjoy the city by yourselves.

camping fee, transfer, local guide, dinner

Day 15 16.08.2022**Kosice - Miskolc**

It is already the third country of the former Eastern Bloc that we are entering today. There is no border as such, but we will have to stop and get our local toll sticker for our vehicles to go on the Hungarian motorways. The countryside is mostly flat and most of the drive takes us through small villages. We soon reach the city of Miskolc, which is known for its cave thermal baths - our tip for the afternoon.

camping fee

Day 16 17.08.2022**Miskolc**

Today a ride on the forest railway is on the programme. Originally used as a means of transport for coal and wood, it has also served passenger transport for almost a hundred years. Today the narrow-gauge railway is one of the tourist attractions of the region and Hungary. The drive to Miskolc only takes about 40 minutes and after a little stroll and a refreshment, it goes back again, so that you can organize the rest of the day according to your own interests.

camping fee, transfer, train

Day 17 18.08.2022
Miskolc - Eger

Since the stage is very short, we can sleep a little longer so that we don't arrive too early at the campsite in the "Valley of the Beautiful Woman" on the outskirts of Eger. The "beautiful woman" was a goddess of a pagan religion and she was sacrificed at this point. For a long time, the area belonged to the Bishop of Eger, who also gave permission for the wine cellars. In the afternoon it is worth visiting the thermal baths, which are only 2km from the campsite in the center of town. The 5-hectare bath has 13 swimming pools and the thermal baths offer all amenities, from a sauna to a Turkish bath.

camping fee

Day 18 19.08.2022
Eger

After the usual city tour which includes the historic city centre with religious buildings to many faiths as well as some small palaces, we must go wine tasting. Not as popular in western supermarkets but more an insider's tip is the Egri Bikavér, a blend of three local grapes making it a really palatable red wine. This goes well with the most famous of Hungarian dishes the Goulash, which we will also taste today.

c-fee, transfer, local guide, dinner, wine, tasting

Day 19 20.08.2022
Eger – Budapest

The motorway will bring us quickly to the campsite on the outskirts of Budapest, where we set up camp for the next three nights. It is not far to go to the city centre, public transport is excellent and it might be worth to have a first look at this impressive town. Those who are interested might be looking at going on a dinner cruise on the Danube or to visit the concert in St. Stephens.

camping fee

Day 20 21.08.2022
Budapest

A bus will pick us up in the morning to start the city tour. Budapest – known as the Paris on the Danube – is one of the picturesque mega-citys and really has flair. The mighty castle hill, the majestic parliament building on the banks or the Danube, the oriental looking Fisherman's Bastion, the Heroes Square and not to forget the nine bridges across the river. During the leisure time make sure to look into one of the market halls or the coffee house. It will be in the afternoon that we are returned back to the campsite.

camping fee, transfer, local guide, meal

Day 21 22.08.2022
Budapest

There is so much to see and do in the Hungarian capital, that there is another day to follow your interests. You will have to decide if you follow the cultural route and visit one of the museums, choose a culinary-cultural option by going on a food excursion, visit the shopping centres or combine it all. Thermal baths, river cruises and a railway museum – there really is something for everybody. The tour escort can surely make some recommendations.

camping fee

Day 22 23.08.2022
Budapest

Your part of the trip is officially over this morning in Budapest. Once the group has said farewell and departed for Slovakia you are your own tour guide again. Keep exploring the city or move out to one of the numerous spa places with campsites. Lake Balaton and the Balkans, there is much to see.

As per 12/2021
Subject to change