

Couple hosts summer tour to Poland

BY KEELY WYGNON
STAFF WRITER



There's more to Poland than kielbasa and polka. "It reminds people of the Old World. There's a great deal of history," said Ed Wojtan of Livonia. Wojtan and his wife, Jane, will share their vision of Poland with travelers who opt to join them on a 15-day tour, July 9-23. The package, which costs \$2,175 per person, includes round-trip airfare, first class hotel accommodations with private bath or shower, most meals, comprehensive sightseeing program, transportation throughout Poland by air conditioned bus, arrival and departure transfers, and the services of an English speaking guide. For more information, call (313) 425-2727.

"We attempt to spend more than one night in a city so you'll have a good amount of time to rest and explore," said Ed. "We want to expose the beauty and culture of Poland. We visit a lot of historical sights."

Jane and Ed visited Poland for the first time in 1989. Jane's parents, and her oldest sister were born there, as were Ed's parents. It was such a wonderful experience that they decided to present 38 of their best pictures in an exhibit. It was shown twice — at Livonia City Hall in 1990, and at the Civic Center Library in 1992. In 1992 they also presented a slide show travelogue of Poland. This led them to host their first tour to Poland in 1993. It was very successful and they hosted another in 1994.

The number of people on tour

ranges from 20 to 30 people. Pools of all different ages have toured Poland with the Wojtans. Last year the ages ranged from 25 to 90.

Some of the cities the tour will visit this year are Warsaw, Wrocław, Opatów, Kraków, Zakopane, Lublin, Wadowice (birthplace of Pope John Paul II), and Zamość.

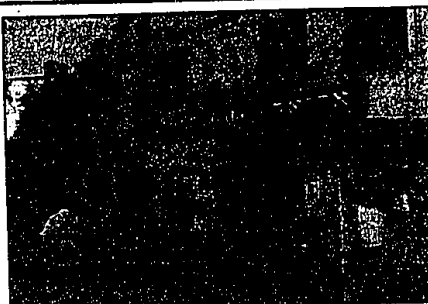
Some of the highlights are: an excursion to Wieliczka, one of the oldest salt mines in the world, a cable ride to the top of Tatra Mountains, a raft ride on the Dunajec River or a tour of Morasko Oka/Eye of the Sea, a Jewish Ghetto that was one of the filming locations of "Schindler's List," and Jasna Góra, home of the Black Madonna.

Travelers will have many opportunities for shopping and sight-seeing on their own.

"The shopping is wonderful," said Jane. "You can find amber and wood carvings. Of course, the food is excellent, it borders on gourmet. One of my favorite dishes was a cold cherry soup."

"Now is a good time to see Poland before it becomes more Westernized," said the Wojtans. Besides regional cuisines, visitors can now enjoy taste of home — Burger King, McDonald's and Taco Bell.

Tell us about your favorite destination. Have you visited Poland recently? What was it like? To share information about your travels with friends, neighbors and relatives in "Let's Go," send photos and a brief description of your trip to: Keely Wygnon, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Fax (313) 691-7279.



Cafe: The Ariel Cafe and Hotel, frequented by those who worked on the film "Schindler's List," is one of the stops on the Wojtans' tour of Poland. Other stops include a tour of the "Alte Shul" — Jewish Museum, and Schindler's factory.

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