



The 20-Ghost Club Limited

A TOUR OF POLAND & GERMANY A JOURNEY INTO HISTORY

Starting Sunday 24 June 2018 for two or three weeks



Sans Souci, Potsdam – home of Frederick The Great

The First World War ended in November 1918 and, with it, a time of major geo-political change. The state of Poland was reconstituted. The Prussian Empire, with its own unique military culture and which produced some stunning palaces and museums as well as music and literature, effectively came to an end. The political map of Northern Europe was redrawn and then changed again during and after the Second World War.

A century on, 2018 provides a time to celebrate Poland's rebirth in 1918, to reflect on the glories of the Prussian Empire and to visit a part of northern Europe which has some stunning world heritage cities and countryside. Warsaw, Krakow, Dresden, Meissen, Potsdam and Berlin are extraordinarily beautiful cities, rich in history, culture and fine buildings. Silesia and the Sudeten mountains to the south near the border with the Czech Republic provide an opportunity for some attractive driving for old Rolls-Royces, with medieval villages and castles to visit.

A tour of two parts has been planned with history, scenic travel and luxury in mind, enjoying the cities and countryside of Poland and eastern and northern Germany, emulating and reliving the reconstitution of the state of Poland and the glories of the Prussian Empire. We will be staying at fine hotels, some of which have been castles or palaces. There is a mixture of wonderful scenery and historical cities, with palaces and museums to visit en route.

The first leg, of 16 days/16 nights, will start in Gdansk (formerly Danzig) and finish with a gala dinner in Potsdam after a visit to Toruń, Warsaw, Krakow, Jelenia Gora, Dresden, Meissen, Wittenberg and, finally, Potsdam with its magnificent palaces and its unique place in history. The second leg, of 6 days/5 nights, will tour the northern part of Germany, to the Baltic coast, visiting Hanseatic League towns and finishing in Brummen near Arnhem in Holland and the German-Dutch border. This is convenient for those returning to the UK via ferry from Hook of Holland.



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The Prussian Empire reached its peak in 1870 after the victory over Napoleon III at Sedan in the Franco-Prussian War. As a consequence, Prussia acquired a large section of north western Germany and also Alsace and Lorraine. The new German Empire was consolidated under Prussian leadership, based in Berlin and Potsdam in the State of Brandenburg. The kingdom ended in 1918. Meanwhile, further east, over the centuries, Poland has had to fight against incursions and partition by Sweden, Austria, Prussia and Russia. The country was reconstituted in 1918 and again in 1945, albeit as part of the Eastern Bloc until 1989. Poland joined the EU in 2003.

Throughout this region of Europe, art has flourished over the centuries. Literary figures include: Bertolt Brecht, Joseph Conrad, Gunther Grass, The Brothers Grimm and Vladimir Nabokov. Musicians include: Frederic Chopin and Kurt Weill. Philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer and Physicist Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit were born in Danzig (now Gdansk); Scientist Marie Curie was born in Warsaw and Marlene Dietrich hailed from Berlin. The sculptor, Käthe Kollwitz, came from Königsberg (now Kaliningrad) as did the philosopher Immanuel Kant.

Eastern Europe has some of the continent's finest cities, many with UNESCO status: Warsaw, Krakow, Dresden, Potsdam and Berlin. The journeys along the Vistula River, between Gdansk, Warsaw and Krakow, are most attractive, with the Teutonic castle of Malbork, the medieval town and castle at Kwidzyn, and the ancient city of Toruń. The region also has some spectacular countryside, particularly in Silesia and the Sudeten Mountains, south of Krakow, which are part of the Carpathian Mountains along Poland's border with the Czech Republic. The valleys north of these in Poland make for attractive driving as does the Elbe River, once the border of the Holy Roman Empire. We will follow the Elbe from Dresden, through Meissen (the home of porcelain), with a visit to Wittenberg (with its Lutheran connections) to Potsdam.



Malbork Castle near Gdansk



Kwidzyn, on the Vistula River



Main Square, Warsaw



Bishops' Palace, Krakow



Książ Castle



Chojnik Castle



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The tour will begin in Gdansk, formerly the free port of Danzig. Participants can either drive there, a distance of about 1,000 miles from the English Channel, or take advantage of one of the car transport services and then fly from many locations in the UK (London, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, etc). Current prices shown below are per car:

- Road transport from UK to Gdansk via a specialist UK transport company (cost about £1,600)

We are trying to reduce the price of this car transporter service.

The first leg of the 1,100 mile journey will enjoy 16 nights in fine hotels:

- Gdansk (two nights). Stay at hotel in the leafy outskirts. Visit old Hanseatic town and drive to Malbork (formerly Marienburg) Castle, the largest castle in the world built by the Teutonic knights, and the medieval town and castle at Kwidzyn
- Drive to Turnzo (one night) near Toruń: one of the oldest towns in Poland and birthplace of Copernicus. Stay in a hotel that was once a palace.
- Drive from Turnzo to Warsaw (two nights). Stay at the luxury Hotel Bristol. Visit Warsaw.
- Drive to Krakow (three nights): visit this ancient city, founded in the 7th century and capital of Poland from 1038 to 1569; and/or visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau; and/or visit to Wieliczka Salt Mine; and/or drive to the Tatra Mountains, with visit to Castle and Lake at Niedzica
- Drive to a castle hotel south of Wroclaw (two nights) via Książ Castle near Walbrzych in Silesia. See Świdnica a 17th century Lutheran wooden church and Ksiaz Castle
- Drive to a former palace now a hotel near Jelenia Gora (one night) near the Sudeten Mountains. Rooms have been reserved at two neighbouring palaces. Visit Chojnik Castle.
- Drive to Dresden (two nights) and visit this wonderfully restored city after being bombed in WW II. Stay at the luxury Kempinski Hotel.
- Drive to Potsdam (three nights at the Chateau & Relais Bayrisches-Haus in Potsdam's rural Wildpark) via Meissen, to stock up with porcelain and/or a possible diversion to Colditz; stopping in Wittenberg, the home of Martin Luther. In Potsdam, visit the three palaces, the residences of the Prussian kings and the Kaiser until 1918. Visit nearby Berlin, to see the Brandenburg Gate, other great buildings and museums. Gala Dinner.



Dresden Frauenkirche after the bombing



Today, after restoration



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Meissen porcelain



Neues Palais, Potsdam

In each town and city, there will be plenty of time for sightseeing as well as enjoying driving in picturesque countryside. The final days in Potsdam (with visit to nearby Berlin) will be memorable and another celebration to the achievement of the marque of Rolls-Royce, as well as the splendour of the Prussian Empire. In the cities secure parking has been arranged.

The highlight of the first leg will be a gala dinner in Potsdam at the magical Sanssouci Palace.



Brandenburg Gate, Berlin



Sanssouci Palace – venue for Gala Dinner

The tour will be accompanied by an automotive engineer who will be able to assist members who have problems with their cars and enable them to continue their journey.

It is proposed that the tour will take place in the last week of June and the first week of July 2018, which will be almost 100 years after the end of WWI and the end of the Prussian Empire.

At the end of the tour in Potsdam, the distance to the Channel is 450 miles, via Hannover (the capital of Lower Saxony and the seat of the English Hanoverian kings), Utrecht, Hook of Holland and then Ferry (six hours) to Harwich. The Schlosshotel Muenchhausen, near Hamelin, south west of Hannover, is recommended. Alternatively, cars can be transported back to the UK by road from Potsdam. Drivers and passengers can, if they wish, stay longer in the Potsdam/Berlin area and also fly back home from Berlin.



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Members of the Club who live on the Continent of Europe will be able to make their own way to the start in Gdansk and home at the end from Potsdam.

The cost of the 16 day tour will be not more than 6,500 euros (£5,417 @ the rate of 1.20 euros to the pound) per car/couple, to which should be added the cost of flights and of transporting cars by road from the UK to Gdansk (for the start) and, if desired, back from Potsdam at the end.

A second leg

A number of members have suggested a second leg of the tour, which would involve a further six day tour of (in the second week of July), travelling north to the Baltic German coast, via the Muritz National Park. The town of Wismar is one of the most attractive of the Hanseatic League ports, with UNESCO World Heritage status.

Nearby Schwerin Castle is a large romantic, fairy tale palace in a Lakeland setting and was the home of the Dukes of Mecklenburg.



Wismar



Schwerin Castle



Schlosshotel Muenchhausen near Hamelin



The Pied Piper



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Hamelin



Kasteel Engelenburg, Brummen

There will be two nights at the luxury Schlosshotel Muenchhausen near Hamelin (of Pied Piper fame), thus providing an opportunity to visit Hamelin and drive along the River Wesel and see old castles in the area (Schloss Hämelschenburg, Marienburg Castle and Weserrenaissance Schloß Bevern). The final night's stop will be the Kasteel Engelenburg at Brummen near Arnhem in Holland, close to the German border, with a short drive to Hook of Holland for those taking the ferry back to the UK.

The additional 6 day/5 night tour to Hook of Holland will cost not more than 2,250 euros (£1,875 @ 1.20 euros to the pound) per car/couple and the total mileage from Berlin is around 750 miles.

The tour is already well subscribed with 30 cars participating, but there are a few places left.

Please contact John Stuttard if you would like to join "The Tour of Poland and Germany":
johnstuttard@btinternet.com by e-mailing him and/or by completing the attached form, stating if you are interested in:

- The 16 day/15 night tour starting in Gdansk and finishing in Berlin
- The additional 6 day/5 night tour starting in Berlin and finishing in Brummen close to the Dutch border.



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**A TOUR OF POLAND & PRUSSIA
A JOURNEY INTO HISTORY**

Last week of June and first week of July 2018

Please e-mail johnstuttard@btinternet.com and send this form to Sir John Stuttard, Layton House, 23 Layton Lane, Shaftesbury SP7 8EY

I would like to join this tour of 16 days from Gdansk (starting Sunday 24 June 2018) to Potsdam. A non-refundable deposit of £2,400 or 2,880 euros will secure my place now (out of a total cost of about 6,500 euros).

Name and passengers:

Address:

.....

E-mail address:

I am interested in transporting my car to Gdansk via Car Transporter
(Please circle/delete as appropriate)

Note: The driver and passengers will need to fly to Gdansk.

I would like to join the second leg of the 6 day/5 night tour from Potsdam to Brummen in the second week of July at a total cost of about 2,250 euros per couple.

YES/NO

Dietary requirements, if any.....

Car: Model..... Chassis No..... Reg No..... Year.....

Body style.....Colour.....

As a participant in this event and in consideration of the right and privilege to enter and participate in this event and intending to be legally bound, I agree to release The 20-Ghost Club Limited and all committee members and its representatives from any and all liability and injuries, damage or loss or consequential loss arising from my entry and participation in the event. I also agree that information about the participating car, the names of the driver and passengers, including photographs taken during the event and tour, may be published in the Club's journal, News & Record, unless I inform the Editor by e-mail that I do not wish such information and/or photographs to appear. I confirm that I will have public liability insurance cover in place for Poland, Germany and the Netherlands should I be accepted for this tour/event. I also understand that I will not be accepted for this event if I have not paid my current year's subscription to the Club.

Signed..... Dated