Norton Knatchbull School - High Tatras Trek

Trip Code: HTTS

Version:

WALK & TREK	GUIDED GROUP	CHALLENGING
		7



HIGHLIGHTS

- Trek through the spectacular High Tatras of Poland and Slovakia
- Summit Rysy (2,499m), Poland's highest peak
- Enjoy classic hut-to-hut trekking in the Carpathian Mountains

- Discover the historic cities of Krakow and Zakopane
- Trek with KE's experienced team, running this adventure since 2009

AT A GLANCE

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Straddling the border between Poland and Slovakia, the magnificent High Tatras are the highest part of the spectacular Carpathian Mountains and present a genuine wilderness setting for trekking adventures. This secret side of Europe is home to a stunning alpine landscape where excellent trails link together comfortable and scenically-located mountain refuges. In short, the High Tatras are perfect for anyone looking for a classic KE mountain holiday.

We have an introductory hike in the picturesque Strazyska Valley before paying a visit to the Polish mountain town of Zakopane. Next, we hike up to the spectacular lake of Morskie Oko on Rysy's north side and cross a high pass into the beautiful 'Polish Five Lakes Valley'. We then hike to the famously scenic Rusinowa Meadow for yet another jaw-dropping panorama of the Tatras, before transferring around to Strbske Pleso on the Slovakian side of the range. Climbing Rysy (2499m) from this side is no less special than the northern approach and the trails are generally less busy. Additionally, by hiking up from and back to our lake-side accommodation at Paprodske Pleso, we can leave most of our gear in our rooms and enjoy the day unencumbered. Two further days of trekking take us back across the 'White Tatras' via an overnight at the remote Pri Zelenom Hut and we end our incredible journey with a night in the colourful UNESCO-listed city of Krakow. If you are looking for a real hut-to-hut trekking adventure which combines two of Europe's most welcoming countries, remote mountain overnights and superb wilderness landscape all topped off with a laid-back medieval city - then this is the perfect choice.

Is this holiday for you?

This holiday, which is limited to a maximum group size of 12, follows generally good and well-marked walking trails. However, the ascent of Rysy does include some short sections of easy scrambling (protected by chains) and high up it's also possible to encounter patches of old snow. The mountain huts we use are generally inaccessible by vehicle and this means that on some days you will be carrying all of your personal gear. Since neither a sleeping bag nor a camping mattress is needed, we suggest that you can limit the weight of your rucksack to no more than 8 or 9 kilograms. And, on the longest days (Day 3 and Day 5), you can leave most of your gear at the overnight hut. On average, you can expect to be walking for 6 hours each day and to accumulate 1,000 metres of ascent or descent. This trekking holiday is suitable for regular hillwalkers, looking for an excellent week's mountain walking in a largely undiscovered part of the world.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- Experienced KE Schools Leader
- Professional and qualified local guide
- Group airport transfers on arrival and departure
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- All land transport required by the itinerary

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Tips
- Some meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

Travelling to your Destination

If flying from the UK there are low cost airlines available to the start and from the end of your holiday.

To benefit from full financial protection, ease your holiday planning, and avoid dealing with airlines, we can book scheduled flights from the UK as part of a flight inclusive package. Scheduled flights are usually more expensive that low cost alternatives, however potentially less stressful if your flight is cancelled or delayed. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

On your arrival on Day 1 there will be a group, escorted transfer on public transport from Krakow Airport into the centre of Krakow.

On Day 8, there will be a group escorted transfer from the hotel in Krakow back to Krakow Airport in the early morning.

Full joining instructions, hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

7 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 5 dinners are included in the holiday price. Where there is a wide variety of dining options we have not included these meals in the price preferring to leave the choice of where to eat and the budget for these meals to you. We recommend that you allow from £7 to £20 for each of these meals for a total of 2 lunches and 2 dinners.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

Water from the taps may not be drinkable in all locations on this trip - please check with your guide. We recommend taking water purification tablets and a reusable bottle with a filter such as **Water-to-Go**, which can both be used to help make safe other water sources. Please note that we do not encourage the purchase of single use plastic bottles.

In the hotels in Zakopane and Krakow, breakfasts are normally buffet style with cereal, fruit, eggs toast and a selection of cheeses and meats with bread. Both Zakopane and Krakow have a very wide range of restaurants with international cuisine plus inexpensive cafes and local fast-food outlets. In the huts, breakfasts are usually bread with a selection of meats and cheeses and sometimes cooked eggs and ham. Dinners normally consist of filling, home-made soups, pasta, goulash etc. Packed lunches of sandwiches and fruit are also provided at each of the huts. Additional snack food items, such as chocolate bars, can be purchased at the huts alongwith beers and soft drinks. Beer has been brewed in Krakow for the last thousand years and is excellent. The city has an abundance of pavement cafes and local bars to sit and watch the world go by.

Accommodation

The group will spend 1 night in a hotel in Zakopane and 1 night in a hotel in Krakow. Accommodation in these places is twin sharing with either en-suite or shared facilities.

There are 5 nights staying in huts, which are mostly maintained by the Mountaineering Association of Slovakia. These are wooden or concrete structures usually with 4-6 bedded rooms or dormitory style with communal facilities, which usually include restaurant area, toilets and showers. Hot water at these huts is normally provided by solar heating and in some huts may be available only for a limited period each evening. In the more inaccessible mountain huts, facilities will be more rudimentary - each hut does have mains electricity and some have basic, although sometimes unreliable, wifi. Sleeping bags are not required at the huts, as bed sheets and blankets are supplied. However, you may wish to carry a cotton or silk sheet sleeping bag.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by a professional and experienced KE Schools leader, and an experienced, qualified local guide.

Altitude

This holiday involves going to moderately high altitude. During the course of your trip you will reach altitudes in excess of 2500 metres. Most people will have no difficulty with this level of altitude but before coming on the holiday, we recommend you read the advice on trekking at high altitude. You can also talk to one of our trekking experts if you have any concerns about altitude.

Spending Money

The local currency in Poland is the Polish Zloty and in Slovakia it's the Euro. We estimate that the equivalent of £150 should be sufficient to cover your incidental expenditure including tips for local staff, drinks and souvenirs, it is possible to purchase beer, wine and soft drinks at all the huts in Poland and Slovakia. An approximate split is £100 changed into Polish zloty and 60 euros for your time spent in Slovakia. Please be aware you will need your Polish Zloty and Euros before you start trekking. Euros, dollars and sterling can be changed into Polish Zloty at the airport or in Krakow centre. Cash in Polish Zloty can be withdrawn from ATMs on arrival at the airport, in Krakow centre and in Zakopane. Please do not bring travellers cheques as these can be time-consuming to exchange.

Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is the accepted way of saying 'thank you' for good service. It is important to remember that tipping is voluntary and should be dependent on good service. On this trip we recommend that you give a tip to your guides on the trek and also on the city tour of Krakow. We estimate that €20 - 25 per person will be sufficient for these tips.

Baggage Allowance

Since you will be carrying all the personal equipment you need for this trip you should make every effort to keep this to a minimum and we recommend that you have a trial walk with your packed rucksack. With careful planning and considering that you will not have to carry a sleeping bag, it should be possible to keep the weight of your sack down to 8 or 9 kgs / 20 lbs. It is possible to leave any items not required on the trek at the group's hotel in Zakopane. Please note we have a walk of around ¼ mile between the bus station and the group's hotel in Zakopane and we therefore recommend that you travel with only your rucksack and an additional small fold-away bag to store travel clothes etc which you wish to leave at the hotel.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

The unit of currency in Poland is the Polish Zloty.

Preparing for your Holiday

It makes a lot of sense to spend some time before coming on a trekking or climbing trip getting some additional exercise. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. The best preparation is regular hill-walking with mountain walks every couple of weeks or so where you are out for 7 or 8 hours with several hundred metres of ascent. Failing this, we would suggest that you adopt a weekly exercise regime leading up to your trip. Running, squash and swimming are good for developing better stamina. Whatever your exercise programme, we recommend that before departure, you try to fit in a number of long walks in hilly country.

Climate

The main season for mountain trekking in this part of Poland / Slovakia is from July to September and the weather is generally very good. We can expect daytime, valley temperatures of between 20ºC and 25ºC, dropping to 12ºC or lower at night dependent on the altitude we stay. As with any mountain area, there is always the risk of some poor weather, with rain and wind and the occasional storm. However, this area usually enjoys a very pleasant and stable climate at this time of year.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Maps

EKO-GRAF Polish and Slovak Tatra Mountains

This map covers the three main groups of the Tatra Mountains: the High Tatras, Western Tatras and the eastern Beliansk Tatry. Coverage extends from Zakopane in the north to the southern boundary of the Tatra National Park in Slovakia. West/east the map extends from the Sivy Vrch peak and Liptowsk Mikul to Tatransk Lomnica. Contours are at 20-m intervals and shading and graphic relief give a very detailed picture of the areas topography. Numerous peaks, passes, valleys, etc. are name, and waymarked trails are indicated. Also marked are cable cars and huts. Also included is a street plan of Zakopane showing main streets and an overview road map at 1:600,000 of the area between Krakw and the Tatra Mountains. The map legend includes English.

Tatras High and Western - Belaer Kompass 2100 (1:50000)

Kompass Map & Guide - High Tatra (1:25,000)

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

HTT Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

You should bring the following items:

- Walking boots
- Trainers or sandals (for hut use)
- Socks
- Spare laces
- Trekking trousers
- Lightweight waterproof overtrousers
- Underwear
- Shorts
- Baselayer shirts (at least one long sleeve)
- Shirt or mid-layer
- Warm fleece jacket or jumper
- Lightweight waterproof jacket
- Sun hat
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses

- Lightweight thermal gloves
- Daypack 35 to 40 litres
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 litre (x2) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Minimal toiletries
- Antibacterial hand wash
- Small travel towel
- Basic First Aid Kit including : Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium) painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, Insect repellent (DEET), and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

The following items are optional:

- Wet wipes
- Trekking poles
- Camera
- Pen-knife
- Travel clothes
- Small padlock (to lock trek bag)
- Earplugs (Especially if you are not the one snoring)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

You will need to carry all of your personal gear for the 5 or 6 days that are spent in the Tatras. On

account of this, we advise that you take a rucksack of around 40 litres capacity.
Note that bedding including sheets is provided in the refuges and, therefore, a sleeping bag is not needed. The refuges all have hot showers but towels are not provided.

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

We sell this holiday on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The holiday starts meeting at Krakow Railway Station for an onward transfer to Zakopane. There will be a single, escorted group transfer from Krakow Airport.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Why Choose KE

HTT Why KE

KE has been running this High Tatras trekking adventure since 2009, bringing years of experience to a superb hut-to-hut journey through the mountains of Poland and Slovakia. Our itinerary combines some of the finest trekking in the Carpathians with the challenge of summiting Rysy (2,499m), Poland's highest peak, and time to explore the historic city of Krakow.With six days of trekking, overnight stays in mountain refuges and a small group limited to 12, this is a rewarding mountain adventure that takes you beyond the usual city break to discover a spectacular and less familiar corner of Europe.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change