

# POLAND STUDY VISIT, MARCH 11-18, 2023: PRELIMINARY ITINERARY

## Saturday, March 11

ca. 12:00 Arrival at Kraków airport, transfer to [Hotel Żaczek](#)

Afternoon: 3-hour tour of Kraków

Evening: Welcome dinner

## Sunday, March 12

ca. 10:00-15:00 Guided tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau

## Monday, March 13

Business meetings in Kraków. Potential visits:

- UBS – Offshoring center providing services ranging from investor relations to cybersecurity for the Swiss bank's global operations
- Motorola – Software development hub

*(NB we're kind of starting with the modern economy in Kraków, then travelling back in time once we get to Warsaw; these companies are products of the post-1990s economy. But I think it will work.)*

## Tuesday, March 14

ca. 10:00 High-speed train to Warsaw (train schedule for March will be published sometime in December/January)

Transfer to [Hotel Hera](#) (NB the reviews on Google Maps are pretty bad but they're also pretty old: the place was renovated recently and is much nicer now. Sort the reviews by "most recent" and you get a very different picture.)

Afternoon: 3-hour tour of Warsaw

## Wednesday, March 15-Friday March 17

Business meetings in Warsaw. Potential visits/speakers:

- **Leszek Balcerowicz**, who needs no introduction. (I know his son and did some work for his foundation once...have his e-mail here somewhere.)
- **Artur Rytel** – grew up on a truck farm, started a canned vegetables company while still a student in the 1990s, almost went bankrupt in the Russian crash of 1998, got back on his feet selling to McDonald's, now present in something like 10 markets – growing and importing **vegetables; supplying McDonald's** and other restaurants; and selling **ready washed and cut salads** (a product category he introduced in

Poland). **Hoping for a tour of his farm & factory**. Occasional client of mine; he was EY's Polish Entrepreneur of the Year a couple years back and I helped him prep for his speech in English, and I just edited a big presentation from them for a tender they're entering.

- **Dr. Irena Eris** – founded a **cosmetics** company in the 1980s (!), now one of Poland's richest women, with a chain of spas/hotel in addition to her beauty brand. Friend and former neighbor of mine knows her (I think).
- **Romuald Rytwiński** – worked at communist-era **car producer** FSO but never got promoted because he never joined the party; got talent-scouted by **GM** and sent to the States to work for a few years before coming back to set up and run their Opel factory in Gliwice, one of the flagship investments of the 1990s and the first greenfield car factory after the fall of communism. I met him about 15 years ago when I toured the factory – VERY impressive operation he put together – and have contact to him via a mutual friend.
- **Jacek Siwicki**, managing partner of Enterprise Investors, a **PE fund** that grew out of a U.S. funded business-assistance program back in the **very early 1990s**. We do some work for them, I'm in touch via their spokeswoman.
- **Angelo Pressello**, American entrepreneur who runs an **IT company** here. Friend of mine from the American Chamber of Commerce.
- **Tony Housh**, company rep for **Northrop Grumman**, and/or **Chris Hutchinson**, former **U.S. Army ranger who imports defense equipment including Sig Sauer** firearms for Polish special forces and sells satellite imagery to Polish government agencies. I figure they may be interesting in the context of Ukraine, and for Citadel students even without the context of Ukraine. Tony is the chairman of AmCham and Chris is a personal friend.

### **Saturday, March 18**

Free day in Warsaw. I'm happy to organize optional visits to historic sites/museums.

### **Sunday, March 19**

Transfer to airport and departure to U.S.