

Clwyd Mountaineering Club

Plan for Polish Tatras Trip in October 2022 version 1 of 17 April 2022

Organiser: Peter Friend, p.j.friend@icloud.com

Outward journey

Friday 21 October. An early start. Travel to Manchester airport (by train or taxi). Flight: Ryanair FR2141 from Manchester (10.30) to Kraków (13.55). Evening meal at my Polish friends' house. Stay overnight in hotel in Kraków.

Saturday 22 October. Bus to Zakopane, then minibus to national park entrance, then walk in to mountain hut. Arrive mid afternoon.

Mountain walks/climbs.

If we are in the High Tatras, we will climb pointy peaks, some with great scrambles - quite exposed but protected by chains. Maybe Rysy, Świnica, Szpiglasowy Wierch, Kościelec and Kozi Wierch. If the weather is good, we can tackle the exciting Orla Perć ridge (rather like Black Cuillin ridge on Skye, but with chains on the hard sections).

If we are in the Western Tatras, we will do some grand mountain walks, including some fine ridges. No scrambling. Similar terrain to Carneddau but higher and more like Scottish Highlands. Great views. Maybe Ciemniak, Ornak, Wołowiec, Kończysty Wierch and Starorobociański Wierch.

We cannot include both areas in one week. **So please indicate to me your preference of which one of these two areas you would prefer.** (I prefer the High Tatras)

Mountain Huts

We will stay seven nights in two different mountain huts:

- If we are in the High Tatras, we will stay at huts at Morskie Oko, Pięć Stawów, Murowaniec or Roztoka.
- If we are in the Western Tatras, we will stay at Ornak and Chochołowska huts.

All of the huts are warm, comfortable and picturesque, with a restaurant open all day, a good drying room and central heating.

Return journey

Saturday 29 October. Walk out from hut to national park entrance, minibus to Zakopane, bus to Kraków (arrive mid afternoon). Sightseeing, eating and drinking in ancient town centre. Stay overnight in hotel.

Sunday 30 October. Train to airport. Flight: easyJet EZY7252 from Kraków (11.00) to Liverpool (12.45). Return home by train or taxi.

Weather and ground conditions

October is quite a dry month in the Tatras. Being autumn, the weather is variable (but much less so than in North Wales). It can be mild, dry and sunny, but snow is also possible. Generally the air is much drier than in North Wales, and it is much less windy.

The weather forecasts are quite accurate, so - shortly before we fly out - we should have a good idea of what it will be like.

Equipment needed

If the weather is fair, then normal autumn walking gear is all that is needed. If there is snow, then take ice axe, poles and crampons or microspikes. Dormitories are cosy and warm and blankets are provided, so need to take a sleeping bag - instead take a lightweight sleeping bag liner, or hire bedding at the huts. No need to take climbing gear - unless you want to climb the peak Mnich. I will take my 44 litre sized rucksack, weight around 8 kg. I will issue a recommended kit list later on.

Finances

Total cost of around £580:

- flights: £180
- hotels in Kraków: £70
- huts: £110
- meals: £200
- public transport: £20
- UK travel between home and airports is extra.
- insurance is also extra (see below).

Travel insurance is a matter for personal taste. If money is no object, then I recommend BMC insurance. But I never bother with this, as the mountain rescue service is free in Poland and so are hospitals (if you have a EHIC or GHIC card).

Participants should obtain £300-worth of Polish currency (I recommend <https://www.postoffice.co.uk/foreign-currency>) and take a debit or credit card.

I plan to book places at the huts before end May, as the most popular ones get booked up early. **To reserve a place on this trip, participants need to pay me a deposit of £50 by 20 May at the latest.** Please also advise of any preference for room size (the larger dormitories cost less).

I will book hotels in Kraków later on. I will need payment from participants in advance of the trip (I will advise on that later on).

Participants will need to book their own flights.

Notes

I have become something of an expert on the Polish Tatras, having been there eight times in recent years. It is a great area for mountaineering, with a wide variety of walks and climbs of varying levels of difficulty. The weather is in general much kinder than in UK, and the paths are well made. It is quite a low-cost destination: everything costs much less than in UK or the Alps.

Web sites for reference (mostly in Polish language)

Huts:

- Chochołowska. <http://chocholowska.com>
- Morskie Oko. <https://schroniskomorskieoko.pl/en>

- Murowaniec. www.murowaniec.com
- Ornak. <http://schronisko-ornak.pl>
- Pięć Stawów. <http://schroniska.pttk.pl/piecstawow/en/trasy/index.html>
- Roztoka. <https://www.schroniskoroztoka.pl>

Map of Tatras and walking route planner:

<http://www.mapa-turystyczna.pl>

Webcam, updated every few minutes; for some locations current weather also given.

<http://pogoda.topr.pl>