



Reading and Movies

We do carry a portable library on tour, but you may also be interested in the following books. Be sure to check out the blog portion of our website at www.experienceplus.com/blog for additional suggestions and to read reviews.

Guidebooks

We recommend any of the standard, current guidebooks such as Fodor's, Frommer's, Lonely Planet, Rick Steves or Rough Guides.

Literature on Poland

- *The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and Their Culture*, by Adam Zamoyski, A synthesis of the wonderful history of Poland.
- *Polish Customs, Traditions, and Folklore*, Sophie Hodorowicz Knab, A comprehensive resource about Polish customs for English speakers.
- *A Polish Son in the Motherland: An American's Journey Home*, A beautiful and humorous story about an American born man who traveled to and lived in the community where his grandparents had once lived, in Poland, before immigrating to the US.
- *Silent Places*, by Jeff Gusky, A photographic journey and study of the remnant Jewish culture that once flourished before the Holocaust and World War II. He presents stirring images that will leave you silent.

Literature by Polish Authors

- *The Author of Himself: The Life of Marcel Reich-Ranicki*, by Marcel Reich-Ranicki, In a beautifully written autobiography this Polish author describes his childhood, youth, and adulthood through an examination of the experiences he lived from WWII, to the Polish Secret Service, to his beginnings as a book reviewer and finally famous author.
- *The Glass Mountain: Twenty-Eight Ancient Polish Folktales and Fables*, by W.S. Kuniczak and Pat Bargielski, These are truly ancient traditional Polish tales that have the childhood feeling of fairy tales. An enjoyable read for readers of all ages.
- *Solaris*, by Stanislaw Lem, This was the first book published in the US by Lem. Lem has written multiple books and is known for his science fiction, philosophical, and satirical writing. Check out other books written by him as well.
- *The Heart of Darkness*, by Joseph Conrad, This classic comes alive by the wonderful and multi-faceted writing style of Conrad. Although Conrad is British, he was born and raised in Poland.

Movies About or Set in Poland That We Have Enjoyed

- *Just Beyond This Forest*, A heartfelt story of how an Aryan washerwoman becomes the unlikely protector of a young Jewish child during WWII.
- *Johnny Aquarius*, A funny fable of a man who finds that he can perform miracles such as healing the sick and bringing the rain. This is the story of the adventure he has when he leaves his pregnant wife to perform miracles around the Polish countryside.
- *Enigma Secret*, The story of how three brilliant Polish mathematicians broke the Nazi secret coding machine, Enigma, and the consequences this heroic act had.
- *Man of the Tracks (1956)*. An Anti-Stalinist film about the investigation of a death (murder or suicide) of a train engineer.



Reading and Movie List- Poland Slovakia Hungary

- *Schindler's List (1993)*. Directed by Steven Spielberg, the movie is based on a true story of businessman Oskar Schindler and his humanitarian act to turn his factory into a refuge for Jews and saving them from the Auschwitz concentration camp.
- *Deserter's Gold (1998)*. A caper comedy that takes place at the start of WWII. The Polish Underground needs money to pay for a shipment of weapons and learns about gold that is being stashed in an ex-Polish Bank by the Nazi's.
- *Desire for Love (2002)*. A historical drama about the relationship of composer/ musician Fryderyk Chopin and author Aurore Dupin. The soundtrack includes Chopin's own music.
- *The Pianist (2002)*, a Roman Polanski film about a Polish Jewish musician as he struggles to survive the Ghetto of Warsaw during WWII.
- *Just Love Me (2006)*. A romantic comedy set in contemporary Warsaw about a young male architect and two women that have caught his eye.
- *Katyn (2007)*. While fleeing from the Germans, a group of Polish officers and soldiers are captured by the Soviet Army. Informed by the Soviets that the men were massacred in the Katyn Forest by the Germans, the truth comes out by way of an officer's diary that men were actually murdered by the Soviet Secret Police.

Literature on Slovakia

- *Letters from Slovakia*, by David James, A humorous look at what life is like for an Englishman living in Slovakia.
- *Images Gone With Time: Photographic Reflections of Slovak Folk Life (1950-1965)*, by Igor Grossmann, a portrait of the everyday life of the Slovak village in the middle of our century.
- *Out of This Furnace*, by Thomas Bell, this book vividly tells the story of Slovak immigrants and their children who lived, toiled, and died in America's mill towns.
- *Danube* by Italian scholar, Claudio Magris. Sometimes ponderous, in the style of Italian writers, it is worth a read before you depart.

Literature by Slovak Authors

- *The Demon of Conformity*, by Dominik Tatarka. The fantastic story of a writer revealing the evil side of the socialist society and the "demonic" character of post-Stalin era in former Czechoslovakia.
- *Traditional Slovak Folktales*, by Pavol Dobšinský. For those who want to know more about the world of magic and the fight between good and evil preserved from generation to generation in the villages of the Carpathian Mountains.

Movies About or Set in Slovakia That We Have Enjoyed

- *The Shop on Main Street* - A haunting work about the intersecting of the political and personal, developed through the strange yet touching relationship of an elderly Jewish shop owner and a passive carpenter whom the Nazis appoint as her "Aryan controller." Winner of the 1966 Academy Award for the Best Foreign Film.
- *Landscape* - The microcosm of the small village is invaded by war, Fascists and Communists alternate at the rule, new forces destroy slowly the traditional way of life. Slowly, the series of short human stories connect together to make what we may call magic history.

Literature on Hungary

- *The Spirit of Hungary: A Panorama of Hungarian History and Culture*, by Stephen Sisa. Sisa succeeds in producing a comprehensive history of various aspects of Hungarian culture and art, while illuminating the spirit that is Hungary.



Reading and Movie List- Poland Slovakia Hungary

- *The Hungarians: A Thousand Years of Victory in Defeat*, by Paul Lendvai and Ann Major. This is an extremely informative and easily readable history of a little known people, culture, and country. This would be a great book to brush up on Hungary before your trip.
- *Strictly From Hungary*, Ladislas Farago and John Farago, a humorous account of the talented people, from wonderful artists to spectacular con-artists and charlatans, that have hailed from Hungary.
- *Danube* by Italian scholar, Claudio Magris. Sometimes ponderous, in the style of Italian writers, it is worth a read before you depart.

Literature by Hungarian Authors

- *Journey by Moonlight*, by Antel Szerb, An exciting and beautifully written/translated story of a young man haunted by his past while he flees employment in his father's factory and endures the disastrous start to his marriage. Szerb has been hailed as one of the master novelists of the 20th century, check out his other books, specifically, *The Pendragon Legend*.
- *Kaddish for an Unborn Child*, by Imre Kertesz. This eloquent yet tragic story tells about a Jewish writer in Hungary who is haunted by his decision to not bring a child into the world of the Hungarian Holocaust. It is an interesting meditation on the Holocaust, and although painful at times, it brings anyone who reads it into a contemplative mood.
- *Memoir of Hungary, 1944-1948*, by Marai Sandor. This is a humorous and astute memoir by exiled novelist Marai Sandor. He clearly and scathingly enlightens the reader to the life of a Hungarian in the years between the Nazi attacks and the solidification of communism in the society.
- *The Adventures of Sinbad*, by Gyula Krudy. If you're looking for a fun, Hungary-based novel, on the lighter side of reading, this should be your choice.

Movies About or Set in Hungary That We Have Enjoyed

- *The Porcelain Doll*, Three fables of Hungarian rural life are interwoven in a whimsical tale set in the time period between the 1930's and 1950's.
- *Somewhere in Europe*, This film is about an older musician who takes in children orphaned by WWII. It is a story of human compassion and the necessity of people to befriend and rely upon each other.
- *The Nazi's Last Victims: The Holocaust in Hungary*, Randolph L. Braham and Scott Miller. This book recounts the history of the last country to be invaded by Nazi Germany, a topic that is often left out when discussing Holocaust history.
- *An American Rhapsody (2001)*. Based on the true story of a family's escape from Communist Hungary where the parents and one daughter escape but are forced to leave the youngest daughter behind. At age six, and having been raised by a loving couple, the girl's birth parents who now reside in the US send for the girl.
- *Out of Ashes (2003)*. A cable TV movie starring Christine Lahti as Gisella Perl, a Hungarian gynecologist and Holocaust survivor. When Perl applies for citizenship to the US in 1946, she must testify in military court as to the extent of her collaboration with the Nazis. Troubling to the court is the number of abortions she performed at Auschwitz to save women from the gas chambers.
- *Forecast for Tomorrow (2003)*. A seriocomic movie about a man that abandons his family to become a monk. However, years later he is expelled from the monastery when his family spots him. He returns home to live in the garage of the home of his much dysfunctional family.

Literature on Cycling

- *The Cyclist's Training Bible* by Joe Friel.
- *Miles from Nowhere* by Barbara Savage. One of the best-written bicycle adventure stories available.



EXPERIENCEPLUS!
BICYCLE TOURS SINCE 1972

Reading and Movie List- Poland Slovakia Hungary

- *Bicycling Magazine* regularly carries articles on training and technique. Visit your local library on a Sunday afternoon and peruse their collection.
- *Effective Cycling* by John Foresters. Tells you everything you could possibly need to know and more, including safety, maintenance, technique and the physiology of cycling.