

Struggling with your Polish ancestry?

Here are a few tips you may find interesting and helpful while exploring your Polish heritage. They will be all discussed during our presentation.

➤ **Learn more about the complicated Polish history**

It will help you understand and learn what was the nationality of your ancestors. Were they actually Polish, Jewish, German, Russian, Ukrainian, Ruthenian, Austrian, or maybe Galician? You might have seen all these while going through various records. In many cases it is rather a complicated issue.

➤ **Find & locate an exact place of origin of your ancestors.**

- Assuming you have the name of the town, have you ever tried to prove that it is where they came from?
- Please note that in majority of cases if some of the documents say they were from Warsaw, Krakow, Rzeszow, Lomza, Suwlaki, Poznan, or any other big town – they most likely were not from these towns. Some of these towns/cities were possibly listed to describe the area – not necessary the real place of their origin. Anyway, it's always worth to confirm it or find the right location.
- If you have the name of the town – have you located on the map? Are you sure it's been done properly? There are many places in Poland with exactly the same name...

➤ **Learn what parish/Jewish community or Civil Registry Office your ancestral hometown/village belonged to.**

- There are various databases and websites you may use, depending on the part of Poland your family is from.

➤ **Find the vital (or other) records from that place**

- Check if any of the state archives has the collection you are interested in;
- Find out what diocese it belonged to and learn if the proper diocesan or archdiocesan archive might have records from that place;
- See what records might be available on the LDS microfilms.
- Consider the fact only records older than 100 years are given to the archives while the rest might be still in a parish or Civil Registry Office.

➤ **Specify what else might be of your interest:**

- Are you interested in the family stories, exact location of your ancestors' house, the graves of your forefathers, reconnecting with your living relatives, etc. ?
- Would you like just to learn more, see the pictures or even a video from these places or exchange letters with your Polish family?
- Are you considering a heritage tour to see it with your eyes?
- It is all doable and in many cases much easier than expected..

We can help you with all above starting from the free of charge preliminary research, through the advanced- or on-site- genealogy research, to a tailor made heritage tour to Poland or Ukraine.

If you have any further questions regarding my presentation or any other concerns regarding the Polish genealogy– feel free to contact me directly at tom@genealogytour.com and visit our website www.genealogytour.com for more details.

Thank you for joining us today! – Tom Szymkowiak

