

Lunds Studenters Folkdanslag

Trip to Poland around July 26 – August 3, 2026

Every year around Bielsko-Biała and Żywiec in the southernmost part of Poland at the border to the Czech Republic the *Międzynarodowych Spotkań Folklorystycznych* (International Folklore gathering) is arranged in connection to the *Tygodnia Kultury Beskidzkiej* (the Beskids culture-week) They usually hold auditions to make sure the groups taking part are qualified, but we have good contacts and are almost certainly able to go if we register. At least 15 international and several Polish dance teams are invited and we get an opportunity to meet folk dancers from many countries. Conditions are that it's amateur dance teams and that members wear folk costumes and live music, as well as showing traditional culture from their own region.

At the festival there are a lot of shows. Every day we will walk in the parade as well as do 1, or sometimes 2, shows á 45 minutes. As well as one competition show of 35-40 minutes. We are welcome to add other parts of folk tradition other than dancing. Motto for shows: "The more authentic the better!". We also get good opportunities to see the other groups' shows.

Part of the arrangement is a competition. (Of course we will do our best but it doesn't really matter how we place). In this you show music, dance, song, rites, rituals and ceremonies (for example typical for the season) typical for the groups country and region of origin. The competition show needs to work naturally as a part of the traditional local culture. Therefore we need a regular show and one that shows a wedding in the 1700:s. First prize goes to the group that best shows a couple of scenes from their region, but there are six other prizes as well.

We haven't yet got a program for the days, but shows will be in Wisła, Szczyrk, Żywiec, Maków Podhalański, Oświęcim, Jablonków (in the Czech Republic) and the villages Istebna and Ujsoly. It is not guaranteed every group will have a show at every stop. Usually there are nice big stages, sometimes simple stages in parks.

To be able to carry out the wedding program we need to be 8 male and 8 female dancers. If we borrow some of the musicians at critical points we can get away with 6-7 pairs of dancers. At the most we can have 35 participants. Everyone needs to be 16 years or over.

At the festival we get accommodation at hotels or similar in Bielsko-Biała or Wisła as well as three meals a day and bus trips to the shows. We need to pay the trip to and from the festival ourselves. Prices have been rising dramatically the last few years, but we believe the trip will cost between 2400 and 3000 kr. We will travel either by ferry+train or flight to Kraków then bus or flight to Wrocław then train, depending on what is the cheapest when booking. We will take a preliminary fee; you can get money back after the trip or have to pay a little extra.

If we go by ferry+train it will probably be the night ferry to Poland and then day train, but it could be day ferry and night train. We're counting that a 4-bed cabin on the ship or sleeping traincar or couchette will be included in the price.

Departure from Lund is probably Sunday the 26/7 or Monday 27/7 and return Monday 3/8 or Tuesday morning 4/8, but reserve a day or two on either side until we know for sure.

To join the trip you need to be a member of Lunds studenters folkdanslag spring semester 2026. You need a folk consume - can be rented by us (contact viktoria.stenqvist@gmail.com). We also need to meet and practice, preliminary 6 occasions to practice two pretty lengthy show programs. A couple of times in the end of May/ start of June as well as 2 times closely before departure. (And you should join as many regular shows as possible here at home to get the practice in.)

The host organization needs to plan accommodation for us. Also a lot of other groups are interested, so we need to sign up our group as soon as possible and let them know how many members as well as number of men/woman, amount of dancers/instrumentalists. **OBS!** This is why we need **preliminary sign up at the latest february 2:nd** to info@lundsstudentersfolkdanslag.se, preferably with an estimate of how probable it is that you are able to come with. The trip will only take place if we make the judgement that we have enough members coming,

Final sign up as well as preliminary payment at the latest 27th of April.

Questions? Kontakt stig.hellemarck@folkdansringen.se, phone 076 064 7240.