

# DETAILED PROGRAM

## Friday, May 8, 2026

15:00 - 18:00 – registration of participants in the lobby of the **Mercure Kraków Old Town hotel**

17:10 – meeting in the lobby of the **Mercure Kraków Old Town hotel**

17:15 – departure by coach to the Wieliczka Salt Mine, guided tour /ticketed event/

*The coach will be waiting opposite the Mercure Kraków Old Town hotel from 17:05*

18:00 - 19:45 – the guided walk

20:00 - 22:00 – dinner in the underground salt mine in the Jan Haluszka I chamber

*DRESS CODE: Casual. Please, note that the temperature underground is around 17–18°C. When setting out on the trail, you should wear clothing appropriate to the conditions and dress in layers.*

Approximately 22:45 – Return to Kraków, overnight stay

## Saturday, May 9, 2026

8:00 - 10:00 – registration of participants in the lobby of the **Mercure Kraków Old Town hotel**

### SESSIONS, COFFEE BREAKS, LUNCH – 9:15 - 16:10

#### 9:15 - 9:55 | **Conference opening ceremony**

- **Guests will be welcomed by** PDG Piotr Jankowski and PDG Sergio Aragon, Chairman of the Organizing Committee (HOC). The presidents of RC Kraków Wyspiański and RC Barcelona Alba will also be in attendance.
- **Anthems:** Listen to the Polish national anthem and the Rotary International anthem
- **Welcome speeches:**
  - District Governor 2231 Poland – Greg Gregorczyk
  - Mayor of the City of Krakow – Dr Aleksander Miszalski
- **Official opening:** Francesco Arezzo – President of Rotary International.
- **Special Address:** Dr. Olha Paliychuk – Governor of District 2232 Ukraine.

#### **Presentation Part #1: Peace and Security**

9:55 - 10:20 | **Prof. Wawrzyniec Konarski, Rector of the Vistula University of Finance and Business (Poland)**

- *Topic: National stereotypes – barriers or conditions for mutual coexistence?*

10:20 - 10:45 | **Dan Smith (Sweden)**

- *Topic: Peace, Security and Nature*

10:45 - 11:10 | **Zbigniew Bartuś (Poland)**

- *Topic: Truth, friendship, cooperation: Rotary Club Oświęcim – initiator and symbol of reconciliation in a city that cherishes the memory of Auschwitz*

11:10 - 11:40 | **Coffee break** and short press conference with RI President Francesco Arezzo.

### **Presentation Part #2: Inclusive and Dialogue**

11:40 - 12:00 | **Nuria Masdeu Pamies (Spain)**

- *Topic: The Semantics of Peace and Hope in a Troubled World*

12:00 - 12:20 | **Brian Rusch (USA)**

- *Topic: Peace in Action: Building an Inclusive Rotary for All*

12:20 - 13:00 | **Roundtable debate**

- Topic: Is peace a given? Do we all understand peace in the same way? What does the word "peace" mean for future generations?

**LUNCH:** 13:00 - 14:15

### **Presentation Part #3: Ecology and Resource Conservation**

14:15 - 14:35 | **Dr Marta Zając-Ossowska (Poland)**

- *Topic: Zoos as organizations supporting the conservation of biodiversity around the world*

14:35 - 14:55 | **Dr Eng. Benedykt Hac (Poland)**

- *Topic: Protection of the Baltic Sea: Removal of fuel contamination, unexploded ordnance and chemical hazards in the context of international cooperation*

14:55 - 15:05 | **Dariusz Królicki (Poland)**

- *Topic: Let's save water - the source of life*

15:05 - 15:25 | **Coffee break**

### **Presentation Part #4: Future and Symbols**

15:25 - 15:45 | **Mateusz Cisowski (Poland)**

- *Topic: 4-Question Test in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI)*

15:45 - 15:55 | **Dr Natalie Verrdi (USA)**

- *Topic: Peace Poles as symbols of unity and the most recognizable monuments dedicated to peace on Earth*

### **End of the conference**

15:55 - 16:10 | **Summary and closing ceremony**

- Official closing of the conference by Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo and the HOC Chairmen

16:25 – meeting in the lobby of the **Mercure Kraków Old Town hotel**

16:30 - 18:30 – guided walk through the Old Town, visit to St. Mary's Basilica

20:30 – **Gala Dinner** /ticketed event/

DRESS CODE: *Cocktail*

**Sunday, May 10, 2026**

10:00 – meeting in the lobby of the **Mercure Kraków Old Town hotel**, travel by tram / walk to the location of the Rotary Peace Pole driving ceremony

10:30 - 11:00 – ceremony of driving the Rotary Peace Pole

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/1ZyNwDBuuVt7Yb9m7>

11:40 - 13:00 – tour of the Wawel Royal Castle /ticketed event/

**Castle tour:** *approx. 45–60 minutes*

*Group “A” entry at 11:40 a.m.*

*Group “B” entry at 11:50 a.m.*

*Group “C” entry at 12:00 p.m.*

*You will receive more details about your group during registration.*