“Arbeit macht frei” - “Work brings freedom”, the ironic inscription above the main gate

An Auschwitz survivor
• The “wall of death”, where the SS shot thousands of prisoners and brutally tortured many others

• Place where Rudolf Hess, the first commandant of Auschwitz, was hung

Auschwitz
Birkenau

- Primarily built as an extermination center
- The camp was over 425 acres, and housed over 100,000 prisoners
“The one who does not remember history is bound to live through it again”
- George Santayana
The Salt Mine and Kara Felix
We got there early and had free time.

There were many statues, that miners created out of the salt.

We were even able to lick the statues.
• Our guide told us that we would walk down 800 steps during the two hour tour
• We would walk down 378 steps initially
• The mine produces 20,000 kilograms a year (less than 1% of Poland’s salt)
• The grey salt that is produced in the mine is better for you than the white salt
• The mine has been around for around 700 years
• There are several lakes in the mine that are saltier than the Dead Sea
• There were a few chapels in the Salt Mine. The largest one had many carvings and sculptures including a carving of the Last Supper.

• While we were there a small choir sang.