

 **Kraków**



# 3 days in **KRAKOW**



The city to love, too good to leave!





**Cloth Hall**



**St Mary's Church**



**Wawel Castle**



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



**KRAKOW**  
UNESCO CITY  
OF LITERATURE

- Member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network
- Since 2013



*Dear Sir or Madam,*

*Krakow - the former capital of Poland, the historic residence of kings, and today a dynamically developing metropolis, a city of culture and art. The turbulent history of the region and the interpenetration of different nationalities living here for centuries have resulted in an extraordinary cultural heritage. The history of the city, museums and monuments, the hospitality of the residents, as well as an attractive tourist offer, modern accommodation and congress infrastructure encourage you to come to Krakow. In 2019, the European Academy of Gastronomy awarded our city the honorable title of the European Capital of Gastronomic Culture 2019. This leaflet is only the first guide for those interested in traveling to Krakow. You are invited to visit undiscovered Krakow and wander off the beaten track - more details at [www.krakow.travel](http://www.krakow.travel).*

**Jacek Majchrowski**  
Mayor of the City of Krakow

## Three days in Krakow

Tourists are often forced to spend a couple of hours in a place where they should spend an entire week, or three days in a city that would take months to really become acquainted with. In such cases, visitors rely on the advice of random people or hurriedly browse through guide books, because all of them, even those titled "A Weekend in ..." hardly ever have fewer than a hundred pages of fine print. Therefore, travellers try to "freeze time" by taking photos and videos, and they twist and turn **to see the most important things – even if only from a distance.** Such sightseeing leaves blurred, foggy memories, marred by tiredness and a feeling of insufficiency.

That is why we have prepared this leaflet for visitors to our city. We cannot promise that it will let you experience all of **Krakow, a city from the original UNESCO World Heritage list**, in depth in just three days. There is plenty to be seen: numerous monuments that make up the historical tissue of the city, rich artistic and cultural life, a magical atmosphere offering both inhabitants and visitors plenty of options to

slow down, chill out and take a look around... At the same time, Krakow may be the only city among all the well-known cultural centres, where even a short visit may provide numerous sensations and a feeling of complete, genuine satisfaction.

This is what we would like to offer you – a look at Krakow which gives a taste of the atmosphere of the city, at times leisurely and at times full of events, but always unique. Therefore, let us try to take a look at Krakow together to see how to spend three days here in the best way – and let us discover reasons to return again.

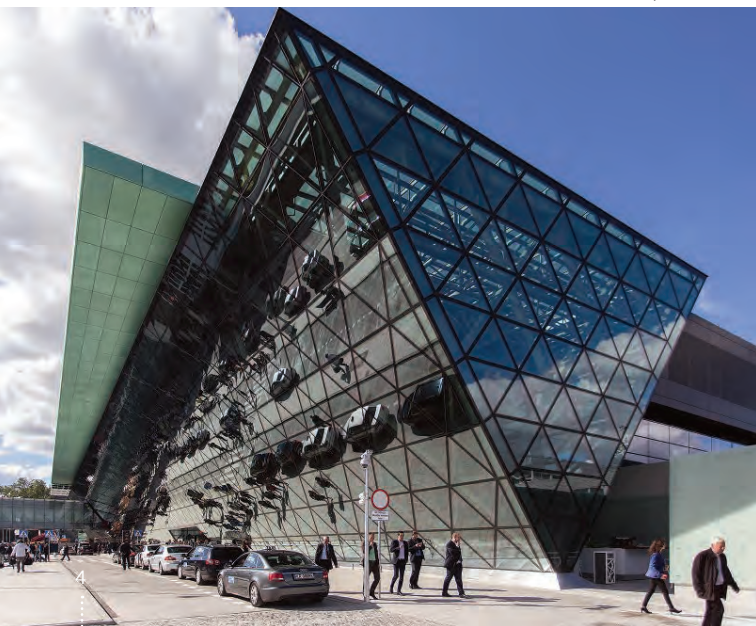


## Access and climate

It is easy to reach Krakow – it has always been located at the junction of important trade routes, at the crossroads of cultures and political influences; nowadays, it is considered **the most important tourist destination in Poland**. A network of railway, road and airline connections, along with Balice – the second largest airport in the country with respect to size and number of passengers – make Krakow one of most accessible cities in this part of Europe. Further amenities – starting with the **A4 motorway** through attractive connections with the rest of the world provided by low-cost airlines and up to **a special railway line** transporting visitors **from Balice to the city centre** and a well-developed municipal transportation network – open up numerous opportunities for tourists who come here from all parts of the world. Their stay in Krakow may differ, not only in relation to the purpose of their trip or the place of accommodation, but also in relation to the weather, day of the week and season of the year (in winter, the temperature in Poland sometimes drops below  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and in summer the temperature is often higher than  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).

It is worth remembering that Krakow **is the capital of Małopolska** – a partially hilly upland region with numerous spa, recreational and agritourism locations. Both in the summer and in winter, a visit to the city can be easily combined with a trip to the mountains.

Krakow-Balice Airport



## Living comfortably

**Krakow offers the best tourist base in Poland**, adjusted to the needs of various visitors and diverse budgets. There are several dozen high-standard hotels in the centre and its vicinity, including members of the largest international chains. On the other hand, there are many cosy facilities located close to the Main Market Square, which let you begin sightseeing immediately after breakfast. A plethora of highly popular hostels and apartments, especially in Kazimierz district, let visitors find inexpensive accommodation throughout the year.

Free access to the Internet is available perhaps in all these places, and in the numerous Krakow cafés and restaurants. Selected areas of the city offer **free-of-charge Internet access** provided by the municipality of Kraków (“hotspot Cracovia”). If you want to visit on your own, you are welcome to use free mobile apps (for GPS and Bluetooth enabled devices). Online content also plays an important role on the highly innovative **the Royal Route for Handicapped Tourists**, offering special course for tourists with disabilities, and models for the blind and visually impaired. All such are available in at least two languages (Polish and English).

The extraordinary concentration of tourist attractions adds yet another advantage to the city: most sites in the City Centre and Kazimierz are within walking distance; if necessary, an extensive tram network ensures quick transfer; during rush hours, municipal transport is perhaps faster than a taxi. Tickets can be bought from machines located at major tram and bus stops, which also provide tourist information, updated in real time.



3D model on a wall for the disabled

[www.krakow.pl](http://www.krakow.pl)  
[www.krakow.travel](http://www.krakow.travel)

## Main Market Square

The dimensions of Rynek Główny, **the largest medieval square in Europe**, are 200 m by 200 m. Its size, authentic architecture and arrangement, preserved to this day, make it **a unique place**. In 2005, Krakow's Main Market Square won the first global ranking of Best Market Squares in the World organised by Project for Public Spaces, which had been active in revitalisation of municipal public spaces for over 30 years, and was ranked No.1 by Lonely Planet in 2015.

**The Main Market Square** and the street grid of the Old City were staked out in 1257 when the city was granted its charter based on the Law of Magdeburg. Located in the centre of the Square, the Cloth Hall (commercial centre in the past and present, and – for over a hundred years – the main seat of the National Museum in Krakow), **the small church of St Adalbert** (a place of important archaeological discoveries), the lone Tower that used to belong to Town Hall demolished in the 19th century and now is one of the main symbols of the city, and St Mary's Church with its different towers have survived to this day. The interior of **St Mary's Church** features the masterpiece of a Nuremberg master, Veit Stoss: **a monumental altar that attracts thousands of tourists daily**. Many of Krakow legends and traditions are connected to the Main Market Square: the venue of numerous historical events.

The dimensions of Rynek Główny, the largest medieval square in Europe, are 200 m by 200 m. Its size, authentic architecture and arrangement, preserved to this day, make it a unique place.



In September 2010, an underground museum opened under the surface of the Main Market Square, covering an area of nearly 4000 square metres. The tourist route is located four metres below the floor, and presents a modern, multimedia exhibition entitled **Tracing the European Identity of Krakow**. The exhibition is immensely popular, and its opening won the national competition for the historic event of 2010.

The bugle call played every hour from one of the church's towers recalls to one of them, while others refer to **procession of the Lajkonik Hobby Horse** (June), **Enthronement of the Fowler King of the Marksmen's Association**, and the December display and **contest of nativity scenes**. Almost all townhouses and mansions around the Main Market Square are hundreds of years old. Museum of Krakow and the International Cultural Centre are located here, among bookshops and other shops, restaurants and cafés. Worth noting are the façades, portals, windows, and roofs of these houses, and their interiors feature architectural details, both excellently preserved and meticulously recreated. You are welcome to stop at the numerous café and restaurant gardens which all around the square, some of which open early in the morning to close late at night, disappearing from the Market Square only for a short spell of the most severe weather conditions. In winter, patrons transfer to Krakow's characteristic cellars, where they can choose from plenty of concerts: usually jazz, as the city is called **the capital of Polish jazz**. There is also a flourishing nightlife; quite understandable in a city of over 200,000 students.

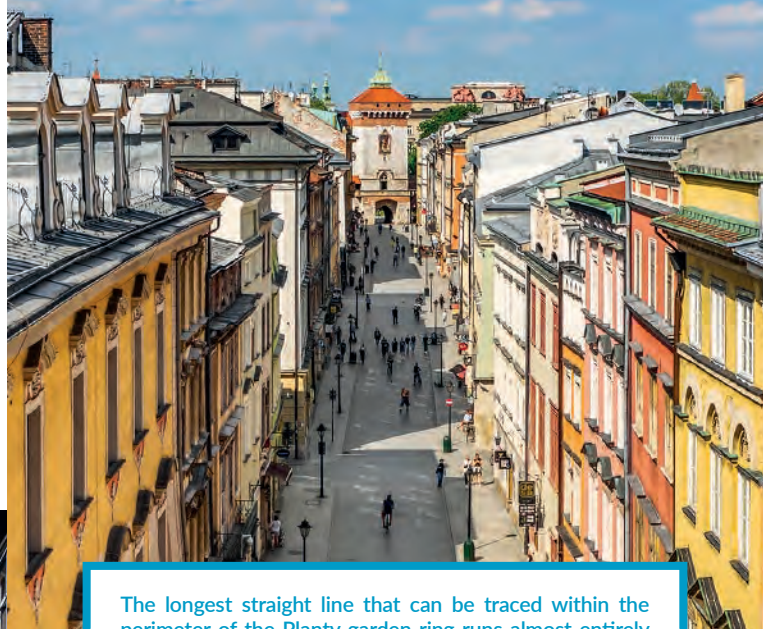
The Main Market Square is the place of meetings, also of summer festivals, concerts, fairs, shows and the New Year's Eve revelry. Many of the city's inhabitants choose to meet "pod Adasiem" (by the statue of the poet Adam Mickiewicz)



## WALK 2

# The Old City

Let us take a short look at the city, as its shape and divisions greatly influence the atmosphere of Krakow. The area encircled by the **Planty** – a belt of greenery and a municipal garden – is the absolute centre of the city. The Planty garden stretches from the Barbican in two directions towards Wawel Hill, forming an irregular extended shape, slightly narrowing towards the river. Planty replaced the city walls of Krakow demolished in the 19th century. Within an area of roughly 1500 m × 800 m inside their loop, nearly



The longest straight line that can be traced within the perimeter of the Planty garden ring runs almost entirely along the Royal Route: the oldest and best known among tourists.

every building is a monument, there are several dozen museums and galleries, multiple churches, theatres, cinemas, bookshops, antique shops – entire streets lined with shops, among hundreds of cafés, restaurants, and pubs. All this evokes the atmosphere of a small town, and therefore it is not surprising that tourists are often amazed to learn that Krakow metropolitan area is inhabited by nearly 1.5 million people (while the population of the city exceed 750,000).

**The tightly confined area of the city centre makes sightseeing easier.** The longest straight line that can be traced within the perimeter of the Planty garden ring runs almost entirely along the Royal Route: the oldest and best known among tourists. It leads from the St Florian Church near Matejki Square through St Florian's (Floriańska) Gate. Here, the only well-preserved fragment of the massive defence walls, hides the Arsenal – today a part of the Czartoryski Princes Museum, a division of the National Museum in Krakow. Further along, the tract leads down Floriańska Street to the Main Market Square, and then along the Grodzka and Kanonicza Streets to the Royal Castle at Wawel Hill.

This is a historic, legendary route, related to the golden age of the former Polish capital.

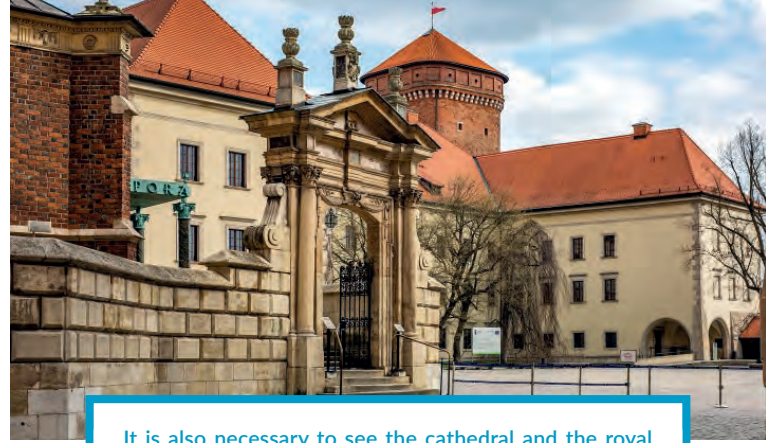
## WALK 3

# Wawel Castle

The famous Wawel Hill can be reached by the short and narrow Kanonicza Street. It is one of the most important, oldest and most beautiful streets in the city. Its authentic and vibrant appearance has remained unchanged through the centuries. Kanonicza is an example of the positive changes that have taken place in Krakow in recent years. Comprehensive renovation and conservation works have revealed layers of true beauty.

The sound of the massive Sigismund bell only accompanies the events of greatest significance for the nation and the city. **The interiors of the castle are a must-see:** royal chambers, a collection of Eastern art and military trophies, a **unique collection of Flemish tapestries**, and archaeological discoveries testifying to the more than a thousand-year presence of Christianity in Poland.

Half a day is hardly enough for a cursory visit. Yet even if you decide to postpone your visit to Wawel Hill to a future, longer visit to Krakow, it is a great idea to take a walk within the castle's walls this time (the gates remain open much longer than the exhibitions) to see **the rare beauty of the Arcaded Courtyard and the Cathedral**, and to take a look from the walls at the Vistula River and the remarkable buildings of the



It is also necessary to see the cathedral and the royal tombs, where the history of Poland is hidden.

modern ICE Kraków Congress Centre and the Manggha Museum presenting Japanese art from the collection of the renowned collector Feliks “Manggha” Jasiński, situated on the other side of the river.

Down by the river bank, the sculpture of Wawel Dragon stands by the entrance to its cave – a favourite destination for family walks. It is here in June, that the **Midsummer Night Fair** takes place - a great outdoor event based on the life of the Slavs.

A look at the plan of the city centre proves that the area within the walls of Wawel is comparable to that of the Main Market Square.





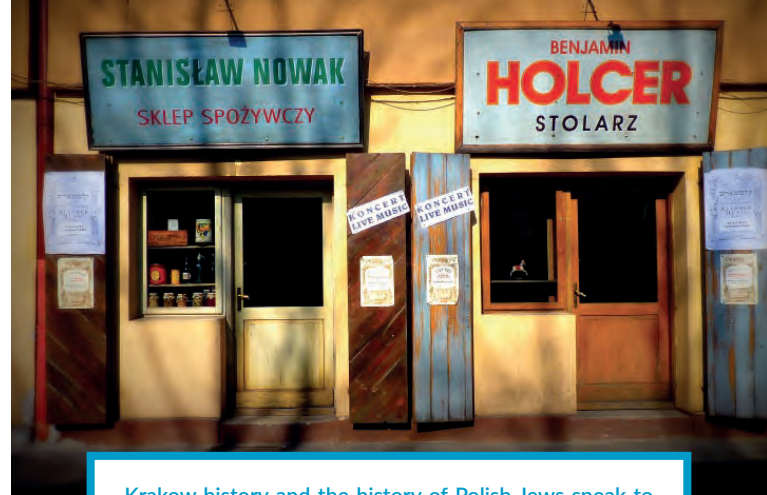
## WALK 4

# Kazimierz

The Old Town district also includes Kazimierz - the former Jewish district. We can get there by descending the Wawel hill and following Stradomska Street to the intersection with Dietla Street. After the tragedy of Second World War when Jews were murdered by the Nazi Germans, Kazimierz became deserted and fell into ruin for many decades.

The current flourish of this part of the city was caused by the changes in the political system in the late 1980s and 1990s. **Kazimierz made its way to the big screen thanks to Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning Schindler's List**, which was shot here. Through workshops, lectures, and exhibitions, **the world acclaimed Jewish Culture Festival**, organised since the early 1990s focuses on the history and traditions of the people who used to live here.

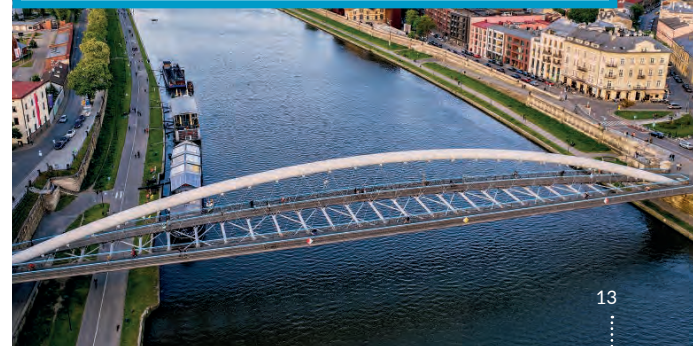
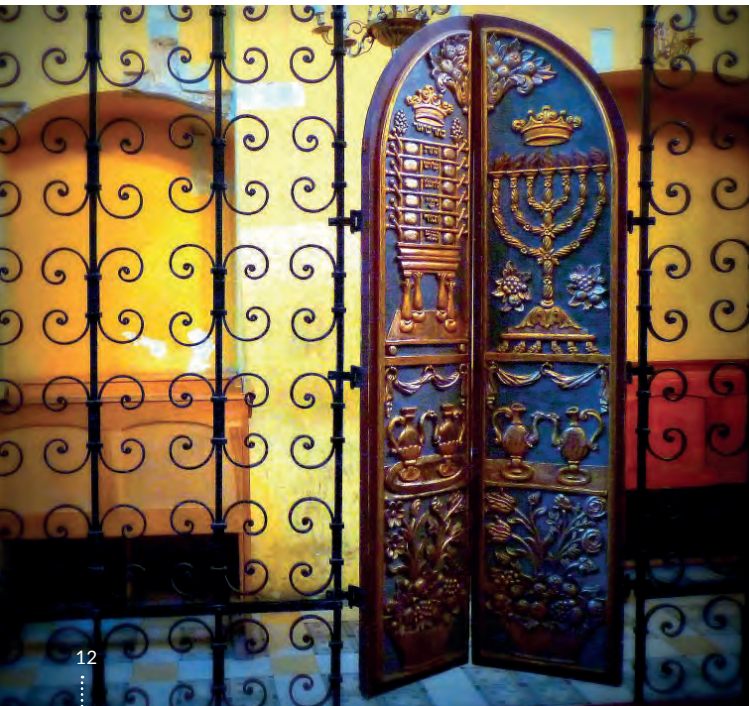
Today, we can speak of a revival of the district and its new face. The key to understanding today's popularity of Kazimierz is its unique, lasting tolerance. Two nations and two great religions coexisted in here harmony for centuries. The churches of St Catherine and Corpus Christi soar close to the synagogues, while the traditional procession held on the first Sunday after the



Krakow history and the history of Polish Jews speak to the visitor from every corner of Kazimierz. It permeates the grid of narrow streets and market squares, the small townhouses, synagogues, and Jewish cemeteries.

Day of St Stanislaus reaches to the Pauline Church "na Skalce" (On the Rock). Cafés, clubs, and galleries gather all those who find the Main Market Square and its vicinity too "touristy". Every visitor can discover for themselves the extraordinary nature of Kazimierz, where exclusive hotels and restaurants sit alongside handicraft workshops and shops with **a wide range of products designed by local artists**. To experience this, just take a walk around Wolnica Square and along Józefa Street, and see Szeroka Street - the stage of the final concert of the annual Jewish Culture Festival. Kazimierz is also a place particularly valued by lovers of antiques. Flea markets are organised in Plac Nowy (and also at the nearby Hala Targowa in Grzegórzki).

In 2010, footbridge of Father Laetus Bernatek was opened in place of the old Podgórski Bridge; making use of its bridgeheads on both banks of the Vistula, it offers quick and convenient passage from Kazimierz to Podgórze. The footbridge let Mostowa (Bridge) Street in Kazimierz regain its old, literal meaning, and the impressive structure has become the symbol of closer relations between the districts on both sides of the river.



Picturesquely located at the foot of Krzemionki – white, limestone rocks – Podgórze used to be the right-bank section of the town of Kazimierz. In 1784, in the Universal Proclamation of the emperor of Austria, Joseph II, Podgórze was declared a Free Royal City.

The multinational, tolerant community of Podgórze attracted entrepreneurs, factory owners and craftsmen, whose skills and knowledge contributed to development of the city and built upon its fame of being a “gem in the ring of communes surrounding Kraków”. This was the phrase coined by Juliusz Leo, who was mayor of the city at the beginning of the 20th century. Thanks to his efforts, the merger of Krakow and Podgórze was implemented on July 4, 1915. The Second World War left a tragic mark on Podgórze and its inhabitants. Only the last couple of decades have turned out to be more favourable for the district, bringing about a slow renaissance and awakening. **The pedestrian and bicycle bridge across the Vistula** is the best way to reach the heart of the district, and from the bridge, a view to the right is dominated by the most characteristic of Podgórze’s townhouses with its two bay windows, known as the “Aleksandrowicz” or “Parisian” building and which was erected in 1906. On the left hand side, the 1900 building of the old Podgórze power plant (the oldest such facility in the area of Krakow) was incorporated into the structure of the **new Cricoteka building**.

Podgórze remains an intimate area, full of greenery, yet pervaded with the atmosphere of the entire town. At the same time, it is a mysterious place. This can be confirmed by the neo-Gothic silhouette of the Church of St. Joseph at the Podgórski Market Square. The building seems monumental, yet this is only an optical illusion resulting from the unusual, triangular shape of the market. One of the greatest urban achievements in Podgórze is **the famous Park of Wojciech Bednarski**, established at the bottom of a former quarry by a director of the local school and a social activist. This is **one of the first European examples of reclamation of post-industrial areas**. The park is surrounded by magnificent villas and gardens, such as the part of Podgórze designed as the “garden city”. In order to get to know and understand Podgórze better, it is worth visiting the newly opened Museum of Podgórze - the newest branch of the Museum of Krakow.

One of many symbols of the history of Podgórze is located nearby – Lasota Hill. At its foot, there is the historic Old Podgórze Cemetery, established in approx. 1790. On the hill, there is **the mysterious Church of St. Benedict from the 11th century**, allegedly haunted by a princess who, as punishment for her

horrible deeds and cruel reign, has never known peace. The unique building of the Austrian “St. Benedict” fort No. 31 in the shape of an artillery tower adjoins the church. From here, one can also see **the Krakus Mound** (approx. 7th century A.D.), for centuries believed to be the grave of the legendary founder of Krakow. From the top of the Mound, tourists can admire the city’s panorama, and on sunny days, it is possible to see the Tatra Mountains. At the foot of the Mound is the “Libana” quarry, which is no longer in operation. During WWII, it was a Nazi labour camp for Poles (Baudienst). This was the location for shooting some of the camp scenes in Schindler’s List by Steven Spielberg. Many of the films props can still be seen here, such as the camp road lined with replicas of matzevahs.

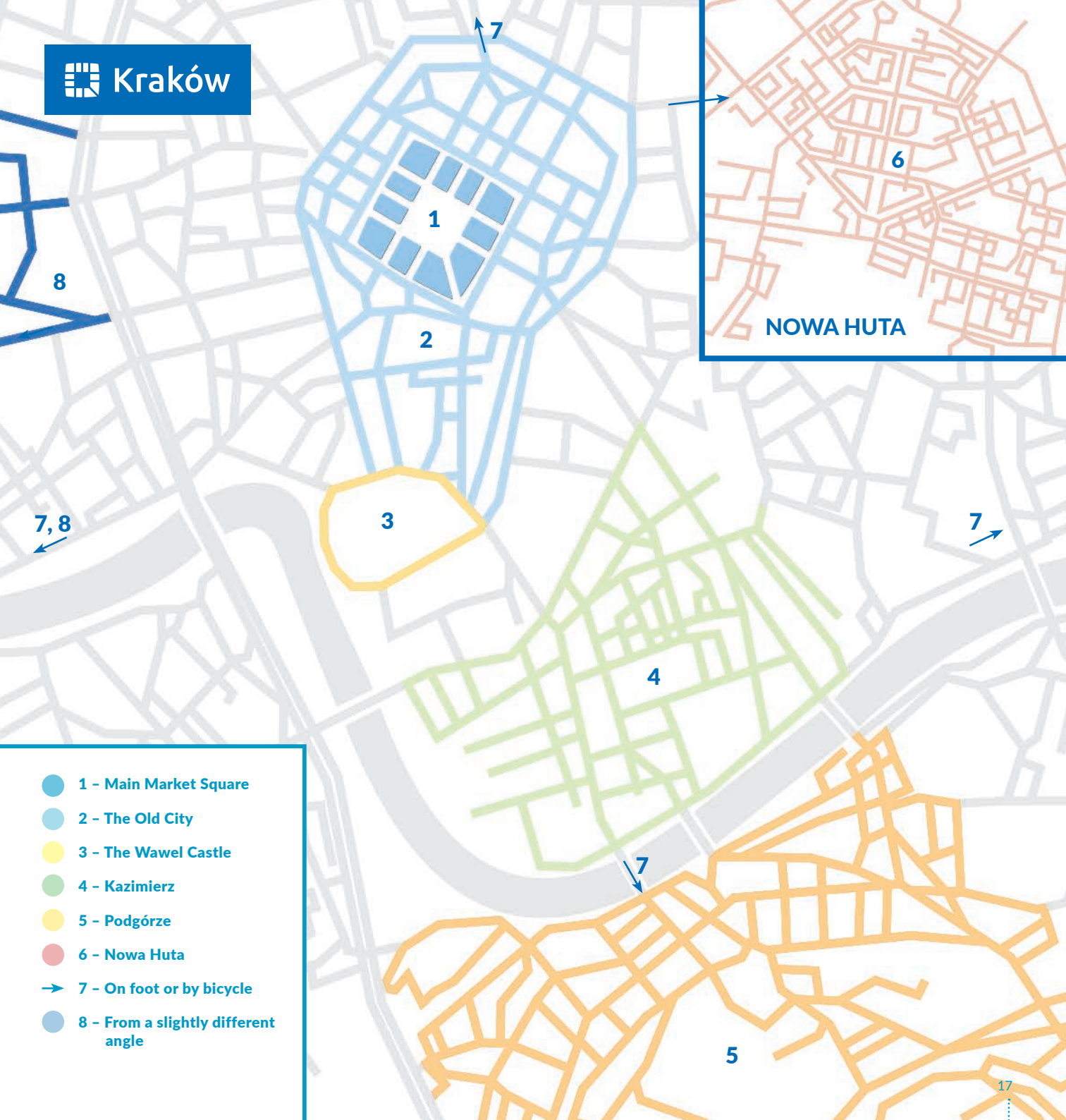
There are many more testimonies here to the tragic history of Podgórze. **Plac Bohaterów Getta witnessed the establishment and subsequent stages of the liquidation of the ghetto** (1941–1943). This is also the place where the “Pod Orłem Pharmacy” is located – today a museum – where Tadeusz Pankiewicz used to work. Pankiewicz was a Pole who voluntarily lived and worked in the ghetto and supported the persecuted Jewish people. For this he received the medal “Just among the Nations of the World”. He wrote down his memories in a book entitled “Pharmacy in the Krakow Ghetto”. The Nazi concentration camp of “Płaszów”, which functioned between 1942 and 1945, is a continuation of the ghetto’s history. The monument entitled “Hearts Torn Out” commemorating the camp’s victims stands at Kamieńskiego Street. **The former administration building of Oskar Schindler’s factory** at Lipowa Street No. 4 houses the division of the Museum of Krakow, presenting the life of the city under Nazi occupation. The interactive exhibition “Krakow: Period of Occupation 1939–1945” attracts several thousand visitors annually.

[www.podgorze.pl](http://www.podgorze.pl)

<https://www.mhk.pl/oddzialy/muzeum-podgorza>

Centre for the Documentation of the Art of Tadeusz Kantor CRICOTEKA





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NOWA HUTA

## Nowa Huta

In 1949, the communist government decided to establish a metallurgical plant and a new town within the fertile areas of the nearby villages of Pleszów and Mogiła. Nowa Huta was meant to be the showcase of Poland to the world, and its clear urban layout and social-realist architecture relied upon models of local Renaissance and Baroque architecture, as well as the American concept of the so-called “neighbour unit”. Nowa Huta’s trails encompass the most ancient history and modern times, as well as stretches of protected nature (Nowa Huta Meadows by Plac Centralny) and huge industry. Its history abounds with both tragic and – from today’s perspective – comic elements.

Nowa Huta was established on an area of over 30 locations which used to exist here previously. Their cultural heritage has been largely preserved, and there are manor houses, rural buildings, places of worship and necropolises. Among them is a 17th century Calvinist church in Łuczanie, as well as the 17th century manor house of the Branicki family with a Renaissance storeroom designed by S. Gucci and a 19th century Badeni manor house in Branice, which today is a division of the Archaeological Museum in Krakow, presenting a wealth of local excavations. Coming back from Branice to the centre of Nowa Huta, **it is worth taking a look at the mysterious, prehistoric Wanda Mound** from the 7th or 8th century, from the top of which people can admire a unique panoramic view of the steel plant. Nearby is **the most valuable monument of Nowa Huta**: the 13th century Cistercian abbey.

The most interesting and **the most complete realisation of socialist-realist architecture** in Nowa Huta is the Administrative Centre of the plant, which is also known as Doge Palace. On the other hand, Plac Centralny is a “history of architecture” of the last 70 years. Here, in close vicinity, we can view examples of socialist-realist structures, such as the building of the former “Światowid” cinema (today the seat of the Museum of the People’s Republic of Poland). The representative Aleja Róż (Alley of Roses) used to feature a huge monument of Lenin, which was built in 1973 and dismantled in 1989. The Church of the Most Holy Heart of Jesus commemorates the dramatic events of April 1960 when inhabitants of Nowa Huta defending the cross clashed with police units. Nowa Huta’s churches played an important role in the life of Karol Wojtyła, who in 1958 (when he became Bishop) showed special attention to the local inhabitants. Two decades later, these churches played a vital role in the establishment and operation of the “Solidarity” Independent Self-Governing Union and in demonstrations against the regime in the 1980s. It was here that assistance was provided to persecuted individuals. Apart from the remnants of Austrian forts, which are described in another part of this document, on the way back to Krakow it is also worthwhile to stop by **the Museum of Polish Aviation**, located in the area of the former Czyżyny airport. In 2010, the Museum was transferred to a new location, which attracts the attention of visitors through its unique form. Here, **a unique collection of historic aircraft and engines** is presented. In the immediate vicinity can be found one of the newest museum exhibitions in our city - the Moto-stories in the hangar of Czyżyny, **the history of Polish motorization from the times of the Second Polish Republic to the end of the People’s Republic of Poland**.

Today, the inhabitants of Nowa Huta are proud of their separate identity, which can be seen in the unique landscape of this youngest district of Krakow replete with contrasts.

[www.nhpedia.pl](http://www.nhpedia.pl)

<https://www.mim.krakow.pl/wystawy-czasowe/moto-historie-w-hangarze-czyzyny>



## On foot or by bicycle: tracing the route of the former Krakow Fortress

Adventure seekers are invited to visit Krakow's fortifications, which were erected by the Austrians. During the time of partitions, from 1795 to 1918, Krakow was at a distance of only 7 km from the Russian border, and, starting from 1854, the Austrians decided to transform it into a stronghold. Initially, construction work relied on a concept from the middle of the 19th century along the line of today's Aleje Trzech Wieszczów (Fort "Kleparz" is a remnant of the former core of the stronghold). Technological progress, particularly longer range artillery, resulted in the fact that the fortifications erected in the middle of the 19th century soon became obsolete, and it was necessary to extend their system and create an encircling defensive stronghold.

Hardly anybody is aware of the fact that the buildings surrounding the Kościuszko Mound are also elements of the former fort number II, where the exhibition "The fortress and the city of Krakow 1846–1918" is located.

After 1878, a ring of defensive structures was built outside the city, including forts with various structures with concrete ceilings, armoured towers and cupolas. In 1914, the external ring of the Krakow Fortress included 32 forts of different types (armoured, infantry, etc.). Some of them were, unfortunately, destroyed in the second half of the 20th century, but others testify to the size of the Fortress and the artistry of their builders. One section leads from the "Mogiła" fort (near the Wanda Mound) to Salwator, connecting the forts situated in the northern part of the city. The second, on the right bank of the Vistula, leads from the "Lasówka" fort to the ruins of the "Bodzów" fort, connecting the fortifications in the southern part of Krakow, and subsequently, across the ramparts in Ludwinów, it reaches the "St. Benedict" fort in Krzemionki. The facilities are marked with information boards. The trails largely follow the historical communication routes of the forts.

The trail, even though designed as a pedestrian and bicycle trail, may also be travelled by car, especially due to the fact that a majority of the facilities are indicated on road information signs. It is necessary to mention that some forts are accessible, whereas others are managed and access to them is possible only upon the owner's approval, and some are closed to the general public.

The forts play various functions. For example, the "Skafa" fort houses an astronomical observatory, and the "Olszanica" (west of Wolski Forest) and the "Grębałów" forts (at Kocmyrzowska Street) function as horse-riding centres. In the above mentioned "Olszanica" fort, there is also a scouting centre, whereas the "Zielonki" fort houses the "Twierdza" Hotel. Several facilities are located in Nowa Huta, such as the "Batowice" fort at the Złotego Wieku Housing Estate, the "Mistrzejowice" fort near the "Piaśtów" Housing Estate, as well as the "Krzesławice" fort, which was a WWII place of martyrdom, and the above-mentioned "Grębałów" fort. Hardly anybody is aware of the fact that the buildings surrounding the Kościuszko Mound are also elements of the former fort number II, where the exhibition.

In the southern part of the city, there are other defensive structures, such as the "Prokocim", "Rajsko" (with a view onto the city) and "Skotniki" forts, as well as one of the oldest forts – "St. Benedict" on the Lasota Hill (Krzemionki) – a **unique example of fortifications from the middle of the 19th century**. In contrast to the fortress erected at the same time by the Austrians in Przemyśl, the Krakow Fortress was not destroyed during WWI. This is all the more reason that visitors to Krakow should be encouraged to see these historic structures.

## From a slightly different angle

The centre of Krakow is a very picturesque place, and the city has many beautiful spots from where its panorama can be admired. The most important and best known is the Kościuszko Mound – a destination of many trips. Due to the fact that the entire historic and modern Krakow can be seen from here, it is worth picking out the well-known places – this time viewed from a distance and at a different angle. **The mounds are some of the greatest tourist attractions of Krakow.** Two of them – the Krakus Mound in Podgórze and the Wanda Mound in Nowa Huta – **are mysterious barrows from pre-Christian times,** erected by local tribes. What prompted the ancient inhabitants



**The road on the other side of the Vistula leads to Tyniec, a settlement with a huge Benedictine abbey, where many cultural events take place, including yearly pipe organ recitals in the summer.**

of these lands to undertake such a huge effort? Are these the burial mounds of rulers? Undoubtedly, they were also used as strategic observation points. In modern times, more structures of this type have been erected in honour of national heroes – the above-mentioned Kościuszko Mound and the Józef Piłsudski Mound in Sowiniec. The Kościuszko Mound, built during the time when Poland's territory was partitioned between three powers, was a symbol of aspirations of independence for Poles.

If we leave the city centre and walk along Piłsudskiego Street in the direction of the main building of the National Museum and the nearby Jagiellonian Library, we will reach **Błonia, another of Krakow's attractions.** At a distance of several hundred metres from the Market Square, there is a huge flat meadow, functioning as a recreational area and a meeting place. Papal masses attended by John Paul II brought over one million followers here. Various types of festivals are organised here, as well as balloon contests. Błonia is neighboured by Park Jordana and the facilities of the "Wisła" and "Cracovia" sports clubs. It is worth mentioning here that the newly opened hall to the memory of the 100th anniversary of the Centennial Hall of Kärcher Cracovia and the Sports Center for Disabled. From Błonia, you can see the Kościuszko Mound, from where it is just a short distance to the Wolski Forest – yet another recreational area with great landscape views. There is also the Krakow zoo, the Piłsudski Mound and, in the vicinity, **the Renaissance Decius Villa** with a charming park. The road on the other side of the Vistula leads to **Tyniec, a settlement with a huge Benedictine abbey,** where many cultural events take place, including yearly pipe organ recitals in the summer. The suburban walking trails and tourist routes are a proposal for warm days. From May to September, everything can be viewed from yet another perspective – from the deck of tour boats sailing along the Vistula.

## Cultural Krakow

Today there is no city to be more suffused with culture than Krakow. It is the depository of Polish historical heritage that at the same time is a noteworthy example of successful investments, including new museums (in 2010, 5 out of Poland's 10 most important museum-related events took place in Krakow), stadiums, the Congress Centre, and sports hall opened in recent years. This goes hand in hand with the development of cultural life; **Krakow's festivals have won international recognition long ago.** Misteria Paschalia and Opera Rara, the contest of the best Polish theatres, the Festival of Polish Music, Selector Festival filling the gigantic space of Tauron Arena Krakow and the Unsound offering a musical journey from Baroque to the 21st century – they are all impressive and attract audiences counted in thousands.

Sacrum Profanum Festival. Photo by Wojciech Wandzel for Krakow Festival Office



[www.karnet.krakow.pl](http://www.karnet.krakow.pl)

In recent years, Krakow's festivals have become internationally recognised.

**Krakow, the UNESCO City of Literature,** has the largest Book Fair in the country, as well as the Czesław Miłosz and Joseph Conrad literary festivals; here, the best Polish theatres compete at the Divine Comedy festival. This is where the Off Camera Festival or the Krakow Film Festival fill their Tauron Arena space with their gigantic spectacles. Off Camera, Kraków Film Festival and Kraków Film Music Festival attract cinema lovers, and artists who return



ICE Kraków interiors

to shoot their films here. Blending in the traditions of Kazimierz and the multi-cultural Galicia Festival of Jewish Culture, the dance trance of the New Year's Eve parties organised all over the city: all this proves that Kraków is where you find most varied and unique experience all year long.

## A view to Wawel

Three days in Krakow can be ... extremely hard working, without giving up getting to know the city. Wealth of monuments, unique variety of restaurants and hotels, picturesque region, full of attractions, academic and intellectual base are the strengths of Krakow which attract business visitors, it is a city chosen as a location of conferences and congresses.

**The popularity of Krakow in this area exceeded all expectations** when the ICE Krakow Congress Centre, located on the right bank of the Vistula, was opened in the fall of 2014. The building, with its unusual shape – a glass foyer showing the participants of events the unforgettable view of the Wawel castle and Kazimierz – has become another symbol of modern Krakow open to the visitors and, at the same time, a facility being of interest to residents. The ICE Krakow Congress Centre can not only host closed events for up to three thousand guests: **the auditorium hall for 1800 people**, one of the best of its kind in Poland, has also become a place of prestigious concerts; the theater hall and other areas of the building host numerous performances, shows, trade fairs and festivals. And all this takes place in the heart of the city, with convenient access to the airport and the highway. The program of events is available at:

[www.icekrakow.pl](http://www.icekrakow.pl)

## Culinary and club tourism

In Poland, the concept of culinary tourism is primarily related to Krakow, which is confirmed by the award of the Michelin star to the Bottiglieria 1881 Restaurant in 2020. Two Polish cities play a significant role in the prestigious red guide, Krakow and Warsaw, but Krakow is the place where people come especially to visit a iconic, or their favorite, or - quite the opposite - a completely new restaurant. The reasons are simple: **the sheer number of restaurants, inns, cafés, pubs, and clubs, unknown in other Polish cities**, location in attractive districts, and competition which is natural in such conditions. Put together, they all make Krakow the country's best place to eat, drink, and be merry, and cases of visiting several or even several dozen locations in one night are known. This truly Mediterranean phenomenon lets cultural life continue until the morning. Students and business people, locals and visitors alike enjoy themselves in egalitarian, multilingual crowds.

Let us go back to the charms of Krakow's cuisine: local chefs prepare excellent dishes devised by perhaps every nation and culture, frequently applying their skill to combine French or Italian cuisine with noble local traditions. Numerous restaurants, dispelling the international myth of pierogi being Poles' greatest contribution to international cuisine, serve the legendary Polish soups, sauces, and venison...

Marek Michalak performing at Pivnica po Baranami, a legendary Krakow club



*Krakowski Obwarzanek (a kind of a bagel) remains a symbol of Krakow gastronomy. It is a regional product with an EU certificate. Stands with bagels are easy to spot in the center of Krakow. The history of this pastry and the secrets of its recipe can be found in the Obwarzanek Living Museum.*

[www.muzeumobwarzanka.com](http://www.muzeumobwarzanka.com)

However, **pierogi do have their own grand summer festival in Krakow**, in the course of which cooks make their fantasies come to life in composing new flavours of this seemingly simple dish.

It is for these reasons that Krakow was declared **the European Capital of Gastronomical Culture 2019**.



European Capital  
of Gastronomic  
Culture  
Krakow 2019

Visitors looking for local specialties will not leave Krakow disappointed: restaurants, pubs and clubs in the city maintain a high level and bring together regular customers, and usually a quick glance inside allows people to decide whether a given place is to their liking or not. Their owners try to provide their venues with individual traits, often thematic, and often unusual and striking. Almost every place organises concerts, exhibitions and artistic events.



## Getting sporty

Cracovia Marathon, the final part of the Tour de Pologne race, a **unique Polish canoeing course**, great traditions and modern stadiums of Wisła and Cracovia football clubs – the city has shown its sporty face to fans for many years. Arriving in Krakow to combine cultural or gourmet visit with sports was a particularly popular form of tourism in 2014, after the opening of Poland's largest and one of Europe's most modern sports hall.

Tauron Arena Krakow, capable of seating **up to twenty thousand people**, is located halfway between the city centre and Nowa Huta – it takes only a few minutes to reach it from the Main Market Square by tram. Athletes appreciate the applause of fans and the arena's unique atmosphere created by colourful crowds of fans. It is hardly surprising that almost immediately after its opening the hall became **a venue for sports events of highest international rank**, just to mention the 2014 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship and the 2016 European Men's Handball Championship. From its first days, Tauron Krakow Arena has also hosted international stars of rock and pop music, who demonstrate their passion for Krakow on social networks. To learn the programme of events, visit:

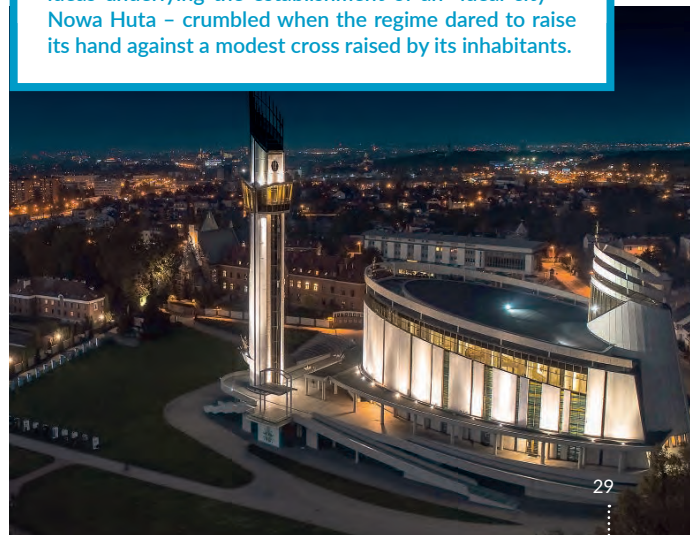
[www.tauronarenakrakow.pl](http://www.tauronarenakrakow.pl)



## Religious tourism

Krakow, the city that has long been the centre of the Polish state, **is also the heart of Polish Christianity**. Its historic churches house miraculous paintings and relics, age-old traditions of religious communities and monasteries live on, and processions and open-air masses bring together tens and hundreds of thousands of followers. The city has been the backdrop of lives of a plethora of saints and blessed, from St Stanislaus of Szczepanów and Queen Jadwiga, known perfectly well from general history, to the lesser known Father Stanisław Softys, known as Kazimierczyk, who lived in the 15th century and was canonised in 2010. Many of them have found their final resting place in Krakow churches and necropolises. It is in the atmosphere of this city that the personality of Karol Wojtyła, later Pope John Paul II, canonised on 27 April 2014, developed. He would always return here and meet with millions of Poles. Finally, in Krakow, 10 minutes from the centre by tram, there is one of the largest places of pilgrimage in this part of Europe, the sanctuary in Lagiewniki - the world centre of the Divine Mercy movement and the place of remembrance of the Blessed Sister Faustina, the precursor of the revival of this cult in the twentieth century and the slightly more recent "Do not be afraid!" Centre of John Paul II. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that Krakow was selected for the venue to which countless throngs of pilgrims were officially invited in **the Year of Divine Mercy (2016)** to join in prayer and the joy of the World Youth Days organised in July.

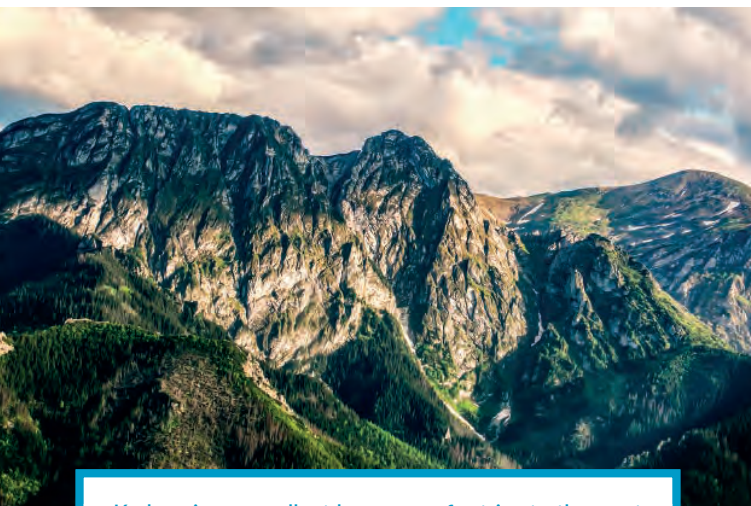
Krakow never forgot its spiritual roots, even in the days of sinister totalitarian regimes. In turn the communist ideas underlying the establishment of an "ideal city" – Nowa Huta – crumbled when the regime dared to raise its hand against a modest cross raised by its inhabitants.



## Outside the city

One cannot miss popular destinations outside Krakow: the picturesque Jurassic valleys, Ojców and Pieskowa Skała, and places that were entered on the UNESCO World Heritage List along with the historical centre of Krakow: the Museum Memorial in Auschwitz-Brzezinka, and the Wieliczka and Bochnia Salt Mines. The last two locations, often considered mandatory by organised groups, require a full day each. UNESCO also inscribed the region's wooden architecture and the famous landscape and pilgrimage complex in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska with unique Stations of the Way of the Cross. Pilgrims also visit to Wadowice, the hometown of Pope John Paul II.

The Tatra Mountains



Krakow is an excellent base camp for trips to the most scenic areas in the country.

Krakow is an excellent base camp for trips to the most scenic areas in Poland; only 100 km away from the Tatra Mountains and Zakopane: the winter capital of Poland. There are also the lesser-known Pieniny Mountains with the well-known resorts of Szczawnica and Krynica in the vicinity, and the Beskidy Mountains boast even less crowded mountain trails. The Tatrzanski, Pieniński, Gorczański and Babogórski national parks are the most treasured natural and landscape areas located in Małopolska. Local traditions cultivated throughout the area and extensive tourist facilities make Małopolska, like no other region in Europe, a convenient place to relax and stay close to nature.

## Tourist Information Centres

Tourist Information Centres offer succinct versions of guidebooks, containing practical advice, telephone numbers and addresses, and maps of the city centre with tourist routes marked.

Recently, the traditional routes, operating for quite a long time, have been complemented by new proposals of walking tours in the city that are focused on landscape or historical values, and which make reference to the events of the past few decades.

[www.infokrakow.pl](http://www.infokrakow.pl)

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phone: (+48 12) 354 27 10  
phone: (+48 12) 354 27 12  
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### ul. Józefa 7

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### Zgody 7

Osiedle Zgody 7  
phone: (+48 12) 354 27 14  
[zgody7@infokrakow.pl](mailto:zgody7@infokrakow.pl)

### International Airport Kraków-Balice

ul. Kpt. M. Medweckiego 1  
phone: (+48 12) 285 53 41  
[balice@infokrakow.pl](mailto:balice@infokrakow.pl)



## Important Numbers

### Emergency numbers

Emergency number (from mobile phones): 112

City guard: 986

Emergency service: 999

Fire brigade: 998

Police: 997

### 24h medical info:

phone: +48 12 661 22 40 (24 h)

Descriptions of all tourist routes can be found on Krakow website:

[www.krakow.pl](http://www.krakow.pl)

The marked routes and trails include: in the Footsteps of John Paul II, the Royal Route (also for tourists with disabilities), the University Route, the Jewish Heritage Route, the Route of St. Stanislaus, Nowa Huta Route, Podgórze History Route, Ghetto – Route of Remembrance 1941–1943, Krakow Fortress Route, the Route of Krakow Technology, the Krakow Route of Saints and two tourist-cultural routes to individual districts of Krakow: Bronowice and Swoszowice.



# Kraków

**nieodkryty**

**... poza utartym szlakiem**  
[krakow.pl/odwiedz\\_krakow](http://krakow.pl/odwiedz_krakow)



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