

**Cracow** (Krakow), European City of Culture, with a population of nearly one million, is one of the most frequently visited cities in Poland. Cracow is an important centre of science and learning: its renowned Jagiellonian University (est. 1364) is one of the oldest schools in Europe. Twenty four other academic schools provide education for nearly 170,000 students. The city has a number of unique tourist attractions making a visit to Cracow really worthwhile. The old city centre has been recorded on the UNESCO list of World Heritage.

#### MAIN MARKET SQUARE – THE CITY’S HEART

Cracow’s Main Market Square is the largest Medieval urban center in Europe. The centrally positioned Cloth Hall, a construction from the turn of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, was originally designed for the cloth trade and greatly modified over the centuries. Overlooking the square from the east is St. Mary’s Church with its magnificent high altar carved by the Nuremberg sculptor Veit Stoss (known in Poland as Wit Stwosz). Every hour, the hejnal (bugle call) is played from the higher tower to commemorate the Tatar raids on the city during the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The Town Hall Tower dominates the western section of the square. Its basement contains a very well preserved Medieval torture dungeon, a theatre and a café. The magnificent houses in the Main Market Square attract crowds of tourists day and night. Many restaurants and cafés offer savoury meals in the splendid interiors. The Main Market Square has always been Cracow’s salon.

#### THE ROYAL WAY

Cracow has its Royal Way. Followed in old times by monarchs, deputies and other eminent guests, today the traditional route is filled with tourists and enthusiasts of old Cracow. It begins in the Matejko Square and leads through the Gothic Barbican and Florian Gate into the Main Market Square via the Floriańska Gate and down Floriańska Street, past the Renaissance facades and attics of the Market Square, along Grodzka Street with its neo-classical architecture and the Church of St. Peter and Paul. Following the Medieval Kanonicza Street, you eventually reach the Wawel Hill. The Barbican is a masterpiece of Mediaeval fortification art. It is one of three such structures preserved in Europe, but none of them can match its beauty, its perfect design and dimensions. The Florian Gate was part of a system of defensive walls circling Cracow. Fragments of the walls are still visible on both sides of the Gate and today serve to exhibit artists and vendors of art work. Trees were planted on the site of the former city walls, creating a beautiful park known as the Planty, a green oasis in the very heart of the city. The Royal Way continues along Grodzka Street passing a number of historical buildings and enters Kanonicza Street, the most picturesque street in Cracow, leading to Wawel Hill, the former residence of Polish kings.

#### THE ROYAL CASTLE

A few hundred meters from the Main Market Square stands the Royal Castle. It is located on top of Wawel Hill which commands a view of the whole town. The Wawel Cathedral has witnessed royal coronations and funerals. The Wawel Castle was where the most important decisions determining the country and its people were taken. The origins of this magnificent structure date back to the year 1000. Every visitor to Cracow should see the Renaissance cloister in the castle and the beautiful royal chambers, decorated with tapestries manufactured by Flemish masters. The most impressive is the Chamber of Deputies with its original carved ceiling featuring polychrome heads of Cracovian burghers. Adjacent to the castle is the Wawel Cathedral, not only a splendid historical building but also a functioning church as well as the national Pantheon containing the tombs of many Polish kings, national heroes and poets of the Romantic period. The showpiece of the church interiors is the Renaissance Zygmunt Chapel.

#### KAZIMIERZ

Kazimierz is a historical municipality on the outskirts of Cracow, and is today one of the city’s most up and coming districts. Dotted with old buildings which give a special ambience to the area, Kazimierz was home to the larger part of the Jewish population of Cracow till 1939. Here, we find the famous Remuh Synagogue and the Alte Schule, Poland’s oldest synagogue, today an important museum of the district. A visit should be made to the Templ founded by the local Association of Progressive Jews and the Wolf Popper synagogue. Kazimierz is an important site containing Christian and Jewish historical monuments and cultural artefacts. Polish and Jewish influence is present everywhere, showing how well the two cultures blended together. Every year in June/July, a Festival of Jewish Culture is held in the Kazimierz district. It attracts hundreds of performers and thousands of spectators from all over the world. Here, in the labyrinth of narrow streets, you can imagine the world of a fascinating culture which once thrived here.



#### AROUND CRACOW

A dozen or so kilometers south-east of the city centre is the town of Wieliczka, famous for its salt mine which has been in operation for at least 700 years. Like the Old Town of Cracow, Wieliczka has been recorded on the UNESCO list of World Heritage. Even today, one can see how salt is mined. The highlight, however, is the underground museum and gallery, created partly by nature and partly by the very capable hands of **Wieliczka** miners. A sanatorium has been established underground, where respiratory diseases, and rheumatic conditions are treated. The area around Cracow has several other UNESCO World Heritage sites: the pilgrimage centre at **Kalwaria Zebrzydowska**, the museum at the former German Nazi concentration camp at **Auschwitz - Birkenau** and the 15<sup>th</sup> century Gothic wooden churches in **Dębno**, **Binarowa**, **Lipnica Murowana** and **Sękowa**. While in Cracow, it is worthwhile visiting places linked with Pope John Paul II, such as the town of **Wadowice** 40km away from Cracow, where he was born and spent his youth. **Zakopane**, nestling at the foot of the Tatras, approximately 100 kilometers south of Cracow, is the country’s winter sports capital. The International Festival of Mountain Folklore in late August is the town’s leading cultural event. In winter Zakopane hosts such sports events as the FIS (Fédération Internationale de Ski) Championship, the New Year’s Run, the Continental Cup and the National Winter Sports Championships.

#### CRACOVIAN CULINARY SPECIALITIES

Cracovian style maczanka is very typical of the city’s cuisine: slices of pork stewed with onion and cumin, served with sauce in a special roll. Roast duck with mushrooms served with buckwheat is another popular speciality. **Oscypek** and **bundz**, the only two original Polish sheep cheeses are made in the Podhale region near Cracow. The Cracovian vanilla-flavoured cheese cake is a delicious dessert. Two other tasty desserts served in Cracovian cafés are pishingier, a wafer cake with liquor chocolate layers, and the famous cream cake, a favourite of the late Pope. You can find **obwarzanki** or cracknels, often dusted with coarse salt or poppy or sesame seeds, sold everywhere by street vendors.



#### ANNUAL EVENTS

- February: **The International Festival of Sailors’ Songs**, “Shanties”. ul. Straszewskiego 27, tel./fax 423 22 36, hals@hals.krakow.pl, www.hals.krakow.pl
- Easter: **The Misteria Paschalia Festival**, ul. Olszańska 7, tel. 424 96 50, fax 424 96 52, poczta@biurofestiwalowe.pl, www.biurofestiwalowe.pl
- April: International Festival “**Old and Young or Jazz in Cracow**”, ul. Zduńów 18/8, tel./fax 417 40 45, info@jazz.krakow.pl, www.jazz.krakow.pl
- May/June: **Cracow Film Festival**, ul. Basztowa 15/8a, tel./fax 294 69 45, info@kff.com.pl, www.kff.com.pl
- June: **Great Dragon Parade – The Wawel Dragon’s Festiva**, ul. Skarbowa 2, tel. 633 48 22, fax 633 92 00, blizej.szkoly@groteska.pl, www.groteska.pl
- June (first Thursday after Corpus Christi) **Lajkonika**. Kraków Rynek Główny 35 tel.:+48-12 619 23 00, dyrekcja@mhk.pl, www.mhk.pl
- June: **Wianki** (wreath laying on the Vistula river), ul. św. Krzyża 1, tel. 424 96 50, fax 424 96 52, poczta@biurofestiwalowe.pl, www.biurofestiwalowe.pl
- June/July: **Jewish Cultural Festival**, ul. Józefa 36, tel. 431 15 17, fax 431 24 27, office@jewishfestival.pl, www.jewishfestival.pl
- July: **International Festival of Street Theatre**, ul. Gzmysików 8, tel. 633 73 00, fax 623 89 47, sekretariat@teatrko.pl, www.teatrko.pl
- August: **Court Dance Festival “Cracovia Danza”**, tel. 421 49 80, ardentsole@ardentsole.art.pl, www.ardentsole.art.pl
- August: The **Old Cracow International Music Festival**, ul. Zwierzyniecka 1, tel. 421 45 66, fax 429 43 28, biuro@capellacracoviensis.pl
- September: **Sacrum – Profanum Festival**, ul. św. Krzyża 1, tel. 424 96 50, fax 424 96 52, poczta@biurofestiwalowe.pl, www.biurofestiwalowe.pl
- September/October: **Bajit Chadasz – Jewish Cultural Month Bajit Chadasz**, ul. Meiselsa 17, tél. 430 64 49, fax 430 64 97, www.judaica.pl
- November: **Cracow All Saint’s Jazz Night Wieliczka**, ul. Słowackiego 29, tel./fax 278 20 01, de\_profundis@onet.eu, www.deprofundis.dt.pl
- December: **Cracovian Christmas Crèche Competition**, organised Rynek Główny 35, tel. 619 23 00, fax 422 32 64, dyrekcja@mhk.pl, www.mkh.pl
- Detailed information about cultural events in Cracow is available from the Cultural Information Centre.ul. Św. Jana 2, tel. 421 77 87, fax 421 77 31, karnet@krakow20Grand00pl, www.karnet.krakow2000.pl.

Other events: [www.poland.travel](http://www.poland.travel) (Events calendar)







#### SELECTED MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERIES

- **National Museum**, Main Building, Al. 3 Maja 1, tel. 295 55 00, [www.muzeum.krakow.pl](http://www.muzeum.krakow.pl)
- **Muzeum Książąt Czartoryskich** (European painting, including the famous Leonardo da Vinci's "Lady with the Ermine" and Rembrandt's "Landscape with the Good Samaritan"), ul. Św. Jana 19, tel. 422 55 66, [www.muzeum.krakow.pl](http://www.muzeum.krakow.pl)
- **Historical Museum of Cracow**, Rynek Główny 35, tel. 619 23 00, [http://mhk.pl/o\\_muzeum](http://mhk.pl/o_muzeum)
- **Archaeological Museum**, ul. Senacka 3, tel. 422 71 00, [www.ma.krakow.pl](http://www.ma.krakow.pl)
- **Archdiocesan Museum**, ul. Kanonicza 19-21, tel. 421 89 63, [www.muzeumkra.diecezja.pl](http://www.muzeumkra.diecezja.pl)
- **Ethnographic Museum**, pl. Wolnica 1, tel. 430 55 75, [www.etnomuzeum.eu](http://www.etnomuzeum.eu)
- **Museum of Polish Aviation**, Al. Jana Pawła II 39, tel. 642 87 00, [www.muzeumlotnictwa.pl](http://www.muzeumlotnictwa.pl)
- **Gallery of the Jewish Culture Centre**, ul. Meiselsa 17, tel. 430 64 49, [www.judaica.pl](http://www.judaica.pl)
- **Collegium Maius**, ul. Jagiellońska 15, tel. 422 05 49, [www.maius.uj.edu.pl](http://www.maius.uj.edu.pl)
- **"Rydłówka" Museum of Young Poland**, ul. Tetmajera 28, tel. 637 07 50
- **Museum of Cracovian Salt Mines**, Wieliczka, ul. Zamkowa 8, tel. 278 32 66, [www.muzeum.wieliczka.pl](http://www.muzeum.wieliczka.pl)
- **Art Bunker**, pl. Szczepański 3a, tel. 422 10 52, [www.bunkier.art.pl](http://www.bunkier.art.pl)
- **"Manggha" - Japanese Art & Technology Centre**, ul. M. Konopnickiej 26, tel. 267 27 03, [www.manggha.krakow.pl](http://www.manggha.krakow.pl)

#### SELECTED CLUBS

- **Alchemia**, ul. Estery 5, tel. 421 22 00, [www.alchemia.com.pl](http://www.alchemia.com.pl)
- **Cień Klub**, ul. Św. Jana 15, tel. 422 21 77, [www.cienklub.com](http://www.cienklub.com)
- **Club Clu**, ul. Szeroka 10, tel. 429 26 09, [www.clubclu.pl](http://www.clubclu.pl)
- **Piec Art**, ul. Szewska 12, tel. 429 64 25, [www.piec.krakow.pl](http://www.piec.krakow.pl)
- **Prozak**, Pl. Dominikański 6, tel. 429 11 28, [www.prozak.pl](http://www.prozak.pl)

- **Stajnia**, ul. Józefa 12, tel. 423 72 02, [www.pubstajnia.pl](http://www.pubstajnia.pl)
- **U Luisa**, Rynek Główny 13, tel. 617 02 22, [www.ulouisa.com](http://www.ulouisa.com)
- **Shisha Club**, Mały Rynek 2, tel. 421 64 98, [www.shisha.pl](http://www.shisha.pl)

#### SELECTED HOTELS AND B&B

- **Amadeus\*\*\*\***, ul. Mikołajska 20, tel. 429 60 70, [www.hotel-amadeus.pl](http://www.hotel-amadeus.pl)
- **Astoria\*\*\***, ul. Józefa 24, tel. 432 50 10, [www.hotel-amadeus.pl](http://www.hotel-amadeus.pl)
- **Bona\*\***, ul. Tyniecka 167b, tel. 267 59 87, [www.hotelbona.com.pl](http://www.hotelbona.com.pl)
- **Campanile\*\*\*\***, ul. Św. Tomasza 34, tel. 424 26 00, [www.campanile.com](http://www.campanile.com)
- **Classic\*\*\***, ul. Św. Tomasza 32, tel. 424 03 03, [www.hotel-classic.pl](http://www.hotel-classic.pl)
- **Copernicus\*\*\*\***, ul. Kanonicza 16, tel. 424 34 00, [www.copernicus.hotel.com.pl](http://www.copernicus.hotel.com.pl)
- **Crown Piast\*\*\*\***, ul. Radzikowskiego 109, tel. 683 26 00, [www.hotelpiast.pl](http://www.hotelpiast.pl)
- **Czyżyny**, ul. Centralna 32, tel. 644 67 00, [www.czyzyny.pl](http://www.czyzyny.pl)
- **Demel\*\*\*\***, ul. Głowackiego 22, tel. 636 16 00, [www.demel.com.pl](http://www.demel.com.pl)
- **Elektor\*\*\***, ul. Szpitalna 28, tel. 423 23 17, [www.hotelelektor.com.pl](http://www.hotelelektor.com.pl)
- **Fortuna\*\*\***, ul. Czapskich 5, tel. 422 31 43, [www.hotel-fortuna.com.pl](http://www.hotel-fortuna.com.pl)
- **Fortuna Bis\*\*\***, ul. Piłsudskiego 25, tel. 430 10 25, [www.hotel-fortunabis.pl](http://www.hotel-fortunabis.pl)
- **Grand\*\*\*\***, ul. Sławkowska 5, tel. 424 08 00, [www.grand.pl](http://www.grand.pl)
- **Holiday Inn Kraków\*\*\*\***, ul. Wielopole 4, tel. 619 00 00, [www.hik.krakow.pl](http://www.hik.krakow.pl)
- **Ibis Kraków Centrum\*\***, ul. Syrokomlii 2, tel. 299 33 00, [www.orbis.pl](http://www.orbis.pl)
- **Kazimierz\*\*\***, ul. Miodowa 16, tel. 421 66 29, [www.hk.com.pl](http://www.hk.com.pl)
- **Krakus\*\*\***, ul. Nowohucka 35, tel. 652 02 02, [www.hotel-krakus.com.pl](http://www.hotel-krakus.com.pl)
- **Logos\*\*\***, ul. Szujskiego 5, tel. 631 62 00, [www.hotel-logos.pl](http://www.hotel-logos.pl)
- **Maltański\*\*\***, ul. Straszewskiego 14, tel. 431 00 10, [www.donimirski.com](http://www.donimirski.com)
- **Mistia\***, ul. Szlak 73a, tel. 633 29 26, [www.bookcracow.com](http://www.bookcracow.com)
- **Novotel Kraków Bronowice\*\*\***, ul. Armii Krajowej 11, tel. 622 64 00, [www.orbis.pl](http://www.orbis.pl)
- **Novotel Kraków Centrum\*\*\*\***, ul. Kościuski 5, tel. 299 29 00, [www.orbis.pl](http://www.orbis.pl)
- **Oleandry**, Youth hostel, ul. Oleandry 4, tel. 633 88 22
- **Orbis Cracovia\*\*\***, Al. F. Focha 1, tel. 424 56 00, [www.orbis.pl](http://www.orbis.pl)
- **Orbis Francuski\*\*\***, ul. Pijarska 13, tel. 422 51 22, [www.orbis.pl](http://www.orbis.pl)
- **Orient\*\*\*\***, ul. Sołtysowska 25a, tel. 646 91 00, [www.hotelorient.pl](http://www.hotelorient.pl)
- **Panorama\*\***, ul. Lipińskiego 3/1, tel. 260 64 01, [www.hotel-panorama.pl](http://www.hotel-panorama.pl)
- **Pod Różą\*\*\***, ul. Floriańska 14, tel. 424 33 00, [www.hotel.com.pl](http://www.hotel.com.pl)
- **PTTK Wypiański\*\*\***, ul. Westerplatte 15, tel. 422 95 66, [www.hotel-wypianski.pl](http://www.hotel-wypianski.pl)
- **Radisson Sas\*\*\*\***, ul. Straszewskiego 17, tel. 618 88 88, [www.radissonblu.com/hotel-krakow](http://www.radissonblu.com/hotel-krakow)
- **Royal\*\***, ul. Św. Gertrudy 26-29, tel. 421 35 00, [www.hotelewam.pl](http://www.hotelewam.pl)
- **Ruczaj\*\*\***, ul. Ruczaj 44, tel. 269 10 00, [www.ruczajhotel.com.pl](http://www.ruczajhotel.com.pl)
- **Saski\*\*\***, ul. Sławkowska 3, tel. 421 42 22, [www.hotelsaski.com.pl](http://www.hotelsaski.com.pl)
- **Sheraton Kraków\*\*\*\***, ul. Powiśle 7, tel. 662 10 00, [www.sheraton.pl/krakow](http://www.sheraton.pl/krakow)
- **Start\*\***, ul. Kapelanka 60, tel. 269 22 10, [www.hotelstart.com.pl](http://www.hotelstart.com.pl)
- **Warszawski\*\*\*\***, ul. Pawia 4-6, tel. 424 21 00, [www.hotelwarszawski.pl](http://www.hotelwarszawski.pl)
- **Wit Stwoszy\*\*\***, ul. Mikołajska 28, tel. 429 60 26, 429 61 39, [www.wit-stwoszy.com.pl](http://www.wit-stwoszy.com.pl)

#### CRACOW ON THE INTERNET

- [www.krakow.pl](http://www.krakow.pl) • [www.krakow2000.pl](http://www.krakow2000.pl) • [www.wirtualnykrakow.pl](http://www.wirtualnykrakow.pl)

#### TOURIST INFORMATION

- **ul. Szpitalna 25**, tel. 432 01 10, 432 00 60, fax 432 00 62
- **ul. Św. Jana 2**, tel. 421 77 87, fax 430 65 03
- **ul. Józefa 7**, tel. 422 04 71, fax 421 77 31
- **Townhall Tower**, tel. 433 73 10
- **os. Słoneczne 16** (Nowa Huta), tel. 643 03 03 (10.00-14.00)
- **Airport Kraków-Balice**, ul. Medweckiego 1, tel. 285 53 41

#### OTHER INFORMATION

- **International Airport Kraków-Balice**, tel. 285 51 20, [www.lotnisko-balice.pl](http://www.lotnisko-balice.pl)
- **Railway Station Kraków Główny**, tel. 194 36, 624 15 80
- **Main Post Office**, ul. Westerplatte 20, open from Monday through Friday: 7.30am-8.30pm, on Saturday: 8am-2pm, on Sunday: 9am 2pm, tel. 422 48 11

Telephoning Cracow from Poland prefix **12** from abroad prefix **+48-12**



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