



# Three days in Krakow





*Dear Sirs and Madams,  
I would like to invite you to visit Krakow – a city that re-confirms its distinguished status among the most beautiful, most interesting and most fashionable cities in the world every day of the year.*

**Jacek Majchrowski**

Mayor of the City of Krakow

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Majchrowski'.



## 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 bearing the title “One Weekend in ...” frequently have fewer than one hundred pages of fine print. Therefore, travellers try to “make time stop” by taking photos or video, and they twist and turn in haste to see the most important things ... even from a distance. Such sightseeing leaves blurred, foggy memories maimed by tiredness and a feeling of insufficiency.

Therefore, we have prepared this leaflet for persons visiting our city. We cannot promise that visitors who make use of it will be able to experience Krakow in depth over the course of three days. Tourists have a lot to see: numerous monuments that make up the historical tissue of the city, a rich artistic and cultural life, a magical atmosphere creating numerous opportunities both for inhabitants and visitors to slow down, stand still and take a look... 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 will allow you to feel the atmosphere of the city, at times leisurely, sometimes full of events, but always unique. Therefore, let us try to take a look at Krakow together to see how three days could be spent 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.

## LIVING COMFORTABLY

Krakow has at its disposal the best tourist base in Poland, adjusted to the needs of visitors and representing various degrees of affluence. In the very centre and within its vicinity, there are several dozen high standard hotels, including those belonging to the largest international networks. On the other hand, there are many cosy facilities located next to the Main Market Square, which allow you to begin sightseeing immediately after breakfast. An extensive offer of highly popular hostels and apartments – especially in the district of Kazimierz – allows visitors to find an inexpensive offer at any time of year.

Free Internet is available in almost all of these places – similarly to numerous cafés and restaurants in Krakow – whereas in selected areas of the city, it is possible to utilise free-of-charge Internet provided by the local government of Krakow (“hotspot Cracovia”). Additional help with independent sightseeing is provided by free mobile applications (for devices with GPS and with Bluetooth technology). They also play an important role at the innovative route in Poland – the Royal Way for Handicapped Tourists – equipped with amenities for tourists with movement disabilities, as well as the blind and visually impaired. All services of this type are available in at least two languages (Polish and English). It is worth adding that, on account of the unprecedented concentration of tourist attractions, the distances among a majority of them (in the Old City and the Kazimierz district) are within walking distance; if necessary, an extensive tram network ensures the possibility of quick transfer from one point to another – during rush hours, this means of transportation is probably quicker than a taxi. Ticket sale machines located at key tram and bus stops also provide tourist information, up-dated on an on-going basis.

*Any inquiries requiring further detail can be asked at the InfoKraków municipal tourist information points located all around the city.*

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

Tactile city model



## » MAIN MARKET SQUARE

The dimensions of this largest Medieval square in Europe are 200 m by 200 m. Its size and authentic architectural and urban layout, preserved to this day, make it a unique place in the world. In 2005, Krakow's Market Square came foremost in the first global ranking of the "Best Market Squares in the World" according to Project for Public Spaces, which has been conducting activities for the sake of revitalisation of municipal public spaces for over 30 years.

The Main Market Square and the network of streets that make up the Old City were set out in 1257 when the city was founded upon the Magdeburg Law. Located in the centre of the Square, the Cloth Hall (a former and present place of trade, and, for over one hundred years, the main seat and now currently one of the branches of the National Museum in Krakow), the small church of St. Adalbert (a place of important archaeological discoveries), the lone tower of the town hall, which was demolished in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is now one of the main symbols of Krakow, and St. Mary's Church with its spired towers have survived to this day. St. Mary's Church features the lifetime work of the Nuremberg master Veit Stoss – a monumental altar that attracts thousands of tourists daily. Many of Krakow's legends and traditions are related to the Main Market Square, along

*The dimensions of this largest Medieval square in Europe are 200 m by 200 m. Its size and authentic architectural and urban layout, preserved to this day, make it a unique place in the world.*



*The Main Market Square is a place of meetings, including summer festivals, concerts, fairs, shows and the New Year's Eve spectacle. Many of the city's inhabitants often meet "by Adam" (by the statue of the poet Adam Mickiewicz).*

with numerous historical events. The bugle call played every hour from one of the church's towers refers to one of them, and others include the June procession of the Lajkonik, the enthronement of the King of the Marksman's Association or the December competition of nativity scenes. Almost all townhouses and palaces around the Main Market Square are buildings that are several hundred years old. The Historical Museum of the City of Krakow and the International Cultural Centre are located here, as well as booksellers and shops, restaurants and cafés. It is worth paying attention to the façades, portals, windows and roofs of these houses, and their interiors feature excellently preserved or meticulously recreated architectural details. One can stop at the numerous café and restaurant gardens which encircle the Square, some of which are open from early morning to late evening year round with only a short break during the most severe weather conditions. In winter, patrons transfer to Krakow's characteristic cellars, where numerous concerts are played – usually jazz, as the city is called the capital of Polish jazz. There is also a flourishing nightlife, as this is a city of over 200,000 students.

*In September 2010, under the surface of the Main Market Square, an underground museum was opened with an area encompassing nearly four thousand square metres. The tourist route is located at a depth of four metres and presents a modern, multimedia exhibition entitled "Tracing the European Identity of Krakow". The exhibition is immensely popular, and its opening placed first in the competition for a historic event in 2010 in Poland.*





Collegium Maius courtyard

## WALK 2 THREE DAYS IN KRAKOW

### » THE OLD CITY

Let us revisit the layout of the city due to the fact that it greatly influences the atmosphere of Krakow. The area encircled by the Planty – a belt of greenery and, at the same time, a municipal park – constitutes the strictly defined centre of the city.

The Planty stretches from the Barbican in two directions towards the Wawel Hill and creates an irregular oval shape, slightly elongated on the side of the Vistula. The Planty was established in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in place of the demolished city walls surrounding old Krakow. Within a surface area of 1500 m by 800 m, where almost every building is a monument, there are several dozen museums and galleries, multiple churches, theatres, cinemas, booksellers and antique stores, trade galleries and entire streets with shops, hundreds of cafés, restaurants and pubs.

All of this evokes the atmosphere of a small town, and therefore it is not surprising that tourists are often amazed when they learn

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

about the size of Krakow's agglomeration – almost 1.5 million inhabitants (the city itself has over 750,000 inhabitants). The tightly confined area of the city centre makes sightseeing easier. The longest straight line which can be set out within the area of the Planty runs almost entirely along the Royal Way – the oldest and most well-known tourist route. It leads from the Church of St. Florian by Plac Matejki through the Floriańska Gate. Here, in the only well-preserved fragment of the huge defence walls, is the Arsenal – today a part of the Museum of the Czartoryski Princes, 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 the Wawel Hill.

*The longest straight line which can be set out within the area of the Planty runs almost entirely along the Royal Way – the oldest and most well-known tourist route.*

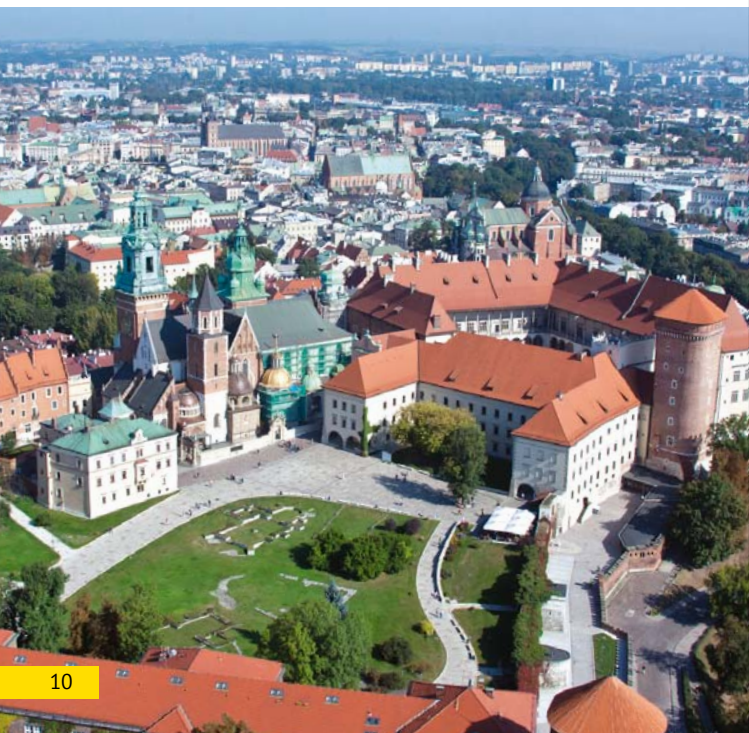
Floriańska Street



## » THE WAWEL CASTLE

The famous Wawel Hill can be reached by the short and narrow Kanonicza Street. This 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 Street is an example of the positive changes which have come to pass in Krakow in recent years. Comprehensive renovations and conservation works have revealed the true beauty in layers.

The interiors of the castle feature exhibitions which are a must to see: royal chambers, a collection of eastern art and war trophies, a unique collection of Flemish tapestries, as well as archaeological discoveries testifying to the more than one-thousand year presence of Christianity within the Polish lands.



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

The massive Sigismund bell tolls only on occasion of the most important events for the nation and the city. Half a day is hardly enough for a cursory visit. Yet even if seeing the Wawel Hill was postponed until a future, longer visit to Krakow, it is worth a walk within the castle's walls (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 at the Vistula River and the unique structure of the Manggha Museum on the other side of the river. This collection features Japanese exhibits assembled by one of the most renowned collectors – Feliks “Manggha” Jasieński. After walking down to the banks of the river, we see the sculpture of the Wawel dragon and the entrance to its cave – a favourite destination during family walks. Every year in June, on the occasion of Midsummer's Eve, the traditional “Wianki” festival is held here – a huge outdoor event with prehistoric pagan origins.

*A look at the plan of the city centre will convince anyone that the area encircled by the walls of the Wawel is comparable, with respect to size, with the surface area of the Main Market Square.*



*Today, we can speak of a revival of the district and its new face.*

## WALK 4 THREE DAYS IN KRAKOW

### » KAZIMIERZ

For many years, all maps of the centre of Krakow, apart from the area encircled by the Planty, also featured Kazimierz. In the past it was a separate town, but today it is a neighbourhood of the city, which can be reached by walking down from the Wawel Hill.

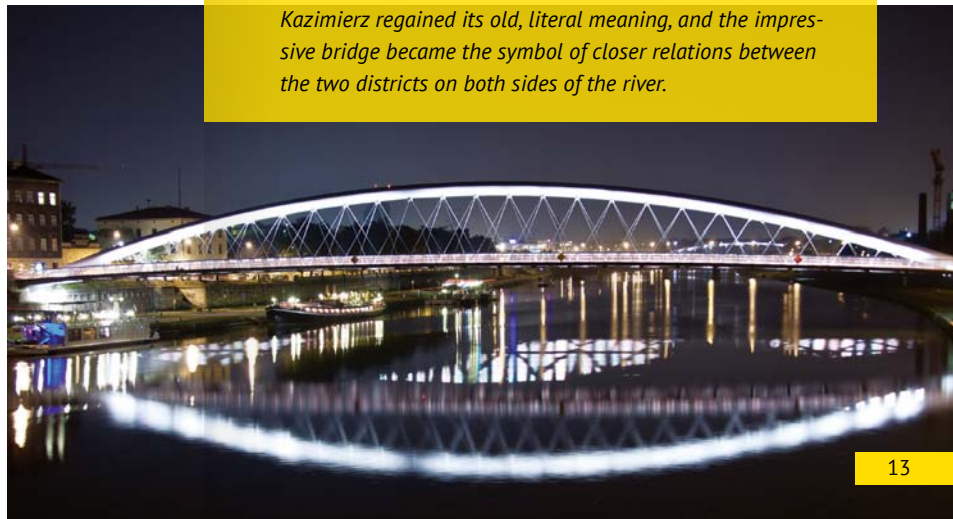
After the tragedy of WWII and the extermination of Jews by the Nazi occupation, Kazimierz became deserted and fell into ruin for many decades. The current explosive development of this part of the city was caused by changes in the political system at the end of the 1980s and 1990s. Kazimierz made its way to the big screen thanks to Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning film *Schindler's List*, which was shot here. Through workshops, lectures and exhibitions, the world-famous Festival of Jewish Culture, organised ever since the beginning of the 1990s, in principle focuses on the history and traditions of the people that 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, perennial tolerance. In this place, two nations

*Krakow's history, and the history of Polish Jews, speaks to us from every corner of Kazimierz. It can be felt in the layout of narrow streets and trade squares, in the small townhouses, synagogues and Jewish cemeteries.*

and two great religions coexisted in harmony for centuries. Near the synagogues, the two churches of St. Catherine and Corpus Christi rise up, whilst the destination of the procession held on the day of St. Stanislaus is the Paulite Church "On the Rock". Cafés, clubs and galleries bring together all those who feel the Main Market Square and its vicinity have become too "touristy". Every visitor can discover for themselves the extraordinary nature of Kazimierz, where exclusive hotels and restaurants sit alongside handicraft workshops for purse and bag-making, boot leather stitching and engraving. In order to experience this, it is worth taking a stroll around Plac Nowy, or along Miodowa and Józefa Streets, as well as seeing Szeroka Street, where the final concert of the Festival of Jewish Culture is held every year. Kazimierz is also a place particularly valued by lovers of antiques. Here, at Plac Nowy (and also at the nearby Hala Targowa at Grzegórzki), flea markets are organised.

*In 2010, in place of the old Podgórski Bridge and making use of its remnants – bridgeheads on both banks of the Vistula – the pedestrian bridge of Father Laetus Bernatka was opened, enabling quick passage from Kazimierz to Podgórze. In this manner, the name of Mostowa Street (Bridge Street) in Kazimierz regained its old, literal meaning, and the impressive bridge became the symbol of closer relations between the two districts on both sides of the river.*





## » PODGÓRZE

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 Krakow”.

This was the phrase coined by Juliusz Leo, who was mayor of the city at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 newly-built Museum of Tadeusz Kantor. 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”.

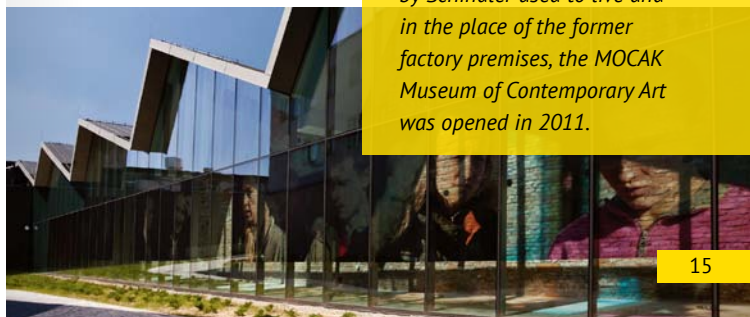


*Tourists come here, fascinated not only by the numerous testimonies to history, but also by the distinctness of Podgórze and its charming nooks, and many wish to come here to have their morning coffee.*

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 11<sup>th</sup> 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. 7<sup>th</sup> 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 Historical Museum of the City 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.

*More at:*  
[www.podgorze.pl](http://www.podgorze.pl)

*In the location of the former barracks, where Jews saved by Schindler used to live and in the place of the former factory premises, the MOCAK Museum of Contemporary Art was opened in 2011.*





**CENTRUM KRAKOWA  
KRAKOW CITY CENTRE**

- ulica główna, ulica thoroughfare, major street
- ulica, uliczka street, footpath
- linia kolejowa, linia tramwajowa railway line, tram line
- cmentarz żydowski, park, ogród, śladnik Jewish cemetery, park, garden, green area

- budynki zabudowy użytku publicznego, inny site of historic interest, public building, building
- kościół, cerkiew, synagoga church, orthodox church, synagogue
- muzeum, pomnik, konsulat museum, monument, consulate
- poczta, teatr, kino post office, theatre, cinema
- szpital, poliklinika hospital, polyclinic
- przystanek autobusowy turyst., (do 10 min.) car park, coach stop (max. parking time 10 min.)
- stacja wynajmurowania, stacja biling station, bikelet
- przystanek tramwajowy, przystanek tramwaju wodnego, platforma, przystanek tramwajowy, tram stop, beach

- TRASY TURYSTYCZNE / TOURIST ROUTES**
- Droga Królewska The Royal Road
  - Trasa Uniwersytecka University Route
  - Trasa św. Stanisława Saint Stanisław Route
  - Trasa Żydowskich Żydew Jewish Heritage Route
  - Krakowski Ślad Świętych Kraków Path of the Saints
  - Ścieżkami Jana Pawła II In the Footsteps of John Paul II
  - Krakowski Ślad Techniki The Krakow Industrial Heritage Route

- Beozokogowa Wypożyczalnia Rowerek Miejskich Bike rental stands
- przystanek autobusowy 208, 202 bus stop 208, 202
- kolejka Dworzec Gł - port lotniczy railway line: Railway Station - airport
- INFORMACJA MIEJSKA / InfoKraków TOURIST INFORMATION InfoKraków tel: +48 12 432 00 00; +48 12 433 73 10 www.infokrakow.pl
- TELEFONY ALARMOWE / EMERGENCES Pogotowie Ratunkowe / Ambulance - 999 Policja / Police - 112 Straż Miejska / City Guards - 998 Straż Pożarna / Fire Brigade - 998
- TELEFONY BEZPEKOWSTWA EMERGENCY PHONE (dla dotychczasowych - tylko w sezonie letnim) (for foreigners - during the summer season only) 800 200 300 (+48) 800 599 999

- URZĄD MIASTA KRAKOWA**  
The Municipality of Kraków  
www.krakow.pl  
www.krakow.pl
- Opracowani:**  
 **COMPASS**  
Wydawnictwo COMPASS  
www.compass.krakow.pl  
oraz Wydawnictwo Informa Turystyki i Promocji Miasta UMK

## » 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 Pleszowa 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 17<sup>th</sup> century Calvinist church in Łuczanowice, as well as the 17<sup>th</sup> century manor house of the Branicki family with a Renaissance storeroom designed by S. Gucci and a 19<sup>th</sup> century Badeni manor house in Branice, which today is a division of the Archaeological Museum in Krakow,

*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.*

*More at: [www.nhpedia.pl](http://www.nhpedia.pl)*



*It is also worthwhile to stop by the Museum of Polish Aviation, located in the area of the former Czyżyny airport.*

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 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 50 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.

## » ...ON FOOT OR BY BICYCLE: TRACING THE ROUTE OF THE FORMER KRAKOW FORTRESSES

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> century soon became obsolete, and it was necessary to extend their system and create an encircling defensive stronghold.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

*Viewing the Austrian fortifications of Krakow is facilitated by the Route of the Former Krakow Fortress (marked by yellow-black-yellow signs).*

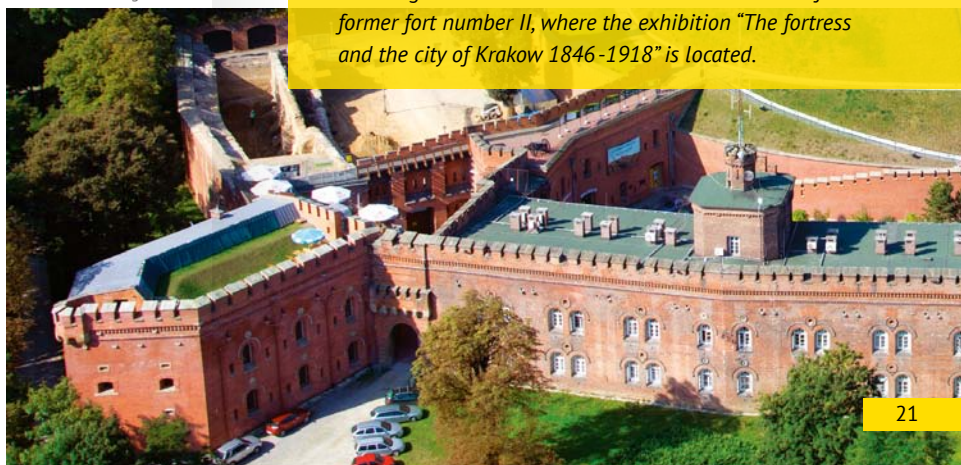
The trail, even though designed as a pedestrian and bicycle trail, may also be travelled by car, especially due to the fact that a majority of the facilities are indicated on road information signs. It is necessary to mention that some forts are accessible, whereas others are managed and access to them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

The forts play various functions. For example, the "Skala" fort houses an astronomical observatory, and the "Olszanica" (west of Wolski Forest) and the "Grębatów" 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. Next to this hotel, as well as next to the "Węgrzce" fort (along the Krakow – Kielce road), there are shooting ranges. Several facilities are located in Nowa Huta, such as the "Batowice" fort at the Złotego Wieku Housing Estate, the "Mistrzejowice" fort near the "Piastów" Housing Estate, as well as the "Krzestawice" fort, which was a WWII place of martyrdom, and the above-mentioned "Grębatów" fort. Hardly anybody is aware of the fact that the buildings surrounding the Kościuszkó Mound are also elements of the former fort number II, where the exhibition Twierdza a Miasto Kraków 1846-1918 is located.

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

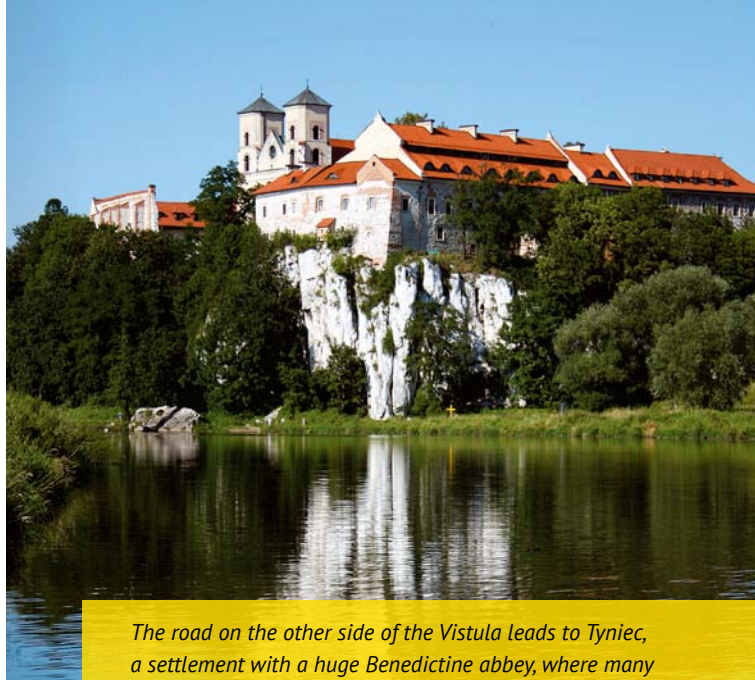
"Kościuszkó" Stronghold



## » 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 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.

*The mounds are some of the greatest tourist attractions of Krakow.*



*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.*

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. One can see the Kościuszko Mound from here, and the Wolski Forest is nearby – another recreational area of great scenic value. 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.



Sacrum Profanum Festival 2010

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

## » CULTURAL KRAKOW

Today, Krakow is the most cultural of Polish cities. It is the international showcase of Polish historical heritage, also famous as an example of successful investments, such as the new museums which have been opened in recent years (in 2010, 5 out of 10 of the most important museum events took place in Krakow), new stadiums and those currently under constructed, the Congress Centre and the sports hall. This impetus goes hand in hand with the development of cultural life; in recent years, Krakow's festivals have become internationally recognised. "Misteria Paschalia" and "Opera Rara", "Sacrum Profanum" and the "Festival of Polish Music", the "Selector Festival" and "Unsound" – a musical journey from Baroque to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, impressive and attracting audiences of several thousands. Krakow, the city of writers, hosts the largest Book Fair in the country, along with literary festivals, such as the "Czesław Miłosz Festival"

*Unusual open areas, post-industrial interiors, sections of the Nowa Huta plant – such presentation venues contradict the traditional image of Krakow, often seen as refined yet bland.*

[www.6zmyslow.pl](http://www.6zmyslow.pl)  
[www.karnet.krakow.pl](http://www.karnet.krakow.pl)

and "Joseph Conrad Festival". This is also the location of the theatrical review "Boska Komedia", and the "ArtBoom Festival" boldly introduces modern art into the historical tissue of the city centre. The "Off Camera" festival, the "Kraków Film Festival" and "Film Music Festival" attract cinema lovers, who soon come back to shoot their films here. Blending in the traditions of Kazimierz and the multi-cultural Galicia Festival of Jewish Culture, Dance Trance during Wow!Night – a New Year's Eve party at the Main Market Square – all of these events confirm the fact that Krakow provides varied and unique experiences all year round.

Misteria Paschalia Festival 2011



## » CULINARY AND CLUB TOURISM

In Poland, the idea of culinary tourism primarily refers to Krakow. Even though the annual June issue of the Michelin guide features two Polish cities, Krakow and Warsaw, people come to Krakow in order to visit historical restaurants with a cult status, to have dinner at their favourite restaurant or to dine in a completely new place. The reasons are simple: the number of restaurants, inns, cafés, pubs and clubs, unprecedented in other Polish cities, located in attractive districts, combined with natural competition in such conditions result in the fact that this is

*This is the best place to eat, drink and be merry in the country, and it is possible to visit several or even several dozen locations during one night.*

Wow!Night 2010  
– New Year's Eve in Krakow



*Those who come to Krakow for three days and select this very popular form of tourism may end up extending their sightseeing into long, eventful nights...*

the best place to eat, drink and be merry in the country, and it is possible to visit several or even several dozen locations during one night. This truly Mediterranean phenomenon results in the fact that the cultural life is teeming until the early hours of the morning. Students and businessmen, locals and visitors all have fun in the egalitarian, multilingual crowds.

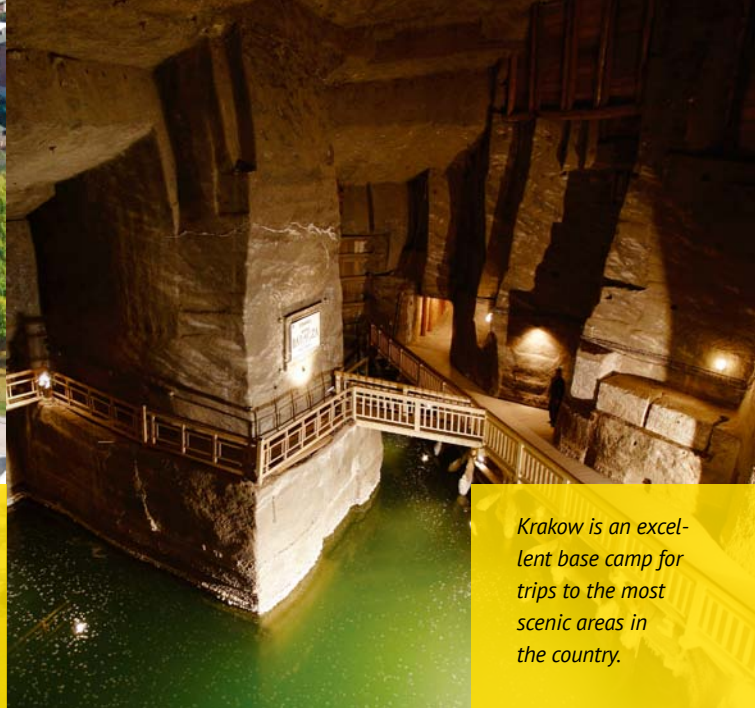
Let us go back to the charms of Krakow's cuisine: local chefs prepare excellent dishes from nearly every nation and culture, frequently combining French or Italian cuisine skillfully with noble local traditions. Numerous restaurants, dispelling the international myth of *pierogi* as the greatest contribution of Poles to international cuisine, serve up legendary Polish soups, sauces and venison... 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. 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.





Shrine of Divine Mercy

*Krakow, during the times of sinister totalitarian regimes, never forgot its spiritual roots, whereas 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.*



"Wieliczka" Salt Mine – Erazm Barącz Chamber

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

## » PILGRIMAGE TOURISM

Krakow, which has long been the centre of the Polish state, is also the heart of Polish Christianity. Here, historic churches house miraculous paintings and relics, age-old traditions of religious communities and monasteries are cultivated and processions and open-air masses bring together tens and hundreds of thousands of followers. The lives of a large number of saints and those blessed were related to the city – from St. Stanislaus of Szczepanów and Queen Jadwiga, immortalised in common history, to the lesser known Father Stanisław Sottys, who was known as Kazimierzczyk (who lived in the 15<sup>th</sup> century) and who was canonised in 2010 – many of whom have found their final resting place in Krakow's churches and necropolises.

The city's climate shaped the personality of Karol Wojtyła, who later became Pope John Paul II and was beatified on May 1, 2011 and who always came back here and met with millions of Poles. One of the largest pilgrimage centres in this part of Europe, the sanctuary in Łagiewniki (world centre of worship of Divine Mercy and a memorial to Sister Faustina, forerunner of the revival of this worship in the 20<sup>th</sup> century) is located in Krakow, 10 minutes by tram from the city centre. Pilgrims who come to Krakow can make use of the "Krakow Trail of Saints" and "Following in the Footsteps of John Paul II" routes, which have been prepared by the city.

## » OUTSIDE THE CITY

One cannot forget about popular excursions outside of Krakow to the picturesque Jurassic valleys, to Ojców and to Pieskowa Skała or to places that are, along with the historical development of the Old City, entered into the UNESCO world heritage list: the Museum in Auschwitz and the Wieliczka Salt Mine. These last two locations, often seen as mandatory destinations by organised groups, each require a full day. The same UNESCO list also includes wooden constructions in the region and the famous landscape design in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska with the unique Stations of the Cross. Those on pilgrimages also go to Wadowice, the hometown of John Paul II. Krakow is an excellent staging area for trips to the most scenic areas in the country. Only 100 km separate the city from the Tatra Mountains and Zakopane, known as the winter capital of Poland. There are also the lesser-known Pieniny Mountains and the well-known resorts of Szczawnica and Krynica, and the Beskidy Mountains can boast of their less crowded mountain trails. The Tatrzński, Pieniński, Gorczański and Babiogórski 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 to come into contact with nature.





## » TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

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

Tourist Information Centres offer abbreviated versions of guidebooks, containing practical advice, telephone numbers and addresses and maps of the city centre with tourist routes marked. Recently, the traditional routes, set out a long time ago, have been enriched by new proposals of city walking tours that are interesting on account of their landscape or historical values and which are related to the events of the past few decades.

### ■ Tourist Services Center

#### ul. Powiśle 11

Phone +48 513 099 688

Open daily

[powisle@infokrakow.pl](mailto:powisle@infokrakow.pl)

### ■ Cloth Hall

#### Rynek Główny 1/3

Phone +48 12 433 73 10

Open daily

[sukiennice@infokrakow.pl](mailto:sukiennice@infokrakow.pl)

### ■ ul. św. Jana 2

Phone +48 12 421 77 87

Open daily

[jana@infokrakow.pl](mailto:jana@infokrakow.pl)

### ■ Wypiański Pavilion

#### pl. Wszystkich Świętych 2

Phone +48 12 616 18 86

Open daily

[wypianski@infokrakow.pl](mailto:wypianski@infokrakow.pl)

### ■ ul. Szpitalna 25

Phone +48 12 432 01 10

+48 12 432 00 60

Open daily

[szpitalna@infokrakow.pl](mailto:szpitalna@infokrakow.pl)

### ■ ul. Józefa 7

Phone +48 12 422 04 71

Open daily

[jozefa@infokrakow.pl](mailto:jozefa@infokrakow.pl)

### ■ International Airport

#### Kraków-Balice

Phone +48 12 285 53 41

Open daily

[balice@infokrakow.pl](mailto:balice@infokrakow.pl)



InfoKraków in the Cloth Hall

All descriptions of tourist routes are presented at the following website: [www.krakow.pl](http://www.krakow.pl)

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency number  
(from mobile phones): 112

Emergency service: 999  
Police: 997  
City guard: 986  
Fire brigade: 998

24h medical info:  
+48 12 661 22 40

Safety telephone number  
(for foreigners: only in summer):  
+48 608 599 999  
800 200 300

Currently, the following tourist routes have been designated: The Royal Route, University Route, Saint Stanislaw Route, Jewish Heritage Route, Podgórze History Route, Nowa Huta Route, The Krakow Industrial Heritage Route, Route of the Former Krakow Fortress, Krakow's Path of the Saints and In the Footsteps of John Paul II, as well as three cultural district routes in Bronowice, Czerwony Prądnik and Swoszowice.

### Texts

Grzegorz Słacz

Melania Tutak – Association

PODGORZE.PL (p. 14, 15)

Leszek J. Sibila – Historical Museum  
of the City of Krakow (p. 18, 19)

Jerzy W. Gajewski (p. 20, 21)

### Photographs

Wiesław Majka (p. 1, 7)

Paweł Krawczyk (cover, p. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10,  
11, 12, 13, 18, 21, 23, 27, 28)

Wojciech Gorgolewski (p. 14, 22)

Rafał Sosin (p. 15)

Piotr Lipowiecki (p. 19)

Tomasz Wiech – for KBF (p. 24)

Grzegorz Ziemiański /  
www.fotohuta.pl – for KBF (p. 25)

Wojciech Wandzel /

www.wandzelphoto.com – for KBF (p. 26)

Rafał Stachurski (p. 29)

Paweł Ulatowski – for KBF (p. 31)

(\*KBF - Krakow Festival Office)

### Design

balsamstudio

### Redesign & DTP

Paweł Bytnar

### Translation

BEHLERT & BEHLERT

Tłumaczenia i Konferencje



Kraków.travel Kraków z pierwszej ręki // Kraków at First Hand

## MUNICIPALITY OF KRAKOW

Information, Tourism and City Promotion Department

pl. Wszystkich Świętych 3-4, 31-004 Krakow, Poland

phone: + 48 12 616 60 52, fax: + 48 12 616 60 56

e-mail: [marketing@um.krakow.pl](mailto:marketing@um.krakow.pl)

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



MEDIA PARTNERS:



[WWW.KRAKOW.PL](http://WWW.KRAKOW.PL)