

 **Kraków**



**Visit  
& Enjoy!**

# Krakow on a bike



The city to love, too good to leave!



## Krakow on a bike

Krakow is cyclist-friendly. It makes perfect sense to visit the city's charming corners using the quickest and the most readily accessible means of transport, that is, the bike. Thanks to many years of investment in cycling infrastructure, the city offers **186km of cycle paths and contra-flow lanes**. There are **100km of lanes for the sole use of bikers**, while contra-flow lanes operate on **104 streets**, mostly in the city centre.

The city has also provided parking infrastructure: Krakow offers **2400 bicycle stands** situated in various parts of the city, and **one roofed, two-level cycle park by the Dworzec Główny Wschód stop**. There are also **65 foot and foot-and-arm rests** at crossroads. The intensity of cycle traffic is measured in five places in the city.

Public transport in the city centre makes use of the safe, Vienna-type stops which help pedestrians and cyclists. Also, road markings are being introduced to show cyclists which space belongs to them. Moreover, Krakow is Poland's first city to have built a **1-kilometre tram-cycle flyover**. Should you need **to pump your tyres up**, there are a handful of locations, where you can do it free of charge, for example, in: plac Inwalidów Square, Dworzec Główny Wschód, Poczta Główna (Main Post Office), Błonia Green, plac Bohaterów Getta Square, and PKP Łobzów railway station.

We have prepared descriptions of **five routes in Krakow** for you, and suggest that you set off from the Main Market Square: the vibrant heart of the city.

## A bike, a bike, but where can I find one?

There plenty of bike rentals in Krakow, you can choose your model, colour, and price. We also have a municipal rental system: **Wavelo**. It offers **1500 bicycles in 150 hubs** (docking stations) distributed all over the city. The public cycles are fourth-generation machines: with computers on board which are powered from a dynamo and a solar panel. They are all traced by the inbuilt **GPS modules**, which gives

the user far greater opportunities than in the case of a traditional bike: you can rent and return a bike without logging into the docking station.

## How to rent a bike?

**Start from registering** in the system on **www.wavelo.pl** or use a dedicated mobile app. **Choose the tariff** you want to use, and make your quick wire transfer payment by entering the data of your credit card for the payments. Your account will be activated once you've answered the **confirmation link** sent to you by e-mail.

Approach any available Wavelo bike. The computer is situated at the back: **enter your Wavelo account number** (or the number of your mobile that you used to register onto the system), identify yourself with a **four-digit PIN**, and the bike is yours. Just draw the U-bar out of the rear wheel. (Important: don't forget to take it with you, or you won't be able to secure the bike once you're done.) Enjoy the ride!

How much will I pay?\* Apart from cheap monthly subscriptions, Wavelo also has options designed for the occasional user. In **pay-as-you-go** you pay per minute, and need to make a prepayment of PLN 29. Then every minute with the bike costs you PLN 0.19. There's also the "day ticket" valid for 12 hours: you also make a payment of PLN 29, and can use the bike for the **consecutive 12 hours**. If you want to make a stopover for some visiting and lock the bike, it will wait for you for up to 60 minutes. After that time, it is automatically considered released, and publicised as available in the system so that anyone can now rent it.

\* Prices valid as of 2017; subject to change.

■ ■ ■  
**www.wavelo.pl**





## Main Market Square – Kazimierz

This is the shortest route, but this is where you're going to see the most. You're going to **Kazimierz, the former Jewish district** that nowadays never falls asleep. You certainly know it from the guidebooks, travel programmes, and documentaries. Yet the only way to get the taste of its atmosphere is for you to go there yourself.

You start from the Main Market Square, and go down **Grodzka Street** to reach Wawel; then go straight down **Stradom Street** (generally in traffic). At the crossroads with lights go straight across into **Krakowska Street**. A few hundred metres further on you reach **Wolnica Square** (on your left). It is the former Market Square of Kazimierz, but it is not the centre of the district. If you've taken a Wavelo bike, you can leave it at a docking station to visit the **Kraków Museum of Ethnography**. You can also go on, crossing the square: the church you see on its opposite corner is **Corpus Christi**, the most important church in Kazimierz. Here you've got to choose whether to take **Bożego Ciała Street**, or turn into **św. Wawrzyńca Street** with its **Museum of Municipal Engineering**.

Option one? The street takes you to **Józefa Street**, where you turn right and then, a hundred metres further on, left into **Nowa Street**. Lo and behold – you're already in the Nowy



### Is Krakow only urban, or Museum of Ethnography

The museum, in the simplest terms, speaks of customs. Urban and rural alike. Of the mixing of cultures – their past and present. Kraków Museum of Ethnography means nearly 80,000 exhibits that take you through centuries, and lives of individuals as well as history of ethnic groups.

■ ■ ■ [www.etnomuzeum.eu](http://www.etnomuzeum.eu)



## KAZIMIERZ

There is no other place in Krakow which is so strongly imbued with the idea of multiculturalism, where Christians and Jews lived side-by-side. Where does the district take its name from? In 1335, King Casimir the Great issued a city charter with privileges for the settlers based on the Magdeburg Law, and the thankful city took his name. Its heart was Wolnica Square (with its surviving town hall). In 1495 the Jewish town started in Bawół, one of the villages of Kazimierz. That's where Jews moved from Krakow. Szeroka Street soon became its centre. Some centuries later Kazimierz was incorporated into Krakow. The (not always easy) coexistence of both the worlds ended with the Second World War: the Germans evicted the Jews of Kazimierz to the ghetto established in Podgórze. Few of them returned here after the war. A memory of the people of Kazimierz was provided by the badly damaged synagogues. Today Kazimierz is a meeting place of cultures. Its Jewish roots are beautifully embellished by the Jewish Culture Festival, one of the regular local events known to the whole world. It is also a favourite meeting place of the people of Kraków: always fashionable and alive 24/7.

(Żydowski i.e. Jewish) Square. Of course, you can reach the end of **Józefa Street** and park by the **Museum in the Old Synagogue in Szeroka Street**, and save **Nowy Square** for later on. **Do you know Szeroka?** You must have seen footage from the final concerts of **the Jewish Culture Festival** – this is where they're held. Once you've had your coffee in Szeroka (a nice choice of watering places, and an opportunity to have traditional Jewish dishes), turn into **Lewkowa Street**, one of the most charming nooks in Kazimierz, just a trifle in this city. It turns into **Ciemna Street**, and this – into **Jakuba**, which you follow until **Warszauera Street**, to reach **Nowy Square**.

The square itself is not big, but there is none other like it in Kraków. It is surrounded by cafés, restaurants, and pubs: a touch of the avant-garde, a touch of exclusivity; yet it is simple, unassuming, and traditional. The choice is yours: go for the venue that appeals to you the most. Kraków artists frequently visit this place: that's where Kazimierz's *knapja* crawl begins (*knapja* = a place where food and drink is served), as actually



## Museum of Municipal Engineering

Housed in the building of the former depot of the first narrow gauge electric tram, the museum boasts a collection connected with the development of municipal transport, power and gas plants, and general municipal engineering together with technological heritage. Do you want to know how the city works, what you can find beneath your feet, why the tram (light rail) moves, and how water reaches your taps? That's where your questions will be answered.

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

every street in Kazimierz has its *knajpy* with their unique atmosphere and cuisine. Anyway, locals later return to the square, in whose centre you queue for the **de rigueur zapiekanka**. The building in the centre with little bars serving them is the **Okraglak**. It used to be a ritual slaughterhouse for poultry, later just a cluster of shops. Its roof sometimes doubles as a concert stage.

Nowy Square will surprise you with its chaos: the charivari of numerous functions. Visitors include those who want to expand their collections: you can buy **vinyl records** (on weekends) and people are known to find gems here among all the things vintage and the second-hand books. The square is also the venue of **the Soup Festival** (annual, late May).

Leave Nowy Square along Nowa Street, and turn right into Józefa Street which you follow to the end, where it empties into Krakowska Street. You can now leave Kazimierz, but as you came here on a bike, it makes sense to go to **the Vistula Embankment** (its Kazimierz section). Turn left into Krakowska Street from Józefa, join the general traffic and reach the bridge across the Vistula. Stop here, go down to the lower strip along the embankment and continue. Ahead of you there are some stretches of cycle path leading along the banks of the Vistula (with **barges moored to the quay** that are certainly worth a visit).

Don't be afraid of cycling in Kazimierz, the traffic is light. It makes sense to hop off your bike often, and just take a walk, visiting synagogues, churches, and museums or simply peeking into Kazimierz backyards. Some of them still have retained their air from a century ago.



## Jewish Kraków in seven synagogues

First of all there is the Old Synagogue (Alte Shul, ul. Szeroka 24) which is Poland's oldest preserved synagogue, with roots reaching back to the 14th century. It was devastated by the Nazis during the Second World War, and the furnishings were looted. Since 1985 it has housed a museum.

The Isaac (Ayzik) Synagogue (ul. Kupa 18) is the biggest. It was also ransacked during the Second World War. Today it houses the Centre for Jewish Education ; and can be visited.

Kupa Synagogue (ul. Warszawera 8): originally a place of prayer, later a matza production facility and ritual poultry slaughterhouse.

Popper Synagogue (ul. Szeroka 16): founded by Wolf Popper early in the 17th century, used to be lavishly furnished, but nothing has survived within. Today it is home to the Staromiejskie Youth Culture Centre.

Remuh Synagogue (ul. Szeroka 40): the only synagogue to continue as a house of prayer. A legend names one of its chairs the seat of Remuh, a Jewish scholar and philosopher. Prayers are held at sundown on Fridays and at 9am on Saturdays.

Tempel Synagogue (ul. Miodowa 24): the only Reformed Israelite synagogue in the city. Prayers are held here as well, albeit irregularly.

The High Synagogue (ul. Józefa 38): has its prayer room situated on the first floor, which is exceptional. You're welcome to see an exhibition of photographs devoted to the customs and traditions of the Jewish community between the two world wars. Open to visitors since 2005.

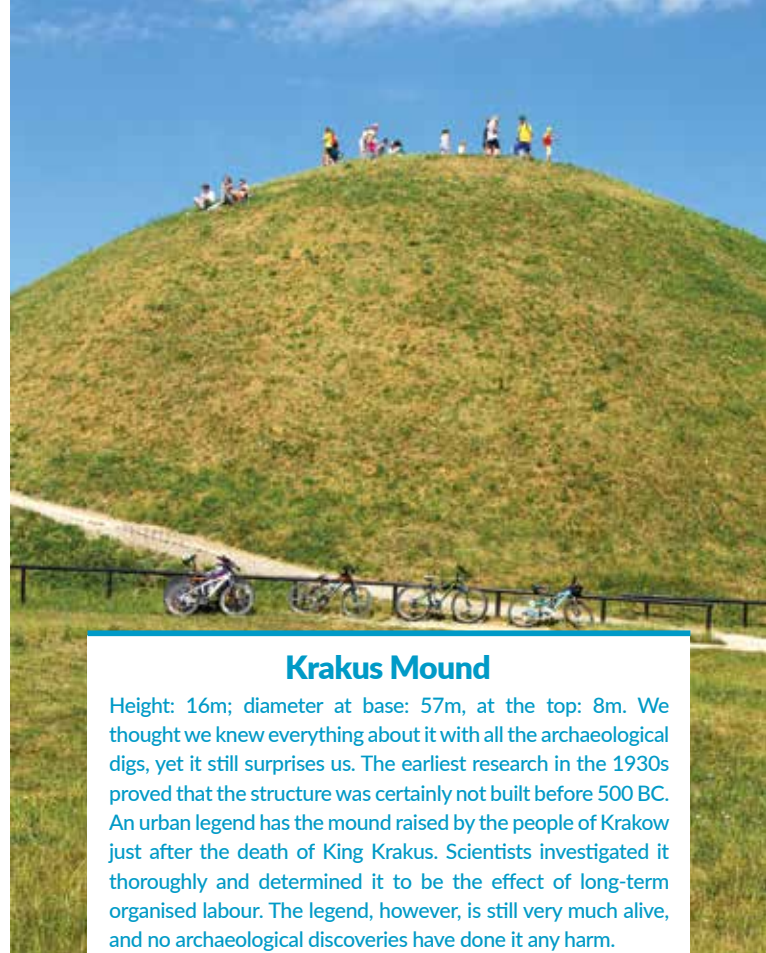
## Main Market Square – Podgórze

It is enough to leave the centre to realise that Kraków is both surprising and varied. You don't know Podgórze yet? Make sure you see it! The right-bank part of Krakow is an intriguing place which is only now being discovered by the locals. A different atmosphere, as well as urban context, yet above all, this is where plenty of tales intertwine.

Leave the Main Market Square towards the Vistula Embankments and then head for Kazimierz. Cross the Vistula by a most charming bridge: the **Father Bernatek Foot and Cycle Bridge**. Once on the other side, make straight for

### PODGÓRZE

Separated from Krakow by the Vistula, the natural barrier made it separate not only in administrative terms. It saw human settlement as early as the centre of Krakow: the first traces of settlement are more than 10,000 years old. For centuries, Podgórze was the economic foundation of Krakow. The city itself was given a charter by the Austrians after the First Partition of Poland (1772). It was granted numerous privileges to facilitate quick growth. In 1785, Emperor Joseph II of Austria gave it a charter as a free royal city and called it Josefstadt. It was from the barracks in Podgórze that a group of plotters under the lead of Colonel Stawarz set forth for the Main Market Square on the 31 October 1918 to bring freedom to Krakow. The city was officially merged with Krakow in 1915. During the Second World War, it was turned into a ghetto for Jews, with Plaszow labour camp, organised for Jews and Poles, later transformed into a concentration camp. The story is told by Steven Spielberg in the Academy Award-winning *Schindler's List*. Today fashionable Podgórze is mostly situated in Zabłocie (with the MOCAR and Oscar Schindler Enamel Factory museums) but there are of course other places also worth visiting here. Podgórze is connected to Krakow by a number of bridges, yet it was only the Father Bernatek Foot and Cycle Bridge that brought the two worlds together for good.

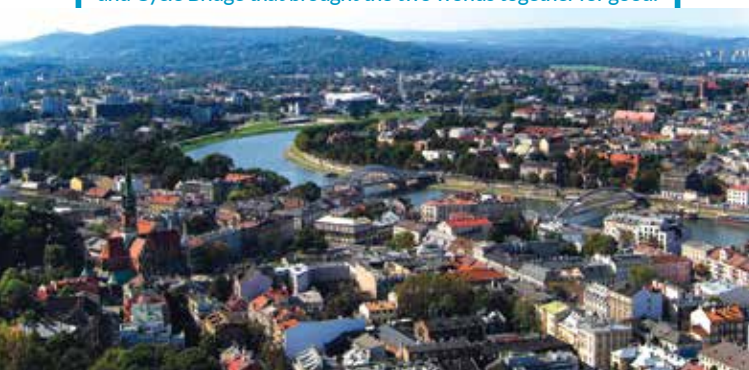


### Krakus Mound

Height: 16m; diameter at base: 57m, at the top: 8m. We thought we knew everything about it with all the archaeological digs, yet it still surprises us. The earliest research in the 1930s proved that the structure was certainly not built before 500 BC. An urban legend has the mound raised by the people of Krakow just after the death of King Krakus. Scientists investigated it thoroughly and determined it to be the effect of long-term organised labour. The legend, however, is still very much alive, and no archaeological discoveries have done it any harm.

**Podgórze Market Square.** There, just behind **St Joseph's Church** (the main church of old Podgórze), turn left into Parkowa Street and up into Radosna Street (yes, the name means joyful). Go quite steeply uphill, but you can certainly take a breather in **Bednarskiego Park**, above the church, on the premises of an ancient limestone quarry. From here you reach Dembowskiego Street, which takes you to the cycle path over al. Powstańców Śląskich. On the other side, you're already at the foot of the **Krakus Mound**. If you want to climb it (and we do encourage you to do so as it commands a great panorama of the city), leave your bike at its foot, there are a few stands available.

**Lasota Hill**, on which Krakus Mound was constructed, is fairly flat: from one side you can admire a panorama of the city, from the other – take a peek down into **Liban Quarry**. The mound doesn't take long to climb. Although it is in the centre of the city, it has remained a wild enclave.







## Liban Quarry

The limestone kilns of the Liban & Ehrenpreis company started in 1873. The name comes from the quarry's owner, Bernard Liban, a Krakow industrialist. Industrial buildings were quickly erected, and a railway siding developed. Kilns and a solidly built depot followed. In 1942–44 the place was a Nazi labour camp for Poles and Ukrainians, many of whom were killed. In 1993, Stephen Spielberg built the sets for Schindler's List here. Entry into the quarry is prohibited, and it can only be seen from the top, following the path from Krakus Mound towards the New Podgórze Cemetery.

Once you've taken your shots of Krakow, continue back over the foot and cycle bridge to Dembowskiego Street. It makes sense to turn right into Porucznika Stawarza Street to reach two exceptional buildings: the **diminutive Church of St Benedict** and the **round St Benedict Fort**, situated between a small meadow and a sharp promontory. The church is over 800 years old and it replaced an even older one. The fort is unique, as there are few of this type in Europe. Go back down to the Podgórze Market Square, cross Kalwaryjska Street and then cycle towards the Vistula into Nadwiślańska Street. There you'll see the building of **Cricoteka**; you can't miss it, it's quite unmistakable. You can leave your bike chained to the stand on the square in front of Cricoteka, and use the opportunity to have a drink and a snack.

Having visited Cricoteka, join the general traffic in Nadwiślańska Street (with the Father Bernatek Foot and Cycle Bridge behind you). If you turn right into Solna Street, you'll see **plac Bohaterów Getta**: the Square of the Heroes of the Ghetto, with its distinctive memorial with chairs, and the Pharmacy under the Eagle. Follow Solna Street under the Powstańców Śląskich Bridge, and ride along **Zabłocie Street** (parallel to the river) until you reach Przemysłowa Street which branches into Lipowa.

Once in the street, be sure to park by the **Oscar Schindler Enamel Factory**; if you are using municipal bikes, Wavelo has a docking station here, so you'd better leave your bike, as visiting the factory will certainly take more



## Cricoteka

Who was Tadeusz Kantor for Kraków? Without him, there would have been no Cricot 2 Theatre; Kantor experimented and changed thinking about the theatre. The Cricoteka you're going to is the Centre for Documentation of the Art of Tadeusz Kantor. It stands on the site of a former power plant. The building is certain to intrigue you, as it brings together the modern and the traditional.

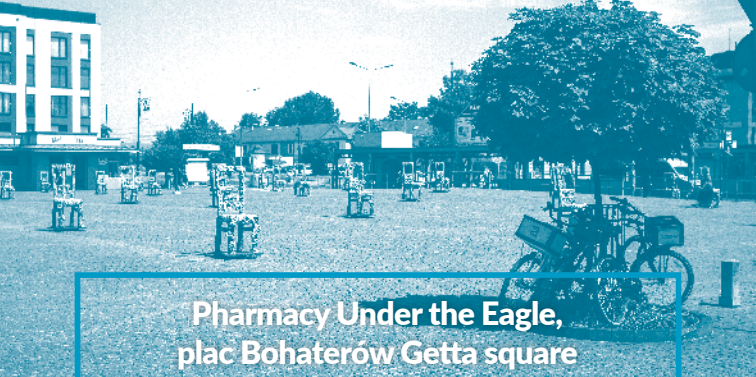
■ ■ ■ [www.cricoteka.pl](http://www.cricoteka.pl)

than an hour. And then it's a good idea to drop into **MOC AK** (acronym for the **Museum of Contemporary Art Kraków**).

Do you know where you really are? It's **Zabłocie**: recently an area of factories and production plants, now one of the most fashionable areas in the city. Schindler's Factory and MOC AK breathed life into the district, which is not yet as popular as Kazimierz. It's spirit is entirely different too; if you don't mind post-industrial vibes, it's the place for you to be: the city's first Butterfly Garden is developing here, and there'll be Park Stacja Wista here in a while. Something more than just a curio and a splotch of greenery; and they are developing thanks to the people who already live in Zabłocie or are connected to the place. Zabłocie is growing, new blocks are rising, and new residents are moving in.

Some fashionable places worth visiting: at Lipowa 7 you'll find the city's first Hindu street food – Hindus. Next to it is Slow Wines with a Georgian grill and craft beers.

Stay a bit longer in Podgórze: it's worth it. It's not as crowded as the city centre. There are plenty of places to park, as, in fact, there are bike racks in every major street.



## Pharmacy Under the Eagle, plac Bohaterów Getta square

The Pharmacy Under the Eagle stands in the centre of a district steeped in human drama. After the Germans set up the ghetto for Krakow Jews in Podgórze, the pharmacy found itself within its walls. It was here that the professional, intellectual, and artistic elite of the ghetto met in the evenings. The pharmacy was a surrogate for the free world as well as the secret venue for illegal contacts between the residents of the ghetto and the world outside. The square in front of it was the venue of the first and last selection of people in the ghetto. Some were shot dead here, others transported to concentration camps. The last place they saw was the square, with its pharmacy. The chairs have become the symbol of these farewells to the city and of travel into the unknown. There are several dozen abandoned chairs standing here, waiting for people. This memorial passes on a powerful message.

## Oscar Schindler Enamel Factory

Do you remember Spielberg's Oscar-strewn Schindler's List? If not for Zabłocie and its factory, there would probably have been no story or the thousand saved Jews. Today, the building at Lipowa Street 4 houses a branch of the museum where the history of Krakow under Nazi rule is told (Krakow under Nazi Occupation 1939–1945). You can still see Schindler's study, preserved in the factory's administration building; there's also the symbolical Survivors' Ark made of enamelware reminiscent of what Schindler's staff produced. The museum organised here is a tale with multiple threads, accompanied by photographs, multimedia presentations, and personal and official documents.

■■■ [www.mhk.pl/oddzialy/fabryka-schindlera](http://www.mhk.pl/oddzialy/fabryka-schindlera)



## Main Market Square – Nowa Huta

Why don't you go by bike to the **largest district in Krakow**? It feels great, and the reasons are many – Nowa Huta is unique, comfortable, and extraordinary, despite its troubled history... It is the first district of Kraków to have bike connections to the centre. The centre can be reached from Nowa Huta along three routes, and no other district offers such a well-developed cycling infrastructure. To whom does the city owe this? You can be sure that it's the urban planners who designed broad streets and pavements, which today allow cycle paths to be laid out across the district.



Your ride to Nowa Huta starts in the Main Market Square. Take **ul. Mikołajska**, cross **ul. Westerplatte**, and enter **ul. Kopernika**. Follow the street in the main stream of traffic rather than using the contraflow lane, since this is designed for cyclists moving towards the Main Market Square. Don't be afraid, it is a street where traffic speed is limited. And by the way: a recent study of cycle traffic proved that there are more bicycles than cars moving along the street. Perhaps this is because it was one of the first to have a **contraflow lane installed**: a very safe solution, especially for those who are afraid to move in general traffic. The street probably also takes its popularity from being the main route into and out of the city centre, combining bicycle traffic from a number of districts.



We can make a short stop in Kopernika Street as the **Botanic Garden**, set up as early as 1783, is worth a visit. A beautiful and strange place. Beautiful for the multitude of exotic plant species, and strange as an oasis of peace in the hustle and bustle of the city centre, so close to the neighbouring Mogiłskie Roundabout, one of the city's main traffic hubs. From Kopernika Street, just before the roundabout, ride down a slope to the lower level. From here, a cycle path takes you straight to Nowa Huta. Follow **Mogilska Street** which will take you to the corner of Lema Street (**TAURON Arena** is on the right: this concert and event venue is also reachable along the cycle path). Continue along **al. Jana Pawła II**, which bisects the **Park of the Polish Aviators**. Hidden away on the left is the **Polish Aviation Museum**, worth a longer visit – one of **the most important theme museums in Poland** and among the world's best on the history of

## The briefest of the brief on Nowa Huta

The construction of the district began in 1949. It was to be the hallmark of urban planning, industry, and a community of the new communist system. Nowa Huta is pure Socialist Realism, although the powers that be had absolutely no idea that the planners and architects grounded their concept of a city on an American model (the so-called neighbourhood unit). Propaganda hailed Nowa Huta to have been born in the USSR, but what was developed

was the fulfilment of the American dream of life in a place that is comfortable, perfectly composed, and self-sufficient. The communist authorities built a city for 100,000 workers, proclaiming it “a city without God”, modern, without irrational beliefs, and furthermore a counterbalance to the ancient and conservative Kraków. The city without God didn't survive long without Him. Several years later, locals demanded a church, and went out into the streets to defend the Cross of Nowa Huta that marked the location designated for the district's first church. Several years later Nowa Huta became one of the mainstays of anti-Communist opposition in Poland. Solidarity Trade Union operated in the steelworks, workers went on strike, and bids were made for freedom and human rights. Then the 1990s proved hard times for the district: Nowa Huta struggled with unemployment, seeking a concept for its future. There was only one idea: the locals wanted to have their own Nowa Huta: first grassroots community projects were tested in Nowa Huta, and this is where the first city activists turned up. They would change their backyards, blocks, gardens, and the lawns around the residential estates. What started as an amateur project has been continued by professionals in the foundations and associations they set up and businesses they incorporated. Yet Nowa Huta is still somewhere to the side, even though it less than 10 km away from the centre of Kraków. It's certainly the city's greenest district, the most comfortable and spacious, with no room for architectural incongruities.

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





The path by TAURON Arena

world aviation (ranked No. 8 by CNN). It is reachable by bike, and you can park your bike there. Return to al. Jana Pawła II Street. If you like, you can visit the park on the right-hand side; with children's playgrounds and running tracks, it's more geared to recreation. You can ride your bike here, and even give yourself a bit of extra exercise. Recently the City Greens Authority (ZZM) opened the city's first **pump track** for bicycles here. A concept developed by people from the estates adjacent to the park, it is soon going to expand.

Have you taken your kids with you? Then you simply need to stop at the **Dragons' Playground** (*Smoczy Skwer*) in this section of the park which is one of our Kraków hallmarks. Are your rollerblades in the backpack? Great, we're just building a route for you.

Now, back to the track, i.e., let's return to al. Jana Pawła II Street. We cross a large traffic junction (węzeł Rayskiego) to reach the **Czyżyńskie Roundabout**: you don't need to go underground, as the cycle path is marked alongside regular traffic. Follow al. Jana Pawła II, which will take you to **Centralny Square: the heart of Nowa Huta**. It is worth a short stop to take a look at its solid, monumental, and symmetrical architecture. Of course, you can finish your ride here, but that's not what we recommend. There's nothing more surprising than cycling around Nowa Huta. You can see pure

Pump track



Centralny Square

Socialist Realism, modernism, and even local settlements from before the days when the steelworks and accompanying residential quarters were built for their builders and staff.

From Centralny Square, go to **Łąki Nowohuckie**: a big meadow in the centre of the city, left for environmental reasons. There is a gravel path around it with viewpoints that are great places for short stopovers. Amateur birdwatchers use them to spy on local birdlife. From here, you can go towards the **Centrum E Estate**, where you can visit the **Museum of the People's Republic of Poland** (in the former Światowid Cinema). Get ready for a tale of Communist times, visit the shop with gadgets from the period, and later descend into the air-raid shelters in the dungeons of the building (you need to tell the museum that you plan to go there first). If you've enjoyed the shelters, it's a good idea to also see the ones under the buildings of the **Administrative Centre of the steelworks**, which involves a ride up Solidarności Street that leads straight to them. Nothing has changed in the command centre, so that's where you are transported into the days of the Cold War. (All visits need to be prearranged with the steelworks.)

Nowa Huta may captivate you with the harmony of its oldest residential estates (Wandy, Młodości) and the charm of the houses that are over a century old but were not

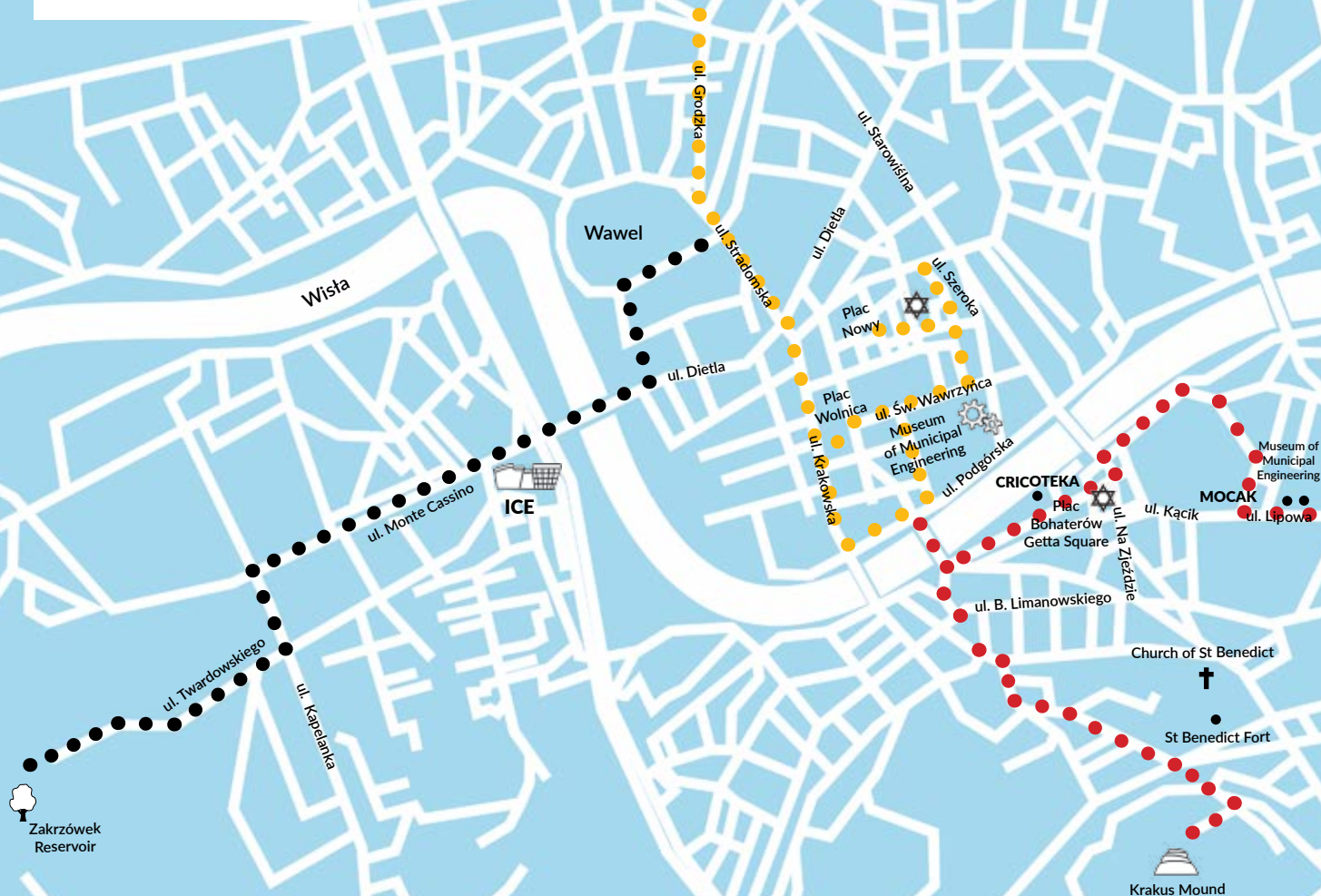
The Steelworks Administration Buildings





# Kraków

- ROUTE 1**  
Main Market Square – Kazimierz
- ROUTE 2**  
Main Market Square – Podgórze
- ROUTE 4**  
Main Market Square – Zakrzówek







Cistercian church and monastery in Mogiła

demolished when the satanic mills were built. Do visit **Mogiła**, where you can enter the **Cistercian church and monastery**, and – with a little luck – take a peek or visit the gardens of the Cistercian Order who have been here for 700 years; just ask. Returning from Mogiła, you can ride up to **Nowohucki Reservoir**, as taking a short break by the water-side is certainly pleasant. It's only a few hundred metres away from the **Manor House of Jan Matejko**, an eminent Polish painter. Being a diehard Krakovian, what did he do in Nowa Huta? They are going to tell you 😊.

You can also take a different route to Nowa Huta: turn right at the Mogilskie Roundabout, and then follow al. Pokoju Street and just follow the cycle paths. Once you are close to the Park of the Polish Aviators (the museum is on the other side), make a detour to the **Stanisław Lem Garden of Experiences**. And experience fun with science there to your heart's content. If the experiments don't tire you out, just go on to Nowa Huta.



Nowohucki Reservoir

## ROUTE 4

### Main Market Square – Zakrzówek

Are you tired of the city and its noise? We can propose you a jaunt to **one of the most beautiful corners of Krakow**. Still wild, although just 3km away from the centre. So: we are going to Zakrzówek!

Take the **Grodzka Street exit** from the Main Market Square, pass by Wawel Hill to the Vistula embankments, cross the **Grunwaldzki Bridge**, go straight ahead at the roundabout onto **Monte Cassino Street** (you're following a cycle path all the way along here) and continue for about 800 m until you reach Kapelanka Street, into which you turn. If you're following the cycle path, you have to cross the street at the first lights, which is where Kapelanka meets Twardowskiego. You go on in general traffic for a few hundred metres until you reach a fork at the end of Twardowskiego Street. Now turn left into the **little Wyłom Street** near the information plaque about Tyniecki Landscape Park.

The route is not difficult, although you need to negotiate a few small hills on your way. You follow what is nearly a forest path, and where it gets wider decide whether to hop off the bike and enter the Zakrzówek and "do" the rocks (they are on your right hand side) or to go on. In a moment you're about to wonder at **one of Kraków's hidden miracles, Zakrzówek Reservoir**. You will certainly meet tourists here, but also locals who have arrived on bikes, roller blades, or have simply come running for there is no more beautiful (though demanding) place to do it in the city.



The path by Kraków Congress Centre



How about doing something extra? An orienteering-like game? If you have Android, download the **Kraków w zieleni App**, and start collecting points in Zakrzówek.

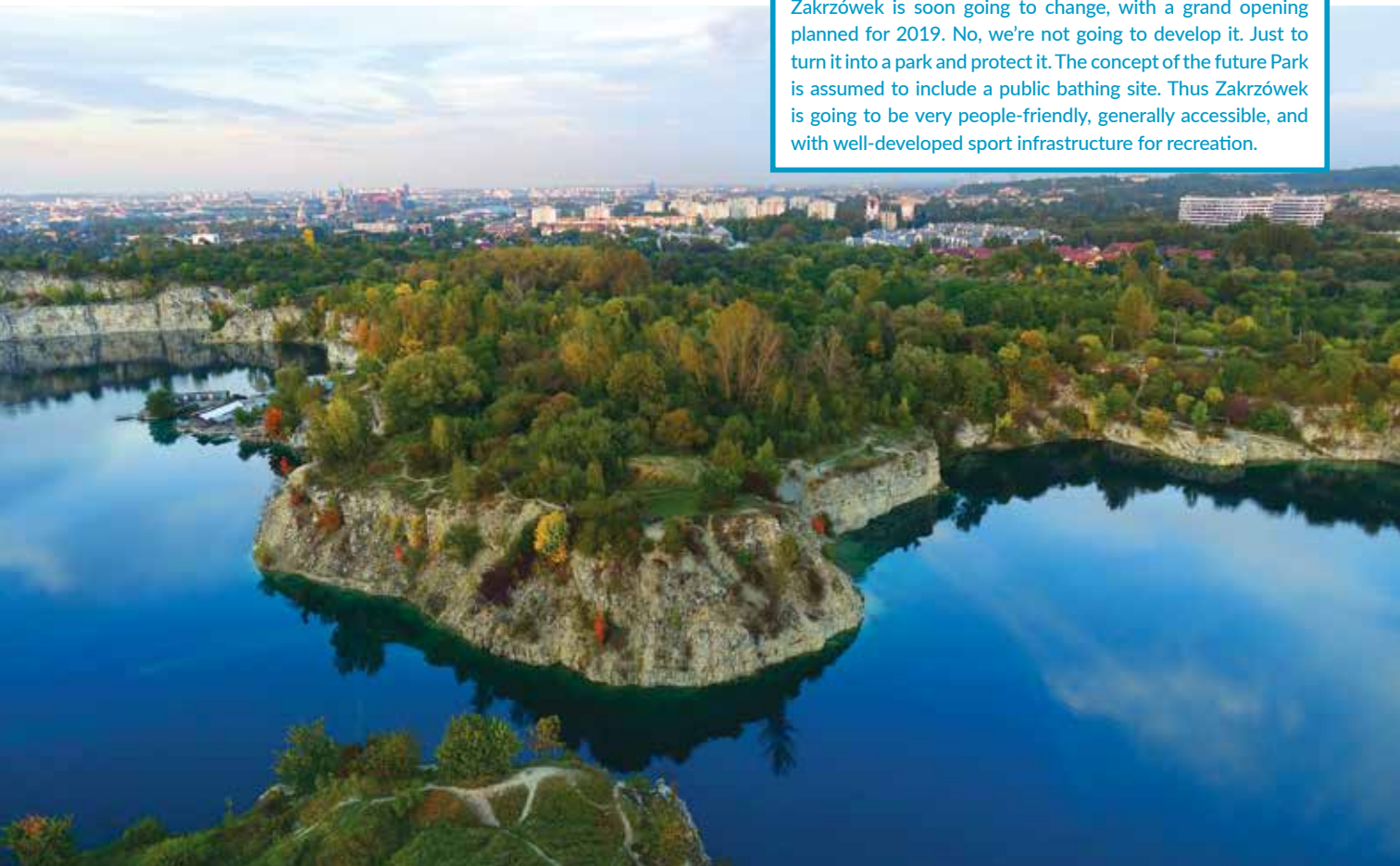
## Zakrzówek

The name may seem strange to the Polish ear, yet it's just a bit of an antiquated way of saying "backwoods". All right, and how did this huge pond come to be here in the centre of the city? The place used to be a quarry where limestone was mined. The pit was flooded in 1990, and that's the origin of the very deep and dangerous lake. It is ideal for diving, but only for professionals. Kraken Diving Centre has, nevertheless, opened three bathing sites here available to the general public. The reservoir consists of two large bodies of water connected by a narrows. The maximum depth is 32m.

The cliffs of Zakrzówek offer a great panorama of the city centre and Wawel. Yet, be careful where you walk. You can also admire rock climbing and boulder scaling amateurs on the Skałki Twardowskiego rocks nearby.

Who was Twardowski? A legend makes him a wizard and alchemist who sold his soul to the devil for knowledge and magic.

Zakrzówek is soon going to change, with a grand opening planned for 2019. No, we're not going to develop it. Just to turn it into a park and protect it. The concept of the future Park is assumed to include a public bathing site. Thus Zakrzówek is going to be very people-friendly, generally accessible, and with well-developed sport infrastructure for recreation.





## ROUTE 5

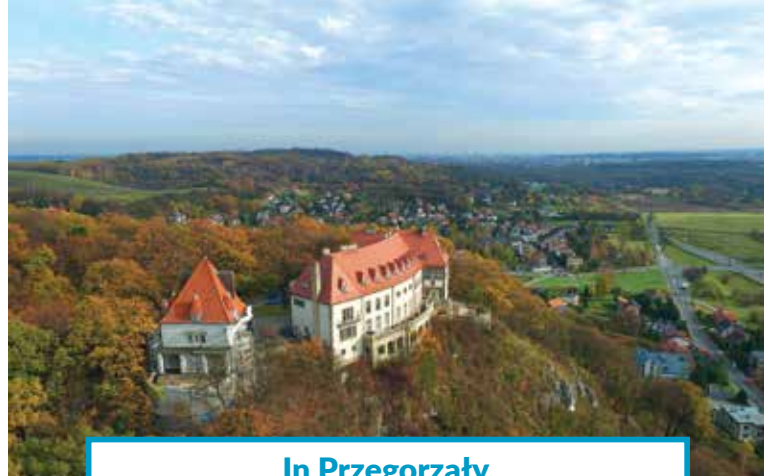
### Main Market Square – Tyniec

This is without doubt the most beautiful cycling route in Krakow. The Tyniec Route is part of the Wiślana Trasa Rowkowa (**Vistula Cycle Path**) project, and runs on the crest of the flood embankments guarding the Vistula. It is also a section of the **EuroVelo4** international route starting in Roscoff in Brittany, and crossing Belgium, Germany, Czechia and Poland to reach as far as Kiev in Ukraine.

Little wonder that the people of Kraków love it and take their whole families with them for cycling jaunts. (Don't be afraid to take children with you, they are sure to cope.) It's picturesque, as you go to Tyniec along the Vistula Valley, and it is very comfortable as you ride on asphalt all the way. Starting in the Main Market Square, take **Grodzka Street** down to **Wawel**, then turn into **Bernadyńska Street**, and ride straight onto the **Vistula Embankments**. Here, you can cross the Vistula over the **Grunwaldzki or Dębnicki bridge**, and there you are: already on the route. Follow **Tyniecka Street** all the time. You can marvel at the beautiful **Premonstratensian Church and Convent** on the other side of the river, while there are the buildings of the Salesians of the **Don Bosco Order** (with the former mansion house) on your left before you reach **Zwierzyniecki Bridge** with a cycle pass below.

As this section is closest to the river, you ride on the banks of the Wisla with the river right beside you. Later, the river is going to move further away and draw nearer again. It can be a good idea to make a stop close to Zakrzówek. The limestone

Embankments close to the Dębnicki Bridge



### In Przegorzały

Przegorzały Castle houses two institutions of the Jagiellonian University, and a spacious restaurant with a charming panoramic terrace over the Vistula. It is one of the few structures that the Germans built in Kraków during the Second World War. At the time it was the home of Hans Frank, Governor-General of the General Government, a war criminal sentenced to death in Nuremberg. Its neighbour is the Baszta Villa built late in the 1920s. It was home to Adolf Szyszko-Bohusz, the Polish architect who renovated most of the interiors in Wawel Castle.

hill and forts on the left-hand side can be climbed to admire one of the most beautiful views of Krakow. To your right hand side, you can already see the castle in Przegorzały. Why not visit it on your way back, have a coffee and/or snack, and certainly admire the **beautiful panorama of the Vistula Valley** and the mountains far, far away. At a somewhat greater distance you can see the **Camaldolese Monastery in Bielany**.

The path along the Vistula at the foot of Przegorzały







## Why not pay a visit to the Camaldolese in Bielany?

The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Camaldolese hermitage based on the rule of St Benedict were built in 1609–30, and the church was consecrated in 1642. An envoy of King Sigismund III, Mikołaj Wolski, introduced the Order to the area. The Camaldolese favoured Bielany Hill, which at the time was the property of the Castellan of Wojnicz, Sebastian Lubomirski, who, however, did not want to sell it. He eventually yielded, and in return for entrusting the mountain and a village to the Camaldolese, had Wolski present him with countless items of silverware. Hence the name of the mountain on which the monastery was built: Srebrna Góra, which is “silver mountain”. In turn, the name Bielany originated from the white (białe) habits of the monks. Mummified mortal remains of the monks lie in the vaults of the church. Divided into miniature plots, its rectangular garden has little hermitages arranged in rows; they are inhabited by the silent monks.

■ ■ ■ [www.kameduli.info](http://www.kameduli.info)

However, let's get back on our bikes. The cycle path breaks off not far away from here to run for a 200m stretch on **Tyniecka Street**. Further on, you turn right into **Widłakowa**, which brings you to the embankment. Now pedal along it as far as the **Kolna Canoe Slalom Course**. You may be further away from the river, but it is always there, accompanying you on the right.

A few-kilometre-long stretch of nicely winding embankment commands beautiful views on both sides. Fields and pastures with sparsely scattered houses grace the left, riparian woods in the **Tyniecko-Biełański Landscape Park** – the right.

Would you like to switch a bicycle for a kayak? Why not: you're at the **Kościuszko Dam** and Kolna Canoe Slalom



## Wine from Krakow? And why not?

Srebrna Góra is Krakow's only vineyard. It has operated on an estate next to the monastery, leased from the church, for years. You can choose this place for a breather, arrange a tasting, and admire the panorama of the Vistula Valley.

■ ■ ■ [www.winnicasrebrnagora.pl](http://www.winnicasrebrnagora.pl)

## Doing some kayaking?

The Whitewater Canoe Slalom Course at Kolna 2 in Krakow is Poland's only site of this type. The water diverted from the dam flows at 15m<sup>3</sup> per second among and over modifiable and adjustable obstacles along the 320m course. The site is the Slalom Kayak Continental Training Centre under the patronage of the ICF, and the Olympic Training Centre of the Polish Kayaking Union. It is open to everyone, and is a venue for rafting, kayaking, and water rodeo shows.

Kolna operates throughout the year, and a section of approx. 200m is roofed from autumn to spring, and has heating and a lighting system installed. Tourist kayaks, water bikes (pedalos), and paddle boats are available for hire, and you can also play beachball, football, and table tennis here.

■ ■ ■ [www.kolna.pl](http://www.kolna.pl)





## In Tyniec

The Benedictine Abbey of the Apostles St Peter and St Paul in Tyniec is most probably a foundation of King Casimir the Restorer from 1044. It overlooks the Vistula from its limestone promontory. The Romanesque complex erected in the 11th century consisted of a three-aisled church and the buildings of the monastery. In the 14th century, the Abbey was destroyed by Bohemians and Tatars, only to be rebuilt in Gothic style, with baroque and rococo changes and decorations added later. In 1816, the Abbey was liquidated, and the monks did not return to Tyniec until 123 years later, on 30 July 1939. In 1947, they began the restoration of the badly damaged complex. In 1968 the Church of St Peter and St Paul became an abbey again.

The Benedictines follow St Benedict of Nursia, who chose a hermit's life in his youth. With time the Benedictine Order began to spread, so that life following the Order blossomed all around Europe. Today, the Order has three independent centres in Poland: the abbeys in Tyniec and Lubiń, and the monastery in Biskupów set up in 1987. In Tyniec, Benedictines run the local parish, as well as a house for pilgrims (with workshops and retreats), and a museum. There are always plenty of visitors here. You can take more than a peek in their organic food shop, where meads, liqueurs, and infusions are the most famous produce.

■ ■ ■ [www.tyniec.benedyktyni.pl](http://www.tyniec.benedyktyni.pl)

Course. Nonetheless, it makes sense to confirm that they are available beforehand. Once past the centre, go under the motorway flyover and scramble up the embankment (you may need to push your bike, as this section can be tricky after rains), and take a dirt road on the far side to Promowa Street. This narrow stretch of asphalt takes you straight to Tyniec, to the junction with Benedyktńska Street. The name of the street (prom means ferry) comes from an actual ferry that used to cross the river at the foot of **Tyniec Abbey**. Some elements of the infrastructure can be seen to this day.

How can one return to the city centre? Either retracing your steps, or along the other side of the Vistula, which you can cross over a **bicycle bridge** running parallel to the motorway by the Canoe Slalom Course.

Since June 2017, there has again been a ferry connecting Tyniec to Piekary. It will take your bike for free, yet it only operates from Friday to Sunday in summer.



The cycle bridge over the Vistula next to Kolna Canoe Slalom Course





## Safe means obeying rules

**A cycle path is a highway!** General traffic rules apply. You don't know how to behave on cycle paths?

First of all, you **ride on the right**. Don't hog the centre of the path, because this is against the rules (and also uncouth) and is dangerous. When approaching a fork or crossing and when leaving the cycle path – **signal your intentions to others in the traffic!** Simply **put your right or left hand up**. This is an important message for those who are following you. Why? Because when you turn, you slow down, and then the cyclist(s) following you must adjust their speed, which means braking.

Some cycle paths cross other paths. Who has the right of way? If you are on a subordinate road (i.e., you've got to yield), it should be marked on the tarmac **with a sign known as "shark's teeth"** (a line of triangles); when there are no signs, follow the "principle of priority to the right", i.e. **the one on the right has the right of way**.

Please also remember that **there is no stopping on cycle paths**: to do so, move off onto the verge (a manoeuvre that needs to be signalled as well).

You want to get to the other side of a crossroads? You can do it on your bike if there is a cycle lane; if there is none, just hop off your bike and use the zebra crossings like other pedestrians, only wheeling (i.e. pushing) your bike.

## Tourist Information Centres

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.

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

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(+48 12) 354 27 12  
[powisle@infokrakow.pl](mailto:powisle@infokrakow.pl)

### Cloth Hall

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

### ul. św. Jana 2

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

### ul. Szpitalna 25

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

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

### ul. Józefa 7

phone: (+48 12) 354 27 28  
[jozefa@infokrakow.pl](mailto:jozefa@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

### 24/7 medical info:

phone: +48 12 661 22 40 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

### Safety telephone number (for foreigners, only in summer):

phone: +48 22 278 77 77 lub +48 608 599 999

e-mail: cc@pot.gov.pl

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Renata Radtowska

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