

## INFORMATION ABOUT KRAKOW

### Krakow's MUST SEE

#### UNESCO World Heritage Site – Krakow's biggest attraction

- In 1978, the historic centre of Krakow was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list. With an area covering nearly 150 hectares, including the Old Town area, Wawel Hill, Kazimierz and Stradom districts, Krakow was included in the List as one of the first 12 sites, while as many as 14 are located in Lesser Poland [*Malopolska region*].
- The historic Main Square of the Old Town (the largest medieval market in Europe) is at the heart of the city, and is dominated by the Renaissance Cloth Hall [*Sukiennice*], where merchants have been selling their goods for more than 700 years, while at the western end you can spot St. Mary's Basilica. The bugle call is played from one of the church's towers to the four corners of the world, every hour throughout the day; if you're lucky, the bugler will also wave to you. The newly restored altarpiece by Veit Stoss [*Wit Stwosz*] in St. Mary's Basilica is one of the greatest masterpieces of medieval art.
- History lovers cannot miss the Wawel Castle – a hill with a magnificent Royal Castle and Cathedral. Dating back more than 900 years, it not only represents Polish identity, but is also considered a national treasure for its history as a coronation site and residence of Polish monarchs.
- A City of Jewish Heritage – explore Krakow's Jewish roots on a walking tour of the Kazimierz district to see the amazing architecture and discover the rich history. Once a thriving centre of Jewish life and culture in Krakow, the district was almost completely destroyed during World War II, having undergone a revival in recent years. Visit the Remuh Synagogue, one of two synagogues in Krakow that are still in use, with a cemetery containing tombstones dating back to the 16th century. The Old Synagogue, also known as the "Fortress Synagogue," is the oldest synagogue in Poland, and today it is a fascinating museum of the history and culture of Krakow's Jews. In the evenings, Kazimierz is one of the city's most fashionable and vibrant districts, with bustling cafes, bars and restaurants.

#### A city with more than 100 museums

- While all the museums are worth a visit, the MOCAM Museum of Contemporary Art, a pearl of modern architecture, the Museum of Krakow and the Rynek Underground, located just under the Main Square, are particularly worth mentioning. Don't miss Oskar Schindler's Factory, the collection of Polish art in the Main Building of the National Museum in Krakow and the classic Gallery of 19th Century Polish Art in the Cloth Hall, the Polish Aviation Museum with its collection of more than 250 airplanes, gliders and helicopters, the original Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology, and Leonardo da Vinci's famous masterpiece "Lady with an Ermine" in the Princes Czartoryski Museum.
- We recommend:
  - ✓ MOCAM: [MOCAM Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow | Sightseeing in Krakow](#)
  - ✓ Rynek Underground: [Rynek Underground – Museum of Krakow](#);
  - ✓ Oskar Schindler's Enamel Factory <https://muzeumkrakowa.pl/en/branches/oskar-schindlers-enamel-factory>;
  - ✓ MNK Main Building: [MNK Main Building – National Museum in Krakow](#)
  - ✓ MNK Cloth Hall [MNK Cloth Hall – National Museum in Krakow](#)
  - ✓ Polish Aviation Museum in Krakow: [Polish Aviation Museum in Krakow](#)
  - ✓ Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology: [Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology](#)
  - ✓ Princes Czartoryski Museum <https://mnk.pl/exhibitions/175>

## KRAKOW - BASIC INFO

- **Language** - Polish
- **Time** - Central European Time (CET), used in most parts of Europe and a few North African countries, is a standard time that is 1 hour ahead (UTC+01:00) of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).
- **Credit Cards** - Visa, Maestro, Master Card and American Express are accepted in most shops, hotels and restaurants. You will find a cash dispenser on nearly every corner.
- **Safety** - The region is seen as a safe area with no imminent threat of terrorism or violence.
- **Electrical Appliances** - The voltage in Poland is 230 volts/50 Hz. Plugs are European standard with two round pins.
- **Climate**

The temperate transitional climate is typical of Krakow and the surrounding area, with frequent changes in weather, as dry air masses from the Eurasian continent and moist ones from the Atlantic clash over Poland. Krakow in September is characterized by temperatures ranging from a minimum of 11°C and a maximum of 20°C. In the month of September, the weather is quite mild, but it is worth taking an extra layer of clothes with you just in case. The warmest and most sunlit months of the year are July and August (the average temperature in July is 19°C).
- **Currency** - Polish zloty PLN (€1 = approx. 4.4 PLN)
- **Local costs**
  - ✓ Cost of a cab to/from the airport - €25
  - ✓ Bus and tram fares – €1.5
  - ✓ Meal for 2, mid-range restaurant, three courses - €60
  - ✓ Coffee and refreshments - €4
  - ✓ Museum entrance - €6
  - ✓ Theatre ticket - €35
- **Transport**

It is easy to get to Krakow – for centuries it has lain at the intersection of important trade routes, at the meeting point of cultures and political influences. It is considered to be the most important tourist destination in Poland.

The network of rail, road and air connections makes Krakow one of the most accessible cities in this part of Europe. Its facilities – from the A4 motorway, through the attractive connections provided by numerous airlines, to a special railway line, taking travellers from the airport to the city centre and a well-developed public transport network – open up many opportunities for tourists coming from the nearest and furthest corners of the world.

Despite the size of the agglomeration, moving around Krakow is not a problem. The city is famous for its well-organized communication network and its constantly expanding and modernised infrastructure.
- **Transportation: by plane**

There are two airports near Krakow: in Balice (Krakow Airport) and in Pyrzowice (Katowice Airport).

  - ✓ **Krakow Balice Airport** (John Paul II International Airport Krakow – Balice) is located about 15 kilometres west from the city centre. It offers over 115 connections to 30 countries.
    - Balice (Krakow Airport) [www.krakowairport.pl](http://www.krakowairport.pl)
  - ✓ **Pyrzowice (Katowice Airport)** [www.katowice-airport.com](http://www.katowice-airport.com)
    - Many people coming to Krakow use the airport in Pyrzowice (Katowice International Airport in Pyrzowice), because the planes of the popular low-cost airlines WizzAir and Germanwings land here. The airport is located approx. 110 km west of Krakow.

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

