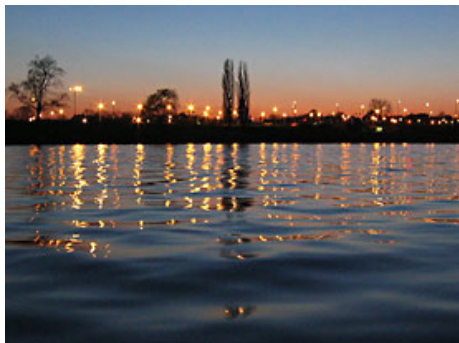


CRAKOW



CRACOW OR KRAKOW?

Perhaps you've noticed that we're keen to use both forms of the city's name in our guide - but what's the correct form? If you want to get technical about it, the official Polish name for the city is Kraków (with the dash over the "o" making it more of a "u" sound), but "Cracow" has been used in the English language for centuries. During Elizabethan times, when Poland was one of the largest countries in Europe, Cracow was written about often in English, and thousands of British businessmen travelled here. On the other hand, "Krakow," once rarely used, has recently come to dominate the Englishized name of the city thanks to modern travel - your luggage tag says "KRK," right? So today, technically both forms are correct - just don't use "Crakow" or "Kracow" - that's just too much confusion for one city to handle!

Krakow, Cracow - call it what you will - a big welcome to our travel guide to Poland's cultural capital! Although Cracow may not be Poland's largest city or capital (though it was for several hundred years), we certainly think it's the most vibrant and exciting, not to mention culturally stimulating, of Poland's cities. To get you started, Cracow Life brings you a general guide section of information, as well as a comprehensive low-down of the very best places to check out. In fact, once you catch a glimpse of everything the city has to offer, you just might not want to leave!

But if you're here for a limited amount of time, we'd like to help you make the best of every minute, and to really get a feel for what makes this city such a unique part of Poland, yet quintessentially Central European. Just as so many of the city's treasures lie hidden, whether beneath its streets in cellar bars or further afield in its natural wonders, its character can't be described at first glance. From its historically rich and well-preserved heritage to its proximity to such a tragic place as the former concentration camp Auschwitz, Cracow is a city of many facets. But today it includes a booming and boisterous student population and a nightlife that's hard to beat. Hey, what other World Heritage site can boast the highest density of bars and pubs in the world? You get the idea!

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Cracow City Guide

Cracow, Poland's ancient royal capital, is one of the great survivors of this part of Europe. And much like the embattled old countess, who managed to come through the war and the Soviet era, she is a proud city. Conservative in some ways, and with an eye towards tradition, Cracow also has an eccentric streak that can be enchanting.

Cracow has retained much of its splendour, yet there is a tranquillity here that can be disarming. And here lies one of the keys to the city's magic. It is the kind of place where every day you might stumble across something that you have not noticed before - a little baroque church, a hidden courtyard, or perhaps just one of the myriad gargoyles and sculptures that peer down from the city's houses. Cracow is a treasure trove, and a great advantage is that it can largely be explored by foot - there is no need to plunge yourself into a world of underground trains or buses. In the guide you will find a range of the most intriguing landmarks, the lion's share of which can be found in three areas. First the Old Town, whose heart is the large Market Square or Rynek. Second, Kazimierz, which was once a cradle of Jewish culture and a separate town in its own right. Across the river from Kazimierz, the Podgorze district is just starting to get trendy and is well worth exploring. And finally Wawel, the seat of both the Royal Castle and the cathedral - the spiritual home of the nation. Whilst traffic is not a problem in these quarters, the rambunctious pigeons will certainly give anyone a run for their money - so get ready to duck.

Further afield, there are a number of places that are also well worth exploring, amongst which the salt-mines of Wieliczka and the lush valleys that surround Ojców are both within easy striking distance.

Many visitors also come to Cracow to make their own private pilgrimage to Auschwitz and Birkenau.

Cracow has its faults, and it can be a melancholic, and at times stubborn city. There have certainly been dark chapters in its history. Yet all things considered, it makes for a deeply rewarding place to visit.

Top Tips

Here are a few things to remember during your time in Cracow:

Avoid changing your money at the Bureaux de Change in the town centre unless you want to hand a complete stranger an early Christmas present - the rates can be awful.

Don't hail your taxis from the rank - ask someone to phone for one - it's generally 30 percent cheaper.

Coin-operated phone boxes are almost non-existent. You'll need to buy a telephone card (karta telefoniczna) from a post office or roadside kiosk.

Take care when buying antiques. It's illegal to export certain items, particularly old paintings, produced before 1945.

Don't expect first class service in Cracow's restaurants and bars - the city still has a long way to go in that respect! Things have improved a lot however in the last few years, and with an ever-increasing amount of tourists in the city tipping is also becoming customary. Ten percent on any meal should mean you're welcomed back next time!

One of the ancient Chakra energy stones is believed to be buried in Wawel Castle. It's all nonsense, according to the guides, but thousands still come for the vibe.

If you're planning a trip to Cracow be sure to book your accommodation in advance, particularly in the high season. The best hotels fill out quickly, with apartments a better bet for last minute breaks. Backpackers meanwhile should check out our page on Cracow hostels.

When it comes to partying, Cracovians start early and finish late. Whereas you'll find it hard to get a seat if you arrive at a nightclub after ten, the clubs only really start to get going when Cinderella's on her way home... and carry on until 4 a.m. or even later. If you want to go the distance make sure you pace yourself! Cracow has more drinking holes per square metre than anywhere else in the world. Hurrah!

Bring warm clothes and a hat. The weather in Poland can be surprisingly pleasant, but equally it can have a bitter cold edge even in late spring. You may just end up blessing that ridiculous old balaclava.

Poles are passionate about their food. Throw away your preconceptions about miserable Eastern Bloc stews, and be prepared for a great surprise.

Poland has adopted its own uniquely confusing symbols for differentiating public toilets for men and women. Remember, too, that you may well have to pay. Oh, and by the way, the circle is for women, the triangle for men!



Travel - Getting to Cracow

By air

If you plan to fly to Krakow, you have two options: Cracow or Katowice. Cracow has its own (small) airport, appropriately named after Pope John Paul II, who was born near the city. Most locals and a few signs, though, still refer to it as Krakow Balice or simply "Balice," which is the name of the little town nearest the airport. Many major airlines such as Lufthansa fly to Cracow, albeit often with codeshare partner airlines. In recent years, though, the budget airlines have been appearing in greater and greater numbers with their super bargain rates. If you're up for no-frills flying, the biggest budget operators include EasyJet and Ryanair, to name just to name a few! A fair number of routes also land at nearby Katowice airport, such as the ones offered by Wizzair from London, Paris and Barcelona. Katowice is a perfectly acceptable location to fly to, but it's a bit like Luton is to London, so be prepared for a 90-minute bus or taxi ride into Krakow. If you're flying into or out of Krakow's John Paul II (Balice) during the winter, be prepared for frequent delays due to fog or ice, or the occasional impromptu diversion to Katowice. Assuming you've arrived at Cracow Balice you shouldn't have any trouble continuing your journey. Taxis are relatively cheap in Poland and you can book one online or grab one from the rank for around 70PLN into town. Alternatively hike 200 metres (or grab the free shuttle bus) to the airport's small train platform and take advantage of the fast and cheap shuttle service to Cracow's central station. Tickets are 8PLN onboard (7PLN if bought at the automated kiosks in advance) and the service runs about every 30 minutes taking about 20 minutes to get there. Bus service into the centre costs the same as a usual fare, about 2.50 PLN one-way from a kiosk, but you should buy a ticket for your larger baggage as well. Make sure you validate the ticket in the orange ticket box onboard in case of a random check by plain-clothes inspectors.

By rail

The main station is in walking distance of the city centre, so you may be tempted to go all Dr. Zhivago and come by rail. However, the romance will soon wear off once the reality of the Polish rail system sets in, and you find yourself travelling at near-walking pace at times. Prepare for a five-hour journey from Wroclaw, seven hours from Poznan and eleven hours or more from Gdansk. The express between Cracow and Warsaw is the exception with modern intercity trains taking about three hours to complete the 300 kilometres distance. Find precise details by checking out the timetables courtesy of the Polish Rail Network (PKP). Just remember to use the Polish spellings (ie. Krakow for Cracow, Warszawa for Warsaw). Backpackers will be interested to know

that there are also overnight trains to and from Prague and Budapest.

By bus

You may not be over-endearred at the thought of 24 hours in a bus from London to Cracow for example, but it is actually not too bad - no smoking is allowed aboard the comfortable buses, and Poles, as ever, are impeccably behaved. Watch the landmass of Europe slip past, as you are treated to Hollywood movies dubbed into Polish. For around £60 (USD 100) return to London, it can't be beaten price-wise. Internal trips, on the other hand, are normally aboard old buses with a distinctly retro feel. Ok in small doses. And be warned, often there are no toilets aboard the old buses and seats can be smaller than you're accustomed.

By car

Only for the intrepid. Poland has the highest accident rate in Europe, mostly because of carelessness on congested roads and a slow-to-change mindset about drink-driving, so only travel by car if you know what you are doing. That said, we've been driving for years and enjoy seeing the country from ground level. If you drive or rent, you likely will need an international certificate of insurance cover, and possibly proof of exhaust emission control on your car. Spot checks on vehicles do happen, and if you plan to stay in central Cracow, remember that much of it is pedestrianised, or has difficult to interpret parking signs and special day/night restrictions.

Travel - Getting Around

By taxi

The big trick of taking taxis in Cracow is to avoid taking one from a rank on the street. You will pay 30 percent less if you order one by phone. This leads to the bizarre sight of people with mobiles ringing whilst standing next to the taxi they wish to take. A minute later, following clearance from ground control, and the punters are on their way! If you are looking for a reliable taxi service, either to the airport or elsewhere in town then you can use Cracow-life.com's online taxi booking to reserve your ride. Alternatively call 9191 when you arrive and tell the operator that Cracow Life sent you! Please note that taxis cannot be hailed from the street whilst they are moving. You will be ignored! By car

You can hire a car to get around, but if you plan to spend most of your time in the city, think carefully. Apart from the difficulty of driving on the right, there are trams to contend with, a boggling one-way system, and signs that even native Poles struggle to comprehend. Parking is severely restricted in the Old Town, and three different enforcement agencies (Parking, Municipal and



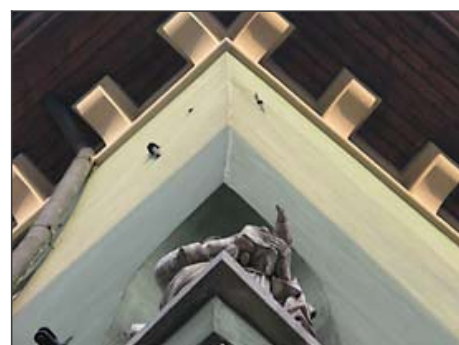
National Police) to contend with. The alternative, public transport, is a far better bet.

By public transport

What most cities dream of - safe, efficient and cheap transportation, through a network of trams and buses. Buy your tickets (2.50PLN for adults, 1.25PLN concession) from any of the little kiosks that are dotted around the town. All journeys cost the same, irrespective of distance. Jump aboard the bus or tram and punch your little ticket in one of the little orange boxes. Keep the stamped stub for the not infrequent checks by plain-clothes inspectors.

By bike

Those cobbles aren't very good for your backside, and there's always the crowds and pigeons to contend with, but nonetheless getting around Cracow by bike is a great option. You can whizz round the Old Town in a jiffy and, thanks to the added mobility of two wheels, you can also head further afield.



eat

Hellada Greek Restaurant***A Greek affair with retro flair***

This is the kind of restaurant that you could imagine Al Pacino holding court at in the classic film Scarface. Replete with a palm tree, a fish tank and a host of waiters attired in black and red ninja costumes, you know you're in for a memorable experience at Hellada. The restaurant explores the spicy galaxy of Greek cuisine, with plenty of seafood and Greek wines to help wash it all down. Banquets and wedding parties can also be organised with classic courses of Polish food. Open from 12 til 10 at night. Enjoy!

Ambasada Sledzia***With These Herring you are Spoiling us...***

Cheap beer, endless vodka, and bar snacks, Polish style... no wonder Ambasad Sledzia is such a popular spot in Krakow city centre.

It harks back to a time when cheap 'watering holes' were common in Polish cities, offering lifes basic-but-essentials, such as alcohol and herring tapas. In fact the name of the bar could be read as Herring Embassy, a clever play on words by the owners, as many of the other buildings that share Ambasad's street are in fact real life embassies.

ul. Stolarska 8/10

tel: +48 662569460

[www.http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ambasada-%C5%9Aledzia/154447081275859](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ambasada-%C5%9Aledzia/154447081275859)

BaniaLuka***Drop in and Join the Party***

Call in to BaniaLuka any time, and you'll be sure to find a crowd eager to sample the cheap, cheerful and overall plentiful beers, vodkas and bar snacks on offer.

This is one of the new breed of Polish tapas bars springing up around Krakow - offering a fixed price for all drinks, and for all food.

The fare is hearty, and often surprising, and relies heavily on stocks of fish, meat and soup. BaniaLuka is also attractive because of its central location, at the end of one of the streets that leads directly from the main square - and because it not only attracts but welcomes fun-loving guests of all nationalities, pretty much around the clock. And what's more, there's a big screen - so it's the perfect place to watch the footy!

Pl. Szczepanski 6

tel: (+48) 790770648

www.cracow-life.com

Alrina Restaurant***Riverside dining where two worlds meet***

In 1889 Gerardus Petrus van der Wielen placed an order with a Dutch shipyard, for a twin-masted barge 54-metres long. The ship carried goods around Europe for many decades - and was so well-known that it even appeared on a series of Dutch stamps. Now it is docked alongside the Wisla river in Krakow, where it serves as the base for a restaurant unlike any other in the city.

The Alrina is still one of the largest ships of its kind in Europe. It offers a unique dining experience in that the traditional and the modern are mixed expertly - with fine Mediterranean dishes served alongside classic old world wines, creating a fusion of seductive and sensual flavours.

This carefully balanced blend makes the Alrina a welcoming spot for all, whether you are seeking a venue for a family dinner, a get together with friends, a business lunch, or a cosy and desperately romantic spot to share time with a loved one.

Bulwar Kurlandzki

tel: +48 668 820 454

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

Roti Roti***Authentically Indian***

RotiRoti brings Indian street food to Krakow with a bang. Grab a freshly baked roti bread wrap with a mouth watering filling of your choice if you've got a busy day's sightseeing ahead of you - or stay for a chai, lassi or house speciality ginger lemonade - free if you come on a bike! Share a snack box or enjoy a meal - the menu changes every day and only fresh and authentic ingredients are used. Meat is freshly grilled to order, and thankfully there is an imaginative choice for vegetarians. The cafe was born out of a passion for India - not only its food, but also its culture and people. It's the only place of its type in Krakow, making a welcoming change; you won't be disappointed with the experience.

Ul. Weglowa 4

tel: +48 (12) 3957004

[www.https://www.facebook.com/RotiRoti.Krakow](https://www.facebook.com/RotiRoti.Krakow)

MoaBurger***New generation fast food***

MoaBurger is a family business created out of passion for good food. We serve the best quality meat and the freshest possible ingredients available on the market. Specially made 15cm wide buns are delivered to us every morning and sauces are made daily to family recipes. Our specialities are the spiced lamb burger (served with onion bhaji, mint yogurt, home made chilli sauce, tomato, lettuce and tomato relish), and the traditional New Zealand burger, the

Moaburger, served with a 200g premium beef patty, cheese, bacon, beetroot, pineapple, home made tomato sauce, lettuce, tomato and red onion. Try it once and you'll be back for more - seriously addictive stuff!

ul. Mikołajska 3

tel: +48 (12) 4212144

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

Ogniem i Mieczem Restaurant***For Olde Worlde Appetites***

Pl. Serkowskiiego 7

tel: +48 (12) 6562328

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

Portobello***Passionately Italian***

ul. Szewska 27, ul. Estery 12

tel: +48 (12) 4220416

Grodzka 6***Big on tradition***

ul. Grodzka 6

tel: +48 502525083

Gessler***Master at work***

ul. Pijarska 13

tel: +48 (12) 6273777

[www.http://www.hotel-francuski.com/#/restauracja](http://www.hotel-francuski.com/#/restauracja)

Zaragoza Restaurante***A taste of Spain - Polish style***

ul. Józefa 24

tel: +48 (12) 4325010

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

Andromeda***Dining that's out of this world***

ul. Główna 22a

tel: +48 (12) 3428100

[www.http://www.galaxyhotel.pl/en/restaurant/receptions#/en/restaurant](http://www.galaxyhotel.pl/en/restaurant/receptions#/en/restaurant)

drink

Paradise Strip Club**Heaven on Earth**

Vibrant, classy, glamorous... and that's just the venue; wait until you meet the dancers who work at Paradise Club in Krakow.

They offer lap dance, pole dance and striptease shows, and will cater for everyone from individual visitors to stag parties. Paradise Club offers private rooms, and of course a well-stocked bar, in a secure and pleasant environment.

The club is easy to find, in the centre of the city, close to the river Wisla. Open seven nights a week until late, and with a welcoming atmosphere all year round, Paradise Club really is a little piece of heaven on earth.

ul. Konopnickiej 28
tel: +48 (12) 2670452

www.http://www.paradisecub.pl

Cien Klub**Time to party!**

Cien Klub has been pulling the crowds since it was founded in 2003 - and year on year it reinforces its reputation as one of the hottest and most popular night spots in Krakow.

The venue is just off the main square, and boasts a night-long party vibe with decor to match. Most impressive is the broad selection of club sounds played across two dance floors - and it's Cien's music policy that has

given it the opportunity to present internationally acclaimed DJs, such as Antoine Clamaran, D. Ramirez, Funkerman, and more... while consistently impressing with their own resident and guest DJs.

Don't forget that Cien hosts the official start to your weekend in Krakow - Thursday night's weekly Sex on Wax.

With three bars serving a full range of beers and spirits, Cien has everything you could need for a night on the Krakow tiles.

ul. Sw. Jana 15
tel: +48 (12) 4222177

www.http://www.cienklub.com

Base Music Club**A Place of Unlimited Possibilities**

For some, the idea of children in bars is something that rather cramps one's style, so it's great to know that there are places in Krakow which don't allow under-21s, let alone under-18s.

Base Music Club, half way between Krakow's Planty and the main square, is one such venue. You won't find sticky teens among its clientele, but rather club-hardened grown-ups who know how to have a night out and have the resources to make it happen.

Base is the place for dancing the night

away, for drinking cocktails and shorts, and even hosts private parties. It's up to you to find out what all the fuss is about.

ul. Sw. Anny 6
tel: +48 536905415
www.http://www.baseclub.pl/

Bomba**Explosive fun**

By day, Bomba is a cozy meeting place, ideal for morning coffee or an afternoon relaxing with friends. From the mezzanine, watch Krakow wake up and start its working day - or snuggle up in a corner and hook up to the internet.

The Market Square may be just a minute's walk away, but Bomba is a haven away from the hustle and bustle all day long.

Come the evening, and it's the place for a great selection of drinks, exhibitions, film screenings, concerts... and, at the weekend, it's a place bursting at the seams with fun-loving party-goers.

Don't forget too the sweet and savoury snacks, hot and cold drinks, cocktails... all you could want from 10am until as late as you can make it.

Pl. Szczepanski 2/1
tel: +48 782602999

Klub Spolem**A club with character**

If you're out for a night on the tiles in the city centre and looking for a place where the beer is cheap, the music danceable, and the locals friendly, take a two-minute stroll from the main square to Klub Społem, which offers all of these things and more.

The underground venue is every bit the traditional disco bar, with a few twists of its own. For example, every inch of wall space is decorated with relics from Poland's communist past, so a hop to the cosy bar could turn into something of a museum trip. Don't be fooled by the deceptively small frontage either - for, once you're inside, you will find more rooms stretching off from the main bar area.

Look out for special events to mark holiday periods, and for regular karaoke sessions.

ul. Sw. Tomasza 4
tel: +48 (12) 4217979
www.http://www.pubspolem.pl

Cafe Stawisko**Easy to find, difficult to leave**

Cafe Stawisko is centrally-located in Krakow, just look for the Cracovia football ground and you'll not go far wrong.

Yet it's also the perfect hideaway if you

want to escape the hustle and bustle of the city for an hour or two, based as it is in a charming building at ul. Kraszewskiego 8.

The atmosphere is so friendly and relaxed it is almost tangible, making Stawisko the perfect place to drift into your daydreams and unwind, amid the art, literature, gentle music, and French-style decor.

So select a bite to eat from the menu of delicious-looking sweets, sit back and just let the world go by.

Also available for hire if you're planning a family party or corporate event - just call ahead to make the arrangements.

ul. Kraszewskiego 8/1
tel: +48 506124207

Glodne Kawalki**A healthy light bite**

ul. Kraszewskiego 16
tel: +48 533269995
www.http://glodnekawalki.com/

Grodzka 6**Drink in the history**

ul. Grodzka 6
tel: +48 502525083

Cheers Pub**Raise a glass**

ul. Grodzka 31
tel: +48 783872587
www.http://www.cheers-pub.com/

Krakowskie Zakaski**Classic whiskey bar**

ul. Slawkowska 16
tel: +48 (0) 535771604

Pub Sarmacja**Welcome, lords and ladies**

ul. Tomasza 8
tel: +48 (12) 2948860
www.http://www.sarmacja.krakow.pl/

Barfly**Lunch by Day, Party by Night**

Plac Nowy 4
tel: +48 790666656
www.http://barfly.com.pl/

culture

MOCAK**State of the art**

MOCAK, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow, opened to national acclaim in early 2011, and even the president of Poland was in attendance. Such a grand opening was a hard act to follow, but the museum has succeeded in delivering on all its promises of providing a showcase for the best art of the past two decades. It boasts an impressive permanent collection, including works of international artists such as Tomasz Bajer, Edward Dwurnik, Kri tof Kintera, Ragnar Kjartansson, Jarosław Kozłowski, Robert Kuśmirowski, Lars Laumann, Bartek Materka, Maria Stangret, Beat Streuli, Krzysztof Wodiczko. There are also regular temporary exhibitions, and the museum is home to Poland's only specialist conservation workshop for contemporary art. Set alongside the exhibitions, next too and partly within the workshops at the former Schindler factory, are a library, bookshop and cafe.

ul. Lipowa 4**tel: +48 (12) 2634000****www.http://www.mocak.com.pl/****Cinema 18 Pauza****Cutting edge Kino**

Pauza has a reputation as one of the more avant garde cultural hubs of Krakow, regularly staging thought-provoking exhibitions at its gallery, and drawing crowds of party-goers to eclectic club nights. Now it can add cinema to its repertoire, thanks to the creation of the Kino 18 project.

Kino 18 is home to projects that push the boundaries, giving film-makers free rein to explore their creativity and imagination. And, right at the centre of it all, is the viewer - whether curious neophyte or dyed in the wool film buff. Animation, fiction, documentary... many styles will feature on forthcoming programmes, alongside workshops, guest speakers, lectures, and - for the ex-pats living in Krakow - English language movies.

ul. Florkowska 18 /5, II nd floor**tel: + 48 606 888 380****www.http://pauza.pl/eng/****Agrafka Cinema****Historic venue dedicated to movies**

Agrafka, one of Krakow's multiplex-free independents, is a cinema in a historic building that has been dedicated to the silver screen since 1959.

Back then, you would have been unlikely to catch any of the big new

releases. Now, two incarnations later, it's the place to go for the higher-intellectual end box office hits, art house, and world cinema.

Agrafka also runs regular screenings of classic movies, as well as collaborative festivals and cycles with other international centres of culture and language in Krakow.

ul. Krowoderska 8**tel: +48 (12) 4300179****www.http://kinoagrafka.pl/****Kika Cinema****New gem on the movie circuit**

Kika is one of the new kids on Krakow's cultural maps, but none the less impressive for that - and it has certainly hit the ground running.

It's a relatively tiny cinema, with just 41 seats, but pulls out all the stops as far as the quality of the visuals and atmosphere goes. Kika's up to date kit means that its largely art house repertuar is a treat for the eyes and ears of even the most demanding of moviegoers.

Another great plus for Kika is that it comes complete with cafe-bar, where you can sprawl on the sofas and enjoy coffee, cake or a beer.

Definitely worth a look - before the crowds get wind of this new little gem.

ul. Ignacego Krasickiego 18**tel: +48 (12) 2964152****www.http://kinokika.pl/****Moda na Sztuke****Online Arts**

Krakow and the surrounding area has its fair share of galleries, and hosts some of the most famous, and most valuable examples of Polish art.

Now it's possible to see the established and up and coming names in contemporary painting design and photography, online at the gallery of Moda na Sztuke.

Magdalena Burdzyńska, Tamara Berdowska, Magdalena Maria Franczak, Zbysław Grzywacz and more display their talents on the site. If you spot anything you fancy, want to delve into art collecting or fancy a punt on the 'next big thing', you can purchase works via the website - from the comfort of your own home.

ul. Dobranowice 194**tel: +48 883761722****www.http://modanasztuke.pl/****Tischner University****A university for all**

Tischner European University has provided a quality education for

European

students from all over the world. Because the courses are taught either in Polish or English, the university has developed a diverse multinational environment. TEU offers undergraduate and graduate courses of study, as well as professional studies. Because TEU is geared towards preparing students for the modern European workplace, a majority of the studies are focused on foreign languages, human resources skills, public relations, negotiation, and an understanding of the European marketplace.

ul. Westerplatte 11**tel: +48 (12) 6832481****www.http://www.wse.krakow.pl****BB Gallery****Leading gallery of contemporary art****ul. Garbarska 24****tel: +48 (12) 4306151****www.http://www.galeriabb.com****Transport Museum****Great kids option in Kazimierz****ul. Wawrzynka 15****tel: +48 (12) 4211242****www.http://www.mimk.com.pl****Slowacki Theatre****Opera and Theatre in Belle Epoque style****pl. Sw. Ducha 1****tel: +48 (12) 4224022****www.http://www.slowacki.krakow.pl****Teatr Stary****Historic theatre in the heart of Cracow****ul. Jagiellonska 5****tel: +48 (12) 4228566****www.http://www.stary-teatr.krakow.pl****Teatr Ludowy****Legendary Theatre in Nowa Huta****os. Teatralne 34****tel: +48 (12) 6802112****www.http://www.ludowy.pl****AB Gallery****Alladin's Den of ceramics in the Cloth Hall****Rynek Główny 1/3****tel: +48 (12) 4292340****www.http://www.galeriabb.com/a b/**

shop

eherbata.pl - Tea House

Rooibos or bust!

ul. Florianska 13
tel: +48 (12) 4229382
www.http://www.eherbata.pl

Ciu Ciu

Hey, sweet thing!

ul. Golebia 3
tel: +48 (0) 698521542
www.http://www.ciuciu.de/

Boruni Mikolajczyk Amber

Amber Means Go!

Sukiennice, Rynek Glowny
tel: +48 (12) 4231081
www.http://www.boruni.pl

Mydlarnia u Franciszka

Beautiful body, beautiful mind

ul. Gołomska 2
tel: +48 (12) 4300842
www.http://www.mydlarnia.info

Art Shop

Putting the heart in art

ul. Mikołajska 7
tel: +48 (0) 785028730
www.http://www.efant.pl/

play

Szkola Jogi Sadhana

Release your potential

ul. Długa 17
tel: +48 (12) 3574842
www.http://www.szkolajogi.com.pl

Fantasy Park

Ten-pin bowling and pool tables aplenty

Al. Pokoju 44
tel: +48 (12) 2909515 ext
www.http://www.fantasypark.pl

Krakow Valley Golf

Smart golf and country club west of Krakow

Paczkowice 328 Krzeszowice 3
tel: +48 (12) 2588500
www.http://www.krakow-valley.com

Xtreme

Aerobics galore just outside the Planty

ul. Filipa 9a
tel: +48 (12) 6326848
www.http://www.tribalfitness.pl/

Rotunda DKF

Students' Cultural Centre

ul. Oleandry 1
tel: +48 (12) 6333538
www.http://www.rotunda.pl

sleep

EXCLUSIVE

Hotel Kossak

Excellence and independence

Pl. Kossaka 1
tel: +48 (12) 4214865
www.http://www.freebookers.com

Crown Piast Hotel & Park

Five star hotel with lovely gardens

ul. Radzikowskiego 109
tel: +48 (12) 6832600
www.http://www.hotelpiast.pl

UPMARKET

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A shining star

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tel: +48 (12) 3428100
www.http://www.galaxyhotel.pl

Hotel Francuski

A hundred years of service

ul. Pijarska 13
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www.http://www.hotel-francuski.com

MID-RANGE

Astoria Hotel

Contemporary elegance

ul. Józefa 24
tel: +48 (12) 4325010
www.http://www.astoriahotel.pl

Hotel City

Modern hotel in a pretty suburb

ul. Gajowa 16
tel: +48 (12) 2666021
www.http://www.hotelcity.pl

VALUE

Hotel Panorama

Modern accommodation south of the city

ul. Lipińskiego 3
tel: +48 (12) 2606401
www.http://www.hotel-panorama.pl

BUDGET

Oleandry Youth Hostel

Large youth hostel west of the Planty

www.http://www.cracow-life.com/

HOSTELS

Summer Hostel

Budget accommodation south of the river

ul. Śliska 14
tel: +48 (12) 6561266
www.http://www.bursa.krakow.pl

Old Town Hostel

Backpackers gem in the heart of town

pl. Szczepański 6/5
tel: +48 (12) 4295964
www.http://www.oldtownhostel.pl

Dizzy Daisy Hostels

New hostel north of the Old Town

ul. Pedzichow 9
tel: +48 (12) 2920171
www.http://www.hostel.pl

Anytime Hostel

Rooms in Colourful Kazimierz

ul. Estery 16
tel: +48 (12) 4323070
www.http://www.anytime.com.pl

Hostel Panorama

Quiet hostel stone's throw from the action

ul. Retoryka 9
tel: +48 (12) 4225387
www.http://www.panorama-krakow.net

APARTMENT

CracowRent

Apartments by the Planty Gardens

ul. Krowoderska 9/25
tel: +48 (12) 4224776
www.http://www.cracowrent.com

Under Wawel Apartments

*A choice of four apartments right
next to Wawel*

Pl. Na Groblach 17

tel: +48 (0) 602414401

www.http://www.apartwawel.pl

events

Summer Jazz Festival***Piwnica pod Baranami, Rynek Główny 27***

Some very big names are lined up for this year's summer festival of jazz in the city.

They include the likes of the New Orleans Jazz Band Orchestra, Brooklyn Funk Essential, John Scofield, Tomasz Stanko, and many more. Throughout the month there will be concerts, intimate gigs, jam sessions and plenty of opportunities to mingle with like-minded jazz-heads. For tickets and a full programme, follow the link to the host, the legendary Piwnica pod Baranami.

Do it in Krakow***Krakow***

It's already proved a massive hit in Warsaw, thanks to local knowledge presented in a tongue in cheek manner that appeals to both locals and tourists alike.

Now the newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza has a new title in its 'Do it in...' series of books - and it's all about Krakow.

Find out the best of the city from a local perspective, and even if you've lived here for a while there will be something in the book to tickle your fancy.

Published by Agora, in partnership with Krakow City Council, under the media patronage of your own cracow-life.com and gazeta.pl krakow.

Movies for 6zl***Kino pod Baranami, Rynek Główny 27***

Hurrah for Kino pod Baranami, which once again is offering the chance to see great movies at just 6zł; a ticket. This popular promotion, which has for several years run under the heading of Letnie Tanie Kinobranie is an opportunity to see the films you love at a very affordable rate, and to try the ones you thought you'd like but didn't want to risk a lot more cash on. Look out for the full programme at the website.

Space Gallery***Space Gallery, ul. Sw. Marka 7***

This is one of the oldest, and certainly one of the best-endowed, private galleries in Krakow, having been running in the city since the 1990s. The collection is quite astonishing, presenting the works of Polish greats such as Matejko, Michalowski, Wyspianski, and more, alongside creations by young and not so young

contemporary artists.

More than just a gallery, this is a venue worth browsing and is a superb option for educational events, concerts, and meetings.



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Cracow Off the Beaten Path

Cracow has many sights any visitor will inevitably encounter, even on a short trip to the city: the Market Square with the Cloth Hall one couldn't miss even if they tried, St. Mary's Cathedral, Wawel Castle – the list goes on. But what often gets left off the list, or gets forgotten, are the places either a little further out, or a little harder to find. We've added the "Cracow Off the Beaten Path" section as a guide to the more adventurous traveller – or one with more time on their hands.

Explore Kazimierz

Sure, the Market Square is where you'll find all the thump-thumpin' clubs and the bars with some of the prettiest people you've ever seen. But if you want to lay off the pressure and just relax for a night, head to the former Jewish district of Kazimierz, where the atmosphere and the people are more laid back, the bars are friendlier, and you can slowly sip a coffee and watch the merchants do their thing daily on Plac Nowy, or sip a beer and enjoy the night slowly go by.

Discover Podgorze

Across the Vistula River from Wawel Castle lies the quiet neighbourhood of Podgorze. It's here you'll find the recently unveiled Ghetto Heroes Square, with its daunting monument of large metal chairs. On the square you'll find the Pharmacy Under the Eagles, whose owner helped thousands of Jews in the ghetto during the war, and is now a museum that portrays ghetto life. Nearby you'll also find Oskar Schindler's factory. The whole district is full of parks, historic churches, and some new trendy clubs that are a sign of its budding popularity.

Forest Adventures

There are plenty of chances to experience Mother Nature's glory in Cracow. A few minutes' walk from the Market Square on Kopernika Street lies Cracow's Botanical Garden, with ancient oaks, beautiful flowers and several greenhouses. Further afield is the Wolski Forest, a paradise for the hiker or mountain biker, with its many kilometres of trails (all laid out on a handy colour-coded map). And hidden within the forest is a treat for children young and old – the Cracow Zoo, featuring ferocious and friendly beasts, as well as some feathered and scaly friends.

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Got the t-shirt?

Come back and get another one! The funniest, most informative, bar, restaurant or hotel review wins a trip for two back to the city!

www.cracow-life.com

Cracow's Mounds

One of the unique attractions Cracow is known for is its mounds – and we don't mean the ones on the Roosters girls! But why on earth would anyone want to build a fake hill? Well, Cracovians will assert that building such mounds is in fact a very fine and splendid thing, and have been piling them up since pagan times. To see for yourself, we recommend scaling either the famous Kosciusko Mound near the Wolski Forest, or the Krak Mound in Podgorze, for a spectacular view of the city from high above.

Krakow Tours

And if our Cracow Off the Beaten Path guide isn't adventurous enough for you, how about a hot air balloon ride? Or white water rafting? A trip into the mountains, or perhaps a ride into the heart of Communist Cracow in a Trabant? All of these and many other tours can be organized by the good people at Krakow Tours (www.krakow-tours.com), including any trip to the most popular sites within and near Cracow. The guides are young, knowledgeable and full of energy, and will guarantee you a good time.

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