

KRAKOW DIRECT

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AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU DAY TOUR



WIELICZKA SALT MINE DAY TOUR



COMBINED AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU & WIELICZKA SALT MINE DAY TOUR

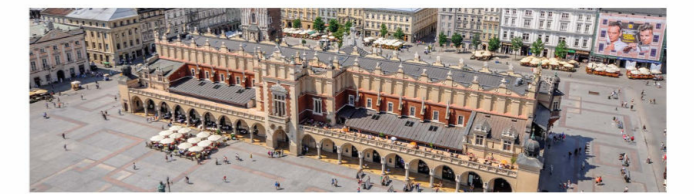


ZAKOPANE DAY TOUR

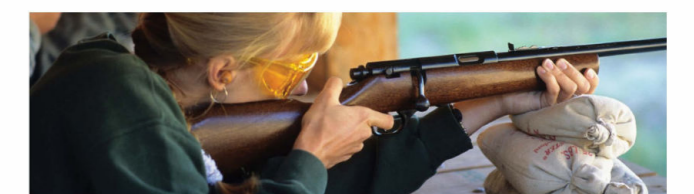


KRAKOW CITY TOURS

CITY TOUR BY ELECTRIC CAR and WALKING CITY TOURS



SHOOTING RANGE



Ask receptionist for more details!



1. MAIN MARKET SQUARE

The Main Market Square in Krakow is the largest of all medieval city squares in Europe. In today's shape it was created in 1257, with the founding charter of Krakow on the Magdeburg Law. The Main Square served as a primary market place in the city, welcoming local merchants as well as those coming from abroad. In the Middle Ages, Krakow flourished as a member of the Hanseatic League and an important commerce hub in this part of Europe. Krakow Main Market Square is almost perfectly regular with three streets leading to it from each side, almost 200 m long. Only Grodzka street, connecting the Main Square with the Wawel Hill, runs diagonally. Also St. Mary's Basilica is located obliquely, as it predates the Main Square itself.



6. ST. ADALBERT'S CHURCH

Accordingly to the legend, this little church in the corner of the Main Market Square was built on the exact spot, where St. Adalbert used to preach at the end of 10th century. St. Adalbert's Church is one of the oldest in Poland, dating back to the 11th century. As its creation preceded establishing of the Main Square in 1257 by nearly two centuries, St. Adalbert's Church stands as an independent element of the Main Market Square. Today, the exterior and the interior are both Baroque in style, but the walls of the church are unearthened to show their lowest level. The Church of St. Adalbert is an active place of worship. In the church's basement there is an exhibition dedicated to the history of the Main Square, administered by the Archaeological Museum.



11. COLLEGIUM MAIUS

Collegium Maius is the oldest building of the Jagiellonian University - the first university established in Poland in 1364 and one of the oldest in Europe. Collegium Maius was erected at the beginning of 15th century thanks to a large contribution of the recently late queen, Jadwiga, who donated all of her personal valuables for further development of the university. Collegium Maius now houses the museum dedicated to the history of the university and its many famous alumni. The most beautiful part of Collegium Maius is its arcaded courtyard. An interesting piece of the courtyard is a clock containing little sculptures of people notable in the university's history.

- The courtyard is open every day until dawn.



16. FRANCISCAN CHURCH

Franciscan Church and the adjacent monastery were built in the mid-14th century, with the arrival of the Franciscan Order to Krakow. Franciscan Church is an excellent example of Gothic architecture. In the mid-19th century the entire complex was devastated by the fire. This event did however give a chance for refurbishments of the interior, which were conducted by the greatest artists of the time, such as Jan Matejko, Stanislaw Wyspianski and Jozef Mehoffer. Beautiful polychromy and exceptional stained glass windows can be admired in the Church. One of the most magnificent stained glass windows by Wyspianski, entitled „Become" dominates over the nave, placed above the choir.

- Open for visitors: weekdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sundays and public holidays 1:15 p.m.-4 p.m.
- Closed during liturgy or religious concerts
- Entrance is free



21. GHETTO HEROES SQUARE

Today, the starting point of deportations to death camps, during World War II, Zgody Square is known as the Ghetto Heroes Square (in Polish Plac Bohaterow Getta). An art installation inspired by descriptions of abandoned furniture and personal belongings strewn around the square after the liquidation of the ghetto, commemorates victims of the Holocaust. The installation comprises of dozens of large iron chairs. Located at the corner of the square, "Pod Orlem" Pharmacy is a museum dedicated to the only Pole living in the ghetto, Tadeusz Pankiewicz. He run the pharmacy during World War II and provided medicine for Jewish people in the ghetto often free of charge. He also created a secret meeting place for Jewish intelligentsia, smuggled food and information and was entrusted for safekeeping with the most valuable objects that deported Jews had to leave behind.

- Opening hours: Mon 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tue-Sun 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Tickets: 11 PLN / 9 PLN (Eagle Pharmacy)



2. CLOTH HALL

The magnificent building occupying the centre of the Main Market Square, the Cloth Hall, is one of city's best landmarks. The Cloth Hall has been the heart of city's trade since the 13th century, when it was only a complex of two rows of wooden stalls with a little pathway in between. Over the next centuries, the Cloth Hall was first rebuilt in the Gothic and then in the Renaissance mode. Today's exterior is a result of the 19th-century renovations. For centuries, local merchants traded textiles, lead and salt from Wieliczka Salt Mine in exchange for a variety of exotic products imported from the East. The Cloth Hall is still the most bustling area in the entire Main Square. Today, mostly jewellery, souvenirs, amber and various arts and crafts can be bought in the Cloth Hall.



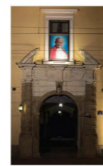
7. ADAM MICKIEWICZ MONUMENT

One of the focal points on the Main Market Square, Adam Mickiewicz Monument, commemorates the great poet and a leading figure in the Polish struggle for independence during the 19th-century Partitions of Poland. Adam Mickiewicz Monument was unveiled on 16 June 1898, the 100th anniversary of the poet's birth. The Monument is now the favourite place to meet on the Main Market Square. It is also a subject of several local customs, such as decorating the Monument with flowers on 24 December - the poet's name day, or the contest of Szopki, local tradition of building colourful, sleek towers that present the scene of Nativity with significant elements of Krakow's architecture, organised annually in December at the feet of the Monument.



12. WAWEL ROYAL CASTLE

Wawel Hill is considered to be the symbol of Polish statehood. Castle on the Wawel Hill had been the residence of Polish monarchs, ever since the first historic ruler of Poland had settled down there in the 10th century. It is also one of the most beautiful examples of Renaissance architecture in Poland. Today, Wawel Castle houses the museum dedicated to the history of Polish monarchy, presenting private chambers of the royal family and representative chambers, where king would meet with Polish parliament and foreign envoys, as well as armoury with excellent examples of military equipment and treasury with unique 13th-century coronation sword.



17. BISHOP'S PALACE

Since the end of 14th century, the palace on Franciszkanska Street has been the seat of Krakow Bishops. Today Bishop's Palace is the second largest, after the Wawel Castle, residency in Krakow and a result of the 19th-century refurbishments with many Baroque and Renaissance elements. Karol Wojtyla, the future pope John Paul II used to reside there as bishop and archbishop and also when he was visiting Krakow as pope. The best known part of the Bishop's Palace is a window from which pope John Paul II greeted people during his papal visits to Krakow. It is now decorated with the portrait of John Paul II.



22. OSKAR SCHINDLER'S FACTORY

Oskar Schindler Enamel Factory at 4 Lipowa Street is now the museum dedicated to the life of a man who devoted himself to saving Jews during World War II. Taking over the factory in 1939, Schindler employed Jews from the nearby ghetto, at first because they were expected to be paid much less than Polish employees. But soon, Schindler began to care about the fate of Jewish people and using his personal connections and bribes, he tried to save as many Jews as possible. His actions became widely known thanks to Steven Spielberg's film "Schindler's List" telling the story of how Schindler created a list of 1200 names of Jews that he managed to save from certain death in the concentration camp.

- Opening hours: April-October Mon 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tue-Sun 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; November-March Mon 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tue-Sun 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Tickets: 24 PLN / 18 PLN



3. RYNEK UNDERGROUND

The newest branch of the Historical Museum of Krakow spreads underneath the surface of the Main Market Square. Opened as a result of 5-years' archaeological excavations, Rynek Underground is a journey to the medieval Krakow. Using glass floor suspended right above original cobbled paths, visitors explore the every-day life of merchants and inhabitants of medieval Krakow. Following all stages of the exhibition, they learn about trade, transportation and have a chance to see how the merchant stalls that predated the Cloth Hall looked like. The museum relies heavily on multimedia, enriching the exhibition with touch-screens and holograms, but also displays unique medieval artefacts.

- Opening hours: Mon 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Tue 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wed-Sun 10 a.m.-10 p.m. (April-October), 10 a.m.-8 p.m. (November-March)
- Closed on every second Monday of the month and on Polish public holidays
- Tickets 21 PLN / 18 PLN



8. ST. FLORIAN'S GATE

St. Florian's Gate is today the only remaining city gate of the original eight built in the medieval Krakow. St. Florian's Gate was built at the beginning of 14th century and was considered to be the main entry gate to the city. It was an important part of the Royal Route in Krakow. For centuries, kings, princes, distinguished guests, foreign envoys and national heroes entered the city through St. Florian's Gate during parades, coronation processions, etc. The face of St. Florian's Gate from the Florianska Street, is adorned with 18th-century relief of St. Florian, saint patron of the city. Inside the gate there is a classicist altar from the beginning of 19th century, a small gallery and it is also where local artists to sell their arts and crafts.



13. WAWEL CATHEDRAL

Wawel Cathedral has been the most important temple in Poland for over 1000 years. It is where the crowning ceremonies of Polish kings took place. Wawel Cathedral is also the main burial site of Polish kings, their wives and national heroes. Today, Wawel Cathedral still resembles the 14th-century Gothic edifice it was after its greatest refurbishment. Over the course of the next centuries, several chapels had been built around the main nave, including the "pearl of Renaissance in Poland", Sigismund Chapel and contrasting to it, entirely Baroque Vasa Chapel. The Cathedral is illuminated by several stained-glass windows, mostly made in the early 20th century by renowned Polish artists, such as Jozef Mehoffer and Wlodzimierz Tetmajer.



18. OLD SYNAGOGUE

It is the oldest synagogue in Kazimierz, built at the turn of 14th and 15th century. At that time, the Jewish community of Krakow was gradually moving to Kazimierz. Until 1939 the Old Synagogue was the heart of Jewish religious, social and political life in Krakow. It is an interesting example of Jewish architecture, greatly in the Renaissance mode with preserved Gothic shape and interior. After being left neglected for years after World War II, the Old Synagogue was turned into the branch of Historical Museum of Krakow, dedicated to the history of Polish Jews.

- Opening hours: Mon 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tue-Thu 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (5 p.m. from April to October); Fri 9 a.m. (10 a.m. from November to March)-5 p.m.; Sat-Sun 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (5 p.m. from April to October)
- Tickets: 11 PLN / 9 PLN (free entrance on Mondays)



23. GHETTO WALLS

There are only two preserved segments of the ghetto walls in Krakow. Near Lwowska Street numbers 25 to 29 a 12-metres long fragment of the wall was embellished with a commemorative plaque, which reads "Here they lived, suffered and died at the hands of the German torturers. From here they began their final journey to the death camps." in Polish and Hebrew. Nearby the Old Cemetery in Podgorze another, even longer segment of the ghetto walls is preserved. The original walls were approximately 3 metres high. They encircled the area of 20 ha where up to 25 thousand people were forced to live. Each brick-panel of the wall was shaped to resemble Jewish tombstones.



4. TOWN HALL TOWER

Town Hall Tower is today the only existing element of the complex of town hall buildings that once occupied the south-western part of the Main Market Square. Town Hall was built at the turn of the 13th and 14th century. It consisted of an inner courtyard, a prison and a granary, all torn down in the 19th century. Today, only the tower stands still. Inside, a branch of the Historical Museum of Krakow was established. The interiors serve as a reminiscence of the once Town Hall chambers. During spring and summer, visitors can admire a wonderful panoramic view of Krakow from the tower's deck.

- Opening hours: Mon-Sun 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. (March-October); 12 p.m.-6 p.m. (November-December)
- Closed on every first Tuesday of the month
- Tickets: 10 PLN / 8 PLN



9. BARBICAN

The Barbican is one of only three such fortified outposts still existing in Europe. It was built between 1498 and 1499. The latest achievements in the art of medieval fortification were implied with the constructions. Once connected with St. Florian's Gate by the so-called 'neck', it was the most important element of city's fortification, built to protect the northern borders. On the three floors of the Barbican there were 130 embrasures and seven turrets. The Barbican was never conquered, but by the 19th century, it became less useful. There were plans to demolish it, but fortunately, only the 'neck' connecting it with St. Florian's Gate was torn down.

- The Barbican is now a branch of the Historical Museum of Krakow dedicated to warfare
- Exhibition open between April and October, 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Tickets: 9 PLN / 7 PLN



14. CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

The first Baroque church in Poland, Church of Saints Peter and Paul was modelled on Il Gesu in Rome. The construction works were conducted by the best Italian architects. It was founded for the Jesuits under the patronage of king Sigismund III Vasa. The facade is adorned with statues of four Jesuits' saints, a large emblem of the Jesuit order and the coat of arms of Vasa dynasty. The most characteristic element of the church's architecture is the fence with twelve enormous pilnths, on which large statues of apostles were placed. Church of Saints Peter and Paul owns the longest Foucault pendulum in Poland (46,5 m). Every Thursday, demonstrations of the apparatus take place that allow to observe the proof of the Earth's movement.



19. HIGH SYNAGOGUE

The High Synagogue was built between 1556 and 1563 and it has been the tallest synagogue in Krakow ever since. The synagogue owes its height to the prayer hall located on the upper floor, above the shops on the ground floor. Such architectural solution could be an effect of strict urban planning not allowing more ground space, or the fact that the synagogue was situated close to the gates separating the Jewish part of Kazimierz from the Catholic side and such close proximity of the prayers could be deemed too controversial. Today, visitors can see the original Aron Kadesh and a photography exhibition about the fate of Jewish community in Krakow.

- The prayer hall is open year-round from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Sun-Thu) / 7 p.m. (Fri, Sat)



24. PAULINE CHURCH ON THE ROCK

This ecclesiastical complex of Pauline monastery and church is simply called „Skalka" in Polish as it is located on a small outcrop in Kazimierz district. It was founded as the major shrine of St. Stanislaw, one of the main saint patrons of Poland. In 1079 Stanislaw, then Bishop of Krakow, was murdered by order of Polish king Boleslaw II the Bold, as he criticised and opposed the king. As a result, the king was sent into exile and Stanislaw canonised. "Skalka" is said to be the exact spot of the horrific slain. Underneath the church there is also a crypt that serves as a "national Pantheon", where the most distinguished Poles are buried.



5. ST. MARY'S BASILICA

St. Mary's Basilica was erected in the early 13th century. An example of beautiful Gothic architecture, inside it hides a sculptural masterpiece - late-15th-century altarpiece by Veit Stoss. St. Mary's Basilica is also famous for the daily trumpet call from the taller tower that had been used as the city watchtower for centuries. Today, the trumpet call is played every hour, four times in succession in each of the four cardinal directions. It always breaks as though unfinished, as to commemorate the legendary event of the trumpeter who tried to alarm the city of approaching invaders, but was hit by an arrow and did not finish to play the trumpet call.

- The Basilica is open year-round: Mon-Sat 11.30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun 2 p.m.-6 p.m.
- Tickets: 10 PLN / 5 PLN
- The tower is accessible for visitors (March-December in specified hours and during good weather conditions)
- Tickets: 10 PLN / 5 PLN



10. ROYAL ROUTE

The Krakow Royal Route is a commonly used term for the ceremonial route that was being used for celebratory parades, coronation marches and funeral processions, when Krakow was the capital of Poland. Monarchs, distinguished guests, foreign envoys and national heroes marched through the Barbican and St. Florian's Gate by the Cloth Hall to the Wawel Royal Castle, welcomed by the city's authorities and inhabitants of Krakow. You can now follow the Royal Route and admire the most beautiful sights of the Main Market Square, down the Grodzka Street and finishing at the Wawel Hill.



15. CZARTORYSKI MUSEUM

Czartoryski Museum is the oldest museum in Poland. Established in 1796 by the patriarch of the noble Czartoryski family, Princess Izabela, at first it was a private collection of various memorabilia and art objects preserving Polish heritage during the Partitions of Poland. In 1801 it became the first public museum in Poland. The collection grew rapidly and soon it comprised of world-class pieces of art, including "Lady with an Ermine" by Leonardo da Vinci. Over the course of 19th century, the collection had to be moved and hidden, travelling across Europe and finally brought back to Poland in 1882. New premises in Krakow were bought in order to establish the museum. In 2016 the Czartoryski Museum was incorporated into the National Museum in Krakow.



20. ISAAC SYNAGOGUE

It bears the name of its founder, Izaak Jakubowicz, wealthy Jewish merchant and banker to Polish king Wladyslaw IV. The synagogue was built in the mid-17th under the eye of Giovanni Trevano, an Italian architect working on the royal court. During World War II, the Nazis led to a significant devastation of the synagogue and irreversible loss of its valuable equipment. The synagogue was also a witness to the tragic death of Jewish official on duty, Maximilian Redlich, who was shot dead at the doors to the synagogue by Nazi officers, after he refused to burn the scrolls of the Torah. Today, a video/photography exhibition titled „In Memory of Polish Jews" is housed in the synagogue.

- Opening hours: Sun-Thu 8.30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri 8.30 a.m.-2.30 p.m.
- Closed on Saturdays and Jewish holidays
- Tickets: 7 PLN / 4 PLN



25. CORPUS CHRISTI BASILICA

Corpus Christi Basilica is one of few remaining Christian buildings in the district of Kazimierz that over the centuries had become predominantly Jewish in character. Corpus Christi Basilica was erected in stages, beginning in 1340 and finished in the mid-15th century. It was one of many foundations of king Casimir III the Great, whose reign is often referred as "the golden age" in Polish history. Basilica's exterior remained mostly Gothic, with a very interesting, free-standing tower. Initially, the church was planned as a monastery, which explains such large plot on which it stands and the old monastic cemetery next to it.