

Krakow



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Quick Talk Polish

The official language of Poland is Polish.
The following are a few words to help you out.

Yes Tak	Exit Wyjście	Three Trzy
No Nie	Entrance Wejście	Four Cztery
Hello Cześć	Men Panowie	Five Pięć
Goodbye Do widzenia	Women Panie	Six Sześć
Please Proszę	How much? Po ile to jest?	Seven Siedem
Thank you Dziekuje	Do you speak English? Czy mówisz po angielsku?	Eight Osiem
Open/Closed Otwarte/Zamknięte	One Jeden	Nine Dziewięć
Toilets Toalety	Two Dwa	Ten Dziesięć

Topdeck

trips for 18 to 30 somethings

City Guide Krakow



Money

The currency of Poland is the Złoty (zł), meaning 'gold'. One złoty is divided into 100 units called grosz (gr). Złoty banknotes are available in denominations of 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 Złoty while coins come in 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 Groszy and 1, 2 and 5 Złoty denominations.

You can change your money at a bank or a place called a 'kantór'. Kantors can give better exchange rates than banks but they only deal in cash. Cheques are reasonably easy to exchange wherever you go and there are plenty of banks and kantors in the old town. Please remember that it can be difficult to change any left over złoty into another currency once you leave Poland, so it's best to spend it all!

Eating & Drinking

Krakow is a food paradise! There are some great, unique restaurants, bars and cafés in and around the old town square (Rynek Główny). Many of them are housed in traditional vaulted cellars or open courtyards and offer a wide variety of food at affordable prices. Pushcart vendors sell Obwarzanki, ring-shaped pretzels covered with salt or poppy seeds. These are very popular in the day when locals. Be sure to buy them early in the day when they are really fresh and sometimes still warm. Try traditional Borsch soup (Beetroot soup).

Internet Cafes

Krakow boasts on having the most bars per capita than any other European city and therefore has an amazing night life. A definite to try is the traditional drink called Tatarska which consists of bison Grass vodka (Zubrowka) and apple juice

Safety

There are plenty of internet cafés in the old town and locating them should not be a problem. Krakow is a relaxed and safe city, though look after your possessions and don't leave your bags unattended.

Things to do in Krakow

Wawel Castle

Dragons Den 3zl
Royal Apartments 25zl

The heart of Poland's history and the seat of Poland's Kings from the 11th - 17th Century. There are many different exhibitions housed within, all with varying prices and opening times, entry into the courtyards is free.

Royal Apartments open: Tue to Fri 9.30am - 5pm, Sat & Sun 10am - 5pm, closed Monday, also closed over the Christmas to New Year period

Dragons Den open: Apr to Oct 10am - 5pm, May to Jun open til 6pm, July to Aug open til 7pm

Wawel Cathedral

Approx 12zl, Students 7zl

Burial place of almost all of Poland's monarchs. Climb the tower to see the 11 tonne bell and enjoy the views.

Open: Apr to Sep, Mon to Sat, 9am - 5pm, Sun 12:30pm - 5pm. Oct to Mar, Mon to Sat 9am - 4pm, Sun 12:30pm - 4pm

Main Market Square (Rynek Główny)

Here you will find the Cloth Hall, St. Mary's Church, St. Aldaberts Church. You can also climb the town tower for a great view. The huge 10 acre square is the largest of all Europe's medieval cities.

St Mary's Tower

Also known as The Watch, Wake, Alarm or the Bugle Tower. A bugle has been played here every hour of the day for the last 600 years which you can still hear today! Either wait outside or climb 54 metres up 239 steps to hear a special piece of Krakow's history. The facade of the church is characteristic for its two towers of not equal height. According to the legend it was the result of the competition of two brothers.

Kazimierz (Jewish Quarter)

Home to a large Jewish community from the 14th Century to WW II and the main filming location for Steven Spielberg's 'Schindler's List'. Get a taste of Jewish culture with themed restaurants, bookstores and much more.

Wieliczka Salt Mines

Situated just outside Krakow and well worth a visit. This is one of UNESCO's World heritage listed sights. Catch the mini buses from Starowislna opposite the main post office. Or take bus 304. The bus is on Pawia street, on the other side of the huge shopping center from the main train station. A one-way ticket costs 2.60. Get off at the second last stop. On arrival, arrange for a guided tour of this wonderful underground complex.

Remember! Entrance fees and opening times in Europe can change at any time.

Topdeck Top Tip:
In many European cities it's legal to drink on the street, and it can be quite a novelty to stroll around with a beer in hand! But in Krakow centre it's forbidden, and you're liable to be fined by police if they see you. With plenty of great bars and restaurants around you won't want to anyway!

Getting around Krakow

The great thing about Krakow is that almost everything you need is within walking distance. Krakow has the best of both worlds - historic buildings and good tourist facilities all squeezed into the small area of the Old Town. This historic area has the Rynek Główny (main market square) in the middle while on the outside you can walk around the green ring of Planty. At the southern end of the old town is the Wawel Castle.