



Main Market Square

## Three Days in Krakow

It is often the case that a tourist has no more than a few hours to see a place that is worth at least a week's visit. Or, there are only three days to explore a city whose closer investigation would call for a month or more. If this is the case, the tourist usually follows the guidance of indiscriminate advice-givers or browses the guide book in great haste, as even those whose titles starting with „A Weekend in“ would typically go for well over a hundred pages of small print. Thus, the tourist would try to stop time from flowing, taking photographs or shooting films, and rush madly across the city to see all the most important sites. In this case, absolutely everything must be seen - even if it is but a glimpse from a distance. What is left after such a visit are a handful of hazy memories dominated by increasing fatigue, and the feeling of having missed something.

Why then have we prepared this folder for visitors to our city? Especially as we do not guarantee to anyone that, with this folder in hand, he or she will manage to acquaint themselves with Krakow in a thorough and profound way. There is so much for a tourist to explore here! The material heritage being, at the same time, a living testimony to history, plentiful artistic life, and the Main Market Square magic atmosphere of a city that provides its busy locals and visitors alike with plenty of opportunities to slow down, chill out, and take a relaxed look... Simultaneously, Krakow is most probably the only historic city of great renown, where even a short visit may become the source of many pleasant memories and unadulterated satisfaction.

This is just what we want to recommend to you: a look at Krakow that will let you breathe and savour the atmosphere of the city: at times lazy and detached, at times teeming with major events, yet always exceptional. Let us try to take a closer look at Krakow spending the two days mentioned in the title in the most interesting way possible, and learn why we will definitely return here one day.





Tower of the Town Hall

## Access and Climate

It is not at all difficult to reach Krakow – it has always been located at the crossroads of major trade routes, at the meeting point of cultures and political influences. Today, the city is known to be Poland's first and foremost tourist destination. Railway and road access, as well as the country's second largest airport by size and number of passengers – all these make Krakow one of the most easily accessible cities in this part of Europe.

One stay in Krakow may actually differ greatly from any other. This depends on more than just the Main Market Square choice of the sites to be visited, or the attractions and accommodation selected. The stay is influenced by the weather; days of the week and time of the year, as in winter temperatures in Poland may sometimes drop below  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-50^{\circ}\text{F}$ ), while the summer heatwave frequently exceeds  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $85^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).

Krakow is the capital of the Province of Małopolska (Lesser Poland) – a hilly and partially mountainous region with numerous spas, recreational towns and an abundant agritourist offer. Thanks to this, a visit to Krakow, whether in summer or winter, may easily be combined with active leisure in the mountains.

# Main Market Square

The Main Market Square in Krakow is the largest medieval square in Europe at 200 m x 200 m. The largest Market Square in Europe is also the best municipal square in the world. “The Main Square attracts people from every location in the city as all roads in Krakow lead to it, and the closer to the Main Market Square; the more the streets are teeming. Meanwhile, there are over 20 attractions awaiting tourists” – this is how the jury of the Project for Public Spaces (PPS) – an American non-profit organization, justify their choice. For the past 30 years, the PPS has been active in the area of the revitalization of urban public spaces. Once a year, this organization conducts ratings of the best municipal squares. Since 2005, it has been preparing a global list, in which Krakow placed first.

The Main Market Square and the network of streets were established in 1257 in the course of founding the city under Magdeburg law. The centrally located Cloth Hall (Sukiennice) has survived to this day; the building was originally a commercial establishment for trading in cloth, and for over a century has been the main seat and later one of the branches of the National Museum. Other buildings standing to this day in the heart of the Main Market Square include the diminutive St Wojciech’s Church, a site of important archaeological discoveries, the solitary tower – a remnant of the Town Hall demolished in the 19th century. Of course, St Mary’s Church, frequently referred to as a basilica, which with its two slender spired towers reaching high above the whole city is one of Krakow’s landmarks. The Nuremberg master, Wit Stwosz (Veit Stoss) created his magnum opus here – at the monumental High Altar of St Mary’s – is a marvel that attracts thousands of tourists every day.



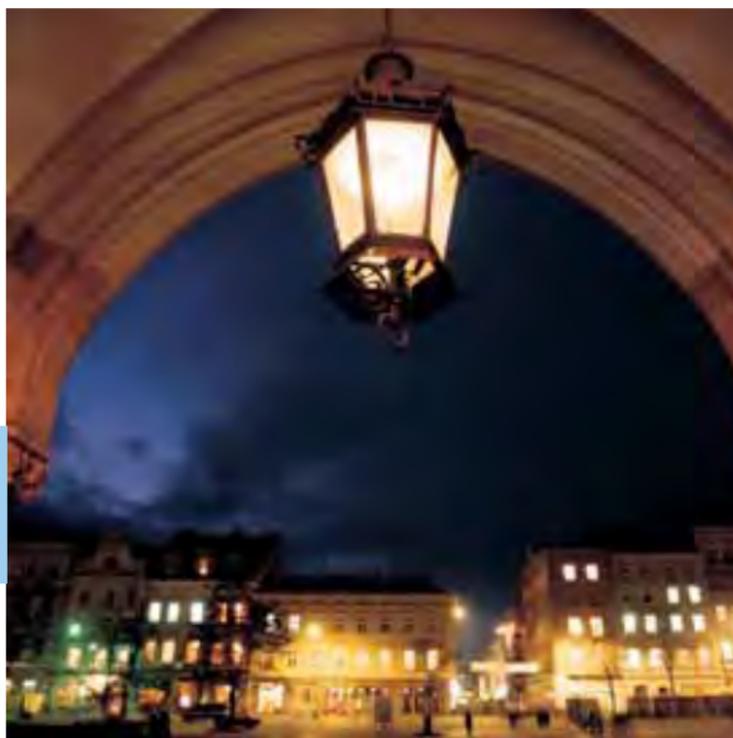
Main Market Square – Cloth Hall

Some Krakow legends and many historic events are closely linked to the city's Main Market Square. These include the bugle call played every full hour from one of the towers of St Mary's, the passage of the Lajkonik – the Hobby Horse of Krakow (in June), the Enthronement of the Fowler King, and the December competition for the most beautiful Krakow nativity scene (crib). Nearly all the houses and palaces surrounding the Main Market Square are of historical interest, with their histories reaching back centuries. They house the Historical Museum of the City of Krakow, the International Cultural Centre, numerous shops, restaurants, and pubs. Imposing facades, splendidly decorated doorways, windows, and roofs of the houses are worth your attention. It is not St Adalbert's Church High Altar in St Mary's difficult to find perfectly preserved interiors and carefully restored architectural elements.

The Main Market Square is a large area for people to meet in during summer festivals, concerts, fairs, presentations, and Poland's largest New Year's Party. Citizens of Krakow frequently meet „pod Adasiem“, that is at the foot of the Monument to Adam Mickiewicz, the poet. A longer stay is encouraged by the ring of restaurant and café gardens surrounding the square, which can easily provide a place to rest for several thousand people. Some of them operate from early in the morning into the small hours in the night, nearly all year round, with but a short break during the fiercest frosts. In winter, patrons move to the cellars so characteristic of the centre of Krakow. Here, you can additionally listen to a live concert. The live music played in most places is jazz – Krakow has well deserved the title of the capital city of Polish jazz. The night life and clubbing have recently begun to bloom here: after all, we are in a city of nearly 170,000 students.

Those who begin visiting the city from the Main Market Square may resort to one of Krakow's horse-drawn cabs or a meleks electric car with a professional audio recording explaining the selected route in the language of your choice. A number of tourist companies offer coaches for visiting both the city and its surroundings.





Main Market Square

## WALK 2

# The Centre

Let us, however, return to the spatial layout of the city, as it has been, to a great extent, decisive for the atmosphere of Krakow. The area enclosed by the Planty is traditionally considered the very centre of Krakow. The Planty is a narrow ring of greenery extending from the Barbican and embracing the city centre in an irregular, oval-like shape, elongated towards the Vistula, and reaching the foot of Wawel Hill. The Planty was designed as a garden ring in the 19th century to replace the demolished city walls that had used to contain the most ancient part of Krakow – the city itself. The area whose width never exceeds 1,500 metres, and length – 800 metres, and where nearly every building is of historical value, houses several dozen museums and galleries, a number of churches, theatres, cinemas, bookshops and antique shops, shopping malls and whole streets lined with shops, as well as hundreds of cafés, restaurants and pubs. All these irrefutably bring a small town to mind. Little wonder that most tourists are astounded to learn that the number of residents of the metropolitan area of Krakow actually verges on 800,000.

St Andrew's Church Collegium Maius Such a dire spatial constriction of the centre makes visiting the city much easier. The longest straight line that can be drawn within the Planty Ring runs nearly exactly along the Royal Route – the oldest and, in all likelihood, also the best-known tourist route. The Royal Route leads from the Barbican and St Florian's Gate, situated in the only major well-preserved section of the powerful

city defence walls (also housing the Arsenal: today, a section of the Czartoryski Princes Museum), down ul. Floriańska to the Main Market Square. From here, it takes the visitor along ul. Grodzka and ul. Kanonicza to Wawel Royal Castle. The route, closely related to the period of the greatest magnificence of the Royal Capital City of Krakow, is both historic and legendary.

On our way, we pass several museums, which include the House of Jan Matejko, and the Museum of Archaeology, as well as a number of galleries. The churches en route definitely deserve special attention: in Wszystkich Świętych Square there is the Franciscan Church featuring famous stained-glass windows by Stanisław Wyspiański, the Dominican Church and, further down ul. Grodzka: SS. Peter and Paul's Church and St Andrew's Church, both believed to be pearls of their respective architectural styles.

## WALK 3

# Wawel

Kanonicza, the street usually taken to access the famous Wawel Hill, is short and fairly narrow. Yet it is one of the most important and ancient streets of the city; a street whose look has hardly changed over the centuries - authentic and very much alive. Moreover, Kanonicza provides an example of favourable changes that have continued in Krakow in recent years: the complex restoration of the built heritage and preservation projects unveil the city's true beauty almost layer by layer.

A look at a plan of the city proves that the space confined by the walls of the castle is similar to that of the Main Market Square. In the castle's many chambers, exhibitions that simply cannot be missed





Wawel – Confession of St. Stanislaus

await us: royal chambers and stately rooms, collections of Oriental art and military trophies, collections of Flemish tapestries of amazing beauty, as well as archaeological specimens – a testimony of the over-a-millennium-long history of Christianity in Polish Lands. It was here, in the Royal Castle, that the monumental exhibition entitled Wawel 1000-2000 was organised in the year 2000 to illustrate the development of Polish statehood. By all means

Wawel Cathedral Courtyard of Wawel Castle worth visiting are also the Wawel Cathedral, the Royal Tombs – crypts containing royal sarcophagi, where we walk among Poland's entire history, and the massive „Sigismund“ Bell, which peals only to commemorate events of the greatest importance to the country and the city. Half a day is hardly sufficient to see all these even if you hurry.

Yet there is more to Wawel than just exhibitions. Even if you were to postpone visiting the castle until your next, longer visit in Krakow, spend a while in the ring of castle walls even late in the afternoon. The gates are open much longer than the exhibitions, and you will have a chance to see the arcaded courtyard of rare beauty, the cathedral, to have a look at the Vistula River and its other side, where the famous Manggha Centre of Japanese Art and Technology stands, housing the Japonica gathered by one of the most famous European collectors, Feliks „Manggha“ Jasieński. Having descended to the banks of the river, we can see the Dragon and the entrance to his den: a favourite destination of family strolls. During St John's Night (June), this place becomes the stage for the huge open-air event: Wianki – the Floating of the Wreaths, continuing an ancient, pagan tradition.

# Kazimierz

Over the last few years, beside the area enclosed by the Planty Garden Ring, all maps of the city centre also cover Kazimierz: formerly an independent city, today, it is a neighbouring district, easily accessible from Wawel Hill.

Every corner of Kazimierz is the witness of an experience both local and specific: the history of Polish Jews. It is visible in the system of narrow streets itself, in the abundance of markets, in the small tenements, synagogues, and kirkuts – Jewish cemeteries. Following the tragedy of the Second World War and the extermination of Jews by Nazi invaders, Kazimierz was deserted and, for decades, continued to fall into a desolate ruin. The changes that took place at the turn of the 1980s triggered a change that continues to influence the fast-paced growth of this part of the city. Having regained their property, heirs of former inhabitants immediately took to renovation. Today, beautifully restored buildings stand in close vicinity of those totally devastated, whose number luckily continues to diminish.

Kazimierz found its way to the silver screen thanks to Steven Spielberg, who came here to shoot *Schindler's List* (also known as *Schindler's Ark*), a multiple- Oscar winner. The idea behind the world-famous Jewish Culture Festival organised here since early 1990s is concentration Corpus Christi Church Isaac Synagogue on the history and traditions of people who used to live here; workshops, lectures, and exhibitions are held in Kazimierz. Today, we can safely claim that Kazimierz is experiencing a revival and acquiring a new face.



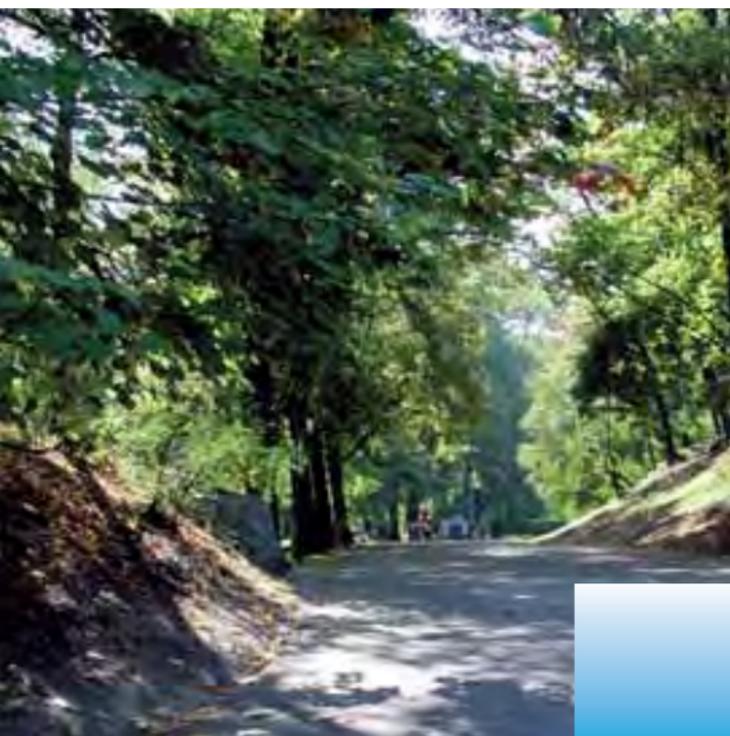


Kazimierz – Józefa Street

The key to the understanding of the popularity that Kazimierz enjoys today is its unbelievable and lasting tolerance: two nations and two great religions existed here for centuries in harmony. It is in Kazimierz that the massive, Gothic churches of St Catherine's and Corpus Christi sprung up alongside synagogues. Kazimierz is Krakow's centre of artistic and intellectual ferment. It is enough to mention the famous Łaźnia Theatre, which took its innovative projects to Kazimierz. The cafés, clubs, and galleries recently opened here in great numbers attract all those who find the Main Market Square and its close vicinity „too touristy“. Everyone discovers their own aspect of the charmingly unique Kazimierz. Neighbours of exclusive hotels and classy restaurants include craftsmen's workshops: leatherworkers, shoemakers, and engravers. Places of religious worship stand alongside places that have recently acquired „cult“ status. To experience this, simply take a walk near Plac Nowy, along ul. Miodowa and ul. Podbrzezie, and visit ul. Szeroka, where the Closing of Jewish Culture Festival – an openair concert lasting into the small hours of the night – is held every year.

Premonstratensian Convent Having crossed the Vistula River into the district of Podgórze, we enter places that, during the Second World War, witnessed the Holocaust that the Nazis brought upon the Jewish people of Krakow: Plac Bohaterów Getta, Pharmacy Under the Eagle, and the remnants of Płaszów concentration camp.

*Info: Kazimierz is also a place especially cherished by all lovers and aficionados of antiques and second-hand jumble. In the countless, usually diminutive, antique shops, bargains and true rarities lie side by side with trifles of hardly any value. Every Sunday morning turns Plac Nowy and Plac pod Halą Targową in the nearby district of Grzegórzki into flea markets. Please be warned, as anywhere else in the world, you should watch out for frauds, con-artists, doubledealers and pickpockets.*



Podgórze – Bednarskiego Park

## WALK 5

# Podgórze

Krakow does not end at the Vistula River. It has been like this since at least 1915 when two cities located on the opposite banks of the river were joined. Although for the annexed Podgórze it meant nearly a century of oblivion. For several years, the right-bank district of Krakow has been regaining its original splendour. Podgórze is situated in a geographic centre of Krakow and although the main transport routes go straight through this district, it is full of green areas and enjoys an exceptionally closed-circle and mysterious atmosphere. Moreover, with an abundance of attractive vistas, it is the most picturesque place in the city, both when watched from the left bank of the Vistula River as well as when we observe the area surrounding its centre, namely a range of limestone hills called Krzemionki.

All the bridges leading from Kazimierz to the right bank of the Vistula River provide marvellous views over Krzemionki. The most beautiful of them, the J. Piłsudski Bridge constitutes the first important stop on the route to Podgórze. Still on the left bank of the Vistula River, near the bridge exists boarded Routes of Podgórze History that contains a detailed description of the outspreading panorama. The most characteristic building, with two bay windows, similar in shape to a ship with a stem and a stern, is a tenement-house built in 1906 called “Aleksandrowicz” or “Parisian”. It is one of the symbols of Podgórze. To its left there is a building with a chimney – the former Podgórze power plant. This is the oldest municipal power plant in Krakow, opened in 1900, which now is being prepared to function as the Cricoteca Centre for Documentation of the Art of Tadeusz Kantor. Looking a bit deeper, it is possible to see the panorama of the



neo-gothic St. Joseph's Church in the centre. It is the source of pride for Podgórze. Thus, let us go along Legionów Piłsudskiego Street and then Kawaleryjska Street to the Market Square of Podgórze (Rynek Podgórski) in order to see it from a short distance. (It is especially worthwhile to see it late in the evening as at that time its outline is subtly illuminated, which makes it look mysterious and fabulous.) The building seems monumental; yet, it is only an optical illusion – a clever use of perspective thanks possibly to the triangular shape of the Square.

On the left side of the Market, there is an impressive building of the City Hall. The building, erected in 1844-54, in the style of historicism with elements of baroque, holds the most beautiful official hall in Krakow, which unfortunately is not normally accessible. Behind St Joseph's Church, one of the largest European Parks, Bednarskiego Park, awaits us. However, before we set off along Parkowa Street, it is worth visiting a charming and the sole coffee-roasting house – Cafe rękawka. This is the only one in Podgórze and located at Brodzińskiego Street. In rękawka, in its cosy interiors resembling a garden verandah, one can taste several dozen sorts of coffee, freshly roasted in the house.

Parkowa Street steeply leads upwards to the most charming part of Podgórze, designed as a garden city. On the right, near the end of the street, there is a Gate to the Park. Its creator, Wojciech Bednarski, was the headmaster of the local school. It is rumoured that the Master Twardowski School was located here and it was here that the students, after their master's disappearance, found an open book, presumably left by the master.

After visiting the Park, going along Dembowskiego Street, we approach Lasota Hill (Wzgórze Lasoty). It is the most important place in Podgórze; it is known as the green lungs and heart. Here the most mysterious and the oldest Krakow church is located, St Benedict's



Podgórze

Church, which only opens once a year – on the first Tuesday after Easter. It dates back to 1000 A.D.. This unusual structure (originally an early-medieval rotunda) is also associated with a legend. It is guarded by a cursed princess, who was punished for her sins and the haunting ghost has not been able to rest in peace until the present time. Next to the Church, there is "St Benedict's" fort number 31. Built in the form of a "Maximilian Turret", it is the only fortification monument of this type in Poland and one of very few in Europe. Unfortunately, it is closed in these modern times. Leaving Lasota Hill, we are going past the old Podgórski Cemetery, the oldest Krakow necropolis. No documents certifying the date when it was founded have been preserved. Therefore, it is assumed that the cemetery was founded soon after the city's establishment. It is the place of rest of the noblest Citizens of Podgórze including writers and heroes – such as Edward Dembowski, who is buried here together with his soldiers.

Going along Pod Kopcem Avenue, we will reach the oldest structure in Krakow – the Krakus Mound. This mythical grave of Prince Krak most probably dates back to about the 7th century. In order to commemorate this burial, every year on the first Tuesday after Easter, in Krzemionki, a traditional holiday called "Rękawka" (Holiday of a Sleeve) is celebrated. The name derives from the fact that the earth necessary to heap up the mound was transported in the sleeves of people's clothes. It is the oldest Slavic holiday celebrated in Małopolska. Medieval knights put up their camps here as well as many mysterious Slavic rituals are still held in this place.

From the top of the Krakus Mound, you can see a beautiful panorama of Krakow. With favourable weather conditions, it is even possible to see the Tatras from here. The roofs of the most important Krakow churches are clearly visible, and in the focal point, the towers of the Wawel Cathedral. At the foot of the Mound, there is the now closed Liban quarry. At the bottom of the quarry, Steven Spielberg shot



concentration camp scenes from his film "Schindler's List". Part of the film set is still visible in this place.

Taking the path down from the Krakus Mound and going along Za Torem Street, an asphalt road will take us to the old Płaszów Nazi Concentration Camp, built by the Germans in 1942. On the left, we will be passing Bonarka Nature Reserve, where it is possible to see an abrasive surface, so deemed as the bottom of the ancient Jurassic Sea. In front of us we will see a monument called the "Wyrwanych Serc" ("Torn Hearts") commemorating all the victims who died in the Płaszów Concentration Camp.

Let us come back to the old part of Podgórze. On foot or by tram, we are going to Limanowskiego Street, where the first museum of the district is located. It was opened in 2003. It is the History of Podgórze Museum building, in which exhibits and archive materials connected with the history of Podgórze are kept. Next to the museum, in the very same gate, the oldest gallery in Podgórze is located – Rękawka Gallery. Two turns further away at Węgierska Street, known as the most photographic street in Krakow, there are three famous galleries and the nearby clubOKOcafe – the best-known of its photo exhibitions café in Poland. After visiting Węgierska Street, it is high time to go to see one of the most important places in Podgórze – Bohaterów Getta Square.

In 1943, according to the order issued by the Nazis, all Jews living in Krakow were to move to a newly created residential district in Podgórze. It is how the tragic history of the Ghetto in Podgórze started. There were 4 gates leading to the ghetto, the main one located at the end of Limanowskiego Street and the Market Square of Podgórze (next to the Town Hall). Bohaterów Getta Square was the place where the inhabitants of the Ghetto were gathered before displacements and subsequent stages of liquidation were enacted.

The chairs located here today commemorate the exodus not only of Jewish inhabitants but also of all people in the world who at any time in their lives have fallen victim to hatred from other people. The most important building in the square is the Eagle Pharmacy ("Pod Orłem"), now a branch of the Krakow's Historical Museum. One of the most famous Poles, Tadeusz Pankiewicz, lived and worked in this pharmacy. This man, unwilling to leave the pharmacy, voluntarily decided to stay in the Ghetto and as a result, this pharmacy became an embassy of freedom in the occupied world.

The last reminder of the wartime history of Podgórze is the Schindler's Factory in Zabłocie. In order to see a famous "Schindler's arc", one must go along Kącik Street and go past the railway bridge to Lipowa Street. The characteristic buildings of the Factory are visible even from some distance. Above the entrance gate, there is a signboard: "Oskar Schindler's Enamel ware" ("Emalia Oskara Schindlera"). In front of us – well known from photographs and the film, is a metal entrance gate. Inside, the staircase and the Schindler's study are accessible for visitors. It is also possible to watch a film about the history of the factory and the ghetto. Soon, the Museum of the Place will be founded here.

(prepared by Association „Podgórze.PI“)

## Nowa Huta

Nowa Huta is a unique place, in which it is possible to combine on a limited space, several different but complementary cultural routes. Nowa Huta (the town and steelworks factory) was the finest example of a construction site in the early years of communist Poland. A political decision to build the steelworks combined collective on fertile soils of Pleszów and Mogiły villages, located in the neighbourhood of Krakow, was taken in 1949. As an ideal city that was to be the showpiece Polish city for the world, it received architecture and a clear city plan in the social-realist style. It was based on examples of renaissance architecture, and on the American city-planning idea of a so-called neighbouring unit. In order to understand the history of the towns in the neighbourhood of Krakow (there were approximately 30 of them), on the territory of which the youngest Krakow district was founded, it is necessary to acquaint oneself with the entire cultural heritage of this area. Thanks to the creation of a "protection zone" with a no building restriction around the steelworks factory in the area of Nowa Huta, there are many examples of well-preserved village buildings, numerous mansions and palaces as well as sacred buildings. The most interesting seems to be a route including the following: a neo-baroque seat of Kirchmayers', a baroque style St Wincent's Church in Pleszów; a 17th century Badenis' mansion with a renaissance granary (designed by S. Gucci) in Branice; neo-renaissance mansions: of the Popiels' along with a gothic knight Grzegorz Wielki's Church in Ruszcza and of Badenis' in Wiadowo. However, special attention should be given to an old Arian chapel and the only one preserved in Krakow 17th century Evangelical Cemetery in Łucznanowice as well as the Wodziccy' castle establishment

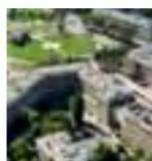




Nowa Huta – Central Square

in Kościelniki together with a 17th century wooden church in Górka Kościelnicka. Coming back to the centre of Nowa Huta, it is worthwhile to stop and visit the prehistoric Wanda Mound (7th or 8th century). Here, it is possible to see an uncommon panorama of the steelworks factory. Not far away from here, at 11 Klasztorna Street, there is the most precious monument in Nowa Huta, the 13th century Cistercian Monastery (moved to Mogiła from Kacice n. Słomniki in 1226). Also located in the vicinity is the 15th century (1466) wooden Church of St Bartholomew, a unique masterpiece of carpenters and wood-carvers. Between the Administration Centre of the Tadeusz Sendzimir Factory (Huta im. Sendzimira), formerly known as the Lenin Factory – the most interesting and with the fullest social-realist treatment – and the Centralny Square. It is worth visiting an antique wooden mansion in Krzesławice, which belonged to a remarkable Polish painter, Jan Matejko, as well as a nearby 17th century wooden St John the Baptist's Church.

The necessity of the complex protection of the original Nowa Huta city-planning idea was confirmed in January 2005, when this area was registered in the list of monuments. Familiarizing oneself with the most interesting monuments of the Nowa Huta architecture, we start our sightseeing tour from the recreational areas located by the Dłubnia River (water sports equipment rentals, swimming pool) and Willowe Residential District with the first building that dates back to 1949. We move further to the Na Skarpie Residential District, where it is possible to see a complex of 17 pavilions (with links to a baroque palace construction) of the Stefan Żeromski Municipal Hospital. Coming back to Centralny Square, which constitutes a kind of "history" of the last 50 years of architecture, we are going past one of the two buildings housing the Nowa Huta cinemas, the currently closed "Światowid"



Nowa Huta – Arka Pana Church

cinemas. Going further along Aleja Róż Street, we reach a place where in the years 1973-1989, the statue of V. I. Lenin stood and going further, we reach Ratuszowy Park, which was a potential Nowa Huta's Square. Turning into the Zgody residential district, which is a typical example of the "neighbouring unit", we reach the Teatralne residential district and Krzyż Nowohucki, a place connected with dramatic incidents in April 1960. During this time, fights between the Nowa Huta inhabitants and regular and special police forces took place. Behind the Holy of Holiest Heart of Jesus Church, which was erected in the place of these incidents, there is a building of the Ludowy Theatre, which has been in operation for over 50 years. The first-night performance took place in December 1955. From the theatre entrance, it is possible to see the building of the Nowa Huta Church, called Arka Pana Church. The Bieczycki St Mary the Queen of Poland's Church (1 Obrońców Krzyża Street) along with St Maksymilian Maria Kolbe's Church in Mistrzejowice (86 Os. Tysiąclecia Street) and other Nowa Huta churches are not only remarkable architectural masterpieces and places where it is possible to see the works of art created by the best contemporary Polish artists, but also places very close to all Polish hearts thanks to the existence of John Paul II. He became a Krakow suffragan in 1958 and often visited Nowa Huta in order to participate in its religious life. Churches in Nowa Huta are also inseparably connected with various incidents of the 1980's (among others: the creation of Solidarity, martial law, mass manifestations against the communist regime as well as assistance for the victimized participants).

Apart from historical and cultural heritage in Nowa Huta, there are also extensive areas of well-preserved nature. They include: the Nowohuckie Meadows, the 18th century old riverbed of the Vistula River (next to Centralny Square) as well as the Mogiński Forest being a remnant of the old wet wild forest. While walking in this area, it is possible to come across unique species of animals and plants, which are not found in such quantities in urban areas.

Within the area of Nowa Huta, lovers of military engineering can also see the Austrian protective fortifications built towards the end of the 19th century within the framework of the modernization of the Krakow Fortress. Despite varied state of their preservation, the following forts are worth seeing: "Krzyszów" (with a Community Center located there), "Mistrzejowice", "Batowice" as well as the well preserved, "Grębałów", in which restoration works are being conducted and the fortress's museum is planned to be opened. Coming back to Krakow, it is worthwhile to visit the Museum of Aviation located at the former airport in Czyżyny. Among the exhibits of this museum is one of the oldest and the most precious in the world collections of old planes.

The Nowa Huta route is the route of contrasts and paradoxes of the history of our city. Visiting Nowa Huta, we familiarize ourselves with the history of the eastern part of Krakow since the oldest times (the Wanda Mound) with its magnificent cultural and historical heritage up to the "unwanted" heritage (created after 1949) along with interesting monuments of Polish architecture, which were created by the most remarkable Polish architects and city-planners.

(prepared by Leszek J. Sibila – Krakow's Historical Museum curator)



Nowa Huta – Cisterian Monastery in Mogiła

## ....for walking on foot or cycling the routes along the former Krakow Fortress

Adventure seekers are invited to visit Krakow fortifications erected by the Austrians.

In the years of annexations from 1795 to 1918 – from Krakow to the Russian border, there were only 7 km. Therefore, it became a fortress, which since 1854 was redeveloped by the Austrians. Originally, the fortress was built according to the idea dating back to the middle of the 19th century along the present Trzech Wieszców Avenue (the remnant of the old core of the fortress is Kleparz fort). The technical advancement – mainly the increased reach of the artillery – rendered the fortifications useless and it was necessary to redevelop them by means of creating a ring-shaped fort-like fortress. After 1878, a ring of protective structures further away from the city centre, including forts of a different structure with concrete roofs and armoured towers was built. In 1914, the outer ring of the Krakow Fortress had 32 forts of various types (armoured, infantry, etc.). A part of these forts was unfortunately damaged in the second half of the 20th century, but the remaining ones still give evidence on the size of the Fortress and the masterly skill of its constructors.

Visiting the Austrian fortifications is facilitated by the fact that the trail of the former Krakow Fortress has been marked with marker signs (yellow-black-yellow striped signs). One part of the trail leads to the “Mogiła” fort (in the vicinity of the Wanda Mound) to Salwator, joining



forts located in the northern part of the city. The second one – on the right bank of the Vistula River – leads from the “Lasówka” fort to the “Bodzów” fort, joining the fortifications located in the southern part of Krakow, and further through entrenchments in Ludwinów leads to the “St Benedict” fort. Next to these structures there are special boards containing short pieces of information about them. The route of the trail is practically in line with the route of the historical strategic highway of the Fortress.

Although the trail has been intended for hikers and cyclists, it is possible to visit most parts of it on a motorbike or by car. A majority of the attractions are lead by special information and road signs. However, visitors on foot are forced to cover the trail in fragments, taking into account the fact that parts of the old strategic highway are today, parts of Krakow streets or suburban roads.

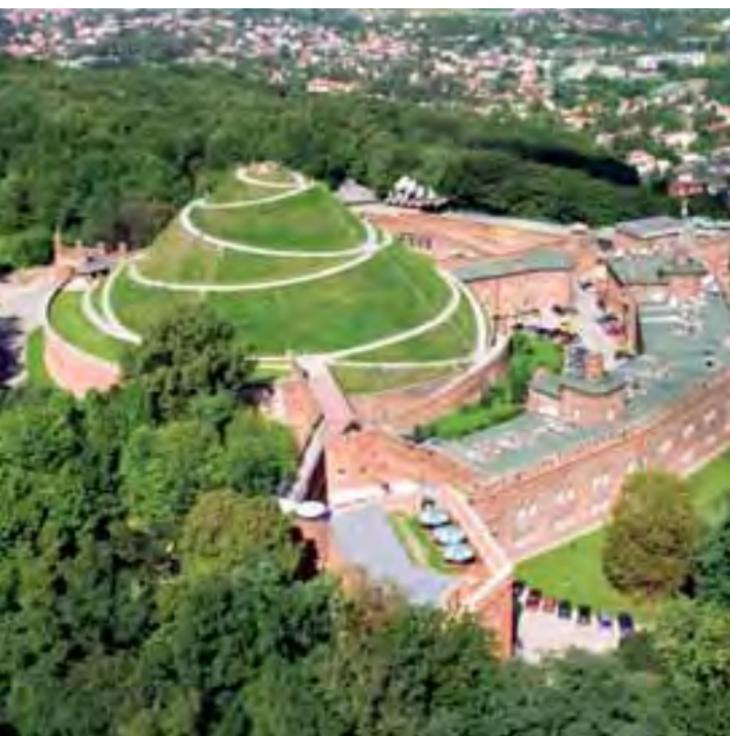
It is also necessary to note that some forts are accessible, whereas other forts are currently being redeveloped and they can only be visited with granted permission from the owner's; and some forts are inaccessible to tourists.

Redeveloped forts perform various functions. The “Skała” fort, for instance, holds the astrological observatory and in “Olszanica” (to the west of the Wolski Forest) and “Grębałów” (at Kocmyrzowska Street) forts there are horse-riding facilities. In the above-mentioned “Olszanica” fort there is also a scout hostel, and in “Zielonki” fort – the “Twierdza” (“Fortress”) Hotel. Near this hotel as well as near “Węgrzce” fort (by Krakow – Kielce road) shooting facilities have been created.

Several forts, located not far away from one another, are in Nowa Huta, e.g. the following forts: “Katowice” located in the Złotego Wieku residential district near the Piastów residential district, as well as forts: “Krzyszów” (the place of the World War II martyrdom) and the above mentioned “Grębałów” fort. Not many people are also aware of the fact that the structures surrounding the Kościuszko Mound are a former fort marked with number II. Furthermore, in the southern part of the City, there are other protective structures worth visiting, among others: “Prokocim”, “Rajsko” (with the view over Krakow), “Skotniki” as well as one of the oldest – the artillery fort at “St Benedict” on the Lasota Hill (Krzemionki), today is a unique example of the fortifications dating back to the middle of the 19th century.

In contrast to the Fortress erected by the Austrians at the same time in Przemyśl, the Krakow Fortress was not damaged in the years of World War I. It is more worthwhile to encourage visitors to Krakow to come and see its monuments.

(prepared by Jerzy Gajewski)



Kościuszko Mound



## WALK 8

### From a slightly different angle...

The Centre of Krakow is a highly attractive place offering an unmatched architectural cityscape. In the city, there are plenty of vista points that let you see its panorama. The best known of them has for long been Kościuszko Mound: the destination of numerous excursions. As it commands a view of entire historical and contemporary Krakow, it may be a good idea to locate the places visited earlier from its top, and this time see them from afar and in a very different perspective.

Mound of King Krakus The Mounds are among Krakow's major attractions. Two of them, namely that of King Krakus in the District of Podgórze and of Wanda in today's Nowa Huta are mysterious barrows dating back to pre-Christian times. What made the local tribes undertake such an enormous effort? Whether it was the eagerness to honour their departed chieftains, it is certain that the mounds have strategic importance and were used for vigil and observation.

In modern times, further mounds were raised in homage to national heroes. One of them is Kościuszko Mound mentioned earlier, the other - Józef Piłsudski Mound. Built after the territory of Poland had been partitioned among three neighbouring powers, Kościuszko Mound was Poles' symbol of strife for independence. The buildings at its foot are remnants of a former fort. There are few who remember that in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Krakow was considered a fortress, yet among those few, there are a number of aficionados of military architecture who are strongly attracted to the remains of the city's fortifications.

Should we leave the very centre of the city and follow ul. Piłsudskiego to the Main Building of the National Museum and the nearby Jagiellonian Library, we quickly reach another Krakow peculiarity, the Błonia: a gigantic common green not more than a few hundred metres away from the Main Market Square. Its flat meadow-like plane provides ideal recreation area and premises Skalki Twardowskiego Rocks for most special events: each of the Holy Masses celebrated here by Pope John Paul II has gathered over a million people. In other times, Błonia lend its expanse to a variety of festivities and even to ballooning championships. Next to Błonia, there are the city's two major sports stadiums, Wisła and Cracovia, and Jordana Park. Towering in a distance over the Błonia is Kościuszko Mound, on whose other side lies Las Wolski Forest: another highly picturesque recreational area. Situated in the forest are Krakow's zoological garden and Piłsudski Mound, and in its vicinity – the famous renaissance Villa Decius with its charming park.

The road on the other side of the Vistula takes us to the ancient hamlet of Tyniec with its imposing Benedictine Abbey overhanging the river – worth visiting in summer during one of the series of magnificent organ concerts. Walking near the city is a great idea for the warmer days. From May to September, the city can be admired from yet another perspective: the river face is available from decks of pleasure boats cruising the Vistula.



Krakow's Błonia



One of Krakow's restaurants

## Gourmet Tourism

Let us be honest: gourmet tourism in Poland is primarily Krakow. Reasons for this are fairly obvious: the vast number of restaurants, inns, cafés, pubs, and clubs unmatched by other cities combined with the resulting tough competition and eagerness to entice clients and patrons make the city Poland's best place for having something to eat, to drink, and some fun at the best value for the price in highly attractive interiors. A fact long ago discovered by the people of Warsaw and business community who throng to the city for weekends.

For the Krakow maestro chefs are indeed masters of nearly all the world's cuisines. The very centre of the city boasts of great concentration of places to eat and drink out. What we would like to recommend is discovering, to your own epicurean satisfaction, those that lie somewhat off the beaten tracks: in ul. Sławkowska, św. Tomasza, Bracka, Poselska, and Karmelicka. Being a historical city, Krakow has its „legendary“ places to eat, too. Just to mention the „U Pani Stasi“ home-canteen in ul. Mikołajska, where among the plenty of the usual patrons – professors, journalists, and artists – you see celebrities otherwise smiling to you from the first pages of newspapers and magazines. Speaking of the most unusual social mix of the consumers, we may not fail to mention the famous night stand with hot sausages by the Hala Targowa, recommended in all the best guidebooks.

Pubs and clubs maintain the highest standards and gather faithful patrons, which in most cases lets us decide whether we like the place or not at the first glance. Even more interesting places are to be found in Kazimierz, where publicans cherish the highly individual character

of their sites: usually unorthodox and always amazing. Our warmest suggestion is the unbelievable variety in the diminutive ul. Podbrzezie and the all-the-rage Plac Nowy. By the way, unlike city plans, locals refer to the square as Plac Żydowski, which literally translates into „the Jewish square“. Ul. Szeroka, another gourmet centre of Kazimierz, is dominated by sites that make reference to the history of the district. Concerts, exhibitions, and artistic actions in Kazimierz's are as regular and common as unusual. For the two-day visitor to Krakow, choice of this so very popular form of tourism may mean extending the stay by a few very long action-packed nights.

## Outside the City

When in Krakow, one must not forget that there are plenty of popular and charming destinations lying not so far from Krakow: the picturesque Jurassic valleys, Ojcowski National Park, and Pieskowa Skała with its castle. Krakow provides a perfect base for side-trips to the scenic landscape of the country's most attractive corners. The city lies only 100 kilometres from the rocky Tatra Mountains and Zakopane, frequently referred to as the winter capital of Poland. It is just as close to the far smaller and by no means less beautiful Pieniny Mountains, the famous spas of Szczawnica and Krynica, and the uncrowded mountainous trails of the Beskidy Mountains. Local traditions cherished throughout the region, as well as the very well-developed network of agritourist accommodation, make Małopolska one of the few regions of Europe so favourable for leisurely relaxation in such close proximity to nature.



Wieliczka – Salt Mine

# City Information Network

**Information:** *Abridged editions of city guides, including practical tips and directory information as well as city centre maps with tourist routes, are available in the city information points. New suggestions of city walks, interesting because of their landscape and historical values and related to, among others, the events of the last few dozens years, have been recently added to the traditional offer. At present, we have eleven tourist routes: University, Royal, St. Stanislaus, John Paul II, Nowa Huta, Krakow Route of General Bem, Industrial Heritage and the former Krakow Fortress Routes.*

*All these are available on the [www.krakow.pl](http://www.krakow.pl) website and in the Tourist Guide-Book provided in seven language versions.*

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