

Krakow is one of the most beautiful European cities, a former capital of Poland and the Polish city most readily visited by tourists. It is home to gems of architecture and Polish Renaissance art as well as the oldest Polish University (Jagiellonian University) founded in 1364. As the 2nd World War largely spared Krakow, the greatest number of original vintage buildings and monuments in Poland was preserved here. One can also find hundreds of vibrant cafes, restaurants, theatres and other places of entertainment in Krakow.



Attractions:

Gems of Krakow

We are following the tracks of the gems of Krakow, i.e. places which are an absolute must see. They are undoubtedly an inseparable part of the Polish history, so let us move back in time when visiting the Main Square, the Cloth Hall, a former covered market, and the Gothic St Mary's Basilica, which came to be known as the 'Heart of Krakow'. Inside the Basilica there is the biggest Gothic altar in the world (11x13m), a true masterpiece of the 15th century sculpture art made by Veit Stoss. From St Mary's tower, on the other hand, for over 600 years a trumpeter has sounded his bugle call daily, facing one by one the four directions of the world and stopping the melody abruptly in order to commemorate the death of the bugle call player who died there heroically shot by a Tatar arrow. We are then going to invite you to visit the legendary Wawel Castle, the seat of the Polish kings, and the Wawel Cathedral, a burial place of the Polish kings, poets and artists. Visiting the 14th century Jagiellonian University, and especially its most beautiful building, Collegium Maius, will certainly be something to remember.

Closer to the Jewish Culture

For over 700 years, until the times of the 2nd World War, Krakow was home to the Jewish community. The centre of Jewish culture was the district of Kazimierz, where we are going to spend an unforgettable evening. We will visit the Remuh synagogue, one of the two oldest synagogues in Krakow. Next to it there is the historical Remuh cemetery, where outstanding representatives of the Jewish religion and culture were buried. The cemetery is a place of pilgrimage visited by Jews from all over the world. The Renaissance and Baroque tombstones are of enormous artistic and historical value.

Wieliczka – Looking for Princess Kinga's Ring

Wieliczka – the town grown from salt, located 13 km away from Krakow, the oldest salt enterprise, which has been in continual operation since the Middle Ages until today. 2040 chambers have been excavated underground on 9 different levels reaching the depth of 57 up

to 327 metres. The most impressive place underground is St Kinga's Chapel located at the depth of 101 metres. After the tour one can take a rest in a complex of chambers housing souvenir shops, a restaurant and charming underground lakelets. Wieliczka Salt Mine was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in the 1970s and in 1994 it was recognised as the National History Monument by the president of Poland.



Auschwitz

From the magical Krakow we are going to move to the place of the extermination of Jews, Poles and other nations, to Auschwitz – the concentration camp built by the Germans in 1940. The camp initially served as a place of extermination of the Polish intelligentsia and later on was extended, as prisoners from many other European countries were brought there. The prisoners were put to death with the use of gas or were subject to pseudo-medical experiments. In total 1-1.5mln people representing 28 different nationalities died there, out of which 90% were Jews. Edith Stein and St Maximilian Kolbe died there, to mention just the two. The area of the camp is considered the biggest cemetery of the world. The camp was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage list as a historical site.

Date: 5-7 September 2014

General Programme:

Day 1

- departure from Zakopane – pickup from the hotels
- arrival in Krakow
- check-in at the hotel
- evening in the Kazimierz quarter

Day 2

- visit of the Main Square, Cloth Hall, St Mary's Basilica with Veit Stoss's Altar, Wawel Castle, Wawel Cathedral and Collegium Maius
- visit of the Auschwitz concentration camp
- guided tour of the Wieliczka salt mine

Day 3

- return flight from Krakow

Services:

1. coach Zakopane - Krakow. Pickup point: hotels posted on the conference website
2. Accommodation in a 3-star hotel in double rooms or single rooms (with extra payment)
3. Half Board
4. Assistance of the courier and tour guide
5. Entrance tickets

Price: to be announced soon

Minimum number of people to start the tour: 8