



KRAKÓW |

A Stroll  
Along  
The Royal  
Route

**A STROLL ALONG  
THE ROYAL ROUTE**

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Krakow 2016

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## A STROLL ALONG THE ROYAL ROUTE

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Dear Visitor!

**W**e welcome you warmly to the former capital of Poland, a city that is traditionally hospitable, full of historic memorabilia and anecdotes, and a centre of science, culture and art. We are glad that you are here today, and that we can have a stroll together. We are now on **Basztowa St.**, at the gates of the mediæval city, by the **Florian Gate**. It was along here that parades to mark royal coronations and funerals stretched; here were the royal guests, the papal legates, foreign envoys,

heroic chiefs greeted. Before you, the famous trail – the **Royal Route**, which from this point will lead you to Wawel.

But first, take a look back, at the other side of the street. That Art Nouveau building is the famous **Academy of Fine Arts** (ASP). It was the only artistic university in the world where Rector Jan Matejko did not allow the painting of nudes. Within its walls the true masters studied their art, including the “sweetest Impressionist painter”, a friend of Picasso and Modigliani – Moïse Kisling. In educating artists, the ASP shaped five future generals and one marshal (Marshal Rydz-Śmigły) for the fight for a free Poland. Next to the Academy, in the square named after the great painter of battles Jan Matejko, is the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**, and behind it the **Grunwald monument**. The victor at Grunwald (1410), King Jagiełło,



Grunwald Monument on Matejki Square, photographer unknown, ca. 1911

on horseback, was mounted on the pedestal – with not inconsiderable difficulty, since a helicopter was required – at the second unveiling of the monument in 1976 (the Nazis destroyed the monument in 1940).

**To** the right and to the left of St. Florian's Gate extend the **Planty**, a picturesque garden with a length of 4 km surrounding the historical centre with a green ring. You can go right or left to return an hour later to the place you set out from. The **Planty** were built on the site of the mediæval city walls and the water-filled moats protecting access to them, which were demolished in the early years of the 19th century. Constructed of brick and stone, the walls were 2.5 m thick, rose to a height of 6–8 m, and boasted 47 towers. The **remains of the ramparts** at St. Florian's Gate, with the towers of the **Haberdashers'** (to the east)



Florian's Gate, photographer unknown, ca. 1900

and the **Joiners'** and **Carpenters'** (to the west), were saved at the beginning of the 19th century by councillor Feliks Radwański, architect and conservator. He argued that the destruction of this part of the fortifications opened the way to the Market Square for the northerly winds, which would lift the women's dresses at St. Mary's Church. And that was not fitting for Krakow. Of the several gates leading into the city, only Florian's Gate has been preserved. In the passage you can see the baroque painting of **Our Lady of the Sand**. According to legend, during the Bar Confederation, when in June 1768 the city was besieged by Russian troops, the senior of the haberdashers' guild, Marcin Oracewicz, tore a button from his żupan (long coat) and touched the miraculous image with it. Endowed with unearthly power, the button was loaded into a rifle and

saved the city, killing General Ivan Panin, leader of the invaders. The magnificent round fortress outside the ramparts is the **Barbican** (in Gaelic, bar-bacha means "rampart"), a masterpiece of military architecture. The task of its personnel was to attack the enemy trying to climb the walls. Built in the years 1498–1499, this stronghold is the largest of its kind in Europe. Its diameter is 24.4 m, the wall thickness exceeds 3 m, and on four levels 130 weapon emplacements are deployed.

**If** you go to the left along the Planty, you will see the creamy building of the **Juliusz Słowacki Theatre**. Built in 1893, the Municipal Theatre (named after the poet since 1909) was famous for the gallery of great artists and the world premiere of Stanisław Wyspiański's "The Wedding" (1901). This is also the site of the first occasion

(1907) in the Polish territories when a naked woman appeared on stage (Lady Godiva in the play by Leopold Staff).

**F**loriańska Street, whose view is closed by the Gothic towers of St. Mary's Church, leads from the Florian Gate to the Market Square. Along the street, at number 45 (on the left), you will see the famous lair of the Young Poland movement – the café known as the **Jama Michalika**. Students (and professors) from the nearby ASP paid with their paintings here for arrack and kirsch, and from 1905, the Jama hosted Poland's first cabaret: The Green Balloon. The scandal was cruel, and pious mothers ordered their daughters to pass "Michalik" on the other side of the street.

The house at number 41 is the **Matejko House**, a branch of the National Museum. It was here that this great

artist was born (1838), here that his masterpieces were created, here that Emperor Franz Joseph I paid him a visit (1880), and here that, in the end, the creator of monumental paintings depicting milestones in Polish history died in 1893.

At number 25 is the **Pharmacy Museum** – one of the largest museums of its type in the world (220 thousand exhibits). You will see, among other exhibits, the first paraffin lamp, made by Ignacy Lukaszewicz. Can you believe that, thanks to this graduate of the Jagiellonian University, in the early 20th century Polish lands provided 10 percent of the total world production of crude oil? A little further on, stop at house number 14. It was hence, on October 18, 1558, that the **first postal couriers** set off, inaugurating a constant postal mail route from Krakow-Venice (other sources associated the

Morsztynowska Townhouse, Main Market Square 7, with this event). The journey lasted 10 days, and sending a shipment weighing one lot (about 13 g) cost 6 groschen (equivalent to four hens). Today, the former post office building houses a hotel, where in December 1805, Tsar Alexander I slept after fleeing from Austerlitz, mentally broken, and later the great Honoré de Balzac, speeding from Paris to Wierchowonia. Whether the writer certainly slept here is not known (some sources state that he spent the night at Stradomska St. 13). In Krakow no-one peeks into anyone's bed.

**Y**ou are getting closer and closer to the Marian towers which close the street. In the one closer to you, at a height of 54 m above the Main Market Square (239 stairs) is the highest located job in Poland. Since 1393, every hour, around the clock, trumpeters

have played the St. Mary's bugle call to the four corners of the world from there. Since 1927, at noon the bugle call is transmitted by radio; it has become the oldest continuously broadcast music radio programme in the world. At one time, its sound opened and closed the city gates; while today it welcomes visitors like you. The melody of the bugle call (which came from Hungary) breaks off suddenly to commemorate the death of the trumpeter playing the alarm, whose throat – according to legend – was pierced by an arrow from a Tatar bow in 1241. In the tower itself, unlike other European towers, there has never – knock on wood – been a large fire.

Now you're standing in front of the **Basilica of St. Mary's**, the most famous of the more than 100 churches in Krakow. The church hosts the largest and most beautiful late Gothic altar in Europe, carved by the master





The north-eastern portion of the Main Market Square with St. Mary's Church, photographer unknown, 1920s

of Nuremberg – Veit Stoss. When he was carving the characters in linden wood, the models were the 15th century citizens of Krakow. On some of the figures, the artist presented traces of skin diseases and rheumatism in very realistic fashion. One of the characters (Judas) is affected by syphilis. The altar was built in the second half of the 15th century, which refutes the claim that the “French disease” was first brought to the Old Continent by Christopher Columbus’ sailors (1493).

**A**nd here is the **Main Market Square**, the largest mediaeval square in Europe – 210 × 212 m (4 hectares, 3 ares and 34 m<sup>2</sup>). Once it was densely built-up, with a magnificent town hall, a granary, a pillory, the large and small city scales, and later also a guardhouse. In every corner of the Market Square, traders reigned. There were salt, coal, lead,

bread, fish, crayfish, and hen markets. Flour and oil were traded, and bakers, shoemakers, potters, carpenters, and rope-makers all had their allocated places. Where now stands the statue of Adam Mickiewicz, there were the stalls of the Jews. Today the Market Square is a real salon, a favourite daily meeting spot for its inhabitants and important public gatherings. From early spring to late autumn, the square turns into an atmospheric colourful cafe, filled with the hubbub of conversation. The buildings surrounding the Market Square are the residences of magnates, royal courtiers, rich merchants, and wealthy citizens. Each of them has a long history; each has witnessed many events; each has its own vivid legend. It is worth halting at a few of them.

**N**ow turn to the right. This side of the Market Square is the **A-B row** (the idea of naming the frontages



The Bonerowska House, Main Market Square 42,  
Photo Ignacy Krieger Photographic Studio, ca. 1880

of the Market Square A–B, C–D, E–F, G–H came from the great Cracovian marine writer Józef Conrad Korzeniowski, better known as Joseph Conrad) – the famous Krakow promenade where you can hear all the rumours and gossip from nationwide and around the world, and in both summer and winter an unrelenting fashion show.

The first of the townhouses (No. 47, on the corner of Floriańska St.) is called the **Mint**, years ago the site of the Dresden Hotel. When in the last years of the 19th century Bolesław Prus, the writer, spent the night here, he noted that sleep was impossible because “some crazy man plays the trumpet from the tower every hour”.

The **Pod Orłem** (The Eagle) house (No. 45), was the home of Tadeusz Kościuszko in 1775. And it was probably here that he took his

imperishable decision, after his unsuccessful efforts for the hand of daughter of Hetman Józef Sosnowski, to cure his aching heart across the ocean. That same autumn he stood on American soil, where he soon became a hero in the struggle for American independence.

The **Pod Słońcem** (The Sun) house (No. 43) is an important place in Polish pharmacy. Here studied two sisters – both by birth and religious – Filipina and Konstancja Studzińska, who in 1824 were the first women in the world, after graduating from the Academy of Krakow, to receive a master’s degree in pharmacy.

In the **Kencowska house** (No. 38), the Italian-Swiss confectionery Cortesi, Redolfi and Maurizio families reigned throughout the 19th century. Delicious cakes were served here, as were punches, ice cream, candied fruit and other sweets, and the pastry shop

itself was considered the most beautiful shop in Poland.

In the famous inn **Pod Jeleniem** (The Deer) (No. 36), Johann Wolfgang von Goethe stopped from 5–7 September 1790. The poet knew that in the early years of the 16th century, Dr. Johannes Faust, the title character of his nascent masterpiece, studied alchemy at the Academy of Cracow. Unfortunately, the ingrate did not mention a word of Faust's stay in Krakow in his work.

**I**n the **Krzysztofory Palace** (line C–D, No. 35), now the seat of the Historical Museum of Krakow, crowned heads once stayed: Jan Kazimierz, Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki, and Stanisław August Poniatowski. In 1878, the colonial merchant **Antoni Hawelka** (the company still exists today) began to serve his guests at first simple, later elaborately composed,

sandwiches – the first in Polish lands. After the Second World War II, Tadeusz Kantor created the Cricot 2 theatre in Krzysztofory.

Nearby, in the **Spiski Palace** (No. 34), in the last years of the 18th century, the carriage and piano manufacturer Jacek Kluszewski created the city's first permanent theatre stage.

The **Tenczerowska House**, now demolished (in its place stands building No. 31), hosted Krakow's first café in the second half of the 18th century. The thrifty owner, Marianna Sędrakowska, served excellent coffee here with skin from milk, but for fear of theft the spoons were chained to the tops of the tables.

Anna Sarkandy, famous for her dazzling beauty and muse of greatest Hungarian poet of the Renaissance Bálint Balassi, welcomed visitors with Hungarian wine to the basement of the **Pod Baranami Palace** (Under

the Rams) (No. 27) at the time of the Stefan Batory (a plaque reminding visitors of this is visible in św. Anny St.). In later years crowned heads, including Emperor Franz Joseph I, also stopped here. The palace, whose entrance is adorned by rams' heads, has played host to the famous **Piwnicca Pod Baranami** cabaret since 1956. You'll return in a moment to św. Anny St., entering the Market Square here, to go to the Collegium Maius, but now, circling the Market Square, aim for Grodzka Street.

**T**he **Kromerowska House** (line E-F, No. 23) hosts the oldest bookshop in Europe, operating since 1610. This temple to learning was founded by Franciszek Mercenich, and successive owners included Gebethner and Wolff, and today's Matras. Tradition has it that to the **Morsztynowska House** (No. 16) Mikołaj



The southern part of the Main Market Square at the exit of Grodzka Street.  
Photo Ignacy Krieger Photographic Studio, ca. 1885

Wierzynek, merchant and banker to Casimir the Great, invited the distinguished guests of the Polish monarch in 1364. The participants in the famous feast at Wierzynek's were, among others, the German Emperor and King of Bohemia Charles IV (in Krakow, he married the most powerful woman in Europe at the time – 16-year-old Elizabeth of Pomerania), King Louis of Hungary, the Danish king Waldemar, Peter, king of Cyprus, and a whole host of titled followers. It is said that this was the first major peace conference in Europe. From the corner of the Market Square where you now stand, only one street leads out – Grodzka, and the reason is that during the incorporation of the town (1257) two trade routes converged here (from the west, from Silesia, and from the east, from Rus), to join together towards the Vistula crossing. Nearby, on a now

defunct hill, a small church was erected dedicated to St. Adalbert of Prague, who arrived from the Vltava River (the first Czech to sail the sea). This is where the Saint of Three Nations preached a sermon. And this is not merely a legend – under the walls of the church, fragments of stone buildings from the late 10th century were recently discovered.

**N**ow head towards the final frontage of the Market Square (line G–H). The townhouse called **Bonerowska** or **Firlejowska** (No. 9) in 1605, was the site of the marriage between Marina Mniszech and Tsar Dmitriy I the False. This was the beginning of a memorable struggle, which resulted in red-white flags flapping above the Kremlin; on November 7, 1612, however, the Poles were expelled from Moscow.

The **Szara Kamienica** (Grey Townhouse) (No. 6) was said to have been built by Casimir the Great for his favourite, Sarah. After the swearing of the uprising in 1794, Tadeusz Kościuszko lived here.

“The Commander in the Kaftan”, like Napoleon, liked sour milk – perhaps this is why Poland’s first milk bar was opened in this Krakow townhouse in 1949? It was called “Pod Bańką” (Under the Bubble), and its menu numbered four pages!

Come now towards the **Adam Mickiewicz monument**. Constructed on the hundredth anniversary of the poet’s birth, the monument long aroused strong emotions, and not everyone liked it. The son of the bard, Władysław, said diplomatically that the monument “could be worse”. “Adaś” – as we call him – became close to the hearts of Cracovians, and is the site for lyrical meetings between



Adam Mickiewicz Monument on the Main Market Square,  
Photo Stanisław Kolowca, ca 1935

lovers, as well as a grandstand to announce often controversial views. Every year on December 24, on the poet's nameday, Krakow florists lay red and white bouquets on the steps of the monument.

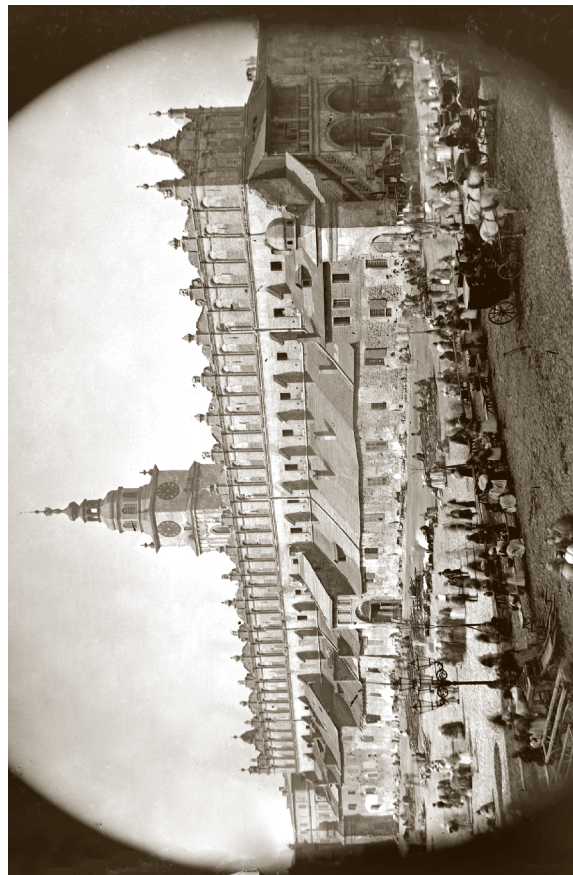
In the middle of the Market Square stands the **Cloth Hall** – Poland's oldest shopping arcade. First, there was a row of stone stalls here, forming a lane running through the centre of the square. In the times of Casimir the Great, the market was roofed and sited in a large brick building. After a fire which broke out here in 1555, the previously Gothic building was given a Renaissance form and the Italian artist Santi Gucci adorned the attic obscuring the roof with gargoyles. These faces are those of the most distinguished contemporary merchants and townspeople – Poland's first gallery of caricatures. During the reconstruction of the Cloth Hall in the second half of the

19th century, Warsaw architect Tomasz Pryliński enriched this collection of images with the first two mayors of the city from the period of Galician autonomy. Above the entrance on the Adam Mickiewicz monument side, Józef Dietl, with a turkey on his head, looks towards the A–B line; while Mikołaj Zybkiewicz, decorated with a rooster, looks towards Grodzka Street. Is it a commentary from the capital on the vices of Krakow? A string of wooden stalls on either side of the Cloth Hall was designed by Jan Matejko. In the upper part of the building, in 1879, the first **National Museum** in Polish lands was founded, today a gallery of 19th century Polish painting and sculpture. Podkowiński's famous "Frenzy", exhibited there, has been damaged three times, "for reasons of decency". In the right wing of the Cloth Hall, beautifully restored in



2010, under the arcades, you'll find the entrance to the **underground museum**, unique in Europe. Six metres under the Market Square, at the level of the pavements on which in the 10th century (during the times of St. Adalbert) Cracovians trod, you'll discover the origins of the city. You're enveloped by the hum of merchants selling goods, puddles will squelch underfoot, sometimes a rat will cross the road ahead of you, or one of the kings will give you a wink. In Krakow, nothing is impossible!

When you exit the museum go along the other side of the Cloth Hall, towards the entrance to Bracka Street you will see a **plaque** commemorating the **Prussian Tribute** given here (1525). Albert Hohenzollern, Duke in Prussia, then swore to Sigismund the Old and his kingdom undying loyalty, but 247 years later Prussia took part in the first partition of Poland, and soon after



The Cloth Hall – view from the east, photo Ignacy Krieger Photographic Studio, ca. 1870

the complete liquidation of the once powerful and vast Commonwealth. To the right of the Cloth Hall stands – inclined from the vertical by 40 cm – the **tower of the old Town Hall**. Two **stone lions** at the entrance keep order in the Market Square. The Town Hall itself – a mediæval building housing the chamber of the city council, the executioner’s cells, and the cellars with Świdnickie beer – was demolished in 1820.

**To** get to the old university district you must enter św. Anny St. At the junction with Jagiellońska St., you can see the Gothic **Collegium Maius**, one of the first offices established in 1364, a year before the Vienna University, and the first university in Poland – the Academy of Krakow (now the Jagiellonian University). Students have included the brilliant astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus and the future pope Karol Wojtyła. Poland’s first graduate (Andrzej Wężyk,



Section of the courtyard of the Collegium Maius of the Jagiellonian University, Photo Ignacy Krieger Photographic Studio, ca. 1875

son of the royal chef) was promoted by the university in 1402. If you now turn to the left into Jagiellońska St., you'll reach the big red, neo-Gothic building of the Collegium Novum, the seat of the Jagiellonian University authorities. Now, with 15 faculties and 152 courses, the former Studium Generale educates more than 51,000 students (all 23 Krakow universities educate a total of over 200,000). From here along the Planty, on the initiative of the weekly "Przekrój", the world's first and only march of the "sausage dogs" – dachshunds – set out in 1973, and it is held annually to this day. From the Collegium Novum along Piłsudskiego St., you can see the **Kościuszko Mound** towering over the city, erected in 1823, and at its foot, the huge (44 acres – more than the area of the Vatican) meadow – the famous Krakow **Błonia**. It was there that in 1892 Polish football was born, and in 1906 the two oldest football

clubs were founded: Cracovia and Wisła.

From the windows below the home of the Rector of the Jagiellonian University, walk along the Planty to Franciszkańska St., where the mighty **Bishop's Palace**, the seat of the metropolitan curia of Krakow, stands. Here Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, later Pope John Paul II, lived and worked. From the window above the entrance, during his pilgrimages to his homeland he spoke to the faithful, especially the young. In the palace courtyard is the first Polish statue of John Paul II (1979), and in the building, in a glass case, the thumb of the first Polish king – Boleslaw the Brave – imported from Poznań.

**F**ranciszkańska St. is a place where you can meet many Church dignitaries, priests in dog collars, monks and nuns, as well as students at the Pontifical

University of John Paul II, which is located here. On the other side are the **Franciscan monastery and church**. It is in this church that rests the remains of the childless (because with his Hungarian wife Kinga he vowed chastity) founder of Krakow the city – Duke Bolesław the Chaste. It was also here that the later King, Ladislaus the Short, hid from the enemy. Here, in deepest secrecy, the Polish queen Jadwiga travelled via underground passage from Wawel, to meet with the Habsburg prince William; finally, she married Jagiełło, but the legend remained. In the Franciscan church, you have to see the stained glass window, placed above the choir to the west, bearing the name “God the Father – Let There Be Light”. This masterpiece was designed by Stanislaw Wyspiański (1904). The artist’s mother’s brother posed for the work – Adam Rogowski, a participant in the January Uprising



All Saints Square, the Włodkowski palace and the Franciscan Church,  
Photo Ignacy Krieger: Photographic Studio, ca. 1887

and a Siberian, who at the end of his life was a beggar.

Franciszkańska Street leads to **All Saints' Square**, dominated by the statue by Ksawery Dunikowski portraying one of Krakow's greatest mayors – **Józef Dietl**, simultaneously Rector of the Jagiellonian University and a balneologist, populariser of the beneficial properties of the waters of Krynica, Szczawnica and Iwonicz. Behind the mayor is the Wielopolski Palace, seat of the council of Krakow, whose coat of arms is – remember! – a gate always wide open to newcomers.

**A**ll Saints' Square is adjacent to **Grodzka Street**, running towards Wawel, and on the other side extends another square – Dominikański. From here, it is only a few steps to the consulates of: Germany, France and the USA (Joel Barlow, the first U.S. diplomat killed in foreign service,

died, returning with Napoleon from Moscow in 1812, and is buried near Krakow). The square took its name from the Gothic **Dominican church and monastery**. This church hosts the relics of St. Hyacinth, and also the remains of Prince Leszek Czarny of the Piast dynasty, publicly accused by his wife of being unable to ensure the continuity of the dynasty.

**N**ow go back to Grodzka Street – the second part of the **Royal Route**. In 1840, the great actress Helena Modrzejewska was born in the corner house on the right (recalled by a commemorative plaque), who was also the mother of one of the most famous bridge builders in the U.S. – Ralph Modjeski.

Going along Grodzka St. towards Wawel, at number 39 you will find the house of **Veit Stoss**. The Master had several houses in the area. This is not



Dominikański Square with the Dominican Church,  
Photo Ignacy Krieger Photographic Studio, ca. 1880

surprising, since finally, for the altar of the church of St. Mary's, he got 2808 florins – as much as the annual budget of the city.

Now turn right into **Senacka St.** and head towards the **Archaeological Museum**, once housing the prison of St. Michael. Many served their sentence here, but the most famous prisoner was the highlander, looking for work and convicted of vagrancy, the hero born behind bars “Michael”, of the song “Highlander, do you not regret” – once the unofficial Polish national anthem.

Come back to Grodzka. Heading towards the Castle again, you will soon see the magnificent old stone façade of the baroque **Church of Sts. Peter and Paul**, founded (apparently as part of penance for the transfer of the capital to Warsaw) by Sigismund III Vasa. Inside is the coffin with the remains of the famous royal preacher – the Jesuit Piotr Skarga, supposedly

buried in torpor, which is apparently indicated by the arrangement of bones in the coffin. These rumours were denied by Primate Cardinal August Hlond: “What kind of torpor! In Krakow, it is just difficult not to turn over in your grave! “... This you do not need to really believe.

Near the Jesuit temple are the stark beauty of the Romanesque **Church of St. Andrew**, which will bring you to your knees, and the **Convent of the Poor Clares**. The baroque gate with a statue of the most famous (beside St. Adalbert) Czech in Polish lands – John of Nepomuk, the patron saint of, among others, the confidentiality of confession – leads to them. In the convent, there are Poland’s oldest nativity figurines, imported from Italy, and created in the second half of the 14th century.

At the end of Grodzka Street, turn right in front of the Gothic Church



St. Andrew's Church on Grodzka Street,  
Photo Ignacy Krieger Photographic Studio, ca. 1866

of St. Giles. After a while you'll stand in front of the long building of the former **Górka Palace**, adjacent to **Kanonicza St.**, named after its former function as Pod Telegrafem. At the turn of the 20th century it housed the city jail. A plaque on the wall of the building indicates that in 1903, a detainee imprisoned for vagrancy was newcomer from Prague, Jaroslav Hasek – later the author of “The Adventures of the Good Soldier Schweik”.

Across Kanonicza Street is the former royal bath. A special envoy of Queen Jadwiga spied on her future husband here, “the wild visitor from Lithuania” – Władysław Jagiełło. In the 15th century, the house belonged to the great chronicler Jan Długosz, educator of four sons of King Casimir Jagiellończyk (three of them, including one cardinal, died of syphilis).

**A**t the end of Kanonicza Street of palaces and homes of Church



Vistula River at Wawel, photo Ignacy Krieger Photographic Studio, ca. 1896



dignitaries, is the final section of the former Royal Route, where rises the mighty profile of **Wawel**, the limestone cliffs on the Vistula River. The name “Wawel” means “dry, raised place among waters and wetlands”. The first ruler who settled here was reportedly the legendary founder of Kraków – Prince Krak, the father of Wanda, who – according to legend – did not want a German. For centuries, Polish kings were crowned and buried here. Up the hill the road leads along a wall adorned with **plaques** with the names of **donors** who supported the **reconstruction of the castle** which, at the beginning of the 20th century, was in a deplorable state. Behind the **Vasa Gate** on the right you will find the **Cathedral Museum**, with the famous spear of St. Maurice, which ensures good fortune in battle. Nearby stands the statue of John Paul II and the **Presbytery**, and opposite the stairs leading

to the millennial threetowered **Cathedral**. At the entrance to the cathedral, on the left, hanging on chains, are the **bones** belonging, according to legend, to the **dragon**, which Prince Krak killed in 700 using a poisoned ram. When they fall, the world will end – in Krakow no one doubts this.

Behind the cathedral, turn left past the **Sigismund Chapel** with its golden dome, and enter the **castle courtyard**, former site of knightly tournaments, with spilled bull's blood. In 1547 the prostitute Zofia Długa, dressed in armour, took part in these struggles. In the wall on the left, at the intersection of the rays of the Cosmos with the rays of the Earth, lies the legendary life-giving **chakra**, invisible to the human eye. No one knows what it actually is, but all believe that leaning on the wall here will provide health and strength. Well, what are you waiting for? Nearby is the royal treasury, the place where we stored the monarch's

sceptre and crown. They were plundered and melted in 1795 by the Prussians.

Exit the arcaded courtyard and head straight west, toward the red-brick building (a former military hospital from the 19th century). Stand beside it for a moment and look at the panorama of the Vistula. It meanders, like the Tiber through Rome, between the hills visible from here: **Krzemionki** – where the famous sorcerer Lord Twardowski, the world's first astronaut, met the devil, **Skalka** – the legendary site of the death of St. Stanislaus, **Wawel and Bielany** with its **Camaldolese monastery**... From 1772, after the first partition of Poland, this line of the Vistula River below Wawel marked the border between the Most Serene Republic and Austria. In 1787, the last Polish king – Stanisław August Poniatowski – looked over this boundary in tears from the castle windows. Close

to each other you will see fragments of the old defensive wall and, on the right, the 15th century **Thieves Tower** – once the prison and place of execution for thugs, robbers and ravagers, rounded up over the nearby Silesian border. In a small turret in front of you is the entrance to the **Dragon's Den**, the legendary seat of the mighty dragon “whole-eater” and later the Vistula luxury inn, famous across Europe. Even bored kings popped in incognito, including mostly frequently Henry Valois, longing for his Paris home. Today, at the foot of the hill, in front of the Dragon's Den, on the bank of the river, stands a fire-breathing **monument to Wawel's monster**.

The street now guides you past the old places of execution for murderers and rebels, the remnants of the old walls and the **Sandomierz and Senators towers** (once the storehouse of the royal robes) to the **Bernardyńska Gate** and down

to **Stradomska Street**. Here ends the Royal Route, but let's move on...

**S**tradomska Street (from the Italian *strada*) was once the way that followed the old salt trail towards Wieliczka. The house at number 13 is the former **Hotel Pod Białą Rożą** (White Rose), where (in 1847, 1849 and 1850) Honoré de Balzac stayed on his way to Ewelina Hańska living in distant Wierchownia.

When, moving away from the Castle, you cross Józefa Dietla Street – Cracovians call this broad artery from the second half of the 19th century on the site of the filled **Old Vistula** riverbed the **Planty Dietłowskie** – you'll find yourself at the beginning of **Krakowska Street**. Newcomers often wonder why Krakow has a street of that name. The fact is that for centuries it was the main road of the separate city, located behind the Old Vistula, that was **Kazimierz**.



Dietla Street, photo Ignacy Krieger Photographic Studio, ca. 1910

And on the left of Krakowska, **Józefa Street** took its name not from the biblical saint, but from the Emperor Joseph II, who visited the Polish lands which fell to the Habsburgs after the first Partition.

**F**rom Krakowska you'll reach **Wolnica Square**. This is a small part of the vast former Kazimierz market square, whose size (195 × 195 m) could not, however, overshadow the Market Square in Krakow. The western end of the north of the square was marked by the **Church of St. Catherine** (now on Augustiańska St.), and the eastern by **Corpus Christi Church**. The Renaissance Kazimierz Town Hall now houses the **Museum of Ethnography**.

At one point **Bożego Ciała St.** crosses **Rabina Meiselsa Street**. One name is closely associated with the Christian tradition, the second with the Jewish, and the meeting of these two streets is at this point a symbol. It is evidence

of the centuries-old neighbourhood and harmonious coexistence of Poles and Jews..

Go now past the **Centre for Jewish Culture** (Meiselsa St. 17) to Nowy Square (also known as Żydowski [**Jewish**]), alluring tourists with its host of atmospheric pubs and cafés. The centre of the square is occupied by a kosher poultry slaughterhouse built by the Jewish community in 1900, and today a pavilion with local delicacies. From here, we are close to **Szeroka Street**. This is the centre of Jewish Krakow – so famous that even Chava, the daughter of Tevye the Dairyman from Anatevka (remember “Fiddler on the Roof”) was not persuaded to go to New York. “Daddy!” she cried out to her father. “Daddy! We are going to Krakow!” And Jewish Krakow was in Kazimierz. Kazimierz – founded in 1335 by order of King Casimir the Great – was originally a Polish city. Its Jewish history



Wolnica Square with Corpus Christi Church,  
Photo Ignacy Krieger Photographic Studio, ca. 1880

began in 1495 when King Jan Olbracht ordered Krakow's Jews to leave the capital city and head across the Old Vistula. Shortly afterwards there began pouring in crowds of Jews from different parts of Europe. Expelled from Germany, Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Italy and Spain, they found a new home here. In the 16th century, Kazimierz became an important European centre for Orthodox law, which was fostered by the rabbi of the local municipality, the eminent scholar and philosopher Moses Isserles.

At the end of Szeroka St. is the **Old Synagogue**, one of the most valuable relics of European Jewish sacral architecture. It is Gothic-Renaissance building from the end of the 15th century now houses the **Jewish** collections of the Historical Museum of Krakow.

At Szeroka Street 40, you can visit the still active **Remuh synagogue** built in 1553. From the rear adjacent to

it is a Jewish cemetery (beit kvarot), one of the oldest in Europe, where Moses Isserles is buried. At the tomb of this philosopher, scholar and miracle worker pilgrims still leave notes with their requests.

On the opposite side of Szeroka Street, at number 14, is a building listed in the biography of Helena Rubinstein, founder of the global cosmetics empire. Here she was born and in 1890 left – via Australia – to conquer the world. Szeroka Street was also the location for scenes from Steven Spielberg’s famous film “Schindler’s List”. Also, for many years the final concert of the annual **Jewish Culture Festival** has been held here. The **granite monument** located on Szeroka St. recalls the 65 thousand Jewish residents of Krakow murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust. If you want to learn the history of Krakow’s Jews, as well as more about the fate prepared for them by the Nazis –

you should take the **Ghetto Memorial Trail 1941–1943** (in Old Podgórze) and head for the camp in Płaszow (Jerozolimska St.). You also should not miss the multimedia exhibition in the former **Schindler Factory** (Lipowa Street 4). All this is on the other, right, bank of the Vistula River, in the Podgórze district.

**In** the meantime, sit down at one of the nearby restaurants, whether in the former mikvah, or in one of the merchant houses of Kazimierz. Try to memorise what you’ve seen. Try to recall – maybe over a glass of wine – the flavours of the old days.

One walk is not enough to see all the charms of Krakow. You have to come back here because: *Extra Cracovia non est vita* (Outside Krakow there is no life).

We’ll be waiting for you.  
**Czuma & Mazan**

### Explanation:

**On** Christmas Eve 1906, Professor Reginald Aubrey Fessenden played a melody on the violin in front of a microphone which was transmitted by the broadcasting station in Brant Rock.

In 1907, De Forest Radio Telephone in New York began to broadcast constant music programmes. They did this until 1911.

One of the following constant music programmes is the direct daily transmission of the St. Mary's bugle call, present on the air since 1927. While other earlier programmes ceased to exist, this has continued. Unchanged until 2016.

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