

KRAKOW - GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: Krakow is located in the south of Poland, on the Vistula River (the largest of the Polish rivers). It is the capital of Malopolska region.

Region: Malopolska

Population: 761 069 (year 2015)

Area: 327 km²

Krakow is a city with a thousand-year-old history. The former seat of the Polish kings and the capital of the country, nowadays is an important European metropolis. Krakow's Old Town is a unique treasury of works of art, historical monuments and historic buildings, representing almost all architectural styles, from the Middle Ages to the present day. For hundreds of years, the Main Market Square has remained the heart of the city. **It is the largest town square of medieval Europe, preserved in unchanged form since 1257 and included in the first list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites already in 1978.** For the last 600 years, every full hour the sound of the Krakow's bugle call can be heard from the tower of St Mary's Basilica. Additionally, the Cloth Hall – the medieval market hall located in the middle of the Market Square – is one of the most recognizable Polish monuments. Krakow's pride is also the second oldest institution of higher education in Central Europe – the Jagiellonian University. Also the Wawel Royal Castle has been overlooking the city for centuries – the beginnings of the residence of the Polish kings on the Wawel Hill date back to mid-11th century.

Apart from the monuments of the Old Town, Kazimierz district, which is an example of a centuries-long coexistence of Christian and Jewish culture, filled with Jewish monuments of global importance, continues to amaze. It is a district of antique and work of art markets, of cosy cafes, restaurants and pubs where live music can be enjoyed.

Krakow is also a city vibrating with cultural life. **In the year 2000 it was chosen to be the European Capital of Culture and in 2013 awarded the title of UNESCO City of Literature.** Every year, nearly 100 festivals and other world-famous cultural events take place here. It is also a city of modern museums, where visitors can come face to face with history. The capital of the Malopolska region can also boast about a rich offer for sports and recreation enthusiasts.