

TOUR 1

SIGHTSEEING OF KRAKOW

Kraków – rich and splendid, the former capital of one-time largest dynastic power in Europe, cosmopolitan and tolerant, home to “artists” from many countries, Kraków is a place you will fall in love one every street corner.

If Rome wasn't Rome it would be Kraków – said Machiavelli and we whole-heartedly agree. Kraków is a city of great contrasts, of holiness and profanity, of tradition and modernity, Today's thriving economy and vibrant cultural life coexist with the authentic atmosphere of the flourishing Middle Ages, the exuberant Renaissance and the mystic Baroque.

Our guide will take us to various places: those parts of the city usually included in the classical tour and some which are off the beaten track. Expect a feeling of growing suspense, a plot full of unexpected turns, a story of the glorious prime and power of a country which was once the largest on the continent, tales of its triumph and despair, victories and defeats, power and money, traitors and poisoners, secrets from the royal throne but at the same time tales of its spiritual strengths and fervent religious beliefs. That's the way Krakow was. And still is.

During the tour you will visit, among others the Main Market Square, Royal Way, St.Mary's Church, boasting the biggest medieval altarpiece of Europe and dozens of palaces and mansions as well as the Wawel Hill, with the Royal Cathedral - the place of Royal Coronations and wedding ceremonies and the Wawel Castle with a superb collection of XVI century tapestries.

In Krakow Here, every portal, every bay-window, every courtyard hides **thousands of mysteries and incredible stories** ... Our guide's vividly-told story will take us back into Krakow's Golden Age, where we will meet noble knights, hot-headed burghers, comely ladies and harlots, and we will hear about the noble and wicked deeds of philanthropists and villains, of torture and penance.

You will see among others:

Main Market Square, the largest medieval square in the world, and one of its most magnificent, a centre of religious worship, trade and commerce, a unique *salon*, surrounded by dozens of superb mansions replete with wonderful architectural detail.

Cloth Hall. Town Hall. Saint Mary's Church – Veit Stoss Altar.



Royal Way: along the route of Royal processions and the main commercial axis of the town. **Kanonicza street** – in the old days inhabited by the canons of Wawel Cathedral. Gothic and renaissance houses. **Saint Andrew's Church. Saint Peter and saint Paul.**



Franciscan Church – mysterious world of medieval brotherhoods -Brotherhood of the Passion of Christ, also – the most famous Krakow's stained glass windows.

University district. Collegium Novum. **Collegium Maius** – the main and the oldest location of the Jagiellonian University



Szczepanski Square – a handful of exciting destinations off the beaten track, rarely seen Way of the Cross next to the Church of the Reformed Franciscans, Palace of Art, The Old Theatre.

Wawel Hill, Wawel Cathedral – the main coronation and burial church of Poland. The statue of the Dragon.

Wawel Castle - residence of Polish Kings and Queens, splendid example of a Renaissance courtyard and Royal Chambers showing **the collection of Arras Tapestries** , probably some of the most valuable collections of this kind in the world.

A POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF THE TOUR: Recently under the Main Market Square, they've opened one of Central Europe's best archaeological museums. It's a remarkable complex of the remnants of Krakow's oldest buildings (some of which date back to the pre-Christian times) stone paths with grooves worn by the wheels of wagons transporting goods in the old times, the oldest brick trade stalls, medieval city scales for goods, ornaments, coins,

any dozens of other highlights.

Duration approx 3,5 hours

COST/person – 55 PLN, includes:

- Service of professional city guide
- Entrance fee to Wawel Cathedral
- Entrance fee to St.Mary's Church