Quick intro

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Upcoming events in Krakow

ONLINE SEMESTER POLISH LANGUAGE COURSE
From Jun 9th 2020 until Aug 27th 2020, on

Polish Language Online Course at Varia
From Mar 31st 2020 until Jun 30th 2020, on

Polish Language Online Course at Varia
From Mar 27th 2020 until Jun 30th 2020, on

More on www.local-life.com/krakow/events ›

Best rated restaurants in Krakow

Marta's Meal
ul. Anczyca 11

Eataway
at homes right across the city

Cafe Oranzeria-Percheron Rest.
Plac Kossaka 1

Pasta Bar Resto & Wine
ul. Sławkowska 13-15

Cupcake Corner
ul. Michałowskiego 14

Biala Roza
ul. Straszewskiego 16

Europejska
Rynek Główny 35

Hummus Amamamusi
ul. Augustiańska 3

More on www.local-life.com/krakow/restaurants ›

Most popular pubs & clubs in Krakow

Strefa
sw. Tomasza 31

Pauza In Garden
ul. Rajska 12 (enter from ul. Szujskiego)
Best hotels in Krakow

Hotel Kossak
Pl. Kossaka 1

Mariacki Apartment
ul. Pijarska 21

Hotel Wentzl
Rynek Główny 19

BEST WESTERN Krakow Old Town
ul. św. Gertrudy 6

Krakow Hotels
Old Town

Opera Apartment
ul. Pijarska 19

Hotel Copernicus
ul. Kanonicza 16

Classic Apartment
ul. Pijarska 19

Essential services in Krakow

Krakow Shuttle Bus
Krakow Airport

Cruising Krakow
ul. Sławkowska 6A

Main Bus Station
ul. Bosacka 18

Krakow Property
Old Town

Krakow Car Rental
City Centre

Michal Fluder Translations

Boogie Airport Transfer
Old Town

Krakow Weddings
Kraków

Need some culture?

Art Decorum
Al. Kasztanowa 63

The Aviation Museum
Al. Jana Pawła II 39

More on www.local-life.com/krakow/pubs ›

More on www.local-life.com/krakow/hotels ›

More on www.local-life.com/krakow/services ›
The Stained Glass Museum
Al. Krasińskiego 23

NOVA
ul. Batorego 2

Capella Cracoviensis
ul. Sw Marka

Cloth Hall Gallery
Rynek Główny 1/3

Agrafka Cinema
ul. Krowoderska 8

Jewish Community Center
ul. Miodowa 24

More on www.local-life.com/krakow/culture ›
Travel tips

Here are a few things to remember during your time in Cracow:

Avoid changing your money at the Bureaux de Change in the town centre unless you want to hand a complete stranger an early Christmas present - the rates can be awful.

Don't hail your taxis from the rank - ask someone to phone for one - it's generally 30 percent cheaper. Uber and Mytaxi also work in Krakow, so use their apps for convenience.

Using your mobile phone is straightforward, and if you are from the EU, prices for data usage should be no more than you pay at home.

Take care when buying antiques. It's illegal to export certain items, particularly old paintings, produced before 1945.

Don't expect first class service in Krakow's restaurants and bars - the city still has a long way to go in that respect!

Things have improved a lot however in the last few years, and with an ever-increasing amount of tourists in the city tipping is also becoming customary. Ten percent on any meal should mean you're welcomed back next time!

One of the ancient Chakra energy stones is believed to be buried in Wawel Castle. It's all nonsense, according to the guides, but thousands still come for the vibe.

If you're planning a trip to Krakow be sure to book your accommodation in advance, particularly in the high season. The best hotels fill out quickly, with apartments a better bet for last minute breaks. Backpackers meanwhile should check out our page on Krakow hostels.

When it comes to partying, Cracovians start early and finish late. Whereas you'll find it hard to get a seat if you arrive at a nightspot after ten, the clubs only really start to get going when Cinderella's on her way home... and carry on until 4 a.m. or even later. If you want to go the distance make sure you pace yourself! Krakow has more drinking holes per square metre than anywhere else in the world. Hurrah!

Bring warm clothes and a hat. The weather in Poland can be surprisingly pleasant, but equally it can have a bitter cold edge even in late spring. You may just end up blessing that ridiculous old balaclava.

Poles are passionate about their food. Throw away your preconceptions about miserable Eastern Bloc stews, and be prepared for a great surprise.

Poland has adopted its own uniquely confusing symbols for differentiating public toilets for men and women. The circle is for women, the triangle for men!

Getting around

By taxi

The big trick of taking taxis in Cracow is to avoid taking one from a rank on the street. You will pay 30 percent less if you order one by phone. This leads to the bizarre sight of people with mobiles ringing whilst standing next to the taxi they wish to take. A minute later, following clearance from ground control, and the punters are on their way! If you are looking for a reliable taxi service, either to the airport or elsewhere in town then you can use Cracow-life.com's online taxi booking to reserve your ride. Alternatively call 9191 when you arrive and tell the operator that Cracow Life sent you! Please note that taxis cannot be hailed from the street whilst they are moving. You will be ignored!
By car
You can hire a car to get around, but if you plan to spend most of your time in the city, think carefully. Apart from the difficulty of driving on the right, there are trams to contend with, a boggling one-way system, and signs that even native Poles struggle to comprehend. Parking is severely restricted in the Old Town, and three different enforcement agencies (Parking, Municipal and National Police) to contend with. The alternative, public transport, is a far better bet.

By public transport
What most cities dream of - safe, efficient and cheap transportation, through a network of trams and buses. Buy your tickets (2.50PLN for adults, 1.25PLN concession) from any of the little kiosks that are dotted around the town. All journeys cost the same, irrespective of distance. Jump aboard the bus or tram and punch your little ticket in one of the little orange boxes. Keep the stamped stub for the not infrequent checks by plain-clothes inspectors.

By bike
Those cobbles aren't very good for your backside, and there's always the crowds and pigeons to contend with, but nonetheless getting around Cracow by bike is a great option. You can whizz round the Old Town in a jiffy and, thanks to the added mobility of two wheels, you can also head further afield.