

KRAKÓW

ENCOUNTER

MARA VORHEES

Kraków Encounter

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Colour-Coding & Maps

Colour-coding is used for symbols on maps and in the text that they relate to (eg all eating venues on the maps and in the text are given a green knife and fork symbol). Each neighbourhood also gets its own colour, and this is used down the edge of the page and throughout that neighbourhood section.

Shaded yellow areas on the maps denote areas of interest – for their historical significance, their attractive architecture or their great bars and restaurants. We encourage you to head to these areas and just start exploring!

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MARA VORHEES

On the first day of her first visit to Kraków (on her first Lonely Planet assignment), Mara was assailed by a group of teenage boys who doused her with water. The first time, she was amused; the second time, she was angry; and the third time, she brought her own bucket. It was Lany Poniedziałek, otherwise known as 'Wet Monday'. Despite this soggy introduction, Mara fell in love with the medieval city and its millennium of history. She has since heard the *hejnał* (bugle call) hundreds of times, but she has never again had a bucket of water dumped on her head.



As a longtime student of Russia, Mara is endlessly delighted by the similarities and differences between Poland and its neighbour to the east – and she continues to torture her language teachers with her Russified Polish. She has contributed to two dozen Lonely Planet titles, most recently as the coordinating author of *Eastern Europe*.

MARA'S THANKS

Dziękuję goes to the funny folks in Polish class, especially the wise and patient Ola Gołdyn and the ever-enthusiastic Jürgen Rothe; to Garrett van Reed and Martin Kitson; and most of all to Jerzy, forever my favourite travelling companion.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Born and raised in Warsaw, Krzysztof Dydyński discovered a passion for travelling, which took him on various trips across Europe, Asia, South America, and finally to Australia where he now lives.

Our readers Many thanks to the travellers who wrote to us with helpful hints, useful advice and interesting anecdotes. Justin Akin, Tomek Silkorski.

Cover photograph Atmospheric alfresco dining at a Cloth Hall (p45) cafe, with the Mariacka Basilica (p15) standing sentinel, Old Town; Kevin Foy/Alamy. **Internal photographs** p20 Wojtek Buss/Photolibary; p130 EmmePi Europe/Alamy; p22 Henryk T Kaiser/Photolibary; p21 Marka/Alamy; p18 Pegaz/Alamy; p106 Les Polders/Alamy; p19 Maurice Savage/Alamy. All other photographs by Lonely Planet Images, and by Krzysztof Dydyński except p6, p8, p15, p17, p32, p118, p120 Bruce Bi; p64 Paul Greenway; p96 Richard Nebesky; p11 Jonathan Smith; p47, p53, p79, p105 Mara Vorhees.

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Traces of memory: photography exhibition at the Galicia Jewish Museum (p70), Kazimierz

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THIS IS KRAKÓW

The year is 1241. Terror has swept across Europe. It arrives on horseback, in the form of murderous marauders who destroy everything in their path, raping and pillaging as they go. The prosperous town of Kraków is not immune to the Mongol scourge.

High up in the watchtower of Mariacka Basilica, a lone fireman sees the hellions on the horizon. He sounds an alarm on his bugle, playing the haunting *hejnał* for all to hear. Before he can finish the melody, he is shot by an approaching raider. The arrow pierces his neck. The warning song is cut off mid-note, as the bugler falls to his death.

This tragic but heroic tale is the story of Kraków – a sparkling city of culture and learning, destined to endure suffering despite the valiant efforts of its citizens.

It may have been the first time in Kraków's history that this scenario was played out, but it would not be the last. Mongols, Teutonic Knights, Russians, Swedes, Austrians, Nazis and communists all brought death and destruction over the years. Yet Kraków endured.

In the 21st century, Kraków has emerged as a dynamic destination for avant-garde art, jazz music, street theatre and student life. The Old Town is a visual feast of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque, its architecture recounting 750 years of history. The former Jewish quarters in Kazimierz and Podgórze have not forgotten their tragic past, but they too are experiencing an infusion of creative energy. For so long silent, the old synagogues now house art galleries, bookstores and cultural centres.

Up in the watchtower of Mariacka Basilica, a trumpeter still plays the haunting melody known as the *hejnał*, cutting off mid-note, as did his predecessor centuries before. Then he waves his bugle out the window; the schoolchildren cheer. We're not saying it's a true story, we're just saying it's a good story – conveying the history and heroism of the medieval city.

Top left Knights in shining armour feasting on *pierogi* (dumplings; p118) at one of Kraków's festivals (p23) **Top right** Fragments of history: commemorative wall at Remuh Cemetery (p72), Kazimierz **Bottom** Poster art bonanza: Galeria Plakatu (p52), Old Town