



Małopolska

POP 5 MILLION

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Best Places to Eat

- » Twierdza (p153)
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- » Restauracja Gęsia Szyja (p177)
- » Mandragora (p169)

Best Places to Stay

- » Vanilla Hotel (p169)
- » Hotel Śródmiejski (p156)
- » Hotel Basztowy (p160)
- » Dom Architekta (p174)
- » Hotel Senator (p182)

Why Go?

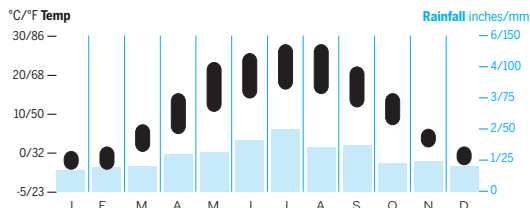
Małopolska, known in English as Lesser Poland, is the sprawling region surrounding Kraków, running from Częstochowa in the west to Lublin in the east. It's played an outsized role in Polish history, forming the core of the ancient Polish kingdom. These days, though, it's mostly passed over by travellers, who make a beeline for Kraków and then move on.

That's a pity. While Małopolska lacks truly world-class sights, the region is rich in natural beauty, with rolling hills and several national parks. Sandomierz, an ancient Gothic town on a bluff overlooking the Vistula, is one of Poland's prettiest places.

The region is also rich in cultural diversity. The Jasna Góra monastery in Częstochowa is a major pilgrimage site for Roman Catholics. To the east, cities like Lublin and Chełm were once home to large Jewish communities, and moving traces of that centuries-long existence can still be found.

When to Go

Lublin



May-Jun

The Corpus Christi holiday is marked by massive weekend festivals.

Aug

Thousands of pilgrims gather at the Jasna Góra monastery.

Aug-Sep

September brings the International Meeting of Jazz Singers to Zamość.

Małopolska Highlights

- 1 Joining throngs of **Black Madonna** (p154) pilgrims in Częstochowa
- 2 Appreciating the perfection of 16th-century town planning in **Zamość** (p178)

- 3 Blushing as portraits peer down at you in Kielce's **Palace of the Kraków Bishops** (p155)

- 4 Reveling in the grandeur of **Pieskowa Skala Castle** (p149) in Ojców National Park
- 5 Chatting to a ghost in the **Chełm Chalk Tunnels** (p177)

- 6 Saying 'they don't make them like they used to' at the fairy-tale **Krzysztopor Castle** (p162) in Ujazd
- 7 Wondering why it happened at **Majdanek**

- 8 Being dwarfed by ancient nature in **Roztocze National Park** (p183)

