



Małopolska

POP 5.1 MILLION

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Lapidarium pod Ratuszem (p173)
- ➔ U Braci (p166)
- ➔ Calimero Cafe (p169)
- ➔ Pivovaria (p175)
- ➔ Kardamon (p181)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel Korunny (p193)
- ➔ Hostel-Art (p168)
- ➔ Eger Pensjonat (p185)
- ➔ Vanilla Hotel (p180)
- ➔ Hostel Zamość (p193)

Why Go?

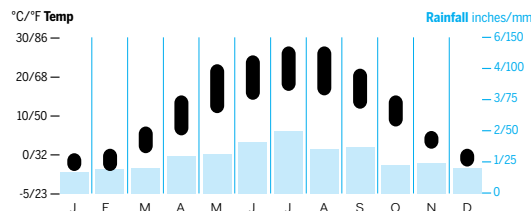
Małopolska, known in English as Lesser Poland, is the sprawling region surrounding Kraków, running from Częstochowa in the west to Lublin in the east. It's played an outsized role in Polish history, forming the core of the ancient Polish kingdom. These days, though, it's mostly passed over by travellers 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 River, 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 such as 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 week-end festivals.

Aug Thousands of pilgrims gather at the Jasna Góra monastery.

Aug & Sep The International Meeting of Jazz Singers comes to Zamość.

Małopolska Highlights

- 1 Joining throngs of *Black Madonna* pilgrims in **Częstochowa** (p162).
- 2 Appreciating the perfection of 16th-century

- town planning in **Zamość** (p190).
- 3 Blushing as portraits peer down at you in **Kielce**'s Kraków Bishops' Palace (p167).
- 4 Revelling in the grandeur

- of **Pieskowa Skała Castle** (p162) in Ojców National Park.
- 5 Chatting to a ghost in the chalk tunnels of **Chełm** (p188).

- 6 Saying 'they don't make them like they used to' at the fairy-tale Krzyżtopór Castle (p174) in **Ujazd**.
- 7 Wondering why it happened, at Majdanek

- extermination camp (p179) in **Lublin**.
- 8 Being dwarfed by ancient nature in **Roztocze National Park** (p194).

