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Welcome to Kraków

If you believe the legends, Kraków was founded on the defeat of a dragon, and it's true that a mythical atmosphere permeates its medieval streets and squares. However, there's more to this royal, regal former Polish capital than history and myth. The squares and alleyways pulse with modern life – creating a harmonious, infectious blend of past and present.



Top Sights



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Wawel Royal Castle

Potent symbol of Polish identity. **p36**

Rynek Underground

Modern wizardry meets Middle Ages. **p54**



ENDLESS TRAVEL / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO ©

St Mary's Basilica

Kraków's signature Gothic church. **p52**



MIKHAİL MAROVSKIY / SHUTTERSTOCK ©

Collegium Maius

A primer in medieval science. **p56**



MOJARJUNG / SHUTTERSTOCK ©

Schindler's Factory

Interactive account of German occupation. **p102**



JAROSLAW MORAWSKI / SHUTTERSTOCK ©



KRZYSZTOF DOWINSKI / LONELY PLANET ©

Galicia Jewish Museum

Jewish history reimagined in photos. **p78**

Wieliczka Salt Mine

Underground splendours crafted from salt. **p140**



BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE / SHUTTERSTOCK ©



PRASZKIEWICZ / SHUTTERSTOCK ©

Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial & Museum

An essential, terrible history lesson. **p136**