



the best
of Krakow
museums



KRAKOW MUSEUM ROUTES



NATIONAL MUSEUM IN KRAKOW

The Czartoryski Museum

ul. św. Jana 19
Arsenał, ul. Pijarska 8

Arsenal opening hours

Tuesday – Sunday: 10.00-16.00

Monday: closed

On Sundays, admission to permanent National Museum exhibitions is free

www.muzeum.krakow.pl

As a tourist centre, Krakow is most readily associated with important historical monuments related to the history of the city and of Poland. The Wawel Castle, the Barbican, St. Florian's Gate, the Main Square with St. Mary's Basilica and the Cloth Hall, the Collegium Maius of the Jagiellonian University – these are the main points of interest for tourists.

But Krakow is also full of museums that often hold little-known collections. Tourists coming to the city for the first time, as well as those returning to it, are encouraged to see some of the museum exhibitions. Many of these will be related to specialist interests and attractive for hobbyists and people fascinated with a given historical era.

You are most welcome to see the exhibits displayed in Krakow's museums, as their collections are one of the most valuable and most interesting in Poland. In a word: they are one of a kind.

the best of Krakow museums

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The Czartoryski Museum is connected with Princess Izabela Czartoryska and the first national museum founded on Polish lands – in Puławy – in 1801 thanks to her passion for collecting items. The collection, scattered after the fall of the November Uprising, was put together and enriched by Prince Władysław Czartoryski, who in 1878 moved it to Krakow. Today, the collection is kept in a complex of neo-Gothic buildings in ul. św. Jana and ul. Pijarska. The collection includes European paintings from the 13th to the 18th century, handicraft from the Middle Ages to the 19th century, engravings,

ancient art and military items. The Museum holds one of the most valuable Renaissance paintings in the world – the **Lady with an Ermine**. Produced around the year 1490 by Leonardo da Vinci, it is his only work kept in Poland and a great rarity on a worldwide scale. The Lady was Cecilia Gallerani, a mistress of



Leonardo da Vinci, Lady with an Ermine, ca. 1490

Princes Czartoryski Foundation, deposited in the National Museum in Krakow

Lodovico Sforza, Duke of Milan, also known as il Moro. The painting was purchased by Prince Adam Czartoryski in 1800. During the November Uprising, the painting was moved to Paris and then returned to Krakow at the end of the 19th century. Seized by the Nazis in 1939, it served as a decoration of Governor-General Hans Frank's residence at the Wawel Castle. Moved to Germany, it returned to Poland in 1946. The masterpiece, together with the entire collection, is owned by the Princes Czartoryski Foundation, which was established in 1991 by Prince Adam Karol Czartoryski. The picture is now temporarily available to visitors in the Wawel Royal Castle.



NATIONAL MUSEUM IN KRAKOW

19th Century Polish Art Gallery at the Cloth Hall (Sukiennice)

Rynek Główny 1-3

Opening hours

Tuesday–Thursday: 10.00–20.00

Sunday: 10.00–18.00

Monday: closed

On Sundays, admission to permanent National Museum exhibitions is free
www.muzeum.krakow.pl

The Cloth Hall (Sukiennice) is a large trading hall built in the 13th century in the middle of the Main Square. In the 14th century, the Cloth Hall was expanded in the Gothic style, and in the 16th century, it was redeveloped in the Renaissance style. In the 19th century, it became a building for official events. In 1879, it was selected as the seat of the newly founded National Museum, whose collection was started by Henryk Siemiradzki, a Polish painter, who donated one of his paintings, *The Torches of Nero*. This impressively large piece, produced in 1876 in Rome, depicts the historical scene of Christians, accused of setting Rome on fire, being sentenced by Nero to be burned alive. The

painting, exhibited in the same year, was enthusiastically received by the public. The 19th Century Polish Art Gallery also holds works by Jan Matejko, Piotr Michałowski, Jacek Malczewski, Artur Grottger, Józef Chełmoński and Leon Wyczółkowski. After thorough renovation and modernisation, the Polish Art Gallery at the Cloth Hall was reopened in 2010. On the one hand, the Gallery clearly corresponds with the 19th-century look of the building, but on the other hand, it is a 21st-century museum. The historical building now houses completely new rooms equipped with state-of-the-art technology that allow for an interactive art experience and an interesting form of education. The terraces of the Cloth Hall are also a special attraction, as they offer a great view of the panorama of the Main Square.





NATIONAL MUSEUM IN KRAKOW

Bishop Erazm Ciołek Mansion

ul. Kanonicza 17

Opening hours

Tuesday–Saturday: 10.00–18.00

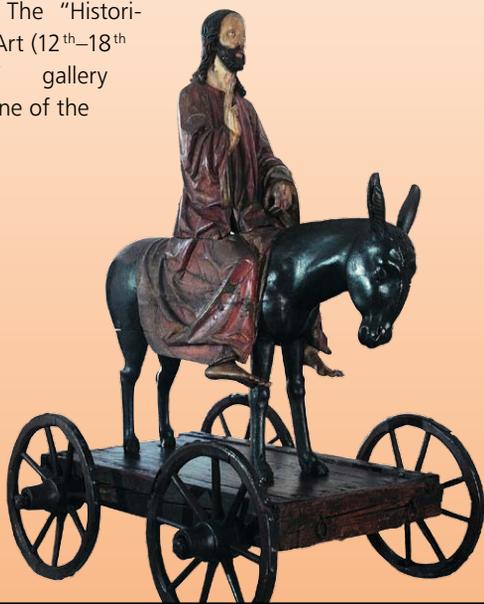
Sunday: 10.00–16.00

Monday: closed

On Sundays, admission to permanent National Museum exhibitions is free

www.muzeum.krakow.pl

The Gothic and Renaissance mansion of the Bishop of Płock, an outstanding diplomat, humanist and patron of the arts, is one of the finest examples of residential architecture in Krakow. It was built at the beginning of the 16th century by architects and stoneworkers employed for works at the Wawel Castle. In 1996, the building was handed over to the National Museum in Krakow, which in subsequent years carried out a thorough renovation, adapting the interior to the new function of presenting exhibits. In 2007, the Mansion was opened to the public. It currently offers exhibitions of old Polish and Orthodox Church art, while the basements of the building hold the “Krakow within a hand’s reach” collection of architectural sculpture. The “Historical Polish Art (12th–18th centuries)” gallery presents one of the



most outstanding Polish collections of Middle Age, Renaissance and Baroque art. The “Historical Polish Orthodox Church Art” offers the best exhibits in this thematic area in Poland.

The Bishop Erazm Ciołek Mansion exhibits the **Madonna of Krużłowa**, one of the most beautiful Gothic sculptures in Poland. Produced around the year 1410, it is a representative of the so-called beauty style, also known as international Gothic. The exact origin of the work is unknown. It was moved to Krakow from the church in Krużłowa during its renovation and ended up at the National Museum in Krakow in 1899. In 1940, it was seized by the Nazis.

After the war, from 1947–1995, it was displayed at the Szołayski Townhouse (which currently houses the Stanisław Wyspiański Museum) and then at the Wawel Castle. Since 2007, it has been kept at the Bishop Erazm Ciołek Mansion, which is a branch of the National Museum in Krakow.





HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF KRAKOW

The Celestat (Fowler Brotherhood)

ul. Lubicz 16

Opening hours

May–Oct: Tuesday–Saturday and 2nd Sunday of the month: 9.30–17.00

Wednesday: free admission

Monday: closed

Oct–Apr: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and 2nd Sun of the month: 9.00–16.00

Thursday: 11.00–18.00

Monday: closed

Wednesday: free admission

www.mhk.pl



The neo-Gothic building of the Celestat, erected in 1837 in the Shooting Garden, is the seat of one of the oldest marksmen's associations in Poland. It houses the "The history of the Fowler Brotherhood of Krakow" exhibition, unique upon the scale of Europe. The **Silver Rooster**, presented at the Celestat, is a first-class work of art. The bird was cast in silver between 1564 and 1565 by an unknown goldsmith. The Silver Rooster is the most valuable piece of jewellery of the Fowler Brotherhood, offered to it by the city authorities in 1565. It is not only the symbol of the Brotherhood itself, but also of the authority of the current Fowler King.



HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF KRAKOW

Main Square Underground

In the Footsteps of Krakow's
European Identity

Rynek Główny 1

Opening hours

April–October: Monday: 10.00–20.00

Tuesday 10.00–16.00

Wednesday–Sunday 10.00–22.00

Closed on the first Tuesday of the month

November–March: Tuesday 10.00–16.00

Wednesday–Monday 10.00–20.00

Closed on the first Tuesday of the month

Free admission on Tuesdays

www.mhk.pl



Strolling between the Cloth Hall and St. Mary's Basilica, you may not be realising that underneath, several metres below ground, there is a real treasure of knowledge about Krakow's past. To discover it, you need to go to the Main Square Underground. The "**In the Footsteps of Krakow's European Identity**" tourist route was opened on 24 September 2010.

This interactive exhibition was made possible thanks to archaeological works carried out between 2005 and 2010. It was then that many items from the long history of this place were discovered. Under the Main Square, a unique archaeological reserve with an area of almost 4,000 m² was established. It offers an opportunity to see the treas-



ures found here and to get to know the turbulent history of medieval Krakow. A variety of devices – multimedia presentations, holograms, films about the history of Krakow and its Main Square – are employed to make the experience enjoyable. There are digital reconstructions of Main Square buildings, a large model of the city as it was in the 15th century and a reconstruction of a medieval merchant’s stall. The items presented, such as slabs of lead and copper as well as blocks of rock salt, are related to Krakow’s far-reaching trade routes of the period between the 14th–16th centuries. In the cellars of the Cloth Hall, historical films are screened. There is also a children’s zone, where the “Legend of Old Krakow” is presented. The underground is full of the hustle and bustle of a medieval town presented in a multimedia show. Visitors can expect many visual surprises.

the stories of the Krakow Jews he saved are presented as a part of the city’s complicated wartime history. Schindler’s office, fortunately preserved in the factory’s administration building, is a testament to his heroic actions. A symbolic “ark of the saved”, made of thousands of pots resembling those produced in the factory during the war, is located there.

The exhibition is primarily a story about Krakow and the fate of its Polish and Jewish inhabitants during World War II, but it also tells of the German occupants that came on 6 September 1939 and brutally interrupted the centuries-old history of Polish and Jewish Krakow. The great history of World War II merges with daily life here, private life – with a tragedy that befell the world.



HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF KRAKOW

Oskar Schindler’s Factory

ul. Lipowa 4

Opening hours

Apr–Oct: Monday: 10.00–16.00

Tuesday–Sunday: 10.00–20.00

first Monday of the month: open until 14.00

Nov–Mar: Monday: 10.00–14.00

Tuesday–Sunday: 10.00–18.00

Free admission on Mondays

www.mhk.pl

Oskar Schindler’s Factory, located in the former administrative building of Deutsche Emailwarenfabrik, offers the “**Krakow Under Nazi Occupation 1939–1945**” exhibition. The wartime history of DEF and its owner, Oskar Schindler, was showed in Steven Spielberg’s *Schindler’s List* (1993). Today, the factory is still being visited by tourists from all over the world wishing to see the place where Schindler saved over a thousand people. Schindler and



The exhibition takes the form of theatre and film story. The past of Krakow is shown in 45 exhibition spaces in such a way that everyone can experience the history directly and feel the emotions of the inhabitants of a wartime city. The "Krakow Under Nazi Occupation 1939–1945" exhibition is a multimedia journey through the city and through time.



Archaeological Museum in Krakow

ul. Senacka 3 (entrance from ul. Poselska)

Opening hours

Sep–Jun:
 Monday–Friday: 9.00–14.00
 Thursday: 14.00–18.00
 Friday, Sunday: 10.00–14.00
 Saturday: closed
 Jul–Aug:
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9.00–14.00
 Tuesday, Thursday: 14.00–18.00
 Sunday: 10.00–14.00
 Saturday: closed
www.ma.krakow.pl



The Archaeological Museum in Krakow is located at the corner of ul. Poselska and ul. Senacka in the St. Michael complex of buildings. Between the 9th and the 13th century, the wood and earth fortifications of the Okół settlement ran through this place, replaced in the 15th century by



the city walls. The remains of these structures have been preserved and can be seen in the cellars of the Museum. In the 17th century, a monastery complex of the Discalced Carmelites was founded here, adapted during the 18th-century partitions of Poland by Austrian authorities as a prison. The Museum holds approximately 500,000 historical artefacts. The most interesting of these include the **mummy of Aset-iri-khet-es**, displayed as part of the "Gods of Ancient Egypt" permanent exhibition. The most valuable and stunning elements of the Egypt collection are four sarcophaguses from the el-Gamhud excavation site, where Tadeusz Smoleński, the first Polish Egyptologist and Coptologist, worked in 1907–1908. One of the sarcophaguses held the body of Aset-iri-khet-es, a priestess of Isis. Her mummy included a valuable cartonnage that was severely damaged by marauders looking for valuables. Restored, the cartonnage is now displayed in a separate cabinet.

A real treasure of the Museum is a stone **statue of Svantevit from Zbruch** (9th/10th century), the most valuable artefact of the pre-Christian era, displayed as part of the "Prehistory and Early Middle Ages in the Małopolska Region" permanent exhibition. The statue is believed to represent Svantevit, the Slavic god of the sun, fire, war and harvest. Four-sided and 257 cm high, it has four faces and a headdress on top. The sides of the statue are divided into three sections depicting scenes interpreted as symbolising seasons or social hierarchy.



Seweryn Udziela Ethnographic Museum in Krakow

Main Building: Town Hall (Ratusz),
pl. Wolnica 1
Esterka House (Dom Esterki),
ul. Krakowska 46

Opening hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday:
11.00–19.00; Thursday: 11.00–21.00
Sunday: 11.00–15.00
Monday: closed
www.etnomuzeum.eu

The Museum is located in the old town hall building of the town of Kazimierz (now a district of Krakow), erected in the 15th century in the Gothic style and subsequently expanded in the Renaissance style. The town hall houses an exhibition on Polish folk culture, while in the second Museum building (the so-called Esterka House), temporary exhibitions are displayed in the 16th-century cellars with beautiful vaults. The Museum was founded in 1911 on the initiative of Seweryn Udziela, a teacher, amateur ethnographer and collector. The Museum collection includes the **most famous and oldest Krakow nativity scene** produced at the end of the 19th century by Michał Ezenek-



ier, master bricklayer and tiler. The structure is 2.5 m high and modelled after architectural elements to be found in Krakow. It became a model for many generations of crib makers. Another noteworthy showpiece is the **oldest Polish wooden roadside shrine** from Anielów in the Mazowsze region. Carved out of a trunk, it has an inscription of the Trisagion on the front: *Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us*, and the date of its foundation: 1 May 1650. In the recess, a limewood figure of the Sorrowful Christ, in the form of Christ the King, typical of the Baroque, is placed.



Museum of Pharmacy of the Jagiellonian University Collegium Medicum

ul. Floriańska 25

Opening hours

Thursday: 12.00–18.30

Wednesday–Sunday: 10.00–14.30

Monday: closed

www.muzeumfarmacji.pl



The Museum of Pharmacy of the Jagiellonian University is one of few such museums in the world. Founded in 1946, it is an academic unit of the Faculty of Pharmaceutics of the Jagiellonian University. Since 1991, it has been located in a townhouse at ul. Floriańska 25, along the Royal Route.

The permanent exhibition takes up five levels of the building – from 15th-century cellars to the attic. The showpieces illustrate the history of pharmacy from the Middle Ages until today. They include pharmaceutical vessels (for example a large **collection of majolicas from a number of European manufactories**), mortars of various sizes and shapes, laboratory equipment and pharmaceutical utensils, medicinal materials, memorabilia from eminent pharmacists, a postage stamp collection on the history of pharmacy and curiosities related to ancient healing. The Museum also presents the recreated **interior of an 18th-century pharmacy** and other rooms, such as an old pharmacy laboratory, a cellar with kegs and bottles of medicinal wine and an attic for drying and storing medicinal herbs.



Walery Rzewuski Museum of History of Photography in Krakow

ul. Józefitów 16

Opening hours

Wednesday–Friday: 11.00–18.00

Saturday–Sunday: 10.00–15.30

(free admission on Sundays)

Monday, Tuesday: closed

www.mhf.krakow.pl



The Walery Rzewuski Museum of History of Photography in Krakow is the only national institution dedicated entirely to the history of photography. The Museum officially opened in December 1986.

The exhibition is divided into two sections: one is a gallery area for temporary exhibitions of contemporary photography; the other is a permanent exhibition on the history of photography technology and the very idea of capturing a picture: from the ancient times to the miniature cameras of the 20th century. A separate element of the permanent exhibition is a selection of old photographs, including interesting studio photographs. The Museum also has a room devoted to Polish photography in which you can see prototypes and mass-produced cameras, including the famous **Alfa 2**.



The collections held and displayed by the Museum include photographs produced by means of various, often unique and difficult, techniques, as well as photographic devices, darkroom equipment and projectors. Stereoscopy pho-



Autochrome: *Krakow, a garden in the Zwierzyniec area*, by Tadeusz Rżęca, 1910-1920 © Museum of History of Photography

tographs, **autochromes**, daguerreotype, ambrotype, cliché-verre and celluloid plate are not only examples of technological progress, but primarily an excellent source

of iconographic material that the Museum has been sharing through its website (www.mfh.krakow.pl) since 2010. The Museum also offers a very interesting educational programme addressed largely to young people and shedding new light on old and seemingly banal photography issues.



Municipal Engineering Museum

ul. św. Wawrzyńca 15

Opening hours

Every day, except for Mondays: 10.00–16.00
 Jun–Sep: On Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10.00–18.00
“Stanisław Lem Krakow Experiments Garden” open-air exhibition in the Polish Pilots Park (Park Lotników Polskich), al. Pokoju 68, open between 21 Apr and 31 Oct:
 Jun–Aug: Mon–Fri: 8.30–19.00, Sat–Sun: 10.00–19.00; Sep: Mon–Fri: 8.30–17.00, Sat–Sun 10.00–19.00; Oct: Mon–Fri 8.30–15.00, Sat–Sun: 10.00–17.00
www.mimk.com.pl

The Museum is located in a complex of Krakow’s oldest horse and electrical tram depots. Its mission is to collect and exhibit the Polish technical legacy. The Museum holds items illustrating the development of public transport in Krakow, the history of printing and the timeline of the Polish motor industry. Interactive exhibitions, popularising natural sciences among young people, are an important element of the Museum’s activity.



The most interesting showpieces of the permanent exhibition on the Polish motor industry include the **Smyk B30 microcar** designed in the late 1950s as a cheap family car (about 20 prototypes were produced), the **CWS M111 motorbike** (National Engineering Facilities in Warsaw, 1935) – the largest Polish motorbike mass-produced from 1933–1939,



and the **Polish Fiat 508 III "Junak"** – a popular car produced from 1935–1939 under a 1931 license agreement with FIAT. At the end of the 1930s, it was the most popular vehicle on the roads of Poland.



Polish Aviation Museum

al. Jana Pawła II 39

Opening hours

May–Oct:

Monday: only the open-air exhibition is open

Tuesday–Friday: 9.00–17.00

Saturday–Sunday: 10.00–16.00

Nov–Apr:

Monday–Friday: 9.00–15.00

Saturday, Sunday: closed

www.muzeumlotnictwa.pl

The Museum is a specialist facility protecting and presenting Polish and world aviation heritage. One of the largest European aviation museums, it is located at the historic Rakowice-Czyżyny airfield. Until 1963, the airfield was used for military and transport purposes.

Exhibits presented in hangars and outdoors include over 240 airplanes (such as the **PZL P-11C**, **RWD-21**, **Supermarine Spitfire Mk XVI**), gliders, helicopters, over 140 aircraft engines and missile systems. This is an overview of the history of aviation from its beginnings until today. The Museum buildings house the permanent exhibitions: "Know Your Own" (pioneer and prototype machines) and "Between East and West" (NATO aircraft 1949–2009). The open-air exhibition offers a walk through the "Alley of MIGs" and a display of combat aircraft.





Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow (MOCAK)

ul. Lipowa 4

Opening hours

Tuesday–Sunday: 11.00–19.00

Monday: closed

Tuesdays: free admission

www.mocak.com.pl



The Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow presents the works of contemporary artists from all over the world.

Apart from permanent and temporary exhibitions, the

Museum carries out educational actions, organises meetings with artists and people of culture and runs a library. The MOCAK collection includes work by Mirosław Bałka, Stanisław Dróżdź, Wilhelm Sasnal, Krzysztof Wodiczko, Lars Laumann and Koji Kamoji, as well as Fluxus artist, such as Ben Patterson.



The Museum also holds the private library of professor Mieczysław Porębski, an outstanding historian and art critic. Apart from books, the library, arranged to look like the professor's study, also offers visitors paintings by members of the Krakow Group, mostly friends of Porębski: Jerzy Nowosielski, Tadeusz Kantor, Maria Jarema, Andrzej Wróblewski, Tadeusz Brzozowski and Adam Hofmann.



InfoKrakow City Information Points



www.infokrakow.pl

- **Tourist Services Centre, ul. Powiśle 11**
Phone: +48 513 099 688, e-mail: powisle@infokrakow.pl
- **Wyspiański Pavilion, pl. Wszystkich Świętych 2**
Phone: +48 12 616 18 86, e-mail: wyspianski@infokrakow.pl
- **Cloth Hall (Sukiennice), Rynek Główny 1/3**
Phone: +48 12 433 73 10, e-mail: sukiennice@infokrakow.pl
- **ul. św. Jana 2**
Phone: +48 12 421 77 87, e-mail: jana@infokrakow.pl
- **ul. Szpitalna 25**
Phone: +48 12 432 01 10, e-mail: szpitalna@infokrakow.pl
- **ul. Józefa 7**
Phone: +48 12 422 04 71, e-mail: jozefa@infokrakow.pl
- **Krakow-Balice International Airport**
Phone: +48 12 285 53 41, e-mail: balice@infokrakow.pl

Information for disabled tourists:

www.krakow.pl/bezbarier

Emergency telephone numbers

Safety line for foreign tourists (active during the summer season):

800 200 300 (toll-free for landline phones)

+48 608 599 999 (fees as calculated by operator for all phones)

Emergency number

(from a mobile phone)

Police	997
Ambulance	999
Fire service	998
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Emergency road service	981
24/7 medical information	+48 12 661 22 40

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National Museum in Krakow

1. Czartoryski Museum, ul. św. Jana 19
2. 19th-Century Polish Art Gallery at the Cloth Hall, Rynek Główny 1-3
3. Bishop Erazm Ciołek Mansion, ul. Kanonicza 17

Historical Museum of the City of Krakow

4. The Celestat, ul. Lubicz 16
5. Main Square Underground, Rynek Główny 1
6. Oskar Schindler's Factory, ul. Lipowa 4
7. Archaeological Museum in Krakow, ul. Senacka 3 (entrance for visitors from ul. Poselska 3)

8. Seweryn Udziela Etnographic Museum in Krakow – Main Building, Town Hall, pl. Wolnica 1 – Esterka House, ul. Krakowska 46
9. Museum of Pharmacy of the Jagiellonian University Collegium Medicum, ul. Floriańska 25
10. Walery Rzewuski Museum of History of Photography in Krakow, ul. Józefitów 16
11. Municipal Engineering Museum, ul. św. Wawrzyńca 15
12. Polish Aviation Museum, al. Jana Pawła II 39
13. Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow (MOCAK), ul. Lipowa 4



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