

An Alternative Guide to Kraków

a.k.a. how to discover the beauty of the city & avoid getting squashed by the hords of tourists

1. Take a stroll around the Main Market Square and discover the oldest bookshop in Europe, located at Rynek Główny 23, opened in 1610. You might even want to pop in as there is a selection of English books on offer.



2. See the Kanonicza Street, the most picturesque street in Kraków, leading to the Wawel Hill. Pop into Bona, the bookshop cafe, or visit Kanonicza 19, a flat-turned-museum once occupied by bishop Karol Wojtyła, later known as pope John Paul II.

3. Go up the Wawel Hill and enjoy a cup of coffee or homemade hot chocolate in the Słodki Wawel Cafe, located in the courtyard of Wawel Castle, with an outstanding view of the Wisła river.



4. See the Old Town in the evening or at night as it is truly spectacular at that time. Also, some really good street musicians tend to perform in The Market Square then.

5. If you are a jogger go for a run along the Wisła river or around the Błonia meadows in the morning. You will hardly meet anyone there at that time and both routes come with some pretty nice views of Kraków.



6. Visit Kazimierz, the Jewish District, and enjoy our pride and joy, namely Polish cuisine in the form of zapiekanki (open sandwich with mushrooms and grilled cheese, sold at Plac Nowy, Bar u Endziora) or homemade ice-cream at Starowiślna 83. Both immensely popular so be aware of the queues.

7. Wanna try pierogi? This Polish-style ravioli dish is an absolute must for all the foodies. Simply go to Koko at Gołębia 8 and prepare your tastebuds for an unforgettable experience.

8. If you get tired of the crowds why not pop into the Cat Cafe at Lubicz 1 for a nice cup of coffee and a slice of delicious, homemade



cheesecake? Feline company guaranteed!

9. Go to the Podgórze district to climb Krakus Mound, the oldest of the ancient hills of Kraków. According to the legend the mound is a grave of Krakus, the legendary founder of Kraków which was named after him. It is quite a walk but again, it offers a spectacular panorama of the city.

10. See the Planty, a beautiful park that surrounds the Old Town and gives you a unique opportunity to walk around the Old Town in 50 minutes (with no chance of getting lost, as the park really is round). And you are bound to encounter many interesting sites en route so keep your camera handy!



And, most of all, have a good time and enjoy your stay in Kraków.

Disclaimer: to be perfectly honest it won't be possible to avoid crowds if you want to see the Main Market Square. But it is really worth it.