



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- **Poland**

- Area: 312,685 km² (9th largest country in Europe)

- Location: Central Europe

Poland has borders with Belarus, the Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Russia, Slovakia and Ukraine. Its northern border runs along the Baltic Sea coast.

- Population: approx. 38 million

- Capital: Warszawa (Warsaw)

- Official language: Polish

- Currency: złoty (PLN)

- Political system: parliamentary republic

- **Coming to Poland – formalities**

If you are an EU/EEA student, you only need your ID document (e.g. identity card or passport) to enter Poland. If you are planning to stay for longer than three months, you need to register at a local province administration office (Urząd Wojewódzki). To do this you will need to submit specific documents required by the relevant office and in return you will receive a document confirming your right of residence in Poland. One of the preconditions for obtaining the right of residence is the possession of health insurance (e.g. the European Health Insurance Card).

If you come from a non-EU/EEA country, you should check with your local Polish consulate what documents apart from the passport (e.g. a visa) you need before you leave for Poland. If you obtain a visa, you will not need to register your stay on your arrival.

- **Work**

While EU/EEA students are eligible to work in Poland, non-EU/EEA students need to apply for a work permit, which is granted only if no EU citizen can fill the position.

- **Medical care**

In order to get free medical treatment in Poland EU/EEA students need the European Health Insurance Card, which they apply for in their home country. Non-EU/EEA students need to purchase a private health insurance policy.



- **Money**

The Polish unit of currency is *złoty* ($1 \text{ złoty} = 100 \text{ groszy}$).

In most restaurants and shops you can pay with credit cards. There are also plenty of cash machines where you can withdraw cash.

In order to open a bank account at a Polish bank you usually need only a passport.

- **Transport**

In Poland intercity transport is provided by:

- the national railway company PKP;
- regional bus operators under a general name PKS, as well as private coach companies;
- the Polish Airlines LOT.

Public transport within cities is usually delivered by buses and tramways. As a rule, tickets should be bought at kiosks or from the driver and validated in a ticket puncher immediately after boarding the vehicle. There are many types of tickets available, including long-term and time-limit tickets (depending on the city).

- **Holidays**

The following days all institutions, offices and shops are closed.

1st January – New Year's Day

Easter Monday – usually late March or April (depending on the year)

1st May – Labor Day

3rd May – Constitution Day

Corpus Christi – usually late May or mid-June (depending on the year)

15th August – Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady

1st November – All Saints' Day

11th November – Independence Day

25th and 26th December – Christmas

- **Important telephone numbers**



Ambulance: 999

Police: 997

Fire Brigade: 998

All emergencies when phoning from a mobile telephone: 112

ABOUT KRAKOW

Krakow is a unique city. Good architecture, the one of the greatest European theatre district, some of the most renowned galleries and museums in this part of Europe, eclectic neighborhoods, cultural events and fantastic restaurants – Krakow has it all.

For centuries Krakow was the capital of Poland, the seat of kings, drawing great scholars and artists from the whole world. It is their talents and imagination we must thank for the city's rich legacy of unique historical relics, which reflect the most important trends in European culture. The renaissance Royal Castle at Wawel Hill, the gothic St Mary's Basilica, the historical trade pavilions of the Cloth Hall, the former separate Jewish city of Kazimierz, and even the Nowa Huta district, absorbed by Krakow together with its socialist-realist, industrial architecture, are all places which make a visit to Krakow extremely worthwhile. Although the city no longer plays such an important administrative role, for many people, thanks to its rich history, Krakow nevertheless represents a synthesis of all Polish things, connecting tradition with modernity. In the special atmosphere of the beautiful and mysterious streets of the Old Town and Kazimierz you will find everything you need to allow you to escape from everyday life. Galleries full of exhibitions, cafes, pubs and restaurants: all of them are an integral part of any visit to Krakow.

The streets surrounding the Krakow's Main Market Square (which is, in fact, the largest medieval square in Europe) from dawn until dusk are filled with music and artistry of young people such as street singers, musicians and actors. The extraordinary artistic atmosphere has been the reason why Krakow has been awarded an honorable title of the **European Capital of Culture**. Thanks to this title there has been a growing number of cultural events carried out in Krakow. Their scale and size make more and more foreigners come and visit this beautiful place. One of those many cultural events is the Festival of the Jewish Culture, which takes place every year in the picturesque Jewish district called Kazimierz. It is during this Festival when people of all cultures, generations and nationalities unite in the mutual dance and singing. Other annual events include: the series of concerts



“Music in Old Krakow the festival of the street theatres, the floating of wreaths on the Vistula river, Summer Jazz festival and many more.

Krakow is also an ideal place for those who enjoy reveling all night. It is here, at the Main Market Square, where the greatest number of pubs per square kilometer on the Earth is located. Everyone can find something for their liking; there are pubs where you can dance till dawn or the ones which resemble galleries, where the air is full of creative thoughts, while walls and ceilings are occupied by photos, drawings or paintings. There are also some dim cellars, where you can hide from the frantic pace of today’s world.

There is no place for boredom in Krakow; it’s an extraordinary, magical place, enchanting absolutely everyone.

- **Climate**

Krakow lies in a region of temperate climate. The average annual temperature fluctuates between 6° to 10° C. July is the warmest month and January is the coldest. The seasons are clearly marked:

- spring is warm and sunny,
- summer is mostly warm and even hot at times, with a lot of sunshine,
- autumn at the beginning is warm and very colorful, then turns cold, damp and foggy,
- winter includes longer or shorter period of snow and cold.

- **Location**

Krakow lies in the southern part of Poland by the Vistula River in a valley at the foot of the Carpathian Plateau, 219 meters above sea level. Approximately 300 km north is Warsaw, the capital of Poland, and 100 km south are the Tatra Mountains, forming the southern border of the country.

The city covers an area of 327 km², equal to 0.1% of the country’s surface area.

- **Transportation**

The **city transportation system** in Krakow consists of **trams** and **buses**, which are pretty frequent, inexpensive and convenient. You can choose between a term ticket, as well as daily, monthly, and hourly tickets or passes.



- **Railway**

The city is easily and comfortably accessible by train from all larger cities in Poland, e.g. the journey by InterCity train from Warsaw takes only 2.5 hours.

Apart from local transport systems, Krakow also has direct railway links with Berlin, Budapest, Bucharest (from June to August trains also run to Varna), Hamburg, Kiev (from June to August trains also run to Odessa), Lviv, Prague, Vienna, Žilin.

All trains stop at the Main Railway Station.

- **Coach**

The bus/coach station is located on Wit Stwosz Square (east side of the railway station) Domestic and regional links are serviced by PKS.

- **Aeroplane**

The John Paul II International Airport Krakow-Balice

Balice, ul. kpt. Medweckiego 1

Phone 12 285 5120, 12 639 31 27

Direct flights to: Amsterdam, Berlin, Bonn/Cologne, Budapest, Copenhagen, Chicago, Dortmund, Dublin, Frankfurt, Glasgow, London, Milan, Munich, Oslo, Paris, Prague, Rome, Stuttgart, Tel Aviv, Warsaw, Vienna, Zurich etc. For updated information on flights and connections, see the website: www.lotnisko-balice.pl/eng. Facilities at the airport: foreign currency exchange bureaus, ATMs, BPH-PBK S.A. bank branches, restaurant and coffee shop at the passengers terminal, viewing terrace coffee shop, duty free shop in the main flight departure hall, car parking, car rentals agency.

OUTSIDE THE CITY

In the vicinity of Krakow, there are places well-known – for dramatically diverse reasons – all over the world. The most tragic of them is Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum in Oświęcim. At a closer distance lie the quiet, medieval Salt Mines of Wieliczka. Although such sites call for nearly day-long visits, they are frequently treated, especially by tour operators, as “must see” sites.

When in Krakow one must not forget that there are plenty of popular and charming destinations lying not so far from the city: the picturesque Jurassic valleys, Ojcowski National Park, Pieskowa Skała



with its castle. Krakow provides a perfect base for side-trips to the scenic landscape of the country's most attractive corners. The city lies only 100 kilometers from the rocky Tatra Mountains and Zakopane, frequently referred to as the winter capital of Poland. It is just as close to the far smaller and by no means less beautiful Pieniny Mountains, the famous spas of Szczawnica and Krynica, and the quiet mountainous trails of the Beskidy Mountains. Local traditions cherished throughout the region, as well as the very well-developed network of agritourism accommodation make Małopolska one of the few regions of Europe suitable for leisurely relaxation in close proximity to nature.

Sources:

Magiczny Kraków: <http://www.krakow.pl/en/?chl=EN>

Krakow online: http://www.Krakowonline.com/42,Why_visit_Krakow_.htm

Fundacja Rozwoju Systemu Edukacji

SURVIVAL ENGLISH – POLISH DICTIONARY

English expression	Polish equivalent	How to pronounce?
Good morning	Dzień dobry	[jean dohbrih]
Good evening	Dobry wieczór	[dohbrih vyeh choor]
Good bye	Do widzenia	[do vee zen yah]
Good night	Dobranoc	[dobrah nohts]
Hi	Cześć	[chesh sh ch]
Please/Here you are	Proszę	[proskeh]
Thank you	Dziękuję	[jyehn koo yeh]
Excuse me/I'm sorry	Przepraszam	[psheh prah shahm]
Yes	Tak	[tahk]
No	Nie	[nyeh]
I don't know	Nie wiem	[nyeh vhyem]
What...?	Co...?	[tso]
Where is...?	Gdzie jest...?	[gjeht yest]
When...?	Kiedy...?	[khyedi]
How much does... cost?	Ile kosztuje...?	[eeleh koshtuyeh]
Mr	Pan	[pahn]
Ms	Pani	[pahnee]
Do you speak English? (for a man)	Czy mówi Pan po angielsku?	[chih moovee pahn po anhngyelskoo]
Do you speak English? (for a woman)	Czy mówi Pani po angielsku?	[chih moovee pahnee po anhngyelskoo]



I understand	Rozumiem	[rozoomyehm]
I don't understand	Nie rozumiem	[nyeh rozoomyehm]
I'm lost. (of a man)	Zgubiłem się	[zgoobeewehm shyeh]
I'm lost. (of a woman)	Zgubiłam się	[zgoobeewahm shyeh]
Please write it down	Proszę napisać	[proskeh napeesach]
I would like to order...	Proszę o...	[proskeh oh...]
Help me please	Proszę mi pomóc	[proskeh mee pohmoots]

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