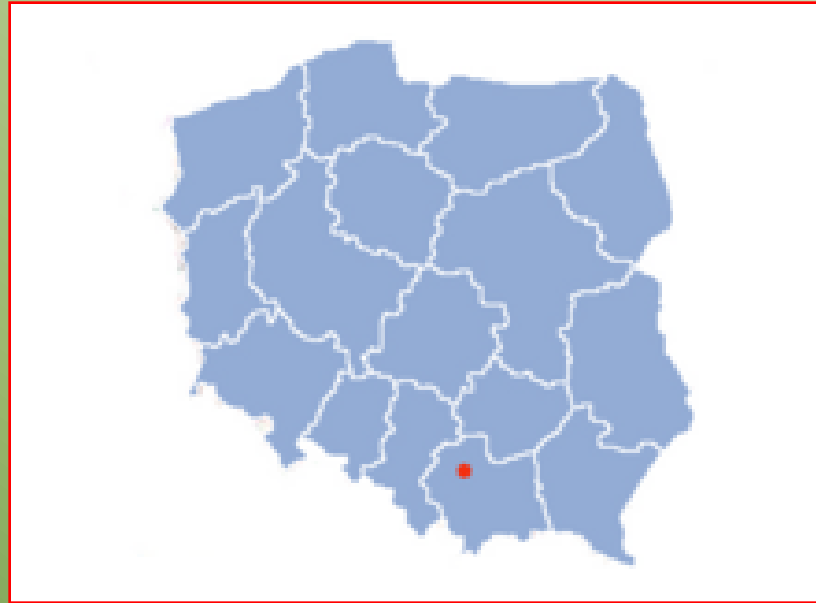




**The most beautiful place in Cracow is the Main Square,
which is located in the very centre of the city.**



Cracow is a city in southern Poland, situated on the Vistula River. One of the largest and oldest Polish cities with high cultural and architectural values. In the past, Cracow was the capital and seat of the rulers of the old Poland.



The Main Square is the largest square in Cracow and the largest market square in medieval Europe. Around the Main Square, there are monuments and a lot of old tenement-houses.



On the Main Square, there are the Town Hall, the Mariacki (St. Mary's) Church with the Altar by Wit Stwosz, and the St. Adalbert's (Św. Wojciecha) Church, the monument of Adam Mickiewicz, a famous Polish poet, and Sukiennice or the Cloth Hall, where you can buy souvenirs.

Town Hall



The Town Hall was the main administrative building of Cracow, from which only a Gothic tower from the fourteenth century survived after the fall of 1820 r. The tower now houses a branch of the Historical Museum of Cracow. Exhibits related to the history of the city are on display there.



Mariacki

(St. Mary's)

Church



This thirteenth-century church with twin towers is made of bricks and stone.

A world-famous hourly bugle call is played from the north tower. Most tourists wait for the bugle call at noon.





Altar by Wit Stwosz

The altar by Wit Stwosz, one of the most famous medieval sculptors in Europe, is the most precious monument in St. Mary's Church. This huge masterpiece (11x13m) was carved in linden wood. It presents scenes from the life of the Holy Family.





St. Adalbert's Church (Św. Wojciech)

This ancient church is located in the Main Square. According to tradition, St. Adalbert used to preach in this very place. To commemorate this fact a small stone church was erected .



The monument of Adam Mickiewicz



The monument is located on the Main Square and shows the poet standing on a pedestal. At the foot of the pedestal there are four allegories: Homeland, Courage, Science and Poetry. The inscription: „For Adam Mickiewicz – The People of Poland” was placed below the statue of the poet.





Sukiennice

Sukiennice, sometimes called the Cloth Hall in English, is located in the middle of the square. It houses stalls, where different goods, such as cloth, were sold in the old days, and where you can buy souvenirs nowadays. Currently, a gallery of Polish painting is located on the first floor of the building.



One of the best things
you can do in the
Main Square is to
go to the Cloth
Hall.

The Main Square is
free to go in, but
you must know
what you want to
visit.



Cracow is one of the most important cultural centres in Poland, traditionally regarded as the cultural capital of the country. It is also one of the important tourist destinations, cultural and historic in Europe. The area's historic Old Town and Kazimierz were entered into the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1978. In 2000 Krakow was elected one of the European cities of culture.



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