



# Krakow & Krynica Zdroj, a Renowned Spa Town

## DURATION

**8 days**

## AVAILABILITY

**every day**

## DEPARTURES FROM

**Krakow**

Experience the **perfect balance of culture and relaxation** on this tour. Savor **historic Krakow** with its first-class museums, and immerse yourself in the **enchanting Sadecki Beskid**, a picturesque mountain range in the **Western Carpathians**.

From **Krakow's timeless charm** to a rejuvenating **nature break in Krynica Zdroj**, the jewel among Polish health resorts, this carefully crafted journey offers a deeper connection with Poland's beauty.

## PRICING

Contact us for pricing: [travel@staypoland.com](mailto:travel@staypoland.com)

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## ITINERARY

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### Day 1

## Nothing Like Krakow

**The Capital of Poland for 500 years and a cradle of Polish culture, Krakow**, ranks among Europe's most artistically rich cities. Stand-out architectural gems, a labyrinth of museums, charming restaurants, coffee shops, first-rate clubs and street performers, contribute to maintaining the magic of the place. From the regal Wawel Castle to the bohemian spirit of Kazimierz, **every corner resonates with the essence of Poland's heritage.**

Upon your arrival in Krakow Airport a private car transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is on your own.

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### Day 2

## Exploring the Soul of Krakow

### Priceless Art Treasures

Begin your day by diving into the captivating atmosphere of Krakow, the first European city to be honored as a UNESCO World Heritage site. As you explore, you'll uncover the stories of artists who shaped the way we view art and beauty. The journey starts in the heart of the Old Town, where **Europe's largest medieval square** has stood unchanged for over 700 years. Highlights include the **Renaissance Cloth Hall**, shimmering in the sunlight, and the **iconic St. Mary's Basilica, home to Veit Stoss's awe-inspiring wooden altarpiece**, a masterpiece of Gothic art.

From the square, we'll make our way to **Wawel Castle and Cathedral**, perched majestically above the Vistula River. This iconic ensemble, a symbol of Poland's rich history and pride, offers a glimpse into the golden age of Krakow as the "City of Kings." Inside the Royal Castle, marvel at its **unrivaled collection of tapestries, including works by Michiel van Coxcie**, celebrated as the "Flemish Raphael." The Cathedral's stunning interior showcases Italian

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craftsmanship at its finest, a true testament to artistic brilliance.

### **The Ancient Heart of Jewish Krakow**

In the afternoon, we'll head to Kazimierz, a **district brimming with history and character**. Once the vibrant center of Jewish life in Krakow, it now thrives as a lively, bohemian neighborhood. Stroll through its narrow, atmospheric streets, where history lingers at every corner. Along the way, you can see the **Rubinstein family house, the birthplace of Helena Rubinstein**, whose entrepreneurial spirit and famous saying, "Beauty is Power," left an enduring legacy.

End the day with free time to explore Kazimierz further, indulge in some shopping, or simply soak up the unique ambiance of this remarkable district.

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## Day 3

### **Through the Eyes of Art and Literature in Krakow**

#### **Poland's Mona Lisa**

While in Krakow, you'll have the chance to admire one of the most captivating faces in art history. **The Czartoryski Museum houses Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, *The Lady with an Ermine***, one of only four portraits of women painted by the Renaissance genius. Art experts consider this piece the first modern portrait, celebrated for its emotional depth and anatomical precision—a true testament to Leonardo's skill.

Next, we'll pass by the **iconic Slowacki Theatre**, renowned for its connection to Helena Modrzejewska (known internationally as Helen Modjeska), the foremost female interpreter of Shakespeare on the global stage. This legendary Polish actress left an indelible mark both in her homeland and in America, becoming a symbol of artistic excellence in her time.

A visit to Krakow wouldn't be complete without exploring **Collegium Maius, one of Europe's oldest universities**, often called "Copernicus College." Its stunning central courtyard is steeped in history, inviting you to pause and reflect on the centuries of knowledge that have passed through its walls.

Finally, we'll tour the **Basilica of St. Francis, a treasure trove of Art Nouveau brilliance**. The vibrant stained-glass windows, designed by Polish master Stanislaw Wyspianski, fill the

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space with color and light. The floral murals adorning the interior reflect the Franciscan love of nature and highlight Wyspianski's unique vision.

### **The UNESCO City of Literature**

Krakov's charm extends beyond its visual and architectural beauty; it's also a city of words. As a UNESCO City of Literature, it has nurtured literary greats like **Nobel Prize winners Czeslaw Milosz and Wislawa Szymborska**, as well as playwright Slawomir Mrozek, whose works found acclaim on Off-Broadway stages.

During your free time, take a moment to explore Krakow's literary cafes, where the aroma of coffee mingles with the timeless magic of the written word.

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#### Day 4

### **Krakov - A Day at Your Own Pace**

Take a full day to **enjoy Krakow in your own way**. Stroll through its streets, revisit places that caught your eye, or simply relax and soak in the atmosphere. You might choose to unwind in a café, browse local shops, or explore more of the city's history—whatever feels right for you.

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#### Day 5

### **More Nature, More Pleasure**

We will head to **Krynica-Zdroj**, nestled among the mountainous valleys of the Beskid Sadecki range, near the border with Slovakia. This charming town attracts not only spa guests seeking relaxation and health, but also those drawn to its **artistic atmosphere and the heritage of the Lemko minority**, whose most prominent representative was **Andy Warhol**. In summer, Krynica hosts the Jan Kiepura European Festival of Opera and Operetta, renowned for its grand productions in the Main Pump Room as well as concerts in the pedestrian zone.

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During a guided walk through the town, we will admire its **elegant spa architecture and craftsmanship rarely seen today**. The promenade, the vibrant heart of Krynica, is lined with quaint cafes, boutique shops, and scenic green spaces perfect for leisurely strolls.

**Mineral waters are Krynica's greatest natural treasure**, valued for their exceptionally high mineral content. You can taste this richness by sampling the famous Slotwinka, Tadeusz, Zuber, Jan, and Mieczyslaw waters in one of the historic pump rooms.

We will check in at the **comfortable 4-star Czarny Potok Resort & Spa**, located at the foot of Jaworzyna Krynicka, the highest peak in the Krynica area. On clear days, its summit offers views of the Tatra Mountains. Whether you choose to reach the top by gondola lift or on foot, you won't be disappointed. Free time follows.

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## Day 6

### Revitalize Your Body and Mind

A **full day at leisure** offers the opportunity to enjoy both the **spa benefits and active recreation** in this beautiful mountain setting. Not to be missed in Krynica Zdroj is Poland's first treetop lookout tower (49.5 meters), a unique wooden structure. Walking along the path, you can admire the views while also learning more about local nature thanks to numerous educational boards.

While in Krynica, you can **savor Lemko cuisine**, known for its simplicity and flavor, and see the town through the eyes of its most devoted admirer, **Nikifor — a celebrated Lemko artist** whose paintings, once underrated, have since been exhibited in Paris, Amsterdam, New York, and Israel. In the museum you can explore his works, drawings, and personal memorabilia.

**Parkowa Mountain**, with its sixty-hectare Spa Park, is perfect for walking and relaxation. You will find much to love in Krynica Zdroj — a wealth of attractions awaits both the active adventurer and those seeking tranquility.

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## Day 7

## UNESCO Gems

Beyond its natural beauty, the region also boasts precious monuments of wooden architecture. On our way back to **Krakow**, we will visit the **Tserkva of St. James the Less in the village of Powroznik**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a perfect example of the Western Lemko style.

The **Wieliczka Salt Mine**, another of Poland's UNESCO marvels, is where centuries of salt extraction have created an underground wonderland. Among its highlights is the breathtaking Chapel of St. Kinga, the crown jewel of this subterranean masterpiece.

Check in at the **Hilton Garden Inn Krakow Airport**, conveniently located at John Paul II International Airport Krakow-Balice.

## Day 8

## Departure

Have a short walk to the Airport which is opposite your hotel.

### StayPoland.com

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