

# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## Poland - Kraków

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Warsaw
- ✓ **Language:** Polish
- ✓ **Population:** ± 766,700
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 327
- ✓ **Currency:** Zloty (zł)
- ✓ **Country code:** +48 (12)
- ✓ **Visa:** Schengen visa, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 112
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** None



### History Recap Over 1 Drink

966: Duke Mieszko I, founder of the Polish state, adopts Catholicism. 1025: Boleslaw I proclaims Kingdom of Poland. 1569: Union of Lublin → Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. '94-95: Reformers lead failed armed uprising → Commonwealth partitioned among Prussia, Russia and Austria → loss of independence. 1815: Congress of Vienna → Kingdom of Poland, ruled by Russia → revolts over century. '63-'64: Kingdom annexed to Russia. 1918: Independent Poland after WWI. '20: Soviet Red Army offensive repulsed. '32: Non-aggression pact with SU. '34: Similar 10-year pact with Nazi Germany. '39: Nazi Germany invades Poland: WWII. SU invades from the east: Poland divided between SU & Germany. Holocaust. '40: Soviet secret police → systematic massacre 22,000 Polish army officers / professionals / civil servants. '41: Germans build concentration camps in Poland. '45: Poland's borders set by Potsdam conference → loses territory to SU / gains from Germany. '47: Communist People's Republic after Soviet-run elections. '55: Soviet-run Warsaw Pact. '81-'83: Martial law. '90: Market reforms + large-scale privatization. '91: 1<sup>st</sup> parliamentary elections since fall of communism. Soviet troops start to leave Poland. '99: NATO. 2004: EU. '08: Agreement US to host a controversial American missile defense system. '13: Warsaw trade union protests. '16: Parliament rejects bill to institute a near-total abortion ban. '17: NATO troops in Poland to enhance security following Russia's annexation Crimea.

### Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Budget												

Altitude: 219m. Climate: Continental climate (Dfb)

### Bucket List For Free

- ☺ **Sights:** Rynek Glowny Central Square, Cloth Hall (*Sukiennice*), Kosiuszko Mound (*Kopiec Kosciuszki*), Ghetto Heroes Square, St. Florian's Gate, Street (*Ulica*) Florianska / Pomorska / Kanoniczka / Szeroka / Grodzka, Sandomierska Tower & many churches / synagogues.
- ☺ **Interesting Districts:** Kazmierz, Nowa Huta, Stare Miasto.
- ☺ **Nature:** Zakrzówek, Wolski Forest, Park Lotników Polskich.

### Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 **Museums & Sights:** [Wawel Castle](#), [MOCAK Museum of Contemporary Art](#), [Collegium Maius](#), [Rynek Underground](#), [St. Mary's Basilica](#), [Schlinder's Factory](#), Krakow Pinball Museum, [Polish Aviation Museum](#), [Muzeum Witrażu](#), [Barbakan](#), [National Museum](#), [Plaszow Concentration Camp](#), [Galicia Jewish Museum](#), [Pharmacy Museum](#), [Ethnographic Museum](#), [Museum of the 19th Century Polish Art](#), Museum of Communist Poland & [many more](#).
- 👍 **Entertainment:** [Lost Souls Alley](#).

## Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Carrefour, Biedronka, Delikatesy, Spar, Tesco.

⌘ **Markets:** Plac Nowy, Nowy Kleparz, Plac Imbramowski, Hala Targowa Unitarg.

⌘ **Local Food:** Pierogi (*dumplings*), Rosół (*broth/chicken soup*), Gołąbki (*cabbage roll*), Polskie Naleśniki (*Polish pancakes – sweet or savory*), Łazanki z Kapustą i Grzybami (*noodles with pork*), Śledź w Oleju z Cebulą (*herring in oil with onion*), Bigos (*meat and sauerkraut stew*), Kotlet Schabowy (*breaded pork cutlet*), Gulasz (*Goulash*), Żurek (*sour rye soup*), Kartoflanka (*potato soup*), Flaki (*beef/pork*), Karkówka (*pork neck*), Żeberka Wędzone (*smoked spare ribs*), Zimne Nogi (*jellied pigs feet*), Placki Ziemniaczane / Kartoflane (*fried potato pancakes*).

⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan is ridiculously easy in Europe and also in Poland. Every supermarket has its own vegan/vegetarian section and there are many vegan restaurants... check them on [Happy Cow - Krakow](#). Some vegan traditional Polish dishes: Barszcz (*dumplings with mushroom filling*), Cymes (*carrot salad*), Kasza Gryczana (*cooked buckwheat*), Ziemniaki Gotowane (*boiled potatoes sprinkled with parsley or dill*), Tłuczone Ziemniaki (*mashed potatoes*), Sałatka Warzywna (*vegetable salad*), Surówka (*raw sauerkraut, apple, carrot, onion salad*), Sałatka Burakowa / Buraczki (*warm beet root salad*), Ogórek Konserwowy (*preserved cucumber*), Pieczarki Marynowane (*marinated mushrooms*).

## Mama Said

☠ Poland is very safe and assaults or robberies are uncommon. Just take the usual precautions as you would in any other bigger city.

☠ If you truly love animals, avoid places where they are held in captivity, like Ogrod Zoologiczny and Papugarnia Amazonia.

☠ Tap water is drinkable.

## Next?

➔ **In Poland:** Katowice, Wroclaw, Lodz, Warsaw.

➔ **International destinations close by:** Slovakia, Czechia, Ukraine, Belarus, Germany, Lithuania.

## Sleep Cheap

❖ Hostels and alternative accommodation are very cheap in Poland. For Krakow the easiest way to go is Booking.com, ordered from cheap to expensive. There are many options.

❖ The cheapest way to go: [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#) for work-exchanges.

## Nights Best Spent

- ◆ **Nightlife areas:** Market Square, Kazimierz District.
- ◆ **Theatre:** Slowacki Theatre, National Stary Theatre, Laznia Nowa, Ludowy Theatre, Bagatela, Krakow Dance.

## Festivals

- ☼ Wianki Festival: Jun.
- ☼ Pierogi Festival: Aug.
- ☼ Ulica Street Theatre Festival: Sep. & [many more!](#)

## Free-Riding?

- Krakow has a pretty compact historical centre, most sights are easily walkable.
- Cycling is possible, check the [Wavelo Bikeshare](#). Another trend are the electronic scooter bikes, for which you need an app (*like [Blinkee](#), [Bolt](#), [Bird](#) & [Lime](#)*).
- Krakow has a smooth public transport system made up of buses and trams. Buy a cheap ticket at the machines (*also in English*) at major stops or on-board, and then stamp it when boarding. Have some change ready. Tickets are timed (*cheapest 20 minutes*), and while valid you can change buses/trams. Find network maps [here](#). [Moovit](#) is the best app to figure out routes and GPS-track them while on-route. 70+ and -4 years old travel for free. ISIC and student cards are valid for ticket discounts, but you must carry your ID and be under 26. For taxi services, [Uber](#) is most reliable and cheapest, and the price visible before you book it.
- Airport: Krakow Airport (KRK), Katowice Airport (KTW)
- Hitch-hiking is generally safe in Europe, but it's not very common. You can also use apps like [Blablacar](#) to get a cheap ride.