YOUR COMPLETE CITY ITINERARY

Kraków

Kraków, thoughtfully planned

3 core days + 4 optional days | Seasonal breaks and small groups

English edition | Reviewed 22 October 2026

Timed days, booking priorities, named food and hotel picks, a group checklist and an itemised budget. A practical companion for your city break.

Inside this guide

Timed city days / optional extensions / food and stays / booking timeline / group logistics / per-person budget / seasonal edits / organiser checklist / route overview

Planning estimates, not live availability. Read the source and publication notes before booking.

KRAKÓW / PLANNING COMPANION · ENGLISH

Start here: three days, room to breathe

Kraków planning companion | English edition | Reviewed 22 October 2026. Best for first-time visitors, couples and small groups, with an optional bridal-weekend checklist. Allow three full sightseeing days plus travel time; two days cover the Old Town and Kazimierz. The third day includes Wieliczka; a fourth day leaves more time for city museums.

The timed routes below are an alternative curated plan, not extra stops to stack onto a personalised itinerary. Shift the order to match ticket availability. Walking estimates include approximate transfers, not queues; add breaks for children, reduced mobility or winter conditions. For one day, use Day 1 only; for two days, add Day 2.

Value means fewer wasted transfers, clear booking priorities and time to enjoy the city. Use the three-day core for a short break or choose optional extensions for a longer stay.

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Day 1 / Old Town to Wawel

MORNING · 08:30-09:30 breakfast at Charlotte, Plac Szczepański. Allow extra time if there is a queue. 09:30-10:45 walk to Rynek Główny and the Cloth Hall exterior; photographs are easiest before the busiest midday period. 10:45-11:15 coffee or toilets, then 11:15-12:00 walk Grodzka and Kanonicza towards Wawel (about 20 minutes of walking, with photo stops).

MIDDAY · 12:00-13:00 lunch near the Old Town/Wawel area. 13:00-15:00 one pre-booked Wawel Castle exhibition, not every exhibition. The cathedral is a separate visit with separate ticket arrangements. 15:00-16:00 riverside walk and rest; allow 15-25 minutes for the descent and promenade.

EVENING · 16:00-18:00 hotel break. 18:30-20:00 reserved dinner at Szara Gęś on Rynek Główny; allow 20-30 minutes back from Wawel. Optional later live music at Harris Piano Jazz Bar, subject to that night’s programme and tickets. A rooftop alternative is Sheraton Grand Krakow’s Roof Top Terrace; confirm weather, hours and group seating first.

PACE & FREE SWAP · Roughly 4-5 km across the day. Public squares, Kanonicza and the riverside are the free core; replace the paid exhibition with Planty. Rain plan: keep the booked exhibition and shorten the river walk. Photo spots: Cloth Hall arcades, Kanonicza and Wawel from the riverbank.

Day 1 walking directions · google.com

Wawel official tickets and exhibition choices · wawel.krakow.pl

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Day 2 / Kazimierz and Podgórze

MORNING · 09:00-10:00 breakfast at Hamsa on Szeroka (confirm current breakfast service). 10:00-11:30 explore Szeroka and the surrounding Kazimierz streets. Choose one synagogue or museum visit if interested; check its own opening hours and admission. 11:30-12:15 walk to Plac Nowy for a snack and photographs.

MIDDAY · 12:30-13:30 lunch in Kazimierz, then 13:30-14:15 walk via Father Bernatek Footbridge to Podgórze, allowing about 25-35 minutes from Plac Nowy with pauses. 14:15-15:00 Podgórze streets and riverside; 15:00-16:00 a café/rest break. An optional pre-booked Schindler’s Factory visit needs about 1.5-2 hours plus transfer time: replace this afternoon block rather than adding it.

EVENING · 17:00-18:30 hotel reset. 19:00 dinner in Kazimierz: Hamsa is a named Middle Eastern option; reserve for a group and confirm dietary requirements. Optional music in the Old Town at Harris, with a 25-35 minute transfer buffer. Choose dinner plus one venue, not a bar crawl by default.

PACE & FREE SWAP · Roughly 4-6 km, depending on the museum option. Szeroka, Plac Nowy, the footbridge and riverbank form the free route. Treat Jewish heritage sites and memorial spaces respectfully; use the footbridge or riverbank for celebration photos instead. Rain plan: book one museum and shorten outdoor wandering.

Day 2 walking directions · google.com

Schindler’s Factory official museum · muzeumkrakowa.pl

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Day 3 / Wieliczka, then a gentle evening

MORNING · 08:00-09:00 breakfast. Reserve an approximately 10:30 English-language Tourist Route slot if available. Leave central Kraków around 09:00, allowing 60-90 minutes door-to-entry for your chosen train, the station walk and arrival buffer. Check the SKA1 timetable to Wieliczka Rynek-Kopalnia and the exact meeting point printed on your ticket.

MIDDAY · Allow roughly 2-3 hours inside the mine, then 13:30-14:30 lunch and a break in Wieliczka. Return to Kraków around 15:00-16:00, depending on your train. The standard route has substantial walking and stairs; contact the operator about its separately arranged accessible tour before booking if needed.

EVENING · 16:00-18:00 rest. 18:30 dinner near your accommodation, followed by a short Rynek or river walk. In market season, use this evening for the Christmas stalls instead of another paid activity. Do not schedule this mine visit on a tight flight-departure day.

LOW-COST / CITY-ONLY ALTERNATIVE · 09:30 breakfast, 10:30-12:00 Planty, 12:00-13:00 lunch, 13:00-15:00 a river walk, then an unplanned afternoon. This avoids the mine ticket and regional transport costs. In bad weather replace outdoor time with an indoor attraction whose opening and ticket you have checked.

Wieliczka official booking · bilety.kopalnia.pl

Mine route and accessibility information · wieliczka-saltmine.com

Regional rail timetables · kolejemalopolskie.com.pl

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Days 4-7 / Optional extensions, not a rushed circuit

DAY 4 · Morning: the Schindler’s Factory visit omitted from Day 2, pre-booked. Midday: lunch and a relaxed Podgórze walk. Evening: a single reserved dinner. If already visited, keep this as a flexible city day.

DAY 5 · Morning: slow brunch. Midday: Jordan Park and Błonia with a weather-appropriate picnic or café. Evening: river photographs and dinner. Keep this as the recovery day for a group trip.

DAY 6 · Morning: choose one museum or indoor activity from the city’s current programme. Midday: a long lunch and independent shopping. Evening: optional jazz or rooftop reservation. In spring use extra daylight for Planty; in winter move outdoor stops before late afternoon.

DAY 7 · Morning: final Old Town walk and breakfast. Midday: collect luggage and transfer to your booked departure. Evening: arrival in the next city, with no must-do attraction scheduled. For a multi-city trip, shorten Kraków to 3-4 days and build the next city around an actual rail booking.

Current city events and visitor information · krakow.travel

Onward trains: PKP Intercity · intercity.pl

International trains: Czech Railways · cd.cz

International trains: ÖBB · oebb.at

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Named food, music and rooftop shortlist

BRUNCH · Charlotte, Plac Szczepański: bread, pastries and breakfast in the Old Town. Hamsa, Szeroka 2: a Kazimierz alternative. Ask about large-table availability and current meal service before moving the whole group there.

DINNER · Szara Gęś, Rynek Główny 17: a Polish special-occasion option. Hamsa: a more informal Middle Eastern choice. Request a written reservation for your exact party size, deposits, cancellation terms, dietary needs and whether separate bills are possible.

MUSIC · Harris Piano Jazz Bar: use the published programme to choose an actual performance; a live-music listing is not a guarantee of seats. ROOFTOP · Sheraton Grand Krakow Roof Top Terrace: confirm seasonal operation and a bad-weather alternative.

LOCAL FOOD · Try obwarzanek, pierogi and żurek; Plac Nowy is associated with zapiekanki. Ask restaurants about spice strength, allergens and halal status directly; cuisine labels do not certify ingredients.

Charlotte official venue · bistrocharlotte.com

Hamsa official restaurant · hamsa.eatbu.com

Szara Gęś reservations · szarages.com

Harris programme · harris.krakow.pl

Roof Top Terrace official listing · marriott.com

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Where to stay / choose the neighbourhood first

OLD TOWN / WAWEL · Best for first visits and short walking routes; busy streets can be noisy. Named hotel: Sheraton Grand Krakow near Wawel and the river. Ask for a quieter room and check the actual walk to your first stop.

KAZIMIERZ · Best for food and neighbourhood evenings. Named hotel: PURO Kraków Kazimierz. For apartments, search the quieter edges rather than assuming every listing near Plac Nowy is quiet. Confirm lift access and the number of real beds.

PODGÓRZE · Useful for a calmer apartment base and riverside walks; include tram or walking time to Old Town in your comparison. KLEPARZ / STATION AREA · Useful for onward trains; inspect street noise and the exact station exit.

2-4 PEOPLE · Compare hotel twin/double rooms with an entire apartment after fees. 5-8 PEOPLE · A hotel room block makes bathrooms and arrivals simpler; an apartment can suit shared breakfasts if its host explicitly accepts your group. 9+ PEOPLE · Seek a written group quote, cancellation terms and adequate bathrooms. Never exceed occupancy limits.

AIRBNB CHECK · Search by neighbourhood and travel dates. Verify recent reviews, total checkout price, bed layout, lift, heating, luggage storage, check-in, quiet hours and group acceptance. No individual Airbnb listing is endorsed here: availability and host rules change too quickly for an undated recommendation.

PURO Kazimierz official hotel · purohotels.com

Sheraton Grand Krakow official hotel · marriott.com

Airbnb Kraków search - verify neighbourhood and dates · airbnb.com

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Booking timeline / reserve the bottlenecks first

6-10 WEEKS BEFORE (earlier for peak weekends) · Agree dates, spending cap and room sharing. Compare cancellable accommodation and transport together. Confirm group/event acceptance in writing before paying. Book a photographer early if a bridal shoot matters; agree route, image delivery, wet-weather plan and any venue permissions.

AS TICKET WINDOWS OPEN · Prioritise the specific Wawel exhibition, Wieliczka language/time slot and Schindler’s Factory if selected. Check official sites for release windows instead of assuming tickets are already on sale. Only then fit flexible walks around confirmed times.

2-4 WEEKS BEFORE · Reserve the Saturday dinner and any rooftop or jazz seats. Ask about deposits, minimum spends, split bills, dress expectations and celebrations. Kraków group policy is venue-specific; this guide does not claim that a named venue rejects bachelorette groups without verified evidence.

7 DAYS BEFORE · Reconfirm headcount, diets, train times and cancellation deadlines. Put ticket PDFs, reservation confirmations and meeting pins in one shared folder. Nominate a second organiser.

24-48 HOURS BEFORE · Check official opening notices, weather, transport disruptions and reservation confirmations. A Google Maps check is useful, but official venue information and direct confirmation take priority.

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Group logistics / money without awkward surprises

SPLITWISE SETUP · Create one trip in PLN. Add all travellers; record the payer, receipt and beneficiaries for every expense. Split room costs by the agreed arrangement, not automatically equally when rooms differ. Agree beforehand whether everyone covers the bride and whether non-drinkers share alcohol costs. Keep refundable deposits separate until returned.

SURGE EXAMPLE (illustrative, not a quoted fare) · Two cars at 40 PLN each cost 80 PLN total, or 10 PLN per person for eight people if four passengers fit each car. At 2× pricing the total is 160 PLN, or 20 PLN each. Luggage, child seats and passenger limits can require a larger vehicle or a third car. Compare the live total with public transport.

APARTMENT MATH (illustrative) · 2,400 PLN for three nights + 240 PLN cleaning = 2,640 PLN, or 330 PLN each for eight guests, before any extra fees. Four twin rooms at 400 PLN per room per night for three nights = 4,800 PLN, or 600 PLN each. Compare identical dates, breakfast, cancellation and bathroom count.

ARRIVALS · Share the accommodation pin, check-in instructions and one meeting point. Allow 15 minutes for each group regroup. Plan an independent return option for anyone leaving dinner early; check last services or a live ride quote before setting off.

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Budget / eight adults, three nights, three full days

ILLUSTRATIVE MID-RANGE BUDGET · PLN per person; these are planning assumptions, not live venue prices. Assumes shared twin rooms, three breakfasts/lunches/dinners, selected paid attractions and regional transport. Flights, travel insurance, shopping, photographer and any extra arrival/departure meals are excluded. Replace each allowance with actual quotes before collecting money.

GROUP TOTAL · 1,868.75 PLN × 8 = 14,950 PLN including the contingency. If seven friends cover an eighth traveller on the same budget, divide 14,950 by 7: approximately 2,135.71 PLN per paying person (round the group settlement once).

OPTIONAL EXTRAS · Photographer: quoted session total ÷ participants paying. Extra room or single supplement: allocate to the people using it. Non-refundable event deposits: agree responsibility before booking. Refundable accommodation deposits need cash available but are not trip spending unless retained.

Line item	Assumption	PLN / person
Accommodation	3 nights × 200 PLN	600
Breakfast	3 × 35 PLN	105
Lunch	3 × 50 PLN	150
Dinner	3 × 90 PLN	270
Attractions	Planning allowance	250
Local / airport / regional transport	Planning allowance	100
Coffee / snacks / optional drinks	3 × 50 PLN	150
Subtotal	Per person	1,625
Contingency	15% of subtotal	243.75
Total	**Per person**	**1,868.75**

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Seasonal edits / markets, winter and spring

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER CHRISTMAS MARKETS · Base near Old Town for short returns to warmth. Use Day 1’s late afternoon or Day 3’s evening for Rynek stalls; allow 60-90 minutes plus a hot-drink break. Late November and December are the usual focus, but 2026/27 listings conflict on exact dates. Confirm the official city/organiser programme before booking travel around a particular day.

WINTER CITY BREAK · Plan outdoor photographs around 10:00-14:30, then a museum or café before evening. Pack layers, waterproof shoes with grip, gloves, hat, umbrella and a power bank. Snow is not guaranteed. Rooftops can be weather-dependent; keep a restaurant alternative. Check current air-quality information before prolonged outdoor activity.

SPRING EUROPE TRAVEL · March can remain cold; later spring offers more comfortable walks but variable rain. Use Planty and the river for flexible outdoor time. Bring a light waterproof layer and comfortable shoes. Check holiday opening hours and avoid committing every hour to ticketed visits.

YEAR-ROUND · May-June and September-October often suit walking-focused trips. For value, compare weekday stays against event and holiday weekends using total accommodation and transport prices, rather than assuming one month is always cheapest.

Official Kraków visitor programme · krakow.travel

City notices · krakow.pl

Market organiser · kiermasze.com.pl

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Practical essentials / small details that save time

ARRIVAL · The airport rail link serves Kraków Główny; check the operating timetable, ticket and onward walk or tram to your accommodation. Do not assume a city-tram ticket covers the airport train or Wieliczka rail journey.

GETTING AROUND · Walk within each neighbourhood, then use a tram when it saves energy. Validate unused paper transit tickets as instructed immediately after boarding; digital ticket activation depends on the app. Check the correct zone, time validity and luggage arrangements through the operator.

PACK · Comfortable walking shoes for cobbles, weather layers, charging cable, power bank, reusable water bottle and offline tickets. Confirm lift/step-free access with each venue; historic streets and buildings vary. Travellers with a stroller should check the mine’s rules before booking.

FREE TIME · Rynek, Planty, Kanonicza and riverside walks provide a strong free itinerary. Exhibition interiors, cathedral areas and tours can have separate charges even when the surrounding public space is free.

NEXT CITY · Kraków Główny is the starting point to check for Warsaw, Wrocław and international journeys towards Prague or Vienna. Choose your actual departure date in PKP Intercity, Czech Railways or ÖBB: direct trains, journey times and reservations vary. Leave a generous luggage and station buffer; do not treat an international transfer as a half-day sightseeing slot.

Kraków public transport · ztp.krakow.pl

Airport rail operator · kolejemalopolskie.com.pl

Plan the next city by rail · intercity.pl

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Maid-of-honour / group organiser checklist

BEFORE DEPOSITS · Agree the bride’s preferences, spending ceiling, quiet versus late nights and who pays her share. Collect dates, room choices, dietary and access needs privately. Confirm passport/travel-document requirements with official sources for each traveller.

BOOKING · Secure accommodation with written group acceptance; record all deposit and refund deadlines. Reserve the anchor activity and Saturday dinner. Book a photographer only with agreed costs, location permissions and rain arrangements. Confirm celebration accessories and group size are welcome at each venue.

ONE WEEK BEFORE · Send a one-page schedule, meeting pins, emergency contacts and shared expense rules. Assign a backup organiser, ticket holder and dinner contact. Keep personal documents out of public group links. Agree an opt-out option for every paid activity.

ON THE DAY · Count the group at departures, carry a small essentials kit and build in water, meals and bathroom stops. Keep photo sessions away from memorials and worship spaces. Reconfirm the evening table and return transport.

AFTER THE TRIP · Upload receipts, settle balances, return refundable deposits and share photos only with permission. Mark any guide detail that has changed so it can be corrected.

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Source check and publication note

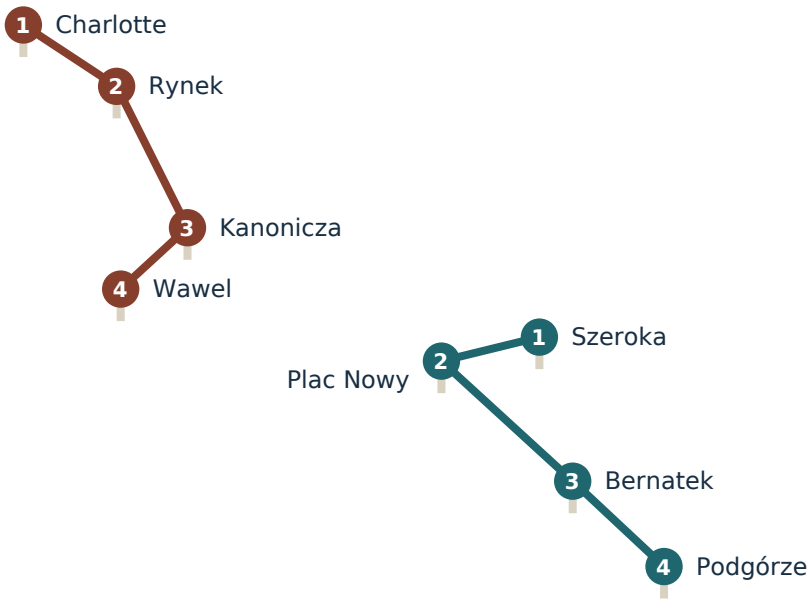
Prepared for the 2026 season; reviewed 22 October 2026. Venue identities and official links were checked during preparation. Availability, prices, opening hours, menus, transport schedules and group policies are not live. The itinerary times and budget are editorial planning estimates, not reservations or supplier quotes.

Check the venue’s official site and your booking confirmation before paying, and recheck the day before visiting. Christmas-market dates require particular care because third-party listings disagree. Named Airbnb properties and unverified claims about group refusals are intentionally not presented as facts.

Maps in this companion are simplified route overviews. The tilted view is 3D-style, not surveyed 3D buildings or turn-by-turn navigation. Use the linked walking directions for street-level routing; paths, crossings and access may change. The routes cover the city walks; Wieliczka is a separate regional journey.

Two city walks, one clear overview

3D-style schematic / north towards the top. Numbered stops show visit order, not exact street geometry. Use the directions links for navigation; Wieliczka is a separate rail journey.



Day 1 · Old Town → Wawel / walking directions · google.com

Day 2 · Kazimierz → Podgórze / walking directions · google.com

Explore Kraków in Google Earth (3D availability varies) · earth.google.com

Approximate stop coordinates; the tilt is illustrative. This PDF contains a static map. The website offers flat and tilted views.