

# Cracow

## Royal City - Cultural Capital

Cracow - called the secret capital of Poland - is a city which has been shaped by history over the past thousand years. Firstly mentioned in 10th century, Cracow finally became the centre of Poland at the end of 11th century and was then the Polish capital for about 500 hundred years. In Cracow the Polish kings lived in the Royal Castle on the top of Wawel Hill. Their coronations and funerals took place in the Cracow Cathedral. Later in the second half of 19th century during the partitions of Poland it was a very important city of the austrian province of Galicia. Especially in Cracow the Polish culture flourished and was preserved.

## Economical Centre - City of students

Once Cracow was one of the most important commercial towns in Europe: The Main Market Square, the Cloth Hall, St. Mary Church and other buildings in the Old Town originate from this great time when Cracow belonged to the famous Hanseatic League. But at present Cracow is a city of economical interest, too. Particularly in the last years a lot of international companies have settled down in the direct neighbourhood to Cracow. They invest because of many well educated young people - 150 thousand students study their, not so high salaries, good location in the heart of Europe and a large market of 750 thousand Cracow inhabitants. By the way Cracow is nowadays the third biggest city of Poland after Warsaw and Lodz.

## Cracow Tourism Boom

Besides an unprecedented tourism boom has reached the city of Cracow so that every year the number of visitors increases by 1 million. On the one hand it brings a lot of money and work to the Cracow citizens themselves. On the other hand the tourism boom is responsible for rising lease prices (about 15 % additional costs included), estate prices (2000 %) and other living costs.