



Kraków is infamous for its cafe culture which easily rivals that of celebrated western capitals like Paris, perhaps even outmatching them pound for pound.

Boogie D-3, ul. Szpitalna 9, tel. 012 429 43 06, www.boogiefcafe.pl. Boogie is whatever you want it to be - restaurant, bar or café. A snappy, yet soothing black and cream-coloured interior of jazz portraits, glossy ceilings and textured walls characterises this intimate, self-consciously stylish hangout where jazz players jump into action for the benefit of an appreciative audience on Thursdays and Fridays. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 04:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Cafe Bar Lodziarnia C-4, ul. Grodzka 13, tel. 0 668 42 06 86, www.krainazabaw.com. Wonderful. What looks like your bog-standard ice cream parlour hides a huge secret upstairs. No, not the steady stream of pretty girls who eat their ice cream here, instead the children's playground: it's enormous. Heaven sent for parents tired of dragging the kids from museum to museum, you can sit and have a coffee, cocktail or ice cream, while the young tykes play until their hearts' content in a very safe environment. Don't forego the great baguettes, a lunchtime treat. ▶ Open 09:30 - 24:00. ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Cafe Botanica C-3, ul. Bracka 9, tel. 012 422 89 80, www.cafebotanica.pl. A vast menu of sandwiches, snacks and what has apparently been voted the best quiche in Kraków, all served inside a jungle of plants and trees. Strict veggies watch out, a few meat dishes are included on the menu. ▶ Open 08:30 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 08:30 - 24:00, Sun 10:00 - 23:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Cafe Mlynek D-7, Pl. Wolnica 7, tel. 012 430 62 02, www.cafemlynek.pl. The best cafe south of ulica Józefa for about seven years running, in addition to a classic Kazimierz art gallery atmosphere, good coffee and square-side summer seating, Mlynek also serves a smattering of yummy vegetarian dishes like humus and garlic bread, quiches and a delicious Spanish tomato soup (like gazpacho, but served hot). ▶ Open 08:00 - 01:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Camelot C-3, ul. Św. Tomasza 17, tel. 012 421 01 23. Let a blissful day unravel before you amid a collection of tiny tables, squeaking floorboards and watercolors pinned to white walls. Owlsh academics mingle with local hotshots and braying tourists inside what it no less than a city institution. Leaf through the piles of press while waiting for their homemade desserts to wing their way in front of you. On Fridays at 20:00, check out the delightfully strange, often a tad corny, always endearing Loch Camelot cabaret. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00. ☒ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Camera Cafe B-3, ul. Wiślna 5, tel. 0 601 19 03 81, www.camera-cafe.pl. Framed film stars overlook modern starlets stirring their chocolates while silent films play in the background of this curvy, creamy cafe/bar. Marrying movies and chocolate, Camera Cafe offers a wide range of chocolate cocktails - and we're not talking about powdered cocoa, here; more like spoonable pudding. A number of other sweet indulgences are on hand, as well as good breakfast options and a few other savories. And, this being PL, you can get yourself a white russian any time of day. Overall, Camera Cafe is a great place to take a date in the evenings or even get some work done via wifi in the afternoon. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 23:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

NEW

Cheder E-6, ul. Józefa 36 (entrance from ul. Jakuba), tel. 012 431 15 17, www.cheder.pl. Opened by the Jewish Culture Festival Association in a former prayer house, Cheder continues Kazimierz's obsession with its past, serving as a Jewish cultural centre and cafe. A large open space with wooden furnishings, Cheder hosts lectures, film screenings, concerts, exhibitions and other events promoting Judaism; however its most impressive resource is the in-house library of Jewish-related books, many of which are in English. Whatever your relationship with Israel, this quiet, non-smoking, wifi-enabled cafe is undeniably one of the best places to work or study in town, with a delicious cup of Israeli coffee served in a traditional finjan to guide you. ▶ Open 11:00 - 22:00. Closed Mon. ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Dym (Smoke) C-2, ul. Św. Tomasza 13, tel. 012 429 66 61. A long, dark drink-den, the dull design of which is made up for by the character of the clientele: primarily self-proclaimed artists and intellectuals that blow a lot of smoke. How many advances and grants have been blown here it's hard to know, but spend a few nights at Dym and you're guaranteed to become a character in at least two unfinished novels. Yes, we were all so full of promise back then; back before all our ambition and drive went into drink, we went broke and ended up scribbling for this rag... Ah, glory days. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00. ☒ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Jama Michalika D-2, ul. Floriańska 45, tel. 012 422 15 61, www.jamamichalika.pl. Not so much a café as a lesson in local history. Established 111 years ago it was here that the Młoda Polska movement was founded, with many of the leading artists of the day choosing to take their refreshment inside this grand looking venue. Decorated with stained glass and artwork from the fin-de-siecle era this café serves as a favoured stamping ground for elder tourists in colourful clothes, though the poker-faced nature of the staff limits the appeal of return visits. ▶ Open 09:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 23:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Kolanko N°6 E-6, ul. Józefa 17, tel. 012 292 03 20. The plumber who opened this place named it after his favourite pipe, and there's wacky touches galore in this spot, including an antique dentist's chair. Chilled grooves contribute to an escapist atmosphere, and the pancake menu has entered itself into local folklore. ▶ Open 11:30 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 10:30 - 24:00. ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Młyn (Mill) C-3, ul. Sienna 12, tel. 012 422 23 62. An In Your Pocket favourite, not least because of the window-side stools that allow for lengthy spells of judging the local lookers. It's a largely unremarkable regulars hangout this, another point that marks it out amid the mass of cafes colonized by foreign screechings. Particularly recommended on a frosty day is their grill food, served amid cottage decorations such as baskets and veg hanging from the walls. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 24:00. ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Massolit Books & Café A-4, ul. Felicjanek 4, tel. 012 432 41 50, www.massolit.com. A true labour of love, filled with dusty shelves groaning under the weight of thousands of titles with broken spines. This is not just the best English language bookshop you'll ever find in Eastern Europe, but also an atmospheric café where budding playwrights convene for muted whisperings and American cookies, bagels, pies and the best drip coffee in town. Ground zero for ex-pats, the bulletin board is an important community rallying point. Often organising lectures and literary events, Massolit also has free English-language story times for children under 7 (11:00-12:00) and those over 7 (12:00-13:00) every Sunday morning. A requisite pilgrimage point for foreigners. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 21:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Nowa Prowincja (The New Province) C-3, ul. Bracka 3-5, tel. 0 693 770 079, www.nowaprowincja.krakow.pl. An ideal respite and rendezvous location, we have to give the nod to Nowa Prowincja over its next door sister cafe ('Prowincja'), if only for being the roomier of the two. A sparing wooden interior, this stellar coffee bar is primarily furnished with chatting friends enjoying delicious coffee and maybe the best hot chocolate in town - so thick you need a spoon. ▶ Open 08:30 - 23:00, Sun 09:30 - 23:00. ☒ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Noworolski C-3, Rynek Główny 1/3, tel. 012 422 47 71, www.noworolski.com.pl. Take a seat in this local classic and breathe the history. This is where Comrade Lenin would come and read the papers before going on to achieve greater things, while WWII occupation saw Noworolski become the top haunt of Nazi nabobs. It's hard to believe the over-the-top interiors have been spruced up since the grand opening in 1910, and the decadent art nouveau finishes seem popular with Kraków residents enjoying the autumn years of their lives. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00. ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Pijalnia Czekolady Wedla C-3, Rynek Główny 46, tel. 012 429 40 85, www.wedelpijalnie.pl. A superb collection of confectionary supplied courtesy of Wedel, Poland's best-loved brand. Find chocolates, cakes and pralines of every description, every bit as delightful as the aproned girls that serve them. Interiors are worthy of this kingdom of temptation and include a vaulted glass ceiling and black and white pictures of Wedel's founding fathers. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Ratuszowa C-3, Rynek Główny 1, tel. 012 421 13 26, www.ratuszowa.pl. Go through the secret door in the Town Hall Tower on the Rynek and descend into this nicely renovated cellar pub. One disconcerting fact you can tell your friends is that it used to be a prison, hence the heavy doors and dim atmosphere. The food goes beyond institutional standards, though the limited clientele appears to consist primarily of surprised tourists who've wandered in by accident and can't find their way back to daylight. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Słodki Wentzl C-3, Rynek Główny 19, tel. 012 429 57 12, www.slodkiwentzl.pl. Allegedly the best ice cream in the city, and we've found no reason to dispute this claim. A bland interior should not deter visits, this café proves that the Rynek is far more than just a case of dodging tourist traps. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Tajemniczy Ogród (The Secret Garden) C-3, ul. Bracka 3-5, tel. 012 429 38 14, www.tajemniczyogrod.pl. The secret is out on this one: with Tajemniczy Ogród's wicker and parasol courtyard as an anchor, the surrounding tenements of this hip hangout on ul. Bracka have gotten their own liquor licenses and conspired to create the most happening section of the Old Town. A bar and cafe, Tajemniczy Ogród is mostly a place to see and be seen, especially in the summer when the chlorophyllous courtyard is full of free spirits and artists. A more low-profile location in Kazimierz at Plac Nowy 9. ▶ Open 09:00 - 02:00, Fri 09:00 - 03:00, Sat 10:00 - 03:00, Sun 10:00 - 02:00. ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗

Zakopianka D-3, ul. Św. Marka 34 A, tel. 012 421 40 45, www.estradakrakowska.com. Many places in Krakow claim to be 'far from the maddening crowd'; this one is the real deal. On the northern edge of Planty Park just seconds from the train station and a quickstep from the Rynek it barely seems feasible, yet it's true. Sup a coffee or two on the glorious terrace here, surrounded by leafy trees and chirping sparrows and muse on how peaceful the city is, before heading off into the madness once more. It's a gem. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗



Nightlife at a glance

ELITE: Those who want a touch of class will find themselves at home in **Stalowe Magnolia**, an impressively dressed music venue with premium drinks, or weigh in on the 'best cocktails in Kraków' debate by visiting **Baroque** and **Paparazzi**. **M Club** is the most exclusive bar in town; get buzzed in to mingle with models. For more of a pulse, try **Taawa**.

STUDENTS: Not your most discriminating demographic, students will go anywhere there's fun music and cheap drinks - namely **Carpe Diem**, **Faust**, **Gorączka** or **Łubu-Dubu** (Wielopole 15), while those with intent to impress head to **Rdza**, **Frantic** and **Cien**.

LADS: The **Irish Mbassy** and **English Football Club** - where matches are on and the staff are used to boisterous behaviour - welcome stag groups, as does **Prozak**, a supremely naff meat market popular with local girls who like foreign boys. For the most action per square metre head to **Wielopole 15**, or keep it civilised inside **Nic Nowego**.

COUPLES: Couples looking for some face time should sip cocktails in a secluded corner of **Pergamin**, hideout inside a cabinet in **Café Szafe**, soak up the kama sutra ambience of **Buddha Bar**, converse by candlelight in **Mleczarnia** or stay home and listen to D'Angelo.

HIPSTERS: Take your tight pants to **Miejsce**, your unfinished novel to **Dym** (see cafes), your anarchist literature to **Kawiarnia Naukowa**, your art-zine to **Paauza** and your self-destructive side to **Piękny Pies**.

Beer Gardens

Certainly there can be no more Krakowian activity than sitting in the sun in the late afternoon with a beer in your hand, recounting the events of the night before, making half-baked travel plans and dreaming up daft art projects you'll never follow through with. In fact some people seem to have made a living out of such blissful idleness (they're called ex-pats). While all of Kraków may seem like a beer garden in the summer months, contrary to the evidence in front of you, it is not legal to drink in public spaces, whether it's the Planty or the Wisła riverbank. Nor should you need to. With more bars per capita than anywhere else in Europe, suddenly every single one has a garden full of patio furniture the first day the sun comes out. So which to choose? Most foreigners will keep to the Rynek (C-3), and while the views and vibe are super, you'll soon discover every pub has jacked its prices up to make their summer killing; every one except the venerable **Vis a Vis** (Rynek 29) that is, where a beer is still a swallowable 8zł. On the square's opposite side seek out the courtyard of **Buddha Bar** (Rynek 6) where DJs spin records under the stars. Other Old Town notables include **Tajemniczy Ogród** (C-3, ul. Bracka 3-5) - literally named 'The Secret Garden', **Klub Re** (D-3, ul. Św. Krzyża 4) and **Bunkier** (B-2), a positively huge terrace on the Planty. Track down to Kazimierz, however, to enjoy alfresco drinking at its best - **Piac Nowy** (D-6) is a no-brainer, though for the most scenic garden head to **Mleczarnia** (D-6, ul. Meiselsa 20). Also, don't forget **Szeroka** (E-6) - far less lively than the rest of Kazimierz, but less grubby as well and catches sun later into the evening.

If you believe urban legend Kraków has the highest density of bars in the world.

Bars & Pubs

Baroque C-2, ul. Św. Jana 16, tel. 012 422 01 06, www.baroque.com.pl. Split into two rooms separated by heavy wooden doors Baroque is a sharp and modern space that mixes in the new with the old. It looks attractive enough, but there's one reason alone to be visiting this Godsend, and that's the presence of cocktails that rate as some of the best in the city. Choose from knockout creations like the Polski Spring Punch, or get your head down and do your best to rip through their choice of 100 plus vodkas. Hair of the dog will be in order the next day, and what better way to dissolve the hangover than with a Bloody Mary. ▶ Open 08:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 03:00. [Internet] [Credit cards accepted] [Outdoor seating] [Facilities for the disabled]

Boom Bar Rush B-3, ul. Golebia 6, tel. 012 429 39 74, www.boombarrush.com. Sunglasses at night and a spiky hairdo are usually enough to get past the fashion gestapo hovering at the door. Once inside expect a taste of chic minimalism with scrubbed stone walls and cream coloured seating, while a crowd of local media twits show off well practiced dance moves to R'n'B and disco backing sounds. ▶ Open 19:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 19:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun. [Internet]

Budda Bar Drink & Garden C-3, Rynek Główny 6, tel. 012 421 65 22, www.budda-drink.pl. To enjoy Buddha to the max you need to visit in summer when the courtyard garden transforms into an al fresco dance arena. On those chillier evenings make for the warmly lit crimson interior which comes illuminated by hundreds of flickering candles, while drinkers down potent concoctions under the conceited gaze of gold buddhas. Check out the mezzanine level for something a little different, while couples suffering a lull in their relationship should study the wall paintings; randy Indian figures entwined in Kama Sutra embraces. ▶ Open 12:00 - 01:00. [Internet] [Credit cards accepted]

Bull Pub D-3, ul. Mikołajska 2, tel. 012 423 11 68. What the Great British Pub once looked like before the brewing industry was mugged by alcopops, Wetherspoons and silly smoking laws. Squint and you could be in the Rovers Return, what with all the glass sconces, booth seating and pictures of fox hunting 'toffs'. The Brit associations mean there's a fair chance of running into groups of lads freshly dispatched from an EasyJet, and solo drinkers would be advised to pick their drinking partners carefully - stories of lone men being slipped something nasty in their beer have recently emerged. ▶ Open 09:00 - 02:00. [Internet] [Credit cards accepted]

Bunkier Cafe (Bunker) B-2, Pl. Szczepański 3a, tel. 012 431 05 85, www.alchemia.com.pl. Attached to Kraków's best contemporary art gallery, this enclosed terrace bar/cafe on the Planty resembles a spacious greenhouse wherein the plants have been replaced with couples, happy hour colleagues and English teachers giving private lessons around wobbly tables and chairs. A year-round pleasure (thanks to plenty of heaters), Bunkier's inviting atmosphere is marred only by the slow to completely negligible table service that can't be circumnavigated. ▶ Open 09:00 - 02:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 03:00. [Internet] [Credit cards accepted]

Symbol key

[Internet]	[Credit cards accepted]
[Live music]	[Outdoor seating]
[Animal friendly]	[Facilities for the disabled]
[Air conditioning]	[Old Town location]
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Cafe Szafe A-4, ul. Felicjanek 10, tel. 0 663 90 56 52, www.cafeszafe.com. Owned by two amiable artists, Cafe Szafe has a warm, inviting atmosphere unique to most Kraków bars - a trait which has endeared it to locals and expats alike. With a secluded back room that frequently hosts concerts, film and photography exhibitions, Szafe gracefully accommodates barflies and event attendees simultaneously. Red stencilled walls and enormous blue cupboards and wardrobes - some of which can be sat in - adorned with strange organic sculptures of birds and other creatures furnish this long-time favourite. Recommended. ▶ Open 09:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 03:00, Sun 10:00 - 02:00. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

Carpe Diem Pub C-3, ul. Floriańska 33, tel. 012 431 22 67, www.carpediem.pl. Carpe Diem's primary feature is a ceiling which does its level best to decapitate all those who visit. Survive this hazard and you'll find yourself drinking in a typical cellar venue, this one with a half-hearted maritime theme that includes fishing nets, lanterns and a model galleon hanging precariously above. The bar staff appear grimly determined to keep the fridge unplugged at all cost. ▶ Open 12:00 - 04:00, Sun 17:00 - 03:00. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

C.K. Browar (H.M. Brewery) B-2, ul. Podwale 6-7, tel. 012 429 25 05, www.ckbrowar.krakow.pl. Emperor Franz stares defiantly from the top of the stairs here, possibly wondering quite how he came to be in the midst of so many drunken young men. This is definitely one for the lads, with the raucous beer hall atmosphere accentuated by copper brewing vats, wood carved furnishings and the dim glow of tiffany lamps. There's a few house brews to choose from and they're all available in ten litre pipes. ▶ Open 09:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 04:00. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

English Football Club D-3, ul. Mikolajska 5, tel. 012 421 01 49, www.efckrakow.pl. Apparently the number of punters coming to town demanded it. Quite literally wall-to-wall football with team shirts hanging off every available space, three lions on the floor and Sky Sports beaming down their banal brand of hype and hyperbole. This is nothing less than stag heaven, and as such expect weekends to be awash with Brit lads bowling around bragging about last night's prostitute. Real men will take advantage of the tables out back that come fitted with their own private beer taps, though they sadly ruined one of the centre's best courtyards, formerly of Klub Re. ▶ Open 13:00 - 01:00. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

Faust C-3, Rynek Główny 6, tel. 012 423 83 00, www.faust.com.pl. A typical Krakowian dungeon space with a set of perilous stairs leading to a network of rooms that reveal a Babylonian mixture of languages and vices. The central location means a quiet night is never on the cards, and local DJs spin everything from mainstream MTV hits to more specialized sounds like klemzer or drum'n'bass - check before hand to know what to expect. ▶ Open 12:00 - 03:00, Thu 12:00 - 04:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 07:00. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

Folia C-3, Rynek Główny 30, tel. 012 423 26 52, www.foliacub.pl. An audacious effort to do something different with a cellar for once. Badly signposted, you need to walk to the end of the courtyard corridor, down some stairs, round a few corners and then bang, find yourself inside one of Kraków's best bars. The pseudo-industrial interiors hold a collection of abstract oddities that include Cyrillic lettering, plastic sheeting, vinyl seating and cocktail menus superimposed onto glass candle guards. Run by a collection of local art figures Folia's walls also showcase weird poster prints such as the delightful 'Man and Dog without right wing'. Expect the crowd to consist exclusively of local sex sirens and effeminate celebs. ▶ Open 17:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 17:00 - 04:00. Closed Sun. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

Klub Re D-3, ul. Św. Krzyża 4, tel. 012 431 08 81, www.klubre.pl. Your standard Krakowian cellar bar in most respects, Re is a standout for two reasons. The first is its success in bringing touring international acts to Kraków: some of the city's most exciting and memorable concerts happen at this small venue, including contemporary indie bands from America and abroad. The second is its beer garden, which at one time ranked as the best in Kraków, but has sadly been encroached on by the neighbouring English Football Club. Still, this tree-filled courtyard is as pleasant a place as you'll find for a drink with friends on an amiable afternoon. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

Lizard King C-2, ul. Św. Tomasza 11a, tel. 0 669 45 26 36, www.lizardking.pl. Following their success in Poznań and Łódź, Lizard King has brought music to the masses of Kraków, largely deprived of a proper rock venue until now. Free entry to see their nightly noisy Polish rock acts has already made this place immensely popular, despite the expensive beer and cocktails. An abundance of balconies and tables leading to a large stage with an old-school LED display pixelating behind it make up the head-banging burnt sienna interior. Arrive early or reserve a table if you have more than a passing interest in the evening's performance. ▶ Open 12:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 04. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

M Club C-2, ul. Św. Tomasza 11a, tel. 012 431 00 49, www.mclub.pl. Guests get buzzed through a glass door before being led down the stairs by a tall hostess who would be equally at home on the centerfold of a magazine. Supremely classy M Bar is a great detour from Kraków's student infested cellar drinking pits, and the perfect escape from the stags that vomit on the streets

outside. Find stick thin girls dressed to kill in the latest labels reclining on leather seating, checking their lippy in the mirrors on the walls, while adept bar staff bring the cocktail of their choice to the glass topped tables. Enjoy whispered conversation in the red lit corners while sex music purrs in the background. ▶ Open 18:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

Nic Nowego D-3, ul. Św. Krzyża 15, tel. 012 421 61 88, www.nicnowego.com. Similar to a cosmopolitan Dublin Bar the Irish-owned Nic Nowego continues to serve as the expat community's primary source of hangovers. Black-clad candidates for Miss Polska serve up a wicked array of drinks from behind a sleek metallic bar, including the best Guinness in Poland, while Sky Sports keeps a largely foreign audience captivated. Don't let the 'No Stags' sign on the door fool you, nights in Nic Nowego have been known to merge into daylight, and propping up the bar you'll find a range of characters from loyal customers who've been rewarded with their own fridge, to bleary eyed lads who've just missed their plane. ▶ Open 07:00 - 02:00, Fri 07:00 - 03:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 03:00. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱

Old St. Nick's Pub C-6, ul. Św. Agnieszki 1 (Nathan's Villa Hostel), tel. 012 422 35 45, www.nathansvilla.com. The flagship bar of Nathan's Villa Hostel, so expect crowds of backpackers drinking with debauched abandon and the raucous atmosphere you'd expect when people don't have to work the next day. Lucky buggers. Split into four rooms including a billiard room, separate smoking lounge and a main bar area, which frequently hosts live music and impromptu acts of depravity. No problem mingling, and the quiz nights on Monday and Thursday attract a number of local expats taking advantage of the cut-price beer. ▶ Open 12:00 - 03:00. ☎ 📍 📺 📶 📱



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STARWOOD PREFERRED GUEST

One Lounge & Garden C-3, ul. Św. Jana 1 (Bonerowski Palace Hotel), tel. 012 374 13 52. This narrow lounge bar in one of the Rynek's most coveted locales seems to be looking down its nose at everyone else. Set in an early 16th century palace, One Lounge has gone minimal modern with an interior of white walls and white leather loveseats with skinny glass tables. While it's all quite comfortable, it does an impressive job of rendering one of Kraków's most storied buildings utterly soulless. Fortunately you can escape to seating right on the market square, but there's no lack of that nearby. If you want to pay the highest prices on the Rynek, might as well do it in the Rynek's most pretentious interior. Against the white backdrop everyone's still sure to notice your spending power. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00.

Paparazzi D-3, ul. Mikołajska 9, tel. 012 429 45 97, www.paparazzi.com.pl. Kraków cocktail culture started here. This long, narrow space opens up at the back with a decent room featuring whirring fans and pics of celebs practicing their pout. The cocktail list is second to none and this remains first choice for anyone looking to clinch deals over invigorating concoctions fixed by a team of specialists. ▶ Open 11:00 - 01:00, Sat, Sun 16:00 - 01:00.

Pauza C-2, ul. Floriańska 18/3, www.pauza.pl. One of the trendiest dining dens in the Old Town, head to this unmarked first floor bar to feel like you're 'in the know.' Full of stylish haircuts and sexy dresses, Pauza twins as a photography gallery with perfectly illuminated high-quality exhibitions, making the hipsters feel justifiably art-smart. Furnishings are modern with low loveseats and stools and some enviable tables in the windows overlooking Floriańska. Despite an atrocious queue for the toilet and typically trendy house music, this is one of the best hangout spots in the Old Town. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 24:00.

Pergamin (The Parchment) C-3, ul. Bracka 3-5, tel. 0 600 39 55 41, www.pergamin.pl. Take a seat at the bar to allow the staff their moment of glory as they spin bottles in a bid to create the perfect cocktail. Elsewhere find secluded corners aplenty, scarlet colours and clubbish background sounds stoking the temperature. The perfect pre-party spot on a street that has emerged as many people's abiding memory of club Kraków. ▶ Open 10:00 - 04:00.

Philo D-3, ul. Św. Tomasza 30/2, tel. 0 513 06 79 96. Comfortably off the Old Town high streets, Philo's polished woods, beige leather seating, bevy of bookshelves and top-mark house tunes played at chill-out volume attract a crowd of students and dropouts engaged in deep discussion while earnestly working their way through a pack of cigarettes. An ideal place to build your reputation as a hard-living intellectual. ▶ Open 24hrs.

Piękny Pies C-2, ul. Sławkowska 6a, www.pieknypies.pl. Enter their new locale via a courtyard, which on our visit was being used as a makeshift toilet by a particularly brazen lady. Power to you, girl. Spread over two floors find a furnace hot basement downstairs and two rooms on the ground floor. What you'll be lucky to find is a seat. In fact this space packs out so much it's hard to determine what it actually looks like. Music ranges from reggae to disco, while the staff appear powerless to clear the half-empty glasses that gather on the sticky tables. Some claim this place has lost the spirit of old, but it remains your best choice if you want a late night but not a nightclub. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 04:00.

Pod Papugami Irish Pub C-2, ul. Św. Jana 18, tel. 012 422 61 01, www.podpapugami.krakow.pl. You may remember Pod Papugami as an underground labyrinth filled with foggy alcoves and dark tunnels. Well they've now expanded, taking control of the ground floor space and doubling their capacity. They've done a good job on the refurb, with all the requisite carved wood, blackened pots and even a set of 19th century golf clubs and this is nothing less than the full diddy-di experience - right down to those posters of a toucan with a pint of black stuff balanced on his beak. The Guinness here stands alongside the best, while a healthy smattering of plasma screens mean there's no chance of putting your neck out while craning over a tall bloke for a view of the game. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00.

Przychodnia Towarzyska C-2, ul. Floriańska 53, tel. 012 421 84 65, www.przychodnia-towarzyska.pl. A neon blue cross marks the entrance to the Emergency Friendship bar. Regularly packed to the rafters, this is where groups of dressed up students descend to neck vodka shots and swap phone numbers. Dancing on the tables is rife and encouraged, so watch your drink. ▶ Open 19:00 - 01:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 19:00 - 03:00. Closed Sun.

QUBE A-5, ul. Powiśle 7 (Sheraton Kraków Hotel), tel. 012 662 16 74, www.sheraton.com.pl/krakow. Beautiful waitresses glide around delivering cocktails fixed by expert bar staff. Found inside the Sheraton's showpiece atrium, QUBE's claim to fame is over 200 brands of vodka, as well as a genius resident pianist. ▶ Open 08:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 02:00.

Salt & Co B-4, ul. Straszewskiego 17 (Radisson SAS Hotel), tel. 012 618 88 88, www.radissonsas.com. Drinking in the Radisson is as therapeutic as a shot of valium. Pleasantly protected from the elements outside Salt & Co comes with a bright interior complimented by seats in dark violet. Modern art hangs from the walls, some of which were made using salt directly from the Wieliczka Mine. Polite staff serve a choice of Cohiba cigars while fixing complicated cocktails, and soft jazz and suchlike slides from the speakers. ▶ Open 09:00 - 01:00, Sun 09:00 - 24:00.

Shisha Club C-3, Mały Rynek 2, tel. 012 421 64 98, www.shisha.pl. A wacky bar seemingly plucked from the pages of an Arabian Nights fantasy. Lose yourself in a maze of chambers, each boasting names such as The Sultan's Room and Shisha Bazaar. There is a menu - pizza, pasta etc - but the real reason for visiting is the selection of water pipes. Order one to your table and let the day slip away. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 02:00.

SomePlace Else A-5, ul. Powiśle 7 (Sheraton Kraków Hotel), tel. 012 662 16 70, www.sheraton.com/krakow. Gaining in popularity, SPE have generated a name for live sport, live bands and a quality menu that steers towards the Tex-Mex end of the spectrum. The list of world beers goes above and beyond the usual choice of local liquids, and the interior is a combo of Yank road signs and pics of rock'n'roll heroes. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Mon, Sun 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 01:00.

Spokój C-3, ul. Bracka 3-5, tel. 012 430 07 28, www.spokoj.pl. Play out scenes from 'The Spy Who Shagged Me' inside this trip back to the 60s. Brown and orange colours permeate throughout, and authentic touches come in the way of vintage radios rescued from the attic, furry disco balls and a zany choice of colours. But this place is no junk store throwback, the interior looks sharp and snappy, complimented by a choice of music that runs from disco to jazz. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00, Fri 10:00 - 04:00, Sat 12:00 - 04:00, Sun 12:00 - 02:00.



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Stags

It might be a little premature to say this, but the number of stag groups in Kraków has fallen significantly since the summer of 2007 when you couldn't walk to work without having to help some haplessly sloshed British lad find his hotel room and compatriots at 8:00 am. As such, local anti-stag sentiment has abated to a degree, while Kraków hasn't lost any of its general appeal as a destination for pre-marital horseplay with cheap beer, gorgeous women, great nightlife and easy flight connections. That's not to say that if you come here you can act like a complete prat without provoking the long arm of the law to take you by your popped collar and toss you in the drunk tank for 250zł; it's more common than you think.

If you're coming to town for some final debauched bacchology, take a look at our quick recommendations at the beginning of the sleep, eat and drink sections for some laddish suggestions. While booze and women should be easy enough to suss out on your own (with the help of this guide), visit the professionals for daylight activities. Going beyond paintball and go-carting, Crazy Stag (www.crazystag.com) can arrange a mafia-style kidnapping, limo full of strippers, or recreate Communist Kraków while speeding you around in an old-school Trabant. Brit based 'Last Night of Freedom' (www.lastnightoffreedom.co.uk) organize tank driving, Kalashnikovs, football matches and other Alpha Male activities, while Polventure (www.polventure.co.uk) are the people to get in touch with if you want to get the groom 'zorbed' (put inside a giant ball before being dispatched down a steep hill).

NEW

Sports Pub C-4, ul. Grodzka 50, tel. 012 422 40 73, www.sportspub.pl. This formerly characterless cellar has been filled with the requisite memorabilia, a billiards table, foosball table (free) and 6 LED TVs to give you an alternative to some of Kraków's more stag-happy sports pubs. The teles aren't huge, but there is a three metre projection screen ready for the big match; that said, we can imagine things getting pretty cramped. This stands as a better place to find some casual sports camaraderie, with a seemingly even split between locals and foreigners. Play Pro Evo for free on Mondays, tournaments are Tuesday. ▶ Open 13:00 - 01:00. ☎

Stary Port (The Old Port) B-3, ul. Straszewskiego 27 (entrance from ul. Jablonowski), tel. 012 430 09 62, www.staryport.krakow.pl. Kraków's only sailor bar could be best described in three words only: Never-ending drunken singalong. This smoky, candlelit ship-in-a-bottle is packed full of students and seamen on permanent shore-leave and the selkies, sirens and sea-wenches that love them. Surrounded by nautical knick-knacks, salty, sea-creased musicians sing shanties into the wee hours (particularly on Thursday nights) and fellowship is found at the bottom of every bottle. Our favourite pub/plank to walk. Fetch aft the rum, Marcin! ▶ Open 09:00 - 01:00, Thu, Fri 09:00 - 03:00, Sat 12:00 - 03:00, Sun 12:00 - 01:00. ☎

The Irish Mbassy C-3, ul. Stolarska 3, tel. 012 431 02 21, www.irishmbassy.com. Cheekily stationed in the midst of Kraków's embassy row, the massive Irish M'Bassy is a popular place for weekenders and expats to get their passports punched and forget where they are. Numerous TV screens beam down live sports over three stories of original brick and gothic details, punctuated by sponsorship signage, sports and Irish memorabilia. Shirt and tie staff do well to keep track of the orders fired at them, while a decent line of pub grub - burgers and baguettes - makes this a one stop solution for a long night. ▶ Open 12:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 03:00. ☎

Tram Bar C-3, ul. Stolarska 11, tel. 012 423 22 55, www.trambar.pl. You will love the menu, a faithful reproduction of the Kraków transport map with station names replaced by drinks. Next stop, Herb and Honey Coffee? Located next to the US Consulate it is alternative without going over the top: you can escape the standard Kraków crowd here but avoid the more artsy types who make so many places in the city unbearable. Decent music gets played on Friday and Saturday nights when it becomes one of the top venues in the Old Town. ▶ Open 07:30 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 24:00. ☎

U Louisa C-3, Rynek Główny 13, tel. 012 617 02 22, www.ulouisa.com. Combining the comforts of an expat-friendly watering hole and a decent place to watch sport on a big screen, this superbly located bar tucked away in the bowels of a fancy shopping centre has gone for a combination medieval-industrial look complimented with some of the finest looking barmaids in Poland. A good choice of bottled German beer finishes things off nicely, making this a superb venue for getting away from both the hot and the cold weather. ▶ Open 11:00 - 01:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 05:00. ☎

Vis a Vis C-3, Rynek Główny 29, tel. 012 422 69 61. One of the summier bars in town, and one of the few places where the locals outnumber the tourists. Watching the local barflies getting pissed on vodka makes for an intriguing social study, and no matter how unappealing it sounds this is a great place for a taste of the real Kraków. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. ☎

Clubs

Krakow has a healthy number of clubs dotted around the city with parties going on pretty much most evenings. For the latest in what's on check out the English-language where2b.org website.

Art Club Błędne Koło (Vicious Circle Art Club) C-3, ul. Bracka 4 (first floor), tel. 0 722 22 20 69, www.bledne-kolo.krakow.pl. Through the courtyard and up the stairs to your left. Another Bracka hit filled with students and metrosexuals enjoying a wide variety of club sounds in an eclectic maze of rooms filled with wooden chests, sofas and bookshelves. At the weekends the parties have been known to stretch long into the next day. Subject to a recent renovation the Art Club is now back up and running, and better than ever before. Expect to dispense some cash at the door. ▶ Open 10:00 - 01:00, Thu 10:00 - 05:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 06:00. ☎

NEW

Blackfish C-4, ul. Grodzka 42, tel. 0 507 80 56 83. You first thing you'll notice descending the stairs into Blackfish is the smell: 'bad plumbing' is putting it nicely, and the dozens of teenagers smoking shisha does nothing to dispel it. The rustic interior of old wood and charred bricks is in desperate need of a scrub and doesn't seem to jive with the house music bumping from the speakers. Thursdays visit 80s hits, but the most popular nights seem to be Tuesday and Sunday: kids love karaoke, and this is little more than a hole filled with minors afterall. ▶ Open 17:00 - 04:00. ☎

Cień (The Shadow) C-2, ul. Św. Jana 15 (Courtyard), tel. 012 422 21 77, www.cienklub.com. Do expect to queue at weekends, and wear your best wardrobe if you want the chance to party alongside platinum waifs and other beautiful creatures. A welcome break from Kraków's more mainstream spaces expect to find top house sounds being played to a chemical crowd inside a cavernous set of medieval vaults. ▶ Open 21:00 - 06:00, Sun 21:00 - 03:00. Closed Mon. ☎

Enso A-1, ul. Karmelicka 52, tel. 012 633 65 20, www.ensoclub.com. Open Friday's and Saturday's only, but well worth saving yourself for. This place has made a hot start, attracting a young, well groomed crowd of beautiful things. A lot of effort has been paid to the design, which can best be described as futuristic, and the sound system is top notch. Clearly it's cocktails that are the order of the day here, and the bar staff aren't afraid to experiment. ▶ Open 20:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Sun. ☎

Frantic C-3, ul. Szewska 5, tel. 0 790 53 93 30, www.frantic.pl. Dance alongside hourglass figures in what was once Kraków's most legendary meat market. The door policy and chat-up techniques have become more sophisticated, and nowadays it's all spangly disco shirts and r'n'b vibes inside a huge underground crypt filled with exposed masonry and Doric pillars. ▶ Open 20:00 - 03:00. Closed Mon, Sun. ☎

Gorączka (Fever) B-3, ul. Szewska 7, tel. 012 421 92 61, www.goraczka.com.pl. This main line meatmarket is full of eager students, men with wandering hands, sweaty couples making out and an overabundance of dudes with spiky hair. If you aren't keen to dance there's really no place to hide in this relatively small cellar club where extremely loud music is managed by quality DJs

Baccarat

NEW

Baccarat C-3, ul. Stolarska 13, tel. 0 695 11 67 60, www.baccaratclub.pl. The opening of Baccarat represents a watershed moment in Kraków's nightlife scene. This extravagant underground house music club instantly ranks as one of the most stylish, high-class clubs in the city, full of fine touches including every elegant chandelier and lamp, the unique cloakroom door, the giant mirrorball DJ station - even the toilets, of which there are surprisingly plenty, deserve praise. Crushed velvet rooms of black, red or white are offset by colour-contrast low vinyl seating, there's a separate section for VIPers and even a room with a dancepole and wallsize mirror that can be coyly curtained off. And while the amount of money and time that went into making this the plushest club in Kraków may be unmeasurable, the fact that every subterranean surface has been handsomely upholstered comes with a shocking side effect: Baccarat is Kraków's first no-smoking club (commence jaw to dropping). While this would seem to represent a massive gamble on the part of the owners, there can be no doubt that Baccarat will be a soaring success, with those trotting out their best dress to get through the door queue being a bisection not of Kraków's elite, but its educated; the far-reaching appeal of the concept, design, music, and atmosphere guarantee it. If anything foreshadows the inevitable death knell of smoking in Kraków's bars and clubs, it isn't any EU-placating politics or waterlogged legislation. It's this. ▶ Open, Thu, Fri, Sat 19:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Sun. ☎

keeping the flesh in friction with proven dance hits rather than whatever rubbish they think is popular in London right now. It's a playful atmosphere and you're guaranteed to have a drink spilled on you, but nonetheless, you've got every reason to feel bad about yourself if you're heading home alone. Be prepared to show ID and don't be surprised to see a streetfight out front. ▶ Open 17:00 - 05:00. ☎

Kijów Klub H-3, Al. Krasieńskiego 34, tel. 012 422 36 77, www.kijowklub.pl. Gone are the days when clubbing in Kraków meant turning up in a hoodie before squelching across sticky floors. Kijów is the new face of clubbing, Kraków-style, with a design that's seen every spare shekel spent on turning it into a bit of a masterpiece. Filled with shiny surfaces, backlit glass blocks and vomit-green leather armchairs this place certainly looks the business, and unlike other Kraków clubs they've not overlooked the music. Booked up are some of the best DJs in town, with the vinyl selection erring towards electro house. It's free to get in, but you're expected to look the part. ▶ Open 16:00 - 05:00, Mon, Tue, Wed 16:00 - 01:00. ☎

Klub Pauza C-2, ul. Floriańska 18 (underground), www.klubpauza.pl. When we first came to this venue two years ago during the Unsound festival, we nearly asphyxiated to death. Now that it's officially open they seem to have the ventilation sorted, but the aggressive electronic music remains as abrasive as the walls. Cavernous, subterranean drink-dwellings such as this one have become somewhat unremarkable in Krakow, and though Klub Pauza is just as difficult to find as the established first-floor bar that shares its name, it lacks its predecessor's creative spark. Still better than most bars elsewhere in the world. ▶ Open 17:00 - 04:00, Sun 17:00 - 02:00. ☎

Jazz Clubs

Boogie D-3, ul. Szpitalna 9, tel. 012 429 43 06, www.boogiecave.pl. Cream and black colour schemes, lacquered surfaces and pictures of jazz legends combine to create a seductive atmosphere in this, one of Kraków's top jazz bars. Lacking a proper stage, jazz vixens wail by the piano (which inconspicuously does its best impression of a table) on Thursday and Friday nights: most often adorable young Polish vocalists with their funny-looking accompanist, neither of whom take themselves too seriously. Stick around late enough and they might let you steal the microphone... ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00, Mon 11:00 - 02:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 03:00. ☎ 📍 📞 📺 📻 📡

Harris Piano Jazz Bar C-3, Rynek Główny 28, tel. 012 421 57 41, www.harris.krakow.pl. Pass the giant jazz musician, descend and emerge through the smoke into what continues to serve as a stellar drinking den. The stout wooden benches are packed most evenings giving Harris an appealing glow. Serves as a great winter bothole, though in summer it takes on the dripping atmosphere of a sauna. ▶ Open 09:00 - 02:00. ☎ 📍 📞 📺 📻 📡

Piec'Art C-3, ul. Szewska 12, tel. 012 429 64 25, www.piecart.pl. The most attractive of Kraków's jazz dens, and as such a honeypot for pompous, preened jazz know-it-alls. The vaulted interiors make for great acoustics and frequently attract the biggest names in the city, but stand warned about the rife snobbism of punters and staff alike. ▶ Open 17:00 - 02:00. ☎ 📍 📞 📺 📻 📡

Stalowe Magnolie (Steel Magnolias) C-2, ul. Św. Jana 15, tel. 012 422 84 72, www.stalowemagnolie.com. Not dissimilar to a Parisian brothel, the interior of this legendary venue is an appealing blend of scarlet fabrics and deep sofas, with jewel-encrusted pictureframes and strings of red fairy lights hanging from wrought iron fixtures. Instruments cling to the walls as a team of young waitresses in evening dress bring premium-priced drinks to your table. The live music is frequently outstanding, with velvet-voiced chanteuses crooning into the night to the appreciative applause of sharply attired couples and Rolex businessmen. A small fee gets you into the VIP section with its own DJ station and bar, where plush, silk-canopied beds forbid bashful behavior. ▶ Open 18:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 18:00 - 04:00. ☎ 📍 📞 📺 📻 📡

The Piano Rouge C-3, Rynek Główny 46, tel. 012 431 03 33, www.thepianorouge.com. [16:43:16] Garrett Van Reed: A pet project from the same team behind Stalowe Magnolie, so expect much of the same. The interior is a sensory delight washed in red, with plush loveseats, scattered cushions, exotic lamps and an outstanding bartop lined with piano keys. The Parisian decadence is matched perfectly with live piano and jazz performances. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 18:00 - 02:00. ☎ 📍 📞 📺 📻 📡

U Muniaka C-3, ul. Floriańska 3, tel. 012 423 12 05. One of Kraków's most talked-about jazz clubs can be found at the bottom of a flight of stairs in a 14th-century cellar just seconds away from St. Mary's. A collection of intimate rooms and genuinely charming staff await those looking to either drink the night away in a pleasant atmosphere or to have their eardrums rearranged courtesy of some of the best live jazz in Poland. Concerts nightly from 21:30. ▶ Open 19:00 - 02:00. 📍 📞

Loch Ness Club D-1, ul. Warszawska 15, tel. 012 423 30 32, www.lochness.pl. Another typical Kraków drinkery this, with lots of bare bricks, and table football and pool to keep the student gangs who roam here out of the lecture hall they're meant to be in. Absolutely huge, and popular with wannabe pop stars singing into the karaoke microphone every Friday. In fact business is so good they've now opened another more central location on ul. Sławkowska 14. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Wed, Thu 09:00 - 01:00, Fri 09:00 - 04:00. ☎ 📍 📞 📺 📻 📡

Night Club VIP C-1, ul. Św. Filipa 7, tel. 0 510 49 05 10, www.nightclubvip.pl. Returning this part of town to its red-light roots, VIP has taken over this former gay bar, renovated the space to feel more modern and spacious, and filled it with scantily clad women. Get buzzed in to this underground grotto of blue walls and black lights, a long bar, leather couches and illuminated tables to get yourself a lap dance or personal striptease. Mondays and Tuesdays, 30% off entrance and drinks. ▶ Open 21:00 - 04:00. ☎ 📍

Pod Jaszczurami (Under the Lizard) C-3, Rynek Główny 8, tel. 012 292 22 02, www.podjaszczurami.pl. Pod Jaszczurami continues to do a roaring trade with Kraków's students and passing tourists. Beer stained posters promote upcoming gigs, and the stage often finds itself turned into an impromptu dance arena. Effectively a smoky extension of the university common room, Under The Lizard is more of a drunk tank than a think tank, and an uncomplicated spot for a good night. ▶ Open 10:00 - 01:00, Fri 10:00 - 04:00, Sat 11:00 - 04:00, Sun 11:00 - 01:00. ☎ 📍 📞 📺 📻 📡

Prozak (Prozak) C-4, Pl. Dominikański 6, tel. 012 429 11 28, www.prozak.pl. Once 'A-list' now 'A miss' Prozak may no longer be fashionable but that hasn't dented its popularity. Formerly the domain of Kraków's saucy lookers the clientele on the male side has now nearly entirely been replaced by foreigners, usually British, always utterly trousered. On the female side its essentially bottle blondes, the majority of which seem happy to accept drinks from foreign sponsors. The interior and music are nothing special, but that doesn't stop the door ape from guarding his patch with grunting ferocity. If nothing else it's good to see so many obnoxious people siphoned off the streets and securely hidden away in this basement offering. ▶ Open 20:00 - 04:00, Fri, Sat 20:00 - 06:00. ☎ 📍 📞 📺 📻 📡

Rdza (Rust) C-3, ul. Bracka 3-5, tel. 0 600 39 55 41, www.rdza.pl. This cave-like basement with a door queue rates as one of the best clubs on call in Krakow. Look your best to make it past face control then take your place on the dance floor alongside delicious looking party creatures. Imported DJs and the cream of Polish house music keep the party rocking into silly o'clock. ▶ Open 19:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Sun. ☎ 📍

NEW Shakers B-3, ul. Szewska 5 (first floor), tel. 012 428 55 88, www.shakers.com.pl. Actually the name references the cocktail twisting barstaff, but there are still plenty of shimmering posteriors in here. Shakers is your classic Cracowian cocktail club: just snooty enough for the concept to succeed, but not so up it's own...shaker that you won't have a great time. DJ nights range from funk to electro, with the action happening on an intimate dancefloor between the bar and posh toilets. Cocktails range from 18 to 27zł and though the list isn't so creative the bartenders put on an impressive juggling show. Violet walls, black booths with gaudy gold pillows that match the round gold tables and the ubiquitous FTV make up decor of this velvet rope affair. Dole out the 1100zł for a bottle of Dom Pérignon and you've got a free invite to the swanky VIP room. ▶ Open 18:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 18:00 - 06:00. Closed Mon. ☎ 📍 📞 📺 📻 📡

In Kazimierz

When the steady revitalisation of Kraków's former Jewish district began just over 15 years ago, much of the investment came from business owners able to purchase derelict buildings, fill them with the curbside detritus pervading the area that passes for furniture, add a shelf of liquors and presto! - open a dark, dishevelled bar that perfectly captured the spirit of the neighbourhood. The district quickly became synonymous with cafes choked with smoke, candlelight, antiques and bohemians, where under the stewardship of alcohol one might be able to commune with a lost, forgotten world beneath the haze. As the area's clean-up, aided by the 1993 release of *Schindler's List*, brought more and more tourists to its historical sights, Kazimierz went through a renaissance that saw it quickly develop into the city's hippest neighbourhood. Today the area is chock-a-block with bars, clubs and restaurants, even ousting the Old Town per square metre, and though a trace of that original charisma vanishes with each new cocktail bar opening, there is no better place in Kraków for a night out. Kazimierz's history makes it a requisite stop for tourists, but it is the district's nightlife that gives it its true vitality and much of the mystique it still carries today.

Kazimierz Bars

Alchemia E-6, ul. Estery 5, tel. 012 421 22 00, www.alchemia.com.pl. One of Kraków's most evocative bars, aptly named Alchemia perfectly captures the smokey sepiac candlelight, forgotten photographs and antique intrigues of the former Jewish district. A dim bohemian cafe by day with square-side outdoor tables, in the evenings Alchemia's murky mystique metamorphoses blood into beer for the ruddy regulars and increasing number of tourists queuing before the indifferent barstaff. The cellar plays host to some of the best concerts in town and is a prime participant in annual jazz and klezmer festivals. Quintessential Kraków. ▶ Open 09:00 - 04:00, Mon 10:00 - 04:00. ☎ 📍 📞 📺 📻 📡

Aloha Café D-6, ul. Miodowa 28a, tel. 012 421 25 89, www.alohacafe.pl. Kraków's only Hawaiian pub features a drinks list with David Hasselhoff on the front, seashells under glass flooring and walls adorned with photos of palm-lined beaches. Most fun are the telephones installed at each table, enabling you to order your next drink without getting up, or call the cutie at the next table without having to do the hard work of getting her number first. Check the website for beach parties, when tonnes of sand is brought in to beckon barefoot beauties in coconut bikinis. High five. ▶ Open 14:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 14:00 - 06:00. ☎ 📍 📞

NEW Czajarnia D-6, ul. Estery 16, tel. 0 886 60 04 60, www.czajarnia.pl. Emerging as a new late night crutch for vamps and vagabonds, Czajarnia inherits the Plac Nowy space that once bore B-Side and has swapped the hipsters for hippies. Improving the interior simply by adding some colour and stenciling patterns on some of the walls, this shisha bar stubbornly refuses to close as the bartenders absent-mindedly hand out drinks, a dog nips at the bar, a grey-haired Lennon lookalike nods off against the wall and an odd couple dances to Sinead O'Connor as the dawn begins to burn like a cigarette butt in an ashtray. One more please. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00. ☎ 📍 📞

Eszweria D-6, ul. Józefa 9, tel. 0 668 41 30 68. Formerly an oft-overlooked Kazimierz hole-in-the-wall, we always appreciated this bar for it's intimate, untrampled atmosphere and the best bathroom in Kraków (honestly,

we'd happily finish an entire drink in there). The recent benefactor of an ownership change, Eszweria has now doubled it's size, taking on a new slew of nooks filled with frosty mirrors, old world antiques, rickety furniture, candleabras and stencil art on the murky walls. Quickly finding favour with Kraków's weird haircut crowd, and hosting a number of novel concerts, Eszweria has refitted itself as the hippest Kazimierz drink mill not on Plac Nowy. Though there's no dancefloor and the atmosphere hasn't changed, don't be surprised if an 80s danceparty suddenly breaks out late night Saturday. Oh and the WC is still the most romantic restroom in town. No wonder there's a queue... ▶ Open 11:00 - 02:00. 📍 📞 📺 📻 📡

Kawiarnia Naukowa E-6, ul. Jakuba 29-31, tel. 0 602 10 35 26, www.kawiarnianaukowa.ovh.org. More Kazimierz weirdness dished up into a blackened room decorated with flagstones and a tombstone-style table. The live music and DJ sets are totally bonkers, and more than compensate for what is otherwise a plain bar. Everyone's welcome, but if you really want to fit in get your nose pierced and stagger around a bit. ▶ Open 18:00 - 03:00. 📍 📞 📺 📻 📡

Le Scandale D-6, pl. Nowy 9, tel. 012 430 68 55, www.lescandale.pl. Some of the best cocktails - test the Bahama Mama - in Kraków served inside a series of rooms that throng with Bond girls and people who look like they may well be minor celebs. Canvas sheets cover the ceilings, and the curtained off rooms are home to low-level sofas and the occasional Persian rug. This is modern Kraków at its strongest. You may not want to leave. ▶ Open 08:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 05:00. ☎ 📍 📞 📺 📻 📡

Les Couleurs D-6, ul. Estery 10, tel. 012 429 42 70. The quintessential thinking man's cafe, Les Couleurs is a special favourite among Kraków's aging, dog-faced bohemians, androgynous hipsters who wear oversized, non-prescription glasses and anyone with a laptop. Plastered with classic French posters and photos of Serge Gainsbourg, Kazimierz's most well-lit bar - and one of it's most well-loved - is an anytime affair where cigarettes, coffee, beer, bile and blood are as interchangeable and easily confused as work, pleasure and art; as day and night. Recommended. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 08:00 - 24:00. 📍 📞 📺

Mechanoff D-6, ul. Estery 8, tel. 012 422 70 98. Our favourite place in Kraków? We think so. Behind the copper plated bar are any number of once cutting-edge, wierd and wonderful contraptions which you will have you guessing long into the night as to their original purpose. Not that you will mind spending time here: the music is the right side of left field - think Bregovic and Tiersen - the staff ace and the crowd real. Poseurs steer clear. ▶ Open 10:00 - 01:00, Fri 10:00 - 02:00, Sat 10:00 - 03:00, Sun 09:00 - 01:00. ☎ 📍 📞

Miejsce (The Place) D-6, ul. Estery 1, tel. 0 783 09 60 16, www.miejsce.com.pl. Opened by the owners of a retro interior decor store by the same name, Miejsce instantly established itself as Kraków's hipster headquarters. With half the patrons not hesitating to go behind the bar themselves, here you've put yourself at the centre of a closely-knit social scene, which a flapper dress or oversized spectacles and tight pants will ease your integration into, if that's the goal. Decked out in a rainbow of chairs and lamps of different shapes and sizes, offset by hastily painted white walls, Miejsce is effortlessly original with a post-industrial artsy atmosphere that makes a nice departure from the brooding, gloomy nostalgia of the district's other offerings. ▶ Open 10:00 - 01:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 02:00. ☎ 📍 📞 📺 📻 📡

Mleczarnia D-6, ul. Meiselsa 20, tel. 012 421 85 32, www.mle.pl. The most glorious beer garden in Kraków, and right next to the site of several scenes in Spielberg's Schindler's List. If that parade gets rained on, take solace in the cross street interior with an Old World atmosphere of candlelight, rickety furniture, murky portraits, wooden floors and wide-open, floor to ceiling street-side windows (not to mention the enchanting bathroom). A great place for a romantic evening conversation or afternoon coffee with a book, this is what the whole of Kazimierz was once about: taking things as they come. Recommended. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 04:00. [i] [c] [a]

Moment E-6, ul. Józefa 26, tel. 0 668 03 40 00, www.momentcafe.pl. With the success brought by their regular following of hipsters and metrosexuals, Moment rolled the dice inching closer to Plac Nowy with a space three times as large and sunny square-side seating. Now it's all tourist groups and laptops - proof nonetheless of a successful move. The dark walled interior with a checkered black and white tiled floor gets lots of light and offers plenty of reasons to lose track of time, including solid breakfast and lunch offerings, evening drink specials, wifi and, during our visit, an issue of Polish Playboy peeking out of the magazine rack. That and the clutch of inaccurate clocks lining the walls, from vintage antique efforts to digital relics from the 80s Casio age, give you a handy excuse for missing your morning-after rendezvous with last night's club conquest. ▶ Open 08:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 03:00. [i] [c] [a] [u]

Propaganda E-6, ul. Miodowa 20. The interior is a dingy museum of curbside communist scrap, from propaganda posters and slashed portraits of Lenin to clunky cameras and chunky radios. As rough around the edges as its clientele, there's no lack of menace to the mainstays at the bar and you should probably put your galoshes on before entering the toilets. The Polish punk, ska and metal on airplay represents the taste of the sturdy, tattooed barstaff who won't hesitate to throw you across the room if provoked, yet we can't help but love this completely unpredictable hole-in-the-head dive bar. ▶ Open 11:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 05:00.

Ptasiek (Birdy) E-6, ul. Dajwór 3, tel. 012 431 03 41, www.ptasiek.eu. Thanks to engaged management, a great sound system and intimate downstairs stage, Ptasiek has emerged as one of the best live music venues in Kraków, and subsequently a primary hangout for Kraków's young maestros and melodymakers. Wednesday night jam sessions show off the best of the music academy with tunes grooving well into the morning. The aviary decor is a bit off the mark, but fares better upstairs where you'll find the usual Kazimierz knick-knacks amongst black and white photos and a couple sofas. With a great atmosphere and good people, it's always a letdown when Ptasiek closes. ▶ Open 15:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 15:00 - 02:00. [i] [c] [a] [u]

Ptaszyl E-6, ul. Szeroka 10, tel. 512 077 022. The name doesn't really translate, but connotes a creepy bird personifying this oddball effort on Szeroka. With tree branches hung with strange faces, bits of pottery and who knows what stretching over the colourful tables of the interior, Ptaszyl is a modest, not especially memorable self-service bar - all rather refreshing attributes for its restaurant row location. The terrace is the obvious highlight, catching sun later than the outdoor seating around Plac Nowy. ▶ Open 08:30 - 24:00.

Singer Café D-6, ul. Estery 20, tel. 012 292 06 22. One of the first bars in Kazimierz, Singer set the table for all that was to come essentially inventing the evocative aesthetic of cracked mirrors, dusky paintings, rickety antiques and candlelight associated with the district today. Despite its long tenure, lofty reputation and occasional intrusion of tourists, today Singer

still holds all the magic it did when it first opened. A charismatic, even chimerical cafe by day, Singer hits its stride around 2:30 am when tabletops turn into dancefloors, the regulars abandon their drinks to dip and spin each other to an energetic mix of gypsy, klezmer and other ethnic music, the entire bar begins to feel like a ferris wheel ready to fly off its axis and the boundaries of time are obliterated. Yeah, we've had a few good ones here. ▶ Open 09:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 05:00. [i] [c] [a] [u]

Kazimierz Clubs

Enzo D-6, ul. Bożego Ciała 14, tel. 0 696 51 05 54, www.enzo-club.pl. If you're looking for a Kazimierz outlet to show-off your crocodile loafers and platinum blond supergirl then look no further. This place has clearly crawled from the pages of Wallpaper magazine, with stark black and white chessboard colours illuminated by soft blue lighting, and a design that screams at anyone who doesn't have a gilded wallet to get out, fast. Ultra minimalist with space age toilets, womb-like ambient grooves and weird curving angles, this place would be HQ of Kraków's tribe of fashionista if said tribe actually existed in the numbers places like Enzo thought they did upon opening. The fact that this place is often empty recommends a rethink. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 04:00. [i] [c] [a] [u]

NEW
Mish Mash D-7, ul. Mostowa 2, tel. 0 694 23 33 66, www.myspace.com/klubmishmash. Any initial excitement about this buzz club on the other side of Kazimierz was instantly dashed upon entry with the discovery that Mish Mash is, essentially, just another subterranean dungeon; and this one more humourless than most. Preoccupied with ultra-aggressive electro music, there's no shortage of people on the dancefloor and Mish Mash has already hosted a couple good acts, though most of the friction you'll be feeling is between you and the sweaty t-shirt pinned to your tits. An alarming lack of ventilation makes MM almost unbearable and your beer will smell more like a latrine than usual. And, come on people, just because the music's popular in England doesn't mean it's good. Sheesh. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Thu 18:00 - 06:00, Sun 18:00 - 02:00. [i] [c] [a] [u]

Pozytywka (The Music Box) D-6, ul. Bożego Ciała 12, tel. 012 430 64 82, www.pozytywka.pl. A stark, industrial motif comes paired with classic dance music and red, blue and green disco lights. It's completely un-Kazimierz in design, but not in atmosphere. A popular pre-club spot with projections, exhibitions and even strawberries laid out on the bar. ▶ Open 08:30 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 08:30 - 04:00. [i] [c] [a] [u]

Taawa D-6, ul. Estery 18, tel. 012 421 06 00, www.taawa.pl. As crushing as it is to see an admittedly Warszawian concept club open on Plac Nowy, it's clear that Taawa isn't going anywhere having found the bling-bling business blonde clientele we were to hoping would prove non-existent. [Another battle lost.] Orange-skinned mini-skirted Solarium casualties will feel at home in this modern discoteque of radiating prismatic lights, colour-swirling screens and LED displays against a silver interior with silhouettes of naked girls reclining in martini glasses on the walls. Carpeting, illuminated glass tables and purple leather furnishings round out this refreshing one room affair where long-legged lookers dance to disappointingly mainstream club music as their jetsetter sponsors break hundred zloty notes over top shelf liquors and cocktails. Looking to outclass Kraków's other clubs, Taawa succeeds easily, especially in design, with strict facecheck and dress code ensuring this catwalk is just for Krakowians who wear their cash on their cuffs. ▶ Open 18:00 - 04:00, Fri, Sat 20:00 - 06:00. Closed Mon. [i] [c] [a] [u]

Archaeological evidence shows that there were settlements in the Kraków area as early as the Paleolithic period, making it one of Poland's oldest cities. Evidence of a settlement on Wawel Hill dates back to 50,000BC.

1st-4th century

Kraków settlers trade with the Roman Empire.

9th century

Pagan Vistulan settlers in Kraków are conquered by the Great Moravian Empire.

11th century

Kraków becomes an important centre of the Polish state following the establishment of a bishopric and completion of the city's first cathedral. Casimir the Restorer makes Kraków the capital of Poland.

12th century

Boleslaus the Wrymouth's testament divides the Polish state into separate and sovereign principalities, granting Kraków the status of suzerain province.

13th century

Starting in 1241 and spanning the next 40 years, the Tatars invade Poland three times. Towards the end of the century defensive walls are built around Kraków.

14th century

From 1333-70 Kazimierz III the Great (1310-70) reigns and Wawel Castle is rebuilt in Gothic style. The University of Kraków, later to become the Jagiellonian University, is founded in 1364. The marriage of Queen Jadwiga and King Jagiello starts off more than four centuries of a jointly governed Polish-Lithuanian state.

15th century

Polish-Lithuanian forces defeat Teutonic Knights at the Battle of Grunwald (Tannenberg) in 1410, thereby stopping the German eastward expansion.

17th century

In 1596, King Sigismund Vasa moves the royal court from Kraków to Warsaw.

18th century

Austria, Prussia and Russia impose the first partition of Poland in 1772-73. The constitution of May 3, 1791, restores hereditary monarchy and reforms the political system. The constitution is the second democratic constitution in the world (after the USA's), but is shortlived. Prussia and Russia carry out a second partition of Poland in 1792-93. One year later, in 1795, Austria, Prussia and Russia impose a third partition of Poland and Kraków becomes part of Austria.

19th century

Between 1807-15, Napoleon establishes the semi-independent Duchy of Warsaw which includes Kraków. After Napoleon's defeat and the Congress of Vienna in 1815, Poland is partitioned anew with a large part going to Russia. The Republic of Kraków is established as an independent entity for a short period between 1815-1846, but the city is eventually absorbed into the Austrian partition.

20th century

After WWI, partitioned powers collapse and the independent Second Polish Republic arises. In 1918, the Austrian army in Kraków disarms and Poland regains independence on November 11 after 146 years of foreign occupation. WWII begins in 1939 with the September 1 invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany and the September 17 invasion by the Soviet Union. On September 6, 1939, the Nazis take over and begin their occupation in Kraków. On November 6, Jagiellonian University professors and other Kraków intellectuals are arrested and transported to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. In 1941, the Jewish ghetto in Podgórze is established. From 1945, Kraków undergoes 'Sovietisation'. All property and businesses are nationalised, organised religion comes under attack and opposition leaders are imprisoned.



Rafal Drzazszcz

Post-war Poland

The history of post-war Poland through 1989 consists of the distribution of power by the USSR to chosen individuals and the Soviets' attempt to maintain their hold. Poland, however, did not take well to Soviet domination, as even Stalin said that implementing communism in Poland was like trying to put a saddle on a cow. The effect was a constant effort by the Poles to claim and practice their independence. Poland, for example, is the only formerly Communist-reigned country whose religious practices and churches weren't severed, restricted or all together destroyed. The beauty of Kraków is tarnished by forced industrialization such as the monstrous steelworks of Nowa Huta (New Factory) constructed in the late 1940s. The factory and surrounding blocks of workers' residences, built on top of Kraków's best farming soil, is the USSR's obvious attempt to undermine Kraków's cultural and religious intelligence.

1981 General Wojciech Jaruzelski declares martial law and carries out a military takeover in the name of the Communist party.

1982 Solidarność is banned and its leadership imprisoned. Other union activists are forced underground.

1983 Martial law is lifted and imprisoned Solidarność leaders are released. Lech Wałęsa receives the Nobel Peace Prize.

1989 Round Table talks produce a formula for power-sharing between the communists and Solidarność. Partly free elections result in sweeping Solidarność victories and the communist regime crumbles, making Poland the first country to leave the Soviet block. Lech Wałęsa becomes the first popularly elected post-communist president of Poland.

1991 The Warsaw Pact alliance is dissolved.

1999 Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic join NATO. Prior to the papal visit to Poland, the authorities forcibly remove more than 300 Catholic crosses erected near Auschwitz concentration camp. Thousands flock to see 79-year-old Pope John Paul II who visits his homeland for the eighth time. In Kraków, he pays a visit to his parents' grave and celebrates mass under Wawel cathedral.

2000 Kraków's Andrzej Wajda wins an Oscar (displayed in the University Museum) for lifetime achievement. Aleksander Kwaśniewski is elected for his second term as president of Poland.

2002 August 2.5 million people gather on Kraków's Błonia field to witness a mass with Pope John Paul II.

2004 May 1 Poland joins the European Union

2005 April 2 Following a long battle with illness Pope John Paul II passes away, plunging Poland into national mourning.

2007 Kraków celebrates the 750th anniversary of obtaining rights as a city and reaches its zenith as a tourist destination.