

KRAKÓW

Kraków is the second largest, one of the oldest and one of the most beautiful and cultural significant cities in Poland. The city dates back to the Middle Ages and it was the capital of Poland for over 500 years before handling the title to Warsaw. Kraków is riddled with monuments, museums and art galleries providing remarkable testimony of its multicultural and turbulent historic past.



The Old City, the very heart of the Kraków is placed within the ancient city walls with the focal Main Market Square, one of the most beautiful and the largest medieval market in the world. During the conference you will be able to enjoy the welcoming and relaxed atmosphere of this place as the conference venue is located directly in the Main Market Square, one step from the amazing St. Mary's Basilica.



The picturesque Royal Castle and the Cathedral located at the Wawel Hill on the banks of the Vistula River and overlooking the city are just with walking distance from the conference venue. On the other side of the river the District of Kazimierz used to be in the past an independent town. It was divided into Christian and Jewish part. Not long ago it was considered one of the poorest and most damaged among all districts of Kraków. Today Kazimierz is bustling, fashionable area with numerous cafes and pubs serving typical Polish-Jewish fusion cuisine and playing upbeat Klezmer music.



On the contrary the neighbouring Nowa Huta town, ideal destination for an afternoon trip, is living example of a materialization of the Orwellian dream and social realism doctrine in Poland. Founded by the Soviet Union the town was to become an ideal town for the Stalinist propaganda and has been populated by physical workers flocking into the town from the whole country to counterbalance academic, intellectual and artistic traditions of the Old Kraków. Not much changed from fifties, Nowa Huta is now one of the biggest attractions, especially for young people and foreign tourists who want to explore the contemporary history of Poland and gain the first-hand experience of the Communism lifestyle.



ZAKOPANE

If you can afford to stay two days longer after the conference and wind down a little bit, Zakopane is the perfect weekend gateway to the beautiful Tatra Mountains. It is an excellent base for hiking in summer and skiing in winter. Zakopane is famous for its wooden mountain villas, cosy private pensions, folk music and rustic charm. You will spend really nice and unforgettable time there.



WIELICZKA

Getting back to medieval period the Wieliczka Salt Mine comprises over 2000 caverns laid out on 9 levels as deep as 135 meters below the ground. Still in operation, the mine is widely recognized as much more than simply excavation site and it is listed among the UNSECO World Cultural Heritage monuments. Apart from its unique microclimate the Wieliczka Salt Mine surprises tourists with beautifully decorated chambers, chapels and one-of-a-kind 19th century church, concert halls, restaurant all curved out of crystalline salt including holy figurines and chandeliers. It also hosts an exhibition that shows salt mining techniques since the Middle Ages.



OŚWIĘCIM

Another important and moving lesson of the European history might be a visit to the German Nazi Concentration Camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau (Oświęcim-Brzezinka). Located 60 km from Kraków, Auschwitz was where the Nazi opened camps for men and women, carried out the first experiments at using Zyklon B to put people to death, where they murdered the first mass transports of Jews and where they conducted criminal medical experiments on prisoners.



For all mentioned places of interest an optional tourist trips will be offered to the participants of the 11th International Conference the European Energy Market 2014.

You can easily reach Kraków with numerous direct flights from over 50 European cities to the local Airport Balice, with national and international trains, as well as with a international coach services.