



Poland, Europe

# The storybook charisma of Krakow

By Patti Morrow

**Krakow, which is often named the most beautiful city in Poland, has a distinct storybook charisma.**

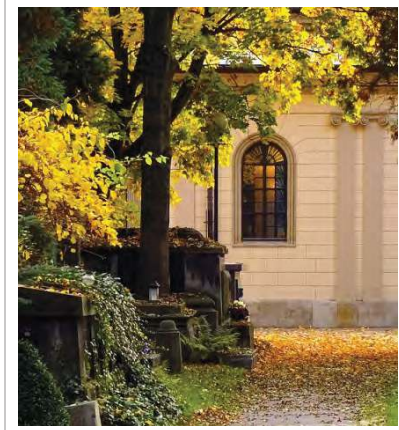
It's a picturesque city with an Old Town brimming with historic architecture and Gothic spires, and a massive, eclectic castle, all centered around the Vistula River.

Also the oldest city in Poland, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is located near the Czech border, making it convenient to visit from other parts of Europe.

After enduring a Mongol ransacking in the 13th century, Krakow's rebuilt itself and enjoyed golden years under the reign of Casimir III the Great, in the 14th century.

Casimir founded Krakow University, best known as the school where Copernicus studied and established the Kazimierz, one of Europe's largest Jewish neighborhoods and one of the city's vibrant places.

Although much of Poland was destroyed during World War II, Krakow was spared.



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