



**Magiczny
Kraków**

Fortress Kraków Days 2026 Underway

2026-09-30

The fifth edition of Fortress Kraków Days has been underway since 19 September and will culminate in a grand finale at Fort Barycz on 4 October. Nearly 80 events are planned, attracting not only enthusiasts of history and military architecture but also residents and visitors eager to discover a different side of Kraków.

The Kraków Fortress, a vast defensive system built during the Austrian partition, is a unique example of this type of military architecture. Once encircling the historic city with an extensive ring of fortifications, it reflected Kraków's strategic location near the border between the Austrian and Russian partitions. Today, Kraków Fortress remains one of the largest and most valuable fortification systems in Europe, with many of its historic structures finding new and innovative uses.

Fortress Kraków Days provide an ideal opportunity to discover this remarkable heritage. Thanks to the involvement of experts and enthusiasts, the festival offers a rich programme that has become an excellent reason to visit Kraków. The schedule includes both the best-known forts of the Kraków Fortress and sites that are rarely open to the public. Participants can explore historic interiors, follow former defence routes, learn about the city's military history, discover how former forts are used today, and even take a boat cruise along the Vistula River to view the fortress from a unique perspective.

The opening day, Saturday 19 September, featured numerous activities in the Kostrze Nature Reserve and on Solnik Hill. The programme included nature walks entitled "The Green Heritage of the Kraków Fortress", during which experts presented the natural values of former fortification areas, alongside guided tours of Fort 53 Bodzów and the remarkable Easter Cavern. Visitors also had the opportunity to tour the Home Army Museum, learn about the history of the former Fortress Supply Facilities, attend a lecture at Fort 49¼ Grębałów, and take part in the family field game "Break the Cipher" at Fort 52a Jugowice.

In the following days, visitors can explore sites including Fort 49½a Mogiła, Fort 48a Mistrzejowice, Fort Bielany, Fort 38 Skała, Fort 47a Węgrzce, Fort 44 Tonie, Fort 52 Borek, Fort 50a Lasówka, Fort 50 Prokocim, and Fort 51 Rajska, the largest artillery fort of the Kraków Fortress. A special boat cruise focusing on the fortress as viewed from the Vistula River took place on 21 September.

An important component of this year's edition is its scientific and educational programme. The Podgórze Museum is hosting lectures, genealogy workshops, and a debate on the protection of the earthworks of Krzemionki. The Kraków University of Technology Museum is organising a seminar devoted to former barracks and Kościuszko traditions. On 24 September, Fort 52a Jugowice hosts the international conference "Fortresses: Reused", dedicated to fortress heritage, local communities, and tourism. The event is linked to the City of Kraków's project ["SCT HUB – Sustainable Cultural Tourism Hub."](#)

On 26 September, active recreation enthusiasts will take part in the jubilee 30th Fortress Kraków Run, combining sport with the exploration of historic fortifications. Another highlight comes on 3 October,



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when Fort No. 7 “Za Rzeką” in Bronowice will be opened to visitors for the first time as part of Fortress Kraków Days.

The grand finale on 4 October promises to be especially memorable. More than 50 historical reenactors will participate in “Kraków 1914”, a large-scale reconstruction staged at Fort 50½ Barycz. The performance is inspired by events that took place near Goszcza in November of the first year of the Great War, on the outskirts of the Kraków Fortress. The spectacle will not only recreate military engagements but also help modern audiences better understand the realities of that period.

Detailed programme information is available at www.twierdzakrakow.pl and www.dni-twierdzy-krakow.pl.

Fortress Kraków Days is a public initiative financed by the City of Kraków. Through broad cooperation between the city and organisations dedicated to promoting knowledge of Kraków’s fortress heritage, the event has, within just a few years, become an attraction for enthusiasts, residents, and tourists alike. The festival promotes awareness of the Kraków Fortress and, more broadly, the city’s defensive heritage, from its origins as a fortified settlement to the present day, when restored forts have been given new purposes and new life.

Promotion of the Kraków Fortress within the Kraków City Office is coordinated primarily by the Tourism Department, which selected the organiser of Fortress Kraków Days 2026, the Adventure Association, through an open call for proposals.

This article is part of a publication series by the Municipality of Kraków concerning the state of tourism in the city. The series aims to improve understanding of key concepts and trends related to tourism, analyse the strengths and challenges of Kraków’s tourism sector based on data, and encourage active dialogue between residents, businesses, and local government.