

Kraków the Host City: Stories

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Tourism is an indispensable element of Krakow, but has it always been like this? We will attempt to answer the question in the new series entitled Kraków the Host City: Stories, in which we will present the events that have created the history of tourism in our city, as history itself constitutes a vital element in the life of every human.

Krakow aroused the interest of the visitors as early as the Middle Ages, when rulers, artists, merchants, students and pilgrims started coming to the city, although it must be said that tourist visits can be spoken of only since the 18th century, when sightseeing was developing on the Polish territory. At that time travelling was gradually directed towards learning about national monuments and the past. As the city with a cultural heritage potential, Krakow offered the opportunity to learn about history, architecture or urban planning, attracting more and more nationals and foreigners.

In the Middle Ages, the first pilgrimages were organised to the tomb of St Stanislaus at Wawel Cathedral. Business trips were equally important, being one of the older forms of tourism, since the need to relocate for economic purposes has been true for people since ancient times. Business tourism is a relatively new sector only when considered a separate category. Its dynamic development began in the 1950s and 1960s as it was strongly correlated with the civilisational changes taking place in many countries all over the world. You might wonder when the meetings industry developed in Krakow; therefore, in the next episode, we will move back in time a few centuries and check when the first conference took place.

Photo source <http://bc.wbp.lublin.pl/dlibra/doccontent?id=24905>

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