

Association Management

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INTERNATIONAL

Exclusive Interview –
Kevin Green of The Recruitment and Employment
Confederation

The Challenge of Change –
Trade Association Mergers
Social Media: Obligation, Opportunity or Threat?

Under the Spotlight –
Toronto & Krakow

PLUS: Technology Update –
Top Tips for Winning Websites



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Each issue Bien Venue Ltd casts the spotlight on chosen destinations and asks specific questions that our readers will probably want to ask. We make our way to Poland now to find out what her second city, Krakow, has to offer.



Spotlight on Krakow

1. Where are the nearest international airports and how easy are transportation links from there to the city?

Kraków's openness to the world is reinforced by the modern and constantly expanding John Paul II International Airport Kraków-Balice, the second largest airport in the country. It provides direct domestic and international connections to many cities in Europe and other continents, eg New York, Chicago and Tel Aviv.

The broad network of railway connections offers fast and comfortable travel by train: you can reach Warsaw in 2.5 hours and Gdansk in 6 hours. In a couple of hours you can travel to Vienna, Prague, Bratislava, Berlin and Budapest.

2. What is access like around the city?

Krakow is serviced by 27 tram lines and 137 buses, which make moving around the city (and the neighbouring Wieliczka) fairly easy. It is quite a good idea to leave your car outside the city centre and use public transport. Maps of public transport are available on the website of the Municipal Transport Enterprise (the MPK), as are the timetables, which can be also found at the bus stops. See www.mpk.krakow.pl.

(Practical tip for travellers: All tram and bus tickets must be punched in a ticket machine immediately on boarding a bus or a tram. The validity of timed and daily tickets is specified by the four last digits stamped on your tickets, which show the exact time when you first punched the ticket. If you are using an hourly, 90 min, daily, 2-3 days or a weekly ticket you only need to punch it once on your first journey.)

3. Why should business people come to Krakow?

Krakow is a captivating place both to travel to and live in. With Poland's accession to the European Union in 2004, there has been a steady increase in foreign visitors, business travellers and tourists alike looking for - and often finding - something truly special in the city. The city's rich cultural and social milieu, the beauty of its central historical district, accessibility, good hotels and profusion of restaurants and cafes makes Krakow a superb location for congresses and conferences. Every year plenty of events take place here from smaller business meetings to academic seminars to tumultuous conventions. Krakow has a well-earned reputation of being Poland's premier tourist destination and one of Europe's most interesting old cities.

4. Could you suggest two venues which would be suitable for an event for 800+ delegates?

Jagiellonian University Auditorium Maximum
www.kampus.uj.edu.pl/auditorium.htm

Krakow Convention Centre - opening in 2015, it will seat over 2,000 delegates
www.krakow.pl/ccb_en

5. Which two venues would you suggest for a team building or training session for about 50 people?

Qubus Hotel www.qubushotel.com/hotele.php?id_h=1&lang=2

Radisson Blu www.radissonblu.com/hotel-krakow



6. Which two venues would you suggest for a small meeting of about 10 Directors?

Hotel Pugetow www.hotelpugetow.com/index.php/Hotel

Hotel Farmona www.farmonahotel.com/38

7. To help event planners, please select three particular attractions in or around the city to include in a social programme for business people.

St Mary's Basilica www.mariacki.com

Krakow Aquarium www.akwariumkrakow.pl/en

Auschwitz Jewish Centre <http://ajcf.org>

8. To occupy and interest delegates one afternoon, where would you suggest?

The Market Square of Krakow (Rynek Glowny in Polish) is the main attraction most people see when visiting the city, and no wonder - it's one of the largest in Europe! Here you'll find plenty of shops, restaurants, clubs and all the culture you can soak up, including several museums right on the square.

9. Please specify any Michelin star restaurants within a 5 mile (8 km) radius of the city.

Ancora Restaurant www.ancora-restaurant.com/_pl

10. Which one hotel could you suggest that offers the 'complete package', ie excellence in accommodation, service, food and facilities?

Niebiski Hotel and Spa www.niebieski.com.pl/en/index

11. Which three venues could you suggest for a private dinner for 10 and 50 people?

A standard venue for 10 Palc w Paszkowka www.paszkowka.pl

A standard venue for 50 Novotel www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-3372-novotel-krakow-centrum/index.shtml

A top quality venue for 10 Hotel Stary www.hotelstary.com

A top quality venue for 50 Copernicus Hotel www.copernicus.hotel.com.pl/coper_pl/Home

An unusual venue for 10 Palc w Paszkowka www.paszkowka.pl

An unusual venue for 50 Andels Hotel www.andelscracow.com/en/home

12. What unique or quirky venue could you suggest for a wild card idea for delegates?

Wawel Royal Castle, which houses the national art collection www.wawel.krakow.pl/en/index.php?op=2

