



IS IT SAFE?

Krakow

SOLO TRAVELER SAFETY GUIDE

SAFETY GUIDE SERIES

Overall Safety Assessment

RATING: Very Safe — one of Central Europe's safest cities and rated Europe's #1 destination for solo female travelers in 2026 studies.

Krakow carries a Level 1 (Exercise Normal Precautions) rating from the US State Department, with a crime index of roughly 25 out of 100 — among the lowest of any major European city. Violent crime against tourists is rare, the historic center is heavily policed and CCTV-covered, and the Old Town and Kazimierz both remain lively and well-lit late into the evening. Krakow is safe and stable despite Poland's border with Ukraine — the city sits hundreds of kilometers from any conflict activity, and daily life is unaffected.

The primary risk is petty theft in crowded tourist zones (Main Market Square, trams during rush hour) and a documented set of nightlife-adjacent scams targeting solo travelers, detailed below.

RATING SCALE

★★★★ = Very safe ★★★ = Safe ★★ = Use awareness ★ = Avoid at night ◻ = Avoid

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY

Neighbourhood Safety at a Glance

AREA	RATING	NOTES
Old Town / Main Market Square	★★★★	Heavily policed, CCTV-covered, active day and night.
Kazimierz	★★★★	Safe, atmospheric, active into the evening — including for solo women.
Podgórze	★★★★	Safe, less touristy, good for a daytime wander.
Wawel Hill	★★★★	Controlled entry points, strong security presence.
Around Kraków Główny Station	★★	The main documented scam hotspot (taxi overcharging) — use Uber/Bolt instead of unmarked cabs waiting outside.
Nowa Huta	★★	Not a typical tourist area; higher petty-crime rate, avoid alone at night.
Prokocim / Bieżanów (outskirts)	★	Residential, outside the tourist core, more isolated after dark — not on a standard 48-hour itinerary.

COMMON SCAMS & RISKS

Common Scams & Risks

Taxi overcharging at Kraków Główny Station:

The single most-documented scam in the city. Use Uber, Bolt, or FreeNow rather than a taxi hailed outside the station.

Horse carriage overcharging, Main Market Square:

Confirm the full price before boarding — rates are not always clearly posted and can run well above what's quoted verbally.

Old Town bar scam:

Attractive strangers (often approaching solo male travelers) steer visitors to a specific bar with no visible menu; drinks arrive without prices and the bill balloons. Only enter bars with posted, visible pricing.

Rose or bracelet gift scam:

Someone hands over a “free” flower or bracelet, then demands payment once you've accepted it. Politely decline any unsolicited item before it's placed in your hand.

Pickpocketing:

Concentrated in the Main Market Square and on crowded trams. Standard bag-forward, zipped-pocket awareness resolves most of the risk.

HEALTH & MEDICAL

Health & Medical

University Hospital in Krakow (Szpital Uniwersytecki) — Emergency Dept (SOR)

Jakubowskiego 2, 30-688 Kraków, Building F. Tel: 12 400 17 50. Open 24 hours, 365 days a year. Adults only (18+).

St. Raphael Hospital

Private facility, English-speaking staff, commonly recommended for tourists needing faster non-emergency care.

Insurance note

Tap water is safe to drink and meets EU standards. Medical costs are significantly lower than Western Europe or the US, but non-EU visitors are billed directly — travel insurance is strongly recommended. EU/EEA visitors should carry an EHIC/GHIC card.

SOLO WOMEN TRAVELERS

Solo Women Travelers

Krakow was rated Europe's #1 destination for solo female travelers in 2026 studies, with women reporting comfort walking alone even at night in the Old Town and Kazimierz — both remain well-lit, actively patrolled, and busy with foot traffic well into the evening. Street harassment levels are low. Standard precautions apply: stick to well-lit, populated streets after dark, use Uber or Bolt rather than unmarked taxis for late-night travel, and watch your drink in nightlife settings — the documented “bar scam” above can target women as well, typically via a friendly stranger's bar recommendation rather than a direct approach.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Emergency Contacts

SERVICE	CONTACT
Emergency (Police / Ambulance / Fire)	112
Police (non-urgent)	997
University Hospital Krakow — Emergency Dept (SOR)	12 400 17 50 — Jakubowskiego 2, Building F
US Consulate General Krakow	+48 (12) 424-5100 — Ulica Stolarska 9
Main US Embassy (Warsaw, for reference)	+48 (22) 504-2000