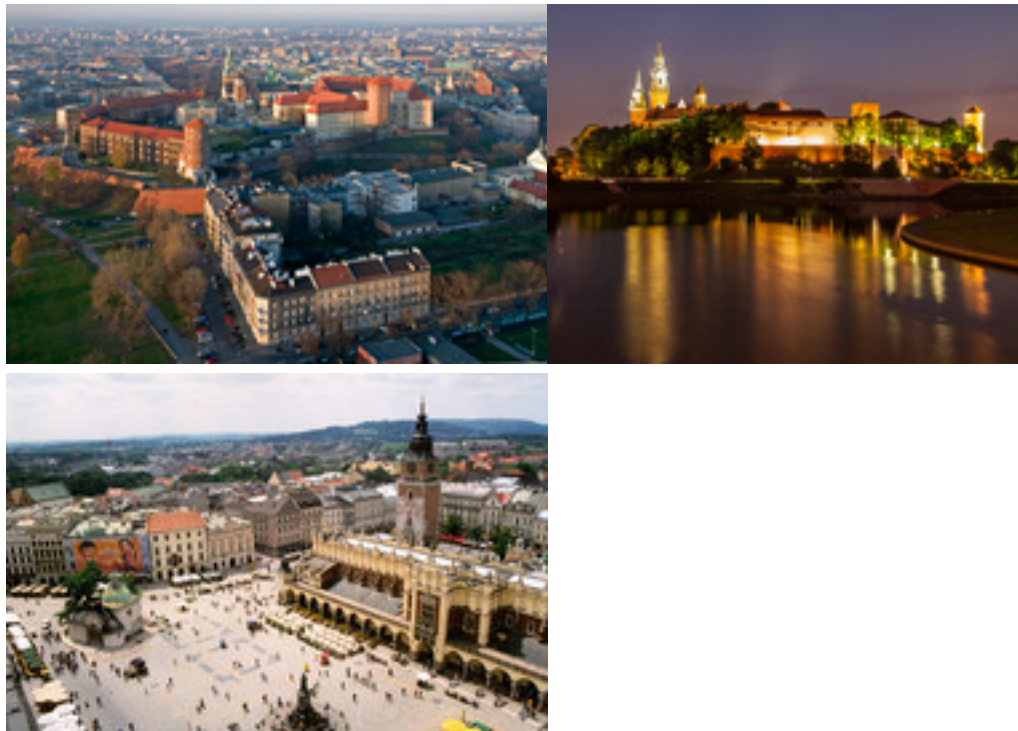


Welcome:

It is my great honor to welcome you, Dear Colleagues and Friends, to Krakow, Poland for the WCS 2019 harboring the Biennial Meeting of the IAES. I am sure that the rich scientific and social program provides great opportunity to network with colleagues and international experts in endocrine surgery.

Krakow, the former capital of Poland, is famous in Europe and all over the World as a city of culture and science which has been playing a significant role in Polish history. It is the city of youth, studies and work of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła – Polish Pope John Paul II. I hope that your stay in Krakow will bring many unforgettable moments and will stay in your minds forever.

About Krakow



**Krakow**, a former royal capital of Poland, is one of the oldest and most beautiful European cities. It is a town where history and modernity intertwine. Situated on the banks of the Vistula River, Krakow is famous for its priceless historical monuments of culture and art. The Old Town is included in the **UNESCO** World List of Cultural Heritage.

Besides history, art and unforgettable atmosphere, Krakow provides its visitors with entertainment and relaxation: theatres, cabarets, cafes, restaurants and wine cellars offer something for everyone. International festivals and other

events usually take place on the Main Market Square or beneath the Royal Wawel Castle.

The Main Market Square with St. Mary's Church and the renaissance Cloth Hall in the middle (a traditional place of trade) is the oldest part of the Old Town. They are most valuable historical buildings in town. Another pearl of Krakow is the gothic building of Collegium Maius, one of the first universities in Europe, founded in 1364. The Wawel hill, the seat of Polish kings is an example of magnificent Renaissance architecture. Near the Royal Castle there is a gothic building of the Wawel Cathedral which, over the centuries, has witnessed the most important religious and state ceremonies. Almost all the monarchs of Poland are buried in the Cathedral crypts.

**Kazimierz**, the former Jewish district, founded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, is now one of the most often visited parts of Krakow. Its history and unique atmosphere have helped to make it one of the most famous Jewish quarters in Europe. In 1993 Steven Spielberg filmed “**Schindler’s List**” there. Since that time, hundreds of tourists have visited Kazimierz every day, wishing to explore “Schindler’s Krakow”. The bustling cafes, pubs and restaurants with their bohemian clientele, local residents going about their everyday lives and the Jewish architecture and culture (historical and contemporary), combine to create unique climate of this part of Krakow.

Recommended half-day trips:

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**Wieliczka Salt Mine**



Wieliczka Salt Mine was established in the thirteenth century and is a UNESCO site. The Tourist Route in Wieliczka is the main visiting route of the mine. There are almost 3 kilometres of meandering corridors, 800 steps, 350 of which have to be descended to reach the depth of 135 meters underground. Prepare to be amazed at the devotion and superstition that drove miners to carve figures, monuments and altarpieces into the walls of 800-year-old salt mine.

**Krakow sightseeing by melex (golf car)**



Krakow, the former capital of Polish Kings, a unique city which is visited by many tourist from all over the world and its Old Town inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage. This trip in a soft and comfortable golf car equipped with an audio guide in many languages allows you only in 1h to discover the most important places in the city.

10:30 – 11:30 Visit to Krakow in a comfortable golf car – the standard route that runs through the streets of the Old Town, which is on the first UNESCO World Heritage Site. Among the most important historical sights of Krakow you will see: the Cloth Hall, St. Mary's Church, the Slowacki Theatre, the City Walls, the Florian's Gate and the Barbican, Czartoryski Museum, Bishop's Palace where there is a famous window from which the Pope talked with people. Melex will cover a part of the Royal Route leading to the Wawel Castle from the Main Market Square, passing by Peter and Paul's and Andrew's churches and Kazimierz - the former Jewish district, which was the scenery of Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List" film, with active synagogues and cemeteries. Kazimierz is a district where Jewish and Christian cultures coexisted and intermingled for many centuries. Currently, Kazimierz is a vibrant district full of social and cultural life.

### **Jewish culture route**



For many centuries Jews played their part in creating the history and culture of the city of Kroke, as Kraków is known in Yiddish. Before World War II they made up as much as 25% of the city's population. A tour around Kazimierz - the former Jewish district, preserved in excellent condition until today - will introduce you to the world of their rich culture, customs and history. It was there that the renowned philosopher Mojżesz Isserles (called Remuh) taught, Helena Rubinstein was born, who is considered to have been one of the richest women in the world, and the esteemed director, actor and screenwriter Roman Polanski spent his childhood. The old Jewish district, included on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1978, became an even more recognisable landmark in Europe following the release of the famous "Schindler's List".

You will be introduced to the history of the extermination of the Jews of Kraków, which is the background for the events described in the Spielberg's film, as you will be wandering the streets of the former ghetto. That is the place where Jews were locked up during World War II, and they were sent to death camps from there. A display in the Schindler's Factory Museum will complement the information, which is the story of Kraków and the fate of the Polish and Jewish population during World War II, but also about the Germans - occupiers who arrived here on 6th September, 1939 and brutally stopped a centuries-old history of Polish-Jewish Kraków. The story of World War II

mingles with everyday life there, and private life with the tragedy that affected the whole world.

Recommended one-day trips:

**Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum**

