

# Leseraffim in Krakow

The city from the perspective of a fallen angel

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*There is no place on Earth that  
angelic beings would regard as  
worthy of visiting.*

These simple words have caused my being banished from Heaven. As a part of the punishment, I, Leseraffim, am now roaming the city of Krakow looking for a way back. To spend a day in this city, with those earthly, mundane creatures and to discover a paradise on earth is the ordeal that I must endure to ensure my return to the Gospel of the Grace. So, here I am, the fallen angel whose nature has been altered. The drive towards what's mysterious governs my decisions. Searching for my redemption, I humbly follow this push and visit various places that the city offers.



# Rakowicki Cemetery

Surrounded by figures of my brothers and sisters whose fate I share, I find myself at the Rakowicki Cemetery. The ambience of the place creates a unique opportunity for me to take a walk along the wide alleys. I admire the humans' contribution to maintaining and respecting the site as I stride through the pathways. The history and the diversity of the residents of Krakow are preserved in the form of all those graves and tombs of respected deceased individuals. I happen to find the names of numerous acclaimed Polish artists, such as Wodecki, Szymborska, Matejko, and Grechuta inscribed on epitaphs in the Alley of the Distinguished. I could understand why people visit these graves and indulge themselves in the memories of the past, as this experience left me with a similar sentiment to revive the memory of the former generation of artists.





# The Krakow Cloth Hall



The unexplained force is directing me towards the place that I reckon to be the main square. My attention is caught by a peculiar knife hanging on one of the walls of the Cloth Hall. Being absorbed in my findings, I delve into the details. Two students from the prestigious Pedagogical University of Krakow provided me with a fascinating insight into the legends surrounding the object. According to folk beliefs, one of the brothers who constructed the St. Mary's Basilica driven by jealousy murdered his relative. The discrepancy in the heights of the towers is now attributed to that incident. It is also believed that the object serves as a warning sign for people disobeying the rules for which thieves had their ears cut. The eerie feeling pierces my body as I hear this unknown story and it makes me immerse in further explorations of the location. The main square appeals to visitors because of the plethora of historic sites and activities to take up.



## The Underground Square Central Museum of Krakow

Suddenly, the atmosphere changes and the sunrays vanish. I am relocated to a bizarre museum, which lies underneath the feet of tourists strolling through the main square. This place is nothing else but the Underground Square Central Museum of Krakow. So, I enter a large room, darkly lit. The ceiling is covered in ancient structures winding in grotesque angles. Just by taking a glimpse at the glass-bottomed walkway, I am immediately struck by how odd the place is. A hollow sound pervades the empty ambience of the site where a long hallway full of market cellars and items from the blacksmith's workshop exposes what life was like in medieval Krakow. My favourite part of the trip to this peculiar museum must be uncovering the mystery of blood-thirsty vampires whose skeletons displayed there could be a piece of evidence proving their appearance in Krakow.





## Museum of Executioner "Kacianora"



### "Live execution"

*What may this sign mean?*

*Did people create Hell for themselves of their own volition?*

*What awaits there for me?*

*How am I supposed to find a paradise when enduring torture is a common attraction?*

A train of thought runs through my mind as I enter the place. Wherever I look, I notice knives, chains and cages. The atmosphere of the place, which is situated in a deep cellar is reinforced by a wooden structure on which various torture tools are exhibited. My bewildered face must have been spotted by the guide who takes me into the darkness of the Middle Ages. His knowledge astounds me. I can imagine what the interrogation of a prisoner could have looked like just by seeing the arrangements and listening to his explanations. The stories are so compulsive listening to that I feel as if I momentarily travelled in time into the 15th-century when witch trials were common. A former member of the host of heaven fascinated by hellish endeavours, I think of myself.



The initial goal of my escapade, here in Krakow, is to discover a place as marvellous as Heaven itself. Yet, all I do is indulge myself in the beauty of the city, explore its nooks and crannies, and open to the assets it offers. I need to come to my senses if I ever want to regain the respect that the name Leseraffim once held. With more determination now, I follow my instinct and arrive at a stunning venue. A sight to behold.

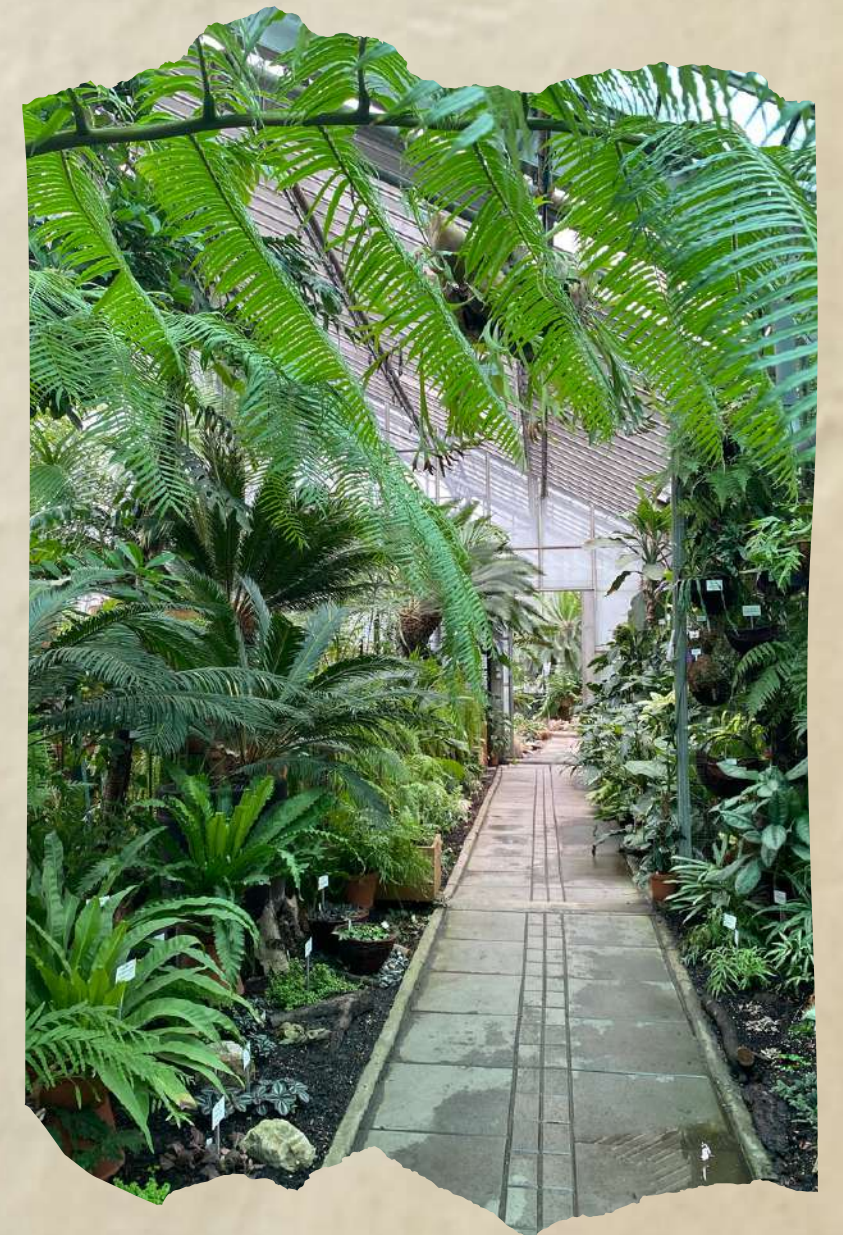
I wonder...

*Have I successfully  
completed my mission?*

*Is this Heaven?*

The paradise in front of my eyes suggests so. The multitude of flowers. Dozens of plants. The diversity of species. I am overwhelmed. No words can describe the view that I have the pleasure to marvel at. I must be in a different dimension. It must be the paradise that I have been so desperately searching for! I am sure. The further I go, the more unsure I am about what to admire first.

**The Botanic Garden  
of the Jagiellonian  
University**





I do not recall how many hours or was it even days that I have spent strolling through narrow lanes, avoiding the plants hanging above my head and craning my neck so as to grasp the magnificence of the place known as the Botanic Garden of the Jagiellonian University. My descriptions of these gardens can be endless, but one thing I know for sure: one must be a fool not to visit this plant kingdom once in their life in their leisure time.



Unfortunately, my exploration is disrupted as I am blinded by the sun coming from the glass ceiling. A faint voice is calling my name.

*Leseraffim. You have redeemed your lapse and may now come back. The Gates of Heaven will welcome you with open arms.*

The moment has come. I can return to Heaven and leave the city of Krakow behind me.  
I should feel relieved.  
I should feel ecstatic.  
Yet these feelings do not arouse. Abandoning this place now appears to be a painful punishment.  
I want to stay.



*I want to stay.*

“Thus, Leseraffim became a citizen of Krakow and lives now as a human being, spending his time on the enjoyment that the city never fails to provide. Recently, he was spotted picnicking at the Vistula Boulevards waiting for the Great Dragon Show to entertain him. A myriad of spectators gathered there to observe the mesmerising dragons flocking their wings to the sound of music. Colourful illuminations and fireworks in the background added an extra note of awe to the whole experience.”

“Who knows what other pleasant surprises Krakow has in store for Leseraffim?”

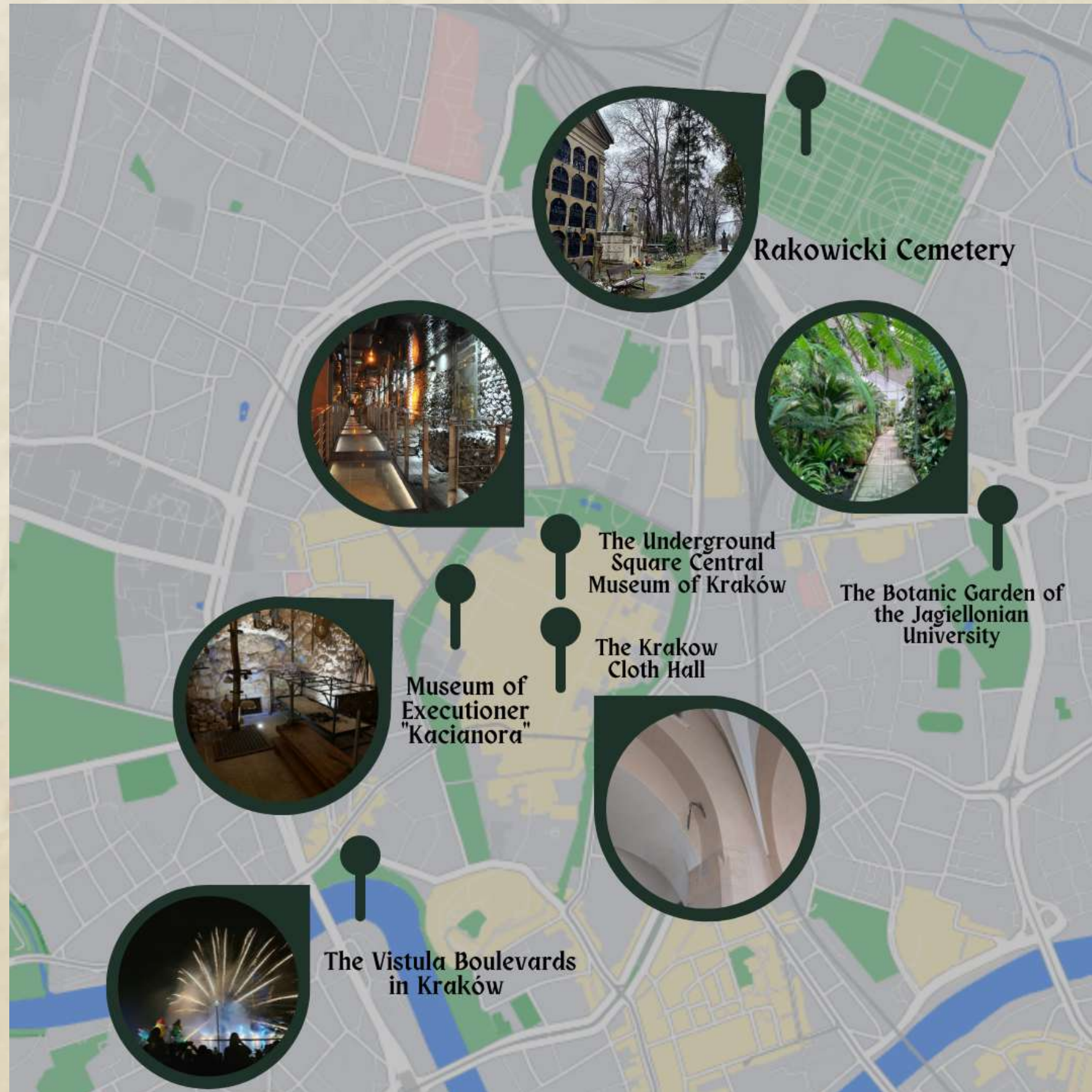


**The Great Dragon Show  
at the Vistula Boulevards**



*I can't believe my eyes. This city.  
Krakow. It can't help but amaze  
me. Today, I have found ...*





I. Rakowicki Cemetery (Cmentarz Rakowicki)

II. The Krakow Cloth Hall (Sukiennice)

III. The Underground Square Central Museum of Krakow (Podziemia Rynku Głównego w Krakowie)

IV. Museum of Executioner "Kacianora" (Museum Kata "Kacianora")

V. The Botanic Garden of the Jagiellonian University (Ogród Botaniczny Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego)

VI. The Great Dragon Show on the Vistula River (Parada Smoków na Wiśle), The Vistula Boulevards in Krakow (Bulwary Wiślane w Krakowie)



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## SOURCES:

### COVER

[1]<https://pl.pinterest.com/pin/578360777131052633/>

[2][https://www.zazzle.com/fallen\\_angel\\_contemporary\\_paint\\_ing\\_postcard-239684743565826957](https://www.zazzle.com/fallen_angel_contemporary_paint_ing_postcard-239684743565826957)

[3]<https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo/angel-of-death.html>

### RYNEK UNDERGROUND

[4]<https://polskazachwyca.pl/ciekawostki/podziemia-rynku-w-krakowie-zdziwisz-sie-co-skrywaja/>

[5]<https://fabrykadekoracji.com/en/portfolio/following-the-traces-of-european-identity-of-krakow-the-rynek-underground/>



Curus sit amet dictum  
voluta et leo dicit ut diam  
-magna fermenta  
Et sit amet tellus eros  
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