1. We would like to tell you something about our country Poland and city Cracow.

 2. Poland is located in Central Europe and that hasnt always had a positive impact on its history.

 3. The landscape of our country is very varied, from flat coasts in the north to mountainous areas in the south.

4. Cracow, Warsaw, Gdansk and Wroclaw are cities which are worth visiting.

 5. Poland is a catholic country with a rich religious tradition. Late pope John Paul II is a role model for many Polish people.

 6. The nativity play and Christmas tree also exist in other European countries but sharing the holy wafer and 12 dishes at a Christmas table are Polish traditions. Easter eggs are everywhere but Easter Lamb, basket of food sprinkled/blessed with holy water on Holy Saturday and Śmigus- Dyngus (also known as Wet Easter Monday) exist only in Poland.

 7. Our national holidays are the 3rd of May- Constitution Day and Independence Day on the 11th of November.

 8. Among Polish people who make their contribution to the European culture there are: pianist Frederic Chopin, modern writer Wisława Szymborska and film director Andrzej Wajda.

 9. Maria Skłodowska Curie, Nicolaus Copernicus and Ignacy Łukasiewicz are Polish scientists well known all over the world.

 10. Unfortunately, Poland is an emigration country. After Poland entered the European Union, the emigration wave has increased. Nowadays Polish emigrants live mainly in Germany, England, Ireland, Italy and Austria.

11. Cracow is located in Małopolska, thats how our region is called. Around 20% of the inhabitants of Małopolska live in Cracow.

12. Wawel used to be the royal residence of Polish kings and queens, as Cracow was the capital city of Poland at that time. Nowadays, this beautiful place is often visited by thousands of tourists.

13. Main Square - the heart of the city. Here you can enjoy the atmosphere of Old Town.

14. Cracow is a famous university centre. Jagiellonian University is the oldest university in Poland. It is very prestigious and its degrees are recognized all over the world.

15. The Wawel Dragon - the symbol of Cracow. According to the legend, the monster used to live in a cave in a rocky slope of the Wawel Hill and devoured townspeoples stock and virgins. For a long time the inhabitants were scared of the dragon.. If you want to know how it was beaten by the cobbler Dratewka, you must visit the Wawel Hill.

While walking around the Main Square, you can hear a characteristic bugle melody which comes to an abrupt end. Why? The legend says that in the XIII century a bugler was the first to see the Tatars enemy forces approaching the city so he wanted to warn the people but his throat was shot through by a Tatars arrow and he didnt finish playing the signal.

Pretzel - everyone needs to taste this snack speciality of Cracow.. It looks like German Bretzel, but it tastes differently. Its really unique!

16. This is the traditional Cracovian dress. It is worn for ceremonies and special holidays.

Lajkonik is a knight in mock - Mongol disguise. Every year he rides a wooden horse coming to The Main Square where the City authorities pay him a tribute. It is a tradition in Cracow which takes place in June. Lajkonik parade reminds everyone of brave raftsmen who saved the city from Tatars in the XIII century.

There are many pigeons in The Main Square. The legend says that they are knights who are waiting for their master to come back from Rome.

17. Near Cracow there is Wieliczka Salt Mine.

18. If you want to get some fresh air, Zakopane is a perfect place for you. You can eat oscypek- the regional cheese speciality and go on a horse-drawn- vehicle ride.

19. Have fun in Cracow with lots of fascinating sights!