



“MAY THE SAINTLY POPE, THE PATRON OF WORLD YOUTH DAY, INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF OUR PILGRIMAGE TOWARD HIS BELOVED KRAKOW. AND MAY THE MATERNAL GAZE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, FULL OF GRACE, ALL-BEAUTIFUL AND ALL-PURE, ACCOMPANY US AT EVERY STEP ALONG THE WAY”

POPE FRANCIS, VATICAN, 31 JANUARY 2015.

While visiting our beautiful town you can also enjoy the nearby trekking trails that lead to the peaks of the Little Beskids range. Saint John Paul II walked these paths too. On the top of the peak of John Paul II you will find the chapel of Our Lady Queen of the Mountains, founded by the tourist-pilgrims. From here you can wander on the papal routes to the nearby Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, where the Marian shrine is located with its famous miraculous picture of Our Lady of Kalwaria. Pope Saint John Paul II visited this place to give honour many times. He loved to wander on the nearby paths of the Lord Jesus and the Virgin Mary, praying and contemplating. Experience it too.

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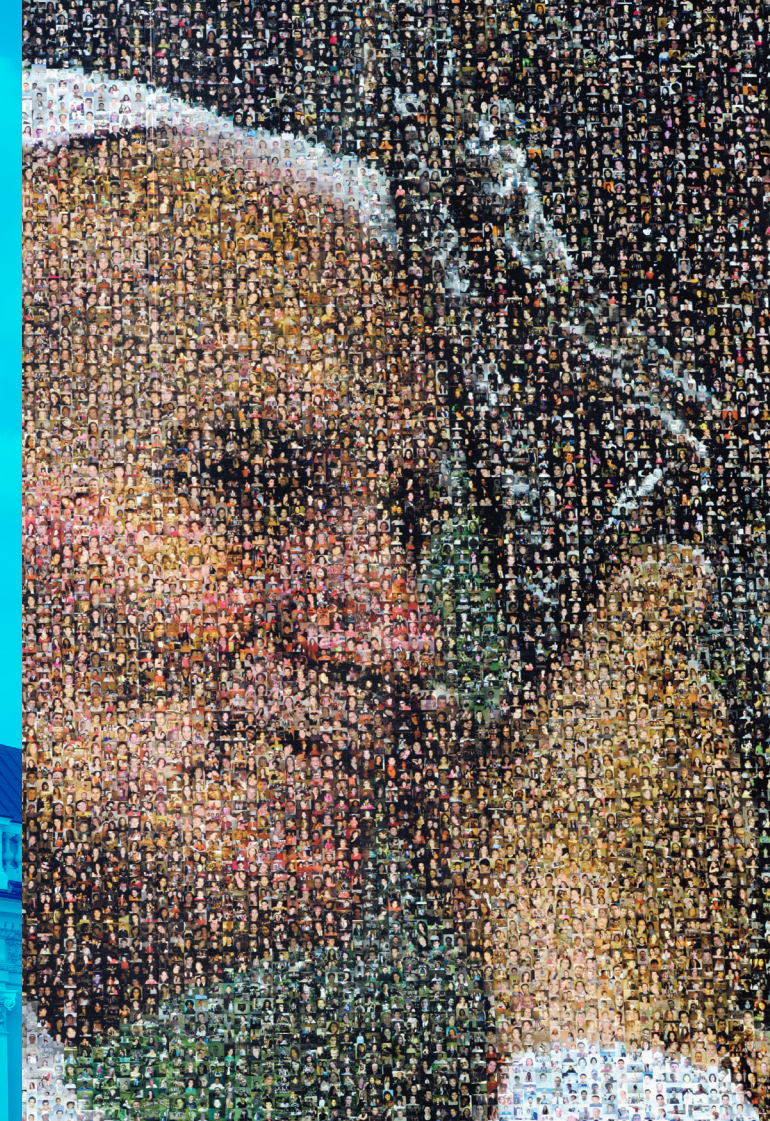
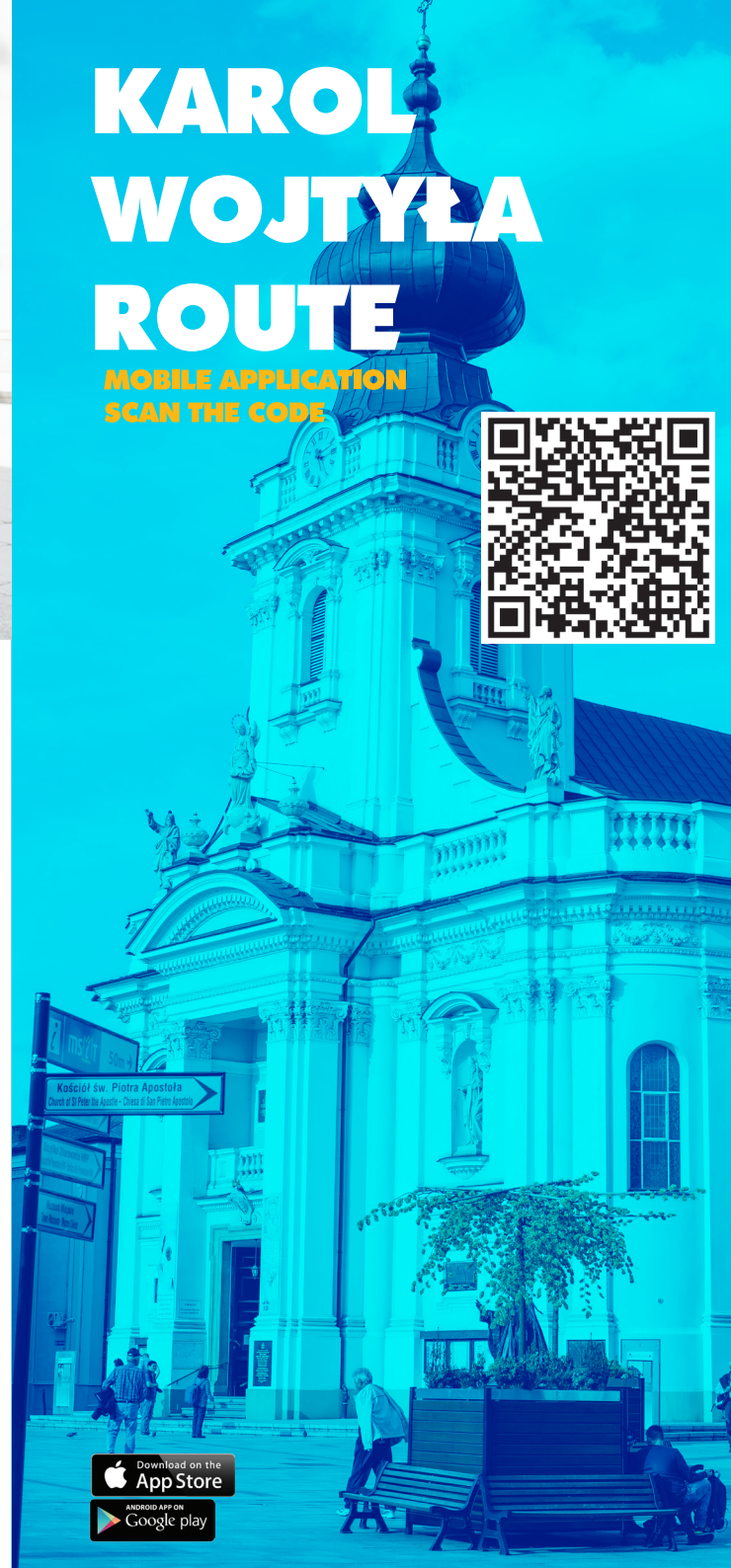
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Wadowice 2015



KAROL WOJTYŁA ROUTE

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WADOWICE

WHERE EVERYTHING BEGAN

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WADOWICE

THE HOME TOWN OF THE WORLD YOUTH DAY INITIATOR

2015 marks 30 years since the first World Youth Day; a global gathering of young Catholics, first initiated by Pope Saint John Paul II. Pope Francis and young people from all over the world will come to Krakow in 2016 to celebrate this occasion. Wadowice, the hometown of Pope Saint Jan Paul II who was the great predecessor of the current head of the church and a great believer in young people, is situated just 50 kilometers from Krakow. Why not visit us here? Make it an important part of your World Youth Day Experience.

Wadowice, a city with a long history, is located at the foot of the Little Beskids mountain range in the picturesque valley of the Skawa river. It is the birthplace of the greatest Pole, Saint John Paul II. During his last visit here he said: "...Here, in this town, in Wadowice, everything began. Life began, and the school began, and studies began, the theatre began, and the priesthood."

Visit Wadowice and follow the Karol Wojtyła Route. Get your free mobile application, which will lead you to places close to the heart of Saint John Paul II and available in six languages. Thanks to modern technology audio commentary will automatically start near each of the places of interest. It will help you to learn more about these places and their relationship with the youth of the great Polish Pope.

You can visit the house where Karol Wojtyla was born and which has now been transformed into the Family Home Museum of John Paul II to find out more about the life story of this remarkable person. Step in the City Museum and learn about the history of the city, particularly the days when it was a home to young Karol. Visit the Basilica of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Wadowice and see the baptismal font at which Karol Wojtyla was baptised as well as the chapel with the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in front of which he liked to pray as a child and as a young man.

Enjoying your visit, stop for a moment and sit on the bench next to the most famous and most talented graduate of the Gymnasium.

Move to the chapel of the Saint and honour the relics of his blood. It was in this church that he first served during the Mass and here he received his first communion and confirmation. Then you can stroll towards the building of the former local Gymnasium that the young Karol Wojtyla attended.

Follow the route towards the St. Joseph Sanctuary, the Monastery of the Discalced Carmelite Fathers. Enter the monastery church and see the scapular that belonged to Saint John Paul II. This is where he received it as a young boy. Honour the relics of St. Raphael Kalinowski, beatified and canonised by Saint John Paul II. Visit the church of Saint Peter the Apostle, the facility consecrated by the Polish Pope, built as a votive offering for his election to the Holy See and the miraculous deliverance of his life in 1981. The former "Sokol" ("Falcon") facility is the place at which the young Pope participated in the theatre performances organised by the local youth.

