

World Youth Day, Kraków, July 2016 To Do Before You Go

The Embassy of Ireland in Poland wishes all participants at World Youth Day in Kraków an enjoyable visit to Poland. Poland is a safe country and most visits pass off without incident. However, from time to time problems can arise, and the Embassy is here to help if they do. In the meantime, we strongly encourage you to take the following advice before coming to Poland, to help ensure you have a safe and enjoyable visit.

TRAVEL TO AND FROM POLAND

- **You should ensure that you have sufficient time to make travel connections**

The population of Kraków will treble in size for World Youth Day, and traffic congestion can be expected in and around the city. Around two million people are expected to take part in the final event on the programme, the Papal mass on 31 July. This will take place in Brzegi, about 15km from Kraków and about 20km from Kraków airport. **You should expect that it will take some time to leave the area after the mass ends, and to reach the airport.**

PASSPORTS

- **You must ensure that your passport is valid for the duration of your stay in Poland.** Information on how to apply for a passport is at www.dfa.ie/passports-citizenship/how-to-apply-for-a-passport
- If you are 18 or over, **we recommend that you get a passport card** before you travel. Details are here: www.dfa.ie/passportcard
- **We recommend that you keep a photocopy or a scan of your passport information page or passport card** in case you lose them. This will help you apply for a replacement travel document to return to Ireland.

Irish citizens must hold a valid passport to enter Poland. Under Polish law, you are required to have your ID readily accessible at all times or be able to produce identification quickly.

Please be aware that replacement travel documents can be issued to people under 18 only with the consent of their parents or guardians.

IRISH-POLISH DUAL NATIONALS

- **If you are an Irish-Polish dual national, you will be regarded and treated as a Polish citizen by the Polish authorities while in Poland.**

The Polish authorities will expect you to enter and leave Poland on a Polish passport. For more information you should contact the Embassy of Poland in Dublin - www.dublin.msz.gov.pl/en/root

HEALTH

- You should get **comprehensive travel insurance** before travelling to Poland which will cover all overseas medical costs, including medical evacuation. Please note that the official insurance package provided for participants does not cover the full duration of World Youth Day activities in Kraków.
- You should also obtain a **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)**, which is free of charge - see www.ehic.ie This card entitles you to basic emergency medical treatment in EU countries. *It is not a substitute for travel insurance.*
- **You should guard against possible heat exhaustion and sunstroke**, as it can be very hot in Poland in July. You should wear **appropriate clothes**, including headgear, use **sunscreen**, **stay hydrated**, and also use **insect repellent**.
- If you suffer from a **medical condition**, consult your doctor before travelling and bring a sufficient supply of your regular medicines.
- There is a possibility of **smog**, which could affect people with respiratory conditions.

CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY AND UPDATES

- **We recommend that you register with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade** before travelling to Poland, which will help us contact you or your family in an emergency– this can be done easily at www.dfa.ie/travel/citizens-registration/
- You should also follow the Embassy's **twitter** feed - **@IrlEmbWarsaw**
- You should familiarise yourself with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade **travel advice for Poland** - www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice/a-z-list-of-countries/poland
- The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will launch a **Travel App** for iOS and Android in the coming weeks. This will include material on World Youth Day.

EMBASSY OFFICE IN KRAKÓW

During the World Youth Day week, the Embassy will operate a temporary office in Kraków to assist Irish participants in the event of an emergency. Contact details, and detailed travel advice, will be available in July on our website at www.dfa.ie/poland.

CURRENCY

- You should ensure you have **sufficient money**.

Given the very large visitor numbers, you can expect delays using ATMs in Kraków. Poland uses the Złoty (€1 = approx. 4.4 PLN, but you should check current exchange rates before you travel). Debit and credit cards are widely accepted but some bars and restaurants are cash-only. Bureaux de Change (called “Kantors”) are common.