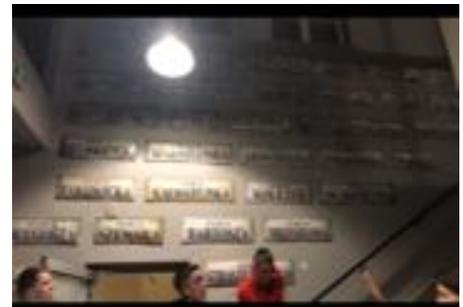


Poland reflection – Grainne Kieran (Rang Leahy)

Hi there. My name is Grainne Kieran and I am one of fifty plus students who took part on a trip to Krakow Poland as part of transition year. This trip was a very good experience for me and I'm sure for many others on the trip also. We left Ireland on the Tuesday the 4th and came back on Friday the 7th. It is just over a month since we came back and it only feels like yesterday. I can still smell the polish food and hear the polish birds in the market square. We got to visit many different places and museums. We got to do some wonderful sightseeing of Krakow itself which was very nice. Here are some of the activities that took place.

Schindler's factory museum:

We visited the Schindler's factory museum during our stay in Krakow Poland. This was a very interesting experience. We got to see a visual of many different items mentioned in the history of Schindler and we also got so much information on this also. Before we went, we covered a little bit of it in history class and visiting the factory just brought it all together. We saw the names of many people who died as a result and we also saw a model of Schindler's desk itself. Here are some photos of the factory.



Auschwitz (Birkenau) concentration camp

This was a very shocking experience. It was a once in a lifetime experience. When we learned about this in class, it was very hard and sad to think and to try and imagine the circumstances they were living under. However, when we visited Auschwitz, followed by Birkenau, it was shocking. It was difficult to understand how they did what they did to all the innocent people and how they had to just "let it happen". How they were all just pulled up into gas chambers and watched die was just shocking. Here are some of the photos:



Wieliczka salt mines

The salt mines were beautiful. This was the last place we visited in Krakow. We left the hotel that morning going straight to the salt mines before the airport. It was a beautiful place. There were some very interesting facts to go along with it too. We got to see how the people got the salt and how they grounded it. We also go to see how people would put their lives at risk every day to do very dangerous jobs in the salt mines. We were very very very deep underground. We walked down a wooden staircase that brought us 135 meters underground where we got to see corridors, chapels, statues, and even an underground lake. Here are some photos:

