

The logo features the text 'ITQ 2026' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'I' is black, the 'T' is blue, the 'Q' is red and contains a white globe icon, and the '2026' is purple. Below this, the tagline 'Xcelerate Your Success' is written in a blue, cursive script. The background is a vibrant red and purple gradient with numerous thin, white, radiating lines emanating from the center.

**ITQ 2026**  
*Xcelerate Your Success*



## **Wieliczka Salt Mine – The Miner's Route**



# Wieliczka Salt Mine – The Miners’ Route

## **Monday September 28<sup>th</sup> – GUIDED TOURS ONLY – Advisors will be responsible in organising transfers to and from the Salt Mine**

The daredevils participating in the tour receive proper mining equipment which includes overalls, a mining helmet, a miner’s lamp and an absorber. Thus, equipped they go down into the mine through a fourteenth century shaft, the Regis. A 3-hour journey along the fascinating Miner’s Route awaits them – active, stimulating senses visiting and learning the profession of a miner.

The lift quickly disappears within the depths of the shaft that still remembers the times of Casimir the Great, thus its name – the Regis shaft, i.e. the ‘Royal’ shaft. The doors of the lift open on Level I, 64 meters below ground level. The group consists of not more than 20 persons and children are also allowed on the route, but they must be at least 10 years old. It would be also worthwhile to wear casual clothing.

The Miners’ Route is designed not only for visiting as it is a journey through time and history. The mine workings along the route were formed as far back as in Medieval times. This allows visitors not only to see the mine, but also to experience it. Furthermore, the tasks to be completed by the participants of the excursion are works once performed by real miners. This allows the tourists to feel like true miners and understand in essence the mine itself – austere, but marvellous, tempting although demanding hard labour. The route is considered as a part of the active tourism trend. It is an interesting form of spending time and an opportunity to learn about the historic Wieliczka mine.

The tasks are distributed by an experienced face foreman. The curious tourists will become disciples of the mining profession under the keen eyes of the foreman. They will check the mine’s air composition, find out about the ways of mining and transporting salt and how to weave ropes. Information and knowledge about the mine is acquired through experience. One has to try himself to find out what a miner’s job is like.

Blackness interspersed with the light of mining lamps conceals traces of works performed many centuries ago. Here and there contours of hewed off salt blocks loom on walls. One can see well preserved elements of a horse-driven treadmill (the Rzepki Chamber). The ceilings of mine workings, of which the oldest were created in the fifteenth century, are supported by casing



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It is quite possible that the trees used for constructing these supports came from the forest described by Jan Długosz. The thickest measure even 70 centimetres in diameter. Wood saturated with salt is well preserved for centuries protecting the undergrounds from cave-ins. The casing structures in the Boczaniec Chamber have traces of a fire that occurred here 400 years ago. In ancient times fires were a real hazard to mines and these black smudges on the supports in the Boczaniec remind us of this, as well as the chapel dedicated to Kunegunda (St. Kinga) – a votive in memory of saving lives from the element. A narrow passage cut out in the casing structure leads to this chapel, which is really just a niche. Only some elements of the altar and two salt figures with strongly blurred shapes have been preserved since those times.

When the guide allows visitors to switch off their lamps and the novices of the mining trade experience the impenetrable darkness of the mine, when in the silence of meandering corridors they will hear only their breathing – only then will they understand the origin of the Treasurer and the White Lady. They will also understand why the miners so strongly believed in their patron saints. Underground important are knowledge, skills, experience and the people you are with, the team, as no one here can depend just on himself.

The deeper into the mine, the closer we get to contemporary times. Step by step visitors reach the times of the Partitions of Poland. The Franz Karl Chamber was one of the tourist attractions along the route marked by the Austrians. The salt obelisk visible at the back of the chamber commemorates the second visit of the Habsburg archduke to the mine. Exactly in 1774 the first Book of Guests was made available to visitors. Those travelling today in the mine can easily say that they are wandering in the footsteps of such famous people as Staszic, Chopin, Mendeleev or Matejko who have left their autographs in the commemorative registers. Also, those wandering along the Miners’ Route can leave their signatures in today’s Book of Guests.

The Miners’ Route was established as part of a project entitled “The Routes of New Adventure in the Historic ‘Wieliczka’ Salt Mine”, partially funded by European Regional Development Fund (Operational Program Innovative Economy). Preparatory works continued for over two years. 27 mine workings were preserved (12 chambers, 5 corridors, 3 fore-shafts). Almost 17 kilometres of anchors were fitted in them, and it was necessary to remove nearly 3,000 cubic meters of mining product. The historic top-shaft building of the Regis shaft was reconstructed, not only a representative image, but it was also opened for tourists. The lift installed in the shaft has made its debut in mining conditions. In essence, such a machine does not require a shaft tower, however, the tower was constructed so as the Regis could once again become a pleasurable sight and emphasize the mining character of the Wieliczka town.



# Wieliczka Salt Mine – The Tourist Route

