Defensive walls

The preserved fragment of the defensive walls of Kraków is situated between the Pasamoników (Haberdashers’) Tower, St. Florian’s Gate, and the Carpenters’ Tower. It is almost a hundred meters long. The walls come from the turn of the 13th and 14th centuries. Their highest part was added in the early 20th century. The walls reach a height of about 10 meters and are almost two and a half meters thick. They were mainly built of the so-called crushed stone. The pieces of light-colored stones are irregular. The highest section of the wall is made of bricks and covered with a roof, which also covers a wooden porch on the south side of the walls facing Pijarów Street.

The upper edge of the stone section of the walls is shaped like rectangular teeth, which is called a battlement. The ‘teeth’ occur at intervals and the gaps between them are now filled with bricks. Every other stone ‘tooth’ has a narrow rectangular embrasure. In addition, there are 17 arrowslits with a narrow, vertical opening in the walls, together with several arrowslits in the shape of a keyhole (the slot ends with a circular hole). The stone section of the walls reaches a height of about eight meters.

The porch that runs along the walls is one and a half meters wide. It is secured by a wooden and metal railing. At the top, there are crossbeams supporting the canopy.

On the walls facing Pijarów Street, there are plenty of colorful paintings. It is a special open-air gallery. The canvases show a wide variety of topics: landscapes, portraits, monuments of Kraków, and images of animals. Many of them are copies of works by famous painters.