

WALK AROUND GISZOWIEC

A housing estate in the middle of the forest, gardens next to each residential house, modern trade and service facilities and a community whose life takes place in a conveniently planned and wisely managed space! The urban concept, conceived according to Ebenezer Howard's garden city idea, is not a film utopia – it was realized in the Giszowiec estate. The estate was created on the initiative of the general director of Giesche – Anton Uthemann – with the employees of the company's plants in mind. The construction of Giszowiec began in 1906, according to the design of the architectural studio of Georg and Emil Zillmann. For years, life here was peaceful and idyllic. Unfortunately, at the end of the 1960s, 2/3 of the original buildings were demolished and replaced by prefabricated blocks. Today, the surviving buildings are architectural monuments.

We invite you on an extraordinary journey along their trail!

1 Former forester's house - Originally, the building housed an official flat and also the forester's office. Currently there is a kindergarten here.

2 Former laundry and bathhouse - Due to savings, there was no running water in the workers' apartments, and due to the humidity in the rooms, washing clothes was forbidden in the houses. That's why a modern laundry was built on the estate. In the same building there was also a bathhouse equipped with showers and bathtubs for women, children and sick people; working men bathed on the mine premises.

3 Silesian Chamber – Gawlikówka - In the 1980s, Ewald Gawlik, also known as Van Gogh from Giszowiec – one of the founders of the Janowska Group, i.e. the Non-Professional Painters Club [Koło Malarzy Nieprofesjonalnych] had his studio in the utility rooms next to the inn. The talented artist left in the studio many of his works, which can be admired in the gallery created here.

4 Cultural Center – a former inn - The inn located inside the park was the cultural center of the Giszowiec estate. Architects Georg and Emil Zillmann took care of its impressive decor. On the ground floor there were two tavern rooms for workers and a separate room for officials. Festivals, receptions and performances were held in the largest room. There was a single-story bowling alley building adjacent to the inn, and a bandshell was erected in the park nearby.

The modernized facility has several rooms, including a glamorous concert hall. It is also a meeting place of many special interest groups. The "Dworek pod Lipami" restaurant is located here as well.

5 Former evangelical school - In 1917, a school for children of the Evangelical denomination was opened. In addition to school rooms, the building included official flats for teachers, as well as a chapel where Evangelical services were held, as the nearest church was located in Rożdżeń, approximately 6 km away.

6 Residential houses - The Giszowiec estate originally consisted of 300 workers' houses, 20 higher standard houses intended for the families of mine officials, and public utility facilities. The architectural design referred to the appearance of rural cottages from the Upper Silesia region. The houses were surrounded by vast gardens. Residential buildings that survived the demolitions of the 1970s are located, among others, in the area of Barbórki, Przyjemna, Przyjazna, Ewa, Kwiatowa and several other streets.

7 Former school - The first school building in Giszowiec was opened in 1908. In later years, two more buildings were added to it. Classrooms were located on the ground floor, and teachers' apartments – on the upper floors. In 1993, the school was moved to a new location at Przyjazna Street, and its former building now houses offices and private premises.

8 Department store - The department store, called "konsum", offered food and textiles at very low prices. There was also a bakery, a meat processing plant and even an ice factory.

9 American colony - In 1926, the plants of the former Georg von Giesche's Erben company were bought by a US company - Silesian American Corporation (SACO). Especially for employees from the United States and their families, a small colony of six-story villas was built near the forest, the appearance of which referred to Anglo-Saxon architecture.

10 Water tower - The 33-meter-high water tower is located in the highest part of the district. Water drawn from the water supply was collected in a water tank located in the tower. Then it was distributed to decorative water cranes placed every hundred meters around the estate, from which the inhabitants of Giszowiec drew water.

11 Director's villa - On the outskirts of the estate, in the forest surroundings, the mine director's house was built. During the years of German occupation, Fritz Bracht, gauleiter (NSDAP party leader) of the Upper Silesia district, lived here. After World War II, the villa housed a kindergarten, a community center, a scout hall, and later a bank.



GISZOWIEC



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Tourist Information Center
 Rynek 13
 phone: 32 259 38 08
 e-mail: katowice@silesia.travel

opening hours:
 Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Saturday and Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



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Buses from the city center
 to Giszowiec:
M13, 920, 674, 30



Timetable: rj.metropoliaztm.pl

KEY

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