

A WALK THROUGH NIKISZOWIEC

Nikiszowiec /formerly Nikischschacht/ built by the Giesche corporation between 1908 and 1914 as a city-like miners housing estate. It presents a unique architecture designed by Emil and Georg Zillmann. Well-known due to films of e.g. Kazimierz Kutz („Perła w koronie”, „Sól ziemi czarnej”) and Lech Majewski (“Angelus”), because of the Janów Group artists activity (E. Gawlik, T. Ociepka, E. Sówka) and the book by M. Szejnert, “Czarny ogród”. It attracts with a unique atmosphere and interesting events. Nikiszowiec. A magic place.

We invite you for a walk.

1 Museum of Katowice History - the City Ethnology Department

– originally a laundry room, a drying room, a mangle, and a bath house for women and children. Now the refurbished former laundry room consists of Tourist Information Point and City Ethnology Department of the Museum of Katowice History; it houses permanent (e.g. „U nos w doma na Nikiszu” / At our Nikisz house/) and temporary exhibitions.

2 Komzony

– a colloquial term for a series of shops in arcades in Wyzwolenia Square (opposite the Church of St. Anna).

3 The Zimbardo Centre

– Prof. Philip Zimbardo (an American psychologist, known among others for the performance of the Stanford Prison Experiment) visited Nikiszowiec for the first time in 2012. Impressed by the historical housing estate and people involved in the social revitalisation of the district, he decided to establish here a youth-friendly place - a meeting place for young people, where it would be possible to share experience, develop one's passions or acquire new skills.. The project was implemented with the support of inter alia the City of Katowice.

4 The post office building

(a former inn) - it is worth stopping in this place to admire a flower mosaic - Art Nouveau roses. The flower motif relates to the Rozbark costume. The mosaic and the painted red window surrounds are the most characteristic details of the unique Nikiszowiec architecture.

5 Wyzwolenia Square

– a club was here at No 4, where members of the Janów Group were meeting (Circle of Amateur Painters), whose works are considered a world class phenomenon. The place is the informal Nikiszowiec main square, where festivities and fairs take place.

6 The Church of St. Anna

– consecrated in 1927, built acc. to the design of E. and G. Zillman. The construction cost was divided between the “Giesche” colliery and the parish. Up to date it is possible to admire a 75-rank organ, made by the Rieger company from Kaniów, stained-glass windows from the G. Schneider workshop in Regensburg (56, including 10 figural) and the way of the Cross, painted on metal

plates. The main altar, the pulpit and the font were brought from the G. Schreiner workshop in Munich. The chandelier (800 kg) was brought from Berlin - Charlottenburg.

7 Primary School No. 53

– the building was opened in 1911 and up to date it is used as a school. It consisted of three parts: two school parts (in the interwar period - for girls and boys) and a residential building for teachers, connecting them.

8 St. Anna Street

– the most famous street of Nikiszowiec, presented many times in films, among others in Silesian films of Kazimierz Kutz („Perła w koronie” and „Sól ziemi czarnej”), reflecting the climate of this place.

9 “Pułaski” Shaft

(till 1935 - “Carmer”) - a historical complex of facilities comprising the pithead building with the headgear, sorting plant, winder house, forgery, mechanical workshop, woodworking shop, mark house, and bath house. One of two shafts, between which the miners housing estate was built. Preserved cars of the Balkan railway may be admired in front of it.

10 The Balkan railway

, commissioned in 1914, was connecting Szopienice with Nikiszowiec and Giszowiec, transporting free of charge passengers between the place of residence and work; apart from employees it was transporting also their families. The route was 3.9 km long. A humorous Balkan name was given by residents, referring to the railway line - started at that time - connecting Berlin with Constantinople. It made the last trip on 31 December, 1977.

11 Former town hall

– a modernistic building erected in 1931 acc. to the design of an eminent Polish architect, Mr. T. Michejda. Once the Janów municipality office, which comprised Nikiszowiec. Today a hospital building, with an adjacent car park.

12 Galeria Szyb Wilson /Wilson Shaft Gallery/

– a former shaft of the “Wieczorek” mine (till 1995). Now 2,500 sq.m. of an exhibition space of the largest private modern art gallery in Poland. Apart from exhibitions, concerts, shows, fairs and performances take place here. It is worth seeing in summer during the Art Naif Festival, presenting the works of amateur painters from the whole world. The building is situated outside the very area of Nikiszowiec housing estate and is included in the Industrial Monuments Route of the Silesian Voivodeship.

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NIKISZOWIEC



Tourist Information Point

(City Ethnology Department of the Museum of Katowice History)

Nikiszowiec, Rymarska 4

phone: +48 32 255 14 80

e-mail: nikiszowiec@silesia.travel

Feel free to download
our app:



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apps.apple.com

Tourist Information Centre

40-003 Katowice, Rynek 13

phone: +48 32 259 38 08

e-mail: katowice@silesia.travel

Museum of Katowice History in Nikiszowiec opening hours:

Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday 11 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Buses from the city centre to Nikiszowiec:

30, 920, 930, 674

Translated by: Jerzy Wróblewski

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