TRAVEL GUIDE

to the City Centre of Katowice
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Welcome to Katowice, the capital of Silesian Voivodeship, where the heart of the agglomeration beats!

Katowice is an extraordinary city. And an exceptional one. While preparing this guide, we have discovered it anew. Walking around the city centre, we could not help the feeling that the builders who erected the tenement houses with such great attention to detail wanted to create a modern space which cannot lack wide paved streets with sidewalks. In a word, our ancestors built the city in which the next generation of Katowice inhabitants can live comfortably. The history disrupted their plans a little, but the city centre looks impressive anyway. Taking a closer look at the tenement houses, public buildings or squares, we can guess the intention of architects, who wanted to build on the banks of Rawa river a capital worthy of Upper Silesia.
Katowice is a city created from coal and steel, but also full of greenery and harmony, a city which over the years of transformation has grown into a modern European metropolis.

Only today, walking down the streets in the centre, we experience a multidimensional transformation. We watch the subsequent stages of changes made thanks to numerous investments, effectively refreshing the visual landscape of the city. We invite you for a walk around Katowice – take a look at the city through the eyes of its builders. We wish you a tour full of good impressions.

Editors

Katowice

Katowice gained city status in 1865, and the history of the city is dated back to that point in time. In the early 20th century and in the interwar period, Katowice belonged to the most modern and fastest growing cities in Poland. It became famous for its skyscrapers and modernism. We invite you for a wander around the city centre! We have outlined two routes for several dozen minutes, thanks to which you can explore the city and get to know its character by ta-
GPS grid references:

**Start:**
N50°15'31.2264'' E19°0'55.9904,

**Finish:**
N50°15'48.6434'' E19°1'27.7204

**Approx. time:**
1 – 1.5 hour.
Route 1

It starts from the Tourist Information Centre, 13 Rynek Street next to a large construction site in which the Market Square has changed according to the announcement of the city authorities. Despite the transformation, “Spodek” (“The Saucer” in Polish) is still a characteristic building of the city centre.

The Sport and Show Arena “Spodek”, located at 35 Korfantego Avenue, built in 1971 according to the project of Biuro Studiów i Projektów Typowych Budownictwa Przemysłowego (Office for Research and Typical Projects of Industrial Architecture) in Warsaw. The authors of the project are: Maciej Gintowt and Maciej Krasiński, construction contractor – Andrzej Żurawski, the project of the hung roof was created by Wacław Zalewski. The main hall, which can accommodate over 11 thousand people, is adjacent to an all-year-round ice rink, gymnasium with 400 seats for the audience, and hotel, which are combined into a single facility by an antresole. Championships and volleyball, basketball, ice hockey matches, musical concerts, special events, scientific conferences, circus performances, ice shows and trade fairs are organised there.
We turn into Św. Jana (St. John) Street, where we are welcomed by the figure depicting the patron saint, which is a replica of the work from 1873. The authentic sculpture is currently a private property and decorates one of the gardens in the city.

We walk down the Św. Jana Street, heading south. At the same time, we can admire the tenement houses built at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. They are designed in different styles, both in neo-Baroque style and eclectic style with romantic neo-Renaissance, neo-Gothic and classical elements. We suggest you a stop in front of the tenement No. 10. Stop for a while in the gate where you can admire the polychromes on the walls restored on the basis of photos from the times when the house was built.

Tenement house built in 1896, neo-Baroque style. The front elevation is composed of four axes faced with brick. A balcony with the original forged balustrade is set on the central axis of the third floor. Decorative mouldings depict eagles supporting bay windows and anthropomorphic motifs placed in the window pediment of the third-floor main axis. In the interior – modern three-flight stairs.
In the building No.10, there is also “Ateneum” – the Silesian Puppet and Actor Theatre (Śląski Teatr Lalki i Aktora) whose performances enjoy an unflagging popularity among the youngest generation of Katowice inhabitants. A few steps away, at the crossing of Dworcowa Street and Św. Jana Street, you can see a restored tenement house built in 1937, and designed in the functionalist style. From this point, there is a view of the monumental old railway station building. Opposite to it, there is the magnificently renovated hotel Monopol (built in 1902), where Jan Kiepura and Marta Eggerth had their wedding. To this day, it is still a very stylish and mysterious place. After a moment of reflection on romantic love between two world-renowned singers you return to the route of our walking tour around Katowice. Right by Monopol you can see again a renovated hotel — Diament. From the crossing of Św. Jana Street and Dworcowa Street you can notice a high tower situated on the railway premises on the right side, and below a road to the railway station tunnel.

Water tower: 30-metre, stocky, brick. A symbol of the 19th century industrial revolution, built in 1951 in place of the one destroyed during the war. Until the mid 70s, it supplied a rail junction and the vicinity with water. Today, the building is used for office space.
Now we go along Św. Jana Street, under a reinforced concrete railway viaduct, and right behind it at the intersection with Wojewódzka Street, a building dating back to the beginning of the previous century comes into sight: the renovated first Silesian Cinema Theater “Rialto”, which was also called the “luminous theatre” at that time. Its interesting façade is crowned with a quadriga relief, not without a little historical curiosity – the original ornamentation was hanged on the reverse side – a joke of the builders.

Cinetheater was built in 1912 by Martin Tichauer. It was called Kammerlichtspiele. The building housed the projection room for 800 seats with a podium for a twenty-person orchestra, and on the floor there was a cigar smoking room, winery, and beer hall.
On the other side we can see two multi-storey tenement houses. One – on the corner of Kochanowskiego Street, the second – at the junction of Kościuszki Street. Both from the beginning of the previous century, make a strong impression at the outlet of the street and invite you to continue the journey. On the ground floor of the first one there a pizzeria.

In front of you there will be J.Kochanowskiego Street. On the right side, at No. 3, you can see the former hotel Polonia. At No. 10, Galeria Sztuki Współczesnej “Parnas” (Contemporary Art Gallery), invites you to enter and buy works by prominent Polish artists.

On both sides of the narrow street, there are charming Art Nouveau, eclectic, and neo-Baroque buildings, not only tenement houses, which date back to the beginning of the 20th century. The house No.12 is especially worth noting.
We reach the intersection of J. Kochanowskiego with Jagiellońska Streets and K. Miarki Square. You can see a rental tenement from the beginning of the 20th century with the post office on the ground floor and K. Miarki Square captivating with its greenery. Here you can find the Stanisław Moniuszko monument surrounded by trees and a humming sound of the fountains.

You can sit here for a while and peacefully take a closer look at the architectural details of the houses surrounding the square. Then, you can move further towards the south. W. Stwosza Street starts at the height of K. Miarki Square. This is an extraordinary city thoroughfare whose architecture perfectly demonstrates how quickly Katowice developed. At the beginning of the street you can see a modernist bank building, a few steps further – the tenement house No. 3, erected in 1910 probably according to the design of Hugo Weissenberg in the early modernism style with elements of Art Nouveau.
K. Miarki Square. Stanisław Moniuszko monument in the distance.

The building No.4 is an exceptionally interesting tenement house from 1912, built in the modernist style.

Tenement house built in 1912 in the modernist style with an allegorical female figure on a pedestal (in the arcade), decorative portals and loggias, historical: door frame-woodwork, window frame-woodwork with painted shutters, gate with stained glass and ceramics. Here, for over 14 years, lived the musicologist Professor Adolf Dygacz.
We still walk towards the south. We reach J.Ligonia Street. On the right side you see the historical building of the Silesian Library (currently, its headquarters is located in the modern building situated near Rady Europy Square). It is worth paying attention to its interesting architecture. You can also make a short detour, go on the left side of the street and after a few dozen meters, you will see the building of Polskie Radio immediately in front of you. Now, let’s go back to the route. Continue straight on crossing the intersection with J.Ligonia Street towards the south. On the right side you can see the office buildings No. 7 and 9, built in the 1920s.

On the left side, there is a grassy square, you can sit down there for a while and admire the façade of the Cathedral of Christ the King – the largest cathedral in Poland. The view is really wonderful. On its right side, you will see a statue of Pope John Paul II, which commemorates his pontificate and shall inform you of the visit of the Holy Father to our city in 1983. Noteworthy is the fact that the honorary citizenship of Katowice was awarded to the pope as determined by the decision of the City Council of 19 May 2000.

After a moment of reflection we suggest you to go around the building. Walking to the right, you will see a building belonging to the ecclesiastical seminary in the distance, and at the height of the Metropolitan Curia, there is the entrance to Jordana Street, a small pedestrian promenade. Here is one of the most interesting buildings erected in Katowice in recent years. It houses the Faculty of Theology of the University of Silesia. After viewing this futuristic building we come back to the cathedral to get in front of the monumental edifice of the curia, erected in 1937. No let's walk around the cathedral, keeping to the left. Plebiscytowa Street with modern buildings of recent years is on your right side.
The decision on the construction and digging of the foundation was made in 1927, whereas the laying of the foundation stone took place in 1932. In 1934, the walls reached a height of 6 to 8 metres. Then, all efforts were focused on the construction of the presbytery, which was completed in 1938. At the time of the occupation the work was stopped, and started again in 1946. However, the communist government forced a change in the project – the height of the cupola was reduced by 38 m. The cathedral was consecrated in 1955. The main portal of the cathedral is composed of three massive doors, the middle of which is decorated with bas-reliefs with millennial content designed by Jerzy Kwiatkowski. The bas-reliefs were made by Stefan Gaida. Apart from the main entrance, the cathedral has two side entrances. In front of the building, there is a statue of Pope John Paul II.

We invite you to visit the cathedral also from the inside. It is worth visiting because it is one of the largest religious buildings in the southern Poland. Its decoration refers to the modern body of the building. The uniqueness about this place is its rawness and the use of metals, among other things, the Sta-
tions of the Cross or the figure of Christ. While going out of the temple, it is worth to stop for a while and look in front of you.

The building was constructed by the Metropolitan Curia in Katowice in 2004. This jewel of modern urban architecture (the project was awarded the Grand Prix of the competition “Architektura Roku Województwa Śląskiego” (Architecture of the Year of Silesian Voivodeship)) was built for the needs of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Silesia. The total building area amounts to 16,796 m². Intelligent building solutions were used for its construction. The construction is masterfully integrated into the historical buildings of this part of the city and harmoniously accompanies the body of the cathedral and the Curia palace.

Plane trees grow in the surroundings of the cathedral and on the pedestrian street in front of the Faculty of Theology, breaking up with their green crowns the monotony of grey buildings. Let’s turn then, after leaving the church, right down Powstańców Śląskich Street. The area is dominated by buildings erected in the interwar period. The modernist tenement house in 26 Powstańców Street stands out due to its interesting design. At the corner of Powstańców and H. Sienkiewicza Street, you will see a villa hidden in the garden, in which Wojciech Korfanty lived between 1923 and 1939.
Wojciech Korfanty lived here. He was the dictator of the Third Silesian Uprising, Sejm Deputy of the Republic of Poland, and a prominent Silesian politician and social activist.

After walking a few steps to the east, at the corner of J. Lompy Street we encounter another villa, in which now the delegacy of the Supreme Audit Office has its headquarters. You will see monumental modernist buildings on the other side of the street. In the building No. 30, there is the office of the coal mining company, Kompania Węglowa, but at the beginning of the last century Dyrekcja Kopalń Księcia Pszczyńskiego (Board of Directors of the Prince of Pless Coal Mines) worker here, and after the World War 2 it was the location of the Ministry of Mining – the only one to operate outside Warsaw. At that time coal was the
pillar of our economy and the source of wealth of Silesia.

Going further, we discover the building No. 31 with a tragic history. This modernist building was erected in 1924 for a private company; during the World War 2, Gestapo made the building its headquarters; and between 1945 and 1965 the building housed Wojewódzki Urząd Bezpieczeństwa Publicznego (Voivode Office of Public Security). The plaques commemorating the deaths of the murdered inhabitants of Katowice were placed on the building façade. Another plaque commemorates the victims of communism.

The picture to the right shows the plaques commemorating the inhabitants of Katowice murdered in the Auschwitz concentration camp.
Building constructed by Siemens & Halske for its workers at the beginning of the 20th century.

On the opposite side you will see an office building (34 Powstańców Street) built in 1915 in the late modernist style with neo-Baroque and neoclassical elements.

Now we return to the intersection of Powstańców and Lompy Street. Let’s walk down J.Lompy Street to the north. A zone of monumental buildings begins here, which date back to the interwar period. They clearly demonstrate the role and the wealth of the city and its rank. On the right, you can see a building erected in the 1920s for Syndykat Polskich Hut Żelaznych (the present Centrala Zaopatrzenia Hutnictwa S.A.) and designed by Tadeusz Michejda and Lucjan Sikorski. It is a modern classical building. Its block body is raw and extended with a portico of the main façade. On the left we can see the building of Centrum Kultury Katowice named after Krystyna Bochenek, where, among others, Narodowa Orkiestra Symfoniczna Polskiego Radia (Polish National Orchestra) performs.
Radio Symphony Orchestra) has its domicile. The city is building a new seat for it in the area previously occupied by the Katowice coal mine. Going down further, we reach Sejmu Śląskiego Square, with a statue of Wojciech Korfanty, the dictator of the Third Silesian Uprising, in the middle of it. The square hosts anniversary and patriotic celebrations. The figure on a socle faces the building of the Voivodeship Office and the Sejmik of the Silesian Voivodeship.

The edifice of the Silesian Sejm was built between 1925 and 1929, the largest building of this type in Poland. The building is divided into 634 rooms with the total cubic volume of 161,474 m³, it has seven storeys: four floors, ground floor, and two underground floors. The building is equipped with 1,300 windows. The total corridor length is more than 6 km. The building consists of four main wings, the interior houses the Sejm conference room for 80 seats. The interior is also equipped with shelter, emergency tunnel, strongroom, and paternoster lift, which has been preserved in excellent condition to this day. Once, the building housed the apartment of a governor-in-office. The building was listed as a National Historical Monument, and a commemorative plaque was placed at its entrance.
It is worth to go inside the Office; its interior will delight you with its dignity. The attention should be paid not only to the paternoster lift, the ride with which is an unforgettable experience, but above all to the vestibule and conference room. Unfortunately, the underground and strongroom can only be entered on open days or with organized trips. On the other side of the square, behind the socle, there is an excellently renovated office building, which currently houses the Faculty of Philology of the University of Silesia.

The six-storey Gmach Urzędów Niezespolonych (Non-Combined Administration Offices) designed by Witold Kłębowski and built in 1936. Before the World War 2, at the southern part of the façade on the left, there was a relief designed by Stanisław Szukalski, which depicted an eagle inserted in a circle. In the foreground you can see a statue of Wojciech Korfanty.
Going further down to the north, we cross Jagiellońska Street. On the left you will pass the building of the Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection of the University of Silesia. The building was built in 1910 as a school of mathematics and natural sciences for boys, then it housed a junior high school, and when the war was over – I Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. M. Kopernika (High School No.1 named after Nicolaus Copernicus), Liceum Pedagogiczne (Pedagogical High School), and finally the University of Silesia. On the other side you will see a monumental building – the seat of several departments of the Marshal’s Office. In this context, it is noteworthy that over a very short period of time this site was occupied by a modern building of the Silesian Museum, the construction of which was completed in 1939. Poles didn’t manage to commission the building, as they were interrupted by the outbreak of the World War 2. The building didn’t suffer in the warfare, but after German troops entered the city, the decision on the demolition of the new building was taken; the building was a symbol of the Polish identity in this region. A pedestal with an eagle located right by the building and a commemorative plaque with the information about the fate of the museum were placed there to commemorate this event.
Right in front of the building of the Marshal’s Office at B. Chrobrego Square, a monument of Marshal Józef Piłsudski was erected. The history of this monument is worth quoting: it was designed and cast still before the war. It was created by a Croatian sculptor, Antun Augustinčić. The monument was ordered by the society of Upper Silesia.

The construction began in 1936, and in August 1939 finishing work was under way and preparations were made for the opening of the new building of the museum. The construction, which was built according to the design of Karol Schayer, was one of the most modern buildings of this kind in Europe. It had passenger and goods lifts, escalators, optimal lighting, skylights in the rooms with an exhibition of paintings, central heating operating by means of radiators placed in the ceiling and evenly heating the room (cristall system) as well as air conditioning producing a pressure higher than the atmospheric pressure to prevent the dust from entering through windows and doors.
In 1939 however, the bronze statue failed to arrive in Poland. For many years it had been kept in the museum of the sculptor in Croatia. It arrived in Katowice not until 1991, on the initiative, among others, of Międzysztowarzyszeniowa Komisja Związków Twórczych SH (Inter-associative Commission of Creative Associations of Silesia), Stowarzyszenie Architektów RP (Association of Polish Architects) as well as thanks to the efforts made by the government, voivodeship and city authorities.

From there, we descend to the north of J.Lompy Street until H.Dąbrowskiego Street. Here we can stop for a while to once again look at the modernist tenement houses. Then, continuing to the north on Podgórska Street, we can enjoy the quietness and calm of this
small street hidden in the greenery of massive trees. Tenement houses are on your left and the building number 4, Dom Technika (Technician House), on your right.

The building on 4 Podgórna Street was constructed in the modernist style as the office of the board of directors of Giesche at the beginning of the 20th century. It was extended in 1960s.

Follow Podgórska Street and you will come to Wojewódzka Street. Turn right and pass the seat of Górnośląskie Przedsiębiorstwo Wodociągów (Upper Silesian Waterworks Company). Continue the journey, admiring the historical modernist and classical buildings. Stop for a while by the building No.
23 – the first skyscraper built in the reborn Poland. It was erected as Dom Profesorów Śląskich Technicznych Zakładów Naukowych (House for Professors of the Silesian School of Technology) in 1931. The building was constructed on an asymmetrical plan. The main central block which was uplifted has eight storeys, including five side-storeys. Rectangular windows are arranged in horizontal bands. Continuing west, you will reach the building No. 42, a magnificent renovated villa of H. Gerdes.

The villa was built in 1896 and designed by Feliks Schuster in the eclectic style with the use of a form characteristic of the Northern Renaissance. It currently houses the office of Katowicka Specjalna Strefa Ekonomiczna (Katowice Special Economic Zone), the largest such zone in Poland, which is composed of the following subzones: Gliwice, Sosnowiec-Dąbrowa and Tychy.

When we reach the intersection with Francuska Street, it is impossible not to notice a modernist building erected in 1934. It was designed by the architects S. Tybęński and J.Rybicki. The facility was built as
Travel Guide to the City Centre of Katowice

ROUTE 1

Dom Oświatowy – Biblioteka Śląska (House of Education of Silesian Library). This venerable institution was located here until 1998, when it was relocated to a modern building at 1 Rady Europy Street.

Let’s go across Francuska Street and stop a few steps from the intersection to admire the house of the architect Kurt Ferdmann (50 Wojewódzka Street) which was built in the Art Nouveau style by him in 1909. Covered with Virginia creeper, the building with its conservatories on terraces looks impressive. Now turn right into Ks. J. Szafranka Street. Stop at the building No. 9, where Muzeum Historii Katowic (Museum of the History of Katowice) is located. Before entering the building, you are welcomed by a life-size sculpture of Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz (designed by Tomasz Wenklar).

The Museum of the History of Katowice makes the inhabitants of Katowice and guests familiar with the rich history and art of this land through its permanent and temporary exhibitions. The permanent exhibitions are, among others “Z dziejów Katowic” (“From the History of Katowice”) and “Wnętrza mieszczańskie” (“Middle-class Interiors”).

Opening hours:

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday, Thursday: 10am – 3pm
- Wednesday, Friday: 10am – 5:30pm
- Saturday, Sunday: 11am – 2pm
Done with visiting the museum! Let’s go to the left. A short walkway leads to the building of Akademia Muzyczna (Academy of Music), which was erected for Królewska Szkoła Rzemiosł Budowlanych (Royal Building Craft School) in 1889. The structure is an example of the possibility of combining red brick with neo-Gothic forms.

The building has witnessed many important events in the history of Katowice, including the inaugural meeting of the Silesian Parliament in 1922. For a certain period of time, the building housed Urząd Wojewódzki (Voivodeship Office), and in 2008, the Academy of Music was enhanced by the adjacent property of Centrum Nauki i Edukacji Muzycznej “Symfonia” (Centre of Science and Music Education “Symfonia” – a project by Tomasz Konior and Krzysztof Barysza) with a concert hall for 470 spectators, with variable arrangement and acoustics, library and reading room, sound laboratory, room for therapeutic activities, and computer lab. The centre is connected with the old building on Wojewódzka Street and the building on Zacisze Street by a spacious glazed patio.
Before we resume the journey, you can sit down in a pleasant café on the patio for a while, where music coming from exercise rooms can be heard all the time. When finally leaving the Academy of Music turn right, heading down into K. Damrota Street. You will pass under a railway viaduct and see restored tenement houses on your right. You will find the neo-Gothic Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also known as Kościół Mariacki (St. Mary’s Church), embedded in a park on your left. It is the oldest church in Katowice.

The magnificent tower of St. Mary’s Church, more than 70 metres high, dominates the skyline of the city centre since 1870, when its architect, Alexis Langer, completed his work. Again, you should visit the interior. You will find an old altar probably from the 15th century on your left, which follows the convention of sacra conversazione (with the Mother of God depicted in the centre). It was painted in tempera on panel and stylistically belongs to the German Gothic painting. In the 1920s the presbytery was substantially rebuilt.
The walls of the main nave of the church are decorated with six large paintings with Marian themes by Józef Unierzyński, the son-in-law of Jan Matejko. The paintings are hung between windows and arcades. The wonderful stained glass windows designed by the painter and playwright Adam Bunsch, a student of Mehoffer, are also impressive. They depict the symbols of the Christian virtues on the right side of the main nave, and the symbols of sin – on the left.

Having left the church and heading north across Ks. E. Szramka Square, you will reach Warszawska Street. It is one of the oldest and most important streets in the city. You are welcomed here by a row of tenement houses, especially in the Art Nouveau and modernist style. All the buildings are entered into the register of monuments and have their own interesting history.

A few dozen metres further on, turn right into Warszawska Street, pass K. Damrota Street, and after a few metres you will reach the building of Sąd Rejonowy (District Court). Currently, the building houses one of the court departments – the Labour Court. Take a closer look at the façade of the building and you will see that it was created from a combination of three buildings. The first of them (No. 45) was built for administrative purposes as early as 1876, but due to the growth of the district administration two additional buildings were attached to it. The entire complex was rebuilt in 1936 in the neo-Renaissance style, and the façade was adorned with an attic on the top. It was in this building, where Marshal Józef Piłsudski stayed and spent two nights in 1922. He came to Silesia to honour the insurgents. On the opposite side (No. 42) you can see – through the tree crowns – a villa of the architect J. Haase, built in 1870. Today, it houses an outpatient clinic. Let’s return to the Market Square, where you can see historic buildings both on the left and the right. You will pass by the modern building of NBP (No. 20 – the National Bank of Poland), which was built on the lot where origi-
nally a villa of Grundmann stood. Grundmann was one of the largest owners and entrepreneurs in the city as well as the founder of the city. Silesian governors and bishops lived in this house, until it was demolished under a decision of Komitet Wojewódzki PZPR (Voivodeship Committee of the Polish United Workers Party) in spring 1973. A few dozen metres to the west you can see a magnificent silhouette of an evangelical church of Augsburg confession.

The church was built according to the design of Richard Lucae in 1858. It was the first brick church in Katowice. It was constructed in the neoromanic style, strictly speaking in the so-called round-arch style, also known as arcade style, which combines elements of Lombard Romanesque architecture and the early Florentine Renaissance. Its characteristic features are round-arch windows, hall interior, tower on a square plan with octagonal towers, façades with a rose window. The church was expanded several times, but its present appearance it owes to the work done in 1902. Inside, you can admire wonderful stained glass windows depicting scenes from the Bible, pulpit decorated with reliefs, and 41-tone organs by Sauer dating back to 1922. The altar carved by Artur Cieńciała is also worth seeing.
Now we cross the Warszawska Street and come near the PKO building (No. 7). The building at the intersection with A. Mielęckiego Street is a magnificent neoclassical edifice, which, apart from Bank Związku Spółek Zarobkowych in 1927, now PKO BP (PKO Bank Polski), housed the broadcasting station of Polskie Radio in the interwar period. You should go inside – the main hall makes a really good impression. At this point we suggest to stop visiting and continue south on Mielęckiego Street, to reach Mariacka and Staromiejska Street, where you will find numerous bars, pubs and restaurants. We turn left into Mariacka Street, where in the summertime the social and cultural life is vibrant throughout the day and night. The street gained its status of an entertainment centre of the city thanks to the successful action “Spotkajmy się na Mariackiej” (“Let’s meet on Mariacka Street”) promoted by the municipality of Katowice. Once you have eaten a meal and taken a rest, it is worth to go to the west once again. You will find yourself on A. Mielęckiego Street, and then on Staromiejska Street, where you can admire beautiful Art Nouveau tenement houses. You will come back to the Market Square. Heading north, you will find Teatr Śląski im. Stanisława Wyspiańskiego (Stanisław Wyspiański Theatre of Silesia).
Situated in Katowice, the Stanisław Wyspiański Theatre of Silesia is the largest drama scene in Upper Silesia. The theatre building, designed by Carl Moritz in the neoclassical style and opened in 1907, was used by a German theatre for 15 years. Its façade was decorated with reliefs which were referring to scenes from “The Ring of the Nibelung”, and the stairs leading to the entrance were decorated with magnificent lanterns. There was a German inscription on the front tympanum, the translation of which reads as follows: German word for German art. After the restoration of Silesia to Poland, in October 1922, the building started to be used by the Polish Theatre of Katowice. The façade was rebuilt several times: reliefs were removed in the interwar period, sculptures in the niches between windows were removed in the 1960s, and the stairs were rebuilt, whereby the decorative lanterns were eliminated. In 1976, the inscription “Teatr im. St. Wyspiańskiego” (Stanisław Wyspiański Theatre) was placed on the front tympanum on the band which previously featured the German phrase. After the last extensive renovation of the building carried out at the turn of the centuries, sculptures on the façade were restored. Also, the roof and the theatre hall were renovated, and the basements – which were flooded with groundwater – were dried.
Continuing north you will pass Teatralna Street on your right. Go along W.Korfantego Avenue and you will reach the current domicile of the Silesian Museum which is located in the building of the former Grand Hotel Wiener, erected in the eclectic style in 1898. While visiting the Museum you can also admire the reliefs in the entrance hall depicting bacchanalian scenes.

Permanent exhibitions: Galeria Malarstwa Polskiego (Gallery of Polish Painting) between 1800 and 1945 and after 1945 with the route “Sztuka przez dotyk” (“Art by touch”) for the blind and partially sighted.

A new seat of the Silesian Museum is being constructed in the area of the former bituminous coal mine Katowice according to an unusual, very modern and courageous architectural design.

Opening hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 10am – 5pm
Saturday - Sunday: 11am – 5pm
Once you are familiar with the rich collections of the Museum, we should head towards “Spodek”. You will pass by the hotel “Katowice”, reach the park whose skyline is dominated by Pomnik Powstańców Śląskich (Silesian Insurgents’ Monument) commemorating the armed uprisings of the Silesian people against German authorities. Its authors are Professor Gustaw Zemla and architect Wojciech Zabłocki. The monument has the form of three eagle’s wings symbolizing the three Silesian Uprisings of 1919, 1920, and 1921. It is a gift to Katowice from the citizens of Warsaw. In Park Powstańców Ślaskich (Silesian Insurgents’ Park), which is the only one left of the Thiele–Wincklers Castle, you can find the pedestal of the former Silesian governor Gen. Jerzy Ziętka who became famous for the construction of “Spodek” and Wojewódzki Park Kultury i Wypoczynku (Voivodeship Park of Culture and Recreation) in the period of the People’s Republic of Poland (PRL). Next to the Park you will see the Altus building, the highest building in Silesia, which is 125 metres height, has 18 storeys, and houses hotels, numerous banks, offices, restaurants, cafés and a cinema, as well as gyms and a fitness room.

Let’s go a few steps further to the north to take a closer look at the “spaceship”, i.e. “Spodek”. You will be impressed by its size.

Right behind “Spodek” we will find the area of the former coal mine “Katowice”, where Strefa Kultury (Culture Zone) is being formed. Currently, a new seat of the Silesian Museum, a concert hall for Narodowa Orkiestra Symfoniczna Polskiego Radia (Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra) as well as Międzynarodowe Centrum Kongresowe (International Congress Centre) are being built here.
Travel Guide to the City Centre of Katowice

ROUTE 1

Seat of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra
You have completed the first route. Thank you for joining us for the tour exploring our city. If you are interested in what you can see in other parts of the city centre, you are welcome to join us for a journey along the next route.

Those of you who enjoyed the walking tours around Katowice are also welcome to visit two most important city districts: Nikiszowiec which was declared a historical monument and the nearby district – Giszowiec.

From the city centre, you can reach Nikiszowiec by bus No. 30 from the bus stop on W. Korfantego Avenue.

Nikiszowiec, a historical workers’ housing estate, is a closed building complex. While creating this place, the architects made sure that the inhabitants have shops, restaurants, church and that they can live here comfortably – there are green squares and gardens in the backyards, where people could rest.

It is also worth to visit the local office of Muzeum Historii Katowic (Museum of the History of Katowice), where Dział Etnologii Miasta (City Ethnology Depart-
ment) is located. The Museum is located in the former mangle room. It has been managed to adapt this remarkable place to the needs of the exhibitions and museum, thanks to the EU funds.

Nikiszowiec was built in 1911 for miners employed in the Giesche coal mine. The housing estate was designed by the architects Emil and Georg Zillmann from Charlottenburg, the authors of Giszowiec’s architecture. In 1911, the first block of flats was commissioned. It was then that the complex gained its own gendarme, and in 1913 – a deputy head of the manorial estate; mining assessor Ernest Mogwitz was chosen for this position. In 1914, the construction of a neo-Baroque St. Anne’s Church was started in the central square. The church was also designed by the Zillmanns. In the church you can find stained glass windows made by Georg Schneider from Regensburg and historical organs by Rieger brothers from Karniów.
The settlement of Giszowiec was established in 1907 for workers of the concern “Giesches Erben”. It was built up to the year 1910 according to the design of the architects from Charlottenburg – Emil and Georg Zillmann.

The city of Katowice cares for this district with great diligence; among others, the building heating system was modernised, the surface of streets and the main square was restored. In 2011, Nikiszowiec was declared a historical monument by the President of the Republic of Poland.

While Giszowiec you can reach by bus No. 674 from the city centre. After a few minutes’ drive get off the bus on the stop by St. Barbara’s Church. Now you will enter the streets on which you will find picturesque single-family houses and semi-detached houses. You will certainly find out why this place is called “the garden city”.

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In the city centre there was a square around which there were schools, shops, post office, tavern, housing estate administration, forest inspectorate, bathhouse, laundry, and hostels. The roads from Giszowiec led to the Katowice – Murcki route as well as to Janów and Mysłowice, intersecting beltways surrounding the central square. The houses with gardens were lined on the model of the old Upper Silesian rural cottage. The commercial and service buildings of the housing estate were designed in the same style as workers’ houses. A mansion for the administration of the company was erected on the right side of the present Pszczyńska Street. In 1914, Giszowiec was connected to Janów and the nearby settlement Nikiszowiec by a passenger narrow gauge railway, which was humorously named “Balkan Express”. You can see a fragment of such a railway (two carriages) by Pułaski shaft (Szopienicka Street). The railway transported passengers still in the 1970s.
Route 2

Start point

End point

Route

Pedestrian promenade

Green areas

Park Budnioka

Chorzowska

Andrzej Square

Wolności Square

Gen. Ziętka roundabout

Mierzyńska

Sadowska

Mickiewicza

Zabrska

Sobieskiego

Polska

Słowackiego

PUŁASKA

Saska

Mickiewicza

Plac Kard. A. Hlonda

Jewish Cemetery

Market Square

Church Memorial

Cemetery

Podchorążych Park

Budnioka Square

Wolności Square

Strzelecka Poniato wskiego

Skłodowskiej - Curie

Podchorążych Park

Śląskich Park

Głowna

Miarki Square Chrobrego

PKP Railway Station

Plac Miasta Gdańska

Jewish Cemetery

Church Memorial

Cemetery

Podchorążych Park

Budnioka Square

Wolności Square

Strzelecka Poniato wskiego

Skłodowskiej - Curie

Podchorążych Park

Śląskich Park

Głowna

Miarki Square Chrobrego

PKP Railway Station

Plac Miasta Gdańska

End point

Route
GPS grid references:

**Start:**
N50°15'31.2264'' E19°0'55.9904''

**Finish:**
N50°15'34.7328'', E19°0'55.9904''.

**Approx. time:**
1.5 – 2 hours.
Route 2

Our tour begins at the Market Square in front of Centrum Informacji Turystycznej (Tourist Information Centre). Let’s head to the north first. You will pass by the office building, where the City Hall is located. The building formerly housed the famous “Dom Prasy” (Press House) with the editorial staff of daily newspapers and weeklies, including “Dziennik Zachodni” and “Trybuna Śląska”.

Built as “Dom Sportowca” (Athlete’s House) in the late modernist style in 1963, the hotel along the west frontage of the Market Square, as of its creation, housed the editorial staff of the magazines published in the city. The building had a completely glass curtain wall.

We cross the Market Square and stop for a while at the intersection with 3 Maja Street, No. 6, to see the restored tenement house called “Pod butem” (Under the Shoe). Its façade bears a coat of arms with the image of an ankle boot (“Dom butów” / “Shoe house” was formerly located here).
The tenement house was built according to the design of Hugo Grünfeld in the Art Nouveau and neo-Gothic style between 1903 and 1907. Its façade faced with red brick is asymmetrical and was rebuilt in the ground floor area. The windows are enclosed by a segmental arch. A three-sided bay window with a balcony leaning on a corbel was located on the central axis. The decoration of a balcony depict oak trees. The tenement has four storeys, basement and attic. The western part on the first and second storey is biaxial and has large display windows. The windows of the higher storeys are enclosed by a segmental arch. A biaxial bay window on a cut-out circle plan was marked on the first axis. It adjoins balconies with metal railings.

Continuing to the north, we will pass by the “Skarbek” department store. At the corner of A. Mickiewicza Street you will notice a bank building. The building currently houses a branch of ING Bank Śląski. It is one of the most interesting modernist buildings in Katowice.
The building was constructed in 1928–1930 in the modernist style as the seat of Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego, according to the design of Stanisław Tabeński. Its massive geometrised form is composed of cuboids placed side by side in a steplike recession, with the cuboids on the corners placed slightly higher. Such a fragmented form is accentuated by a rich decoration. It is an outstanding example of a combination of stylised geometric motifs of the Polish decorative art and the purism of the functionalist forms.

Continue to the west. You will see a red brick building right next to the bank. The building is a former public bath – its interior was rebuilt for the needs of an insurance company in 1996–1997.
Public bath built from red brick in the eclectic style, rebuilt in 1911 and in 1996–1997. The bath was erected at the cost of 155 thousand German marks and was commissioned in 1895. A part of construction costs was covered by Richard Holtze, who donated a grand prize for this purpose. He was awarded this prize by the city community for his 25th anniversary of obtaining his PhD degree. In the interwar period the bath was extended to include a swimming pool.

The bust of the founder – Richard Holtze (1824-91) – was placed in front of the building. Holtze was a doctor of medicine as well as a social and political activist. He was an outstanding figure of his time, a Reichstag deputy, co-founder of Katowice, the first and long-time Chairman of the City Council of Katowice. He married Berta Grundmann and had 11 children. He significantly contributed to the development of the city and the improvement of its rank. He is referred to by historians as one of the fathers of Katowice.
On the opposite side of these buildings, you will see remarkable tenement houses (No. 6 and 8). The first of them was built in the eclectic style with elements of Art Nouveau and modernism, and the second one – in the historical style with neo-Gothic and modernist elements. Both of them were designed, together with entrance gates, by the Przedsiębiorstwo Budowlane Perl i Trapp construction company. The house No. 8 has richly decorated balconies with stone railings. Food and beverage facilities are to this day situated on the ground floor. The restaurant “Europa” is currently operating here. The restaurant room on the first floor was preserved together with the remains of its decoration, including plafonds ornamented with stucco decorations and fragments of stained glass in windows. However, it requires extensive renovation. It is worth to enter the gate and see its ornaments.

Wonderful ornaments make up the décor of the tenement gate. This is one of the most interesting gates in Katowice.

It is interesting to add that the censorship of Katowice operated here, monitoring the actions of writers and journalists. If we go further along A. Mickiewicza Street, you will see an outpatient clinic right behind the public bath. Its building housed the administration of a Jewish commune before the World War 2. In the 1930s, there were plans to rebuild the building and adapt it to the needs of
a sanctuary. Next to the building, you will find a pedestal which indicates that until 1939 this site was occupied by the Great Synagogue – burned by the German army on September 4, who marched into Katowice after the Battle of Wyry.

The Great Synagogue was established according to the design of architect Max Grünfeld in 1900. Its construction took four years. It was a truly magnificent building. The brick building of the synagogue was constructed on the plan of a slightly modified rectangle in the style combining neo-Gothic, neo-Renaissance, eclecticism, and neo-Moorish. While designing the synagogue, the architect was probably mainly inspired by the German reform synagogues, among others, in Berlin and Bochum. The most characteristic element of the building is a huge ribbed dome, which is placed directly over the main prayer hall. A lantern was placed at the top of the dome. Other striking features are the late-Gothic windows ornamented with lace-like tracery and pediments topped with soaring towers. There was a rectangular vestibule inside in front of the main hall. The vestibule was designed for the changing and wedding room as well as the chancellery. The wings of the vestibule were topped with domes. The main prayer hall could seat 1,120 people – 670 men and 450 women.
On the opposite side of A. Mickiewicza Street you will see tenement houses built in the late 19th century. You can admire eclectic tenement houses (No. 10) with avant-corps topped with ornamental gables and decorations with floral motifs. The building at number 12, which was constructed in the historicist style with elements of neo-Baroque, is equally beautiful. The tenement house No. 14 was topped with the apex whose façade was faced with glazed brick. The house was richly ornamented with stucco decorations, with Art Nouveau floral and geometric motifs. As you look ahead, you will see a tenement house No. 22 on the corner. It is the most beautiful building on this street. It catches the eye with its massive-ness and beauty of the past times.

Commercial and residential tenement house built by the Przedsiębiorstwo Budowlane Perl i Trapp construction company in the Art Nouveau style in 1906. The three-wing form of the building with corner bay windows, towers, and balconies, is richly ornamented. Also the entrance hall is decorated with wonderful mosaics on the walls and floor, and the ceiling - with facet. The windows of the staircase are decorated with colourful window panes.
Let’s continue along A. Mickiewicza Street. Soon we will see the building No. 11 – the present building of Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. A. Mickiewicza (High School named after Adam Mickiewicz), and the former building of Męskie Gimnazjum Klasyczne (before the World War 1).

The building, designed by Józef Perzik, was constructed of red brick in the neo-Gothic style. A rose window decorating the façade of the building is characteristic of the school image. The building also houses a hall decorated with stained-glass windows and topped with a painting of approx. 30 m² symbolising the triumph of knowledge.
A. Mickiewicza Street with its wonderful tenement houses, the synagogue and the building of the high school, was one of the most beautiful streets in the city before the outbreak of the World War 2. The whole row of these buildings was a remarkable architectural composition. While standing in front of the building of the high school, take a look at the building on the right side of the school. Today, the building is a commercial facility, but it was a hall in the interwar period. The hall was constructed according to the design of Stefan Bryła, one of the best Polish specialists in this field, the author of the skyscraper in Chorzów and co-designer of Woolworth Building in New York, which was at a time the tallest building in the world. It was in Katowice that he allowed himself to experiment.

In the near future the hall will be thoroughly modernized and will again impress with its modernity (see the visualization above).

So far no one had the idea to try and build a parabolic welded construction with such a span and lightness of girders. If you want to relax for a while,
we suggest you to come back to the intersection of A. Mickiewicza, F. Chopina and Stawowa Street. You will find there splendid Art Nouveau tenement houses everywhere, and numerous restaurants and cafés teeming with life. You can sit down for a while on the square. It is interesting to add that according to the researches, Stawowa Street is the third street in the country mostly frequented by people. Therefore, it can be easier and more comfortable to enjoy the view of its marvellous tenement houses, sitting on the more distant square or in one of the cafés. Look west and you will see two skyscrapers far away – over the years, they were the highest buildings in Katowice. Now they are eclipsed by the Altus skyscraper.

The two combined skyscrapers that share a base were designed by the Yugoslavian architect Georg Grujičić in the late 1970s, and built in 1981 and 1982. A Tower is of a height of 97 m and has 22 floors (total office space: 5,834 m²), B Tower – 92 m and 20 floors (total office space: 5,178 m²).
Let’s go a little bit further and turn to the left. We will go along Sokolska Street until we reach the building No. 8, where you can admire a 1900 villa erected in the historicist style. In the years 1925–1928, Konsulat Generalny Niemiec (General Consulate of Germany) was located here, now the building houses Fundusz Górnośląski.

Next we should turn into Opolska Street. You will see there an urban villa (No. 15) erected according to the design by Rudolf Fischer in the simplified historicist style of the 1920s in 1924. The building currently houses the seat of Regionalna Izba Gospodarcza (Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry). Return to Sokolska Street. Go along it to the south, and enjoy a view of eclectic tenement houses. Then you will reach the building No. 2 – Filharmonia Śląska (Silesian Philharmonic), which is currently being renovated and extended.
The Silesian Philharmonic building was erected around 1873 in the neoclassical style, initially as a brewery and then, it was rebuilt. The Silesian Philharmonic Concert Hall is the oldest hall intended for making music in Katowice. Berlin choir-master Oskar Meister was organizing choral societies and choir concerts in Reichshalle of that time. In 1901, Ignacy Jan Paderewski gave there the only recital in Katowice. Five years later the building was acquired by a company with a Polish majority holding, and thanks to that Polish choir concerts and meetings and events of Polish organizations could take place there. On July 16, 1922, Józef Rymer, the first governor of Silesia, held a breakfast in this building for a large delegation of politicians and activists who came to celebrate the incorporation of a part of Upper Silesia to Poland. The building was the seat of the Silesian Insurgents’ Association in the years 1922–1937. Silesian Philharmonic Orchestra gave its first public performance in May 1945.

Now we are reaching Liberty Square (Polish: Plac Wolności). Before we start our tour to see the mo-
When you reach Wolności Square, we offer you two variants of the tour. The first one for those who need...
some rest goes as follows: you can watch tenement houses and palaces and sit on a bench. The second one, for active people, is as follows: let’s walk around the square. Now, let’s take a look at the history of this place and the surrounding buildings.

Wolności Square is one of the oldest squares in the city. Already in the first German plan of Katowice of 1865, the then Wilhelmsplatz was situated on the main axis of the city which is today marked by 3 Maja Street – Rynek (Market Square) – Warszawska Street. To this day, the hexagonal plan of the square of that time has been preserved.

The construction of tenement houses in the northern part of the city was started in 1875. In the corner of the square adjacent to Sokolska Street you can see a historic tenement house built according to the design by Luise Dame in the eclectic style in 1894. You must also see the residential tenement house No. 5 erected in the neo-classical style as well as No. 6 dating back to 1896. Now you will reach the corner of Wolności Square and Gliwicka Street. From here you can take a look at a historic corner tenement house erected in the simplified Baroque style in the late 18th century. Another tenement house dating back to 1901 is situated on the corner of Sądowa Street. The building was designed by Ludwik Goldstein in the eclectic style. However, the fragment of the development starting from the building No. 10 deserves special attention. The building of 1907 immersed in the greenery was built in the eclectic style with Baroque and modernist elements. It was the seat of the board of directors of Pruskie Koleje (Prussian Rail-
ways), of Sąd Apelacyjny (Court of Appeal) – in the interwar period, and now it is the seat of Sąd Rejonowy (District Court).

Next you will reach the building No. 11 which was erected elements in the years 1903–1904 according to the design by Georg Schalscha in the Art Nouveau style with neo-Gothic. The building was the seat of the Spanish consulate in the interwar period. The building No. 12, next to Pałac Goldsteinów (Goldstein Palace), was built in 1876. In 1900, the building was heightened by one storey.
The Goldstein Palace, sometimes called the villa, was erected for brothers Abraham and Józef Goldstein in 1875, who owned a nearby sawmill and lumberyard. The villa was constructed in the classical style with wonderful decorations and paintings in the interior. Flash a smile at the portière and enter the interior to see its rich stucco. The palace was the seat of Izba Przemysłowo–Handlowa (Chamber of Commerce and Industry) before the World War 2, and then – a bank. In the years from 1952 to 1990, the building was the seat of Towarzystwo Przyjaźni Polsko–Radzieckiej (Polish–Soviet Friendship Society) and the cinema “Przyjaźń” (Friendship). In the 1960s, the basement of the palace housed the avant-garde theatre “12a”. After an extensive renovation, the palace is now the seat of Urząd Stanu Cywilnego (Registry Office).
To continue the tour, turn into J. Matejki Street. You will see the historic buildings No. 2 and 4, which were erected in the Art Nouveau style in the early 20th century. On 3 J. Matejki Street you will find the building of Dom Powstańca Śląskiego (Silesian Insurgent’s House) designed by architect Zbigniew Rzepecki in the functionalist style and built in the years 1936–1937. The building has 7 floors and housed shops, conference rooms and restaurants in the interwar period. It is worth mentioning that the building No. 3 was the strongest point of resistance against the Nazis. The Poles defended themselves here for the longest time in the whole city. The German army needed to conquer the palace floor by floor.

Dom Powstańca Śląskiego still attracts a great deal of attention.

A plaque commemorating the defenders of Katowice – Silesian insurgents and scouts – was placed on the façade of the palace. By 2002, the building housed the “Zorza” cinema. Currently, you will find there a music club. Then, you will reach the intersection of Sądowa, J. Matejki and Mikołowskiej
Street. Go under a railway bridge and you will see the building of Court and Detention Centre. The building was constructed in the classicizing Baroque in the years 1911–1912. Its back wall touches the detention centre. From the side of the prison the complex is surrounded by a high wall.

Currently, the historic building on Andrzeja Street houses only a part of the judicial departments. The prison complex is composed of pavilion C with a utility building and the site of the former prison – the present pavilion A, B; the whole is surrounded by a wall with watch towers, and two buildings outside the wall from the side of Mikołowska Street – the former villa of the prison governor and the residential building of the prison staff.
After you see the building, return to Mikołowska Street. Go along the street until you reach the intersection of Kozielska Street. You will pass by historic tenement houses built in the early 20th century, mainly for the judicial staff and workers of local businesses. We encourage you to turn into Kozielska Street and after a few metres you will see a gate of a Jewish cemetery (No. 16) on which the ashes of the most prominent citizens of the city were buried. It was established in 1868. The cemetery is surrounded by a stone wall and has its own funeral house. 1,400 tombstones were preserved in the area of 1.1 hectares. You will find there magnificent tombs of Jewish families that contributed to the history of Katowice – Goldstein, Schalsch, Grünfeld (the builders of two synagogues in Katowice), and the tomb of the rabbi of the religious commune in Katowice – Jacob Cohn. Of particular note is a unique decoration of the tombs. In the centre of the cemetery part dating back to the 20th century you will find a memorial dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust. The cemetery is open for access from 8am to 5pm, except Saturdays. After you see the necropolis, continue on Mikołowska Street. After several metres you will reach Pałac Młodzieży (Youth Palace), which is undergoing an extensive renovation. We invite you to enter the interior – it is definitely worth seeing.
Pałac Młodzieży was designed by eminent architects Zygmunt Majerski and Julian Duchowicz under the name: “Projekt Pałacu Dziecka Robotniczego Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Dziecka w Katowicach” (“The Project of the Palace of Child of the Workers’ Society of Friends of Children in Katowice”). The grand opening of the facility was in 1951. The facility constituted an important architectural point on the then map of Katowice by virtue of its massiveness and richness of the interior decorations and the utility equipment. From the architectural perspective, the building was beyond the rigid stylish frames at that time because it combined the characteristics of the late modernism (Cubist forms and their interpenetration with a carefully constructed façade) and socialist realism especially visible in the interiors (decorative mosaic floors, wall coverings made of marble slabs, but above all murals depicting the working people of Silesia). The external façades of the building (the western and northern ones) were of representative nature. The three-part western façade was built on a stone socle made of granite joints, over which rectangular sandstone slabs were placed. A front-end part of a theatre constitutes the northern façade. This part was faced with sandstone slabs with marked cornice bands separating the storeys.
When you leave Pałac Młodzieży, continue along Mikołowska Street until you will reach the Church of Saints Peter and Paul, which was erected in 1902. The church was designed by Joseph Ebers from Wrocław. It was a garrison temple, and served as the cathedral of the Bishop of Katowice in the years 1925-55. In 1925, the first bishop of Katowice – Father August Hlond – was consecrated. Later, he became a cardinal and the Primate of Poland.

The church was built in the Gothic style with steeples dominating the skyline of this part of the city in 1902. The presbytery and naves were decorated with stained-glass windows depicting the Saints Peter and Paul, the Holy Family, the Sorrowful Mother, and Jesus, the friend of children. In addition, the interior of the church was adorned with the statues of the saints, which were bought by the generous parishioners. You should know that before the war the church was furnished with altars in the Gothic style, which, unfortunately, have not been preserved to this day. The church organs were made by Mr Kurzer from Gliwice. Controller Emanuel Adler, the chief organist of the cathedral, highly praised the quality of the instrument. The organs were repeatedly renewed and repaired to maintain the good quality of sound.
If you stand in front of the church on Mikołowska Street, you will see a gorgeous corner tenement house with a restaurant on the ground floor. The building once housed the famous “Partia” restaurant. Anyway, let’s turn left behind the fence enclosing the church area. We are entering H. Jordana Street. On the street you will find a square named after cardinal A. Hlond, where you can rest for a while in the shade of the greenery by a soothing sound of gently flowing fountain water. Just two steps further you will reach a complex of school buildings. The oldest building dating back to 1905 houses currently Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. M. Konopnickiej (High School named after Maria Konopnicka) and Gimnazjum No. 2 (Junior High School). Turn right and go along Głowackiego Street to the north; you will go past the houses and villas from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. You will come to J. Poniatowskiego Street. From here, you can see the building of the former Police School, at number 15, in front of you. It was designed by architect Marian Łobodziński in the modernist style and erected in 1926.

Tadeusza Michejda’s villa — In the pre-war period, architects from Katowice met here to discuss the appearance of the city.
Currently, the building is the seat of Śląski Uniwersytet Medyczny (Medical University of Silesia). Turn left. On your right hand side, you will see a row of multi-family houses, the so-called familoks, and tenement houses made of clinker brick. When you go further to the left, you will enter the world of modernism and functionalism, which dominated in Katowice in the interwar period. You will see a modernist villa with garden at number 18, which was built in 1925. At number 19, you can see a villa belonging to Tadeusz Michejda, the architect and precursor of functionalism in Katowice. This modernist building was built in 1929. The multi-floor construction is characterized by a combination of various geometric shapes. It definitely deserves your attention.

Carry on along J. Poniatowskiego Street. You will go past the houses and tenements from the early 20th century. At numbers 22, 23 and 24, you can admire the modernist villas from the 1930s, which are integrated with functionalist tenement houses. At the intersection of J. Poniatowskiego, M. Skłodowskiej–Curie and T. Kościuszki Streets, you will find a surprise – a richly decorated Art Nouveau tenement house dating back to 1910, which was erected for the rich middle class. Aleksandra Śląska, the famous Polish actress, was born and raised in this house.

Turn left into Skłodowskiej–Curie Street and return to the city centre. Now, you are going to enter the world of modernism. Buildings constructed in the 1920s and 1930s were distinguished by the functional modernist style (in a few of its varieties), which was primarily characteristic of this area, that is of the west side of T. Kościuszki Street with tenement houses and residential houses of high and even luxurious standard. We recommend you to take a look at the buildings situated on M. Skłodowskiej–Curie,
Functionalist residential tenement house of lawyer Wojciech Żytomirski was designed by Karol Schayer and built in 1937. Its form is characterised by: undercut ground floor with a detached pillar, glazed loggias, windows organised in horizontal bands and open-work railing running around the roof. It is one of the first houses with conservatories in Katowice.

H. Jordana, J. Rymera, PCK, P. Stalmacha and Podchorążych Streets. Modernist architecture constitutes the old-time – though not too distant – “modernity” of Katowice. Apart from Katowice, the only cities that can be proud of the examples of such a historical avant-garde architecture in such a great number are Gdynia and – to a certain degree – Warsaw. This valuable part of the architectural heritage constitutes also the continuity of and connection to the past, which defines the way the current image of Katowice is shaped as a modern European metropolis.

Carry on walking until you come to PCK Street, where you will find a villa on your left. The villa was the former seat of the Czech consulate in Katowice. On your right, you will see one of the most be-
The modernist residential building of Kazimierz and Henryka Wędlikowscy was designed by Stanisław Gruszka and built in 1939. Its form is compact, five-storeyed, with a rounded corner and designed horizontally: balconies with frameless railings and full bands of windowsills.

Beautiful modernist constructions in the city. Walk a few steps further, you will see a real marvel of the architecture of the interwar period at number 10. Continue walking until you reach the intersection with T. Kościuszki Street. You will notice a building with a façade almost entirely glazed. The building was constructed also in the late modernist style in 1960. Its creators wanted to make a reference to the climate of the surrounding architecture. And they succeeded.
The building fitted perfectly into its surroundings and is a real jewel of the street.

Let’s go back to M.Skłodowskiej–Curie Street. Walk along it until you reach the intersection with P. Stalmacha Street. On your right you can admire a modernist tenement house. Turn left and come at number 17, where you will find a magnificent villa of Adam Kocur. It was built in the Art Nouveau style by master builder Anton Zimmermann in 1900. The city bought this building in 1935 and it was used as a business apartment by president Adam Kocur. Today the building is the seat of Związek Górnośląski (Upper Silesia Association). Ring the doorbell and ask to see the living room and hall with its stunning fireplace. Then, turn left and after a while you
will reach the intersection with J. Kilińskiego Street. Here turn right and after a few steps to the north you will see the former seat of a division of Instytut Pamięci Narodowej (Institute of National Remembrance) in Katowice, at number 9.

Today the space of the basement is used for the education exhibition “Areszt” (“Arrest”). The construction process and purpose of the building as well as its architectural changes are related to the development of Katowice. The building was the headquarters of the following police departments: Prussian policy (1916–1920), plebiscite Abstimmungspolizei (1920–1922), Policja Województwa Śląskiego (Silesian Voievodship Police; 1922–1939), German Schutzpolizei – Schupo (1939–1945), and since 1945 – Milicja Obywatelska (Citizen’s Militia).

Volunteers can go inside the building and visit the cells of the former arrest of Milicja Obywatelska (Citizen’s Militia) in the People’s Republic of Poland. But be prepared for a thrilling experience.

When you leave this sad building, we recommend you to go further north until you reach F. Żwirki i S. Wigury Street. Here turn right to see a magnificent functionalist building of I Urząd Skarbowy w Katowicach (the First Tax Office in Katowice) at number 17. After a few metres you will see the first Polish fourteen-floor skyscraper at the corner of F. Żwirki i S. Wigury Street.
The building was built according to the architectural design by Tadeusz Kozłowski and construction design by Professor Stefan Bryła. Its construction took five years. It is composed of two parts: the lower one which has eight storeys (including two underground storeys), and the higher one with seventeen storeys (including three underground ones). The high part is situated at the corner of the streets; fragmented symmetrically; corner windows in the axis; shaped leennes emphasising the thinness of the construction on the side façades with windows placed along vertical stripes and with vertical rows of balconies with frameless balustrades. Its skeletal structure is made of iron. The first such a high building in Poland; one of the highest in the then European architecture. It initiated the use of iron constructions in the building industry on a large scale.

In the interwar period, the building was the seat of tax offices, Kasa Skarbowa (Tax Office), Urząd Katastralny (Cadastral Office), Urząd Akcyz i Monopoly (Excise and Monopoly Office) and housed apart-
ments of employees of the tax offices and Śląski Urząd Wojewódzki. Go inside and see how comfortable it is. The basement housed laundries and drying rooms, and the floors – offices and flats of 100 to 140 square metres as well as studio flats. The skyscraper has three lifts, chute, and water tanks on the roof so that water supply failures were not much of a problem for residents. It is interesting to add that flats for a lift maintenance technician and a stoker were located on the highest storey. It was a deliberate choice because they could disturb all the residents the most, if neglecting their duties. A stoker could freeze, and a maintenance technician had to cover a distance of 14 floors to reach his apartment. The building had an observation deck, but today it is no longer open for access.

When you leave the pre-war skyscraper, walk along M. Skłodowskiej-Curie Street to the north. On your right you will see a silhouette of a garrison church perfectly fitted in the surrounding tenement houses. Go inside the building to see its interesting interior. You will see the furnishings in the Art Deco style: the main and side altars made of stone, balustrade, baptismal font, sculptures, confessionals, benches, lamps and stained-glass windows. The sculpture of Christ by Marian Szpindler and reliefs depicting the Stations of the Cross by Zofia Trzcińska-Kamińska will certainly draw your attention. Leave the church and head to Andrzeja Square which separates the arrest from Art Nouveau tenement houses situated along M. Skłodowskiej-Curie Street. On the southern part of the Square you will find the monument entitled Pomnik Ofiar Katynia (Memorial to Victims of Katyn Massacre) which was unveiled in May 2004.
The garrison St. Kazimierz Church designed by Leon Dietz d’Arma with the cooperation of Jan Zarzycki in the functionalist style, erected in the years 1930–1933. Its form is composed of rigorously simple prisms. Its bell tower in the form of an elongated cuboid tapering to the top is topped with an openwork additional storey resembling a lighthouse. A heavy vertical component balances the horizontality of the form of the church with windows in the shape of narrow high slits and the form of the parish building optically separated from the church by means of a rounded corner. The edifice is the first church in Poland built with respect to the European avant-garde design features.
Pomnik Katyński (Katyn Memorial) designed by sculptor Stanisław Hochuł and architect Marian Skałkowski. The pedestal bears the inscription: “Katyn, Charków, Miednoje oraz inne miejsca zagłady na terenach byłego ZSRR. 1940” (“Mednoye, Katyn, Kharkov, and other execution places in the area of the former Soviet Union. 1940”). The sculpture depicts a police officer and two other officers standing over a pit of death. The construction of the memorial was a result of the initiative of Komitet Budowy Pomnika Ofiar Katynia (Katyn Victims’ Memorial Committee) by Stowarzyszenie Rodzina Katyńska (Katyn Family Federation) with the seat in Katowice and the division of Stowarzyszenie Architektów Polskich (Association of Polish Architects) in Katowice.

If you feel a little bit tired, you can sit down by the fountain and rest for a while on Andrzeja Square. When you leave the square, head west. You will cross M. Skłodowskiej–Curie Street. Walk along Andrzeja Street where middle-class tenement houses have dominated the skyline. Pay attention to
the building No. 13. It was erected in the late 19th century; it has balconies and wrought railings and was occupied by Paweł Steller, a well-known graphic designer. A plaque at number 21 records that the house was occupied by Konstanty Emanuel Imiela, a Silesian writer. Now, you will come to T. Kościuszki Street. Turn left into the city centre. On both sides of the street you can enjoy the view of residential tenement houses from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. They were erected in various styles with Art Nouveau and neo-Baroque elements. Then, you will come to a railway viaduct. On the right you will find the “Rialto” movie theatre – which is the oldest one in the city and the first one in Silesia. Go under a railway viaduct and then on the other
side of Dworcowa Street. On the left you will find a new road junction and an entrance to a tunnel. Carry on walking to the west. Turn into Pocztowa Street. You will see a post office building. It was built in 1893. Then, it was rebuilt and enlarged in 1904 and 1914 – at the same time changing from the eclectic to a modernist décor of façade.

Now, let’s head to the Market Square. Right next
to the post office at number 7 you will find a neo-Gothic tenement house from the late 19th century. Now it is the seat of offices. Opposite at number 10 you will see a tenement house designed by Ignatz Grünfeld and built in 1903. Its façade catches the eye with its rich Art Nouveau decorations with motifs of apple tree entwined by a snake, sun, female heads placed on windowsills and drips and on tops as well as with its balconies with the original wrought balustrade with floral motifs. Next to it, you will find equally stunning building with stairs and the original wooden baluster railing. Go ahead. Now direct your attention to the tenement house at numbers 12–14 which was erected in 1899. This is a four-storey and six-axial tenement house in the eclectic style. Its façade is made of red clinker brick, and its ornaments are made of white plaster. The two bay windows on the corner axes are the most representative elements. The tenement house is decorated with a rich floral ornament. You can also find mythological motifs like a caduceus, but the four beautiful hermas in the form of half-naked women constitute the true value of the building. Come down. You will reach the most beautiful building on the street – a corner tenement house which connects Pocztowa Street with Młyńska Street, the real architectural jewel of the past era that shows the grandness of the city. Originally, the building was a hotel.
The building was probably designed by L. Dame in the neo-Baroque style and it was erected in 1898. The edifice has a tree-wing form. The entrance to the inner courtyard is located in the sloping corner. Dormers were inserted in the gable roof. The very richly ornamented thirteen-axial façade was faced by means of red brick, architectural details and decoratively plastered corners. Balconies with stone baluster railings were placed on the central axis of the building. A corner with a trapezoidally bent cornice and semicircular niche with balconies are between rusticated Tuscan columns. Two sculptured female figures were placed on the cornice. Floral motifs and sculptures of female heads create a decorative window framing. The following components of the building were preserved: original main staircase (in the eastern wing), double staircase (with a wooden baluster railing), and ceramic floor.
After you see the building, turn left into Młyńska street. Right behind it you will find a modernist edifice of the City Hall erected in 1930 with a characteristic curvature of the façade. It was designed by L. Sikorski, T. Łobos, L. Dietz d’Arma. The silhouette of the building was inscribed into the arc of Młyńska Street. The building has eight storeys and a horizontal layout of window bands. Further along Młyńska Street up to Szewczyka Street you will find historic tenement houses erected at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The most interesting building is located at number 5. It was erected in the neo-Renaissance style and has richly ornamented façade and balconies. Right next to it, at number 11, you will find a modernist tenement house which has preserved its original character to this day. But it was enlarged with one floor a few years ago – the extension of the house perfectly matches the main style of the building. Carry on along Młyńska Street and you will find two more magnificent modernist tenement houses there, at numbers 15, 17 and 19.

Now turn into Wawelska Street where two eclectic tenement houses – at numbers 1 and 3 – with neo-Baroque and neo-Renaissance elements, deserve a...
great deal of attention. After a few steps further you will come to the intersection of 3 Maja and Wawel ska Street. On the opposite side you will find a tenement house built in the modernist in 1909 and rebuilt in the functionalist style in 1909. Since 1907, there had been the “Colosseum” cinema at number 7. Now, you will find there the “Światowid” art house. Turn left and you are on one of the oldest streets in the city, as evidenced by the houses located here. On the right side of the street, you will see two eclectic tenement houses (No. 10 and 12) with neo-Renaissance elements. At the corner of Stawowa and 3 Maja Street you will find a two-storey tenement house built in the shape of an inverted “L” letter with a gable roof with a fascinating neo-Renaissance design.

Opposite of it you can admire an ornate four-storey tenement house which was designed by Ignatz Grünfeld and built in the neo-Baroque style in 1900
On the other side of the intersection, at the corner of Stawowa and 3 Maja Streets you will see a neo-Baroque tenement house with ornaments. Continue along 3 Maja Street, pay attention to the tenement houses at numbers 15, 17 from the turn of the centuries built by Ignatz Grünfeld, the first tycoon on the building market in Katowice of that time. The first one was built in the historicist style with neo-Baroque elements and the second one – in the Art Nouveau style. Go further to the west, you will go past other Art Nouveau and eclectic tenement houses which clearly highlight the richness of their creators and first owners.

A new station hall was built nearby and in 2013, the construction of Galeria Katowicka will be completed.
The main railway station hall, in the basement of which there is a bus station.
Galeria Katowicka on 3 Maja Street.
Go along 3 Maja Street and you will come to Słowackiego Street, where you will find the next jewel of architecture at number 40. It is called “biała dama” („white lady”) because of its façade covered with obverse white glazed brick. Definitely go inside and see the two staircases and entrance gate.

On the other side of the street, at number 42, you can see the building of Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. M. Skłodowskiej-Curie (High School named after M. Skłodowska-Curie) which was built in the modernist style with neo-Renaissance elements in the 1870s. This is the end of the second route and now we invite you to return to the intersection of 3 Maja and Stawowa Streets, where you can relax in many eating places in the surroundings of Art Nouveau, eclectic and neo-Baroque buildings. Thank you for joining us in exploring our city. Those of you who enjoyed our walking tours in Katowice are also invited to visit the two most interesting districts of the city: Nikiszowiec, which was declared a historical monument, and nearby Giszowiec.

Details – p. 40-43

The tenement house on 40 Słowackiego Street was designed by Paul Frantzioch in the eclectic style with Art Nouveau elements and built in 1904. It is richly decorated with floral motifs and impresses with its grandness and great balconies with loggias. The roof is decorated with turrets.
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