

## A WALK THROUGH THE DISTRICT OF NIKISZOWIEC

**Nikiszowiec** /formerly Nikischschacht/ built by the Giesche concern between 1908 and 1914 r. as a mining district of urban type. It is architecturally unique, created according to the design of Emil und Georg Zillmann. It is well-known thanks to the movies such as Kazimierz Kutz's "Perła w koronie" and "Sól ziemi czarnej" or of Lech Majewski's "Angelus", as well as thanks to the activity of the Grupa Janowska artists (E. Gawlik, T. Ociepka, E. Sówka) and the M. Szejnert's book - „Czarny ogród”. Its unique atmosphere and interesting events attracts a wide range of visitors.

Nikiszowiec. A magical place. **Let's take a walk.**

**1 Former Town Hall** – a modernist building created in 1931 according to the design of a renowned Polish architect T. Michejda. It used to be the seat of the Janów commune office to which Nikiszowiec belonged. Today it is the hospital building, next to which there are parking places.

**2 The Wilson Shaft Gallery** – the former „Wieczorek” mine shaft (until 1995). At present, the exhibition area, which constitutes 2,50 m<sup>2</sup>, is the biggest private modern art gallery in Poland. In addition to the exhibitions, concerts, shows and performances are held there. It is worth visiting during the Art Naif Festival, when the works of non-professional painters from all over the world are presented. The building is located outside the very area of the Nikiszowiec District, on the Industrial Monuments Route of the Silesian Province.

**3 The Katowice History Museum – Department of Ethnology of the City** – originally a laundry, drying room, linen press and baths for women and children. Currently, the renovated old laundry is the Department of Ethnology of the City of Katowice History Museum. It provides permanent (e.g. “U nas w domu na Nikiszu”) and temporary exhibitions. There is also the Tourist Information Point, which lends out (free of charge) the Nikiszowiec audio guide.

**4 Komzony** – colloquial term for the chain of shops in the arcades of Wyzwolenia square (opposite St Anne's Church.)

**5 Zimbardo Centre** – In 2012 r. prof. Philip Zimbardo (American psychologist, known for conducting the Stanford Prison Experiment) made his first visit to Nikiszowiec. Impressed by the historic estate and the people involved in the social revitalization of the district, he decided to create a youth-friendly zone here – a central meeting place for young people, where they could share their experiences, develop their passions and acquire new skills. The project was implemented with the support of e.g. the city of Katowice.

**6 The Post Office Building** – (former inn) – it is worth stopping off here to admire the floral mosaic – Art Nouveau roses. The flower motif refers to the Rozbarski national costume. The mosaic and red window frames are the most characteristic details of the unusual architecture of Nikiszowiec.

**7 Wyzwolenia Square** – there was a common room at no. 4 here, which allowed the members of Grupa Janowska (Non-professional Painters Association), whose work is considered a world-class phenomenon, to gather. The square acts as an informal Nikoszowiec market square which hosts festivals and fairs.

**8 St. Anne' Church** – consecrated in 1927, created according to the design of E. and G. Zillmann. The cost of its construction was spread over the “Giesche” mine and the parish. Today one can admire a 75-voice organ by Reiger from Karniów, stained glass windows from the atelier of G. Schneider of Ratisbone (56 including 10 figural) and stations of the cross painted on metal plates. The main altar, the pulpit and the baptismal font were brought from the atelier of G. Schreiner in Munich. The chandelier (weighing 800 kg) was brought from Berlin – Charlottenburg.

**9 Primary School no. 53** – the building was opened in 1911 and it still functions as a school. It consisted of three parts: two schools (female and male in the interwar period) and a residential building for the teachers which connected these two schools.

**10 St. Anne's street** – Nikiszowiec most famous street, often presented in movies, e.g. in the Silesian movies of Kazimierz Kutz's „Perła w koronie” and „Sól ziemi czarnej” which convey the atmosphere of this place.

**11 „Pułaski” Shaft** („Carmer” until 1935) – a complex made up of historic buildings including the pithead with hoist tower, sorting room, engine room, forge, mechanical workshop, carpenter's workshop, miners' trade union hall and baths. One of two shafts, between which the mining estate was built. It is still the main shaft of the “Wieczorek” mine. In front of it, one can admire the preserved cars of the Balkan narrow-gauge railway.

**12 Balkan narrow-gauge railway**, launched in 1914, it connected Nikiszowiec and Giszowiec providing free transport for passengers between their homes and work places. It also transported the workers' families. The route covered 3.9 km. The humorous name “Balkan” was given to it by the residents referring to the railway connecting Berlin and Constantinople which was launched at the same time. The last time the trains were used on this was December 31st 1977.

THE DISTRICT OF NIKISZOWIEC

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# NIKISZOWIEC



## LEGEND

- 1** Former Town Hall
- 2** The Wilson Shaft Gallery
- 3** The Katowice History Museum  
– Department of Ethnology of the City
- 4** Komzony
- 5** Zimbaro Centre
- 6** The Post Office Building

- 7** Wyzwolenia Square
- 8** St. Anne' Church
- 9** Primary School no. 53
- 10** St. Anne's street
- 11** „Pułaski” Shaft
- 12** Balkan



### Municipality of Katowice Promotion Department

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### Tourist Information Point

(Department of the Ethnology of the City of Katowice History Museum)  
Nikiszowiec, Rymarska 4  
tel.: +48 32 255 14 80  
E-mail: [nikisz@katowice.eu](mailto:nikisz@katowice.eu)

### Opening hours:

Tuesday – Friday 10<sup>00</sup> – 18<sup>00</sup>  
Saturday, Sunday 11<sup>00</sup> – 15<sup>00</sup>

### Buses from the city centre to Nikiszowca:

930, 30, 674, 920