Nikiszowiec is a unique place. Although a number of working-class housing estates have been preserved throughout the region of Upper Silesia, the famous district of ‘Nikisz’ stands out with its fine architecture and the breadth of town-planning solutions and, above all, extraordinary and magical atmosphere of the Upper Silesian past. Developed between 1908 and 1919 to Emil and Georg Zillmanns’ design, the estate is composed of 9 quarters of compact and mostly three-storied buildings. This place became famous thanks to Kazimierz Kutz’s films (e.g. Peła w koronie and Sól ziemi czarnej), Lech Majewski’s Angelus and activities of Grupa janowska’s artists.

1. **The History of Katowice Museum** – This building has originally housed a laundry, a drying room and ladies baths; later – Galeria Magiel, a local museum collecting district-related souvenirs. A few years ago, the renovated building was transferred to the History of Katowice Museum, which converted the venue into its Department of City Ethnology. Among other things, the museum offers an exhibition presenting once interiors of Nikiszowiec apartments, a collection of paintings by Grupojanowska as well as some temporary exhibitions. There is also a Tourist Information Point here, providing visitors with information about the district, tourist publications and souvenirs. It is best to have a walk around Nikiszowiec with an audioguide, which you can pick up at the Museum free of charge.

2. **St. Anna’s Church** – Consecrated in 1927, it was the last building to crown Emil and Georg Zillmanns’ venture thanks to the efforts of the Catholic Citizens Society. Church construction costs were split between the parish and the Giesche concern, a developer of the entire district. Before the entrance gate, you can see cars of the narrow-gauge railway, for reviving the pithead building. Before the entrance to the shops lining the north-western frontage of the Wyzwolenia Square, just in front of the St. Anna’s Church. It is worth taking a closer look at the arcades before the entrance to the shops.

3. **Komzony** – A colloquial term for the shops lining the north-western frontage of the Wyzwolenia Square, just in front of the St. Anna’s Church. It is worth taking a closer look at the arcades before the entrance to the shops.

4. **The Zimbardo Centre** – In 2012, Professor Philip Zimbardo, an American psychologist known for the prison experiment conducted at the Stanford University, paid his first visit to Nikiszowiec. Impressed with the old housing estate and people committed to social revitalization of the district, Mr. Zimbardo committed to developing a centre where young people would meet, share their experiences, develop passions or gain new skills. The project was executed with the support from the Katowice authorities, Katowice’s Cultural Institution – the City of Gardens and Katowicki Holding Węglowy.

5. **The former studio of Grupa Janowska** – later converted into administrative offices of the Smelting and Mining Housing Cooperative. The venue once had functioned as a youth club and a meeting place for members of Grupa Janowicka (the Non-Professional Painters Group). To this day, works of the group are exhibited at the Nikiszowiec branch of the History of Katowice Museum. The Art Naif Festival of primitivism art was established as a tribute to the Grupa Janowicka.

6. **Post Office** (formerly an inn) – This street corner building at the Wyzwolenia Square is one of Nikiszowiec’s most characteristic venues. It is worth having a closer look at the beautiful floral mosaic with a rose motif that alludes to the traditional Rozbark costume, once worn in this area.

7. **Primary School No. 53** – The building was commissioned in 1911 and has functioned as a school to this day. It is composed of three parts: two school sections (originally separate schools for boys and girls) and a residential building that links them. Since 2000, the venue has also housed a community centre run under the St. Anna’s Parish.

8. **Jantor Ice Rink** – Located at ul. Nałkowskiej in the vicinity of the historic section of the residential building, the Jantor Ice Rink had been originally developed in 1964 and then thoroughly renovated in 2004 by the City of Katowice. One of the best ice rinks in Silesia of today, the venue has for many years hosted matches of the ‘Naprzód’ Janów Team.

9. **The Wilson Shaft Gallery** – It is a prime example of post-industrial revitalisation. Originally built at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, the former shaft named after the American president had been once left to deteriorate as a result of the mining operation having been discontinued in this area. Several years ago, though, a part of the venue was converted into a contemporary art gallery that made the venue vibrant with life due to regular exhibitions, concerts, theatre shows and even business meetings. The best time to visit the gallery is during the annual summer Art Naif Festival, an event showcasing works by amateur artists from around the world.

10. **Former Town Hall** – Once a town hall of the Janów Commune, which at that time encompassed Nikiszowiec, the building today functions as a hospital. The building, completed in 1931 to a design by an outstanding Katowice-based architect Tadeusz Michajda, is one of the prime examples of interwar modernist architecture.

11. **Ulica św. Anny** – The most famous street in Nikiszowiec, representing in numerous films, including the Silesian films made by Kazimierz Kutz. It is an enormously picturesque street that is quite representative of the district’s atmosphere. Its perspective is crowned by a Baroque tower of the St. Anna’s Church.

12. **The Pułaski Shaft**. Known until 1935 as ‘Carmer’, the shaft continues to be the main shaft of the Wieczorek Coal Mine. A characteristic feature of the mining buildings is the clock tower crowning the pithead building. Before the entrance gate, you can see cars of the narrow-gauge railway, formerly linking Sopienice with Nikiszowiec and Giszowiec. The railway was launched in 1914 and was quickly dubbed as ‘the Balkan Express’ in a humorous reference to the exclusive line between Berlin and Constantinople launched at the same time. Inhabitants now hope for the railway line discontinued in 1977 to be launched again.
**LEGEND**

1. History of Katowice Museum
2. St. Anna’s Church
3. Komzony
4. Zimbardo Centre
5. Former studio of Grupa Janowska
6. Post Office
7. Primary School No. 53
8. Jantor Ice Rink
9. Wilson Shaft Gallery
10. Former Town Hall
11. Ulica św. Anny
12. Pułaski Shaft

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From the Silesia City Centre: 108 • 109

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