

POST-CONGRESS TOUR

18-19th September 2010

Upper Silesia

Selected Hydrogeological Problems of the Upper Silesian Region

DAY 1

Route: Kraków – Ojców National Park – Olkusz – Katowice – Tychy- Pszczyna

- The Ojców National Park – risk for quality of waters in the Jura formation
- The area of Olkusz – problems of Zn-Pb ore - mining industry, cones of depression, methods of mines liquidation, risk for quality of waters in the Triassic groundwater reservoir

Accommodation: Hotel in the vicinity of Pszczyna.

Lunch with typical Silesian specialties

Barbecue dinner

Social programme:

The Ojców National Park



Efforts to protect nature of Prądnik Valley date back to the beginning of the 19th century when the first survey of the area was conducted. As a result many interesting species of plants and animals were discovered. It was also made a scientific exploration of caves. The beauty of this place was inspiration for many Polish artists and poets.

Today, the Ojców National Park is one of the biggest touristic attraction of the region.

The Wilson (Richthofen) Shaft Gallery



Originally the shaft with pithead and bath was used by miners of the Wieczorek Coal Mine, which history dates back to 1826. Nowadays, in the restored building an exhibition space is available for modern art gallery promoting young talented artists, brave painters, photographers and performers.

Walking tour around the districts of Giszowiec - workers' colony created as a garden city for Silesian miners - and **Nikiszowiec** - example of unique on an European scale working-class housing estate built in 1906-10

Giszowiec



Fot. Paweł Grzywocz

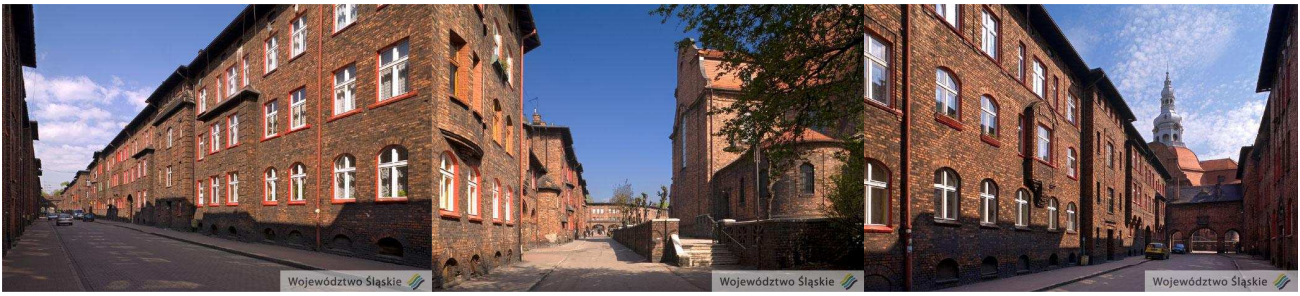
It is a workers' colony designed according to the idea of creating 'garden city' imitating English valley. Steeped roof detached houses were modeled on old time regional Silesian cottage. It was built with the miners' families in mind completed in 1910.

In the 1970s authorities were about to replace detached houses with concrete block of flats. Due to actions taken by the local community part of Giszowiec has been saved. We will visit: Silesian Tavern ([Karczma Śląska](#)) - designed as place of entertainment for workers` of the Giesche mine,

[Izba Śląska](#) - originally used as a stable with coach house and [Uthemanna](#) Villa built in [1910](#) for the works director of Giesche mine.

Nikiszowiec

The Nikiszowiec workers` colony in Katowice was built for miners of the Wieczorek mine. Nikiszowiec features typical multi-family Silesian residences known as *familoki* built of red brick. Its coloured streets are testimony to an old Upper Silesian tradition of painting window frames in red or green, rather than white, depending on the owner's professional standing.



The colony was designed for about 7,000 residents. Today it is still inhabited and boasts historical buildings such as the neo-Baroque St. Anne's Church. The estate had its own infrastructure, including shops, bakeries, a restaurant and a hospital. Today the colony of Ni-kiszowiec is listed as a heritage site and is legally protected.

The Tyskie Brewery – how water transforms into beer



The originally German-owned brewery, now is known as the Tyskie Browary Książęce located in the small town of Tychy about 10km south of Katowice.

The beer has been continuously brewing there for over 375 years. The Tyskie Browary Książęce (or just Tyskie) are the makers of Poland's best selling beer Tyskie Gronie. Today Tyskie Brewery houses a small museum opened to the public for tours led by a friendly and informative, English-speaking guide who takes visitors through the entire brewing process with a tasting session at the end.

DAY 2

Route: Pszczyna – Szczygłowice - Zabrze

- Coal mine in Szczygłowice – overflow land settlement (influence of coal mining industry on water quantity and chemical status issues)
- The area of Bytom - multilayered exploitation of coal and Zn-Pb ores (dewatering and water quality issues)
- The Maciej Shaft in Zabrze - with a deep groundwater intake

Lunch

Arrival to Krakow – evening hours

Social programme:

The Castle in Pszczyna



The castle in Pszczyna is a unique museum in Poland with about 80% of well preserved elements of historical furnishings mostly coming from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The history of the castle dates back to the 15th and 16th centuries when Pszczyna grounds were ruled by Cieszyn dukes until when in 1517 they were sold to a Hungarian magnate. This fact ended up a ruling period of the Piast dynasty in Pszczyna district.

Within 1548-1765 the castle was gradually converted from a Gothic fortification into a Renaissance stately residence and into a three wing baroque palace afterwards. During World War I the castle played an important role housing Emperor's Headquarters and the General Staff of the German Army.

After the Red Army marched into Pszczyna in February 1945, the castle was turned into a hospital. However, the interior, its furnishings including enormous crystal mirrors, remained intact.

Finally, after World War II the castle was opened to visitors. The first days of the museum were difficult - the exhibition was located only in a few rooms on the first floor, presenting historic objects of decorative art preserved from the times of the Hochberg's family.

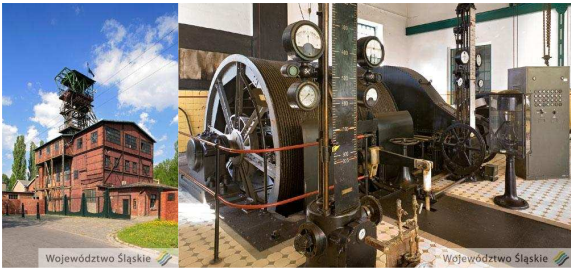
The Historic Coal Mine GUIDO in Zabrze

The GUIDO mine was set up in 1855 by an industrial magnate of that time in order to extract hard coal for the steelworks. After the exploitation of coal deposits the mine was changed into a main drainage centre in the region. Then in the 1930s it lost its significance until now when the place was adapted for museum and finally in 2007 "the Historic GUIDO Coal Mine" opened for tourists.



You will visit the over-ground area full of extraordinary large exhibits such as a hoisting machine coming from 1927 and a rope pulley of the hoisting machine from 1934. Next, you will ride down in a shaft cage to the level 170 where you can explore the atmosphere of the nineteenth-century mine watching the well preserved horse stables, mining pavements and large bricked chambers. Finally at level 320 you will learn about the specific character of work in a contemporary coal mine.

The Maciej Shaft in Zabrze



Originally the Maciej Shaft (depth 198 m) constructed in 1905-1915 belonged to *the Concordia Abwehr* coal mine. Over the years, the exploitation of coal deposits nearby the Maciej shaft was diminishing. In the mid 1980s it was even considered complete liquidation of the shaft. With the beginning of 1990s the shaft was taken over by a private company which decided to transform it into a deep-well water intake with preserved historic buildings and machines in order to make them available for tourists.

PLEASE NOTE

This excursion will only be organized if the number of participants is minimum 20. The maximum limit is 40 persons.

The cost per person is EUR 180- the price includes:

- accommodation (1 night) in a hotel (shared double room with breakfast),
- English speaking guide,
- transportation,
- entrance fees,
- 2 lunches,
- 1 dinner according to the programme.

The deadline of registration – 31.07.2010



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