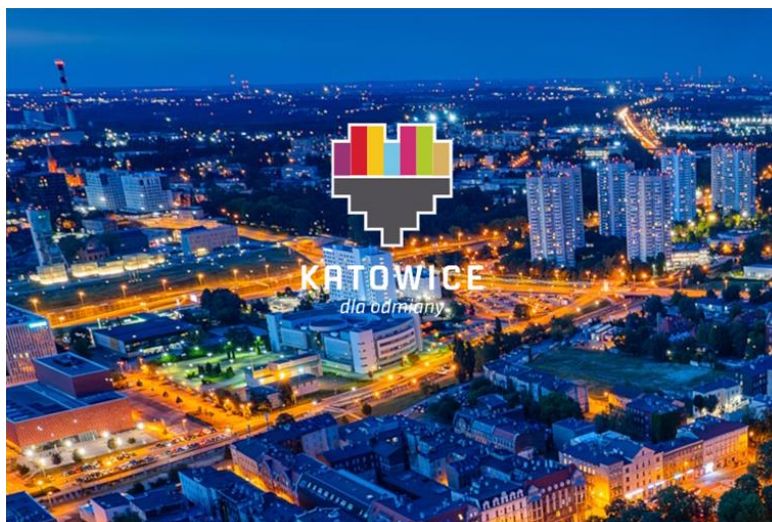


# PRACTICAL GUIDE ABOUT KATOWICE FOR JAPreventNDCs VISITORS



## Katowice – the heart of the Metropolis

Katowice is a prominent city located in the southern region of Poland, strategically positioned between Krakow (80 km) and Wrocław (200 km). It serves as the capital and largest city of the Silesian Voivodeship and functions as a central hub for Upper Silesia and the GZM Metropolis, which encompasses 41 cities and is home to approximately 2.5 million residents.

Historically, Katowice has been characterized as a highly industrialized urban center, formerly recognized for its heavy industry. In contemporary times, it is transitioning into a center for modern technologies. Notably, over fifty percent of the city's area is dedicated to forests, parks, and green spaces. Katowice actively engages with issues pertaining to environmental responsibility and was the host of the COP24 World Climate Summit in 2018.

Katowice exemplifies a distinctive amalgamation of modern infrastructure and a strong commitment to environmental sustainability, thereby establishing itself as a prominent destination within Poland.

From an architectural perspective, Katowice is a relatively recent city that displays a diverse array of buildings spanning various historical periods. These include historic bourgeois structures from the latter half of the 19th century, patronage housing estates notably exemplified by Giszowiec and Nikiszowiec, and Katowice modernism represented by significant landmarks such as the Archcathedral of Christ the King and the Silesian Parliament building. Furthermore, the city features post-war constructions from the era of the People's Republic of Poland, including the Tysiąclecia and W. Roździeński housing estates, in addition to contemporary high-rise developments like Altus and KTW. We encourage you to watch the promotional film for tourists: [Katowice GET UP-TO-DATE!](#)

## Table of contents

[Katowice – the heart of the Metropolis](#)

[Getting to Katowice](#)

[Meeting location](#)

[Currency and Payment methods](#)

[Weather forecast](#)

[Transit: Getting Around](#)

[Transport from Katowice International Airport](#)

[Transport from John Paul II International Airport Kraków-Balice](#)

[Tourist attractions](#)

[Silesian flavors](#)

[Katowice at night](#)

## Getting to Katowice

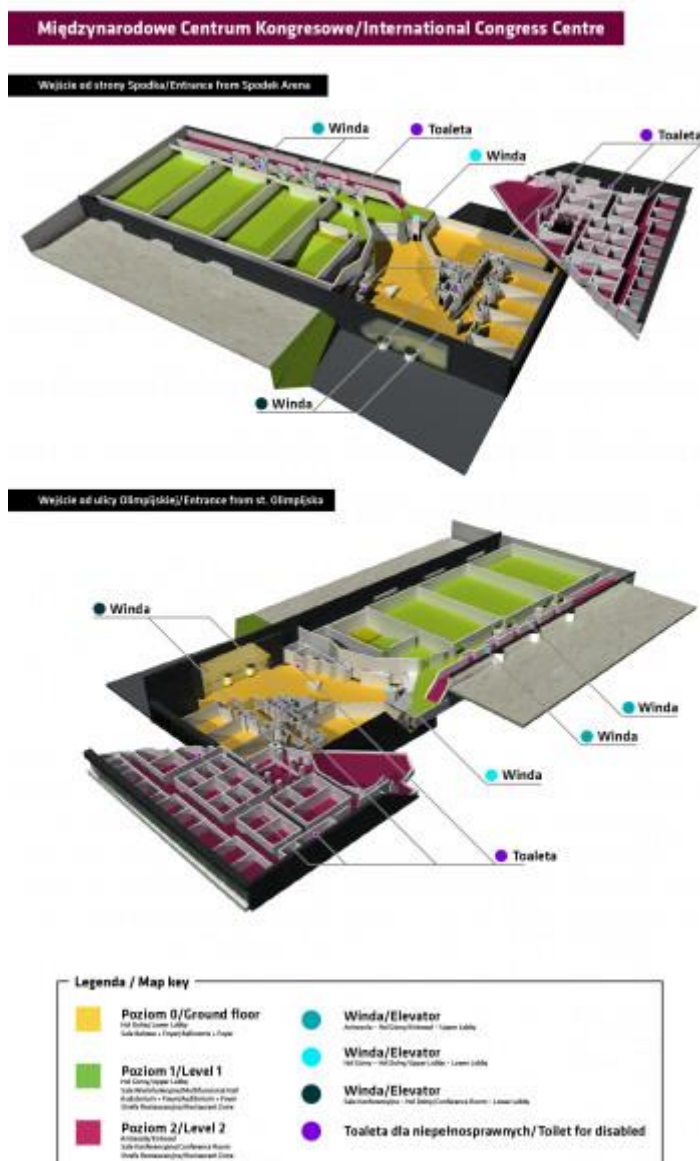
Katowice is well-equipped with an extensive transportation infrastructure. The A1 and A4 motorways intersect in close proximity, facilitating access to various regions across Europe. The Cross-Town Road (Drogowa Trasa Średnicowa, DTŚ) traverses the city center, connecting the major urban areas of Upper Silesia and the GZM Metropolis. Additionally, the robust railway network allows for efficient travel to European capitals such as Prague, Berlin, Budapest and Vienna, with journey times of only a few hours.

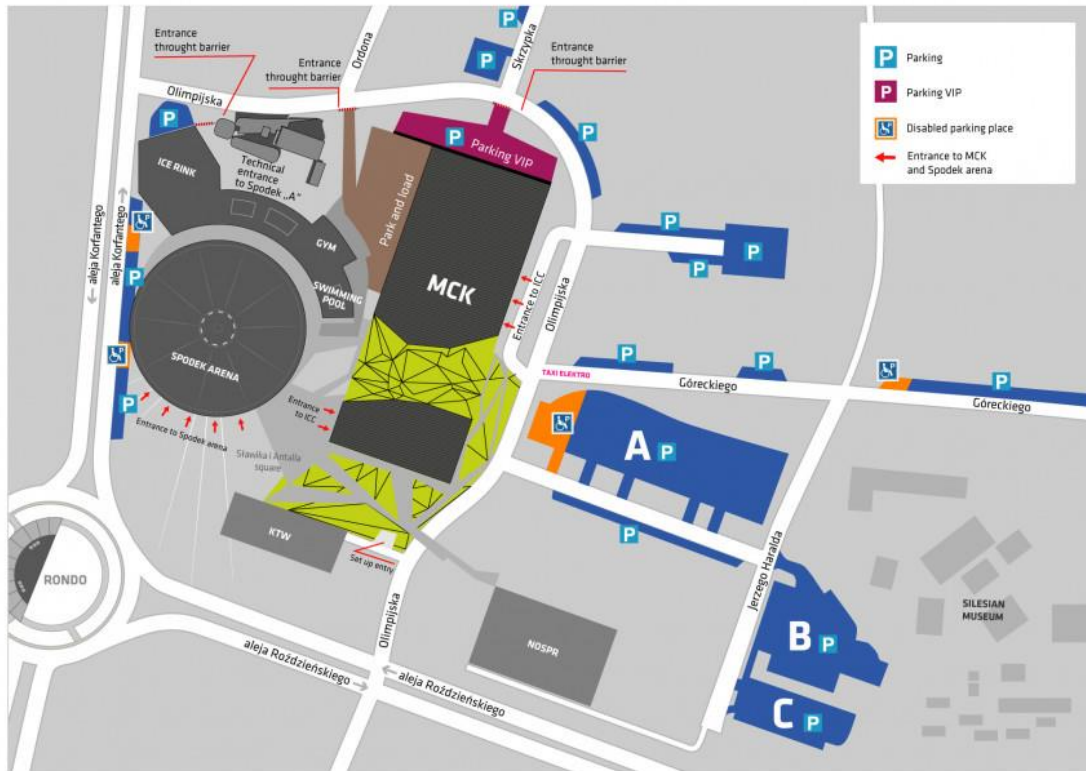
Located approximately 30 kilometers north of the city center, [Katowice International Airport in Pyrzowice](#) ranks among the largest and most rapidly developing airports in Poland. Furthermore, there are two additional international airports within a 100 km radius: Krakow ([John Paul II International Airport](#)) and Ostrava ([Leoš Janáček Airport](#)). A longer, yet still convenient, route to Katowice can be utilized through the airports located in Wrocław or Warsaw.



## Meeting location

The upcoming JAPreventNDCs meeting will be conducted at the International Congress Centre MCK Katowice (<https://www.mckkatowice.pl>), located at Sławik and Antall Square 1, 40-163 Katowice. This facility is positioned in the city center of Katowice, which is recognized as the heart of the Silesia Region.





The MCK is a distinguished venue dedicated to business events in Poland. Opened in 2015, the facility is noted for its unique post-industrial aesthetic combined with functional design. It serves multiple purposes, accommodating congresses, conferences, exhibitions, trade fairs, and entertainment events. With a capacity for up to 15,000 attendees, it, along with the adjacent Spodek, ranks among the largest arenas for congresses, exhibitions, and both sports and entertainment gatherings in the country.

The International Congress Centre in Katowice was honored with the prestigious "Meeting Planner Power Awards 2015" as the premier congress facility in Poland. In the final stage of the competition, this venue surpassed other notable facilities in the nation. The jury acknowledged the International Congress Centre for its proficiency in facilitating a diverse range of events, its overall appeal, the dedicated solutions it offers to the meetings industry, and its innovative attributes.





## Currency and Payment methods

The official currency of Poland is the Polish Złoty, abbreviated as PLN or written as zł.

In Poland, consumers have the option to make payments in both cash and cashless formats. Predominantly, cashless payments are made through payment cards, including both debit and credit cards, with Visa and Mastercard being the most widely accepted. Other methods include traditional and online bank transfers, as well as BLIK, a mobile payment system that utilizes codes generated within banking applications. Furthermore, transactions can be sometimes conducted via digital wallets, such as Google Pay or Apple Pay.

## Weather forecast

In June 2025, it is anticipated that both the average monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation across Poland will align with long-term climatic norms. Specifically, during the JAPrenventNDCs event in Katowice, temperature readings are expected to range from 16 to 18 degrees Celsius, accompanied by the likelihood of precipitation. The forecasted total rainfall is estimated to fall between approximately 50 and 94 millimeters. It is advisable to bring clothing suitable for both warm and cool weather, as temperatures may vary, and rainfall is possible.

## Transit: Getting Around

When traveling, you must have a valid ticket. Information about tickets and the schedule can be found in the attached links (for each type of transport). You can purchase either an electronic (by website/app) or a paper ticket (at a ticket office or ticket machine).

### Transport from Katowice International Airport



TAXI



PUBLIC  
TRANSPORT



PRIVATE  
TRANSPORT

## Taxi

A taxi ride from the airport to MCK takes approximately 30 minutes and costs around 100 PLN. Taxis accept electronic payments as well as cash (most commonly in PLN). You can use the taxis available at the airport.

## Private transport

It is possible to book a private transfer from the airport directly to MCK. Prices and availability of such services can be checked on websites offering these transfers. Below, we present some example offers.

[Matuszek Transfery na Lotnisko](#)

[Autobus Port Lotniczy Katowice - Katowice](#)

[Prywatny Transfer z lotniska Katowice-Pyrzowice do Katowic - MrShuttle](#)

[Międzynarodowy port lotniczy w Katowicach | Uber](#)

## Public transport

Bus lines AP operate from the airport and connect to the city center of Katowice.


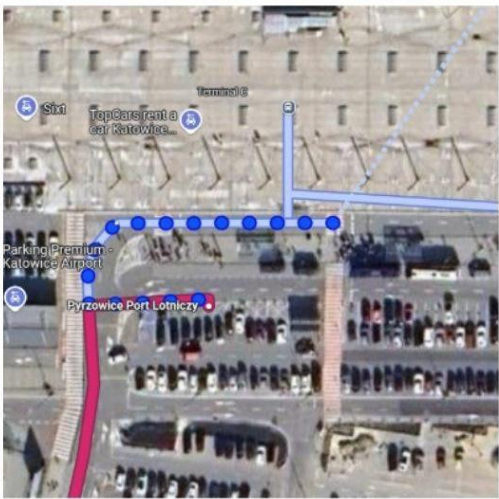
Ticket information: [Transport GZM](#)

List of ticket machines: [Transport GZM](#)

The Pyrzowice Port Lotniczy bus stop for AP lines has Stand 1 and Stand 3.

Direction: <b>Katowice Sądowa</b>		
Pyrzowice Port Lotniczy (Katowice Airport)	1	↓
Pyrzowice Port Lotniczy (Katowice Airport)	3	↓
Katowice Strefa Kultury	2	↓
Katowice Sokolska	5	↓
Katowice Dworzec	7	↓
<b>Katowice Sądowa</b>	<b>2B</b>	

↓ Ożarówice  
↓ Katowice

Stand 1	Stand 3
is located at the exit of Terminal AB	is located at the exit of Terminal C
	

### Stand 1

Timetable: [Line AP, Pyrzowice Port Lotniczy \(Katowice Airport\), Autobus - Timetables for the bus stop](#)

Connection search engine: [Interactive ZTM map - route of the line / location of stops](#)

### Stand 3

Timetable: [Line AP, Pyrzowice Port Lotniczy \(Katowice Airport\), Autobus - Timetables for the bus stop](#)

Connection search engine: [Interactive ZTM map - route of the line / location of stops](#)

To reach MCK, you can get off at the following stops: Katowice Strefa Kultury, Katowice Sokolska, Katowice Dworzec, or Katowice Sądowa. The total travel time is approximately 1 to 2 hours, depending on the chosen route and schedule.

Bus and tram schedule in Katowice: [TRANSPORT GZM - wybór linii, autobus, tramwaj, trolejbus - Rozkład jazdy](#)

Bus and tram connection search engine in Katowice: [Interactive ZTM map - route of the line / location of stops](#)

Ticket information: [Transport GZM](#)

List of ticket machines: [Transport GZM](#)



## Travel options to MCK using the AP bus line:

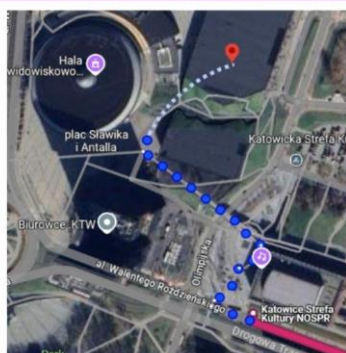
### Pyrzowice Port Lotniczy → Katowice Strefa Kultury

Route duration: 37 minutes

Get off at the Katowice Strefa Kultury stop, then take the selected bus to the Katowice Strefa Kultury NOSPR stop (route duration: 1 minute, 1 bus stop).

Bus line	Direction
808	Katowice Piotra Skargi
40	Katowice Piotra Skargi
805	Katowice Piotra Skargi
814	Katowice Piotra Skargi
M101	Katowice Sądowa

Get off at the Katowice Strefa Kultury NOSPR stop, walk 350 meters (approximately 5 minutes).



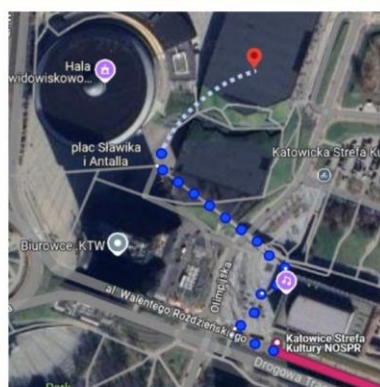
### Pyrzowice Port Lotniczy → Katowice Sokolska

Route duration: 41 minutes

Get off at the Katowice Sokolska stop, then take the selected bus to the Katowice Strefa Kultury NOSPR stop (route duration: 3 minutes, 1 bus stop).

Bus line	Direction
40	Będzin Kościuszki
930	Zawodzie Centrum Przesiadkowe
M101	Wesoła Kopalnia

Get off at the Katowice Strefa Kultury NOSPR stop, walk 350 meters (approximately 5 minutes).



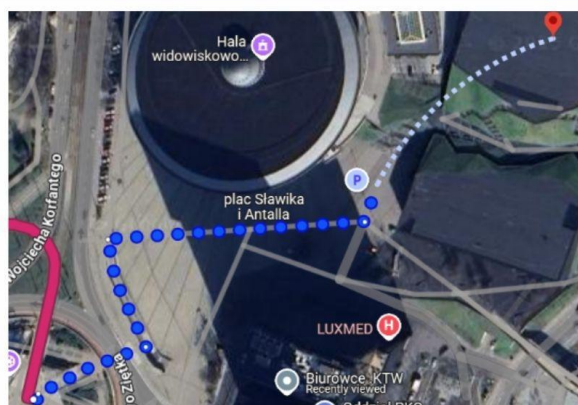
## Pyrzowice Port Lotniczy → Katowice Sokolska

Route duration: 41 minutes

Get off at the Katowice Sokolska stop, then take the selected tram to the Katowice Rondo stop (route duration: 2 minutes, 1 bus stop).

Tram line	Direction
0	Katowice Plac Wolności
11	Katowice Plac Miarki
19	Katowice Plac Wolności

Get off at the Katowice Rondo stop, walk 290 meters (approximately 4 minutes).



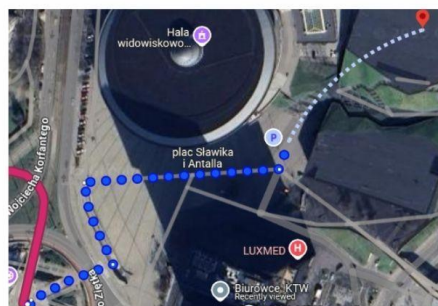
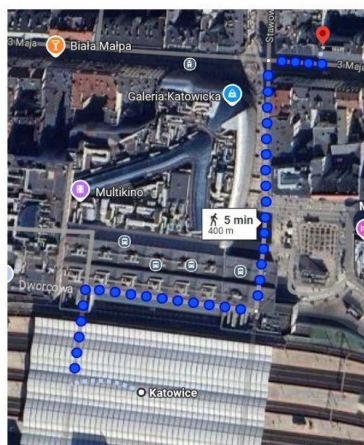
## Pyrzowice Port Lotniczy → Katowice Dworzec

Route duration: 44 minutes

Get off at the Katowice Dworzec stop. Exit the station towards Plac Szewczyka, Galeria Katowicka. Walk 300 meters (approximately 4 minutes) to the Katowice Dworzec tram stop. Then take the selected tram to the Katowice Rondo stop (route duration: 2 minutes, 1 bus stop).

Tram line	Direction
0	Chorzów Stadion Śląski Pętla Zach
13	Siemianowice Plac Skargi
19	Stroszek Zajezdnia

Get off at the Katowice Rondo stop, walk 290 meters (approximately 4 minutes).



## Transport from John Paul II International Airport Kraków-Balice



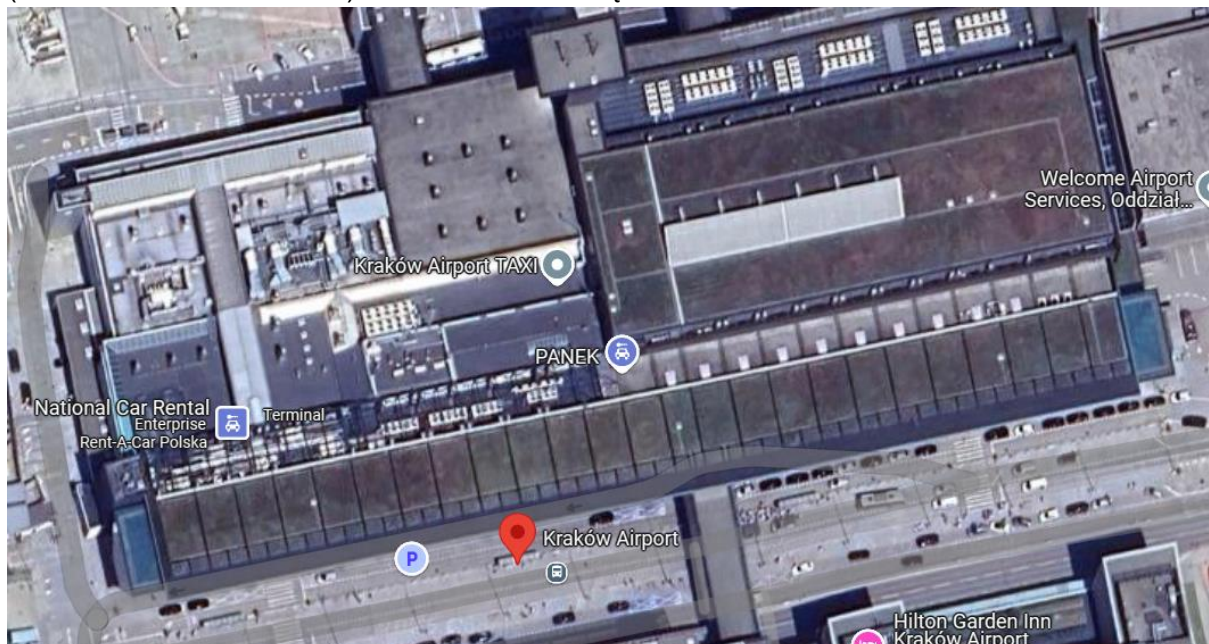
BUS



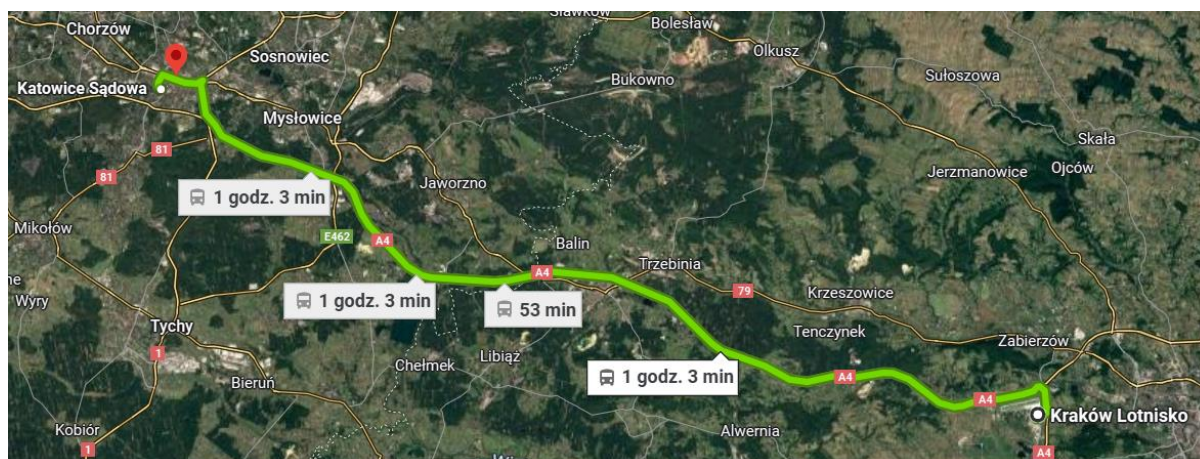
TRAIN

### Bus

You can travel from Kraków to Katowice by direct bus. FlixBus offers direct connections from Kraków-Balice Airport to Katowice. The journey takes approximately 1 hour, with ticket prices starting at 19.99 PLN. Buses depart from the stop in front of the passenger terminal (Kraków MDA Bus Station) and arrive at the Sądowa Bus Station in Katowice.







FlixBus search engine: [Bus Kraków to Katowice | AC Bus Ticket Deals](#)

Bus and tram schedule in Katowice: [TRANSPORT GZM - wybór linii, autobus, tramwaj, trolejbus - Rozkład jazdy](#)

Bus and tram connection search engine in Katowice: [Interactive ZTM map - route of the line / location of stops](#)

Ticket information: [Transport GZM](#)

List of ticket machines: [Transport GZM](#)

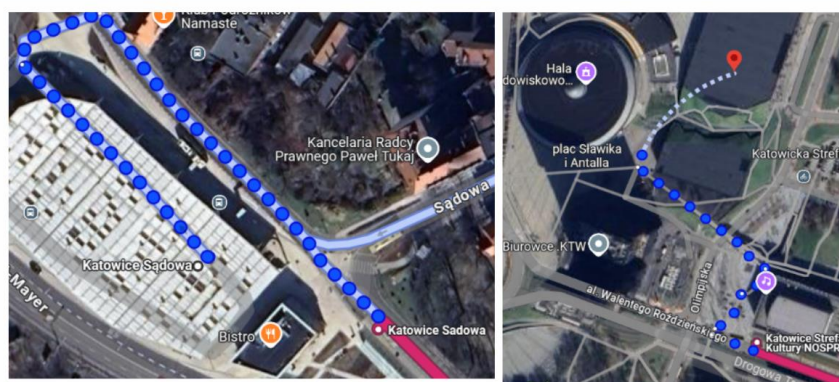
#### Krakow, MDA Bus Station → Katowice Sądowa

Route duration: 1 hour

Get off at the Katowice Sądowa stop. Walk to the bus stop for line M101 by exiting the building towards Sądowa Street. Then take the bus to the Katowice Strefa Kultury NOSPR (route duration: 11 minutes, 4 bus stops).

Bus line	Direction
M101	Wesoła Kopalnia

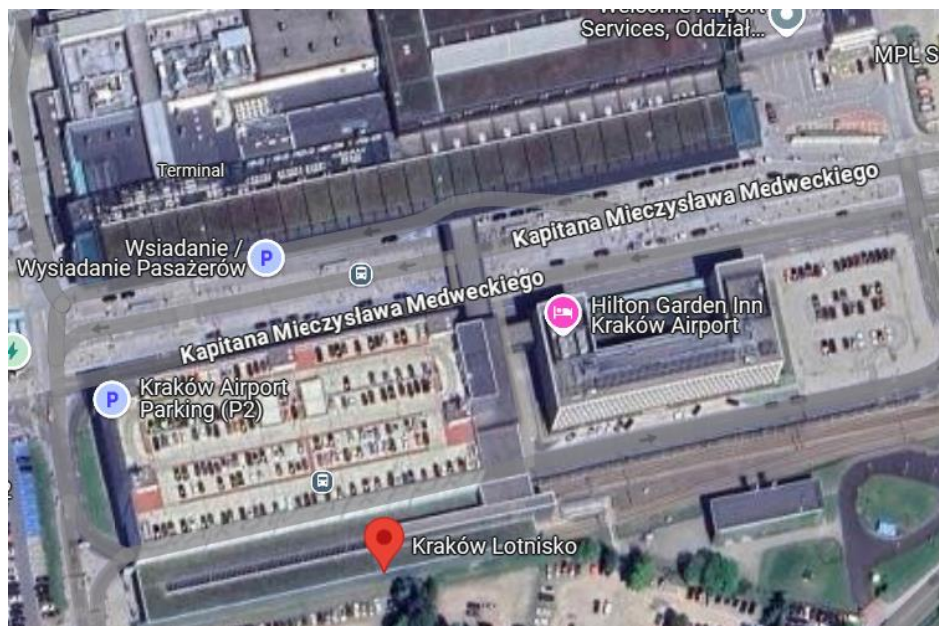
Get off at the Katowice Strefa Kultury NOSPR stop, then walk 350 meters (approximately 5 minutes).



## Train

From Kraków-Balice Airport, you can take a train to Kraków Główny station and then transfer to a train to Katowice. The total travel time is approximately 2 hours, and the ticket costs around 30 PLN. Board the SKA1 train towards **Wieliczka Rynek-Kopalnia**. Get off at **Kraków Główny** (6 stops, approximately 17 minutes).

Schedule available: [Koleje Małopolskie](#)



From **Kraków Główny** station, you can travel to **Katowice** by **Koleje Śląskie** or **PKP Intercity** train.

From **Kraków Główny** station, board the **Koleje Śląskie S3** train on the **Katowice - Kraków Główny** line towards **Katowice**. The journey takes up to **1.5 hours**.

Schedule available: [Koleje Śląskie - regionalny przewoźnik kolejowy](#)

From **Kraków Główny** station, board an **Intercity** train. The train's final destination may vary, as **Katowice** is often an intermediate stop. It's best to use a **train search engine** to find the most suitable connection and purchase a ticket directly.

Schedule available: [Buy a ticket - PKP Intercity](#)

To reach **MCK**, use **public transport**:

Bus and tram schedule in Katowice: [TRANSPORT GZM - wybór linii, autobus, tramwaj, trolejbus - Rozkład jazdy](#)

Bus and tram connection search engine in Katowice: [Interactive ZTM map - route of the line / location of stops](#)

Ticket information: [Transport GZM](#)

List of ticket machines: [Transport GZM](#)



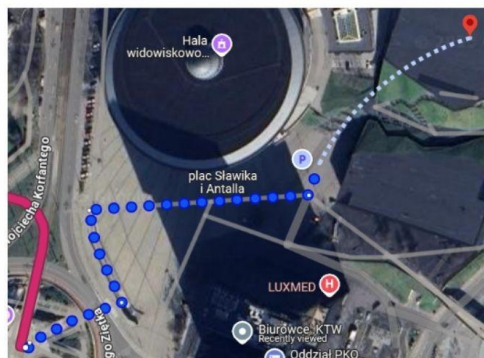
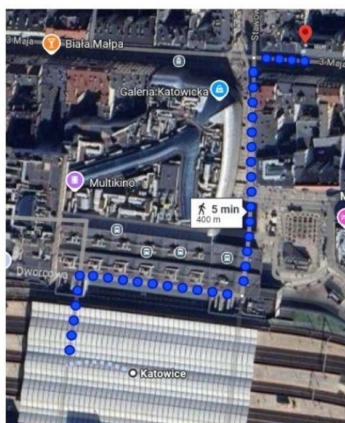
## Katowice Dworzec → MCK

Route duration: 10-20 minutes

Get off at the Katowice train station. Exit the station towards Plac Szewczyka, Galeria Katowicka.  
Walk 300 meters (approximately 4 minutes) to the Katowice Dworzec tram stop. Then take the selected tram to Katowice Rondo stop.

Tram line	Direction
0	Chorzów Stadion Śląski Pętla Zach
13	Siemianowice Plac Skargi
19	Stroszek Zajeżdźnia

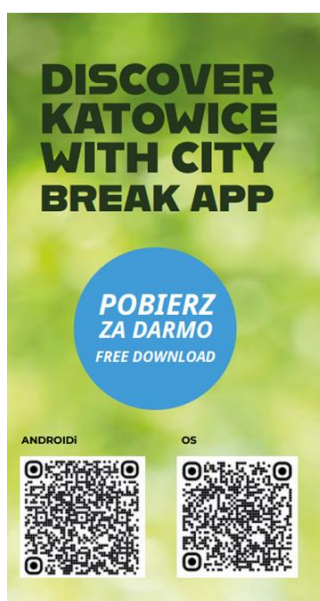
Get off at the Katowice Rondo stop, walk 290 meters (approximately 4 minutes).



## Tourist attractions

Tourist Information Centre  
Katowice, ul. Rynek 13  
+48 32 259 38 08  
e-mail: [katowice@silesia.travel](mailto:katowice@silesia.travel)

Opening hours:  
Monday - Friday 9:00 - 19:00  
Saturday - Sunday 9:00 - 17:00  
October - March  
Monday - Saturday 9:00 - 17:00  
Sunday 9:00 - 13:00



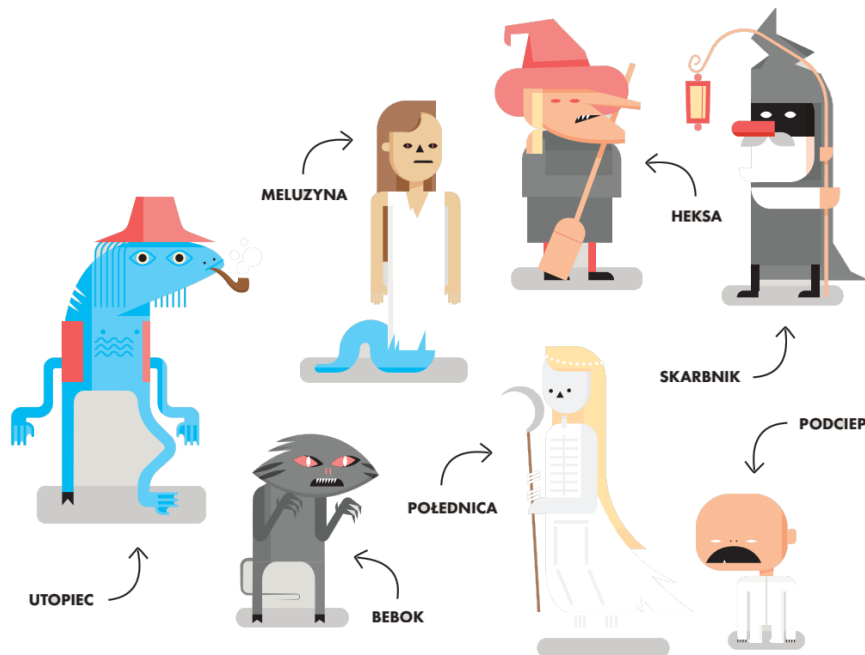
### City Break App

Tourists visiting Katowice and our JAPreventNDCs event guests can use a dedicated application – City Break, which, after downloading to mobile devices, will guide you through the most important tourist attractions of Katowice. It allows you to get to know, among others, selected works of Street Art, functionalist architecture on the Modern Trail, or feel the post-industrial atmosphere of the magical Nikiszowiec.

There is also no shortage of Katowice's **beboks** – users of the application are encouraged to have fun discovering the urban space while looking for these nice creatures. In addition to the standard audio guide function, users can also take part in quizzes testing their knowledge of the attractions they have discovered. The application is available free of charge for devices with Android and iOS systems.

The application is prepared in Polish and English.

## Guide of Silesian creatures



Katowice's beboks are a series of small outdoor sculptures that represent figures from local folk beliefs known as 'bebok.' These sculptures are strategically situated throughout the city, forming the basis of the Katowice Bebok Trail. This initiative aims to encourage tourists to explore the city and engage with its cultural heritage. Visitors have the opportunity to collect stamps at various locations along the trail, which qualifies them to receive a "bebok hunter" badge as a reward for their participation.

## Let's go on an adventure!



**Legandia – Silesian Amusement Park**  
The oldest amusement park in Poland, offering numerous attractions and roller coasters for adrenaline lovers.



**Flyspot – Wind tunnel**  
A place where you can experience the simulation of free fall in a safe environment.



**Axe Nation**  
An axe-throwing club offering a unique form of entertainment and competition in a safe environment.

Legandia: [Legandia](#)

Flyspot: [Flyspot wind tunnel Katowice](#)

Axe Nation: [Axe throwing Katowice | Axe Nation Polish Champions](#)

## Let's relax!

### Silesian Park

One of the largest urban parks in Europe, perfect for walks, picnics, and connecting with nature.



### Valley of Three Ponds

A picturesque recreational area with three ponds, walking and cycling paths, perfect for relaxing in nature.



### Kościuszko Park

A historic park with walking paths, a pond, and a parachute tower, serving as an oasis of tranquility in the city center.



### Culture Zone

An area encompassing the former Katowice mine, transformed into a modern space. A perfect place for a walk and admiring architecture.



More informations: [Silesian Tourist Information](#)



## Discover Silesian culture

### **Nikiszowiec**

A historic workers' housing estate with unique architecture, symbolizing Silesian history and culture.



### **Giszowiec**

Another historic workers' housing estate, characterized by unique architecture and urban layout, representing an important part of the region's cultural heritage.



### **Silesian Museum**

A museum showcasing the history, art, and culture of the Silesian region, located on the site of a former mine.



### **Industrial Monuments Route**

A tourist trail featuring the most important industrial sites in the region, showcasing Silesia's industrial heritage.



More informations:

[Nikiszowiec Settlement](#)

[Giszowiec Settlement](#)

[Silesian Museum](#)

[Industrial Monuments Route](#)



## Silesian flavors

The cultural evolution of Silesia over the centuries has been substantial, influenced by various nations, including Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, and Germany. This historical amalgamation has led to the formation of a distinct cultural identity characterized by unique dialects, vibrant folk costumes, and a rich culinary heritage.

Silesian cuisine is recognized as one of the most significant regional cuisines in Poland, celebrated for its depth and diversity. To highlight this rich culinary landscape, the Silesian Tastes Culinary Trail was inaugurated by the Silesian Tourist Organization in 2012. This trail serves as one of Poland's pioneering culinary routes, designed to provide visitors with an engaging experience of local flavors and traditions.

As individuals embark on this culinary exploration, they will encounter not only traditional Silesian dishes that exemplify the region's distinct gastronomy but also a variety of local specialties influenced by surrounding areas such as the Beskids and the Kraków-Częstochowa Upland. The culinary tapestry of Silesia embodies a rich blend of Czech, Austrian, German, and Jewish influences, all contributing to its extensive food culture, thereby rendering Silesia an appealing destination for culinary enthusiasts.

Authentic Silesian fare typically includes cherished staples such as tender roulade served with fluffy dumplings and tangy red cabbage, hearty wodzionka (bread soup), and hekele, a herring salad that encapsulates local flavors. Other notable offerings may include zalewajka, a warming sour rye soup, and prażonki, a rustic dish made from potatoes and bacon, which illustrates traditional cooking methods from the Zagłębie region.

For those interested in the culinary traditions of Upper Silesia, particularly the Katowice region, further information is available through the following [link](#). This resource provides insights into the distinctive dishes and cultural influences that characterize the local cuisine, offering a comprehensive understanding of the gastronomic heritage of this area.



## Silesian Tastes Festival

Every June, the region's largest culinary event, the Silesian Tastes Festival, draws crowds of food enthusiasts. This festival features culinary demonstrations and numerous tastings of regional dishes and traditional products.

The Silesian Tastes Festival was awarded the Polish Tourist Organization Certificate for the Best Tourist Product in 2007.

The 19th edition of the Silesian Tastes Festival is scheduled for June 15, 2025, providing esteemed JAPreventNDCs guests with a unique opportunity to participate in a true Silesian feast.

## Katowice at night

Katowice ranks among the largest cities in Poland and is distinguished as one of the nation's youngest urban centers, contributing to its prominence within the Silesian region. The city possesses a distinctive allure both during daylight and at night, particularly when illuminated by contemporary lighting that enhances and contrasts with its historical architectural elements. Individuals seeking engaging experiences in Katowice after dark will not be disappointed; the city reveals a vibrant atmosphere rich with captivating light displays that enhance the journey from the market square through the dynamic thoroughfares of Mariacka and 3 Maja, ultimately leading to the iconic Spodek. Furthermore, a variety of cultural events, as well as numerous bars, pubs, and clubs, provide ample opportunities for social engagement throughout the night.

## Katowice Market Square

An evening visit to Katowice should ideally commence at the city's market square, which is divided into three distinct zones. The first zone, colloquially referred to as "Katowice California" or "Katowice Riviera," captivates visitors throughout the day and night. This area features an artificial river bordered by deckchairs and tall palm trees, creating an inviting environment. The generously sized deckchairs allow guests to recline comfortably while enjoying the soothing sounds of flowing water, providing a respite after a day of exploration.

The second zone of the market square is designed to accommodate various events, including cultural, sports, and culinary activities. This dynamic space enables residents and visitors to partake in exciting concerts, performances, and gourmet offerings from food trucks that operate well into the evening.

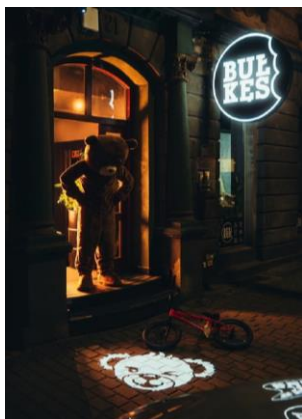
Lastly, the "Flower Square" is particularly enchanting during the summer months when it is adorned with a vibrant array of blooming flowers. This area provides comfortable wooden benches for patrons to relax, appreciate the floral displays, and observe the nightlife unfolding in the city.

## Sztauwajery



Sztauwajery, also known as the Valley of Three Ponds, is an exceptional location within Katowice. Spanning over 80 hectares, including 9 hectares dedicated to the aforementioned ponds, this area boasts lush greenery rich in diverse plant species, alongside extensive recreational facilities. In the evening, Sztauwajery transforms into a lively social hub, featuring a bar filled with conversation and music, situated within modern container structures. This venue serves as an ideal meeting point for individuals seeking social engagement in Katowice. Regular cultural events and concerts are hosted here, where patrons can enjoy a selection of beverages and gourmet cuisine.

## Mysterious Toy Store: A Unique Establishment



At first glance, the Toy Store appears to be a conventional retail outlet for toys. However, this perception is misleading, as concealed behind hidden doors lies Silesia's inaugural speakeasy bar, reminiscent of establishments from the American Prohibition era.

The term "speakeasy," which originated during Prohibition, refers to venues that discreetly served alcoholic beverages. Such locations were camouflaged and shared through word-of-mouth communication.

Accessing this bar necessitates considerable effort; advance reservations are highly recommended, and potential patrons must familiarize themselves with the establishment's regulations prior to entry. The creator of this cocktail bar endeavors to maintain an atmosphere of intrigue and exclusivity.



## Mariacka Street

Mariacka Street is among the most vibrant and frequented streets in Katowice, bustling with activity both during the day and night. This thoroughfare is home to an array of establishments where individuals can gather with friends to enjoy a drink. The entirety of Mariacka Street is lined with restaurants, bars, pubs, and clubs catering to various preferences, where the entertainment continues into the early hours of the morning. For those considering nightlife options in Katowice, Mariacka Street is a primary destination.

The venues along this street are diverse, offering a range of choices from modest bars where patrons can enjoy draft beer at affordable prices to upscale establishments featuring expertly crafted cocktails.



## 3 Maja Street

3 Maja Street is a principal thoroughfare within Katowice and holds significant cultural importance. At night, the street is beautifully illuminated by numerous lights and neon signs, enhancing its appeal. This pedestrian-only street runs directly from the market square, further contributing to its attractiveness. The absence of vehicular traffic allows for a tranquil walking experience, enabling visitors to leisurely appreciate the various shops, dining options, and cultural attractions along the route.

## Spodek

A visit to Katowice at night would be incomplete without experiencing the Spodek, a symbol of the city and one of its most recognizable landmarks. For over fifty years, Spodek has been associated with a multitude of cultural events, establishing itself as a vital location within the city's landscape.

