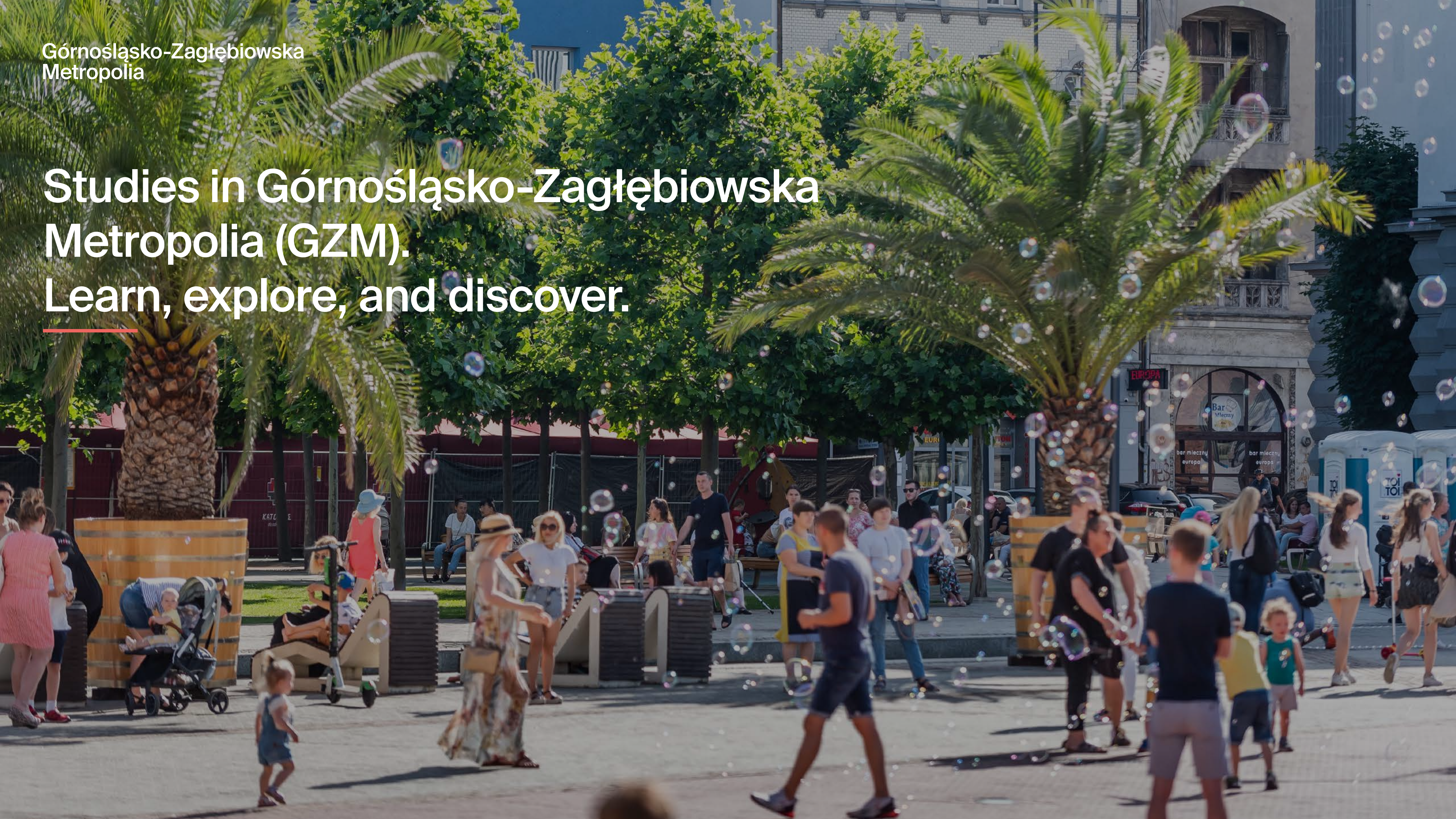


Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska
Metropolia

Studies in Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia (GZM). Learn, explore, and discover.



Studies in Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia (GZM). Learn, explore, and discover.

Hi there!

Welcome to the „largest city” in Poland, which is the Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia (GZM). Why is it the largest? Because it comprises forty-one cities and municipalities, and the boundaries between them are usually arbitrary. Explore Metropolia every day, fulfill your dreams here, and pursue your plans and ambitions. This material was created with you in mind. It will help you take the first steps, and the rest you will do on your own. Each day brings new stories and experiences. Embrace them, get to know people, their stories, and create your own narrative for the years ahead.

Wishing you a great time.
The Authors

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Small and Large Journeys – Public transport in the GZM

How will I get there?

Metropolia is a union of cities and municipalities, where the boundaries are often blurred. For this reason, we often refer to Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia as a „polycentric metropolis.” This means that the centres of several larger cities are located remarkably close to each other. Living in Chorzów or Siemianowice, you might sometimes be closer to the centre of Katowice than residents of Katowice’s Panewniki or Zarzecze districts. The polycentric nature of Metropolia influences how we move around the cities in the GZM. Please note that public transport can take you to almost any place in the Metropolia. If you are thinking of a weekend trip to Paprocany or Pogoria, want to explore the collections of the Upper Silesian Museum, or enjoy other attractions in the GZM cities, using public transport will be a good solution – it will save you time and the hassle of finding parking spaces.

Public transport

The organiser of public transport in Metropolia is the Public Transport Authority (Polish: Zarząd Transportu Metropolitalnego – ZTM).

Fares – information about the fare structure can be found on the ZTM website. A time-based fare system applies to public transport. It is possible purchase 20-, 40-, 90-minute tickets, Group tickets (for up to 5 people), Daily tickets, Multi-journey tickets (20, 40, or 80 rides valid for 180 days), or Long-term tickets (7-day, 30-day, 90-day, and 180-day tickets). It is also possible to purchase an integrated ticket with the railway, “24h+kolej” [24h + Railway], or a monthly metroticket – Metrobilet.

The new Transport GZM application provides additional options for passengers, including the “Start/Stop” journey feature, which includes 5-, 10-, and 15-minute rides. Importantly, under the “Start/Stop Journey” option, all electronic fares incurred by

the passenger on a given day will be aggregated. This means that if a passenger makes a transfer of up to 30 minutes, this time will not be included in the journey time. At the same time, if the total fares on a given day exceed the value of the “Daily” ticket, the system will charge for the entire day the value of the corresponding “Day” ticket.

It is possible purchase ZTM fare tickets at Passenger Service Points, selected newsstands, via the dedicated Transport GZM app, or via external apps (e.g. mPay, SkyCash, or moBILET). Please remember that long-term and Metrobilet tickets can be purchased without leaving home on the Transport GZM mobile app or at transportgzm.pl. When planning your journey, you can use the connection search engine (available on the ZTM website), Google Maps, or Jakdojade.pl.

The Transport GZM is a new app that will allow you to better plan and execute your journeys by public transport in the GZM – please follow the information on the Transport GZM’s Facebook page and website.



Small and Large Journeys – Public transport in GZM

Weekend Daily Ticket

A great option for the weekend is the ZTM offer, where two people can travel on a single full-fare Daily ticket. For more information about ZTM transport, please visit metropoliaztm.pl.

Rail Transport

You can also move around Metropolia using rail transport. Please keep in mind that different carriers have different tickets! Pay attention to which train you board. Trains that most commonly operate in the GZM are trains of Koleje Śląskie (KŚ trains). These trains will take you from Katowice to Dąbrowa Górnicza (via Sosnowiec), Tychy, Łaziska Górne (via Mikołów), Gliwice (via Chorzów, Ruda Śląska and Zabrze), Mysłowice or Tarnowskie Góry (via Chorzów and Bytom).

KŚ Scheme – [click here](#)

It is worth checking the websites of other carriers, such as PKP Intercity – single rides between major cities (e.g., Tychy-Katowice or Gliwice-Dąbrowa Górnicza) can be extremely attractive in terms of prices. However, these trains run less frequently than regional trains.

Combined Daily Ticket KŚ + ZTM

If you plan to travel with Koleje Śląskie (Silesian Railways) and ZTM transport on the same day, a good option is the combined daily ticket, which allows you to make unlimited journeys within the GZM.

City Bike

Several city bike systems operate in Metropolia (Katowice, Chorzów, Tychy, Sosnowiec, Czeladź, Zabrze). In the first four cities, the operator is Nextbike, and in the other two, it is Roovee. It is possible to use the bikes by downloading the relevant app. A Metropolitan Bicycle is also planned for implementation.

Scooters

Shared electric scooter systems operate in several GZM's cities. A small tip from the authors of this text: if you use a scooter, remember to leave it in a place where it will not obstruct others – have respect for each other. Important: scooters are not meant for intercity travel. Operators have specific designated zones – always check how far you can ride!

Uber/Bolt/FREENOW

Even though there is also public night transport in the GZM, sometimes all we want is to get home as quickly as possible. In such cases, you can use ride-hailing services like Uber, Bolt, or FREENOW.

Carsharing

Due to the nature of Metropolia, carsharing has not yet become an optimal solution. Currently, it is possible to use the services of TrafiCar.

Private Car

The most popular way of getting around Metropolia is by using a private car. This is encouraged by the developed road infrastructure. However, emerging transfer centres and expanding paid parking zones are likely to change the way of traveling in the GZM. Here, we can encourage you to leave your car at home more often and travel in other ways – it is better for the environment and your health.



Live in the GZM.

Student life on your own

What to consider before renting an apartment or room

A short list of things you should check:

- What are the total monthly charges?
- How much is the security deposit for the owner?
- If you are renting through an agency – what is the agency commission?
- How long do you have to sign the contract?
- Is the apartment furnished (with household appliances, dishes)?
- Can you register at the address?
- Who covers the costs of minor repairs (clogged drain, leaking flush).

Never pay a deposit before seeing the apartment!

What to pay attention to:

- Is the building insulated? An exception may be an apartment with windows facing south.
- Check the window seals (place your hand along their edges). In the heating season, poorly sealed windows can cause significant heat loss.
- Check how the shower, faucets, and flush are working, whether the water pressure is fine, and if the temperature is appropriate.
- If you are renting a single room, ask if it can be locked with a key or inquire about the possibility of adding a lock.
- Look around to see if there are any unwanted guests in the rooms (moths, cockroaches).
- Find out if the apartment has a vacuum cleaner, mop, and/or other cleaning equipment, and see where you can do and hang your laundry.
- Try to look everywhere, pay attention to unusual smells, and check for fungus in the apartment.
- If your future roommates are present, try to ask them about the apartment and neighbours. Their reaction can tell you a lot.

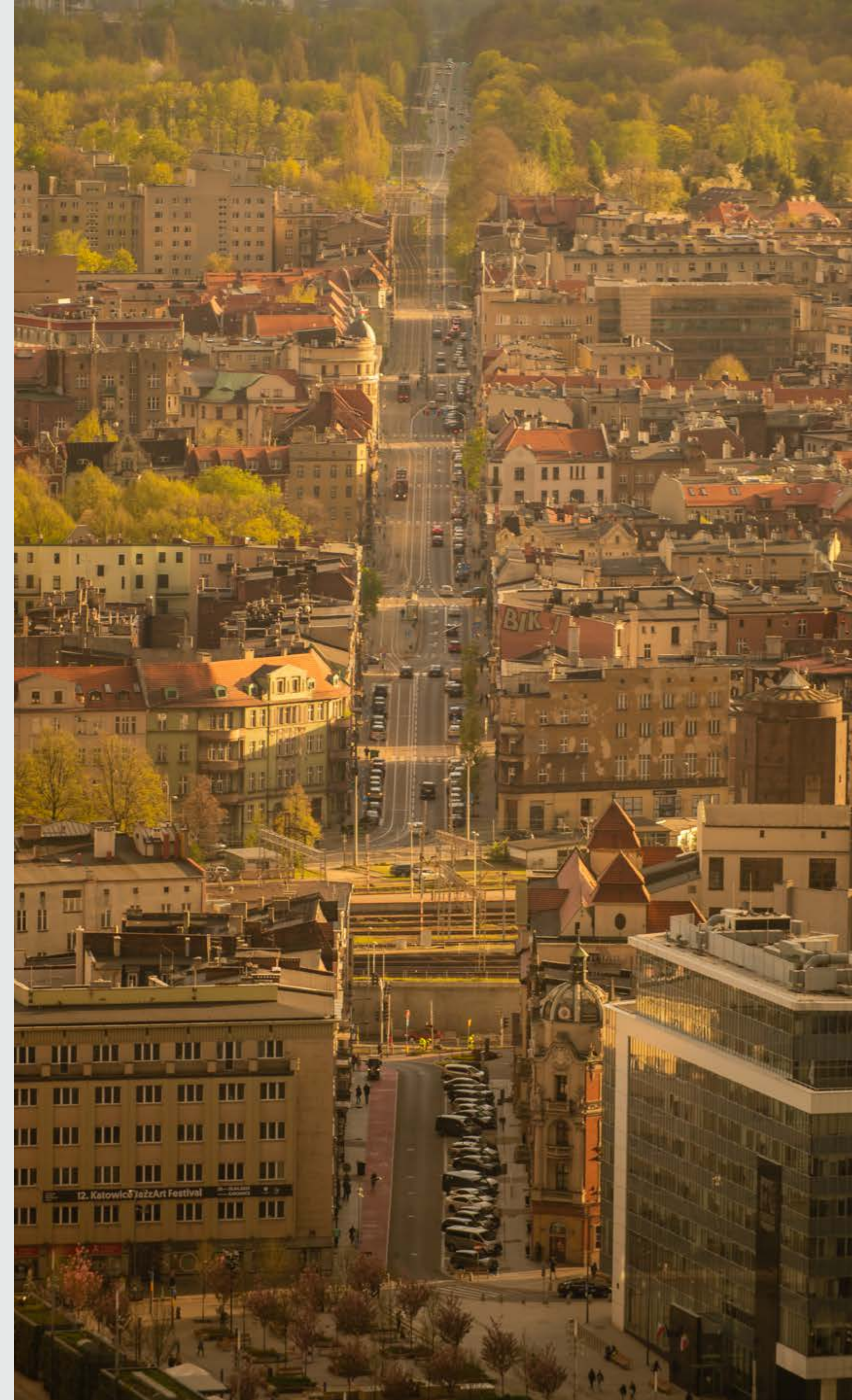
- And finally: is there an Internet connection? Is it paid separately? What is its bandwidth and load? This may be crucial for you, especially when participating in online meetings or presentations.

Try to agree on a 30-day notice period for termination of the contract. Landlords often require a contract for 10 months or a year, sometimes under the threat of a monetary penalty for early termination. During the rental period, hidden defects in the apartment may appear, and random incidents may occur. A shorter notice period to terminate the contract will be a safer option.

Which location is worth living in?

A particularly important aspect (which affects the cost of living as well as travel expenses and access to student entertainment) is the location of your future accommodation. Generally, the closer to the city centre or university, the more expensive apartment tends to be. However, if you decide to live on the outskirts of the city, remember to factor in the commuting time to your classes. Usually, the commuting time takes around 30-40 minutes; however, during peak hours, it can unfortunately take longer. By using the ZTM journey planner, you can check in advance what your commute might look like, how long it will take, and whether you will need to make use of transfers. If you need more information before choosing a district, it is worth checking student forums and social media groups centered around specific universities or cities. The opinions and experiences of other students will surely be valuable.

You can also take a look at our [map](#) of the 15-minute city to see what amenities are available in your area:



You have your accommodation sorted. Now, let us talk about the university

Fees at the university

If you are studying full-time, you do not pay for tuition. However, you should be prepared for some minor costs associated with university administration. Information about the currently applicable administrative fees can be found in the [regulation](#) of the Minister of Science and Higher Education on studies.

For what can the university not charge?

According to the Law on Higher Education and Science, the university cannot charge fees for:

- registration for the next semester or year of studies
- examinations, including retake exams, exams conducted before an examination board, or diploma exams
- issuing a practice journal
- submission and evaluation of the diploma thesis
- issuing a diploma supplement

Student insurance

Student insurance can be divided into two types: health insurance, which allows you to make doctor's appointments within public health care without incurring additional costs, and accident insurance, which provides compensation if you suffer from injuries. Until you turn twenty-six, you can use your parents' health insurance, which means you will not incur any additional costs. If your parents are deceased, the university will enroll you in insurance (also without additional costs). Health insurance is mandatory.

Accident insurance (NNW) is not obligatory, but you can opt for it voluntarily. Universities often encourage students to take out this type of insurance. The annual premium is around 20-30 Polish zlotys, and it is worth considering such an expense. If you have an unfortunate accident (e.g., a broken leg or a hospital stay), you can receive compensation from the insurance.

How do you support yourself; i.e. where will you get money for your first year of study?

When starting your studies, you do not have to rely solely on the money you receive from your family. It is worth knowing that many students (especially those studying part-time) successfully combine part-time work with their studies. Once again, it is worth visiting Internet forums, social media groups focused on a particular city in the GZM, and especially popular and reliable platforms with current job advertisements. If you and your family are facing financial difficulties, there is, obviously, the possibility of receiving a social scholarship. Your university, in case of achieving very good academic results, may also award you with an academic scholarship.

There are also scholarships awarded due to recognised disabilities. You can find important information on this topic here: studia.gov.pl/studenci/pomoc-materialna



You have your accommodation sorted. Now, let us talk about the university

Important: do not miss the deadlines for submitting documents!

For detailed information and application deadlines for scholarships, look on your university's website. They are usually listed under tabs such as „Scholarships,” „Financial Aid,” „Student Support,” „Social Matters,” and similar.

There are also other forms of support that are offered by, among others, local governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), private foundations, church organisations, and academic institutions. Who can receive such scholarships? Primarily, talented individuals who, due to reasons independent of themselves, have a difficult start in life (e.g., coming from incomplete or impoverished families, living in rural areas, far from major academic centres). What matters here are above-average academic results, scientific, artistic, or sports achievements, as well as extracurricular activities. Where to look for scholarships?

Good sources of information about available NGOs:

MojeStypendium.pl (Dobra Sieć Foundation) mojestypendium.pl
Bridge Scholarship Program stypendia-pomostowe.pl
Stefan Batory Foundation batory.org.pl
“Dzieło Nowego Tysiąclecia” Foundation dzielo.pl
Polish-American Fulbright Commission fulbright.edu.pl
Rotary rotary.org.pl



Good, cheap, and more – dining in Metropolia

Every student enjoys a good meal. You need to know where to go, what to eat, and how much to spend, keeping in mind that your budget has its limits but hunger needs to be satisfied without compromising on quality.

Our metropolis stands out in this regard with an interesting and diverse range of options, offering a good balance of quality and price and a plethora of culinary experiences. Here you will find places with tradition, trendy eateries, iconic spots, international cuisines, and restaurants for special occasions.

Let this list of our subjective must-visit places be your starting point for exploration, an inspiration, and an introduction to getting to know the region. Remember, the way to someone's heart is through their stomach!



Good, cheap, and more – dining in Metropolia

Milk bars and diners

You will eat well and affordably in these places while getting to know spots that have been loved by various generations of city residents. Here, you will encounter corporate employees, local celebrities, retirees, annuitants, families with children, and young hipsters. And just for this “mishmash,” these places are worth visiting. Here are a few of them:

1. Bar mleczny Europa / Mickiewicza 8, Katowice
An iconic milk bar, one of the last in Katowice, with a beautiful mosaic.
2. Bar Teatralny / Kościuszki 12, Gliwice
A diner that is known, frequented, and cherished by every resident of Gliwice.
3. Bar mleczny Stylowo / Królowej Jadwigi 1A, Dąbrowa Górnicza
Traditional menu, modern interior.
4. Bar mleczny Andromeda / Plac Baczyńskiego 2, Tychy
A milk bar located in an old cinema.
5. Bar Fartuch / Zgoda 5, Sosnowiec
A diner located in the student district of Pogoń, near the trendy Żytnia street.

Silesian-Dąbrowa Basin culinary traditions

It would be a sin to live in the GZM and not experience its local cuisine, where various culinary traditions converge. After years of being somewhat forgotten by the media, these culinary traditions have made a strong comeback, becoming trendy and appreciated, with specialized restaurants opening in various cities. So, if you do not yet know what “wodzionka,” “zalewajka,” or “hekele” are, it is high time to catch up.

6. Karczma pod Młynem / Hallera 71, Katowice
Silesian classics in a traditional setting.
7. Żurownia / Ligonja 16, Katowice
Silesian cuisine with a fusion twist but without unnecessary pretentiousness.
8. Złota Gęś / Bytomska 59, Siewierz
The best goose dishes can be found on the outskirts of the Metropolis.
9. Cafe Byfj / Krawczyka 5, Katowice
Traditional cakes and Silesian cuisine in the beautiful district of Nikiszowiec.

Street food/World cuisines

Like any large urban area, the GZM can boast not only traditional cuisine but also culinary gems from different parts of the world. As this is a guide for students, the focus here will be on street food and cheap eateries rather than expensive and trendy restaurants. This way, you can enjoy not only tasty but also authentic meals.

10. Gryfny Kebab / Św. A. Boboli 1, Zabrze
Reportedly, one of the best kebabs in the region.
11. Zapiekarńnik / Małachowskiego 20, Sosnowiec
Polish street food at its best.
12. Nabil / Mariacka 26, Katowice
Falafel straight from a Lebanese vendor.
13. Oh, Bento-Ya / Podgórna 8, Bytom
A Japanese milk bar.



Good, cheap, and more – dining in Metropolia

Sweet life

Sometimes you need an energy boost, a bit of sugar, or a treat before an exam. We recommend good, sweet, local, and traditional cake shops, cafés, and ice cream parlours in the GZM. In these recommendations you will not find many new places here, which are many and which you will find on your own. Instead, there will be a focus on timeless places with a long history, which often only true locals know about.

14. Cukiernia Dorotka / Aleja Sportowców 5, Siemianowice Śląskie
Delicious cakes, ice cream sundaes, and interiors that have not changed in years.
15. Kawiarnia z Pasją / Grodowa 22, Gliwice
A family-owned micro café with delicious ice cream.
16. Lodziarnia Wieczorek / Kokota 183, Ruda Śląska
An ice cream parlour. Only a few flavours to choose from but what flavours they are! Moreover, authentic interiors reminiscent of the Polish People's Republic era.
17. Piekarnia Cukiernia Michalscy / Krawczyka 5, Nikiszowiec
Traditional cakes and pastries in the historic district of Nikiszowiec.
18. Cukiernia Cichoń / Zamkowa, Ornontowice
Here you will taste the best traditional Silesian "kołocz."

Places for special occasions

Sometimes, when family visits us or our partner celebrates a birthday, or when we have an important meeting, a regular milk bar or local street food may not be enough. We need good but budget-friendly restaurants. Elegant places without pretentiousness, tailored to a student's measure and budget.

19. Zelter / Strażacka 3a, Bytom
Asian, Mexican cuisines, or burgers - cuisines from different parts of the world.
20. Good Place / Kaczyniec 9, Gliwice
Vegetarian cuisine with playful dishes in cozy, modern interiors.
21. Ludzie Mówią Różne Rzeczy / Kościuszki 52, Chorzów
Italian cuisine at its best..
22. Rōnin Japanese Cuisine / Damrota 6, Katowice
Japanese delicacies at affordable prices.
23. DOMOLO / Siewierska 35, Dąbrowa Górnicza
Pizza, burgers, and seasonal menus near Lake Pogoria.

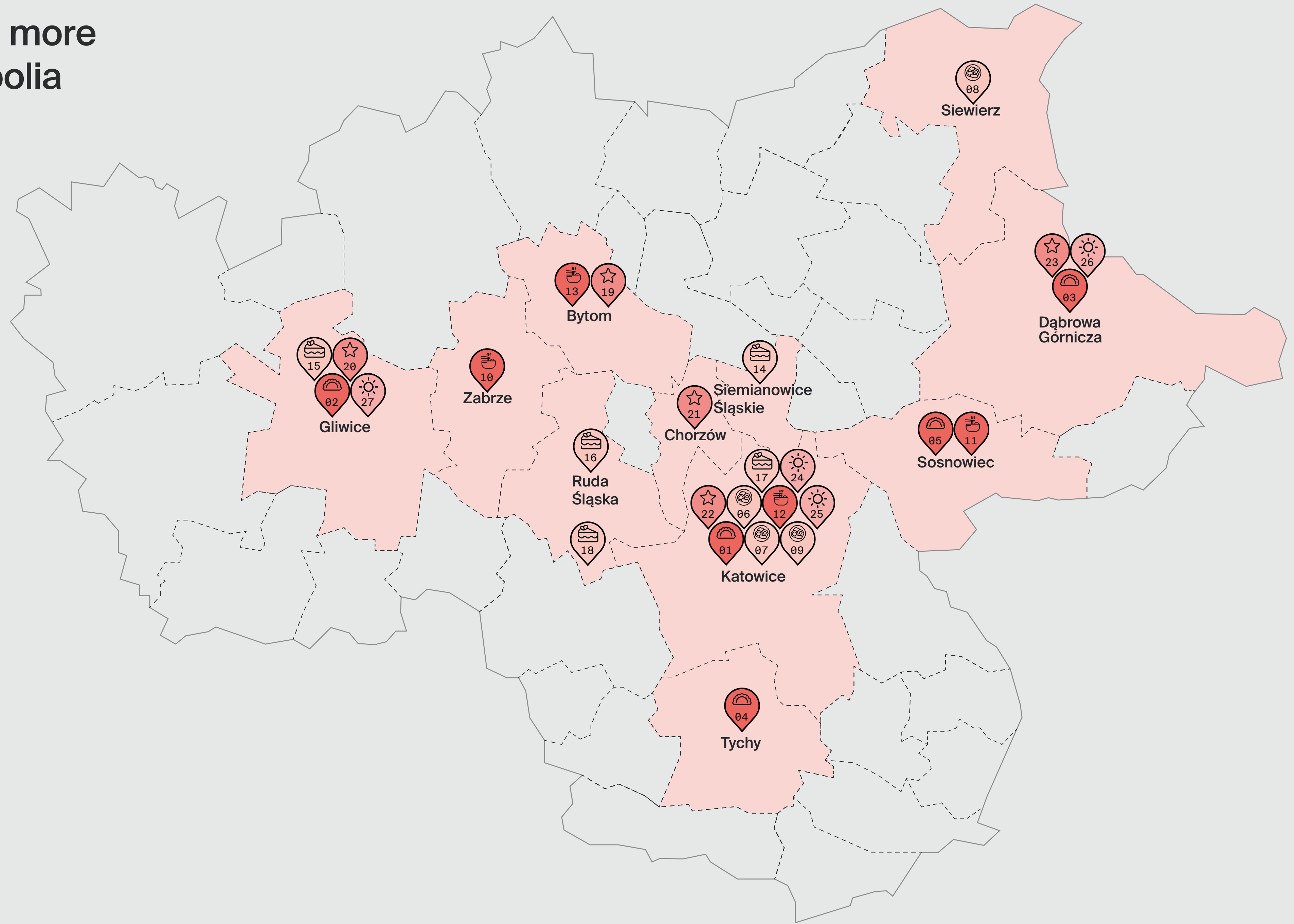
Summer in the city

You finish your exams and have no idea what to do next. Stay in the GZM and enjoy this time by exploring the local micro-tourism, riding a bike, and visiting summer culinary spots. In the ruins of factories, by the lake, or in the city centre.

24. Centrum Kato / Spodek's terraces, Katowice
A view of the centre of Katowice, good food, and events.
25. Sztawajery / Dolina Trzech Stawów, Katowice
Pizza and DJs by the lake.
26. Fabryka Pełna Życia / Kościuszki 3, Dąbrowa Górnicza
Street food in a rejuvenated factory with plenty of events.
27. secret in / Dubois 34, Gliwice
The Old Wire Factory pulsing with new life.



Good, cheap, and more – dining in Metropolia



-  **Milk bars and diners** (02)
-  **Silesian-Dąbrowa Basin culinary traditions** (06)
-  **Street food /World cuisines** (10)
-  **Sweet life** (15)
-  **Places for special occasions** (20)
-  **Summer in the city** (27)

Metropolia after hours

Student life does not end within the university walls. Every student needs time for study but also for fun, relaxation, and meeting with friends. In Metropolia, there are plenty of opportunities, and we will show you only some of the most interesting ones.



Metropolia after hours

Streets, squares, and entertainment places

1. Mariacka Street, Katowice – the liveliest promenade in Metropolia, where you can eat, drink, dance, and relax.
2. Rynek (Market Square), Gliwice – many restaurants, cafes, and bars on the historic market square and its surrounding charming streets.
3. Małachowskiego Street, Sosnowiec – the main promenade in Sosnowiec, a place for parties and gatherings in the Dąbrowa Basin (Polish: Zagłębie) region of Metropolia.
4. Żytnia Street, Sosnowiec – the student district of Pogoń, popularly known as „Little Krakow,” also has its culinary gems with several timeless venues that host generations of students.
5. Plac Baczyńskiego, Tychy – Tychy boasts a beautiful socialist-realism square with pubs, a fountain, and the iconic Andromeda cinema.
6. Rynek (Market Square), Bytom – the most beautiful Silesian city is regaining its splendour, with an increasing number of gastronomic spots opening in its central space.
7. Rynek (Market Square), Chorzów – the newly renovated square under the estacade tempts with pubs, a pleasant square, and a brine graduation tower.

Student clubs

It is in these places that the student atmosphere is created. Although there are not as many as before, they still play an important role in shaping student life in their cities.

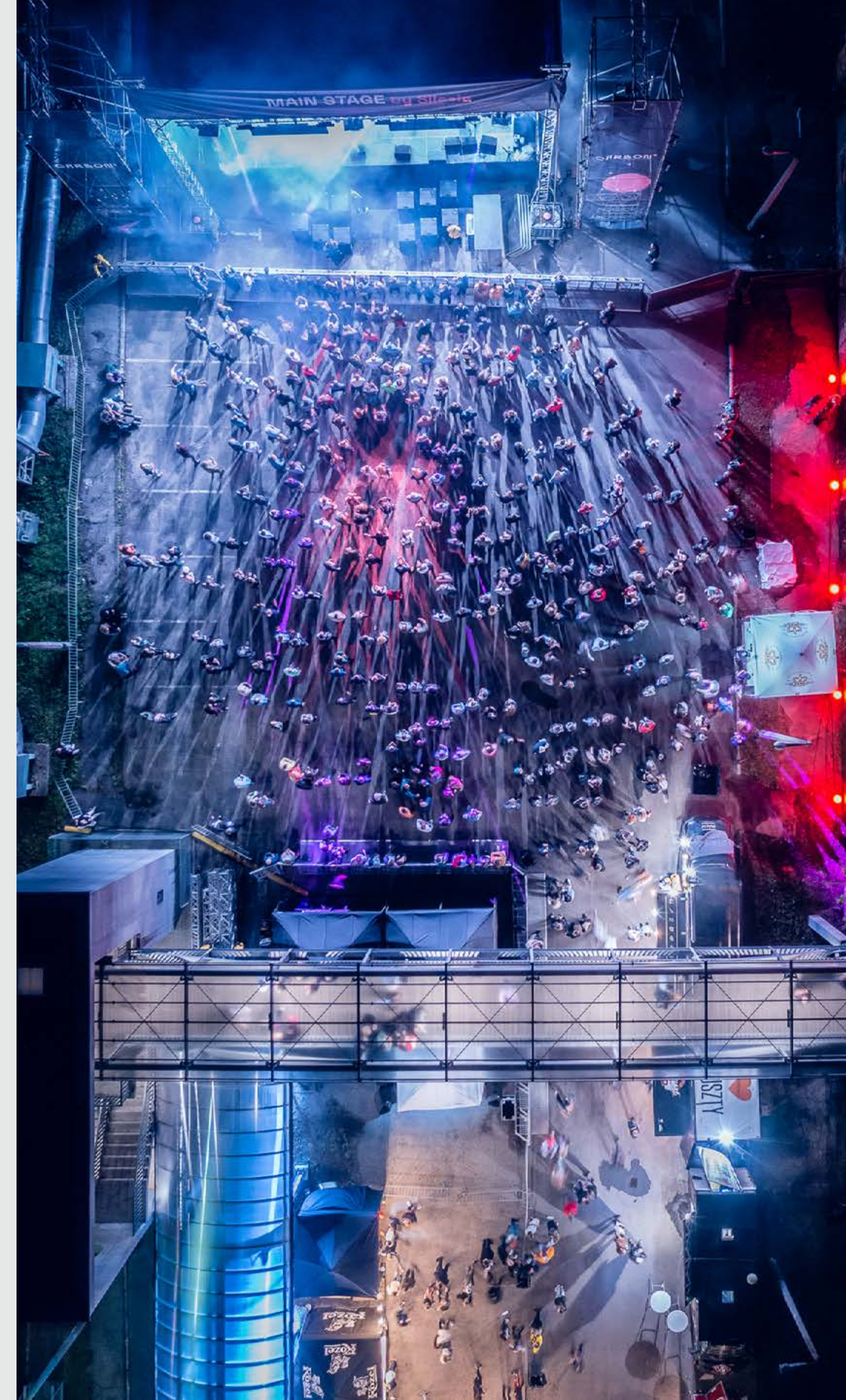
8. Remedium / Sucha 7c, Sosnowiec
A legendary club that has been welcoming students in Dąbrowa Basin for years with numerous concerts, events, and parties.
9. Klub Panorama / Śląska 75, Katowice
A club located in Katowice's district, Ligota, near dormitories. It entices with good cuisine and cultural events.

10. Spirala / Pszczyńska 75, Gliwice
Spirala reigns in Gliwice. It is where student life at the “polibuda” (University of Technology) revolves.

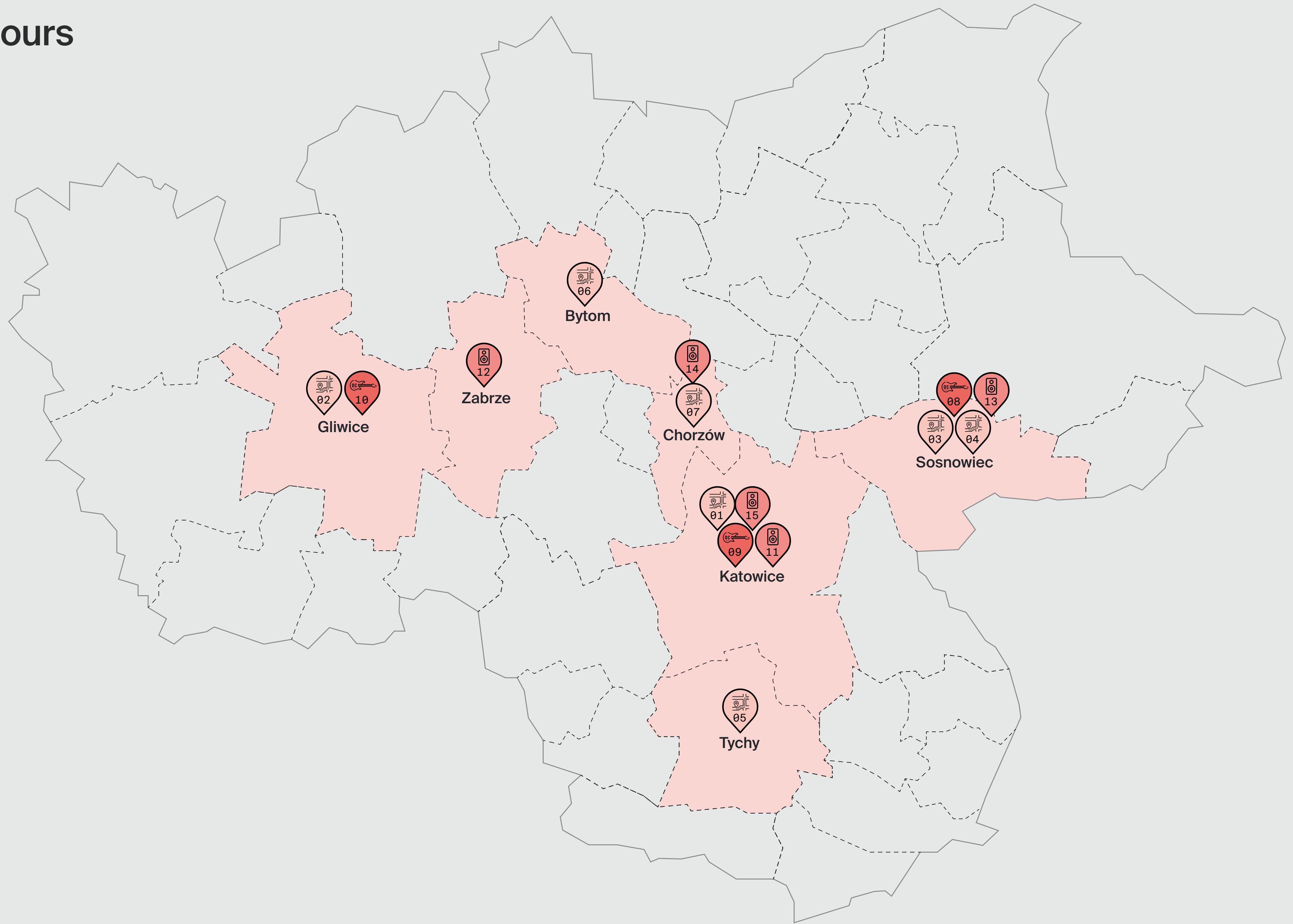
Other music clubs

Not only traditional student clubs animate student life. Sometimes it takes place elsewhere, in venues with an interesting offer of events. Here are a few of them:

11. Jazz Club Hipnoza / Plac Sejmu Śląskiego 2, Katowice
Generations of students come there for famous hearty French bread pizzas as well as concerts and parties. Recently, the Hip Hop Jam Session – organised by students from the Academy of Music – has been popular there.
12. CK Wiatrak / Wolności 395, Zabrze
More than just a club. It is a well-known cultural centre.
13. Księgarnia / Małachowskiego 24, Sosnowiec
A beautiful neon sign above the entrance and a crowd of people in the garden throughout the summer. These are characteristic elements indicating the unwavering popularity of this place.
14. Rebel Garden Cafe / Rondo Ziętka 7, Chorzów
In a beautiful location, right next to the entrance to the Silesian Zoological Garden, there has been a club for years where many rebellious-thinking students, and not only students, grew up.
15. P23 / Porcelanowa 23, Katowice
The new generation of students prefers a good rave over punk music. For them, the P23 club operates in the former Porcelain Factory.



Metropolia after hours



Destination GZM – Get to Know Your Neighbourhood

Destination GZM is nothing other than a celebration of Metropolia, inviting you to explore and discover the GZM through micro trips. During the first weekend of July, we show the residents the touristic potential of their immediate surroundings. What if this celebration lasted all year? In this guide, we want to encourage you to explore the GZM every day and inspire you to visit it. We will show you green spaces, monuments, landmarks, but also interesting activities that you can experience here. In Metropolia, you will never be bored.



Destination GZM – Get to Know Your Neighbourhood

Have an active break!

Do you enjoy sports, recreation, and active leisure? In Metropolia, there are plenty of interesting, often unconventional suggestions for spending free time.

- 1. Kayaking on the Biała Przemsza, Sławków**
A beautiful, clean, and scenically interesting river that showcases the natural potential of the Dąbrowa Basin region.
- 2. Rollerblading in the Dolina Trzech Stawów, Katowice**
A few-kilometer-long track for rollerbladers in the picturesque Katowice Park.
- 3. Cycling on the Silesian Slag Heaps, GZM**
You can participate in the annual Hałduro race or explore the most beautiful Silesian slag heaps on your own, such as a slag heaps in Kostuchna and Sośnica, Skalny slag heap, Waleska slag heap, or Popłuczkowa slag heap in Tarnowskie Góry.
- 4. Golf on the Bytom Slag Heaps, Bytom**
The Armada Golf Club is a golf course set in a post-industrial landscape, near the Krystyna shaft and the Bytomka River valley. Highly recommended!
- 5. Stroll through the Wielki Kanion Tarnogórski (grand canyon), Tarnowskie Góry**
Be sure to take a walk in the former Dolomite mine, now known as the Wielki Kanion Tarnogórski. Beautiful views guaranteed.
- 6. Skiing in the Dolomity, Bytom**
This time not in the Italian Dolomites but in the Bytom Dolomity. The Sportowa Dolina Dolomity is a ski resort located on the site of a former quarry, an ideal place for learning to ski.

The Green Lungs of Metropolia

Almost one-quarter of the Metropolis' area is covered by green spaces. Surprised? The stereotypical image of our region assumes that you will only find factories, smog, and coal heaps here. We will show you otherwise – it is precisely the forests, parks, and garden squares that dominate our landscape. You will discover just a few of them but they are exceptional.

On [GreenGZM](#), you will find a map of green areas and a description of all parks in the GZM.

- 7. Silesian Park, Chorzów**
One of the largest urban parks in Europe, also known as the Silesian Central Park, with plenty of attractions including a regatta canal, Elka cableway, Silesian Zoological Garden, Planetarium, and the Silesian Stadium.
- 8. Lake Pogoria, Dąbrowa Górnicza**
Actually, a complex of four lakes where you can find beaches, cafes, bike paths, sailboats, and forests all around.
- 9. Lake Paprocany, Tychy**
Another lake with a beautiful boulevard, marina, and eateries. You can stroll, swim, bike, or explore the nearby forests of Pszczyzna Forest.
- 10. Silesian Botanical Garden, Mikołów**
A very natural and educational garden that is perfect for picnics and walks.
- 11. Bytomka Valley Park, Bytom**
A park created on post-industrial grounds with a winding river, dominating mine heaps, and the symbol of the city – Krystyna Shaft. It is a very charming place!



Destination GZM – Get to Know Your Neighbourhood

Architectural symbols of the GZM

The Metropolia is such a diverse urban organism that it is hard to define its most important symbols without missing anything. And to avoid that, we will show you the ones we personally like the most and which, in our opinion, best represent the historical diversity of the GZM.

- 12. Spodek Sports And Entertainment Arena, Katowice**
An icon known to everyone. Make sure to visit it for a concert, volleyball match, or the Intel Extreme Masters Katowice e-sports tournament.
- 13. Szombierki Heat and Power Plant, Bytom**
An industrial facility that resembles a cathedral. The Silesian Tate Modern, waiting for revitalisation made with an idea.
- 14. Gliwice Radio Station, Gliwice**
One of the most interesting technical monuments in the region and the tallest wooden structure in Europe.
- 15. Brama Słońca (Sun Gate), Tychy**
It may be just a block of flats, but what a unique one! A cascade structure, ascending upwards, is a symbol of the avant-garde achievements of architects in Tychy.
- 16. Będzin Castle, Będzin**
Our list would not be complete without a castle because they are an integral part of Metropolia landscape. Let Będzin Castle invite you to explore the Dąbrowa Basin region and its castles and palaces, as there are quite a few of them in this region.

Tourist classics

Every region has its must-see tourist spots. Kraków has Wawel Royal Castle, Warsaw has Old Town, and Gdańsk has St. Mary's Church. Metropolia has many must-see tourist spots, and each one is different. The region's uniqueness contributes to the diversity of experiences. Here are a few spots to start your exploration of the GZM:

- 17. Guido Mine, Zabrze**
An inactive mine open for tours with former miners as guides, an underground concert hall and pub, and many other attractions.
- 18. Historic Silver Mine and Black Trout Adit, Tarnowskie Góry**
The first sites in Silesia to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. There are underground routes, boat rides, and multimedia exhibitions.
- 19. Nikiszowiec Workers' Housing Estate, Katowice**
TMetropolia is full of beautiful workers' colonies that symbolise individual cities. Nikiszowiec is the most famous among them. It hosts popular fairs, restaurants with Silesian cuisine, and active organisations that animate the district's life.
- 20. Zagłębie Palace of Culture, Dąbrowa Górnicza**
The pride and symbol of Dąbrowa Basin. It is considered the smaller brother of the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw; however, some say it is more interesting and magnificent . It can be visited, and many events take place there.
- 21. Culture Zone, Katowice**
The new symbol of the region. It houses contemporary architectural icons like the NOSPR concert hall, Silesian Museum, and the International Congress Centre. Hundreds of thousands of people visit the Culture Zone every year, especially during the well-known Tauron Nowa Muzyka music festival held there.



Destination GZM – Get to Know Your Neighbourhood

Alternative tourism

If you want to be one of the “locals,” you should know more than a standard tourist. You must seek out unusual routes, create your own paths, and discover interesting facts about the city life. Here are a few alternative tourist attractions that might not be in a typical guidebook but will surely help you get to know the region better.

22. Katowice Street Art

Katowice has hosted one of the largest street art festivals in Poland for years. As a result, the city is filled with murals and installations by world-renowned artists. Take a cool walk through the city and discover different neighbourhoods while enjoying the street art.

23. Space Sculptures in Tychy

Abstract sculptures from the Polish People's Republic era, which are clustered in District D in Tychy, are space-themed (alluding to the conquest of space), with the famous Kosmosonda (space probe) being a Tychy classic that demonstrates the city's avant-garde character.

24. Las Vegas in the heart of Metropolia

Once, Katowice were described as a city of neon lights, but in reality, traces of them can be found in every city of the GZM. Today, neon lights are making a comeback, with many old neons being renovated and numerous new ones being created. It is worth keeping a watchful eye and looking for neon lights during various everyday activities.

25. Dorotka Hill, Będzin

The hill overlooking the district, also known as the „Mount Olympus in Zagłębie” (Polish: Zagłębiowski Olimp), is a great viewpoint that can be reached by bike or on foot. On a clear day, you can enjoy an impressive panorama of the Beskids, and if you are lucky, you might spot the soaring peaks of the Tatra Mountains in the distance.

26. Steel House, Zabrze

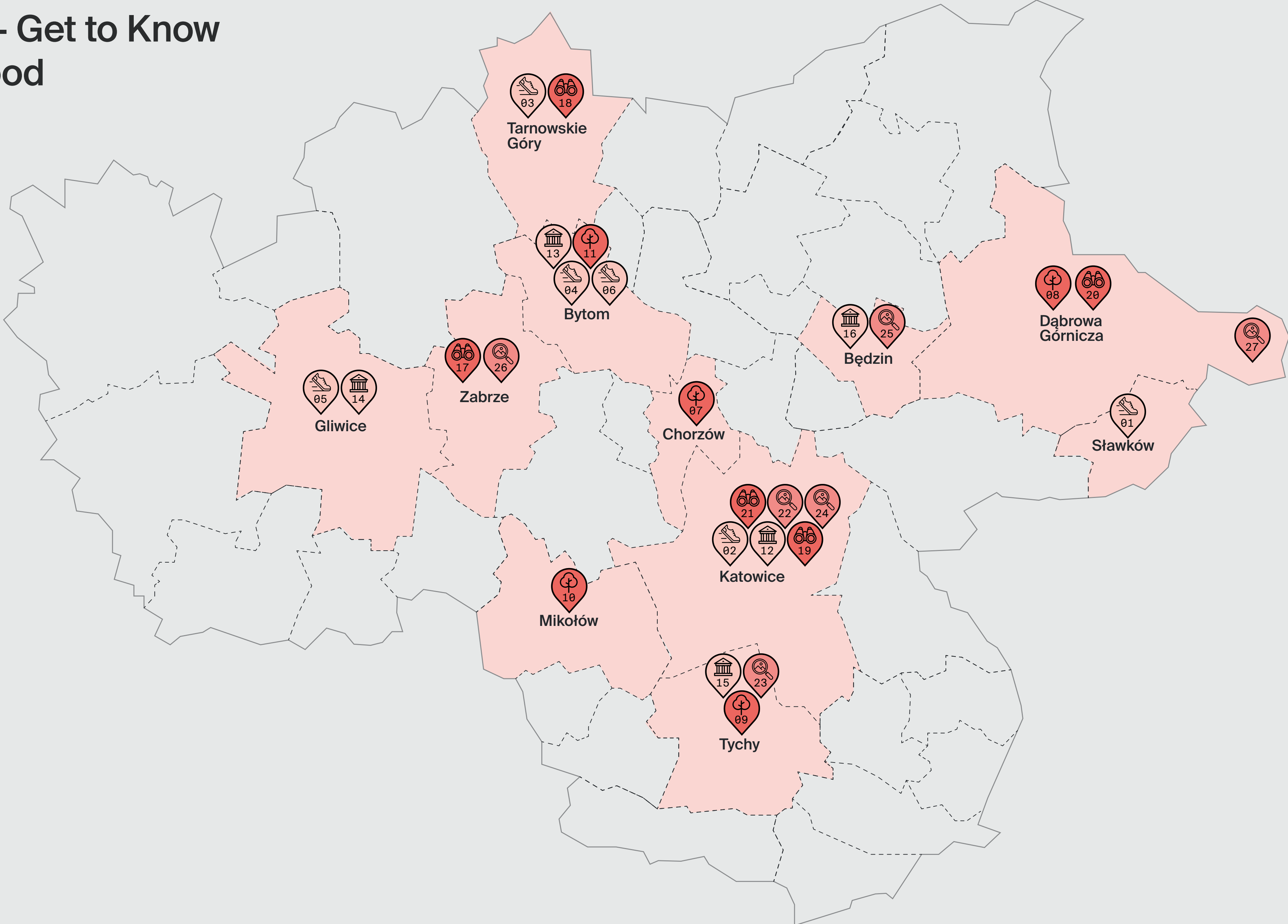
An experimental house built during the interwar period from steel modules. Pay it a visit, tap on the walls, and ask the residents how they like living there (local legend has it that mobile phones have poor reception there), as it may be the oldest building of this kind in Europe.

27. Rave in the Desert

Attend the famous summer clubbing event with top DJs on the Błędowska Desert, the largest desert in Poland. For some, the location is just as important as the music itself.



Destination GZM – Get to Know Your Neighbourhood



-  **Have an active break!**
-  **The Green Lungs of Metropolia**
-  **Architectural symbols of Metropolia**
-  **Tourist classics**
-  **Alternative tourism**

Culture in the GZM

Culture is undoubtedly one of the richest aspects of our metropolis. Everyone can find something for themselves, and at various times too. In our guide, we want to encourage you to explore new places, inspire you to enjoy the rich cultural offerings, attend various venues and events you already enjoy, but also to discover others that may become your passion in the future. We will show you places that are worth visiting, whose offerings are worth exploring, where we believe you will feel good, and which will help you discover the diversity of our metropolis. You will not be bored with us!



Culture in the GZM

If you are new here and want to get to know the place to which you are currently tied, we recommend a visit to the Silesian Museum in Katowice, and in particular, we encourage you to step back in time and learn about the history of Upper Silesia in the narrative exhibition „The Light of History. Upper Silesia over the Ages.” Moreover, you can delve into the history of the Silesian part of the GZM at the Museum of Silesian Uprisings in Świętochłowice.

An encounter with history would not be complete without learning about mining, e.g., at Guido Mine in Zabrze or Queen Louise Adit in Zabrze, and about metallurgy at the interactive Metallurgy Museum in Chorzów. We also encourage you to visit the unique Historic Silver Mine in Tarnowskie Góry, where the first steam engine in Upper Silesia was put into operation – there, you will learn about the miners and the methods they used for extracting the treasures left by nature. You will experience the atmosphere of former mining work and sail on underground boats in the Black Trout Adit.

For connoisseurs of beer, we recommend a visit to the Tyskie Brewery Museum.

You will also get to know Polish history at the Museum of Communist Poland in Ruda Śląska and the Silesian Freedom and Solidarity Centre in Katowice.

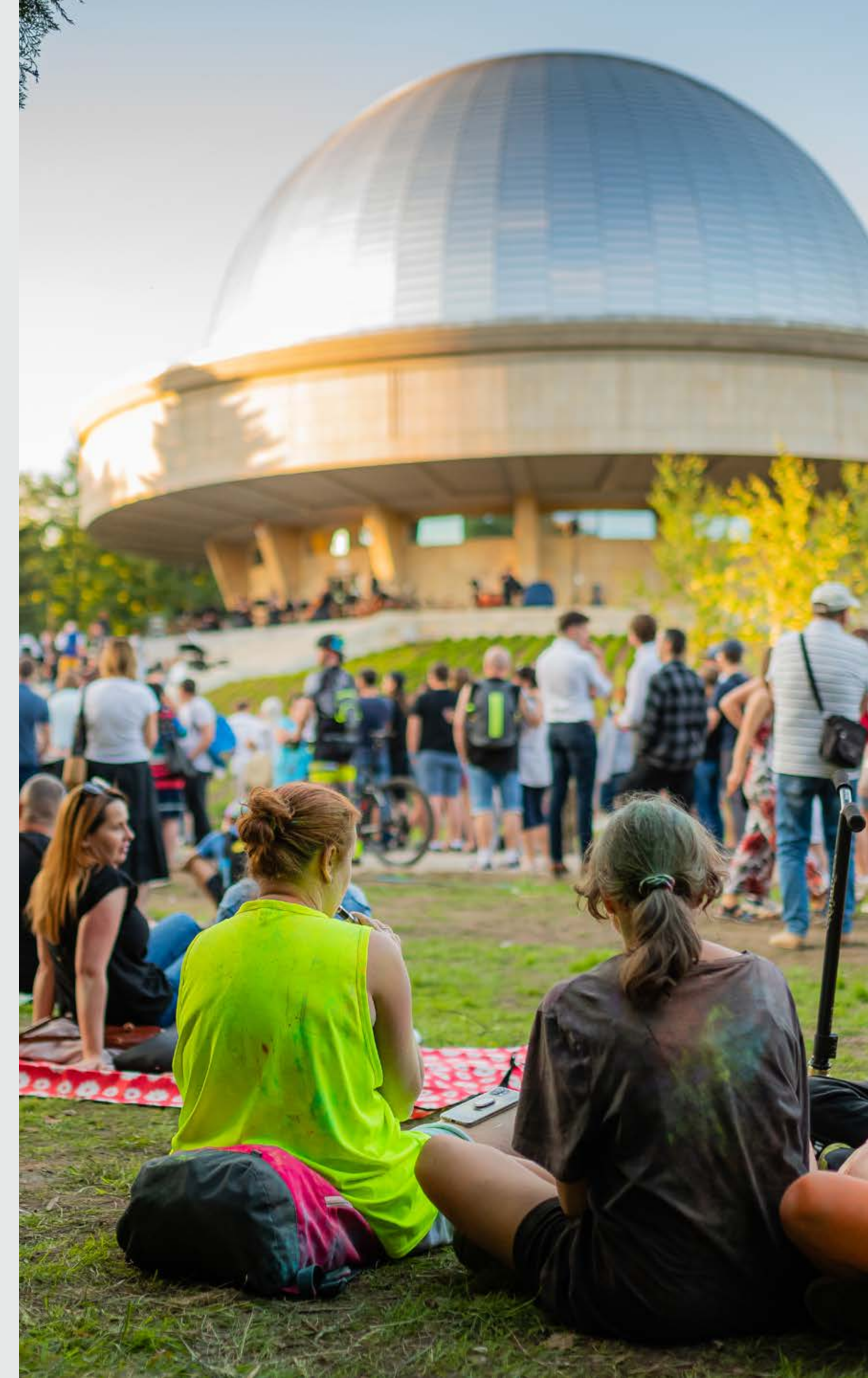
Bytom invites you to the Upper Silesian Museum, Gliwice to its Museum in Gliwice, Sosnowiec to the Schön Palace, and Tychy encourages you to visit the Municipal Museum.

Metropolia presents an extraordinarily rich offer for theatre enthusiasts, as there are as many as ten theatres within its area. We invite you to visit the Rozbark Theatre in Bytom, the Entertainment Theatre in Chorzów, the Zagłębie Theatre in Sosnowiec, and the Small Theatre in Tychy. In Katowice alone, we invite you to the Silesian Theatre, the Korez Theatre, the A Part Theatre, the Żelazny Theatre, the Silesian Puppet and Actor Theatre „Ateneum,” and the very unusual Old Timers Garage Theatre & Music Club. In the summer, performances

take place there as part of the Summer Theatre Scene. We especially encourage you to actively participate in the feast for theatre lovers, the Noc Teatrów GZM (GZM Theatre Night), which takes place in September.

The GZM is a paradise for music lovers, thanks, among other things, to Katowice, which is a UNESCO Creative City in this field. Every music connoisseur will find something for themselves there. The excellent acoustics in the magnificent interiors of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra will allow you to hear every note flowing from the stage and every rustle from the audience. The genius loci resounds there. Classical music resonates in the concert halls of the Silesian Philharmonic in Katowice and the Zabrze Philharmonic, while opera arias can be heard at the Silesian Opera in Bytom. Numerous concerts, including jazz concerts, are hosted by the Academy of Music in Katowice, the Muse Art Cafe, and numerous clubs with live music.

Do you prefer entertainment on the big screen? The GZM, in addition to chain cinemas, also offers cinemas where, apart from film screenings, other events related to cinema are organised – author meetings and film societies. These include the Światowid Art House Cinema in Katowice, AMOK Cinema in Gliwice, Rialto and Kosmos Cinemas in Katowice, ROMA Cinema in Zabrze (the oldest cinema in Upper Silesia), Zacisze Cinema in Piekary Śląskie, Nowość Cinema in Będzin, BCKino in Bytom, located in the Bytom Cultural Centre, Grajka Cinema in Chorzów, „Kadr” Cinema in the Zagłębie Palace of Culture in Dąbrowa Górnicza, „Patria” Cinema in Ruda Śląska, and „Olbrzym” Cinema in Tarnowskie Góry. In the summer, it is worth looking for outdoor cinemas, which always have a unique atmosphere.



Culture in the GZM

Galleries

1. CSW Kronika / Bytom
2. Rondo Sztuki / Katowice
3. BWA Katowice / Katowice
4. Czytelnia Sztuki / Gliwice
5. Centrum Sztuki Zamek Sielecki / Sosnowiec
6. Galeria Sztuki Szyb Wilson [Wilson Shaft Gallery]/ Katowice

Cultural Venues

7. Stacja Biblioteka / Ruda Śląska
8. Mediateka / Tychy
9. Mediateka / Sosnowiec
10. Galeria Elektrownia / Czeladź
11. Dom Oświatowy / Katowice
12. Międzynarodowe Centrum Kongresowe [International Congress Centre] / Katowice
13. CK Miasto Ogrodów / Katowice
14. Walcownia Cynku / Katowice
15. Fabryka Porcelany / Katowice
16. Instytut Mikołowski / Mikołów
17. Ruiny Teatru Victoria / Gliwice
18. Pałac Kultury Zagłębia [Zagłębie Palace of Culture] / Dąbrowa Górnicza
19. Arena Gliwice / Gliwice
20. Spodek / Katowice

Events Calendar

January

- Katowicki Karnawał Komedii / Katowice

February

- IEM Katowice / Katowice
- 4Design Days / Katowice

March

- Jarmark Wielkanocny [Eastern Market] / Katowice
- Festiwal Prawykonań / Katowice

April

- Katowice JazzArt Festival / Katowice

May

- Dębowy Maj Festiwal / Dąbrowa Górnicza
- Sosnowieckie Dni Literatury [Sosnowiec Literature Days] / Sosnowiec
- Juwenalia Śląskie [Student Festival] / Katowice
- AWFalia / Katowice
- Igrzy Juwenalia Gliwickie / Gliwice
- Noc Muzeów [Long Night of Museums] / GZM

June

- Tauron Nowa Muzyka / Katowice
- Industriada / GZM
- Festiwal teatralny Open the Door [theatre festival] / Katowice
- CARBON Silesia Festival / Zabrze

July

- Kierunek GZM - Urodziny Metropolii [Destination GZM - Birthday of Metropolia] / GZM
- Festiwal Ulicznicy / Gliwice
- AlterFest / Mysłówice

August

- OFF Festival / Katowice
- Fest Festival / Chorzów
- Tour de Pologne / GZM

September

- Festiwal Gorczycki / GZM
- Festiwal im. M. Spisaka / Dąbrowa Górnicza
- Noc Teatrów GZM [GZM Theatre Night] / GZM

October

- Rawa Blues Festival / Katowice
- Silesia Marathon / Chorzów
- Auksodrone / Tychy
- Festiwal Dramaturgii Współczesnej - Rzeczywistość Przedstawiona [Contemporary Drama Festival "Reality Presented"] / Zabrze
- PalmJazz Festival / Gliwice
- Noc Naukowców [Researchers' Night] / GZM

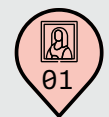
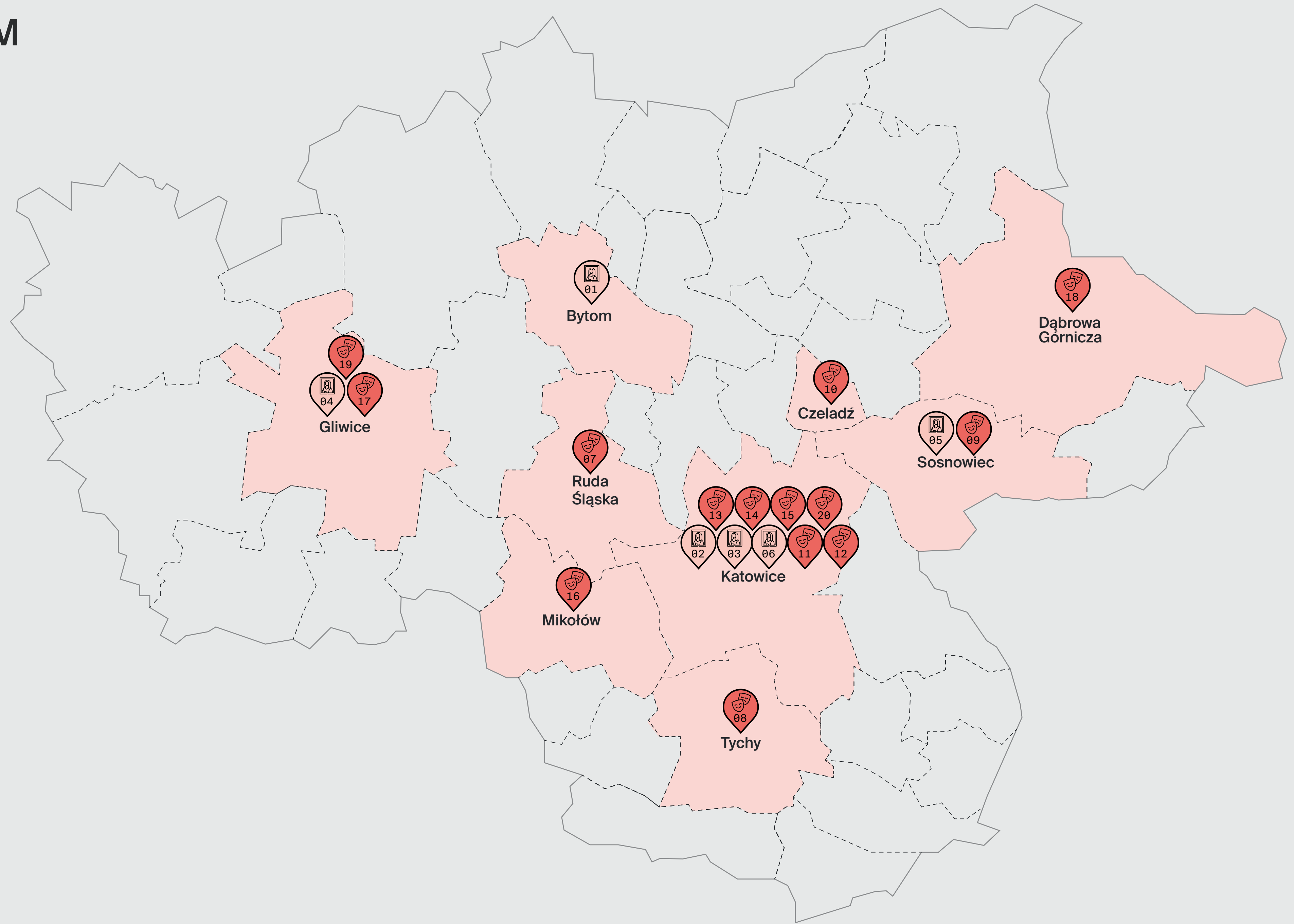
November

- Ars Cameralis / GZM
- Ogólnopolski Festiwal Sztuki Reżyserskiej Interpretacje [National Festival of Directing Art „Interpretations”]
- Międzynarodowy Konkurs Dyrygentów im. G. Fitelberga [Grzegorz Fitelberg International Competition for Conductors] / Katowice
- Targi Książki [Book Fair] / Katowice

December

- Nikisz Fair / Katowice
- Christmas markets in Katowice and Gliwice
- Śląski Festiwal Nauki [Silesian Science Festival] / Katowice

Culture in the GZM



Galleries



Cultural Venues

Trips within an hour from the GZM

The Beskids (Beskid Mountains)

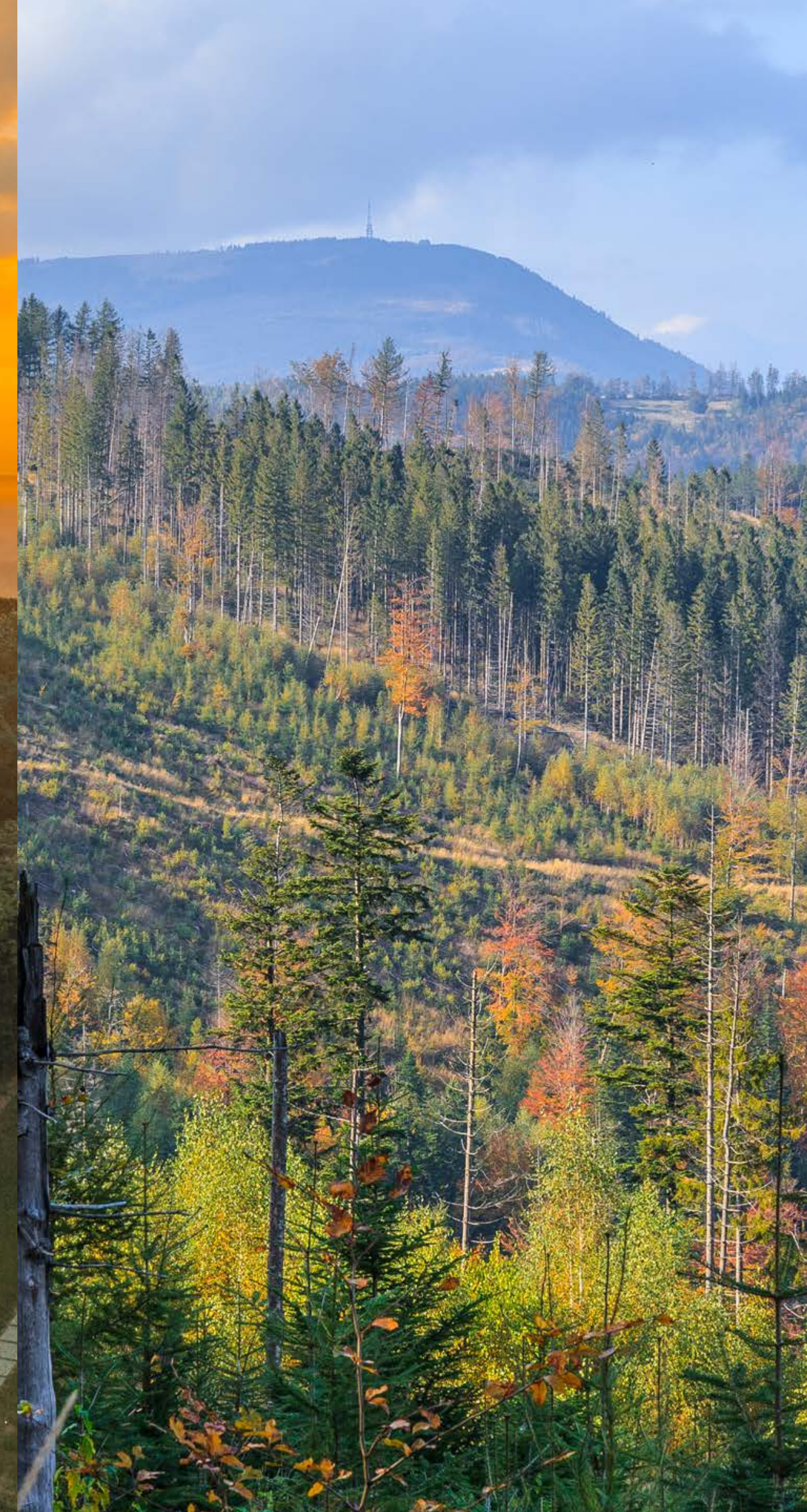
Silesian Beskids, Little Beskids, or Żywiec Beskids. Beautiful mountain ranges within reach. They are ideal for hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing, or skiing. You can witness the sunrise on Babia Góra, enjoy blueberry buns on Hala Boracza, take a cable car to Czantoria, or admire the views from Jaworowa Hala. There are numerous exciting options. Every tourist will find something for themselves there.

Eagles' Nests Landscape Park

This landscape park is located in two voivodeships – Silesian and Lesser Poland. It stands out with its countless limestone rocks, outliers and inliers, caves, karst valleys, and medieval fortresses. Hilly and scenic landscapes, a multitude of hiking and cycling paths, and numerous events attract tourists from the entire voivodeship and beyond.

Upper Liswarta Forests Landscape Park

This landscape park is adjacent to the Eagles' Nests Landscape Park. The Upper Liswarta Forests Landscape Park is a lesser-known and often underestimated landscape park that is worth getting to know. You will not encounter tourist crowds there, but you can expect contact with beautiful nature. There are several nature reserves, heaths, peat bogs, a small but pristine Liswarta River, and numerous walking trails. You will also find palaces, like in Koszęcin, old granges, wooden churches, and small, slightly sleepy villages. And that is probably the whole charm of this place. You can expect sightseeing without spectacular fireworks, instead very authentic and serene.



Trips within an hour from the GZM

Opole – historical capital of Upper Silesia and St. Anne Mountain

Living in Metropolia, it is also worth visiting places that are historically important to Upper Silesia and are now located outside the administrative boundaries of the Silesian voivodeship. Opole, as the historical capital of Upper Silesia, is now a vibrant urban centre with a pretty and well-kept old town, boulevards along the Opole Venice, and the famous amphitheatre where the National Festival of Polish Song is held every year. On the way, visit the renowned St. Anne Mountain (Polish: Góra Św. Anny), called Annaberg by the Silesians. This historically significant place witnessed many events, including the decisive battle for the fate of the Third Silesian Uprising. Today, you can visit the Sanctuary, the amphitheatre, a monument to the Silesian rebels (Polish: Pomnik Czynu Powstańczego) and take a walk in the beautiful natural areas of the nature reserve established there.

Rudy Forests and the Upper Oder Land (Polish: Lasy Rudzkie i Kraina Górnej Odry)

The land that is located within the borders of the GZM offers beautiful, forested areas with the winding Oder River and its tributaries, nature reserves, and picturesque villages. The land is known as the green lungs of Silesia and is particularly popular among cyclists, hikers, and birdwatchers, who can find there nearly 60 percent of all bird species living in Poland. In addition to nature, it is worth visiting the Cistercian Monastery, numerous palaces, or taking a ride on the narrow-gauge railway in Rudy.

Ostrava

Within an hour's drive from Katowice, you will also reach our southern Czech neighbours, specifically the city of Ostrava. This post-industrial city has a similar history of lifting itself from industrial decline, just like the cities in our metropolis. Today, on the former steelworks site, there is a spectacular event space and creative venues – Dolní Vítkovice, and in the former slaughterhouse building, there is one of the best art galleries in the Czech Republic. Moreover, you will find in Ostrava a popular zoo, the lively Stodolní Street, and the socialist-realist district of Poruba. There is a lot to choose from.



You can find out more about the GZM
on the websites - [VisitGZM](#) and [infoGZM](#).
Explore it with us!

We would like to thank the students and universities of the GZM for inspiring
us and sharing their experiences which were used when creating this guide.

Photos:

fot. Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia, Żurownia Katowice,
Pizza Al Taglio, Historic Silver Mine

Check out
the Transport GZM app
and travel around
the Metropolis GZM

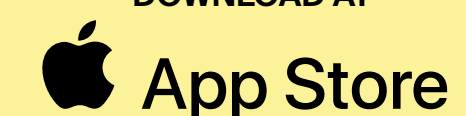
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