

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The Upper Silesian urban area, whose capital city is Katowice, consists of 41 cities with a population of 2.5 million. Residents commute daily to work, to school, often crossing borders different cities. Thanks to an extensive road and railway network, a journey to cities located up to 50 km apart does not take longer than 30-40 minutes. Katowice is the central hub in this transport system. They are among the best-connected cities in Poland.

Over the last dozen or so years, Katowice has undergone a radical transformation. Today it is one of the fastest growing Polish cities. A city dominated by the heavy industry was transformed into a metropolis of modern technologies. These changes have led to a number of transformations and modifications to public transport solutions to optimise traffic volume, travel time and costs, as well as to protect the environment.

Thanks to a well-developed transport network, travelling both inside and outside the city or the agglomeration, is not a problem. The A1 and A4 motorways intersecting nearby allow access from the south to the north and from the east to the west of Poland. The city thoroughfare traversing the centre of Katowice connects the major cities of the Upper Silesian urban area. There is also the well-developed railway system. A journey to European capitals (Prague, Berlin, Budapest, Vienna) takes just a few hours. Katowice also boasts Poland's most modern trunk railway line connecting the city with Warsaw and enabling travelling at a speed of over 200 km/h.

About 30 kilometres north of the centre of Katowice, in Pyrzowice, Katowice International Airport is located. It is the fourth airport in Poland in terms of the number of passengers and air operations. Within a radius of 100 km there are two other international airports - Kraków (John Paul II International Airport Kraków-Balice) and Ostrava (Leoš Janáček Ostrava Airport).

Every year Katowice becomes more bicycle friendly. Further bicycle paths are built and the 30 kph zone is expanded. The city also organises a number of events and campaigns to promote cycling and convince the public that the bicycle can be the main means of transport within the city. The bicycle-sharing system which has been in operation since 2015 is immensely popular. At present there are 52 docking stations, where over 400 bikes (including cargo bikes) is available for use by the public. The system is constantly growing.

The priority of the city has become sustainable transport, where pedestrians, cyclists, drivers as well as public transport users are equally important.