

A route Strzemieszyce - Dabrowa Gornicza
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Good morning ladies and gentlemen.
Please allow me to introduce myself.
My name is K.R.
I like to welcome you to the town Dabrowa Gornicza
on behalf of "the Polish Travel Agency Globtroter".
I'll be your guide today, during our ride through Dabrowa Gornicza
towards Bedzin and Katowice.
We have entered the territory of the "Upper Silesian Industrial Region"
and the "Dabrowa Basin".
We are going towards the west, through a national polish road
nr 4 which is also an international road number E40.

General informations about D.G.

D.G it is a town situated in the eastern part of the Silesian
Upland, at an altitude of 260 to 370 metres above sea level.
The town has now about 140000 inhabitants
and an area of 177 sq km.
Two rivers flow through the territory of the town:
the Czarna Przemsza in the west and Biala Przemsza in the east.

The old and central part of the town lies in the Czarna
Przemsza valley, but the present territory of the town extends
from the Czarna Przemsza river in the west to the Biala Przemsza
river in the east.

The center of the town lies about 22 km from the capital
of voivodship - Katowice, and 65 km from the old capital
of Poland - Cracow.

Till the first world war Dabrowa was a big industrial village.
Dabrowa was given civic rights in 1916 by Austrians.

(
The full name of the town comes from 1918.
Earlier its name was Dabrowa.

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On the emblem of Dabrowa there are: an eagle, three acorns
and a hammer.

The climate of the town is similar to that of whole Upper Silesia
and is typically temperate
(with an average temperature of 8 degree
and an anual precipitation of 650-750 mm.)
An average temperature of January is -3 degree and of July +18 degree.
Winds, mainly from the west and South west, are rather weak
and can't effectively clear the town of the dust and smoke.
An environment pollution is high as a result of big industria-
lisation.

D.G is a great industrial centre, espacially a mining
and metallurgical centre.

The latest, big development of the town was connected with
the building of the steelworks "Huta Katowice",
which began in 1972.

Much of surrounding localities were incorporated
to Dabrowa, after 1975, for example:

Strzemieszyce, Zabkowice, Losien, Leka, Okradzionow,
Sikorka, Tuczawa, Ujejsce, Bledow with the Bledow Desert.

New housing esates have been built and the communication system
has been modernized.

The area of this town has been much increased.

The length of the town from the west to the east is about 25 km.

The principal plants in Dabrowa Gornicza are follows:

The Steelworks "Huta Katowice"

Steelworks "Bankowa"

Coking plant "Przyjazn" - "Friendship"

Coal Mine "Paryz"

Factory of Chemistry "Pollena Strem" in Strzemieszyce,

Micro Steelworks "Mikrohuta" in Strzemieszyce - the branch
of the Steelworks Baildon

Dabrowa Repair Works for the Coal Industry -
Dabr. Z-dy Napr. Przem Węgl.

Dabrowa Factory of Machines Tools - "Defum" -
Dabr. F-ka obrabiarek

Repair Productive Works of Electric Machines "Damel" -
Z-dy Remont. Prod. Maszyn Elektr. "Damel"

Glassworks "Staszic"

Glassworks in Zabkowice

Dabrowa Meat Works

Strip Pit (Mine) of Filling Sand "Kuznica Warezynska"

Plastic Works "Zabkowice ERG"

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Branch of Clothing Plant from Bytom - ZPO
Enterprise of Industrial Building - Przeds. Bud. Przemysł
Enterprise of Industrial Instalation "Instal"

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Short history of the town

The name Dabrowa was mentioned in the books of Siewierz Starosty, dating from 1755 but traces of settlements are of a much earlier date. In the middle ages were known such localities as Golonog i Strzemieszyce, Bledow, Okradzionow, Losien - earlier than Dabrowa.

Dabrowa existed on maps dating from 15th century, beyond boundaries of Siewierz principality.

In 1795, after the third partition of Poland, Dabrowa was included to Prussia as New Silesia.

After the Vienna Congress, since 1815 to 1915 Dabrowa belonged to the Polish Kingdom, so it was in the Russian sector of partitioned Poland.

The development of Dabrowa and many neighbouring settlements was connected mainly with a coal mining and a metallurgical industry.

Dabrowa Gornicza is the cradle of the mining industry in the Dabrowa Basin.

The first coal mine "Reden" was founded in 1796, when Dabrowa belonged to Prussia after the third partition of Poland.

Stanislaw Staszic as a manager of Mining and Culture of Polish Kingdom, contributed very much to the industrial development of the Dabrowa Basin.

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In 1825 the coal mine "Ksawera" was started and in 1833 the mine "Hieronim".

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In 1839 the the first steelworks "Bankowa" was built.

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It was the first coke-based iron-works in the Polish Kingdom. At the second half of the 19th coal mine "Paryz" was founded, and a mining school, named "Szttygarka" was established. In 1918 the town returned to Poland and was given a fool name "Dabrowa Gornicza". In 1961 a former town, Golonog was linked with Dabrowa Gornicza. For years ago, the Coke Plant "Przyjazn" was started. During the last 20 years the city was rebuilt and the communication system has been modernized.

The Dabrowa Basin

From the name of Dabrowa Gornicza, the name of geographic region - Dabrowa Basin was derived. The Dabrowa Basin contains the following towns: Sosnowiec, Bedzin, Czeladz and Dabrowa Gornicza. The rivers more important are: Czarna Przemsza, Biala Przemsza and Brynica. These rivers are not big and they flow in the south direction, to the greatest Polish river - Vistula.

The means of communication are well developed in the Dabrowa Basin. Main railways and important routes runs through its territory. There are principal railways like: Katowice-Warszawa, Katowice-Kielce, Czestochowa-Krakow. The principal routes are the following: Bytom - Krakow, Katowice-Krakow, Bielsko-Czestochowa, Katowice-Warszawa. The municipal communication is also well developed. Bus and tram routes are numerous.

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From the geological point of view, the Dabrowa Bassin area is built of Carboniferous, Triass and Quaternary formations. The Carboniferous formations contain numerous coal beds. There is a well known coal bed "Reden" in the region between Bedzin and Maczki. Its thickness is 15-20.

The industry of this region is very developed. It bases itself on the coal and other earth resources. Big steelworks, metallurgical, chemical and textil plants were also established.
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Interesting objects in Dabrowa:

The Palace of Culture is situated in the centre of the town. This is the biggest palace in the region. The palace accomodates the Labour Movement Museum. performed. On Krolowej Jadwigi street there is a large, parish, Neo-Gothic church of Our Angel Lady Mary. It's the minor basilica. At first the Saint Alexander church was bulit in 1877. Then the new church was built, in the years 1898-1912. The old church was included as a side chapel of the new church. The church has a high tower. Its height is 83 m. Four stained-glass window decorate the interior of the church.

On the area of the Coal Mine Paryz there is an interesting GEOLOGICAL RESERVE, with an natural outcrop of one of the thickest coal beds in the world. Its thickness is about 20 metres.

In the south quarter of the town, called Stara Dabrowa , buldings of the St.Staszic Mining School are situated.

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The first Mining school was established in 1889.
The front school building is an old palace of Mining Management.
On the square there is the statue of Stanislaw Staszic.
There is also the Geological Museum.

On the wall, at the entrance to the Steelworks Bankowa, there is a plaque commemorating 10 workers, who were murdered by Nazis in 1942.

In the Northern part of the town there are:
- the Culture Park - Zielona, on the Czarna Przemsza river.
- artificial lakes "Pogoria I, Pogoria II, Pogoria III".
On Pogoria I and Pogoria III, there are recreation centers with sandy beaches and bathing places.
On Pogoria I there are also camping sites.

On the west from Bledow the Bledow Desert is situated.
It is the unique and biggest accumulation of quicksand in Europe.
Bledow has a central position for interesting walking-tours.

In Okradzionow there is the gorge of the Biala Przemsza river.
That region was named "Switzerland of the Dabrowa Basin"

Route

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To the north from here, there are localities which were linked to Dabrowa Gornicza after 1975: Bledow, Okradzionow and the Bledow Desert.

The Bledow Desert

is the unique and biggest accumulation of quicksands in Europe, with an area of about 32 square km.

The desert lies on the borderland of the Silesian Upland and Krakow-Czestochowa Upland.

The thickness of sand layers reaches 50 m.

The Biala Przemsza river divides the desert into 2 parts:

the northern one in Czechow environs and south one in Klucze environs.

The green flora at banks of the river makes an impression an oasis on a desert.

The mirage "fata morgana" was seen there.

There is a big sand mine for coal mines and a field for scientific researches. During the second world war it was an exercise field for German Africa Korps.

We can meet there different typical desert plants.

Only there we can meet the unique plant - "warzucha polska" which is the curiosity of the Bledow Desert.

Bledow, has a central position in the desert region for interesting walking-tours.

Okradzionow has a very attractive position, because there is a gorge of the Biala Przemsza river.

The river faces with ground obstacles and changes its direction from parallel into meridional.

This region was named "Switzerland of Dabrowa Basin".

It used to be a recreation region.

In Krzykawka, which is situated to the north from Slawkow, there is the Monument of colonel Francesco Nullo.
Francesco Nullo, was the commander of the Foreign Legion, during January Uprising, and was killed there by Russians, in 1963, in the battle.

Strzemieszyce

We enter now Strzemieszycze, the district of Dabrowa Gornicza since 1975.

On the right there is Strzemieszycze Male.

To the left and in front of us lies Strzemieszycze Duze.

Strzemieszycze Duze received civic rights in 1954.

In 1973 Strzemieszycze Male were incorporated into Strzemieszycze Duze.

Strzemieszycze was known in the middle ages as a mining centre.

In the 14th century (in 1362) stayed here the emperor Karol 4th, during his travel to Cracow.

Here stayed also the Polish king Jan Sobieski, before his Vienna campaign.

In the middle ages, a custom house existed here in the Sulno district. It collected salt duties.

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In 1820 the mine of galman "Anna" was founded here and later the mine Barbara.

Also zinc ores for the works Konstancy in Dabrowa were mined here.

Lime ores were extracted from neighbouring hills.

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In 1848 the railway "Warsaw-Viena" was built and in 1880 another one, so called "Ivanograd railway" from Sosnowiec to Deblin was erected.

Strzemieszycze has become an important railway junction.

On the left side there is a filling station.

This station sells: petrol (gasoline) and diesel oil.

On the right there is the Coke plant "Przyjazn", what means friendship. It was started in 1988.

Above the road we can see a conveyor, which transport Iron-ore, from railway station in Slawkow to the Steelworks Katowice.

To the north direction, about 1 km from here lies the Steelworks Katowice.

The Steelworks "Huta Katowice:

It is the largest metallurgical complex in Poland.

Its area is about 2000 ha.

It is a raw material Steelworks with a closed production cycle.

First of all rolled goods (wares) are produced here like:

- slabs (kesiska plaskie),
- blooms (kesiska kwadratowe),
- bars (prety),
- shapes (kształtowniki),
- sectioned rails (szyny).

Principal objects are follows:

- the Sintering Plant / Agglomerating Plant (aglomerownia),
- Blast Furnaces (wielkie Piece),
- Basic Oxygen Steel Plant (stalownia)
- Blooming and Slabbing Mill (walcownia zgniatacz),
- Medium Rolling Mill (walcownia srednia)
- Heavy Rolling Mill (walcownia duza)

Actually about 5 millions tons of steel per year is produced and a "Continuous Casting Steel Plant" is erected.

Our road overpass the viaduct over the railway tracks. Under our road there are railway tracks from Zabkowice to Szczakowa.

To the left of the road there is the railway station Dabrowa Poludniowa, and to the right the factory of chemistry "Strem". It has worked since 1885.

On the left the centre of the district is situated. There is the Sacred Holy Heart church, the school Complex: (Secondary school and Medical secondary school), housing estates and the railway station D.G.Strzemieszyce.

There is a crossing with railway tracks Strzemieszyce-Golonog via/through Huta Katowice. On the right we see lime hills.

On the left side there is "Sulno", a former village of custom-house officers. In the middle ages the custom house existed here. It collected salt duties.

Now we see the Micro-Steelworks - a branch of Steelworks Baildon.

Now we enter the Golonog district. We are approaching to the crossroads with the highway from Bielsko to Czestochowa. One must take the first turn, when he wants to go towards Czestochowa or to Steel-works Huta Katowice and the second one to drive to Bielsko. The Steelworks "Huta Katowice" is about 3 kms from here.

Our road leads through a forest. Forest in this region are dominated by the pine and the birch. This forest is often used for walking. Beyond this forest, to the north, the center of Golonog is situated.

Now we see the next crossroads. To the left the road leads to Golonog and to the right to Kazimierz Gorniczny. Kazimierz Gorniczny, is actually a district of Sosnowiec. About 2 km from here there is a sport and recreation centre with a swimming pool.

Golonog

Golonog was known earlier and was more important than Dabrowa in the middle ages. Golonog was already mentioned in documents from 1326 and later was quoted by the well known historian Jan Dlugosz. Golonog received its name from a hermit, who lived there several ages ago on the hill, and to mortify the flesh, he was always barefoot.

Golonog was a big bishop village with an inn. There stayed reach polish gentlemen, on the way to Italy.

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A long time ago there was a wooden church-chapel, on the Golonog hill, where the cemetery chapel is situated today.

In the center of there is a hill, which lies 335 m above sea level and is the highest point in Dabrowa Gornicza.

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On Golonog hill, in 1673, the cracovian bishop Andrzej Trzebicki has built the "Saint Anthony church".

The first mine was founded in Golonog in 1875. Its name was Flora. In 1945 it was connected to the Paryz mine.

In 1961 Golonog was incorporated into Dabrowa Gornicza. Intensive development of this quarter and the whole Dabrowa Gornicza was caused by the foundation of the Steelworks Katowice after 1972.

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Many new big housing estates have been built :
for instance: Kasprzaka, Tysiaclecia, Morcinek, Sikorski.
There are also big skyscrapers and trade centres.

Dabrowa Gornicza

We enter now the proper old Dabrowa Gornicza.
On the right there is an allotment.
On the left the Staszic settlement.
There are private houses, workshops, repair works etc.
The parallel road on our left side, it is the old route Krakow - wroclaw.
To the right we can see the Christ king church.
The road on the right leads to Golonog and to the Mickiewiczza
settlement.
There is the Glassworks Staszic on the left and
the "Dabrowa Repair Works of Coal Industry" on the right.

In front of us there is a fork of the road.
The route to Bytom via Bedzin turns right.
The route to Katowice via Sosnowiec runs straight ahead.

On the nearest crossroads the main route to wroclaw turns right
and passes through the centre of Dabrowa Gornicza.

Sosnowiec - Zagorze

To the left Sosnowiec begins.
This is one of his new districts - Zagorze.
To the left there is the Factory of Electric Engines "SILMA"
in Zagorze.

Dabrowa

There is a main crossroad in Dabrowa.
To the left, the road leads to Myslowice, via Zagorze, Niwka.
To the right the route leads to the center of town and to Golonog.
The old route to Bytom passes straight via Legiony Polskie
street, former 27 Stycznia street.

If we went straight through the old route to Bytom,
we would see:

- a filling station,
- the secondary school "Zeromski Liceum",
- buildings of Mining School,
- the small St Barbara church,
- new settlements "Mydlisce"
- and a municipal hospital.

We turn right into Aleja Roz street.
To the left is a central park, and an emergency corps
(first aid post, ambulance service),
On the right side there is a "housing estate".
There is an outpatients department, an elementary school,
a chemists shop and a department store "Merkury".

In front of us there is a crossroads - a roundabout.
Under the rondo the pedestrian subway is situated.
(There are 7 pedestrian subways in Dabrowa.)
The road on the right leads to the Steelworks "Huta Katowice".
On the right we see the Golonog hill and the Saint Anthony
church.

We turn left and now we are going through the Krolowej Jadwigi
street.
On the left there is a Complex of Professional schools.
The first building houses school workshops.

On the right, we see a beautiful, high church.
It is the parish, Neo-Gothic church of "Our Angel Lady Mary",
famous of graces.

It's the pro-basilica.
 The church was built in the years 1898-1912.
 The old St Alexander church was included as side chapel to this church.
 It is a neo-gothic basilica with 3 naves, (a transept) and a side chapel.
 Inside at the altair there is a crowned statue of Angelic Our Lady Mary.
 In 1957 Our Angelic Lady Mary was announced the patron of Dabrowa.
 The statue was crowned in 1968 by cardinals: Wyszynski, Wojdyla and bishop Barela.
 The church has polichromy and commemorating plates.
 Stained-glass window decorate the interior of the church.
 The church has the 83 m high tower.
 Close to the church, two statues of Our Lady are situated.
 This church is result of efforts of the well known priest Grzegorz Augustynik. He was a priest with a big heart and mind.
 He established an Association of Christian workers.

We are approaching to the centre of town - so known downtown.
 In front of us we can see a big square.
 On the right side, we have a restaurant and at the corner a book shop.
 On the left there is a taxi stand/rank, a big block-house and a department store "Centrum".
 Further we can see also a central park.

On the right the the Palace of Culture is situated.
 This is the biggest palace in this region.
 It was erected in 1957.
 The palace accomodates the "Museum of Labour Movement".
 Theatre plays and other shows are also there performed.
 On a square there is a monument.
 This monument was named earlier "the Red Banners Heros Monument".

Here are bus stops, tram stop and newspaper stands.
 We pass a central crossroads. Under there is a pedestrian subway.

The perpendicular road is the Kosciuszki street.
 The road on the left leads to Myslowice.
 The road on the right runs to D.G. railway station, and further to the Culture Park Zielona and to artificial lakes Pogoria.

At the left corner there is a post office.
 On the right side there is a park, a police station and the Steelworks Bankowa.

On the left side of the street we can see many shops.
 The first this is a haberdasher shop.
 Close to it there is the restaurant "Astoria".
 Then there are: baker's shop, confectionary, department store with children's shop, grocer's shop, shoe shop.
 (
 There are food stores, department stores, grocery stores, shoe store, pastry shop, vegetable store, fish store, dairy, confectionary, clothes shop.
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On the left there is the 3 Maja street, the main commercial street, with shops and offices.
 Here is an another tram stop and over it we see "an overground passage".
 On the left side there is a clothing store, electric shop, shoe shop, butchers, book shop, jewlery, florist, stationer, photographer.

On the right the bidings of the Steelworks Bankowa are situated,
 It was the greatest steelworks in Dabrowa Basin.
 It was also the first steelworks based on coal, in the Polish

Kingdom.

This is a building of the Management. There is also a car salon. On the wall, at the entrance to the Steelworks Bankowa, there is a plaque commemorating 10 workers, who were murdered by Nazis in 1942.

The cross on the left was removed in 1972 and placed again thanks to efforts of Trade Union "Solidarity".

There is another tram stop with an underground passage and a crossroads with Szopena Str.

On the left corner of the perpendicular road we can see a beautiful wooden building.

It houses a first class restaurant "Hubertus".

I can recommend it to you.

On the right, the coal mine Paryz is situated.

There is an interesting geological reserve, with a natural outcrop of one of the thickest coal beds in the world.

Its thickness is about 20 metres.

The mine was erected in the 70th years of the 19th century.

The mine belonged to a French company and this is why it has such a name.

After the last world war, till 1990 its name was Gen.Zawadzki.

In front of us we see a tramway loop.

Tramway nr 25 leave from here to Wojkowice and nr 28 to Huta Katowice.

On the left there is a new big housing estate "Mydlisce" at Legiony Polskie str, and a municipal hospital.

Now we are approaching to the boundaries of Bedzin.

Thank you very much for your attention.