



Centrum
Europejskich Inicjatyw
Edukacyjnych

CEIE

WALK GREEN STAY HEALTHY

WALKING ACTIVITY NO 01

INTRODUCTION:

Łódź, the former textile industry empire, today is a city of modern technologies, creative enterprises and grand events. It is a metropolis where a landscape of industrial architecture mixes with silhouettes of office buildings, production halls, culture and sports buildings.

As some people say Łódź can be called as a stepsister of NYC, as they have much in common. Both cities experienced their fastest growth in the 19th century, both have grid street plans in their centers. Furthermore, both cities use post-industrial buildings as apartments and art galleries. Last but not least both cities are excellent film settings – about 250 films have been shot in Łódź.

Łódź offers a number of entertainment and recreation venues. At famous Piotrkowska street many events and celebrations take place. You can find here also a plenty of pubs and restaurants. Those who like green areas can spend their time in one of over 30 parks, in Botanic Garden or simply go to Łagiewniki - the biggest urban wood in Europe. Łódź and its area is widely spoken of and you need to see it on your own, to know what it really is!!

THE ADVENTURE:

The first walking activity is planned to be the one related to **INTER-GENERATIONAL CULTURAL WALK FOR HEALTH – EXPLORING THE HIDDEN BEAUTY OF OLD ŁÓDŹ**. This activity aims to make participants aware of the history of the city, its legends, symbols, most famous manufactureres and their heritage.

The walking activity will start at the permises of Wyższa Szkoła Biznesu i Nauk o Zdrowiu which is situated in post-factory building on Piotrkowska street. Starting from there participants will walk to the first cultural attraction which will be **THE OPEN AIR MUSEUM OF WOODEN ARCHITECTURE**. The idea of creating the Open-air Museum of Wooden Architecture appeared in the late 50s and the beginning of the 60s last century. Its originator was Krystyna Kondratiuk, the director of the museum. The museum itself waited to be built for almost half a century. However, at the beginning of the 21st century there opened up the possibility of obtaining funds from the European Union. The construction was about to commence. First, there was the selection of a proper place, and Reymont's park located at the rear of the Central Museum of Textiles was chosen for this purpose. In 2002, two architects from Wrocław - Anita Luniak and Teresa Mromlińska - won the competition to design the museum. The construction lasted from September 2006 till the end of May 2008.

In the museum, there are eight buildings typical for architecture in Łódź from the late nineteenth/early twentieth century. They were carefully selected, so that they could fully represent the old architecture of the city. Among them there are: a church, a summer villa, a two-storey house for working-class families, a tram waiting hall, and four craftsmen houses. The buildings are arranged along two cobbled streets converging at the church. Particular attention has been given to the stylized landscaping elements such as lamps, the well, signs with street names, etc.

Next to the museum there is **THE WHITE FACTORY** which was built between



1835-1839 in classical style for Ludwik Geyer, Łódź's greatest tycoon of that time. In 1839, as the first textile plant in Łódź, it was equipped with a steam engine. Nowadays, the building houses Central Museum of Textile Industry, which is famous for organizing the International Triennial of Tapestry – the oldest and greatest world exhibition of contemporary textile art. It is Central Europe's first interactive museum of textile, which uses the latest technology. The museum offers attractions for customers of all ages - nearly 100 interactive applications, including numerous films and animations. The visitors are greeted by the manufacturer Ludwik Geyer himself, who invites them to work in his factory. Participant will have the opportunity to interact with the selected virtual exhibits of the Central Museum of Textiles, as well as familiarize themselves with the history of the textile industry and the Geyer family which hides many secrets. They will be shown different types of fabrics and weaves, and the clothes that people wore in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Furthermore, the participants will see the steam engine and the jacquard, animated via modern technology. The stay in the museum will be even more attractive with the broad range of multimedia games and quizzes. One will be able to arrange tapestry from puzzles, embroider patterns on a napkins, or classify raw materials for the production of textiles. Participants will also have the opportunity to design their own fabrics and present them on a special touch table. Those who like physical activity will be given a chance to play a match with a ball of yarn or pick cotton. The knowledge acquired during the tour can be verified through a series of short quizzes. The participants will also have a chance to send a virtual postcard with their own picture in the White Factory.

Heading North participants will walk through lower **PIOTRKOWSKA STREET** which is 4.2 km long, what makes it the longest promenade in Poland and the longest shopping street in Europe. It is representative street of Łódź city running longitudinally in a straight line between the Freedom Square (Plac Wolności) and Independence Square (Plac Niepodległości). From the very beginning, the street was the central axis around which the city was being built, and its development spontaneously influenced the current shape of the city center. Initially, the street was mostly used for road traffic, but later it turned into an entertainment and shopping center. Due to its unique buildings the street has been entirely inscribed into the register of monuments. Along the street there are old houses, industrialists' palaces and villas, churches and memorials including Gallery of Great Citizens of Łódź and Monument of Łódź Citizens of Millennium Change in the shape of setts with cast iron tables commemorating names of donator. Turning right into Tymienieckiego street participants will be shown:

Tytus Kopisch's Bleachery

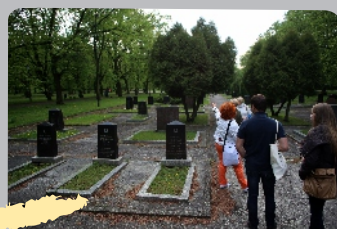
The building was constructed between 1828 and 1829. Known as Kopisch's bleachery, it in fact formed a part of a bleaching plant and served as residential premises for Tytus Kopisch himself. It is one of the oldest buildings in industrial Łódź classical in form, with a centrally placed triangular pediment. Today the building houses the Łódź City Office and in its interior, parts of the original wooden structure have been preserved.

The Scheiblers' Power Station

The power station was built in 1910 according to a design by engineer Alfred Frisch. It powered all the facilities within the industrial empire of the Scheiblers, and is a rare example of an Art Nouveau industrial building. Inside, the features of most interest are the tiles with floral motives, geometric stained-glass windows and a coffer reinforced concrete floor-ceiling assembly. Part of the original equipment has been preserved, including an AEG turbine dated 1938. The power plant was closed in 2003 due to its lack of compliance with environmental standards. A climbing wall was located here for a few years, but nowadays the building is used occasionally for various cultural events.

Scheibler Factory Warehouses

The area of Karol Scheibler's former industrial complex was constructed over the 1880s and 1890s. The warehouses situated near the bleachery and the finishing shop were used



to store textile products. Between the buildings one can still see the remains of a railway siding belonging to the Scheiblers. Nowadays, the buildings house the Łódź Art Center and Fabryka Sztuki (Factory of Art), while their industrial atmosphere fosters various artistic and cultural projects. One of the most important projects conceived and carried out by the LodzArt Center is “Łódź– European Capital of Culture 2016”.

Later we will stop at the **JOHN PAUL II CATHEDRAL SQUARE** to see symbolic Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and two statues of John Paul II and Rev. Ignacy Skorupka. The group will also visit the **SAINT STANISLAV KOSTKA'S CATHEDRAL**.

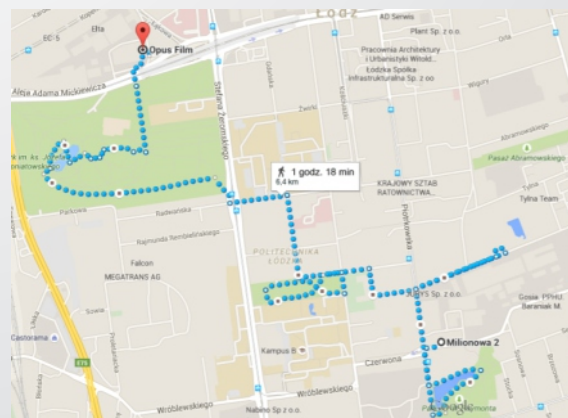
Walking from the Cathedral Square to the Poniaowski's Park the group will admire the **REINHOLD RICHTER'S VILLA** which is one of the most beautiful examples of industrialists' villas from the 19th century. **THE PONIATOWSKI'S PARK** which was created in 1910 at the initiative of the city authorities, in the area of the former municipal forests, reaching much further to the north than the current park. This is one of the largest and most beautiful parks in Lodz. The plan of the park combines the elements of natural English park and French park, shaped by a gardener's hand. In the park, there are 14 trees indicated as natural monuments, and the entire park is entered into the register of monuments. A special attention should be attributed to, among others: Pagoda trees, black hawthorns, Swedish whitebeams, savin junipers. On 15 October 2008, a bicycle track, equipped with the so-called jumps and sections, was opened in the north-eastern part of the park.



The last stop on our way will be **THE JULIUSZ KINDERSMANN'S FACTORY** located on Łąkowa street. The massive, three-storey spinning mill building was constructed in 1897 and is surrounded by high towers topped with battlements, with the whole recalling medieval defensive architecture. The top of the central part of the building is engraved with some key information, including the year the factory was constructed. Later, at the far end of the property, the low building of the weaving mill was added, with an interesting Art Nouveau front elevation. At the moment the former cotton mill houses the Focus hotel, and there are plans to create a conference centre in the former weaving mill.

THE SUMMARY:

The distance of the walk is about 6,4 km and the duration should be about 1 h 20 minutes. But this is not what will be happening. Our walking activity will last for about 4 hours with all the stops and visits. We will enjoy the weather, great company of all the participants and have a wonderful rest in the park.



Translation source: www.en.turystyczna.lodz.pl



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