

SPECTACULAR SLOVAKIA

# SLOVAKIA

TRAVEL GUIDE



INCLUDES  
PULL-OUT MAP

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# CONTENTS

How to use this guide **2**

Seven day itinerary **4**



Slovakia's TOP 10 **5**

History **6**

Changing Slovakia **12**

Personalities **16**

UNESCO **20**

## Sight by sight

Bratislava **26**

Bratislava Region **45**

Western Slovakia **60**

Central Slovakia **96**

Northern Slovakia **118**

Eastern Slovakia **166**

## Feature section

Castles **200**

Slovak art **204**

Folklore **209**

Gothic architecture **212**

Religion **214**

Wooden churches **216**

Jewish heritage **220**

Spas **223**

Wine **228**



Beer & Spirits **232**

Food **234**

Agritourism **238**

Animal watching **240**



Horses **242**

Cycling **245**

Rafting **249**

Hiking **252**

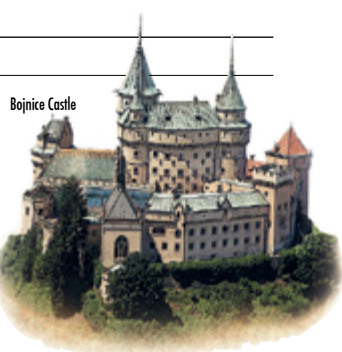
Caves **256**

Skiing **259**

Aqua **262**

Best deals **265**

Extreme - heights **268**



Speed, army **270**

Out of the city **272**

Luxury **274**

Golf **276**

Genealogy **280**

War **282**

Mines, technical monuments **285**

Industrial tours **288**

Economy **290**

## Basics for tourists

Language  
(inside front cover)

Souvenirs **294**

Events **294**

Travellers' needs **300**

Restaurants **302**

Index  
(inside back cover)

Pull-out map  
(inside back cover)





Bratislava's advantageous location on the banks of the Danube, and its close proximity to Vienna and Budapest, has made it one of the most important cities in central Europe for hundreds of years, especially during the period of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Indeed, the single most significant period in Bratislava's history was from 1563-1830, when it became the coronation city of the Hungarian Kingdom.

At the time, Bratislava was a well-developed, multilingual city, with a population comprised of a German-speaking majority and solid minorities of Hungarians and Slovaks. Society was divided into several classes: the upper aristocratic class provided the secular and ecclesiastical authorities, but the middle and lower classes remained strong,

## The centre of the kingdom

comprised as they were by the craftsmen and merchants crucial to the city's business development, as well as servants and manual labourers. There were many job opportunities in Bratislava and in local vineyards, and it attracted workers from far and wide.

### CAPITAL OF THE EMPIRE

Bratislava's fame rapidly grew after the Battle of Mohács in 1526, when Sultan Suleiman I defeated King Louis II of Hungary. In the aftermath of the battle, the Ottoman army occupied the Hungarian capital Buda as well as



Small crowns mark the route of the coronation march in Bratislava

the primary coronation city of the kingdom, Székesfehérvár. In 1543, the displaced rulers of a newly founded empire made Bratislava its capital. While besieged by the Ottomans, it was never conquered.

In 1563, the new King Maximilian II became the first Hungarian monarch to be crowned in St Martin's Cathedral in Bratislava, and the church would continue to serve the same function for nearly 300 years. Even today, it still has a 300 kilogramme gilded copy of St Stephen's crown (the Holy Crown of Hungary) at the top of its cathedral tower.

After the era of coronations in Bratislava ended, the crown jewels were moved from the city. At the moment, the original crown is in Hungary, while Bratislava has only a copy.

The gothic St Martin's Cathedral is now one of the most popular sites on the Bratislava tourist trail, and contains numerous fascinating artefacts in its main building and catacombs. There is a permanent exhibition of relics and liturgical objects that were once used in the coronation ceremonies, as well as a list on the cathedral wall of the 19 monarchs – ten kings, one queen and eight consorts – who were crowned there.

### MARIA THERESA

The only queen on the list is, of course, Maria Theresa, who was



Photo: Courtesy of Galéria mesta Bratislavy

Crowds packed the Bratislava streets for the coronation procession



The route taken by monarchs on their coronation day

- MONARCHS CROWNED IN BRATISLAVA**  
 1563 - King Maximilian II and his wife, Mary of the Spain  
 1572 - Rudolf II  
 1608 - Matthias II  
 1613 - Anne of Tirol, wife of Matthias II  
 1618 - Ferdinand II  
 1622 - Eleonora Gonzaga of Spain, second wife of Ferdinand II  
 1638 - Maria Anna of Spain, first wife of Ferdinand III  
 1647 - Ferdinand IV Habsburg  
 1655 - Maria Eleonora Gonzaga, third wife of Ferdinand III  
 1655 - Leopold I  
 1687 - Joseph I  
 1712 - Charles III  
 1714 - Elisabeth Christine of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, wife of Charles III  
 1741 - Maria Theresa  
 1790 - Leopold II  
 1808 - Maria Ludovika of Austria-Este, third wife of Francis II  
 1825 - Caroline Augusta of Bavaria, fourth wife of Francis II  
 1830 - Ferdinand V

crowned in 1741 and would become one of the most significant figures in central European history. Maria Theresa acceded to the throne after the death of her father, Charles VI, but only after he had successfully campaigned for what became known as the Pragmatic Sanction of 1713, which allowed a female to inherit the possessions of the Habsburgs. Although Maria Theresa took charge of the empire as it was still recovering from the plague epidemic of 1712, and her rule was blighted by conflicts in the region, including the war of Austrian Succession (1740-48) and the Seven Years' War (1756-63), her influence over the empire was largely positive. Bratislava, in particular, underwent a period of significant economic and social improvement. "Maria Theresa is interesting for being an enlightened ruler; she made several appealing changes," said the historian Pavel Dvořák. "For example, she introduced compulsory school attendance and forbade torture."

**MARCH THROUGH HISTORY**

These days, the royal history of

Bratislava is best remembered by the annual coronation march through the city, which remains as close as possible to the route taken by the Hungarian monarchs on their coronation day. The new monarch would have led a parade on foot through the streets, via the Main Square and past Maximilian's Fountain, which was placed there in 1572. The tour continued into the Franciscan Church, where the king or queen would confer on selected noblemen the prestigious Order of the Golden Spur. The procession would then proceed along Michalská Street

towards Michael's Gate, where the monarch would climb aboard a waiting charger and gallop to the coronation mound on the banks of the Danube. He or she would wave his sword to the north, east, south and west, promising to defend his kingdom from all directions. In those days, the route would have been covered by red canvas, which was torn down by citizens after the celebration.

Today's residents of Bratislava get to enjoy the festivities every year, in June, when actors play the parts of the courtiers and monarchs, dressed in period costume. "It is good that Bratislava remembers its history," said Dvořák. "A lot of buildings from that era have been demolished, such as the towns' gates, and old buildings have been replaced by new ones. There were even plans to bring down Bratislava Castle during the first republic [1918-1939]. This is why it is very important to recall the glorious times of Bratislava."

By Carmen Virágová



## BANSKÁ BYSTRICA

map E 3 ≈ 210 km / 131 miles (117 min) NE of Bratislava 🏠 80,003 📍 Námestie SNP 1, Banská Bystrica  
 ☎ +421 (0)48 415-5085; +421 (0)907 846-555 www.banskabystrica.sk 🚗 1.5 km / 0.9 mile E of centre  
 🗓 May: United Europe Jazz Festival; July: Outbreak Europe (Hip-Hop Festival); September: B. Bystrica Town Days; October: Bábárska Bystrica (festival of puppet theatre); December: Christmas market

The City under the Urpín mountain, as Slovaks refer to Banská Bystrica, was once along with Banská Štiavnica and Kremnica, one of the three wealthiest mining towns in central Slovakia. The history of the city is similar to that of other mining towns which were settled by German colonists. The first written mention of the town also relates to mining. In 1255 Hungarian King Béla IV granted a deed giving German settlers the right to mine gold, silver and other metals. The immense wealth arising from mining is still reflected in the architecture of the city, most notably in the town castle, the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, the old town hall, the remaining vestiges of the fortifications, and the main square. The square is flanked by gothic and Renaissance burgher houses and in its upper section, the leaning clock tower and the Marian column. Because of its unique architecture it was declared a preserved urban reserve in 1955, the first town so designated in Slovakia.

The town played a significant role in the Slovak National Uprising (SNP), when the armed resistance against the Nazi occupation ignited here on August 29, 1944. The SNP Museum, documenting the events of anti-fascist revolt, is also located in Banská Bystrica. Banská Bystrica is the capital of Banská Bystrica Region, and is the site of the Matej Bel University. Many factories and a rich cultural life continue to make Banská Bystrica lively and interesting. The city is also known for its brewery and beer named Urpiner.



Barbakan

Old Town Hall



### Mestský hrad (Town Castle)

Námestie Štefana Moyzeša, Banská Bystrica

### Kostol Nanebovzatia Panny Márie (Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary)

Námestie Štefana Moyzeša 1, Banská Bystrica

☎ +421 (0)48 412-4531

✓ exterior views only 🕒 Mon-Fri 12:00, 16:30 Sat 16:30 Sun 7:00, 8:30, 11:00, 16:30

### Matejov dom (House of Matej)

Námestie Štefana Moyzeša 20, Banská Bystrica

☎ +421 (0)48 412-5577

www.ssmuzeum.sk 🕒 Tue-Fri 10:00-18:00 Sat-Sun 14:00-18:00 🗓 Tue-Fri 9:00-17:00 Sat-Sun 13:00-17:00

☎ €2.5 🚶 🚰 WC

### Kostol sv. Kríža (Church of the Holy Cross)

Námestie Štefana Moyzeša

☎ +421 (0)48 412-4531 ✓ exterior views only

🕒 Mon-Sat 6:30 Sun 9:45

### Stará radnica - Pretorium (Old Town Hall)

Námestie Štefana Moyzeša 25, Banská Bystrica

☎ +421 (0)48 470-1613

www.ssgbb.sk ✓ Tue-Fri 10:00-17:00 Sat-Sun

10:00-16:00 ☎ €2 🚶 WC

### Barbakan (Barbican)

Námestie Štefana Moyzeša 26, Banská Bystrica

www.bystrickybarbakan.sk 🚶 WC

✓ Mon-Fri 12:00, 16:30 Sat 16:30 Sun 7:00

The Town Castle was once a church that was protected by fortifications and a moat. At one time Banská Bystrica was a prosperous mining town, and the castle was built to protect the income from precious metal mining. The castle was not built on a hill like most castles but was incorporated into the centre of the city. The castle was constructed around the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Its fortifications were extended several times and new structures were added.

Only about a quarter of the fortification walls have survived the rigors of time and battle, but there are many interesting nearby sites, including: the gothic House of Matej from 1479; the Slovak Church, also called the Church of the Holy Cross, from the late 15<sup>th</sup> century; the Renaissance Old Town Hall, called Praetorium; and the entrance gate with an impressive tower

(called the Barbican) from 1512.

Today the Old Town Hall houses exhibitions of the Stredoslovenská galéria (Central Slovak Gallery) and the House of Matej hosts a permanent exhibition about the history of the city prepared by the Stredoslovenské múzeum (Central Slovak Museum). In the Barbican there is a restaurant and a café.

The oldest part of the town castle is the Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. It was built by Germans in the 13<sup>th</sup> century in a late romanesque style and reconstructed in gothic in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century it was fortified. Initially a cemetery surrounded the grounds, then later

a romanesque chancel house, which survived into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The main altar, the work of Master Paul of Levoča, was destroyed in a fire in 1761 and later replaced by a baroque piece. An altar dedicated to St Barbara, from Master Paul's workshop, completed in 1509, has been preserved. The frescoes of the saints and the original 1770 baroque vault as well as a late gothic sculpture of Christ on the Mount of Olives from the



Altar dedicated to St Barbara





1a Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary

House of Matej

1b

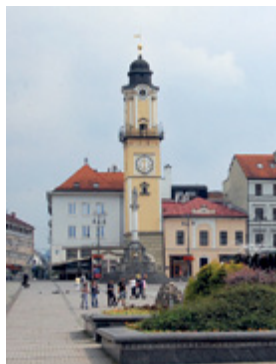
1c Church of the Holy Cross

early 16<sup>th</sup> century are worth seeing. The church continues to offer masses on a regular basis.

## 2 Hodinová veža (Clock Tower)

☑ Námestie SNP 24, Banská Bystrica ☎ +421 (0)48 415-5085 ✓ Mon-Sun: 10:00-19:00 🚻 €1

At the top of the square there is the yellow-fronted clock tower from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, which has two clock-faces and a narrow balcony beneath its black and gold domed cap. As a result of the collapse of a neighbouring building, the tower leans to the left by 68 centimetres in a rather disturbing manner. It offers a panoramic view of the town and surrounding valley. It was reopened after reconstruction in August 2014.

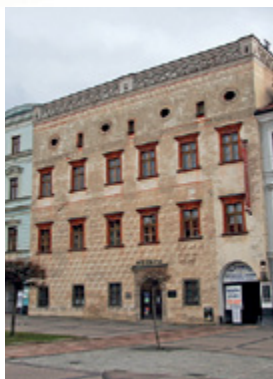


## 3 Thurzov dom (Thurzo's House)

☑ Námestie SNP 4, Banská Bystrica ☎ +421 (0)48 412-5897 🌐 www.ssmuzeum.sk 🕒 Tue-Fri 9:00-10:00-18:00 Sat-Sun 14:00-18:00 🌀 Tue-Fri 9:00-17:00 Sat-Sun 13:00-17:00 🚻 €2.5 🚻 WC

Some of the burgher houses on the square are decorated with stucco and sgraffito façade. One of the most beautiful houses, the green-faced Thurzo's House,

contains the Stredoslovenské múzeum (the Museum of Central Slovakia). The house was the former headquarters of the Thurzo-Fugger copper mining company from 1492 to 1540. The exhibition on the history of Banská Bystrica includes a large collection of archaeological exhibits, mediaeval arms, coins, and copies of historical documents. A special place is devoted to gothic art, mining, guilds, and crafts.



## 4 Múzeum Slovenského národného povstania (Museum of the Slovak National Uprising)

☑ Kapitulská 23, Banská Bystrica ☎ +421 (0)48 412-3258; +421 (0)48 245-1124; +421 (0)918 899-430 🌐 www.muzeumsnp.sk ✓ May-Sep: Tue-Sun 9:00-18:00; Oct-Apr: Tue-Sun 9:00-16:00 🚻 €2 🚻 WC

The distinctive grey building, designed by Dušan Kuzma and completed in 1969, is divided into two parts connected by a bridge. The gap represents the Slovak National Uprising (SNP) as a milestone in the life of the Slovak nation during World War II. Slovakia was a satellite of Nazi Germany when on August 29, 1944 the SNP erupted into a revolt against the Nazis. Despite the uprising being suppressed in late October 1944, Slovakia ultimately changed sides and ended the war on the side of the Allies.

Today, the museum houses a permanent exhibition devoted to crucial political and military events in Slovakia from 1918 to 1948. There is an open-air exhibition of military equipment, including a plane that airlifted supplies to the

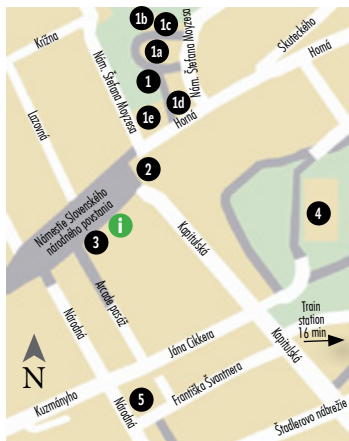


embattled partisans. A historical library that contains more than 20,000 volumes is also noteworthy.

## 5 Štátna opera (State Opera)

☑ Národná 11, Banská Bystrica ☎ +421 (0)48 245-7101 🌐 www.stateopera.sk ✓ depends on performances 🚻 depends on performances 🚻 WC

The State Opera resides in a building dating back to the 1920s and is based on a plan by prominent Slovak architect Emil Belluš. It has been named a national monument. The State Opera began as a branch of the Zvolen Theatre, but since 1993 it has been independent. It employs its own orchestra, soloists, choir, and a ballet ensemble. The repertoire focuses not only on well-known works such as Verdi's Macbeth and Puccini's Madame Butterfly, but also produces the work of its own Slovak composers. Since 1979, the State Opera has participated in the festival Zámocké hry zvolenské (Zvolen Castle Plays), an annual drama and opera festival that offers performances in the the yard of Zvolen Castle.





Poprad ☎ +421 (0)907 886-644 [www.jasna.sk](http://www.jasna.sk)  
**Cableways Jasná Biela Púť - Chopok**  
 ☉ Jun, Sep: Mon-Sun 8:30-16:00; Jul-Aug: Mon-Sun 8:30-17:00 ☉ Mon-Sun 8:30-15:00 📍 from €13  
 🏠 WC  
**Srdiečko - Chopok juh (south)**  
 📏 91 km / 56.3 miles (75 min) SW of Poprad  
 ☎ +421 (0)907 886-644 [www.jasna.sk](http://www.jasna.sk)  
**Cableways Srdiečko - Kosodrevina**  
 ☉ Jun, Sep: Mon-Sun 8:30-16:30; Jul-Aug: Mon-Sun 8:30-17:30 ☉ Mon-Sun 8:30-15:30  
**Cableways Kosodrevina - Chopok** ☉ Jun, Sep: Mon-Sun 8:30-16:00; Jul-Aug: Mon-Sun 8:30-17:00 ☉ Mon-Sun 8:30-15:00 📍 €13 🏠 WC

The Low Tatras are extremely popular during the winter. The Jasná resort is the largest ski centre in Slovakia, offering 45 kilometres of slopes with 30 lifts. From the northern edge (Chopok sever), visitors can pass through the ridge into the Low Tatras and ski on the southern slopes (Chopok juh). Some skiers may choose the less confined slopes for free-riding on more daunting courses. Ski passes of two or more days also include access to the aquapark Tatralandia, which is 20 kilometres from Jasná.

The cable cars operate all summer for hikers. The southern face of the Low Tatras in central Slovakia offers less expensive skiing. Centres in Mýto pod Dumbierom ([www.skicentrummyto.eu](http://www.skicentrummyto.eu)) or in Tále ([www.tale.sk](http://www.tale.sk)), which are located in the valley under the Chopok, are popular for families. Donovaly ([www.parksnov.sk](http://www.parksnov.sk)), situated on the western edge of the Low Tatras with the Greater Fatra (Veľká Fatra), is also one of the most visited ski centres in Slovakia. During summer, Srdiečko is an

## 28 NÍZKE TATRY ★ (Low Tatras)

map E 3, F 3 📏 19-110 km / 12-68 miles (20-75 min) SW of Poprad [www.nizketatry.sk](http://www.nizketatry.sk)  
 Area: 1,242 km<sup>2</sup>; Highest point: Dumbier (2,043 m)



The second highest mountain range in Slovakia offers an experience that is quite different from what can be found in the High Tatras. The slopes of the Low Tatras are less precipitous and rocky than those of the High Tatras which actually makes them more suitable for skiing and hiking. The Low Tatras are the largest mountain chain in Slovakia and make up its biggest national park. They form an 80-kilometre border between the regions of

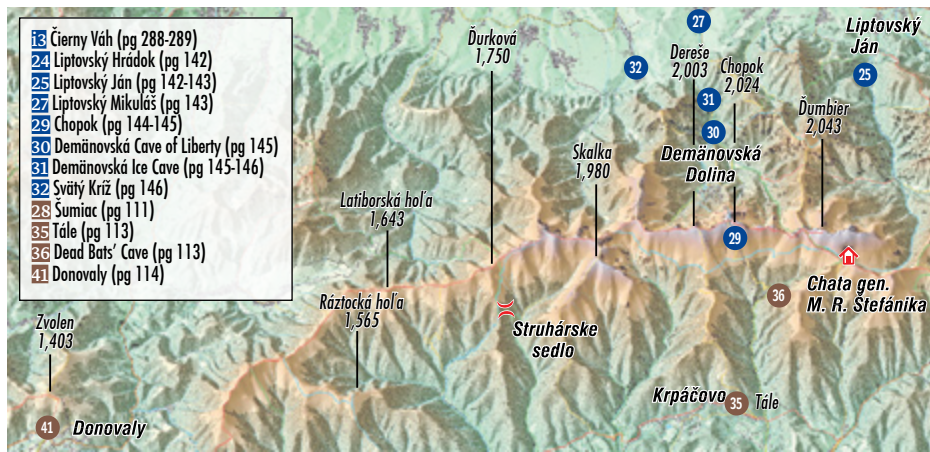
Horehronie (central Slovakia) and the Liptov region (northern Slovakia). Thus, the Low Tatras are bounded by the two longest rivers in Slovakia – the Váh and the Hron. Dumbier is its highest peak with a height of 2,043 metres / 6,703 ft, followed by Štiavnica (2,025 m / 6,644 ft) and Chopok (2,024 m / 6,637 ft). The highest peak in the western Low Tatras is Kráľova hola which rises up to a height of 1,946 metres / 6,385 ft. The mountains are home to a rich variety of wildlife – especially bears, wolves, and lynx. The Low Tatras also boast some unusual and interesting geologic formations, including huge limestone formations called limestone or karst as well as several large underground caves.



## 29 CHOPOK

Jasná - Chopok sever (north)  
 Map E 3 📏 73 km / 45.3 miles (52 min) SW of

- 13 Čierny Váh (pg 288-289)
- 24 Liptovský Hrádok (pg 142)
- 25 Liptovský Ján (pg 142-143)
- 27 Liptovský Mikuláš (pg 143)
- 29 Chopok (pg 144-145)
- 30 Demänovská Cave of Liberty (pg 145)
- 31 Demänovská Ice Cave (pg 145-146)
- 32 Svätý Kríž (pg 146)
- 28 Sumiac (pg 111)
- 35 Tále (pg 113)
- 36 Dead Bats' Cave (pg 113)
- 41 Donovaly (pg 114)



ideal starting point for hikes from central Slovakia to Chopok – it takes around three hours to get to the top. Hikers can take a break in the Kamenná chata pod Chopkom chalet, or they can continue on numerous other trails. For non-hikers there are cable cars from Srdiečko to Kosodrevina, then up to Chopok. The best way to reach the highest point of the Low Tatras, Ďumbier, from the southern side, is to make the hour and half hike from Trangoška (2 kilometres before Srdiečko) to the M. R. Štefánik chalet, passing around the Dead Bats' Cave. From the chalet it takes 90 minutes to Ďumbier. On the northern side, the cable cars from Jasná-Záhradky will take visitors almost to the top of Chopok. To go back down, use hiking trails or the cable cars. Jasná also offers hiking adventures for children. The Giant Bike Park Jasná is suitable for anyone keen on mountain biking. Bikes can be rented then the chair-lift will take them to the top of the hill. Other activities including paragliding and horseback riding are also available.



☞ The cave's entrance is about 400 metres from the car park ☎+421 (0)44 559-1673 www.ssj.sk ✓ Jan-May, Sep 15-Nov 25: Tue-Sun 9:30-14:00 (entrance every 90 min); Jun: Tue-Sun 9:00-16:00 (entrance every hour); Jul-Aug: Mon-Sun 9:00-16:00 (entrance every hour) ⚡ €8 ⚓ WC

The Demänovská Cave of Liberty is the most visited cave in Slovakia thanks partly to its location in the Demänovská Valley a popular tourist destination. The interior of the cave was created by the underground flow of the Demänovka River, whose headwaters spring below the main ridge of the Low Tatras. The cave is 8,497 metres long, and visitors can choose between a 1,150-metre and a 2,150-metre tour to see sinter water-lilies and other forms, as well as eccentric stalactites (stalactites hang upside down, as opposed to stalagmites, which grow from the ground up; eccentric means that they defy gravity by growing horizontally, for example). The

cave is known for its rich colours, ranging from white, through various shades of brown to black.

In the cave you can also see a 60-metre waterfall as well as a cave organ consisting of stalagmites that emit a musical tone when struck. All the formations are continuing to grow, or in cave parlance are alive, meaning they glisten. To get to the cave take the road from Liptovský Mikuláš to Jasná, walking about 15 minutes up from the parking lot.

**31 DEMÄNOVSKÁ LAVOVÁ JASKYŇA (Demänovská Ice Cave)**

map E 3 ⇨ 63 km / 39 miles (43 min) SW of Poprad 🚗 0.6 km / 0.4 mile W of the cave ☞ Demänovská Dolina, Lavová jaskyňa ☞ The cave's entrance is about 600 metres from the car park ☎+421 (0)44 554-8170 www.ssj.sk ✓ May 15- May 31, Sep: Tue-Sun 9:30-14:00 (entrance every 90 min); Jun: Tue-Sun 9:00-16:00 (entrance every hour); Jul-Aug: Mon-Sun 9:00-16:00 (entrance every hour) ⚡ 7 ⚓ WC

Photo: Michal Rengevič



**30 DEMÄNOVSKÁ JASKYŇA SLOBODY (Demänovská Cave of Liberty)** 🌟

map E 3 ⇨ 65 km / 40 miles (46 min) SW of Poprad 🚗 0.5 km / 0.3 mile W of the cave ☞ Demänovská Dolina, Jaskyňa Slobody





## 5 Dóm sv. Alžbety

### (St Elizabeth's Cathedral) ☀

city map page 169 📍 Hlavné námestie 3, Košice ☎+421 (0)55 622-1555 ✓ (the crypt+the stairs) Mon 13:00-17:45 Tue-Sat 9:00-17:45 Sun 13:00-17:45; (the tower) Mon 13:00-19:00 Tue-Thu 9:00-19:00 Fri-Sat 9:00-20:00 Sun 13:00-19:00 🕉 Mon-Sat 6:00, 7:00, 18:00 Sun 6:00, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 12:00, 15:00, 18:00 🚰 €1 (the crypt); €1.5 (the tower); €1 (the stairs) €5 (all parts + St Michael's Chapel) 🚰 (partly)

The northern entrance to the cathedral

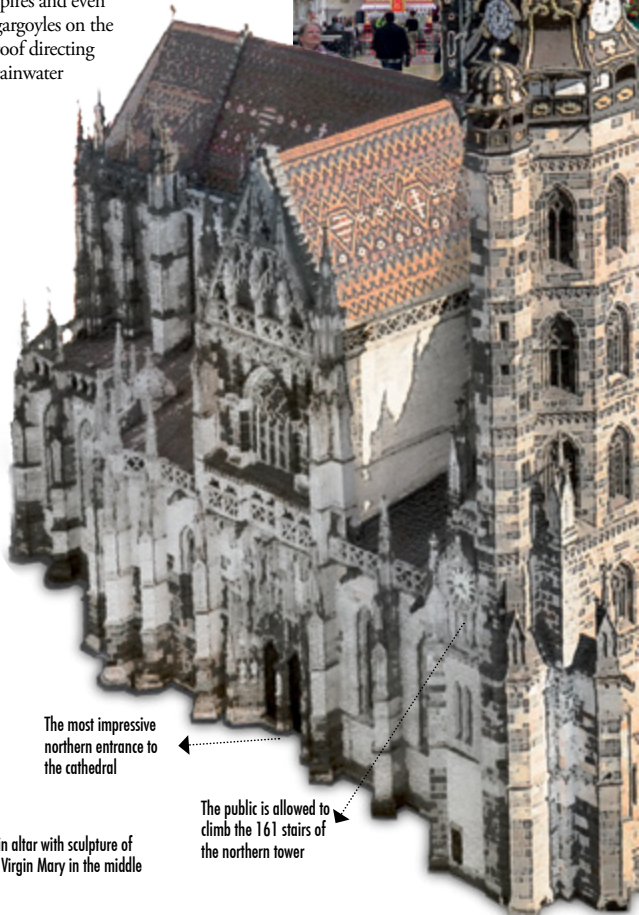


Dominating the south end of Košice's main square, St Elizabeth's Cathedral honours the city's adopted patron, St Elizabeth of Hungary, patron saint of bakers, homeless, nursing services, tertiaries, widows and young brides. The new cathedral, begun in 1378, was built on the site of the romanesque parish church dedicated to St Michael. Rather than alienate St Michael, a new gothic chapel was built in his honour in the shadow of the cathedral.

St Elizabeth's is a large gothic cathedral, 60 metres long and 36 metres wide, the largest in Slovakia and the leading example of this architectural style in eastern Europe. Featuring the highest dome of any Slovak church, the construction of a Košice skyscraper in recent years was abandoned because it would have been taller than St Elizabeth's. With room for more

than 5,000 worshippers, it took 130 years to build. During this time, construction was halted by various attacks on the city, only to be restarted as hostilities abated. The construction of the ambitious and expensive St Elizabeth's Cathedral clearly announced to all in the region the bold confidence and prosperity of mediaeval Košice, routing its leadership position among eastern European cities and its favoured status among Hungarian royalty. The investment clearly paid off as Košice assumed centrality in the region.

Rather than light and airy like later examples of gothic architecture, the building is imposing and overwhelming. There are two towers, one truncated and the other reaching nearly 60 metres. The public is allowed (and encouraged) to climb the 161 steps and view the entire region from the top. The exterior is all 14<sup>th</sup> century gothic, complete with dozens of decorative spires and even gargoyles on the roof directing rainwater



The most impressive northern entrance to the cathedral

The public is allowed to climb the 161 stairs of the northern tower



Main altar with sculpture of the Virgin Mary in the middle

away from the building. Legend has it that one of the gargoyles is a rather unflattering caricature of the builder's wife. Another legend – there is a keystone hidden someplace which, if removed, would cause the building to collapse, allegedly as an insurance policy guaranteeing the builder would be paid. The northern entrance to the cathedral is most impressive with its engravings of the Last Trial, scenes from the life of St Elizabeth, the Virgin Mary, the Apostle John, and the Calvary. In the middle is a sculpture of St Elizabeth.

The interior is even more impressive thanks to the main altar dedicated to St Elizabeth, which places it among the world's highest quality gothic art. According to art historian Peter Kresánek, it was created by Nikolaus Gerhaert von Leyden and his followers,

perhaps by the master himself. It consists of 48 paintings. However visitors cannot see all of them at once as they rotate seasonally. This gothic altar with a double rotating mechanism is one of two in the world (the second is in the French city of Colmar).



In the centre of the cathedral is a hanging sculpture of the Immaculata.

Other chapels include a late-gothic altar with depictions of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary, a wooden sculpture of the Virgin Mary, fragments of the wall painting the Last Judgement

the side altar of St Anthony of Padua, a wall painting The Resurrection, the bronze font, the altar painting of St Anna Metercia, and a gothic Calvary. There is also an impressive carved neo-gothic stone pulpit.

Two other highlights of the interior are not to be missed. One is a rare (there are only five) side-by-side carved marble spiral stairway leading up to the royal gallery (where visiting nobles could attend mass without mixing with the common folk) offering a hawk eye's view of the cathedral's central nave. One arm of the stairs continues up to the space where it is believed the relic of Christ's blood used to be preserved. The stairway, often called a lovers stair because it offers several meeting points along the way, is open to the public. Ask for a key at the shop next to the church entrance. The second highlight is the crypt where the remains of Francis II Rákóczi were moved in 1906. Rákóczi, a leader of the last anti-Habsburg uprising, was a much revered hero to the citizens of Košice.

#### **K** Kostol Sv. Michala (St Michael's Church)

city map page 169 Hlavné námestie 4, Košice  
 ☎ +421 (0)55 622-1555 Mon 13:00-18:00  
 Tue-Sat 9:00-18:00 Sun 13:00-18:00   
 Tue 15:00 Thu 15:00 Sun 9:30, 11:00 (in English)  
 € 1.5



When construction on the massive St Elizabeth's Cathedral was started in 1378, another building project, a small chapel dedicated to St Michael, was already complete. This architectural gem is a much better example of gothic architecture than its neighbour, no doubt because it was built so much more quickly, between 1350 and 1370.

Serving originally as a cemetery chapel, its lower part was an ossuary, housing bones uncovered in the old cemetery, and its upper part a site for requiems. On its altar is a sculpture of St Michael the Archangel battling Satan depicted as a dragon. In 2006, the award-winning reconstruction received reclassification as a full-on church. This was acknowledging that St Michael's served as a church for minorities from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century while the cathedral was reserved for the Hungarian-speaking population, which at that time was the majority in the city.



▶ The church is accessible from the west

▶ Entrance to the northern tower

▶ Central part of the cathedral with carved neo-gothic stone pulpit





Orava Castle is one of the most impressive castles in Slovakia

There are 138 small chateaus, 435 manor houses, and altogether 180 castles and chateaus in Slovakia.

#### TERMINOLOGY

**Castle (hrad)** — Fortified structure serving for defence purposes

**Chateau (zámok)** — Representative fortified structure more suitable for nobles

**Manor house (kaštieľ)** — Residence of nobility usually placed on a plain rather than on top of the hill

**Curia (kúria)** — Small chateau where low nobility used to live

#### CASTLES, CITY CASTLES & FORTRESSES

**1** Bratislava Castle

👁 page 40

**14** Pezinok Castle

👁 pages 51-52

**18** Červený Kameň Castle

👁 page 54



Bratislava Castle

## The rise and fall of Slovak castles

These days Slovakia is recognised as the world leader in car production per capita. What is lesser known is that this country also has the highest number of registered castles per person.

Theoretically, the country could be comprised of 180 small kingdoms of 30,000 people each with its own castle or chateau. Unfortunately, because of a lack of maintenance, there are just 120 castles with visible remains and even most of those are largely in ruins. For visitors, there are luckily still dozens of castles to tour replete with their majesty and cold beauty. As a mountainous country, Slovakia is naturally predisposed to castles that use the high ground and rocks as construction material. Starting in the Middle Ages and up to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the aristocracy of the Kingdom of Hungary preferred to build their castles in Slovakia's easy to defend territory, art historian Peter Kresánek says.

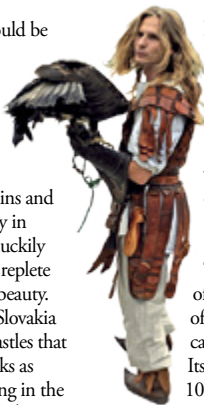
Most of those constructions turned to ruins as their military importance decreased and landowners sought out more comfortable residences. For a long time, few had a passion for castles and what was not destroyed over the years became construction material for nearby homes.

After the fall of the communist regime in 1989, more and more people have

shown interest in these magnificent constructions, and volunteer groups have formed to preserve and renovate castles.

#### IN THE BEGINNING

The story of Slovakia's castles begins in the 9<sup>th</sup> century when Slavs began building wooden fortresses in present-day Slovakia, with about a dozen stone castles replacing them in the 11<sup>th</sup> century – including in Bratislava, Nitra, and Trenčín. The best example of one of these constructions is one of the best-known Slovak castles – the Bratislava Castle. Its first mention dates to the 10<sup>th</sup> century, but the castle hill was inhabited also in the Celtic and the Great-Moravian era. Despite turbulent times, fires and lack of money for its maintenance Bratislava Castle has been preserved until today. It has been renovated and now stands proudly on a hill above the banks of the Danube. Indeed, Slovaks voted to make it one of the three symbols representing the country on their new euro coins, introduced in January 2009. Tartar raids in the 13<sup>th</sup> century brought about a period of consolidation in the Kingdom of Hungary's defence strategy, and by the end of the century, around



150 castles had been built or fortified to protect the area from further raids. Later, many castles became administrative centres or living quarters for Hungarian nobles. This period gave birth to the Orava Castle which is one of the most visited castles in Slovakia. It became part of cinematic history in 1922 when German director F. W. Murnau shot the silent vampire movie *Nosferatu* inside its walls.

## GOING BIG

More new castles were built and fortified during the 15<sup>th</sup>-century Hussite wars, this time taking into account firearms. In this era, Trenčín, Devín, and Spiš Castles became three of the biggest in Europe. Of all Slovakia's castles, the grand and gloomy Spiš Castle is probably the most celebrated. It is reputed to be the largest castle ruin in central Europe, and in its stony decay it seems to erupt out of the hill on which it is perched, as if the earth itself were trying to resurrect a lost gothic past. Perhaps that is why the castle was used in American movie *Dragonheart* as a castle by the sea, while in reality it is more than 600 kilometres from the nearest shoreline. One of the best preserved castles built in this era is the Kežmarok Castle, constructed in the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century. Today it is used as a museum that tells the history of both Kežmarok and the castle itself.

## OTTOMAN INVADERS

Another round of castle building took place after the Ottomans conquered lower Hungary in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



Slovak castles often offer re-enactment of history

By order of the ruler, castle walls like those at Viglaš, Filákovo and Krásna Hôrka were significantly extended. Also the Komárno Fortress was rebuilt according to Italian war engineer designs, becoming the strongest fortified construction of the Kingdom of Hungary. In 1594 the fortress resisted a month-long siege by an Ottoman army of 100,000 soldiers and later became a symbol of European military architecture.

But it is not only castles that were used in the fight against the Ottomans, even some monasteries were fortified and absorbed into the defence system.

Hronský Beňadik is an example. The abbey was first established in 1075, and the local monks were instrumental for centuries in spreading Christianity before the whole complex was fortified to face the Ottoman raids. The monastery was declared a national cultural monument in 1945.



The coat of arm of Pálffy family

## 12 Smolenice Castle

👁 page 67

## 28 Trenčín Castle

👁 page 72

## 29 Bojnice Castle

👁 page 76

## 36 Nitra City Castle

👁 page 84

## 46 Komárno Fortress

👁 page 90

## 02 Ilava Castle

Mierové námestie 1, Ilava  
✓ exterior views only (the building serves as a prison)

## 1 Banská Bystrica Town Castle

👁 page 98

## 2 Hronský Beňadik monastery

👁 page 100

## 5 Banská Štiavnica Old Castle

👁 page 102

## 5 Banská Štiavnica New Castle

👁 page 103

## 11 Zvolen Castle

👁 page 106

## 15 Viglaš Castle

👁 page 107

## 39 Slovenská Lupča Castle

👁 page 114

## 45 Kremnica Town Castle

👁 page 116

## 1 Červený Kláštor Monastery

👁 page 123

## 2 Stará Ľubovňa Castle

👁 page 124

## 8 Kežmarok Castle

👁 page 128

## 49 Oravský Podzámok Orava Castle

👁 page 152

## 69 Bytča Castle

👁 page 158

## 70 Žilina Budatin Castle

👁 page 160

## 8 Krásna Hôrka Castle

👁 page 178



Spiš Castle is impressive from the air as well as from the ground

## RUINS WITH EXHIBIT

### 3 Devin Castle

👁 page 44

### 20 Čachtice Castle

👁 page 70

### 22 Beckov Castle

👁 page 71

### 41 Levice Castle

👁 page 83

### 8 Bzovik

#### Kláštorná pevnosť Bzovik (Bzovik fortress)

www.muzeum.sk

☎ +421 (0)907 852-925 📍

Jun-Sep: non-stop 📖 booking  
necessary 🆓 free

### 19 Modrý Kameň Castle

👁 page 109

### 23 Filakovo Castle

👁 page 110

### 14 Spiš Castle

👁 page 134

### 24 Liptovský Hrádok Castle

👁 page 142

### 39 Likava Castle

👁 page 149

### 67 Strečno Castle

👁 page 157

## MANOR HOUSES WITH EXHIBIT

### 13 Dolná Krupá

👁 page 67

### 34 Oponice

👁 page 80

### 38 Topoľčianky

👁 page 81

### 61 Sobotíšte

#### Manor House

www.muzeum.sk

☎ +421 (0)34 628-2102 ✓ Tue,

Fri 12:30-18:00 Wed-Thu 10:00-

12:00, 12:00-16:00

🆓 €1

### 66 Brodzany

#### Manor House

www.snk.sk 🆓 €1

☎ +421 (0)907 812-770 ✓ Mon-

Fri 9:00-15:30 Sat 10:00-14:00

### 64 Jelenec

#### Manor House

www.forgach.org

📍 Hlavná street - Forgáčov dvor

☎ +421 (0)37 631-3311 ✓ Wed,

Sat-Sun 13:00-16:00 🆓 €1

### 65 Beladice

#### Manor House

www.tartuf.sk

📍 Pustý Chotár 495

☎ +421 (0)37 633-0235

✓ exterior views only 🆓 free



The Bojnice Castle is inspired by French chateaus in the Loire Valley

During the Ottoman wars in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, Slovak castles played a considerable role in the defence of the whole region which had become a

geopolitically important crossroad. Many travel books and publications written in those times describe Slovak castles, according to Kresánek. However, the stories were not only about heroic battles. For instance,

one famous legend recounts the exploits of Elizabeth Báthory. Otherwise known as the Blood Countess, this Hungarian aristocrat became notorious in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century as a serial killer who tortured and killed scores of young women – possibly up to 650 victims in her residence – Čachtice Castle. Many myths and legends have surfaced surrounding Báthory's crimes, most notably the claims that she bathed in her victims' blood in a bid to retain her youth. Whatever the truth, she has been the grisly inspiration for



Elizabeth Báthory

writers, playwrights, filmmakers, and artists from across the world. The list includes a song by the American thrash metal band Slayer or a 2008

English-language fantasy film of an international co-production between Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and the United Kingdom. It comes as no surprise that much of the small town museum in Čachtice focuses on Báthory.

## TWILIGHT OF THE CASTLES

Most of Slovakia's castles were destroyed after a series of anti-Habsburg

uprisings in the 17<sup>th</sup> century which ended in 1711. Because the castles were considered to be centres of rebellion, rulers decided to render them useless. The emperor's army systematically deprived them of their defence capabilities by destroying important parts of their walls, embrasures and other tactical structures. After that the castles were used as watchtowers and continued to decay. Some saw their prospects partially revived with new lives as more pleasant and luxurious chateaus, family residences or museums during the romantic period toward the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. For example, after the Thurzo family took over the Bojnice Castle in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, they promptly remade the heavily fortified defence structure into a Renaissance-style chateau. Later, János Pálffy, a wealthy heir and castle-



Polish crown jewels were hidden at Stará Lubovňa Castle

makeover enthusiast, gave the castle a late-Tyrolia gothic look. Mimicking the romantic chateaus of France's Loire Valley, the Bojnica Castle has become a wonderful destination for travellers with children. Rumours that the castle is haunted have led to the whimsical International Festival of Spirits and Ghosts, held annually in late April and early May.

The Pálffy family has also reconstructed the Červený Kameň Castle in an early baroque style. It now serves as a museum chronicling the development of the housing culture of the nobility and bourgeoisie in Slovakia. However, most of Slovak castles have not had such a happy ending. Many of



Cathedral dominates the Nitra Castle

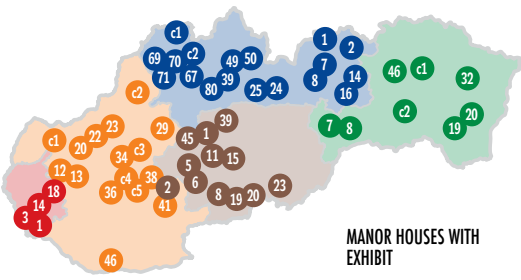
them burned down. Two castles outside Bratislava – Devín and Pajštún – were burned intentionally by Napoleon, after he had signed a peace treaty in 1805. Two more were lost in World War II. Another two were shaken to the ground by earthquakes.

The latest hit by fire was Krásna Hôrka, one of the most cherished and best-preserved castles in Slovakia. Most of the castle was destroyed in March 2012, and it needs serious reconstruction.

Other castles simply fell apart because of neglect. In the past, castles had no historical value to locals who let the structures crumble. Tragically, many destroyed the castles by using their walls as construction material for their own homes. Art historian Kresánek mentioned Bzovík Fortress as one which was partially looted by locals for its materials. "Foundation materials of the whole village of Bzovík have their



Bzovík is a former monastery rebuilt into a fortress



origin in romanesque-gothic parts of the monastery," Kresánek said.

## SAVING NATIONAL TREASURES

In the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century castles drew the focus of various tourism clubs and later the state. Many now serve as museums (Červený Kameň Castle, Modrý Kameň Castle, Kežmarok Castle), some have galleries (Bratislava Castle, Zvolen Castle), and the Ilava Castle was turned into a prison. Plenty of the castles remain a dominant feature of the towns and cities they are in, like Bratislava, Trenčín, Nitra, Zvolen, Kežmarok or Banská Bystrica. Moreover, dozens of chateaus were restored and are commercially used as restaurants or hotels. As time passes even ordinary people try to conserve or reconstruct



Restoration of castles is a leisure activity for many (Photo: Martin Sárossy)

damaged castles. For example, there were 24 castles maintained by civic associations and 36 by municipalities in 2014. Reconstruction work on castles became a sort of leisure time activity which could be enjoyed even by foreigners staying in Slovakia. (For more information go to pg 272.)

While the particular motivation for people who try to save castles varies, most agree that they cannot watch as a historical treasure vanishes. "I do care about people who do not know their history, which is richer than it appears," Rastislav Rybanský from the civic association renewing the Topoľčany Castle said. "I do care for sure about history decaying in front of my eyes."

By Roman Cupřik

## MANOR HOUSES WITH EXHIBIT

### 6 Svätý Anton

page 105

### 20 Dolná Strehová Kaštieľ Imre Madácha (Imre Madách Manor House)

www.snm.sk

Madácha 1 ☎ +421

(0)47 489-7189 ✓ Tue-Sun

10:00-17:00 ⚡ €2

### 7 Strážky page 126

### 16 Markušovce

page 136

### 25 Liptovský Ján

page 142

### c1 Radolfa

### Manor House

www.kysuckemuzeum.sk ⚡ €2

+421 (0)41 421-2505 ✓ Mon-

Fri 8:00-15:30 Sun 10:00-15:30

### c2 Ošadnica

### Manor House

www.kysuckagaleria.sk ⚡ €1

Ošadnica 13 ☎ +421

(0)41 433-2166 ✓ Tue-Fri

10:00-17:00 Sun 12:30-16:00

### 7 Belitár page 177

### 19 Trebišov page 183

### 20 Michalovce page 184

### 32 Humenné page 188

### c1 Hanušovce nad Topľou

### Manor House

www.muzeumhanusovce.sk

Zámocká 160/5

+421 (0)57 445-2371 ☎

Jul-Aug: Mon-Fri 7:30-18:00

Sat-Sun 14:00-18:00 ⚡ Mon-Fri

7:30-15:00 ⚡ from €2

### c2 Budimír; Manor House

www.stm-ke.sk

+421 (0)55 622-4035 ✓ Tue-

Sat 9:00-17:00 ⚡ from €1.5

## CASTLES AND MONUMENTS WHERE FOREIGNERS ARE WELCOMED TO HELP WITH RECONSTRUCTIONS

### 50 Sedliacka Dubová

page 272

### 71 Lietava Castle

page 161

### 80 Sklabiňa Castle

page 165

### 51 Banská Štiavnica

page 102

### 46 Sáriš Castle

page 273

## AGRITOURISM

**38** Bojná; Ranč pod Babicou

☎ Bojná 812 ☎ +421 (0)38  
537-3298 www.babica-bojna.sk  
(mini-zoo, fishing)

**58** Galanta

## Ranč na Striebornom jazere

☎ Galanta ☎ +421 (0)917 049-  
449 www.rancgalanta.sk  
(fishing, horse riding)

**a1** Podkylava; Agropenzión

## Adam

☎ Podkylava 188  
☎ +421 (0)32 777-2101  
www.penzion-adam.sk

**a2** Bolešov; Chata Gilianka

☎ Bolešov ☎ +421 (0)905 629-  
668 www.chatagilanka.sk  
(horse riding, hunting, fishing, be-  
ekeeping, collecting mushrooms  
and herbs)

**6** Svätý Anton; Ranč Nádej

☎ Na Záhumní 499, Svätý  
Anton ☎ +421 (0)911 806-499  
www.rancnadej.sk

(horse riding, fishing, collecting  
berries, sheep products tasting)

**83** Brezno; Eurosalas

## Michalová

☎ Brezno  
☎ +421 (0)903 610-126  
www.eurosalas.sk

(sheep cheese making, taking  
care of the farm, cooking of  
halušky)

**a1** Turany; Ranč Aljaska

☎ Družstevná 10, Turany  
☎ +421 (0)43 429-2008  
www.rancaljaska.sk  
(dog sled and horse riding)

**a2** Nížne Kamence

## Camping Belá

☎ Nížne Kamence  
☎ +421 (0)41 569-5135  
www.campingbela.eu  
(mini zoo, fishing)

**16** Nováčany

## Biofarma - Zlatý Hýľ

☎ Nováčany 145  
☎ +421 (0)903 706-655  
www.zlatyhyl.sk  
(taking care of the farm)

**a1** Hodkovce; Agrofarma

## - Ranč F&amp;A&amp;H

☎ Hodkovce  
☎ +421 (0)53 449-5129  
www.ranc-fah.sk; (hunting,  
collecting berries, herbs and  
mushrooms)

**RANCHES** ➤ page 242-244

## TRADITIONAL FOOD

**1** Bratislava; Schoppa

www.schoppa.sk

**8** Lizorno; Biofarma

prizroda; www.biofarma.sk

**7** Senica; Salaš Sobotišťan

www.salas-sobotistan.sk

**36** Nitra; Salaš Čabaj

www.salas-cabaj.sk

**a3** Nimnica; Salaš Nimnica

www.salasnimnica.sk

**1** Banská Bystrica; Koliba u  
sv. Kríštofa; www.usvkristofa.sk

## A taste of life on the farm



People tired of speedy and consumer lifestyle can try to work at farms

Every year, lovers of bryndzové halušky travel to the village of Turecká in Banská Bystrica Region to demonstrate their skills at the World Championships in cooking Slovakia's national dish.

The event draws international halušky devotees suggesting that the fame of the salty sheep



cheese has  
crossed Slovakia's  
borders.

The  
championship  
"is clearly the  
first event of this

kind open to the public in Slovakia," said Ivan Janovec, the mayor of Turecká. In the past bryndzové halušky "was the meal of hardworking Slovaks", but it is increasingly thought of as a cultural delicacy. The popularity of the main ingredient of the dish, the bryndza or 'white gold', comes from the deep-rooted tradition of sheep herding reaching back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century when the Wallachians began to settle in what is today's Slovakia.

Detva, located in the Podpoľanie region, was the home of the first bryndza factory. The company was established by the Vagač family and functioned until the end of World War II. Ten years later, another factory opened in Zvolenská Slatina which is still operational today. "Interest in our products has not faded away, as [bryndza] is the most typical

product of the sheep industry with a long-time tradition," Sven Harman of the Bryndziareň a Syräreň company in Zvolenská Slatina told The Slovak Spectator. Bryndza has its fans also outside Slovakia, said Harman, noting demand from Slovakia's neighbours and the Turkish communities in Austria and Germany.

The picturesque wooden houses, salaše, or koliby, the sheep farms, where herders (bačovia) used to live are today often transformed into restaurants, usually built along the important roads instead of the green pasture lands. The historical process of bryndza-making has changed, but the farms remain. Today, however, such businesses face tough times.

"Traditional sheep farms will not last," Eva Grénerová from Eurosalas Michalová in Brezno told The Slovak Spectator. "Young people do not want to work here and the old cannot keep up."



Competing in halušky eating (Photo: Noro Halabuk)

**FARMER PARADISE**

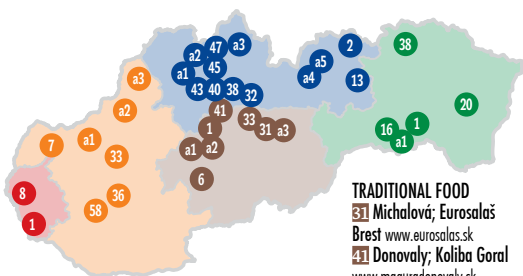
While lifestyles have changed dramatically, Slovaks' love of nature has not. After the nationalisation of farms in post-war Czechoslovakia, the only way for large-scale raising of livestock was in an agricultural cooperative. The state owned all meat-production while certain meat types became exclusive goods for which people queued up. Friends of the butcher were the only ones who could guarantee that a Sunday lunch included a cut like tenderloin, for example.

Although such stories are a thing of the past, some Slovaks still prefer to keep their own animals to maintain a fresh daily supply of foods. Older generations often put more trust into home-kept animals rather than imported goods. "Our family keeps poultry and rabbits



Many Slovaks prefer keeping their own animals and buys meat only from smaller butchers," Jaroslav Štrba from Pezinok told The Slovak Spectator. "We enjoy living with the animals and eating healthy food," his wife Františka added.

Photos: Manik



In recent years, the tourism potential of the countryside and farming has been rediscovered. Some farms offer a wide range of activities to visitors, including workshops, and it is possible to try out the real work on salaš. Routine farming activities such as milking and herding sheep, splitting wood or the hand reaping of grass, are offered to people interested in experiencing the kind of effort that goes into making their favourite produce. Biofarma Stupava is one of those spots where visitors can experience life on the farm while learning how to crack a whip, call the sheep or cook home-made quince sweets.

"The traditional cuisine, farms and salaše are one of the opportunities for our economy and tourism," Martina Hlinová from Biofarma Stupava told The Slovak Spectator. Another is the Zlatý Hýľ biofarm at the end of the village Nováčany about 15 kilometres from Košice. Its owners, a married couple, have been pursuing their interest in farming for the past 10 years. René Pavlík describes himself as a guy from the block, but he and his wife have dedicated themselves to converting an old farm into a complex agritourism centre. The goal is to offer tourists the chance to escape modern consumerist society.

"People can get their hands on anything that's usually done at a farm," Pavlík said. "They can try what it feels like to be a shepherd, run after a flock of sheep or look after grazing cows."

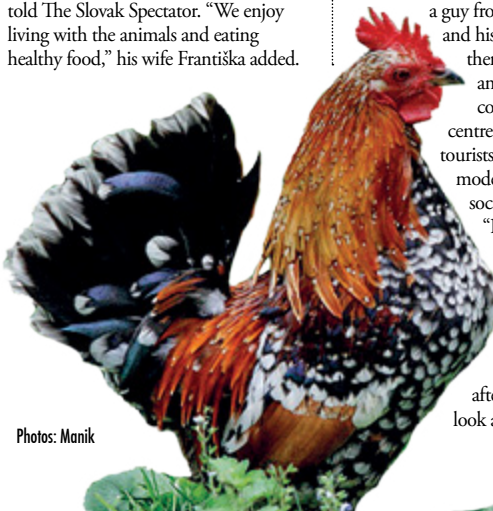
By Lenka Sabová

**TRADITIONAL FOOD**

- 31** Michalová; Eurosalaš Brest [www.eurosalas.sk](http://www.eurosalas.sk)
- 41** Donovaly; Koliba Goral [www.maguradonovaly.sk](http://www.maguradonovaly.sk)
- a1** Ladomerská Vieska Motorest Ladomer [www.motorestladomer.sk](http://www.motorestladomer.sk)
- a2** Kovačová; Salaš Hron [www.salahronkovacova.sk](http://www.salahronkovacova.sk)
- a3** Pohronská Polhora Salaš Zbojská - Zbojnícky dvor [www.zbojska.sk](http://www.zbojska.sk)
- 2** Stará Ľubovňa; Salaš u Franka [www.salasufranka.sk](http://www.salasufranka.sk)
- 18** Spišské Podhradie Spišský salaš [www.spiskysalas.sk](http://www.spiskysalas.sk)
- 32** Svätý Kríž; Salaš Dechtáre; [www.salasdechtare.sk](http://www.salasdechtare.sk)
- 38** Kozí vršok [www.kozivrsok.sk](http://www.kozivrsok.sk)
- 40** Ružomberok Koliba u dobrého pastiera [www.kolibaupastiera.sk](http://www.kolibaupastiera.sk)



- 48** Salaš Krajinka [www.salaskrajinka.sk](http://www.salaskrajinka.sk)
- 45** Dolný Kubín; Penzión Koliba [www.penzionkoliba.sk](http://www.penzionkoliba.sk)
- 47** Zázrivá; Salaš Syrex [www.syrex.sk](http://www.syrex.sk)
- a3** Nížna nad Oravou Oravský zrub [www.oravskyzrub.sk](http://www.oravskyzrub.sk)
- a4** Veľký Slavkov; Salaš Slavkov [www.salas.sk](http://www.salas.sk)
- a5** Stará Lesná; Zbojnícka koliba [www.zbojnickakoliba.com](http://www.zbojnickakoliba.com)
- 1** Košice; Salaš Barca [www.salasbarca.sk](http://www.salasbarca.sk)
- 1** Košice; U šuhaja [www.usuhaja.sk](http://www.usuhaja.sk)
- 20** Michalovce Euro Penzión Salaš [www.salas.sirava.info](http://www.salas.sirava.info)
- 38** Bardejov; Salaš Lesná [www.salaslesna.sk](http://www.salaslesna.sk)





# Region colour codes



Bratislava Region (pages 26 – 59)



Western Slovakia (pages 60 – 95)



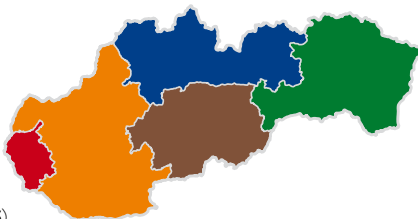
Central Slovakia (pages 96 – 117)



Northern Slovakia (pages 118 – 165)



Eastern Slovakia (pages 166 – 197)



## TRAVEL GUIDE SPECTACULAR SLOVAKIA

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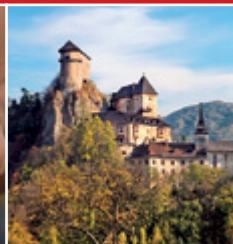
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