



SLOVAKIA

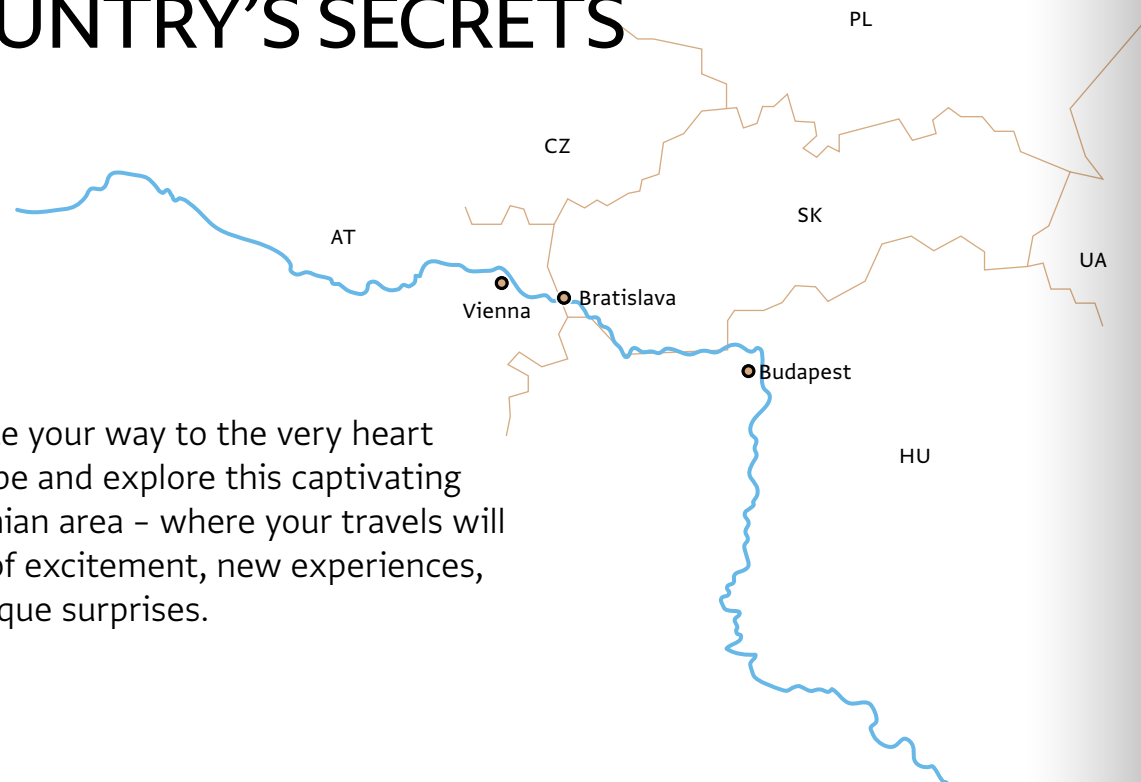
NEAR AND FULL OF SURPRISES

TRAVEL TO
SLOVAKIA
GOOD IDEA

www.slovakia.travel



COME AND EXPLORE THIS DANUBE COUNTRY'S SECRETS



Navigate your way to the very heart of Europe and explore this captivating Carpathian area – where your travels will be full of excitement, new experiences, and unique surprises.

Slovakia is known as the heart of Central Europe, a reference both to its geographical position and vibrant passion of its residents. You'll be assured of a warm welcome from villages to cities, lowlands to mountain peaks, and mighty rivers to inspiring lakes.

But before we unfold the maps, select the highlights, and plan a truly memorable itinerary around this beautiful country, let's get a little context. Strategically placed, Slovakia has long been known as a key trading route – and the influence of this thriving cross-border trade involving people of numerous nations is reflected in our DNA and tells the story of its aristocratic heritage. That Bratislava is the world's only capital city to border three countries (Austria, Czech Republic and Hungary) is reflected in the fact that the city was historically trilingual – seamlessly hopping from one language to another for commerce, culture, and conversing. A unique location that made Bratislava the centre of the Kingdom of Hungary and exemplified Habsburg marriage policy almost 500 years ago – over 267 years eighteen Hungarian kings and queens were crowned at the city's iconic gothic St. Martin's Cathedral, including the famous Queen Maria Theresa herself. Bratislava is connected with Vienna to the west and Budapest to the south-east by the legendary Danube – the mighty river which

has inspired generations of painters, poets, and musicians. The left bank of the river represents the furthest east that the Roman Empire conquered.

Bratislava is the most popular gateway to Slovakia, from which the country reveals itself in the most amazing ways, with age-old traditions and dialects united by the Slovak language (also known as Slavic Esperanto). The land rises from the southern lowlands to awe-inspiring 2,000-metre peaks in the north, with over two million hectares of forests abundant with fauna, flora, and freshwater. The country is dotted with over 180 castles and ruins, as well as UNESCO listed monuments – and is the perfect place for exploring, enjoying inspiring views, and reliving by-gone times.

The High Tatra mountain range is a place of challenge and wonder, our numerous thermal springs are the perfect place to relax and recover, and the north-east has primordial forests for a truly wild escape under the darkest, deepest and clearest night skies. Whether you prefer to act on your own inspiration to discover the paths less travelled or prefer a more structured approach to your travels, you'll love making new discoveries in Slovakia with us.

Slovakia – arrive curious, leave inspired.

MOUNTAIN ENERGY
IN EVERY BREATH

4 – 23



TREAT YOURSELF
TO BENEFITS

24 – 35



TORCH? WATERPROOFS?
LET’S GO
SPELEO-TREKKING

36 – 41



A CAPITAL CITY – WITH
VIBRANCY AND COLOUR

42 – 51

FOLLOW IN REGAL
FOOTSTEPS!

52 – 63

STURDY SHOES AND
PILGRIMAGE PASS
IN THE BACKPACK

64 – 75



CHALLENGE VS.
INNOVATION – SLOVAK
INGENUITY

76 – 81



SLOVAK FEASTS
SLOW-FOOD STYLE

82 – 87

PERFECT-FIT TRADITIONS

88 – 97



ART IN BALANCE

98 – 107



PUT YOUR HANDS UP!

108 – 115

NOT EVERYTHING
IS BLACK AND WHITE

116 – 117



MOUNTAIN ENERGY IN EVERY BREATH

Nine national parks, one million hectares of protected areas, and 15,000 kilometres of easy-to-follow trails

FROM WI-FI TO OPEN SKY

Wander deep green valleys or go further and faster by bike. Wonder at the majesty of native deer, taste forest raspberries, breath in the scent of mushrooms, drink from pure mountain springs, and be wowed by stunning panoramic views. Summer in the Slovak mountains will be the total reset you deserve.



MOUNTAINS TO SAVOUR

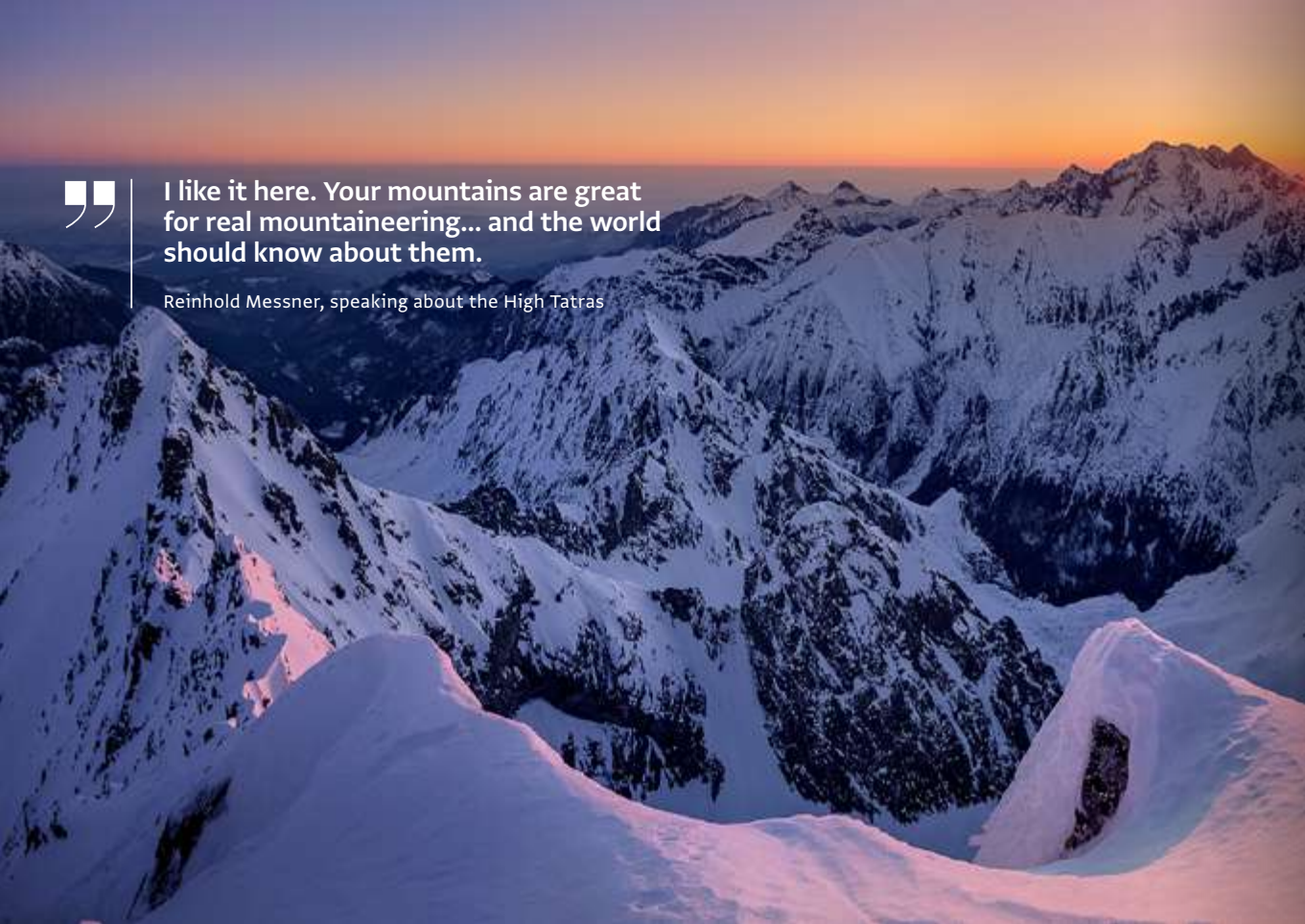
Nothing beats the feeling of running in nature. Time melts away as you attune to the rhythmic beat of your feet on the trail and your heart’s increasing tempo. And even if setting out quietly, you’re likely to meet deer and mouflon on the undulating hilly slopes. With every hiking trail looking irresistible for running too, be sure to pack your trail shoes to fully explore our 15,000 km of marked mountain trails.

DISCOVER A MAGICAL STONE CITY

Fancy trekking in a Central European wonderland? The Súľovské skaly rocks in the north of Slovakia are the perfect place. This amazing karst area features Gotická brána rock formation, Šarkania diera hole, gravity-defying rock towers, vertigo-inducing cliff faces, needles, windows, and bizarre rock formations of all shapes and sizes. This national nature reserve has silver screen magic and first-class trekking opportunities amidst the stunning scenery, and there are medieval castle ruins throughout the country.



📍 Súľovské skaly rocks



I like it here. Your mountains are great for real mountaineering... and the world should know about them.

Reinhold Messner, speaking about the High Tatras

FREE-RIDE, SKI TOURING, CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING OR SLEDDING? LET'S GO!



Shape up on Alpine Skiing World Cup quality slopes at Jasná in the Low Tatras – and be inspired by charismatic Slovak Olympic gold-winner Petra Vlhová to set your personal best on this perfectly prepared snow. You'll find ski resorts scattered throughout Slovakia in hilly and mountainous areas – so you're never far from a piste.

Ever seen full-scale ice sculptures? At High Tatras' Hrebienok you'll love the very cool creations that are great for frosty selfies to post online. And adrenalin junkies' hearts will be racing for the Tatra ice falls and hikes in Slovak Paradise where spring-thaw waterfalls freeze into ice falls

in the winter. Come very well prepared with ice boots, picks, and courage! Accessible only to brave climbers with the necessary equipment. Spišská Nová Ves's Šiklavá skala stunning icefall is yet another unmissable photo opportunity.



MAJESTIC MOUNTAIN LAKES

These high-altitude watery wonders are testimony of Slovakia's long-distant glacial past, with over 100 in the valleys of the High and Low Tatras. While some mountain lakes are totally off-grid and demand some pretty hardy trekking and navigation skills, the most famous can be enjoyed from the comfort of a hotel terrace.



📍 Chata pri Zelenom plese (hut)



An iconic choice is the 120-year-old mountain hut Chata pri Zelenom plese known as Brnčalka, and from there to Skalnaté pleso mountain lake you'll be swept away by astounding views of the Tatra mountain range. A cable car also runs to Skalnaté pleso from Tatranská Lomnica and continues to Lomnický štít peak.



The spring season brings impressive waterfalls to Slovak national parks and protected landscape areas, as well as great skiing opportunities in the pleasant spring weather. A hike to the Tatra's Skok will double your water fun with a waterfall and then a path up to a stunning mountain lake. Maybe you fancy some relaxing peace and quiet instead? The forest path to Popradské pleso and a stroll around Štrbské pleso are ideal for unwinding – the views are stunning from a boat too.

ADDED ADRENALINE VIA FERRATA

Your heart is racing as you concentrate on every step forward: navigating cracks in towering rocks, inching your way along chains, steel ropes and ladders in canyons, splashing through waterfalls, and conquering the 80-metre suspension bridge over Skalka gorge. Via ferrata climbing routes are a really rewarding choice, with outstanding views of the Tatra and Fatra mountain ranges and the Liptov region – there are options to suit all skill levels, and you can hire the necessary gear if you're not equipped. Most such routes are open until the end of October.

Bachledova valley has a thrilling 600-metre treetop walk with a lookout tower, which is perfect for those panorama pics of the Pieniny and Belianske Tatras' sweeping majesty all year around.

TWO LEGS GOOD. TWO WHEELS BETTER.



Slovakia has an extensive range of national and international cycle routes – covering hills, forests, meadows, lakes and rivers, picturesque countryside, and villages. Even Bratislava – the capital city – has excellent cycle connections right on its doorstep. With over 50 official cycling routes to choose from – including EuroVelo long-distance routes across Europe – the only decision is whether to go it alone or in a group, and then saddle up and peddle off!



Cycling map of Slovakia
cykloportal.sk

CONQUER THE MOUNTAIN AND GET A LIFELONG EXPERIENCE!

Introducing our cyclocross world champion Ján Kočiš. In 2017 he took adrenalin to wholly new levels by cycling up Lomnický štít (at 2,634 metres the second highest peak in the Tatra National Park) and held his concentration for 70 seconds above a 600-metre drop! Respect! This peak also features an observatory to scan the crystal-clear mountain skies (when it's not cloudy), botanical garden, café hotel, and even an office. Take it easy ascending with a cable car or hike it with an experienced and insightful mountain guide. Slovakia's Tatra mountain range has 50 +2,000 m peaks – so much natural beauty.



© Martin Krstýnek @martinkrstynek



📍 Slovak Paradise



📍 Dunajec in Pieniny

HIKE OR BIKE? BOTH ARE BEAUTIFUL

Picture the scene: the fresh scent of fir and beech forest, the roar of rivers and mountains, gorges and awe-inspiring scenery, the winding Hornád canyon, and towering over it all the 150-metre Tomášovský výhľad view – perfect to explore with boots or wheels. And the aptly-named Slovak Paradise national park in the east of the country will inspire with beautiful trails.

The Western Tatras have slender rocky hills reminiscent of devil's horns, hence Roháče (stags). Heading north, we'll find the Malá Fatra national park with abundant wild fauna and flora, deep valleys, and high ridges than invite rewarding hikes. And kids will love the trek into Jánošíkove diery gorges – a pretty place of true mystery.

BEST SEEN BY RIVER

Pieniny is famous for its wooden rafts that navigate the Dunajec's sometimes tranquil and oftentimes choppy waters – you'll pass under the shadow of rock overhangs and towering cliffs with legends aplenty. Or get an aqueous adrenaline rush by wild rafting the 7.5 km down the Tatra mountains' Belá river to the safe harbour of Pribylina's open-air village museum – this is great when the river is wild with mountain snowmelt! The artificial water canal in Liptovský Mikuláš is the perfect place to hone your rafting skills on a professional route with obstacles. Fancy something a little more sedate? Try canoeing the slow and winding Little Danube in the southwest of Slovakia, as well as other navigable rivers such as the Váh, Dunajec, and Hron. With canoe and equipment included in the price, it's time to head for the water. Fun ahoy!

DARK FORESTS, DARK SKIES



📷 photographer and traveller Filip Kulisev, MQEP, FBIPP @amazingplanet.filipkulisev | © Amazing Planet reservoir Starina

In the northeast of Slovakia, you can explore a truly mystical and ancient place. A place of the deepest densest forests, and the darkest skies: Poloniny National Park. A must-see destination for astronomers, adventurers, and travellers. The towering beech forest is home to Europe’s last remaining bison as well as wolves, and the area forms a golden border triangle with Poland and Ukraine.



“ ...to be in the wild, in the community, to get to know mountain friendships and honour, people who need to absorb the mountains’ energy.

Pavol Barabáš, documentary filmmaker

A DELIVERY JOB

LIKE NO OTHER

100 kg backpacks, long distances, rocky terrain, and steep ascents. In all weathers. That's the life of unique alpine delivery guys who you'll meet on our highest mountains, embodying strength, dedication and humility.

Mountain huts in the High and Low Tatras and Veľká Fatra depend on them, and Slovakia is the last place in Europe where this historic practice has survived for over 900 years. Porters work the mountains daily, performing their environmentally-friendly duties, often seasonally accompanied by younger guys who want to test their strength of muscle and mind in the most extreme environment – the liberating freedom of overcoming oneself and gaining a unique life experience.

The High Tatras' remote mountain chalets are testimony to the porters' hard work carrying up all the building materials themselves. And they continue to relentlessly deliver the chalets' daily needs. Slovak porters have rightly earned their status in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Slovakia. They're dedicated to their task, but some help is always welcome: so, if in the Tatras you see logs or lemonade ready to be hauled up, you can lend a hand. And then for a few hours you can count yourself amongst the elite of Slovak mountain porters, and make a generous contribution to keeping others warm and fed at heady heights.

Juraj Rainer founded his namesake mountain hut nearly 200 years ago, making it the oldest in the country. This cosy welcoming chalet is in Starolesnianska meadow in the High Tatras – about 30 mins from Hrebienok or Zamkovského chata (hut). Mountain huts and shelters can be found on long hiking trails, and provide a place to temporarily shelter from inclement weather, enjoy overnight stays, and warm up.



Staying in a remote shelter brings you down to ground. You appreciate how little you really need.

Jakub Ptačin,
Hikemates portal/Slovak Hiking Club

The Hiking.sk portal has mapped about 220 shelters in Slovakia. Many are former shepherd huts, some are austere places without hut keepers, while at others you can enjoy hot soup.

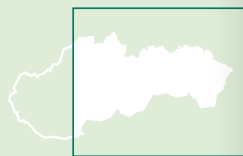


You never said to the mountain hut keeper: Look at the weather. Only the load, the here and now, and freedom.

Freedom under Load, documentary
directed by Pavol Barabáš

Štefan Bačkor
OOOR Región Vysoké Tatry

NATIONAL PARKS OF SLOVAKIA



① **Malá Fatra National Park**
(NPMF) * 1988 226.30 km²

④ **Low Tatras National Park**
(NAPANT) * 1978 728 km²

⑦ **Slovak Paradise National Park**
(NPSR) 1988 197.63 km²

② **Veľká Fatra National Park**
(NPVF) * 2002 403.71 km²

⑤ **Muránska planina National Park**
(NPMP) * 1997 203.18 km²

⑧ **Slovak Karst National Park**
(NPSK) * 2002 346.11 km²

③ **Tatra National Park**
(TANAP) * 1949 738 km²

⑥ **Pieniny National Park**
(PIENAP) * 1967 37.5 km²

⑨ **Poloniny National Park**
(NPP) * 1997 298.05 km²



Mountain Rescue Service
hzs.sk



TREAT YOURSELF TO BENEFITS

We have 1,943 thermal and mineral waters springs
- 124 are in protection zones, 82 are natural healing
waters, and you can enjoy an astounding 42 locally
bottled natural mineral waters.



Slovak free-style skiers Natália Šlepecká and Zuzana Bernardová Stromková
 📷 filmmaker Martin Bernard @marbernard

Maybe you fancy motivational ‘ice-man’ Wim Hof’s freezing water method? Or perhaps something rather less extreme... how about a warm sauna nestled in the woods with Spiš Castle views? All-inclusive procedures on medically-supervised therapeutic stays at Art Nouveau healing spas or the High Tatras healing alpine climate? There’s just so much to choose from: 20 spa towns, as well as numerous hotels and guesthouses with welcome wellness breaks. You’ll be refreshed and revitalised by your chosen place and procedure.

SWEATING SCANDINAVIAN-STYLE

You'll love the super-value mountain forest saunas in Spišský Hrhov and Kunstdorf in Dúbravice pod horou. Or tiny Scandinavian houses in Spišské Bystré, where you can enjoy a sauna stay in discreet peace and seclusion. You can visit the original barrel saunas at Trenčianske Teplice’s thermal swimming pool, and admire the 1930s functionalist architecture by renowned Czech architect Bohuslav Fuchs – who made a significant contribution to shaping this popular spa town’s image.



Forest sauna in Spišský Hrhov, Spiš region
 📷 Lukáš Procházka @lukasprophoto



© Javor Photography @javor.divotvor

PEAK CONDITION FOR ĎUMBIER PEAK



Onwards and upwards! Taking on Ďumbier mountain's heady heights will do your body's regenerative abilities the power of good. Enjoy this highest peak in the Low Tatras after a doctor's green light and maybe accompanied by an experienced instructor, such as Martin Thám. Not quite in peak condition to peek at the peak? No worries. A nice snowy stroll around the hotel or lodge will also feel great in the invigorating mountain air.

LIVING

WATER

With over 100 years of expert know-how, Slovak spas are amongst the most developed in Europe.

Historically, people were drawn to these waters from deep either by chance or intuitively – that these waters somehow seemed to promise beneficial effects. The breakthrough came in the early 19th century, with modern medical advances connecting the dots between science and nature. Spas soon became part of Europeans' health landscape – as a place of learning, healing, and recovering. During the industrial revolution spas became a sought-after and prestigious destination for the nobility and key figures – places to see and be seen in Slovakia. Spa owners engaged leading architects, invited prominent doctors, invested in research, and launched the latest procedures. Both historic and contemporary spa towns with “living waters” provide a high level of medical care, rehabilitation and prevention, and you'll discover tranquillity, stylish architecture, and unique experiences.



Parks with gazebos and lakes, streams and rivers – typical of Slovak spas with historic garden features.



Slovak spas
ask.sk



FROM PEACOCKS TO PEOPLE – THE PERFECT HEALING PLACE

According to legend, Piešťany spa was founded after a peacock’s broken leg was observed to quickly recover in the local muddy water. Inspired, people have continued to seek out the water’s healing powers ever since.



📍 Slovenské liečebné kúpele Piešťany, a. s.

FERDINAND I HOBbled IN AND STROLLED OUT

Long before the official spa opened, Piešťany Spa Island’s healing springs had been popular with Napoleonic soldiers, Indian Maharajas, and Emperor Ferdinand I – and then after opening with composers such as Liszt and Nedbal. Now you can follow in their noble and musical footsteps, enjoying mud treatments and luxurious massages, and strolling the famous functionalist colonnade bridge spanning



📍 Trenčianske Teplice Spa

the picturesque river. And then treat yourself to gourmet delicacies at the Art Nouveau glory of Thermia Palace – which features an original four-metre Alfons Mucha painting, which the artist – a regular visitor to Piešťany – gifted the hotel in 1932 for healing his daughter.



ENJOY THE BEST TREATMENTS

The Sina family’s Countess Ifgénia was enterprising and quick-thinking, and immediately recognised the potential of Slovak healing springs. Inspired by the Egyptian Viceroy’s summer residence at the World Fair in Paris, and having travelled to Egypt herself, she built a fantastic replica in Trenčianske Teplice. In 1886, a luxurious Moorish-style Hammam restroom with dreamy turquoise tiles was made by ceramicists in Modra. In the 1930s, Jewish architect Arthur Szalatnai-Slatinský was commissioned to add the Sina swimming pool and hot healing bath to the site – an extension that intriguingly contrasts with the original historic parts to form a distinctly striking structure. Come to atmospheric Trenčianske Teplice and enjoy the Turkish hammam as well as Dead Sea-style therapeutic treatments.

STEAMING WATERS WARM THE HEART

Enjoy Vyšné Ružbachy and benefit from its 14 mineral springs. The spa centre's thermal crater is a year-round 25°C, and there's even a mineral water waterfall! After undertaking loving procedures that will benefit your heart, nerves and balance your hormones, enjoy

a rejuvenating stroll to mystical Stará Ľubovňa Castle. You can also enjoy the spa areas of Lúčky and Liptovský Ján, and sweat it out at Slovakia's hottest thermal spring (92°C) at a forested centre in Veľký Meder near the Hungarian border.



You'll find a similar palace as this 'White House' in Monte Carlo with a travertine, having been built in 1931 by a former owner of Vyšné Ružbachy spa. Polish nobleman Zamoyski gifted it to his wife, Princess Isabella of Spain, as a summer residence.



TREAT YOURSELF TO A HEALING TOUCH

Since 1928 Smokovec in the High Tatras has used climatotherapy – fresh air and sunlight – to treat ailments of the respiratory tract, adopting a natural rather than pharmaceutical approach. Nový Smokovec's modern spa procedures are constantly evolving to meet clients' changing needs, for example by providing post-Covid rehabilitation and treatment.

A person wearing a red suit and a helmet is standing in a cave, holding a torch that illuminates the surrounding rock formations. The cave walls are covered in intricate stalactites and stalagmites, creating a dramatic and textured environment. The lighting is warm and focused on the person and the immediate surroundings, leaving the rest of the cave in deep shadow.

TORCH? WATERPROOFS? LET'S GO SPELEO-TREKKING

We have 7,700 caves, including
UNESCO-listed marvels

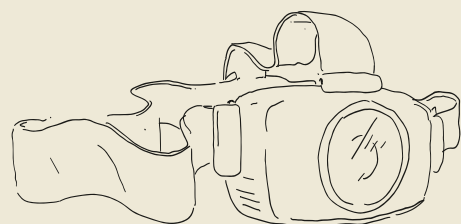


Fancy seeing a cave lion's skeleton?

Visit Liptovský Mikuláš's high-tech interactive science museum and enjoy amazing exhibits about Slovak nature, caves, and so much more.



📷 speleologist Pavol Staník, Slovak Caves Administration



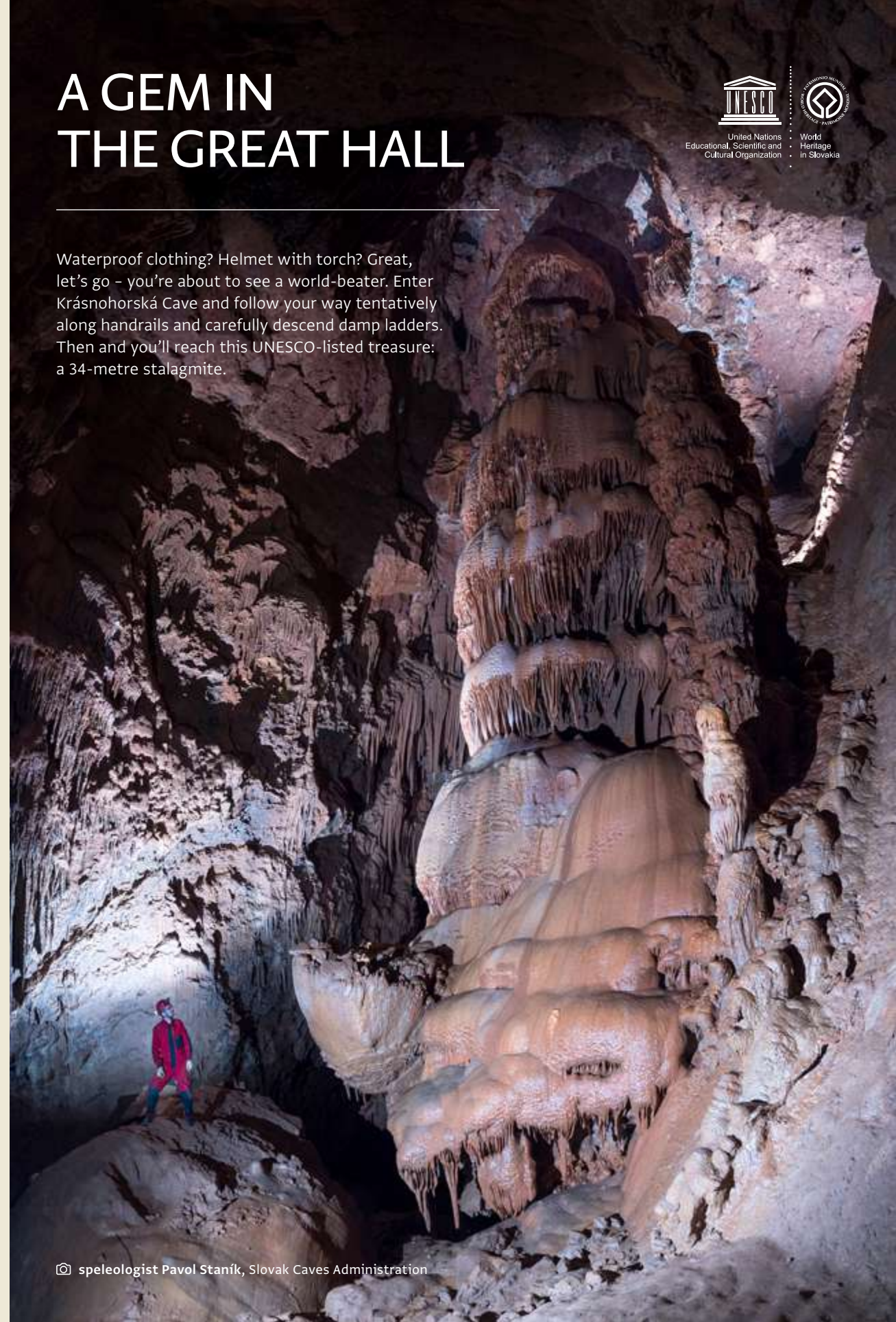
Slovak Museum of Nature Protection and Speleology
smopaj.sk/en

We have a hidden world of adventure to explore – just under your feet. Magical and mysterious massive rock formations, fantastic stalactites and stalagmites, cracks and cavities 500 metres deep, mysterious growing formations as high as 10 storey-buildings, ice realms, crystal-clear and ice-cold lakes, and the echo of waterfalls, rivers, and the incessant drip-drip of water percolating through the Earth's layers. Bats and our prehistoric history. A unique subterranean world created out of sight over millions of years. Explore Slovakia's amazing natural underground heritage – we have 45 caves to discover, of which 18 cave tours with experienced and knowledgeable cavers: welcome to wondrous Slovak speleotrekking, experience the perfect adventure, and marvel at the ghoulish Cave of Dead Bats.

A GEM IN THE GREAT HALL



Waterproof clothing? Helmet with torch? Great, let's go – you're about to see a world-beater. Enter Krásňohorská Cave and follow your way tentatively along handrails and carefully descend damp ladders. Then and you'll reach this UNESCO-listed treasure: a 34-metre stalagmite.



📷 speleologist Pavol Staník, Slovak Caves Administration

CHECK OUT THIS UNESCO-LISTED GLACIER



Dobšinská Ice Cave deep in the Slovak Paradise National Park is one of the world’s best, and ranks alongside alpine ice caves in the Austrian Alps and Romania. Thomas Cook & Son recognised its importance and attraction back in the 19th century as a top European bucket-list destination – with trains arriving from multiple cities and countries. The chilly cave was even used to host ice skating shows, and our national ice skaters prepared there for the 1950s Winter Olympics.

📷 **speleologist Pavol Staník,**
Slovak Caves Administration



GET ONBOARD UNDERGROUND



Enter Domica Cave here and you can come out in Hungary – it’s so big it straddles two countries. Archaeologists have found arrows, shell pendants, stone knives, as well as evidence of fire –prehistoric evidence of a sacred and cultish place. Bats will fly overhead in the dark rock chamber, and you can even board a boat and sail the mystical river Styx and wonder at spa-like cascading lakes. Domica is the longest cave system on the UNESCO World Heritage List of the Slovak and Aggtelek Karst – and it’s all thanks to intrepid explorer and border guard Ján Majko who chanced upon the cave in 1926.

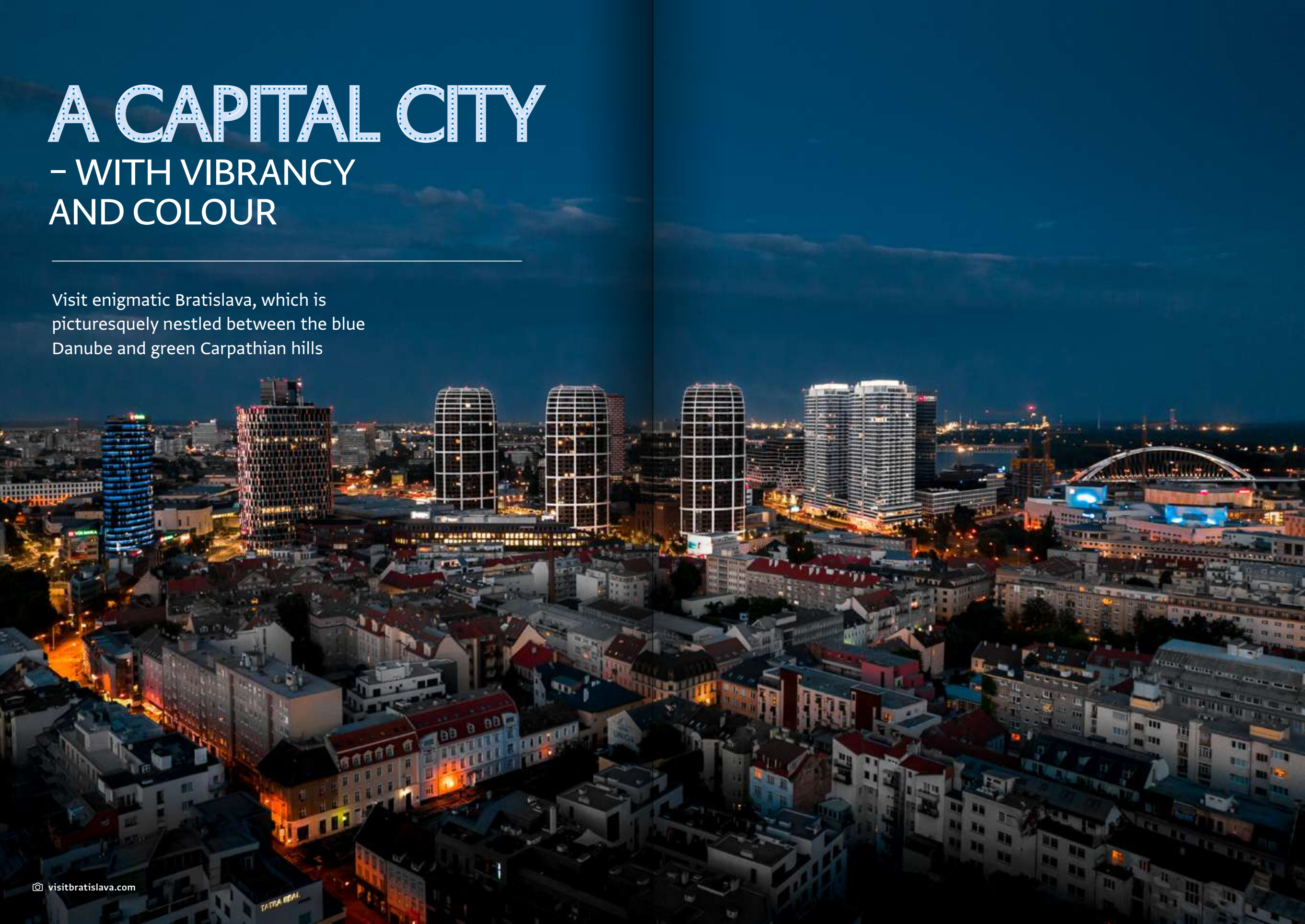


Slovak Caves Administration
ssj.sk/en

A CAPITAL CITY

– WITH VIBRANCY AND COLOUR

Visit enigmatic Bratislava, which is
picturesquely nestled between the blue
Danube and green Carpathian hills





REVOLUTION AND EVOLUTION

From a small settlement over 1,000 years ago, Bratislava has steadily grown over the millennia to straddle both banks of the Danube. A crossroads for trade routes, the capital of several countries, and a thriving melting point of cultures and languages from the city's Slovak, Czech, Hungarian, German, and Jewish residents. The euphoria that followed the fall of the Iron Curtain (1989) inevitably led to a period of retrospection and introspection, yet ultimately a positive wave of creative forces and inspiration propelled society forward with confidence and commitment. Few places typify this generational

reappraisal better than SNP Bridge (New Bridge): its landmark tower used to host dinners for socialist big-wigs, but has been reimagined and repositioned as a glorious technicolour city viewpoint – known as the ‘UFO’ thanks to its rather intergalactic look. Walk around Bratislava and discover its distant and not-so-distant history – an intoxicating blend of classic, socialist and contemporary architecture...Picturesquely set between the green hills of the Small Carpathians, the city also has plentiful opportunities for running, hiking, cycling, and scooter-hire – with a fast and efficient public transport system.

AROUND CASTLE HILL

Bratislava Castle – standing tall and proud and watchful over the historic city below – is the city's dominant landmark and photo opportunity: with stunning views of the town and shimmering Danube from the castle's ramparts. Be sure to check out the Gothic 15th century Sigismund

Gate and the statue of a beautiful witch with ravens. Leisurely wander the Old Town's cobbled streets and atmospheric alleys, towering spires and hidden gardens, winding stone steps, and Baroque buildings.





URBAN MARKET 2020 (SPECIAL WINTER EDITION) in Old Market Hall
 @ Welin Nagyová @welinna

BOHEMIAN CULTURE AND CHILL-OUT

Eat, drink, repeat. Head for Bratislava's Old Town and you'll be spoilt for choice with the huge range of al fresco options, stylish cafés, bistros, and restaurants for every taste and budget. Relax with a good book, catch up with a newspaper, surf the super-fast Internet, or just leisurely watch city life pass by. Enjoy a great

breakfast, freshly brewed coffee, and refreshing summer lemonades, healthy lunches, and utterly irresistible cakes and desserts. As the sun goes down the city's pace picks up- with great live music, cinemas, and numerous exciting events and attractions.



SOCIALIST-ERA HOUSING AND CENTRAL EUROPE'S OLDEST PUBLIC PARK



Petržalka – which faces the Old Town across the Danube – is the Bratislava district where the socialist town planners opted to house the population-boom of the 1970s and 1980s. This resulted in Central Europe's largest housing estate: pre-fabricated high-rise blocks with around 100,000 residents and interspersed with pleasant parks and relaxing riverside walks. Urban art lovers will really enjoy the mosaics and ceramics from 50 or so years ago that adorn many of the buildings' façades. Dating from the 18th century, Janko Kráľ Park is Central Europe's oldest public park and the perfect place to relax on hot summer days – and just a short stroll from the Old Town across either New or Old Bridge.



▲ Meditation artwork
by Irish artist FinDac,
created at the Bratislava Street
Art Festival 2020.

📍 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL
Martin Šopinec @schopinski

◀ FCHPT STU | Bratislava
📍 Štefan Cipár @beautifulbratislava

SPONTANEOUS ART

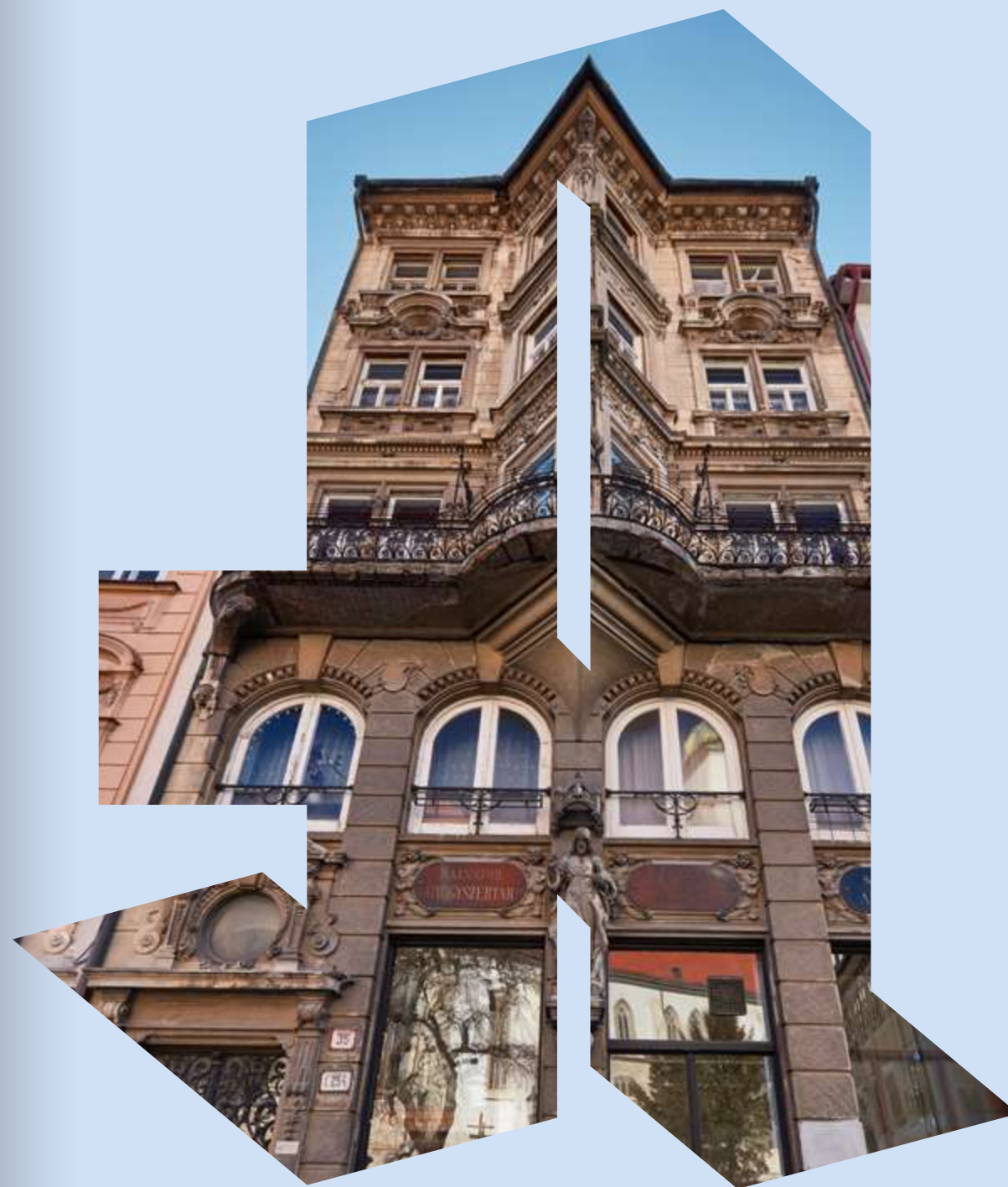
Bratislava mural-art or street-art, in which conceptual art alternates with the “raw” references of society as a reflection of the present.

SALVÁTOR

THE FORMER PHARMACY FOR MEDICINAL SALVATION

Bratislava's Old Town is blessed with numerous historic palace buildings dating to the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. And one in particular will catch your eye as you wander the city's cobbled lanes.

The Salvátor pharmacy on Panská Street was built in 1904 for pharmacist Rudolf Adler – with a pharmacy on the ground floor and upper floor apartments. This iconic Neo-Renaissance building has a distinctive stone statue of Christ the Redeemer by Alojz Rigele on the façade, and had an extremely rare 1727 Jesuit Baroque wooden furnishings adorned with marble being bought from Count Csáky's neighbouring palace. Falling into disrepair during the socialist era, the pharmacy eventually called time in 1995 and the building was privately sold and the interior fittings were spirited away. Then in 2010 a private collector had the fittings renovated, and in 2021 the decision was made to restore them to their original home at long last. The pharmacy has the nostalgia of ancient times: when gentlemen in tailcoats and ladies in ruffled skirts were served in German or Hungarian by a wise moustached pharmacist who mixed his mysterious potions and concoctions.



Bratislava Tourist Board
visitbratislava.com

FOLLOW IN REGAL FOOTSTEPS!

Slovakia is small in size but BIG in royal heritage – with over 180 castles and ruins that attract film crews from all over the world.



Let us speak for a moment, my friend! Some hours remain until dawn, and all day I can sleep.

Count Orlok

CARPATHIAN MYSTICISM AND TRANSYLVANIA DARKNESS

Bram Stoker fan? Then you'll recognise spooky Orava Castle as the setting for classic black-and-white horrors *Nosferatu*, the *Symphony of Horror*, and the British series *Dracula*. Precariously perched on a limestone cliff and first dating to Marco Polo times – over the centuries it reflected and incorporated Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. With 154 rooms,

fascinating archaeological and ethnographic expositions mapping the region, and an overview of films, there's just so much to do. Download the handy mobile app for fascinating facts and intriguing insights, and explore olden castle times through VR. The castle also looks super atmospheric by night – when you can also attend dusk shows and thrilling theatre in the shadows.



COUNT'S ARTY LOVE

Bojnice Castle's romantic fairy-tale appearance will impress you. Legend goes that it reflects its last aristocratic owner Ján Pálffy's love for a French countess: inspired by the motto *Ad memoriam gloriae antiquae* (in memory of past glory) and the beauty of the Loire Valley's Gothic castles, he set about redesigning the traditional castle with Frenchy flair. He also amassed thousands of artworks to uniquely style each room: an entrance hall with gilded angel ceiling, Ottoman Empire oriental salon, and the Pillar Hall with Carrara marble statues. And pride of place goes to the chapel's medieval altar by Florentine painter Nardo di Cione, as well as the natural travertine cave with two concealed underground lakes. Yet alas the countess did not come and Pálffy never married, but at least we have this splendid castle to admire in all its gorgeous glory. Bojnice also has another popular attraction – spas with healing thermal water, and is a very popular setting for filmmakers.



Inspired by Amboise Castle in France, Count Pálffy planned a 137-step tower.

FORTRESS OVER SPIŠ



An impregnable centre of royal power and tempting location for filmmakers and artists.



Sala Terrena, Červený Kameň castle

UNESCO-listed, former impregnable base of royal power, and film location for Dragonheart... you'll absolutely adore Spiš Castle's stunning scale, sensational hilltop setting, and remarkable resilience. In the summer, everyone will love the medieval martial art demonstrations, falconry shows, and spooky torture chamber! This is an excellent example of how castle architecture developed in Slovakia over eight centuries. The castle hill is adorned with a hundred-meter geoglyph featuring the stone figure of a Celtic horse by Australian sculptor Andrew Rogers. Spišské Podhradie town's Gothic-Renaissance burgher houses and remarkable sacral buildings are also UNESCO-listed – its system of chapels and church buildings replicates the Jerusalem Calvary, leading up Cathedral of St. Martin hill in the Spišská kapitula, hence its 'Slovak Vatican' moniker.

Rock towers, caves and gorges in the nearby protected area Dreveník are again an attractive location for climbers. You definitely need more than one day for the gems of Spiš, which belong to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

THE POWER OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST MAN

Červený Kameň castle, which was built in the Gothic style by Queen Constance of Hungary, was bought by the merchant Anton Fugger 500 years ago – who at that time was considered the richest man in the world. You can see the castle's true Italian craftsmanship on a hundred square meters from floor to ceiling. Distinctive reliefs will draw you into the moving atmosphere of the early Baroque, where sculpture, painting and architecture intersect. Sala Terrana amazes with master Tencall's paintings, full protruding decorations, and a karst cave. While the hall was designed and created by Italian master Lucchese for theatrical use, it's now used for ceremonial functions. Anton Fugger built a modern Renaissance fortress with excellent artillery defence, extremely thick walls, bastions and huge commercial warehouses. Several trucks would fit into this, one of the largest cellars in Europe. As the castle is at the centre of the Small Carpathian wine-growing region, come for wine tasting and enjoy visiting these magnificent spaces.



📷 Ján Saloň @jan_salon_fotograf

FROM PRISONER TO KING OF MADAGASCAR

The famous traveller Móric Beňovský began his adventurous career by escaping from Stará Ľubovňa castle. He eventually became King of Madagascar, and the sentence he served in the castle's highest tower today is now remembered by the courtyard's inn. The castle, which is near the Polish border, was an important meeting place for kings. In the 15th century, the Kingdom of Hungary monarch and Lithuanian prince sealed the peace with a fundamental agreement, according to which the castle and adjacent part of Spiš were ceded to Poland. During the Polish-Swedish war (1655–1661), the castle was used to hide 14th century Polish coronation jewels, which were subsequently destroyed by the Prussian king. The castle's must-sees include replicas of the crown, sceptres, and apples made exactly according to archival descriptions. The renaissance palace includes a 3D hologram – depicting the construction of the upper castle and reconstruction of the Gothic palace, which burned down in 1553. Picturesque Ľubovňa open-air museum by the castle illustrates life in Spiš and Šariš villages from the early 20th century. Its jewel is the log Greek Catholic church (1833) from Matysová with original decorations and iconostasis.



SUMMER RESIDENCE OF PROGRESSIVE NOBLEMEN

They travelled half the world and filled their manor house in Betliar with tasteful, luxurious, exotic and often curious souvenirs. The enlightened Andrassy family was among the aristocratic elite of 19th century Europe. They were known throughout the Kingdom of Hungary as great collectors of art and antiques. Thanks to them, the manor house near Rožňava is one of the treasures of Slovak history. During the socialist dictatorship, thankfully neither the building nor collections suffered from damaging redesigns, looting, or appropriating of collections. The English Park with a fountain sea nymph by French sculptor Moreau, and nooks full of surprises, is one of the world's most important historical gardens. The walking route around the park will lead you to a medieval castle menagerie, where Andrassy family bred bears and wolves. You can also admire the Masonic and Chinese pavilions, Japanese bridge, and the Hermes well in which gentlemen chilled their drinks during hot summer picnics. The park also has a nearly 10-metre waterfall (1823), styled to resemble Ancient Roman aqueducts. In the early 20th century, the Andrassys even reared polar bears – which they had brought from an Arctic expedition: the first private breeding of polar bears in Europe! The Andrassy family in Slovakia also founded the first golf course, and even introduced cricket, horse polo, and car racing to our region.

PERFECT PORCELAIN AND MAJESTIC LIPIZANNERS



📷 documentary filmmaker and publicist Martin Kleibl

For centuries, the secret Chinese formula for porcelain had evaded Europeans. So alchemists from surrounding countries sought to recreate this most perfect material for delicate and elegant dishes. During their long journeys, the nobles from Topolčianky Chateau patiently sought these fragile pieces, eventually amassing a huge porcelain collection. Precious items come from, for example, the French factory Madame de Pompadour, Sèvres, Meissen, and Royal Worcester.

Peerless porcelain from all over the world, and a royal herd of 550 horses at Topolčianky

National Stud Farm which is based on an English park. Five breeds have been bred there for a hundred years. These include the Lipizzan horse, which is one of the oldest cultural breeds in the world. The Lipizzaner breed has been nominated for inclusion in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. At the chateau you can stay in the rooms of the first president of the Czechoslovak Republic Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, be thrilled by the collection of clocks and beautiful furniture, peruse an extensive 200-year-old library, and enjoy local trips in a carriage pulled by Lipizzaner horses.

FIRST-CLASS GOTHIC SPLENDOUR & QUEEN'S VIOLET CANDIES



📷 Marek Duleba @marek.duleba

Morning coffee at Bardejov's five-storey Hrubá bastion or a selfie with an executioner are great starts to the truly Gothic atmosphere of this north Slovak town.

The original, stone-paved Town Hall Square is lined with Renaissance and Gothic period burgher houses. The square's main landmark is the medieval Basilica of St. Egidio with 11 Gothic winged altars, and a lookout tower to admire the preserved fortification system. The town hall, which has stood in the middle of the square for over 500 years, was the first Renaissance-Gothic construction in Slovakia. As well as the town's historic centre, Jewish Suburbia – a quarter of historic ritual buildings – is also UNESCO-listed.

During the monarchy, Bardejov was also Queen Sissi's destination for healing, and her three-week stay continues to strongly influence the spa's regal atmosphere. Sweet tooth for violet candies? They were made especially for Sissi during the Austria-Hungary period. And now you needn't go all the way to Vienna, you can have them in Bardejov. Think of Sissi as you stroll around Europe's oldest spa park while sucking a candy, and enjoying a therapeutic wellness stay at Bardejov spa.



📍 Kremnica

GOLDEN CITY AND OLD MINT

In the summer of 1751, Kremnica's residents were very excited about the visit of Maria Theresa's husband: Emperor Francis of Lorraine. On the evening before his arrival, the great and good of the Lower Hungary mining area gathered in the town. The Imperial Suite with Francis planned a trip through the three most important economic centres of the Central Slovak mining area, which were garlanded according to the precious metals they mined: copper (Banská Bystrica), silver (Banská Štiavnica), and gold (Kremnica). Although the gold and silver mines closed in Kremnica in 1970, the minted gold ducats – as in Florence – were carried by the Hungarian King Charles I. In the Middle Ages,

these ducats were considered the most valuable in Europe – with over 21 million minted! Kremnica mint is one of the world's oldest continuously running businesses. It now mainly mints euro coins and coins for Latin American countries. In 2028, it will celebrate its 700th anniversary. Explore its long history with a tour of the mint. The city is famous both for its golden history and humorous present – every August it hosts the annual Kremnické Gagy humour and satire festival. The surrounding nature is also perfect for active relaxation. Trek part of the Kremnica Mountains along the ferrata trails on Skalka, and in winter take part in the Biela stopa cross-country ski event.

WINGED

KINGS OF SILENT HUNTING



Falconry has always been a fascinating activity. Falconers appear on the coats of arms of monarchs, on coins, and have even been listed by UNESCO in 24 countries such as Mongolia, the United Arab Emirates, Spain, and since 2021 also Slovakia. The falcon is a symbol of strength, speed, hunting, and freedom.

With almost 300 falconers, Slovakia is one of the leading countries in promoting the skills and academic education of breeders and trainers of feathered predators. Slovakia is one of the few countries in Europe to teach falconry: at Banská Štiavnica secondary school, Zvolen university, and Štiavnické Bane primary school. In addition to training, falconers also protect the predators in the wild, their nests high in rocky outcrops and treetops, as well as breeding – which has returned several rare species to the wild.

The summer season at romantic Bojnice castle and the castles in Spiš, Orava, Trenčín, Červený Kameň and Stará Ľubovňa is associated with falconry performances – with stunning demonstrations just above spectators' heads. Did you know that falconers' trained predators

are used to keep birds away from every major international airport? That their hunting instincts enable farmers to reduce pesticide use? And that they can protect cultural monuments and cities from the problem of pigeon flocks?

Slovakia's tradition of falconry dates back to the 5th century, and is considered the noblest and most sustainable way of hunting. It respects the natural balance between birds of prey – falcons, eagles, hawks, and owls – and their prey, which provides a balance between hunter and potential prey. And the special relationship between predator and the falconer, which is based on fragile trust. A predator that quietly circles high in the sky can only be trained by someone who truly respects nature.

Trenčín Museum in Trenčín @hradtrenčin



Feathered predators cannot be tamed. They cannot be domesticated, they will always do only what they would in nature, i.e. fly and hunt. If you hurt the predator, it will fly away. And can do so at every practise session.

falconer Jozef Tomík from Bojnice



STURDY SHOES AND PILGRIMMAGE PASS IN THE BACKPACK

We present sacral buildings and 59 unique wooden churches – eight of which are UNESCO-listed, and themed-travels through Slovak history.





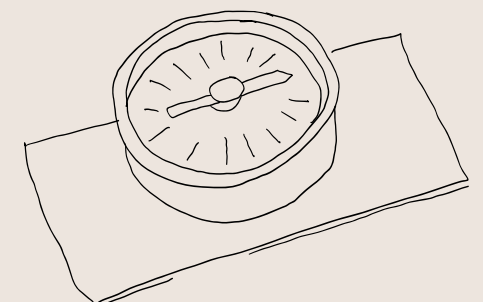
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF!

Want to recharge your batteries in the Tatras or travel through an unknown country? You can also clear your head by crossing Slovakia – following routes inspired by themes and ideas that intersect and crossnational borders.



▲ Greek Catholic Church of St. Mikuláš in Bodružal

You just need good walking shoes, UV cream, a rain jacket just in case, and plenty of ‘me time’. Take the Gothic Route to explore churches, castles and galleries around the Spiš and Gemer regions. Or how about the St. Jacob’s Pilgrimage Route? Starting from the stunning St. Elizabeth Cathedral in Košice. Explore UNESCO-listed wooden churches built by unknown master craftsmen in the Slovak part of the Carpathian arch. Discover Jewish cultural heritage on a route full of synagogues, old cemeteries, and amazing architecture. Embrace a journey of choices and ideas that are yours alone...





Košice

SLOVAK CAMINO DE SANTIAGO



A church built by crusaders, rare early Gothic frescoes, art galleries and castles. And a 20-metre-high late Gothic wooden altar (1517) by renowned craftsman Master Paul of Levoča. It's UNESCO-listed and the world's highest wooden altar! And you can see it at the Basilica of St. James in Levoča! St. Jacob's journey through the countryside on the way to Compostela begins in the centre of Košice, at the largest Gothic

cathedral in Slovakia – St. Elizabeth's Cathedral. The pedestrian area – with the cathedral as the centrepiece – is lined with beautiful palaces and townhouses, as well as popular al fresco restaurants and cafes, and boutiques. The world's most famous pilgrimage route continues from the east of the country to Bratislava in the west. The Slovak part has nine sections covering about 650 km. And all you need is about a month.



- ▲ Basilica of St. James in Levoča
📍 jano stovka mqep @janostovka
- Evangelical Church in Štítnik
📍 Jozef Kopor @regiongemer



St. Jacob's Route in Slovakia
caminodesantiago.sk/en



NOBLE BEAUTY OF SLOVAK GOTHIC

Stunning beauty that Italian tourist centres would be proud of too. The Gothic church in Ochtina, the unique Protestant church in Štítnik, and the largest two-nave Romanesque-Gothic church in the Spiš region in Ľubica. Be stunned by frescoes and reliefs by Italian wandering master craftsmen (vagans) influenced by Byzantine art, as well as magnificent statues and carvings by Master Paul, including his famous altar in Levoča. Examples of this influential master craftsman's late Gothic period (post-1500) work can be found across half the country. Churches and museums in eastern and central Slovakia feature many of his original altars and statues of Madonnas. The Gemer and Spiš regions' Gothic route is the ideal place to explore a hike which is full of surprises. Its whopping 276 km covers 33 municipalities across four routes. A Gothic vault-shaped pictogram will help you navigate individual monuments.



Gothic Route Association
gotickacesta.sk/en

THE MYSTERY OF WOODEN CHURCHES



These are a jewel of Slovak folk sacral architecture and unique building innovations from the 16th to 18th centuries. 100% wood without a single nail used. The country has 59 similar churches, eight of which are UNESCO-listed. In the northeast of Slovakia there are many in close proximity, so you can

see lots in one day. Leave the car behind and explore the churches by bike – your own or a hire e-bike. There's a great cycle trail through icons of Poloniny National Park – a UNESCO-listed primeval forest. You'll love the views of nature, reflections around Morské Oko lake, and nine amazing wooden churches.



▲ Evangelical Articular Church of the Holy Trinity in Kežmarok
📍 jano stovka mqep @janostovka



▲ Roman Catholic Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Hervartov
– the oldest and best preserved, 15th century



Tourist destinations Poloniny
– cycling map
regionpoloniny.sk/cyklistika



Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas the Bishop in Ruská Bystrá
📍 Košice Región Turizmus



The Slovak National Museum – Museum of Jewish Culture at the Orthodox Synagogue in Prešov (1898) – features a unique collection of Judaica items (from the first Jewish museum in Slovakia dating to 1928) with Moorish decor.

Synagogue in Prešov



📷 jano stovka mqep @janostovka

SHALOM, SLOVAKIA!



The quest for Jewish history will take you on the Slovak Jewish Heritage Route. There you'll find the UNESCO-listed Jewish Suburbia in Bardejov, dozens of original synagogues, many featuring fascinating oriental decorations, and hundreds of Jewish cemeteries. The most important place of reverence for the Jewish community, as well as streets of cities and quarters full of impressive and striking buildings.

Jewish migration to the territory of today's Slovakia began in the 11th century. Many Jewish communities originated in the Middle Ages, developing in the 17th, 18th and especially 19th century.

Led by Rabbi Moses Schreiber, known as the Chatam Sofer (1762–1839), Bratislava became a leading centre of Jewish teaching for 33 years. His tomb is an internationally prominent place of pilgrimage for Jews. It's located on the Danube riverside near Bratislava Castle, at the site of a 17th century Jewish cemetery. During World War II, the cemetery was almost totally destroyed when a tunnel was constructed, and most of the tombstones were relocated to the New Orthodox Cemetery. Just 23 graves of Bratislava scholars dotted around Chatam Sofer's tomb were left in place and covered with a concrete ceiling. The change of regime after 1989 and the financial contributions of Jews from all over the world enabled the area's rebuilding, according to a unique design by architect Martin Kvasnica.

100 UNIQUE SYNAGOGUES

Beit tefila means house of prayer in Hebrew, beit kneset – house of assembly, and beit midrash – study house. Around Slovakia you'll discover synagogues in many cities and towns.

Bratislava's only remaining synagogue – and still functional – makes an imposing and striking impression with its seven-pillar colonnade. It was designed by Arthur Szalatkai-Slatinský, a pioneer of modern architecture, whose work can be found across the country. Explore its Cubist interior, typical of the 1920s Bratislava, and Jewish Community Museum.

But few synagogues still serve their original purpose. Many have been repurposed as galleries, cafes, and cultural centres, whilst many more await renovation. They're also interesting thanks to their wide range of architectural styles. Discover the late 19th century synagogue in Trnava, west Slovakia. One of the most beautiful is Trenčín synagogue (1913), designed by Trenčín-born



Interactive map
of synagogues in Slovakia
synagogyslovenska.sk



Jewish heritage
in Slovakia
slovak-jewish-heritage.org



SNM – Museum
of Jewish Culture
snm.sk



▲ **Synagogue in Lučenec** from 1925, which was renovated in 2015. Currently an exhibition and cultural space.
📍 **Lukáš Borovička**

and Berlin-based architect Richard Scheibner. The Neolog synagogue in Lučenec (1925) has a beautiful Art Nouveau style, and Žilina features the work of German architect Peter Behrens from 1931 – one of the most important and unique monuments of Slovak modernism and interwar synagogue architecture in Europe.

In addition to synagogues and tranquil cemeteries with the spiritual heritage of rabbis and scholars, throughout Slovakia there are public buildings, financial offices, sanatoriums, residential and spa houses, villas, and the residences of doctors and factory owners. These buildings resulted from the inspirational vision of Jewish architects, which brought beauty to the capital city and many other places. A stroll around Bratislava's iconic 19th and 20th century buildings will stun you with amazing examples of Historicism, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, and interwar Modernism. Leading figures in Slovak modernity were the architects

Weinwurm and Vécsei, who in the interwar period designed public buildings and residential houses in Bratislava and beyond. These two Jewish architects' very productive cooperation ended with their persecution and tragic deaths during World War II.

The hitherto prosperous Jewish community was wiped out by the Holocaust and totalitarian regime. The Museum of the Holocaust in Sered' also commemorates the genocide of Jews in Slovakia.

Slovakia's rich Jewish culture is documented by the unique Museum of Jewish Culture in Bratislava – a branch of the Slovak National Museum that includes an extensive collection, and rare 18th century Chevra Kadisha funeral association jugs.

Slovakia still has a small yet vibrant Jewish community.



▲ **Synagogue in Žilina**
📍 **Lukáš Borovička**

► **Chatam Sofer Memorial** on the Danube embankment in Bratislava – a prominent pilgrimage site in Europe
📍 **Rudolf Klein**, Budapest

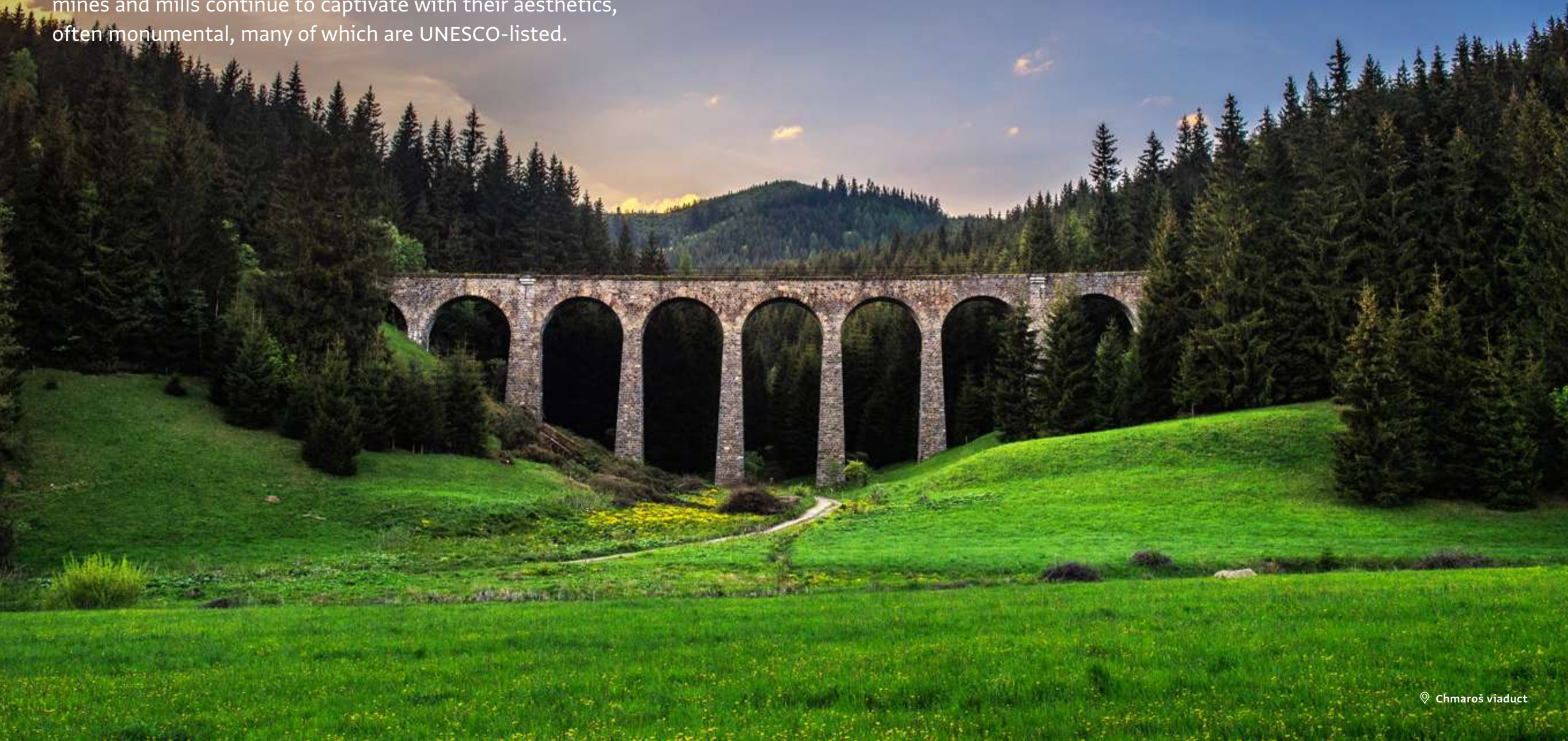
▼ **The funeral association jug** from the collection of the Museum of Jewish Culture in Bratislava
📍 **Viera Kamenická**, Bratislava



CHALLENGE VS. INNOVATION

– SLOVAK INGENUITY

These technical feats set world construction records, and are testimony to past skills. Historical Slovak bridges, mines and mills continue to captivate with their aesthetics, often monumental, many of which are UNESCO-listed.



STONE GOLIATHS

Vaulted Koprášsky Viaduct is the only remaining of the original 12 railway bridge structures in the Gemer region. It was part of the World War II Gemerské spojky switchback project, but trains never ran on this line. You can also take on the 2.4 km Slavošov tunnel by foot or even bike – it’s actually the longest cycle tunnel in Europe and the third longest in the world! Just remember your bike light!



📷 Jozef Kopor @regiongemer

ROUTE 66 – SLOVAK STYLE!

Visit a marvel of railway – part of Muránska planina National Park. How did the designers overcome the challenging local terrain? With the innovative Telgárt loop – a remarkable piece of architecture that includes tunnels and two

viaducts built into the Telgárt track spiral. At 113-metres high, Chmaroš viaduct resembles Gothic churches. It’s a great photo opportunity – and if you’ve got the time, hop on the historic train and explore the Horehronie region.



📷 jano stovka mqep @janostovka

SAFE FULL OF EMPEROR’S SALT



Slovak oaks were exported to Spain during Christopher Columbus’s time for ship building. And Central Europe’s largest and oldest nail-free capstan (towing device above a shaft) which was made from the very same oaks is part of the unique Solivar Museum in Prešov. The mechanism dates to the 17th century and is still functional. The history of the saltworks dates back to 1572, when the first mine found rock salt. As the salt plant was directly subordinate to the imperial court in Vienna, some salt was set aside and sealed inside a safe in case the imperial court ran out!

📷 jano stovka mqep @janostovka

GOLD RUSH IN UNESCO-LISTED CITY



Slovak territory was so economically integral for the Hungarian nobility that it granted tax freedoms and extra privileges. It was the centre of Hungarian mining and European gold and silver mining. One such place in this small yet crucial area was Banská Štiavnica. This town stood out for its fine palace architecture, which was built on the profits of its numerous mines, while Banská Štiavnica's technical mining heritage gives it well-deserved UNESCO-listing. You'll also appreciate atmospheric and romantic walks through the town's cobbled streets and squares. In 1627, the town was the first in the world to

use gunpowder in mining. The first technical university in the world was also established here – specialised in mining of course. Richňava tajch artificial lake (1740) long held the record as the largest waterworks in the world. Tajchs supplied mines with essential water. Twenty-four tajchs remain dotted around the town, harmoniously blending in with the picturesque Štiavnica hills. Today they're popular places for natural swimming, as well as fishing, boating, and ice skating, with fantastic walking trails and cycle paths in the locality.



📍 Ottergrund Tajch in Banská Štiavnica



THINK DIFFERENTLY

Grab your backpack and travel through Slovakia by train to discover the border regions with the Czech Republic and Poland. All aboard a historic steam train for a forest railway ride through the Nová Bystrica valley. The Vychlovka railway used to connect Kysuce and Orava regions for essential timber transport. A great technical accomplishment was the railway's headland system, which enabled large height differences to be overcome in short distances. Now it's a popular national cultural monument and part of the open-air Kysuce Village Museum. How about taking to the controls yourself – in a narrow-gauge train?



SLOVAK FEASTS SLOW-FOOD STYLE

Enjoy our vineyards and friendly hospitality.

Modra's Fedor Malík from a dynamic new generation of winemakers follows the family experience and winemaking mastery of his father
📷 OOCR Small Carpathians, Marek Dvořák
@marekdvorakphoto



Life is short, so drink great wine.

A truth lovingly promoted by award-winning winemakers from six wine-growing regions in Slovakia.

ENJOY TOP WINES AND DELICATE TASTES

Central Europe's northernmost vineyards, goose feasts, craft beer, mountain hut cheeses, and unique dough. Our farmers emphasize locality and freshness, and increasingly support free-range farming and permaculture. Enjoy!

YOU'LL BE POURED THE BEST WINE

Devín is one of the oldest Slovak varieties. It was named after the growing area and the historically important castle, which iconically sits atop a rock cliff opposite the Austrian border. As far back as the 9th century Devín's residents supported viticulture, with their fine wines renowned throughout Central Europe.

Slovak winemakers will proudly lead you down to their old – sometimes 500-year-old – musty wine cellars, and around traditional wine bars, as well as



▲ Vineyard settlement of Stará Hora Sebechleby by the Štiavnica Hills is a folk architecture reserve.
📷 Radovan Bries fotorado.sk @RadovanBriesFotograf

► Tokaj lookout tower 📷 Miro Pochyba @miropochyba

contemporary wineries with the latest high-tech advances. Enjoy local culture and delicacies during autumn wine festivals and on popular wine routes. The Small Carpathian Wine Route is one of the longest, with vineyards covering 4,000 hectares.

The Tokaj region on the border with Hungary is unique among the six wine-growing regions. It has an ideal climate with long and dry autumns, and grapes in the area's 900 hectares grow on rich volcanic tuffs.

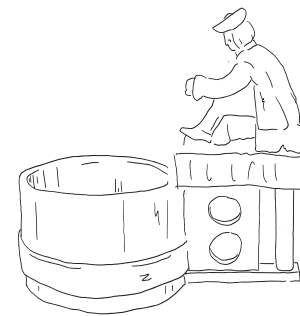


📷 visitbratislava.com

STREET FOOD FESTIVALS AND FINE DINING

What's the best way to really get to know a country? Through your stomach! Central and eastern Slovakia is famous for sheep-cheese dumplings and bacon pasties. Heading to the west of the country, Slovenský Grob is famed for its golden-roasted goose with potato pancakes and sweet cabbage. The Záhorie region boasts local sauerkraut and Skalica trdelník – a baked sweet pastry. Have we whetted your appetite yet? Well, you can also enjoy these local munchies at cultural events, at street food and music festivals, from popular food vans, on wine routes, and during popular harvest festivities.

WITH CRISPY BACON THEY'RE YUM!!!



For sure potato pancakes and Slovenský Grob's delicious roasted duck are super great, but even they can't challenge Slovakia's undisputed culinary champ: our famed and fabulous potato dumplings with sheep cheese and bacon (bryndzové halušky) is a must-have speciality on every Slovak pub, hotel, and train station buffet menu.

Who needs a starter when this delicious combo of potato dumplings and traditional sheep cheese, sprinkled with diced crispy bacon packs such a nutritious culinary punch? While traditionally eaten with a locally carved wooden spoon, a fork will do the trick equally as well. Sour but so sweet, boiled whey made from sheep's milk served in a wooden cup usually accompanies the potato dumplings.

100% PROBIOTIC



According to the country of designation, feta can only be produced in Greece, Roquefort only in France, and 'bryndza' only in Slovakia. This natural sheep cheese is trademarked along with our smoked sheep milk cheese (oštiepok), smoked cheese (parenica) and sweet pastries (Skalický trdelník) as unique Slovak food products. Slovak bryndza has the strongest taste in May, when the sheep graze in fresh lush meadows.

📷 STEY Slovakia @steyslovakia

SWEET BAKERY SPECIALTY



Let's see how it's made - maybe you'll be inspired to try it! We've been producing hollow rolls of fermented dough since the 19th century, when none other than the Count of Skalica's personal chef pioneered the recipe. Trdelník usually has a sweet powder coating made of crushed nuts, cinnamon, poppy seeds, or cocoa powder. This traditional delicacy is pretty flexible, so inventive contemporary variations - in Bratislava and Košice for example - include ice cream and fresh fruit.



PERFECT-FIT TRADITIONS

A stylish design popular with fashion-lovers,
the country, and the whole world!



Design inspired by folk clothing from Polomka village – Horehronie region
© Ľubomír Sabo and Zuzana Senášiová
art painting: Sarah I. Avni @party21art #party21art

HONEST, ADMIRER AND IN-DEMAND – HANDMADE BY SLOVAK CRAFTERS

Travel this country and you'll come across unique UNESCO-branded Slovak design and architecture – at markets, fairs, shops, and of course online. Slovak originality is defined by an emphasis on detail, style, and seeking connections between folk culture with contemporary design. Old-world aesthetics and industrial rawness can be found at open craft workshops, art studios, and museums. And at the Centre of Folk Art Production (ÚĽUV) in Bratislava and the High Tatras, the state acts as custodian, protector, and promoter of folk art at sales outlets. Slovakia rightly prides itself in having retained so many age-old craft techniques and procedures – a long-standing tradition that informs, inspires and invigorates our creatives.

“Rather than merely showing off, it's about the practical info that we now share in personal documents or on social networks. Is that pretty girl single? Where does she live? Is it far from here? And her traditional clothing would have answered these questions.

Katarína Nádaská, Slovak ethnographer



Centre of Folk Art Production
uluv.sk/en



Slovak folk majolica Modra
 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL | Martin Šopinec @schopinski

FILIGREE CRAFT - UNIQUE SOUVENIRS FROM SLOVAKIA

Clay jug production – also called faience and majolica – has a long and illustrious history in Slovakia, especially in Modra town near the Small Carpathian hills. This region near Bratislava is famous for its wine production, so a decent jug has always come in handy. Majolica production follows the centuries-old tradition of pottery, which is handmade over several days.

In Modra, expect a warm welcome at the Museum of Slovak Ceramic Sculpture (Slovak National Museum) and also at the Slovak Folk Majolica workshop, where you can see the artisans in action. Fancy your hand at clay production? Join an adventure workshop followed by a wine tasting! Most potters and designers continue the age-old crafters' way, whilst others improvise on the tradition by pursuing minimalist patterns. Modra majolica and majolica ornamentation are on Slovakia's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Many Slovak artists favour the use of clay, and numerous art galleries display their artworks.

Markets and fairs throughout the country are also great places to pick up traditional and designer clay-work.



New design based on traditional faience decor
 @modranska



**SNM – Museum of Slovak
 Ceramic Sculpture Modra**
 snm.sk

ROUGH HANDS SHAPE WOOD INTO FINE ART

It just takes skill working with knives and chisels, knowledge of wood's properties, spatial vision, and artistic dexterity. Carving comprises a major part of Slovak folk art culture. Note the cottages and townhouses in villages and towns, and the wooden components that adorn Slovak castles – carving decor on gates, gables, porches, and windows. Wood decorative carving had originally been the reserve of shepherds (who decorated spoons and cheese containers), as well as Banská Štiavnica miners (who carved wooden figures). Nativity scene carving has a category all to itself. You're sure to come across several such in Slovakia, yet the most famous is undoubtedly master craftsman Jozef Pekara's Slovak nativity scene in Rajecká Lesná. It represents an outstanding example of folk carving. First setting chisel to wood in 1980,

his work on it continued for the next 15 years. The artwork is 8.5 meters long and includes about 300 characters, half of which can also move.



Michal Husár from the new generation of Slovak carvers @huso_chainsawcarving

FABULOUS FOLK ARCHITECTURE



According to many indications, the roots of the ornament can be found in symbolism and magic. Nature, flora fauna, and humankind once felt truly at one in the cosmic world.

Olga Danglova, from the book Decor symbol (the decorative tradition in the Slovakian and European context)

◀▲ Čičmany
© SLOVAKIA TRAVEL Monika Ťažárová



ČIČMANY

Wander this pretty village and you'll be amazed by the facade artwork on the lovely wooden houses, which could easily be considered as the beginning of street art. The decoration of log houses in Čičmany village – between the Strážovské vrchy hills and the Malá Fatra mountains – will inspire a feeling of mystery and magic. This 13th century village is famed for its visual identity of architecture and folk clothing. The village once got by on sheep breeding, sheep cheese production, and flax cultivation, and subsequently glazing, haberdashery, and production of cloth slippers. And the geometric signs and symbols with which they decorated their houses continue to have a distinctive and inspirational design appeal in Slovakia.

VLKOLÍNEC

This picturesque hillside village is synonymous with traditional Slovak countryside and farming, with unique folk architecture of colourful houses. Vlkolínec is in the Liptov region, on the southern slope of the Veľká Fatra mountains. Founded by coal miners and lumberjacks, this UNESCO-listed gem is a perfectly-preserved village wholly composed of Central European-type, log houses. While you'll find similar architectural styles across Slovakia, Vlkolínec is unique in being lovingly locked in time and untouched by modernity.



INDIGO PRINT HANDICRAFT ON CATWALKS TOO

Almost 300 years ago, the style adorned clothes at palaces and villages alike – with a place in perpetuity ensured with UNESCO-listing.



Carey Mulligan also starred in indigo print costumes in *Far from the Madding Crowd*, with her dress patterns inspired by historical Slovak ornamental decorations. Slovak indigo prints were designed to reflect evolving tastes and European fashion trends. Almost every Slovak village and town had a workshop to produce indigo print clothes and interior textiles. As the 21st century dawned, canvas and templates attracted a new generation of crafters who sought to revive indigo dyeing techniques. A craft that in the last century had gathered dust in Slovakia, designers Matej Rabada and Peter Trnka set about reviving. One works in Orava, and the other continues the fifth-generation family tradition near Bratislava. Visit their workshops and be wowed by the creative skills, and pick up a few unique blue-white souvenirs too. Pretty and good to go!



Peter Trnka is a fifth-generation indigo printer.

📷 documentary and publicist
Martin Kleibl



Arnold Peter
Weisz-Kubínčan
1898 – 1945

21. júna –
10. novembra 2019
www.sng.sk

UMELCOVA
(ŤAŽKÁ)
BATOŽINA

ART IN BALANCE

Everything that connects us.



📷 Šimon Lupták, SNG



Slovak National Gallery
sng.sk/en

FROM BARON TO EN PLEIN AIR

He sought inspiration far and wide – Barbizon and his Parisian Montmartre studio in France, Vienna, and his Strážky family home near the High Tatras. Introducing Ladislav Mednyánszky – a Hungarian baron and impressionist who enlisted in the First World War to depict the frontlines. His masterful capture of light in melancholy landscape paintings still resonates in European art.

The Slovak National Gallery acquired the Renaissance Strážky Mansion after the death of the last in the family line, Baroness Margita Czóbel, in 1972. This beautiful building is filled with Mednyánszky's artworks, 17th-19th century portraits from the Spiš region, and Renaissance period historical books that reflect the nobility's high culture. The building is complemented by an extensive English park with 19th century sculptures – perfect for picnics, relaxing, and enjoying the lawns.

▼ SNG – Strážky Mansion | 📷 Viktor Szemző, SNG

ARTISTIC BALANCE AT OUR NATIONAL GALLERY

The Slovak National Gallery (SNG) includes Picasso and Warhol, as well as leading Hungarian Impressionism by Ladislav Mednyánszky and László Paál. With its installations, unique projects and events, online content, and interactivity, the SNG's activities transcend those of standard galleries. You can savour great art across the country, with SNG exhibits at beautiful historical buildings from various periods. These include Bratislava's Renaissance-period Esterházy Palace and Danube riverside Water Barracks that feature a 'Bridge' – an example

of neo-Modernist architecture that gives the building a decidedly striking architectural look. The SNG has over 80,000 artworks and items of Slovak cultural heritage to enjoy – at galleries and open-air expositions and webumenia.sk – a comprehensive online catalogue of digitalized artwork from the SNG collection and other Slovak and international institutions. Booklover? The Ex Libris gallery bookstore has a fantastic range of art books, leading Slovak fiction, children's literature, and various attractive gift items. And check out SNG's e-shop too!



Kunsthalle Košice
Installation: Filthy Luker, Pedro Estrellas - Octopus (White Night 2019)
📷 Tomáš Kuša @tomas_kusa



Danubiana - Bratislava's picturesque island of art
📷 visitbratislava.com



A CLASSICAL STAGE

While Gustav Mahler was busy conducting the Vienna State Opera, his prodigy student and colleague Bruno Walter was appointed conductor just kilometres away at the Bratislava – then Pressburg – city opera house.

It was 1897 and the Slovak National Theatre had been welcoming guests for 11 years. It was designed in a beautiful Central European eclectic style by the leading Austro-Hungarian architectural duo of Fellner & Helmer, who ultimately designed an incredible 45 theatres across Europe, including the Berlin State Opera. The new Danube riverside post-modern Slovak National Theatre was designed by Slovak architects – it showcases all performing arts and has a large art collection.



Slovak National Theatre
snd.sk/en



📷 jano stovka mqep @janostovka

FROM VARCHOLA TO WARHOL

His parents were Ruthenians – a Slavic national minority living in Slovakia. During the time of Austria-Hungary, they lived in Miková village in north-eastern Slovakia, hence nearby Medzilaborce hosts this fabulous museum honouring the undisputed king of Pop Art. As well as admiring the 200 original artworks on show, during a tour you'll also see how the Varcholas – embroiderer Julia and worker Andrej – lived before emigrating to the USA in the early 20th century...and paving the way for Andy to become Warhol.



Nová Cvernovka in Bratislava
📷 Mikuláš Bado @badko

COWORKING WITH CULTURE

Don't sell, don't demolish, improve! Nová Cvernovka in Bratislava, Tabačka Kulturfabrik in Košice, Courtyard in Trnava and cultural-creative Kláštor centre in Rožňava. Long-forgotten centuries-old places and buildings are being rediscovered and repurposed by today's innovative generation. Euro grants and cultural donors have enabled informal communities of all sizes to take root and prosper – the perfect place for culture vultures, inspiring networking, and creative co-working.



▲📷 Dávid Hanco @davidhanko.report
▶📷 Wojciech Otecki @otecki_art

@streetartcommunication
sacsac.org



Košice in the country's east is an open public street art gallery.





PUT YOUR HANDS UP!

Pitch your tent at a runway, listen to riverside pianists, meet lead singers of world bands, enjoy orchestra concerts and Slovak underground gigs, laugh until you cry and check out indie films. Our festivals are multi-genre, international, eco-friendly, and baby-welcoming. From traditional folklore to contemporary art, festivals are an integral part of Slovak culture that warmly welcome the whole world. Take your pick or attend them all!

MULTI-GENRE FESTIVAL

The UK's The Independent newspaper ranked Pohoda as one of Europe's best 12 music festivals, and Venngage as one of the 25 international bucket-list festivals!!! Pohoda first turned up the volume in 1997, and has included headliners such as The Prodigy, Björk, Kraftwerk, and The Roots. The atypical setting of Trenčín's huge ex-runway is the perfect place to enjoy local and international music, alternative concerts, workshops, funfairs, and free art – what a sizzling summertime experience! Alongside music, the environment also takes centre stage – and you can also bring your kids, dog, bike, and tent along!



VIVA MUSICA! – FRESH CLASSICAL MUSIC

Bratislava's cultural summer scene has featured this festival for seventeen years. You can look forward to exclusive music projects that 'do the classics differently'. Enjoy classical music concerts where you'd least expect them... outside in the bustling city centre for example!

Since first tuning up in 2005, the festival has showcased the best classical music performed by leading local and international musicians. And that's why Viva Musica! is Slovakia's biggest and best summer classical music festival.



Michal Svítok @michalsvitok

LIGHTEN UP!

Live humour has thrived on the cobbled squares and streets of the "golden town" for over 40 years – making Kremnica as famous for laughs as for its historical mint. Tourists may come seeking only architecture, history, and nature, but they'll also find lots of laughs in the last August weekend – thanks to leading Slovak and international theatre companies. Central Europe's oldest festival of professional theatre provides the highest-level entertainment. This ground-zero of humour also includes the Alley of Famous Noses and the Kitsch Museum. And if you're lucky, you might also catch sight of the Golden Duck and Barmy Goose. Kremnické Gagy – the European Festival of Humour and Satire – is a multi-genre and multicultural event that you'll love returning to time and time again.



Matúš Lago, www.nocka.sk

HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS, THIS IS REAL SLOVAK FOLKLORE!

Flying skirts and better performances than street parkour! Fabulous folklore bursting with joyous folk music, traditions, dance schools, music, singing, and crafts – all with stunning Low Tatras mountain views. Established in 1953, the Východná International Folklore Festival is the oldest in Slovakia. The performers' flamboyant and colourful costume embroidery is a real gem of haute couture.



Jakub Jančo, www.nocka.sk



SLOVAK MARKETS – ALWAYS A FUN SOCIAL EVENT

One of the most prestigious privileges granted to medieval towns was the right to organise markets. But a royal order dictated that first a town must have a church, around which the shops would support the exchange of market goods.

Banská Bystrica's Radvan Fair features a wide range of Slovak craftwork. Historic and renown, this fair dating back to the 17th century is so unique it's on Slovakia's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. But mind your behind! A local custom was that on the last day of the fair, young men bought wooden spoons, with which they playfully hit women's behinds. And for better or worse, this tradition has continued and spread to all fair days.

The tradition continues with Christmas markets and 'jarmoky' annual fairs (from the German Jahrmarkt) in cities and towns across the country. And how about checking out Bratislava's super-stylish Dobrý trh or Urban Market? You'll find heaps of great designer items, books, art and culture – with an emphasis on being eco-friendly and sustainable.



In the 17th – 18th centuries before newspapers became popular, information, rumours and gossip were exchanged at fairs – often through songs and verse.

Katarína Nádaská, Slovak ethnographer

FUJARA

UNESCO TONES

The wooden wind fujara is a legend among folk musical instruments, and has reached all corners of the world. Proud fujara owners include Sting, Natalie Imbruglia, and even Bill Clinton. It is the gift our president traditionally offers guests.

Shepherds in the Central Slovak mountains lovingly crafted the instruments in the 18th century. The fujara – a long three-hole elder wood whistle – was used to send messages between shepherd huts, and time was fruitfully spent composing new melodies combined with verses. You can hear its unique sound at the international Východná Folklore Festival, and at the multi-genre Pohoda music festival. Experimental and classical music also often samples fujara solos in compositions to add a touch of distinction. The longer the fujara, the deeper the tones. Although fujaras can be up to two metres long, some are foldable – so completely plane-friendly.





SNP (New) Bridge | Bratislava
 📍 Matej Kotula @matejkotula



Družba UK | Bratislava
 📍 Štefan Cipár @beautifulbratislava



STV | Bratislava
 📍 Štefan Cipár @beautifulbratislava



Memorial and Museum of the SNP | Banská Bystrica
 📍 visitbanskabystrica.sk



📍 Reservoir | Trnava

#noteverythingisblackandwhite

When pubs and residential areas were given cosmic names, and an alien object "landed" in Bratislava. During the period when bricks were replaced by concrete and iron, unreliable fluorescent tubes lit residential stairways, and in the solidarity spirit of socialism the whole city rapidly grew.



**Register of Modern
Architecture of the
Slovak Republic**
register-architektury.sk/en

Architects of that era worked under the supervision of the Soviet Union, and adorned buildings with sgraffito decor. The play of lights, stained glass, design furniture – all interiors and exteriors reflect perfect aesthetics, and constructions' high technical and cultural level.

In the 1960s, architects developed a freer modern style unshackled from the constraints of socialism. These designs included a structurally unique building in Central Europe (SNP Memorial), the first panoramic cinema in Slovakia (Panorex), and a suspension bridge

(SNP Bridge) with an elegant UFO-shaped lookout restaurant, which was named the Slovak building of the 20th century.

City architecture, and industrial urban research attract the thrilling discovery of neglected and repurposed, destroyed and restored gems of socialist architecture. Explore reliefs, ornaments, mosaics, and pure geometry on an atypical exploration in the footsteps of socialism – a pure adrenaline rush. Never has brutalism been so beautiful.



SLOVAKIA

Coordinates: 49.00° N, 119.00° E

Official name: Slovak Republic

Population: 5.5 million residents

Area: 49,035 km²

Capital city: Bratislava

Official language: Slovak

Member State of the European Union since 2004

Currency: euro

Middle of Slovakia:

Ľubietovský Vepor-Hrb (~5–10 km),
48°43'50.64"N 19°27'26.94"E

Middle of Europe:

Church of St. Ján in Kremnické Bane (~5–10 km),
48°44'36.65"N 18°54'53.58"E

FOUR BIGGEST RELIEFS IN THE COUNTRY:

⚔ **Highest point:** 2,654.4 m a. s. l.

Gerlachovský štít – Tatras region

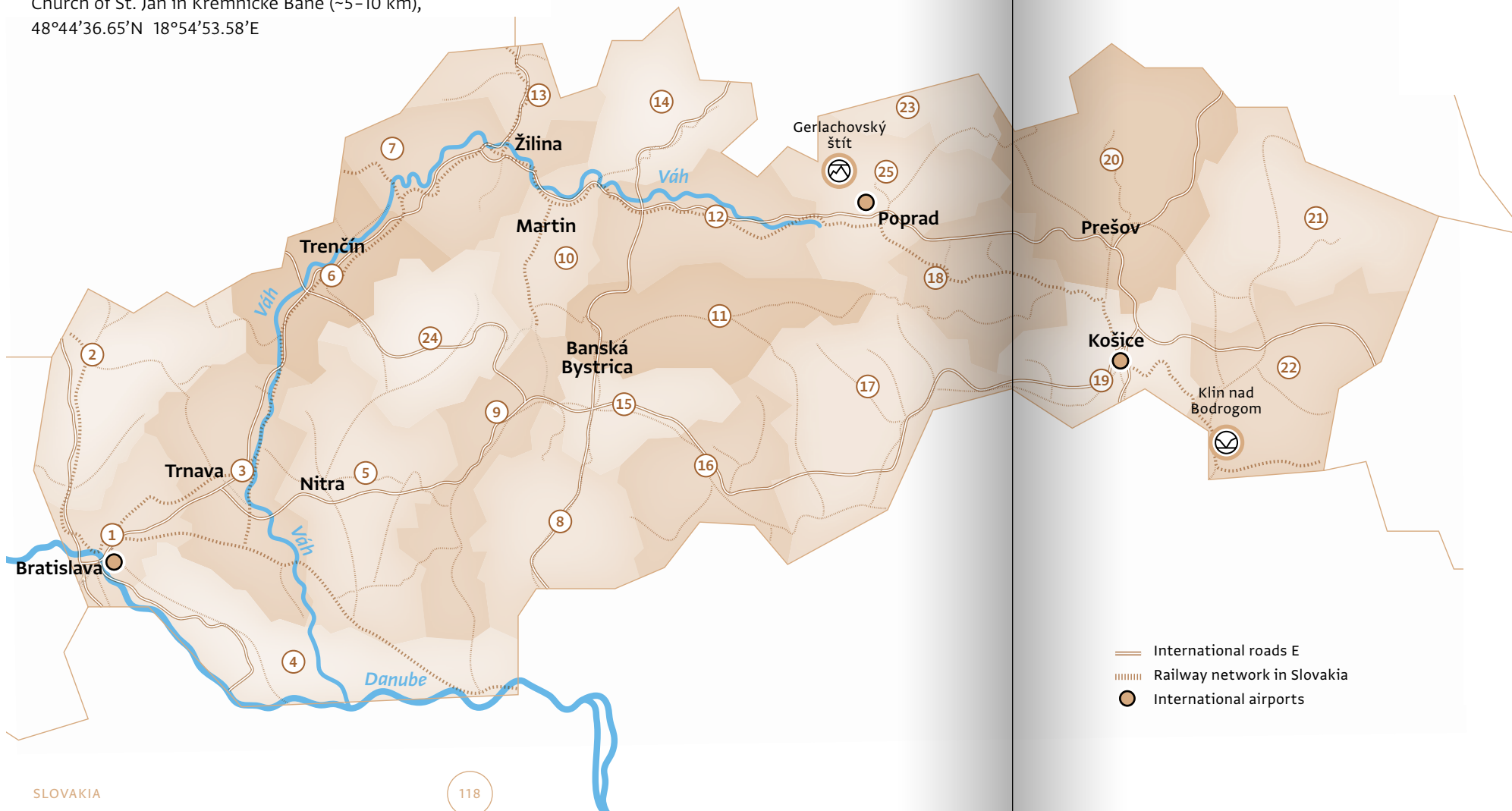
⚔ **Lowest point:** 94 m a. s. l.

near the village of Klin nad Bodrogom
– Zemplín region

Longest river: Váh (403 km)

Biggest river: Dunaj/Danube

(Slovak Republic's section – 172 km)



25 SMALL WORLDS THAT MAKE SLOVAKIA UNIQUE

① Bratislava
and surroundings

② Záhorie

③ Dolné Považie

④ Podunajsko

⑤ Dolná Nitra

⑥ Stredné Považie

⑦ Horné Považie

⑧ Hont

⑨ Pohronie

⑩ Turiec

⑪ Horehronie

⑫ Liptov

⑬ Kysuce

⑭ Orava

⑮ Podpoľanie

⑯ Novohrad

⑰ Gemer

⑱ Spiš

⑲ Košice

⑳ Šariš

㉑ Horný Zemplín

㉒ Dolný Zemplín

㉓ Zámagurie

㉔ Horná Nitra

㉕ Tatry

TRAVEL OPTIONS TO SLOVAKIA

AIR TRAVEL



M. R. Štefánik Airport | Bratislava
www.bts.aero/en



Košice International Airport
www.airportkosice.sk/en



Poprad-Tatry Airport
www.airport-poprad.sk

TRAIN TRAVEL



Slovak Rail (ZSSK)
www.zssk.sk/en



Train travel planning
www.cp.hnonline.sk

ARRIVAL BY BUS OR CAR



Online bus timetables
www.cp.hnonline.sk



Highway sticker information
www.eznamka.sk/en

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE IN SLOVAKIA

UNESCO WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Historic Town of Banská Štiavnica and the Technical Monuments in its Vicinity
- Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments
- Vlkolínec
- Bardejov Town Conservation Reserve
- Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Danube Limes (Western Segment)
Roman military camps (manor houses) Gerulata in Rusovce and Iža
- Wooden Churches of the Slovak part of the Carpathian Mountain Area
 - Hervartov, Roman Catholic Church of St. Francis of Assisi
 - Tvrdošín, Roman Catholic Church of All Saints
 - Kežmarok, Evangelical Articular Church of the Holy Trinity
 - Leštiny, Evangelical wooden articular church
 - Hronsek, Evangelical wooden articular church
 - Bodružal, Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas
 - Ladomirová, Greek Catholic Church of St. Michael the Archangel
 - Ruská Bystrá, Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas the Bishop

UNESCO WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE

- Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst:
Domica, Gombasecká cave, Jasovská cave, Ochtinská aragonite cave, Dobšinská ice cave, Krásnohorská cave
- Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe:
forests Havešová, Vihorlat, Rožok, Udava and Stužica – Bukovské vrchy hills

UNESCO REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

- Fujara and its music
- Music of Terchová
- Bagpipe culture
- Puppetry in Slovakia and Czech Republic
- Multipart singing of Horehronie
- Blaudruck/Modrotisk/Kékfestés/Modrotlač, resist block printing and indigo dyeing in Europe
- Drotárstvo, wire craft and art
- Falconry, a living human heritage



Official UNESCO
website in Slovakia
www.unesco.sk/en



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World
Heritage
in Slovakia



SLOVAKIA

Near and full of surprises

TRAVEL TO
SLOVAKIA
GOOD IDEA

www.slovakia.travel

📷 Viktor Szemző, SNG

Work: Lovers | Alexander Trizuljak | SNG – Strážky Mansion

The SLOVAKIA TRAVEL editorial office is not responsible for any organizational or informational changes in the destinations that arise after publication.

Photographs and illustrations in this publication are subject to copyright.

ISSUED BY

© SLOVAKIA TRAVEL, national organization
for tourism development in the Slovak Republic
📍 Lamačská cesta 8, 833 04 Bratislava 37
🌐 www.slovakia.travel

1st edition, Bratislava 2022

TEXT AND LANGUAGE CORRECTION

© SLOVAKIA TRAVEL

TEXT DESIGN AND EDITING

© Echt | Friends of Brands
🌐 www.studioecht.com
📷 studioecht

TRANSLATION (ENGLISH EDITION)

© Darren Chastney
🌐 www.kavali.eu

COVER

Enrico discovers Slovakia through a lens
in Sedlo pod Ostrvou in the High Tatras
📷 Enrico Baroni
🌐 www.enricobaroni.com
@roaminpix

PRINT

DOLIS GOEN, s. r. o.

A DANUBE COUNTRY UNDER A MOUNTAIN ARC

We invite you to travel our beautiful country.
And be amazed by the diverse landscape.
From southern lowlands to northern highlands.
Fresh water, raging rivers, and tranquil lakes.
Lush forests with beautiful flora and stunning fauna.
180 castles, ruins, and UNESCO-listed attractions.
Picturesque villages and vibrant cities.
Enjoy wine in vineyards and feel fine at spas.
Diverse culture and delicious cuisine.
New sights, tastes, and sensations.

SLOVAKIA
Arrive curious, leave inspired



SLOVAKIA
TRAVEL

TRAVEL TO
SLOVAKIA
GOOD IDEA

@visitslovakia.en
www.slovakia.travel/en
© SLOVAKIA TRAVEL 2022