

SLOVAKIA

UNESCO

A MAGNIFICENT AND MEMORABLE HERITAGE



TRAVEL TO
SLOVAKIA
GOOD IDEA

www.slovakia.travel



📍 UNESCO Biosphere Reserve – TATRY,
Téryho chalet (2015 m) in the Tatras National Park
📷 mountain porter **Martin Maličký** | OOCR High Tatras Region

FEEL THE PERFECT CONNECTION

They're unique to Europe and ascend 2,000 metre peaks with legendary strength and humility.

Mountain porters (registered in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Slovakia) have been carrying 100+ kg loads in the mountains for 900 years, and are the last example of such activity in Europe. Most of the High Tatras' remote thirteen chalets were built with their hard work, as they carried all the construction material up on their mighty shoulders. And they continue to take everything necessary up to the alpine zone to this day. Our Tatras are listed in the UNESCO world network of biosphere reserves.



Biosphere reserves have rich fauna and flora diversity, where locals live in harmony with nature. Four such reserves in Slovakia are recognized as part of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme.

Discover the Tatras, Eastern Carpathians, Slovak Karst National Park, and Protected Landscape Area of Poľana.



AND WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF A RICH HERITAGE

UNESCO WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE

- ⦿ Historic town of Banská Štiavnica and the technical monuments in its vicinity
- ⦿ Levoča, Spišský Hrad castle and associated cultural monuments
- ⦿ Vlkolínec folk architecture reservation
- ⦿ Bardejov town conservation reserve
- ⦿ Frontiers of the Roman Empire
 - the Danube Limes (western segment)
Roman military camps (castles) 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
 - Tvrdosín, 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



Official website
of the Slovak Commission
for UNESCO
unesco.sk/en



unesco

Lokalita
svetového dedičstva

UNESCO WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE

- ⦿ Slovak Karst and Aggtelec Karst Caves:
 - Dómica
 - Gombasecká
 - Jasovská
 - Ochtinská Aragonite
 - Dobšinská ice
 - Krásnohorská
- ⦿ Ancient beech forests and beech forests in the Carpathians and other European regions
 - primeval forests
 - Havešová
 - Vihorlat
 - Rožok
 - Udava
 - Stužica - Bukovské vrchy

UNESCO LIVING HERITAGE

- ⦿ Fujara - the musical instrument and its music
- ⦿ Terchová's music
- ⦿ Bagpipe culture
- ⦿ Puppetry in Slovakia and the Czech Republic
- ⦿ Multipart singing in the Horehronie region
- ⦿ Blueprint
- ⦿ Wire craft
- ⦿ Falconry
- ⦿ Husbandry of Lipizzaner horses at Topoľčianky



...there are extraordinary places in the world created by nature and man, which should be considered the heritage of all mankind...

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage

WILDERNESS AND
CONSTELLATIONS

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MIDDLE AGES

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WELCOME
TO HISTORICAL
BRATISLAVA

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WILDERNESS

AND CONSTELLATIONS

The Milky Way... at Poloniny National Park you can gaze into distant galaxies, hike ancient beech forests, see majestic wild bison, and marvel at wooden churches.



Ancient beech forests and beech woodlands in the Carpathians and other European regions
2007 – 2021

UNESCO Biosphere Reserve – Eastern Carpathians
– Poloniny National Park

📍 The Count's Pond above Nová Sedlica,
Slovakia's easternmost village
📷 Photographer and traveller Filip Kulisev,
MQEP, FBIPP @amazingplanet.filipkulisev
© Amazing Planet

TIME FOR A DIGITAL DETOX?

Pristine forests in Slovakia's easternmost corner are the place to head. Poloniny National Park's clear night sky makes it an astronomer's paradise and ideal for adventures. And with no mobile signal, you're sure to find yourself and discover much more.



TOWERING BEECH TREES

The last generations of European bison wander this landscape, and you could see docile Hutsul horses and track silently scurrying wolves. The Havešová primeval forest area's 240-year-old beech trees reach almost 60-metres into the sky and are the tallest in the world. From Stužica you can walk or cycle up to the Slovakia-Poland-Ukraine border point, the cycle path winds through pristine forest and past wooden churches - including Ruska Bystra's, which is UNESCO World Heritage List registered.



National Park of Poloniny
nppoloniny.sopsr.sk



One's perception changes when spending a night in the forest. And better still is two nights – the second to recover from the experience of the first.

Zuzana Burdová, lecturer and coordinator of the non-profit organization Aevis, which supports nature tourism under the Poloniny slogan – unbelievably real





Join local farmers and crafters to experience true Slovak Ruthenian culture, and you can even bake in a traditional oven and spin a potter's wheel. Explore new experiences at the Discover Poloniny forestry event in mid-August.



📷 Poloniny - unbelievably real, regionpoloniny.sk

GAZE INTO DEEPEST SPACE

Stay the night and explore the sky. Here in one of the darkest places in the world - free from light smog - with the naked eye alone you'll be awed by the numerous galaxies, shooting stars, and sweeping Milky Way. Expert guidance is on hand at the Astronomical Observatory on Kolonické sedlo near Vihorlat forest, which also features Morské oko lake. Simply set up your offline Astro app, grab your camera, and go constellation spotting in Slovakia's UNESCO-recognised forests.



Poloniny
- unbelievably real
objavtepoloniny.sk

EXPLORE CHARISMATIC CHURCHES

In northeast Slovakia you'll find the highest concentration of wooden sacred buildings – with 59 dotted around the area, eight of which are on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List

SACRAL EXCELLENCE

Exceptional architecture, baroque iconostasis, and stunning frescoes give these churches a near mystical feel – and they're 100% wood: not one nail was used.

Ruská Bystrá has the easternmost of the eight UNESCO wooden churches in the beautiful Podvihorlat forests. The interior is dominated by a baroque iconostasis typical of Eastern Rite churches.

Heading north along the Eastern Carpathian arc will reveal two remarkable churches: the oldest Greek Catholic wooden church (1658) is in Bodružal village; and around 10 kilometres away is Ladomirová's onion domed church. This eye-catching example is architecturally the most valuable and representative Greek Catholic church in Slovakia.

On a hillside in Hervartov village (near Bardejov town) stands a 15th century Gothic church – the oldest wooden church in Slovakia. Its exterior remains in near pristine condition even after over half a millennium.



📍 Ruská Bystrá, Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas the Bishop (1730)
📷 Košice Región Turizmus



Wooden churches in the Slovak part of the Carpathian mountain area 2008

UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
– Eastern Carpathians – Poloniny National Park



📍 Ruská Bystrá, Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas the Bishop (1658)
📷 jano stovka mqp @janostovka

📍 Bodružal, Greek Catholic Church
of Saint Nicholas (1658)
📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL, Martin Šopinec



📍 Ladomirová, Greek Catholic Church
of St. Michael the Archangel (1742)
📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL



📍 Hervartov, Roman Catholic Church
of St. Francis of Assisi (late 15th century)
📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL, Martin Šopinec



MYSTICAL MIDDLE AGES

Welcome to Bardejov – where you can explore perfectly preserved Renaissance and Gothic architecture, and unique Moorish synagogue frescoes. An enchanting town overseen the coat of arms' angel and cobbled square's Gothic executioner.



Bardejov's town
conservation reserve
2000

UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
– Eastern Carpathians



GREAT GOTHIC SIGHTS



The historic town hall's foundation stone was laid in 1505 in the square as the first secular Renaissance building in the country.

Historic Bardejov's perfectly preserved two-story townhouses date to the Renaissance and Gothic eras. With matching facades and red roof gables, these 46 two-story buildings attractively showcase the stunning town hall in the cobble stone square. Dating back 780 years, Bardejov was renowned both for its bustling market and thriving trade. Hence Hungarian monarchs placed high value on the town, sitting as it does in the centre of Upper Šariš and with direct routes to the Tatras, Poland and Hungary. On the UNESCO World Heritage List, alongside Levoča and Banská Štiavnica.

▲📍 City Hall and Basilica Minor St. Aegis
📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL, Martin Šopinec

◀📍 Radničné námestie square, Bardejov
📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL



HIDDEN JEWISH RITUALS

As well as the town's Gothic centre, the UNESCO World Heritage List also includes the Jewish suburbium's historical ritual buildings. This area comprises the Old Synagogue, assembly house (bet hamidrash), ritual bath (mikveh), expansion tower and boiler house. The oldest building is the unique nine-vaulted synagogue (1836) with stunning oriental decor.

▲📍 **Old Synagogue** (1836), Jewish Suburbium in Bardejov
📷 Lukáš Borovička



The 15th century Basilica Minor St. Aegis with lavishly decorated vaults, 11 Gothic altars, and breathtaking stained-glass windows has one of the highest accessible church towers (76 m) in Slovakia – the ideal place from which to truly appreciate the preserved fortification system.

►📍 **Basilica Minor St. Aegis in Bardejov** (1415)
📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL, Martin Šopinec



A ROYAL RETREAT

When the monarchy reigned, Bardejov was also a destination for Empress Sissi – her three-week treatment stay continues to influence the spa's unique atmosphere. Enjoy a relaxing stroll through Europe's oldest spa park during your treatment or wellness stay.

▲📍 **Bardejov Spa**
📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL

EASTERN CREATIVE HUB

Be inspired by this digital city of art and its inventive street-art by leading artists. Check into the Invisible Hotel or even run the world's third oldest marathon.

MEDIA, CULTURE AND MORE

Košice proudly considers itself a truly global destination, and you'll find experiences to enjoy and explore across the region. It was the first Slovak city to join the prestigious UNESCO Creative Cities club, joining members such as Linz, Tel Aviv, Lyon, and Toronto. Inspired by new art? An autumn visit should include highlights such as the White Night international art project and the UNESCO Art & Fest – Festival of media art, technology and digital culture. Go to multimedia performances, workshops, and check out an impressive installation at an indoor 1950s swimming pool that locals lovingly transformed into an art space. And then head to the Invisible Hotel for out-of-the-ordinary and super-contemporary night's sleep. The Media Art Room directly references Košice – a UNESCO creative city – through a parallel reality.



**Košice – UNESCO Creative City
of Media Arts in Slovakia
2017**



📍 Hall of Art – Košice – White Night 2014
Élise Morin Waste Landscape # 4 Kunsthalle
📷 David Hanko



Fancy a Košice travel challenge?
How about maximum local
sights in just 100 minutes?
This griffin/key will easily
navigate you to 18 UNESCO
World Heritage List must-sees.



RUNNERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Celebrating its centenary in 2023, Košice's International Peace Marathon is the oldest modern 26-miler in Europe and the third oldest in the world (after Boston and Yonkers in the USA). Every first Sunday in October it welcomes an international field of elite distance runners, and you can join them too! Simply sign up, attach your number and you're good to go – put your big race training to the test as you pass the city's historical buildings and contemporary street art. The route winds its way through the Old Town, so - when your panting and perspiration allow - you can also marvel at the palatial and burgher houses that serenade Slovakia's largest sacral building: St. Elizabeth Cathedral (1508) that can welcome 5,000 worshippers and is Europe's easternmost Gothic place of worship.



KOCSR Košice region tourism
kosciregion.com



Attractions include smilies on the Dome, Košice metro myths, and street art. Join me on the first weekend of the month, and I'll give you the low-down on everything you need to know.

Milan Kolcun, tourist guide to Košice
on potulka.sk, writer and linguist

▲📍 Betz & Perner – The Healer, Košice
📷 David Hanko

◀📍 International Peace Marathon in Košice
visitkosice.org

SPECTACULAR

SPIŠ

Slovakia has a stunning 180 castles and ruins
– and in the Spiš region you'll be spoilt for choice.
UNESCO coordinates will also lead you to lovely
Levoča, an ice cave, and a heavenly church.



Levoča, Spiš Castle and local
cultural monuments
1993, 2009



📍 Church of the Holy Spirit in Žehra
(13th century), and Spiš Castle
📷 Radovan Bries fotorado.sk
@RadovanBriesFotograf

ROYAL RETREAT AND FILMMAKERS' FAVOURITE

Be amazed by Central Europe's largest castle ruin's enormity, period cuisine, and terrifying torture chamber.



📍 St. Martin's Cathedral in Spišská Kapitula (1245)
📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL, Martin Šopinec

Stunning Spiš Castle attracts international film crews from far and wide, and for Slovaks this 800-year-old gem shows how architecture locally developed. These ancient stone walls are brought to life by knight re-enactments and falconry shows, and the castle hill is adorned with a 100-metre Celtic horse geoglyph by Australian sculptor Andrew Rogers. This UNESCO Living Heritage List site also includes Spišské Podhradie with Gothic-Renaissance town houses, and the Jerusalem-style Calvary and Spišská Kapitula hillside which give the town its Slovak Vatican nickname.



Filip Bielík (King Svätopluk's Falconers) will lead his bird of prey to swoop low over you.

Enjoy falconry shows at Spiš Castle, as well as Červený kameň, Trenčín, Orava, and Bojnice castles.

sokoliarskevystupenia.sk

📷 Matúš Pramuka, fotograf.snv.sk



Falconry – Intangible
Cultural Heritage
2021



📍 **St. Jakub's Basilica in Levoča** with the world's highest wooden altar by Master Pavel (14th century)
 📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL, Martin Šopinec

STEEPED IN SYMBOLISM

Meet Levoča, once the centre of the Renaissance and humanism of Hungary. This beautiful town is famous for its 500-year-old wooden Gothic altar (the world's largest at 18.62 m), and one of the most magnificent medieval squares in Central Europe which is lined with 65 Renaissance and Gothic townhouses, splendid palaces, richly decorated facades, and historic coats of arms. By the townhall is a legendary 16th-century

pillory cage which was used to punish women who scandalously ventured out after dusk without a male companion. Churches with masterful altars and frescoes rival the world's best galleries with their finest sacred art, and Mariánska hora hill – a world pilgrimage site – is the place for spiritual humility. The Slovak part of the Camino de Santiago also runs through UNESCO Levoča.



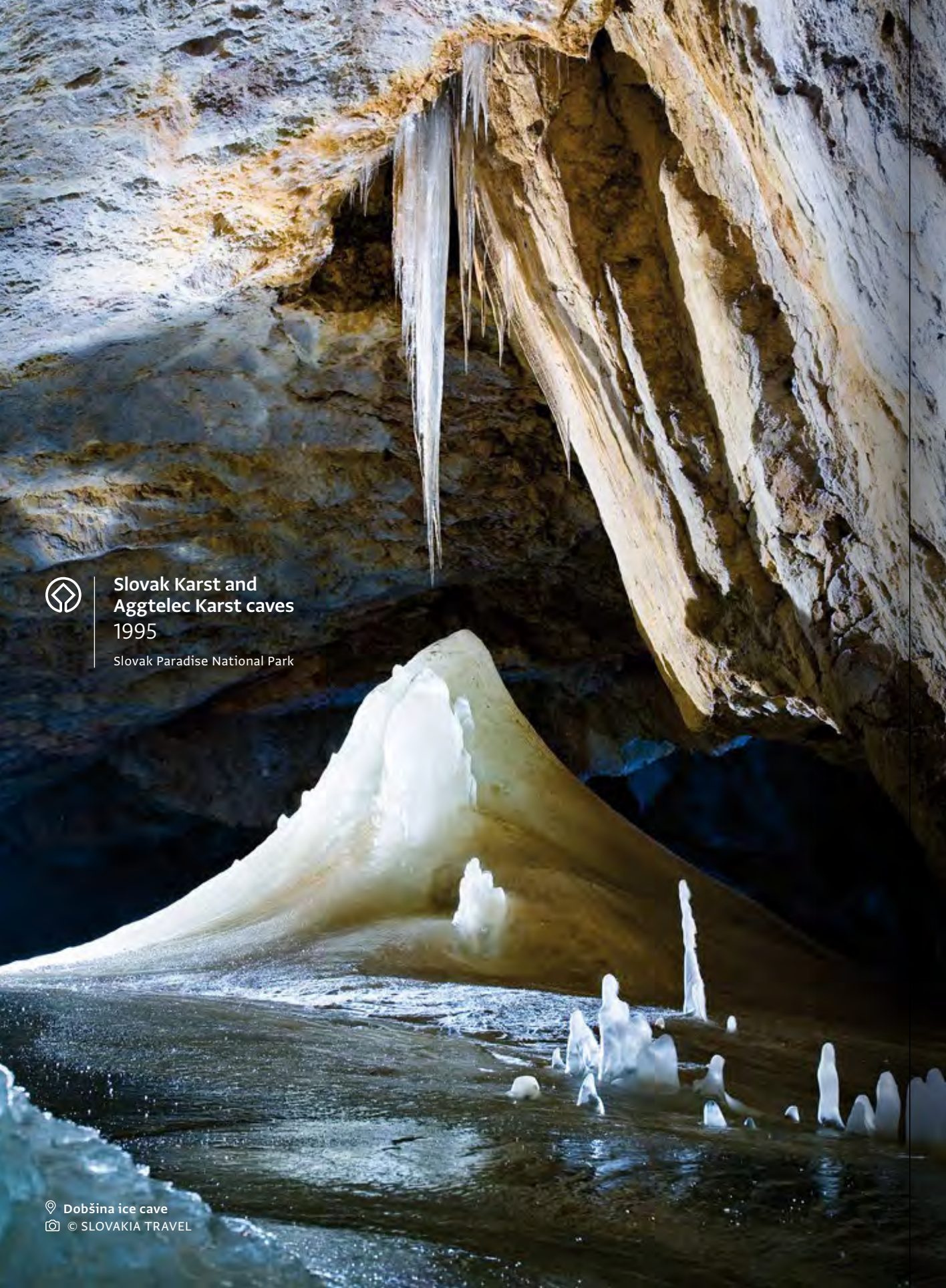
📍 **Holy Trinity Church in Kežmarok** (1717) reconstruction of the original
 📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL, Martin Šopinec

SACRAL SPLENDOUR

The wooden articular Holy Trinity church in Kežmarok (by the High Tatras) with austere white clay plaster looks rather modest next to its neighbour – the impressive Orient-like New Evangelical Church with distinctive ochre-red facade. Yet the 1,500-seat Holy Trinity church – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – has stunning baroque decoration and a heavenly azure sky spanning the ceiling. Swedish sailors are reputed to have assisted the construction – which took just 10 weeks – hence the church's ship-like circular windows. The building cost a princely 660 Hungarian gold coins, three barrels of beer, seven lakhs (the old unit of measure) of fine cloth, and a fine suit for the builder.



Wooden churches of the Slovak part of the Carpathian mountain area
 2008



**Slovak Karst and
Aggtelec Karst caves**
1995

Slovak Paradise National Park

📍 Dobšinská ice cave
📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL



▲ Slovak Paradise has fabulous sights both below and above ground – with awe-inspiring waterfalls and lush deep gorges that can be navigated with ladders.

📍 **Slovak Paradise National Park**
📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL

A SUBTERRANEAN GLACIER

Dobšinská Ice Cave in Slovak Paradise National Park is one of the world's best – rivalling high-altitude ice caves in the Austrian Alps and Romania. Even back in the 19th century, the prestigious Thomas Cook & Son travel agency was highlighting this as a must-see European destination. Explore through the cavernous icy halls, corridors, and ice “tunnel” – with an astounding 26 metres of ice beneath your feet. Of the six UNESCO-listed caves in Slovakia, this is the sole ice cave.

SUBTERRANEAN KARST

Slovak speleotrekking in caves millions of years old is an unmissable adventure. 7,700 caves have been discovered in Slovakia, and many feature world-class natural wonders.

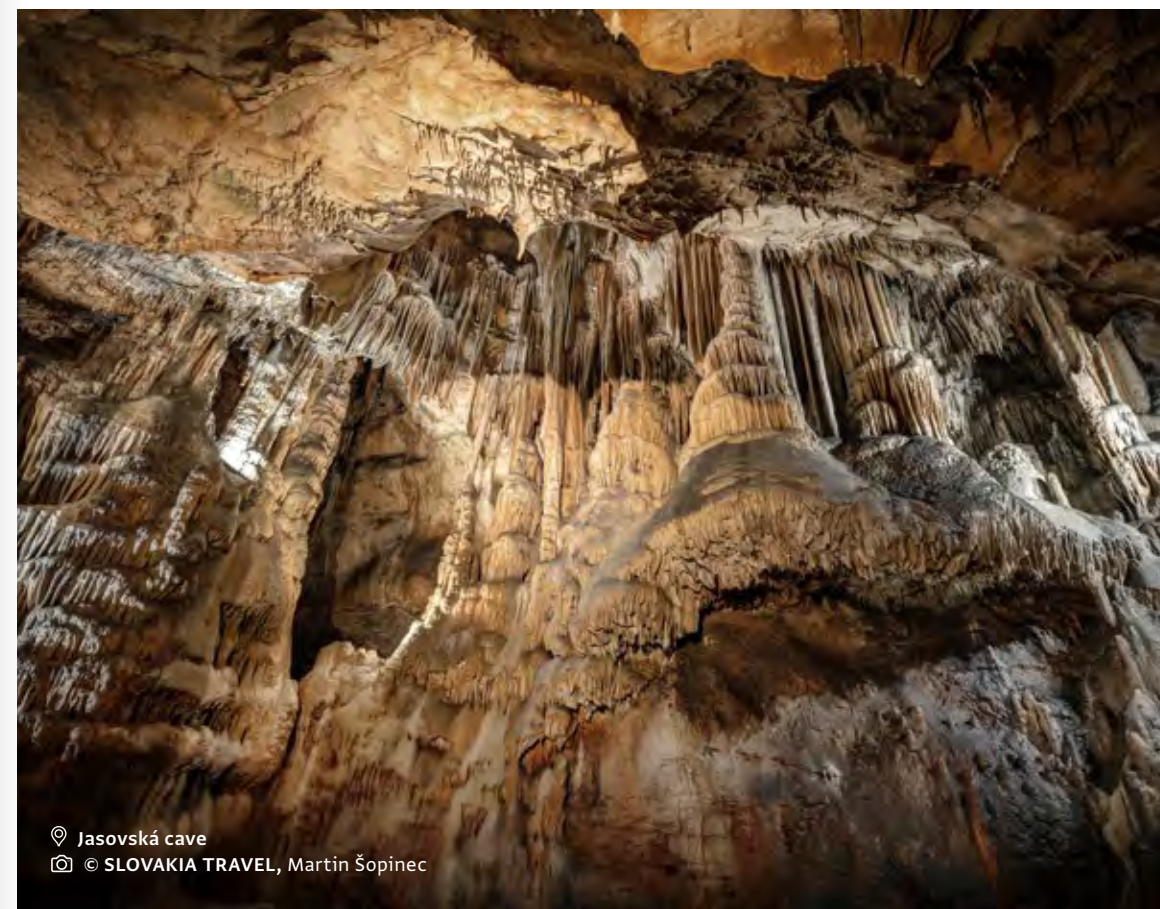


Slovak Karst and Aggtelec
Karst caves
1995

Biosphere Reserve – Slovak Karst
– National Park

📍 Zádiel Gorge – two km long and, 400 m deep
– in the Slovak Karst National Park biosphere reserve
has numerous caves and climbing walls.

📸 Vicktor Belicak, @travelbedeker



📍 Jasovská cave
📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL, Martin Šopinec

OTHERWORLDLY DEPTHS

Venture deep underground and be amazed by mysterious growing formations up to 10-stories high. Cracks and cavities with steep drops, huge underground halls, ice kingdoms, white-water canyons, and passages 500 metres deep. Of our numerous caves, 45 are accessible and 18 have guided tours. We have six amazing UNESCO World Heritage caves to see during your holiday.

EXPLORE UNESCO CAVES

After Slovak Paradise's frosty beauty, head further south to Domica cave on the Hungarian border. On high-water days, cruise the subterranean River Styx's canyon and meanders with colourful sinter sculptures and cascading pools. Krásnohorská cave is another unmissable record holder with its 34-metre stalagmite, one of the world's highest. At Gombasecká cave you can see slender 3-metre sinter straws hanging from the ceiling. As well as looking for underground fauna and flora and seeking bats in Jasov Cave, you can also breathe in healing aerosol: Ochtinská Aragonite Cave is one of the few accessible aragonite caves in the world, and its beguiling flower-formations are unique.



Slovak Caves Administration
ssj.sk/en

HEAD SOUTH FOR MESMERISING MAGMA

Be amazed by other-worldly stone formations with mystical castles, and explore the first transnational Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark (from UNESCO's global network of 177 geoparks).

VOLCANIC BEAUTY

Slovakia's mountainous landscape is the result of huge, interconnected stratovolcanoes – and this is the place to delve into this ancient geology. It all started millions of years ago during the Tertiary period, and the youngest volcano formed four million years ago in southern Slovakia in the Protected Landscape Area of the Cérová Highlands. Unbelievable basalt and a nine-metre waterfall unique in Europe are perfect selfie opportunities, as is the stone sea formed from fragments shaped like the waterfall. Dating to the turn of the 13th/14th centuries, Šomoška Castle perched on a basalt hill has great views towards Hungary. The five-storey bastion at Bebek Castle (in Filákov town) has a fascinating historical exposition, and is the hub of the 30-village Novohradský Geopark.



**Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO
global Geopark**
2010



Geopark Novohrad-Nógrád
geopark.sk/en/novohrad-nograd-geopark-en/



Slovakia has four active geoparks in: Banská Bystrica, Banská Štiavnica, Small Carpathian, and Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Slovak-Hungarian cross-border.



📍 Šomoška Castle in Šiatorská Bukovinka, Salgó Castle in Hungary in the background
📷 Radovan Bries fotorado.sk
@RadovanBriesFotograf

📍 Kamenné more (Rock Sea), Veľká Lehota
📷 Veľká Lehota Banská Bystrica Region Tourism
zahoramizadolami.sk | Peter Čakovský

📍 Castle Museum in Filakovo

📍 Kamenný vodopád (Rock Waterfall), Šiatorská Bukovinka
📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL



LOCAL

FOLKLORE

Two neighbouring regions – Horehronie and Poľana – delight the world with music and beautiful costumes. Breathe in the scent of mountains and meadows, and discover technical innovations and a UNESCO-listed wooden church. Come and explore.

BIG-STAGE VOCALS

Harmonies that perfectly suit and complement the picturesque Muránska Plateau mountains and meadows.



📷 Vladimír Šifra, documentarian and photographer
fotoslovensko.sk

The unique tradition of Horehronie region singing exemplifies Wallachian-pastoral resilience and vitality, a rural way of life dating back to the 14th century. Online recordings are no match for a live performance – such as the Horehronský festival of singing and dancing in Hel'pa and Multipart singing in the Horehronie region: listed among the nine treasures of UNESCO Intangible Heritage in Slovakia. And the ornate traditional costumes worn during festivities are a beautiful sight to behold.

► “Hel'pa ‘aunts’ at the Horehronské singing and dancing festivities, featuring traditional costumes full of passion and craft typical of the Horehronie region.



📍 Murán Castle on Cigánka cliff (938 m),
Muránska Planina National Park
📷 © ChelloPhoto @chellophoto



**Multipart singing in
the Horehronie region**
2017





Fujara - musical
instrument and its music
2005, 2008



WOODWIND WONDER

In central Slovakia's Poľana region you'll find the spiritual home of the fujara – a unique woodwind instrument that has attained legendary folk music status both nationally and globally. Proud owners include Sting, Natalie Imbruglia and Bill Clinton, and it's the number one presidential gift presented to visiting dignitaries. Originally carved by the Poľana hills' shepherds in the 18th century, the fujara – a long, three-hole, elderwood pipe – was used to send signals between the workers and to pass time by devising new melodies combined with singing. The international Východná Folklore Festival and multi-genre Pohoda festival are ideal places to experience the fujara's distinctive sound.

A WOODEN MARVEL

On the outskirts of Poľana is one of our eight UNESCO World Heritage List wooden churches. Located in picturesque Hronsek and dating to 1726, the church's spectacular bell tower sets this magnificent church apart. Enjoy the loving carpentry work – not a single metal nail was used – and diligent details, the architecture is somewhat Scandinavian but is actually a fusion of European styles (German, Ionian and Slavic). Before entering the church, you'll be struck by the majestic lime trees in the courtyard, which are as old as the church itself. This village's historical monuments also include the attractive water castle and manor house.

▲📍 **Wooden articular church in Hronsek (1726)**
📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL, Martin Šopinec



Slovakia's Intangible UNESCO Heritage (up to 2023) includes the fujara, Horehronské multipart singing, Terchov's music, Goral culture, puppetry in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, indigo printing, wire craft, falconry, and Lipizzaner husbandry traditions.



**Wooden churches in the Slovak
part of the Carpathian Arch**
2008



STRATOVOLCANO SILVER CITY

Hike and cycle around the hill lakes and explore mines. Banská Štiavnica is one of Slovakia's most beautiful towns – hence its UNESCO World Heritage List recognition.



Banská Štiavnica and
the technical monuments
in its vicinity
1993

📍 Emma and Enzo at Ottergrund tajch
📷 Tomáš Mlynárik @tmlynarik



📍 Banská Štiavnica's Bartholomew's mine
is part of the Slovak Mining Museum
📷 Robert Vystrčil, dusekarpat.cz



📍 ForRest Glamping, Počúvadlo lake
📷 @forrestglamp.sk



📍 Calvaria, Banská Štiavnica
📷 Radovan Bries fotorado.sk @RadovanBriesFotograf

BEGUILING BEAUTY

An impressive town, full of frescoed palaces, set amongst steep hillsides, and with mysterious mines to be explored. Banská Štiavnica's rich history is perfectly illustrated by magnificent pubs and restaurants, as well as period guesthouses. After breakfast, stroll up to the baroque calvary to enjoy wonderful views from the long-extinct super-volcano's crater - eruptions brought precious ores to the surface and ignited the region's Middle Age gold rush. Kitted out with waterproofs, helmet and headlight, a guided mine tour will lead you down 500-year-old tunnels as you go back in time to marvel at the historical innovations. In 1627, this area was the first in the world to use gunpowder for mining. While wandering the town's quaint cobbled squares and lanes, you'll come across the star-studded story of Dežo Hoffmann, the famed photographer of Hemingway and the Beatles - his pretty birthplace cottage is also available for holiday rentals. Cycling is a great way to discover the surrounding Štiavnica hills, especially the 16th-century network of 24 (of the originally over 60) artificial lakes (tajchs) that originally supplied mines with water and which are now popular bathing spots. UNESCO Banská Štiavnica and the picturesque local mining villages are a wonderful holiday destination.

INSPIRATIONAL CARPENTARY INSIGHTS

A historic settlement – unique in Slovakia for being 100% pre-modern – on Sidorovo hillside in the Veľká Fatra National Park. Vlkolínec village's traditional wooden houses have withstood the test of time thanks to locals' craft skills.



It's our cultural heritage and most importantly, they're beautiful buildings – so refined and naturally set into the landscape that they should be an example for other architects.

Boris Hochel: architect, woodworker, and leader of Vlkolínec restoration workshops

Travel around Slovakia and you'll soon see that the rural south has traditional stone and clay houses, while the north has mainly wooden buildings. The latter were built from spruce and fir, with joints between thick beams filled with clay and moss – all natural materials sourced from the surrounding mountains. Nowhere symbolises the traditional Slovak countryside more than the wooden settlement of Vlkolínec

(dating to 1461) – a hillside homestead founded by coal miners and loggers, and reputedly named after the numerous local wolves (vlk = wolf). This well-preserved jewel of Central European timber buildings is included on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Ružomberok town (which includes Vlkolínec), organises regular state-sponsored workshops where carpenters and folk architecture experts meet residents and locals – together they use wood and construction skills to mend shingle roofs and wooden houses. You can also lend a hand by chopping timber and chiselling water troughs – any help is welcomed. Sidorova lookout is the perfect destination for a pleasant stroll and beautiful views over picturesque Vlkolínec and the mountain panorama. The Veľká Fatra's cycle trails run through the national park and around this lush hill.



**Vlkolínec Folk
Architecture Reservation
1993**



© Radovan Bries fotorado.sk @RadovanBriesFotograf

📍 Farm house and yard Vlkolínec, liptovskemuzeum.sk
📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL

INDIGO PRINTING IN MYSTICAL ORAVA

Check out an indigo workshop, be amazed by UNESCO wooden church patterns, trek the pretty Malá Fatra mountains, and join filmmakers at stunning Orava castle.



Blueprint
2018



I'm attracted to the production process – it's both demanding and fascinating. That it's so exacting makes this historic technique unique in the world.

Matej Rabada, textile designer and indigo maker, Rabada Studio

FOREVER FASHIONABLE INDIGO DESIGN

Over 300 years ago, indigo print was universally popular – adorning clothes from simple farms to luxurious palaces, hence its recognition on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



📍 Designer Matej Rabada's studio in Párnica, Orava region
📷 [@atelierrabada.sk](https://www.instagram.com/atelierrabada.sk) [@atelierrabada](https://www.instagram.com/atelierrabada)



In the 21st century, canvas and moulds have caught the imagination of a new generation of crafters who aim to revive dyeing techniques by using indigo in traditional and contemporary designs. The craft - which had fallen into disuse in Slovakia over the last century - was revived by young crafters Matej Rabada and Peter Trnka. One is based in picturesque Párnica village (Orava region), while the other continues the family tradition near Bratislava. At their workshops you can see the indigo production process, and pick up some unique blue and white souvenirs.



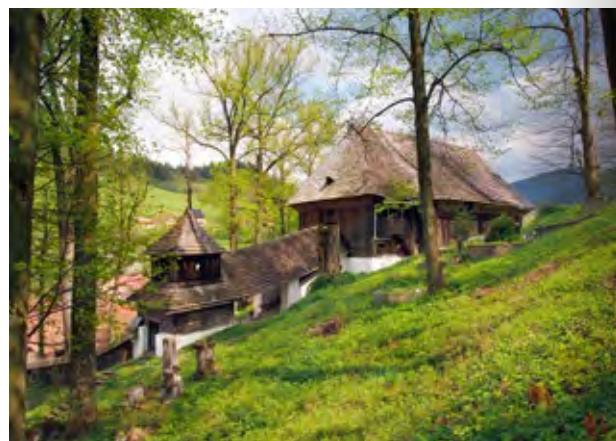
📍 All Saints Church in Tvrdosín (15th century)
 📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL, Martin Šopinec



Wooden churches in the Slovak Carpathian Arch 2008

WOODEN CHURCH AESTHETICS

Orava has Carpathian arch churches that are listed among the eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites. One is an Evangelical church and the other a Roman Catholic church. Leštiny's wooden articular church dates to 1689, while the Church of All Saints in Tvrdosín was established in the 15th century before being rebuilt in the Renaissance style two hundred years later. Both churches' interiors feature stunning floral paintings, baroque 17th century altars with wood carvings, and finely adorned pulpits. The restoration of Tvrdosín church in the 1990s was awarded the Europa Nostra prize for preserving cultural heritage.



📍 Wooden articular church in Leštiny (1689)
 📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL



Only 40 kilometres separate the churches, and about halfway you can enjoy some Carpathian mysticism at 13th-century Orava Castle. This imposing edifice solidly stands on a 112-metre cliff above the Orava River, and is renowned as the filming location for the cult black and white debut horror film: Nosferatu, Symphony of Terror.



📍 Orava Castle
 📷 Radovan Bries fotorado.sk @RadovanBriesFotograf

LIPIZZANER -DRAWN

CARRIAGES

Connoisseurs of thoroughbred horses, fine wines, and aristocratic whims will love this area between the Tribeč and Pohronský Inovec hills in the region of Slovakia's oldest town – Nitra.

OLD SPANISH HORSES' DISTINGUISHED PEDIGREE

Topolčianky Manor House's peerless international collection of prized porcelain and famous historic library are upstaged only by a stunning royal herd. Nestled amidst an attractive English Park, the National Stud Farm stables 550 horses. Highly experienced leading professionals have been rearing five breeds into a distinguished and complete gene pool for a hundred years, including one of the world's oldest cultural breeds: the Lipizzaner. This horses' origins date back to the Old Spanish and Italian horses, and was bred at Slovenia's Lipica stud (founded 1580).

Slovakia's quality husbandry of Lipizzaners especially applies to world championship-level competitive driving, and the National Stud Farm teams train Lipizzaner stallions for the Spanish Riding College. These graceful horses can also be seen at local events, festivals, and parades. Lipizzaner horse husbandry traditions have received an international inscription on the UNESCO Living Heritage List.

From 1890 the manor house belonged to Archduke Charles Louis of Habsburg, who later gifted the building and its contents to his nephew Joseph Augustin. It was also a popular retreat for Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk - the President of the First Czech-Slovak Republic. It provides accommodation as well as Lipizzaner-drawn carriage rides in the locality, and this area of royal horses is also renowned for excellent wines.



📷 Radovan Bries fotorado.sk @RadovanBriesFotograf



National Stud Farm
Topolčianky
nztopolcianky.sk/en



Husbandry
of Lipizzaner horses
2022

📷 documentarian and publicist Martin Kleibl



WELCOME TO HISTORICAL BRATISLAVA

Enjoy our capital city's culture and relaxed
vibe. Follow the Danube along the frontiers
of the Roman Empire, and discover the beauty
of Rye Island – Europe's largest river island.



Frontiers of the Roman Empire
– Danube Limes
2021



📍 St. Martin's Cathedral, Bratislava
© SLOVAKIA TRAVEL

CROWNING OF HUNGARIAN KINGS AND MARIA THERESA

Your strategic point is Bratislava – the 1,100-year-old city on Europe's mighty Danube river, which borders Austria and Hungary.

Once trilingual, Bratislava's unique location made it the centre of Hungary and the Habsburgs' matrimonial policy almost 500 years ago. Enjoy strolling the Old Town's cobbled lanes, refreshing

in stylish pubs with craft beers and typical Bratislava rolls, and enjoy a scenic dinner from the iconic UFO Lookout Tower on SNP Bridge overlooking the Danube.



📍 Ancient Gerulata
📷 Nina Pacharová



📍 Bašagić's collection of Islamic manuscripts, Bratislava
📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL, Martin Šopinec



Wandering the Old Town's historical lanes and buildings, you'll come across University Library. Among the most precious exhibits is Bašagić's collection of Persian, Arabic and Turkish manuscripts, which has been included in the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme. This list also includes the Illuminated Codices of the Library of the Bratislava Chapter and the Mining Maps and Plans of the Main Maritime County Office in Banská Štiavnica, preserved in museums and archives in Slovakia.

CONQUERORS AT THE DOOR

The capital city has UNESCO heritage directly along the EU's longest river – the Danube – where various monuments evidence that this area was the Roman Empire's northern border for centuries. Explore this fascinating heritage at two military camps in the Bratislava district of Rusovce, and 100 kilometres further at Iža (near Komárno). On the right bank of the Danube, Gerulata castle formed an integral part of the Roman Empire's border fortifications. The Roman camp of Kelemantia in Iža was an outpost on the Danube's left bank and unique along this stretch of the border, forming a legionary Brigetio fortress bridgehead. Danube Limes is part of the largest UNESCO site in Europe – at over 5,000 long the entire original border crossed three continents – Europe, Asia, and Africa. Its UNESCO World Heritage Site stretches from Antonine's Wall (UK) to Iža (Slovak-Hungarian border – you can drive there, or take the Danube Cycle Route EuroVelo 6.



Bratislava Tourist Board
visitbratislava.com



SLOVAKIA

UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVES

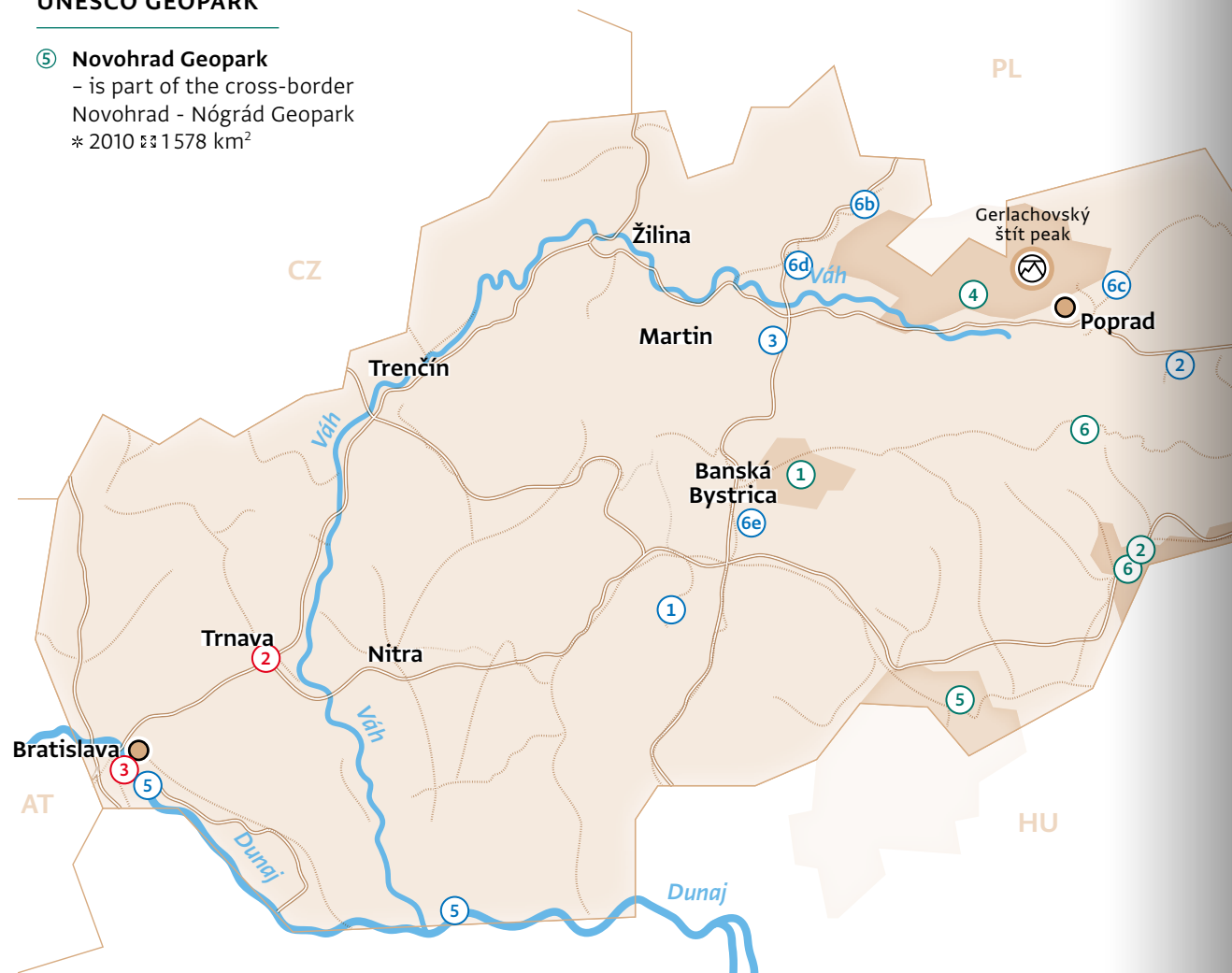
- ① **Poľana** – protected landscape area
* 1990 23 203.6 km²
- ② **Slovak Karst** – national park
* 2002 23 346.11 km²
- ③ **Eastern Carpathians** – the first
trilateral biosphere reserve in the world,
the Slovak part of which is a national park
* 1998 23 2 132.11 km²
- ④ **Tatras** – bilateral biosphere reserve
and national park
* 1992 23 1 132.21 km²

UNESCO GEOPARK

- ⑤ **Novohrad Geopark**
– is part of the cross-border
Novohrad – Nógrád Geopark
* 2010 23 1 578 km²

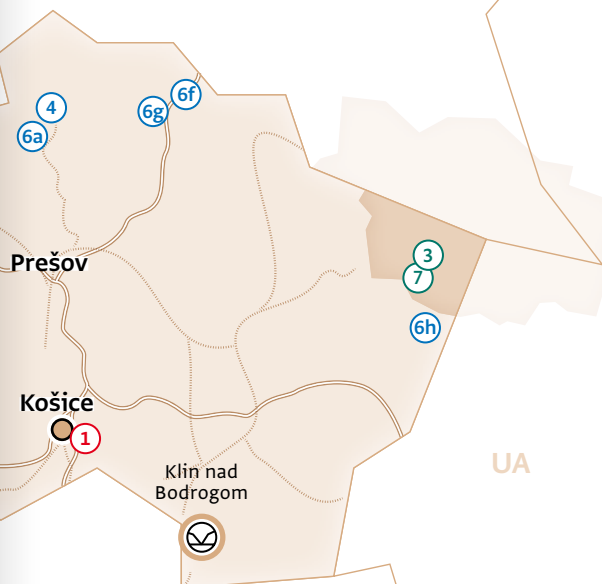
UNESCO LABEL

- ① **UNESCO Creative City**
Košice – creative city of media art
- ② **UNESCO Learning City**
Trnava – UNESCO City of Learning
- ③ **UNESCO Memory of the World Programme**
Bašagić Collection of Islamic Manuscripts,
Illuminated Codices of the Bratislava Chapter
Library, Mining Maps and Plans of the Main
Chamber-County Office in Banská Štiavnica



UNESCO LIVING HERITAGE

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- Ⓐ **Terchová's music**
(page 47)
- Ⓐ **Bagpipe culture**
(page 47)
- Ⓐ **Puppetry in Slovakia and the Czech Republic**
(page 47)
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- Ⓐ **Blueprint**
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(page 29)
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- International road E
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UNESCO WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Ⓒ **Historic town of Banská Štiavnica and the technical monuments in its vicinity**
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(page 26)
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Roman military camps (castles) Gerulata in Rusovce and Iža
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- Ⓒ **Wooden churches of the Slovak part of the Carpathian mountain area:**
 - **Hervartov**, Roman Catholic Church of St. Francis of Assisi (page 15)
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 - **Hronsek**, evangelical wooden articular church (page 47)
 - **Bodružal**, Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas (page 14)
 - **Ladomirová**, Greek Catholic Church of St. Michael the Archangel (page 15)
 - **Ruská Bystrá**, Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas the Bishop (page 15)

UNESCO WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE

- Ⓔ **Slovak Karst and Aggtelecký Karst Caves:**
Domica, Gombasecká, Jasovská, Ochtinská aragonite, Dobšinská ice, Krásnohorská
(page 32 – 37)
- Ⓔ **Ancient beech forests and beech forests in the Carpathians and other European regions primeval forests:**
Havešová, Vihorlat, Rožok, Udava, Stužica – Bukovské vrchy
(page 6 – 11)

REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF SLOVAKIA'S INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Fujara – musical instrument and its music
- The Radvaň Fair
- Špania Dolina miners’ ‘Aušus’ services
- Terchová’s music
- Traditional manual bell ringing and the bell ringers’ role in Slovakia
- Čičmany ornaments
- Salamander in Banská Štiavnica
- Traditional puppetry in Slovakia
- Slovakia’s bagpipes and bagpipe culture
- Blueprint
- Multipart singing in the Horehronie region
- Tulle bobbin lace from the Myjava highlands
- Myjava rolling hills
- Vajnory ornament
- Wire craft
- Fujara trombita
- Majolica ware from Modra
- Carved wooden crosses in the Podpoľanie region
- Husbandry of Lipizzaner horses in Topoľčianky
- Mountain carrying
- Falconry
- Slovak Sign Language
- Dancing requests from Podpoľanie
- Rífová píšťala – shepherds’ pipe
- Ornament from Čataj and Veľký Grob
- Gajdica
- Easter eggs from Polichno
- The trdelník from Skalica
- The Jánošík tradition
- Throwing dances of the Myjava-Trenčín area
- Črpáks – shepherds’ mugs
- Goral culture
- Karička of Parchovany
- Tourist routes marking
- Kyjatice toys
- Babka bobbin lace



**Slovak State Traditional
Dance Company**
sluk.sk



**Slovak Intangible Cultural
Heritage Centre**
ludovakultura.sk



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📍 Experience in Trnava - Municipal Cultural Centre,
kultura.trnava.sk, Garden Party on High Street
📷 Matúš Koprda

UNESCO

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