

## UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites in Slovakia



Grand Hotel  
Kempinski

HIGH TATRAS SLOVAKIA

Several of our cultural and natural properties were inscribed into the UNESCO's World Heritage List.



Bardejov and Banská Štiavnica's historical centre and its technical monuments, Spiš Castle- the biggest castle in central Europe, Vlkolínec Village with its wooden houses documenting our traditions and culture, wooden churches situated in eastern Slovakia are just examples of our historical monuments inscribed into the List. We would like to mention some natural treasures from the UNESCO List: unique caves lying in Slovak Paradise, Oak Primaeval Forest in North-East Slovakia. On the other hand, there are some treasures waiting to be inscribed into the List: Gothic wooden altar chiseled out by Master Pavol from Levoča, Limes Romanus-an ancient Rome's border defence system or Tokai vineyards.

### *Brief Description*

Spišský Hrad has one of the largest ensembles of 13th and 14th century military, political and religious buildings in eastern Europe, and its Romanesque and Gothic architecture has remained remarkably intact. The extended site features the addition of the historic town-centre of Levoča founded in the 13th and 14th centuries within fortifications. Most of the site has been preserved and it includes the 14th century church of St James with its ten alters of the 15th and 16th centuries, a remarkable collection of polychrome works in the Late Gothic style, including an 18.6 metre high alterpiece by completed around 1510 by Master Paul.



Spišsky castle, view from Drevenik

### ***Outstanding Universal Value***

The castle of Spišský Hrad, the town of Levoča, the associated sites in Spišské Podhradie, Spišská, Kapitula, and Žehra constitute a remarkable group of military, urban, political, and religious elements, of a type that was relatively common in medieval Europe, but of which almost none have survived in such a

complete condition with equivalent integrity. Levoča, Spišský Hrad, and the associated cultural monuments is one of the most extensive groups of military, urban, and religious buildings from the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance in Eastern Europe, the Romanesque and Gothic architecture of which has remained remarkably intact in Spišský Hrad, Spišské Podhradie, Spišská, Kapitula, and Žehra, together with the urban plan of Levoča. It is a group belonging to the same Saxon colonial settlement in the Middle Ages, of which it illustrates the material and cultural successes. It testifies to its role as a political, religious, and cultural centre of the first order over a long time-span in Eastern Europe.

**Criterion (iv):** Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the associated cultural monuments of Spišské Podhradie, Spišska Kapitula, and Zehra, extended to Levoča and the works of Master Paul in Spiš, constitute an outstanding example of a remarkably well preserved and authentic group of buildings which is characteristic of medieval settlement in Eastern Europe, in its military, political, religious, mercantile, and cultural functions.

#### **Integrity and Authenticity**

The Romanesque and Gothic architecture of Spišský Hrad and its associated cultural monuments, one of the most extensive groups of 13th and 14th century military, political, and religious buildings in Eastern Europe, has remained remarkably intact. The degree of authenticity of the property is satisfactory. Special attention should, however, be given to the quality of the maintenance and restoration work on the private buildings of



Levoča city center

## Levoca 2009



Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **0:43h**

Coordinates: **N49 01 32.19 E20 35 23.60**

**Location:** Slovakia → Prešovský kraj → Okres Levoča → Levoča

The city of **LEVOČA** is often considered the **brightest jewel in the crown of Spiš**. There is the **tallest Gothic wooden altar in the world** and other interesting monuments enclosed within the **town walls**.

The focus of ancient Levoča is the large **Námestie Majstra Pavla square** (The square of Maestro Pavol). In its centre the Roman-Catholic **St Jakub church** from 14th century stands. It is one of the most important sacral buildings in Slovakia. The tall slender tower of St Jakub from the first half of the 19th century is the most distinct feature in town's silhouette.

The interior of the church is especially precious, which is in fact a unique museum of medieval sacral art. The 18,6 m tall **Late Gothic main altar of St Jakub** is the **tallest of its kind in the world**. Made of lime wood in 1507-1517 in the workshop of **Maestro Pavol of Levoča**, it is of extraordinary artistic value, whilst the board paintings are attributed to the painter Hans.

The church neighbours with the **arcaded** building of the former **town hall** built after the fire in 1550. It is one of the finest buildings of secular Renaissance architecture in Slovakia.

The **cage of opprobrium** on the square is from the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries and was used in the past for the public humiliation of petty criminals. The central square is skirted by more than 50 remarkable burgher and patrician houses, many of which carry the name of their former owners. Of especial interest is **Thurzo's house**, which acquired its Neo-Renaissance graffiti facade in 1904.

### **Contact**

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Námestie Majstra Pavla 58

054 54 Levoča



## Castle of Spis 1993



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Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **1:00 h**

Coordinates: **N48 59 58 E20 46 03**

**Location:** Slovakia → Prešovský kraj → Okres Levoča → Spišské Podhradie



It is one of the largest medieval castles in Central Europe. It had been mentioned by the 12th century as a regional castle. The main body of the castle was surrounded by a stone fortification in the first half of the 13th century. This enabled the castle to resist the raids of the Tatars in 1241. In the same century the fortifications were mainly strengthened by the Italian stonecutters who worked to the construction of the Spisska Kapitula. Of the 13th century it is a Romanesque palace, the gothic dwelling tower and a now non-existent Romanesque chapel.

In 1993 the Spis castle together with the surroundings (Spisske Podhradie, Spisska kapitula, the church in Žehra) was enlisted into UNESCO World Heritage List.

These monuments are situated in the higher courtyard. During the reign of Ludovít (the son of Charles Robert of Anjou) the castle was extended by the addition of the central courtyard with an entry gate and barbican in the 14th century. In the half of the 15th century the lower courtyard was built. Its construction is connected with the army of Ján Jiskra of Brandýs, that it was called after the death of the king Zigmund (in 1437) in order to protect the new Hungarian king still underage Ladislav Pohrobok (1445-1457). The Spis castle belongs to many owners. In 1464 it was property of the Zapolsky family, in the first half of the 16th century of the Thurzo family and the last proprietor after 1636 was the Csaky family until 1945. During a fire in 1780 the castle suffered extensive damage and was not reconstructed afterwards. From 1970 in the castle imposing jobs of restoration are carried out. In the restored part of the castle is situated the exposure of the history of the Spis castle and in the underground prison the torture instruments.

Visiting hours: May-September: Monday - Sunday, 09.00 - 18.00  
October: Tuesday - Sunday, 09.00 - 17.00

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## Spisska Kapitula- 1993

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **1:00 h**

**Location:** Slovakia → Prešovský kraj → Okres Levoča → Spišské Podhradie

The ecclesiastic town **SPIŠSKÁ KAPITULA** is sometimes also referred to as the “**Slovak Vatican**”. Church life not only in Spišská Kapitula (The Chapter of Spiš) was organised from here by the bishops, provosts, and canonists

The most important building of Spišská Kapitula is the **Late-Romanesque** St Martins Cathedral. It acquired its massive form of a three-nave building with two towers in the years 1245-1275. In 1382, a **Corpus Christi chapel** was added to it, though it was replaced by the contemporary one in the years 1488-1493. This chapel of the Zápoľský family imitates the French chapel of Saint Chapelle. Baroque traits were erased by reconstruction in the years 1873-1889 in an attempt to give it a medieval character in line with the taste of the period of Romanticism.

The **Bishop's Palace** was built together with the Cathedral as a provosts palace. In the past, there used to be a **French park** around the palace and its entrance was next to the **Hodinová veža** (The Clock Tower) from 1739.

In the eastern part of Spišská Kapitula on narrow Gothic plots, the **Chapters of the canonists** are accessible only by one narrow lane. The **fortification** of this ecclesiastical town, with two entrance gates, was built in the 14th century and rebuilt several times.

Spišská Kapitula is administered by the Spišské Podhradie commune.

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## Zehra - 1993

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **1:00 h**

**Location:** Slovakia → Košický kraj → Okres Spišská Nová Ves → Žehra

The oldest part of the two-nave church with a square presbytery is a mixture of two styles preserved until the present time. It is a sensitively accomplished combination of the Romanesque and Early Gothic building elements.

The vaulting in the church nave built in 1433 is younger; the Baroque onion-shaped dome of the church tower molding its inimitable silhouette was finished in 1769. Unique medieval **wall paintings** that were created gradually, from the second half of the 13th century till the end of the 15th century, were preserved in the church interior.

The temple paintings in Žehra are remarkable for their artistic quality and unusual thematic diversity. They depict various Biblical stories and legends of the saints. The painting of what is referred to as the **Tree of Life** is especially impressing. It was revealed in 1954. The crucified Christ in the centre divides the history of salvage into the Old and the New Testament. The Old Testament is symbolized by a figure of a woman - Synagoga and the New Testament is represented by a figure of Ecclesia. The figures of Adam and Eva are placed on the sides of the painting.

### **Contact**

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Žehra 87, 053 61 Žehra



## Vlkolinec – 1993



Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **0:52h**

**Location** Slovakia → Žilinský kraj → Okres Ružomberok → Ružomberok

Biely Potok is the salient point for the community of **VLKOLÍNEC** - a monument **reserve of folk architecture**. This extraordinary and remarkable oasis of folk architecture was included in the List of the World Cultural and Nature Heritage of **UNESCO** in 1993.

The community was first referred to in 1376. Its unique compound of original folk buildings remained **untouched by modern construction**. Based in comparative study of ICOMOS (International Council for Monuments and Settlements) it was classified as the **best-reserved settlement of this time within the Carpathian Arch**. Originally it was the settlement of loggers, shepherds and farmers.

Vlkolíneč is a typical example of a two-line street pattern with long yards. In its centre, the community divides into a street leading to the Baroque-Classical Roman-Catholic church of the Virgin Marys Visitation of 1875 and a street heading along a steeper terrain to the foothills of the Sidorovo Mountain (1,099 m).

At the division of the streets the two most frequently photographed objects stand - a **log two-storey belfry** from 1770 on a stone stand and a **log well** from 1860. Among the protected buildings in the community are 45 log houses with farmyards from the 18th century. The interesting thing is that it was painted in blue, rose and white paints twice a year.

A typical example of a house in Vlkolíneč is the **farmers' house** - a detached outdoor part of the **expositions of the Liptov Museum**. The house was built in 1886 and opened to public in 1991. Its well-preserved original interior and furniture provide a true picture of the way of life of its ancient inhabitants from the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. The remaining protected objects in the monument reserve are still inhabited, its population amounts to 30 and this is the reason why visitors can see only the exterior of houses.

Vlkolíneč is included in the National Park of Veľká Fatra. The **cyclist route** crosses it and **owners of several private houses offer accommodation**. The interesting folk event called "Sunday in Vlkolíneč" is organised every summer at the beginning of August.

**Pricelist:** Adults 2 €, Children, pupils, students, retired 1 €

**Opening hours:**

The village itself is an open-air museum, it is possible to enter the village the whole year.

**Peasant house opening hours:**

**16.4. - 15.6., 16.9. - 15.10**

Tu - Fr 9.00 a.m. 3.00 p.m.

Sa - Su 9.00 a.m. 4.00 p.m.

**16.6. - 15.9.**

Mo - Su 9.00 a.m. 5.00 p.m.

**16.10. - 15.4.**

Tu - Su 10.00 a.m. 3.00 p.m.

**Contact:**

Občianske združenie Vlkolíneč

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Phone: +421 (0)915/755 711, +421 (0)915/755 711

Vlkolíneč č. 906,1 034 03 Ružomberok



## Wooden churches – 2008

Eight wooden churches located in eastern Slovakia were included into the UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2008. The oldest ones were constructed in the sixteenth century and some are still places of regular church services. Being inscribed into the list was the greatest honor they could ever received.

In UNESCO World Heritage were inscribed the following wooden churches:



### Greek catholic churches:

In Ruská Bystrá

In Ladomírová

In Bodružala

### Roman catholic churches:

In Tvrdošíňá

In Hervartova pri Bardejove

### Evangelical churches:

In Kežmarok

In Hronsek

In Leštiny

Specific samples of sacred architecture in Slovakia are the **wooden churches**. Their folk builders expressed the perfect harmony of the human soul with nature and the effort to disengage from earthly worries. Among the oldest are the **Gothic wooden churches** (for example Hervartov, Tvrdošíň). The “**articled**” churches are other type of wooden churches (for instance Sv. Križ, Leštiny, Kežmarok, Hronsek). The “articled” churches are those built under the article of the law issued by Emperor Leopold I at the end of the 17th century.

There is also a third type of wooden churches built in **eastern Slovakia**, mostly in the 18th century. First they were owned by the **Greek Catholic** denomination, later some of them were changed into **Orthodox** churches. The special features of the East Christian rite are reflected in their interior decoration and furniture where the unique Carpathian **icons** dominate. They are normally fitted into iconostases ornamented in the Baroque and Rococo styles.

## Tvrdošín - 2008

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **1:20 h**

GPS: **N49°20'11,93" E19°33'33,23"**

**Location:** Slovakia → Žilinský kraj → Okres Tvrdošín → Tvrdošín



The pride of Tvrdošín and its oldest preserved building is the Gothic wooden Roman-Catholic **All Saints church** situated in the local cemetery. In 2008, along with seven wooden churches of the Slovak part of Carpathian Mountain Area, it was included on the **UNESCO's** Word Heritage List.

Its origins date back to the second half of the 15th century and it was rebuilt in Renaissance style in the 17th century. The **Baroque altar** from the end of the 17th century with the painting of All Saints dominates the interior of the church. Formerly, there was a low Gothic altar. Only one wing with the paintings of St Peter and St John the Baptist was preserved. The original central part of the altar, a painting of Bemoaning the Death of Christ from the 15th century was moved in 1919 to a museum in Budapest. The interior of the church was finished in the mid-17th century.

Viewing the church, especially the paintings of the Apostles, the Late Renaissance pulpit with figures of the Evangelists from 1654, and a **painting of St George** mounted on a horse fighting a dragon (a distemper painting on wood from 1653) will draw the attention of any visitor. The wonderful dome paintings (a sky with stars, angels and a panelled ceiling) complement the Gothic mysticism of the space.

Highly artistic and expert reconstruction and restoration of the church was awarded a prize by **EUROPA NOSTRA** in 1993 and the church itself, as the National Cultural Monument, was included in the list of European cultural heritage.

### **Contact**

Turisticko - informačná kancelária Tvrdošín

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+421 (0) 43/532 31 11

Vojtaššákova 496  
027 44 Tvrdošín



## Hervartov – 2008

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski **2:15 h**

GPS: **N49°14'48" E21°12'15"**

**Location:** Slovakia → Prešovský kraj → Okres Bardejov → Hervartov



The Roman Catholic wooden **church of St Francis of Assisi**. In 2008, along with seven wooden churches of the Slovak part of Carpathian Mountain Area, it was included on the **UNESCO's** Word Heritage List.

The Roman Catholic wooden **church of St Francis of Assisi** was built by the end of the 15th century (probably between 1499 and 1500). It is the **oldest** and **best preserved** wooden church in Slovakia. The Gothic pictures and wall paintings from 1655 and 1805 are the most valuable parts of its interior.

### **Contact**

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Tel.: +421 (0) 54/ 474 40 03

Radničné námestie 21

085 01 Bardejov



## Kežmarok - 2008

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **0:38 Stunden**

GPS: **N49°7'59,72" E20°25'42,55"**

**Location:** Slovakia → Prešovský kraj → Okres Kežmarok → Kežmarok



One of the best preserved Slovak wooden sacral buildings is the **articled Evangelical church** in Kežmarok. In 2008, along with seven wooden churches of the Slovak part of Carpathian Mountain Area, it was included on the **UNESCO's** Word Heritage List.

The Evangelical church was built in 1717 next to an older sacral stone building from 1593, which today is a sacristy. This unique wooden building made of **yew** and **red spruce wood** was built without using a single metal component and its ground plan is in the form of a Greek cross.

The Baroque interior of the church is also made of wood. Of immense artistic value is also the **church organ with wooden pipes**.

### **Contact**

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Hlavné námestie 1  
060 01 Kežmarok



## Leštiny - 2008

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **1 Stunde**

GPS: **N49°11'22,16" E19°20'55,8"**

**Location:** Slovakia → Žilinský kraj → Okres Dolný Kubín → Leštiny



The **wooden articulated Evangelical church**. In 2008, along with seven wooden churches of the Slovak part of Carpathian Mountain Area, it was included on the **UNESCO's** Word Heritage List.

The most important monument in Leštiny is the **wooden articulated Evangelical church** of 1688 with wooden belfry. The lavishly painted interior decoration of the church is from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Visitors are attracted especially by the main altar from the beginning of the 18th century, church pews with coats of arms, Renaissance baptistery of the 17th century, a copy of the burial flag of J. Zmeškal, and an epitaph of M. Meška of 1753.

### Contact

Turisticko-informačná kancelária Dolný Kubín

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Na Sihoti 1158  
026 01 Dolný Kubín



## Hronsek – 2008

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **1:50 Stunde**

GPS: **N48°38'58" E19°9'17"**

**Location:** Slovakia → Banskobystrický kraj → Okres Banská Bystrica → Hronsek



The **wooden articulated church**. In 2008, along with seven wooden churches of the Slovak part of Carpathian Mountain Area, it was included on the **UNESCO's** Word Heritage List.

The **wooden articulated church** from 1726 is set in the wonderful environment of big lime trees. There are 1,100 chairs in this church. Its organ was fitted in 1764. Four bulky lime trees stand in its yard. Fine wooden belfry from 1726 stands nearby.

The member of the Štúrs literary group, poet Andrej Sládkovič married the local girl Júlia Senkovičová in this church.

### Contact

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974 01 Banská Bystrica



## Bodružal – 2008

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **2:45 Stunden**

GPS: **N49°21'10" E21°42'25"**

**Location:** Slovakia → Prešovský kraj → Okres Svidník → Bodružal

The Greek Catholic wooden **church of St Nicolas**. In 2008, along with seven wooden churches of the Slovak part of Carpathian Mountain Area, it was included on the **UNESCO's** Word Heritage List.

The Greek Catholic wooden **church of St Nicolas** from 1658. The log building consists of three parts. Its shingle roof is dissected and has three little towers.

The area of the church has a log fence with shingle tops. Remains of wall paintings from the 18th century survive in its interior. Iconostas and several icons are from the end of the 18th century.

The church was completely reconstructed in summer 2004.

### Contact

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## Ladomirová – 2008

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **1:37 Stunde**

GPS: **N49°19'43,82" E21°37'37,15"**

**Location:** Slovakia → Prešovský kraj → Okres Svidník → Ladomirová



The Greek Catholic wooden church of **St Michael the Archangel**. In 2008, along with seven wooden churches of the Slovak part of Carpathian Mountain Area, it was included on the **UNESCO's** World Heritage List.

The Greek Catholic wooden church of **St Michael the Archangel** was built in 1742 **without a single metal nail**. Independent belfry with column construction stands by the church. The area, part of which is a cemetery, has a log fence.

Valuable iconostas and altar are from the mid-18th century. It is a five-row wooden architecture filled with icons, part of which was destroyed in the Second World War.

### Contact

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## Ruská Bystrá - 2008

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **3:42 Stunden**

GPS: **N48°51'29,87" E22°17'57,5"**

**Location:** Slovakia → Košický kraj → Okres Sobrance → Ruská Bystrá



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The Greek Catholic wooden **church of St Nicolas the Bishop**. In 2008, along with seven wooden churches of the Slovak part of Carpathian Mountain Area, it was included on the **UNESCO's** Word Heritage List.

The Greek Catholic wooden **church of St Nicolas the Bishop** was built at the beginning of the 18th century, in the years 1720 to 1730. The log building consists of three parts. It is covered by shingle roof.

The interior in the Baroque and Rococo style is from the beginning of the 18th century.

### Contact

Informačná kancelária mesta Michalovce

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Vydavateľstvo DAJAMA  
slovakia.travel

## Banska Stiavnica – 1993

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **2:13h**

**Location:** Slovakia → Banskobystrický kraj → Okres Banská Štiavnica → Banská Štiavnica

Mining schools and science also flourished in the town: the oldest mining school in the Kingdom of Hungary was founded in 1735. It was promoted to the **Mining Academy** in 1762, **the first superior mining school in Europe.**

The dominant of the town centre is **Starý zámok** (Old Castle) standing on the west terrace of the Trojičné námestie square. The oldest part of the Castle is the former parish church of the Virgin Mary. It was built together with the adjacent ossuary of St. Michael in the 13th century as the three-nave Romanesque basilica. Today, the Old Castle houses the Slovenské banské múzeum (Slovak Mining Museum). Pipes and targets are some of its interesting exhibitions. The **Nový zámok** (New Castle) stands on the opposite hill since 1571. It also contains collections of the Slovak Mining Museum among them documents concerning Turkish wars. It offers a **wonderful view of the town.**

The majority of monuments of Banská Štiavnica are concentrated into the area spreading between the Trojičné and Radničné námestie squares. Both squares are separated from each other by the **Gothic church of St. Catherine** from the end of the 15th century and the building of **town hall** with its slender clock tower.

In the centre of the Trojičné námestie square skirted by old burgher houses and public buildings, the **wonderful Trinity Pillar** stands. The biggest building of the Trojičné námestie square is the Hallenbach House, where the mining court seated. Another bulky building stands on the Kammerhofská ulica street, which runs down from the town centre to the bus station. It is the building of **Kammerhof** or Chamber Yard, which originated in 1550 by adaptation of several Gothic houses. Today it is the principal building of the Slovak Mining Museum. Its most attractive part is the out-door exhibition where there is the **option to visit the underground pits.**

**The Baroque Calvary** is also one of the fine moments of Banská Štiavnica. It consists of 23 structures situated in the charming mountain environment.

### Contact

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## Bardejov – 2000

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **2:03h**

**Location:** Slovakia → Prešovský kraj → Okres Bardejov → Bardejov



The town of Bardejov is situated in the north of eastern Slovakia. The news written more ancient of the town dates back to 1241. At the turn of the 13th and 14th centuries, the town attracted the attention of Hungarians sovereign of the family Anjou, for its strategic position on the commercial road for the Poland and the Russia. In the 1320 king Charles Robert of Anjou granted to colonists from Silesia extensive rights, which speeded up the process of transformation of the chartered village Bardejov into a town. In 1352 the town obtained the right to hold the 8-day fair and the guarantee of freedom for all who took part in it. In 1365 Bardejov obtained the right of capital punishment and in 1376 King Louis I. promoted it to the status of Free Royal Town. The town was supported but also financial exploited from the King Zigmund of Luxembourg and King Matthias Corvinus. The 15th century meant for Bardejov the apex of its prides and of its riches. The majority of the inhabitants is taken care of commerce and of craftsmanship, and already in 1437 had been recorded in town quite 64 different professions.

The great economical prosperity of the town influences also the development of a new architecture in town. Close to the parish church of St. Egidius were built bourgeois buildings with high and sloping roofs. Between 1505-1511 was built the gothic-renaissance Town hall and the town fortifications system was completed. In the 16th XVI century it had been a great development of science, of the culture and the art, centralized in the humanist municipal school of Bardejov. The city became therefore the important center of the education in the northeast Hungary. In the successive centuries, like result of the numerous wars and of natural catastrophes, the decline of the town deepened and therefore Bardejov became a small town of province.

In 1950 it was declared a protected city core and an intensive restoration of the cultural heritage was begun. It was for the preservation of its heritage that in 1986 Bardejov was awarded the European prize - Gold Medal by the International Board of Trustees in Hamburg. Bardejov became the holder of this award as the first town in the Czechoslovakia. In the 30.11.2000 Bardejov was enlisted into UNESCO World Heritage List. The most protected monuments are in the first place the town fortifications and the small Jewish quarter.

Important monuments of Bardejov are: the Town hall, The St. Egidius church, the Town fortifications, the Former Humanist Gymnasium, the church of St. John of Baptist, the Greek-catholic church, the Evangelical church, the Orthodox church, the Former Jewish complex.

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## UNESCO Natural Phenomena

**Slovakias unique natural phenomena are represented in the UNESCO List by caves and abysses of Slovenský kras karst and by Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa cave. In 2007 the Carpathian primeval beech forests of the Bukovské vrchy and Vihorlatské vrchy Mts. in the east of Slovakia were added to this list**

*Slovenský kras* situated in the south of Slovakia on the frontier with Hungary is the **largest karstic area in the middle Europe**. It consists of 1110 caves and abysses.

In 1995 the bilateral Slovak-Hungarian project with the title **Caves of the Slovak and Aggtelek Karst** was successful in its endeavour to be included among the most precious world natural phenomena. In 2000 this inscription also included the ice cave of Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa, one of the largest of its kind in Europe.

The primeval beech forests of the Carpathians in the Ukraine and in Slovakia were added to the UNESCO list in June 2007. Thanks to this fact, the **primeval forests of Stučica, Rožok and Havešová** in the **Bukovské vrchy Mts.** and Kyjov primeval forest in the Vihorlatské vrchy Mts. in CHKO Vihorlat are of world importance. The first three of them are situated in the area of the Poloniny National Park.

The Slovak Republic prepared further nominations for this List and among them is the Tatra National Park, the National Park of Slovenský raj and the National Park of Malá Fatra.



## The Dobsinska Ice Cave - 2000

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **0:53h**

GPS: **N48°52'0,61" E20°18'8,84"**

**Location:** Slovakia → Košický kraj → Okres Rožňava → Stratená

Open: 15.5 - 30.9

Closed: on Monday

Duration of the guided tour: 40 min.



The unique karst exemplary in the National park of Slovak Paradise is the Dobsinska Ice Cave. It is a karst cave with ice content in some parts of the cave. The largest part of the cave was discovered in 1870 and immediately from the beginning it attracted a lot the attention. Thanks to the Dobsina town the cave was open to the public already in 1871, just a year after its discovery. Since 1882, it has been the first cave with electric illumination in that-time Hungary.

A curiosity of the cave was that until 1946 to its inside was possible to skate on ice for the public all the Year round. In the early Fifties years inside the cave, was trained also the well-known Czechoslovakian champion Karol Divin.

The cave length is 1,232 m, for the public are accessible only 475 m. The vertical range is 112 m. The air temperature in the ice chamber called the Big Hall goes from the -3, 8°C until + 0, 5°C, the relevant humidity is 75 - 88%. In the Big Hall there is ice in the form of ground ice, ice waterfalls, ice stalagmites and columns, the largest layer of ice is 26,5 m thick. The individual parts of the cave carry names in base to what remember: In the frozen parts are situated the Small Hall, the Big Hall, the Hall of Rufiny and the House destroyed. In the not freeze parts done we remember the Stalactites Hall, the White Hall, the Dry House, the Hell.

Due to its beauty and nature value it was inscribed into the List of UNESCO World Natural Heritage in 2000.

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049 71 Dobšinská Ľadová Jaskyňa



Grand Hotel  
Kempinski

HIGH TATRAS SLOVAKIA

# The Ochtinska aragonit Cave - 1995

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **1:42h**

GPS: **N48°39'57,49" E20°18'48,5"**

Location: Slovakia → Košický kraj → Okres Rožňava → Ochtiná

Open: 1.4 - 31.10

Closed: on Monday

Tempo della visita: 45 min.



Grand Hotel  
Kempinski

HIGH TATRAS SLOVAKIA



The aragonite cave is situated in the attractive landscape of the Slovak Metalliferous Mountains (Slovenske Rudohorie) between Jelsava and Stitnik. It is the unique example of cave not only in Slovakia, but also in Europe. It is one of three caves of this type accessible to the public all over the world. The other two are situated in Mexico and in Argentina. ARAGONITE - a less common crystalline form of calcium carbonate than calcite, denser and orthorhombic.

The Ochtinska aragonite cave was discovered for chance in 1954 by the workers during the geologic exploratory. In 1972 it was open to the public. The cave is 300 m long of whom 230 m are accessible. The temperature of the cave is between 7,2 and 7,8°C and the relevant air humidity is of 92 - 97%. The aragonite cave is not a classical cave of stalactites or stalagmites, but is constituted by something like to twigs and small shrubs of white color formations of aragonites. The formations of aragonites are three types: kidney-shaped (138 thousand years old), needle-shaped (13 thousand years old) and spiral forms.

The most attractive part of the cave is considered the Milky Way Hall with the characteristic oval formations. It was called this way because of the long crack in the ceiling replenished of formations of white aragonites that shine like the stars in the Milky Way.

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## The Gombasecka Cave – 1995

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **1:45h**

GPS: **N48°33'41,35" E20°27'50,89"**

Location: Slovakia → Košický kraj → Okres Rožňava → Plešivec

Open: 1.4 - 31.10

Closed: on Monday

Duration of the guided tour: 35 min.



The Gombasecka cave is situated on the western foothill of the Silicka Plateau between Rožňava and Plešivec. It was discovered in 1951 and in 1955 was open to the public for a length of 285 m. Since 1968, it was introduced for speleotherapeutical procedures for 10 years, as the first of the caves in Slovakia. On 6th December 1995 the Gombasecka cave, together with the Ochtinska Aragonit Cave, the Jasovska cave, the Domicia Cave and with Hungarian caves of the national park Aggtelek, has been included in the World's cultural heritage list of UNESCO.

The visit of the cave is lead in the underground rooms with their feature. The attention of the visitor in the cave is attracted by the Marble Hall for its spacious and its colourful decorations. The climate of the cave

with relevant humidity of almost 100% and with the air temperature of 9,0 - 9,4 °C is excellent to treat the illnesses of respiratory tract. In the underground hall called Hiroshima because of the column that resembles to an atomic mushroom are different formations of stalactites and thin sinter straws of different colors.

In the Hall of Ladislav Hereny, called so in honor to one of the discoverers of the cave are situated the formations of stalactites with rich decorations, they are looking an impression of stoned rain on the brown red structure of limestone's walls. In the Hall of Viliam Rozložnik the accessible part of cave to the public ends. The underground space of the cave continuous other 1225 m long, with not practicable passages.

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## The Domica Cave – 1995

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **1:50h**

GPS: **N48°28'43,53" E20°28'20,36"**

**Location:** Slovakia → Košický kraj → Okres Rožňava → Dlhá Ves

Open: 1.2 – 31.12

Closed: 24, 25, 26. 12, on Monday

Duration of the guided tour: A - 45 min. B - 85 min. (with boat trip)

The Domica cave is situated in the province of Rožňava, near the small town Plesivec. It was discovered in 1926 by Jan Majko and in 1932 was open to the public. Together with the Baradla cave in Hungary does part of a unique complex with total length of 23 km, of whom in Slovakia are situated 7 km. The cave is decorated by the stalactites and its underground had been created by two course of river: the Styx and Domica River.

The Domica cave is constituted by the different underground rooms, called also halls or houses. The most imposing room is called the House of Majko, high 20 m, wide 30 m and long 80 m. For the visitors it is possible to do the boat trip for about 150 m across the river Styx and admire some parts of the cave, otherwise not accessible. Other interesting places of the cave are: the House of the mysteries, the House of the ceramics, the Virgins corridor, the Lake of the luck, the Forest, and finally the House of the Indian pagodas that is considered the most attractive part of the cave. The particularity of the Domica cave is the abounding presence of bats. There are about 1500 bats of 16 different species.

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Grand Hotel  
Kempinski

HIGH TATRAS SLOVAKIA

## Höhle Krásnohorská jaskyňa - 1995

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **1:45 h**

GPS: **N48°37'1,95" E20°35'26,08"**

**Location:** Slovakia → Košický kraj → Okres Rožňava → Krásnohorská Dlhá Lúka



Grand Hotel  
Kempinski

HIGH TATRAS SLOVAKIA

**Near the village Krásnohorská Dlhá Lúka, in the northern edge of the Silická planina plateau in the Slovenský kras karst, is the entrance to the Krásnohorská jaskyňa cave. The cave boasts the tallest stalagmite in the moderate climate zone.**

It was discovered comparatively recently (1964) by the potholers of Rožňava. Visitors can **experience similar situations that the potholers had met with** when discovering the underground space. The path is dissected, debris has to be climbed over in some places and sometimes it is necessary to wade streams. Solid and waterproof shoes are indispensable.

The adventurous journey of discovery of the cave's underground areas **is guided by experienced cavers**. Proper caving equipment is provided for the tour, with its end at the **Rožňava Cavers' Dripstone** (Kvapeľ rožňavských jaskyniarov). This stalagmite's height of **32.6 metres** (the diameter of its base is 12 metres long) makes it one of the tallest calc-sinter formations worldwide and the tallest in the moderate climate zone.

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## Höhle Jasovská jaskyňa - 1995

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **2:10h**

GPS: **N48°40'24,15" E20°58'34,03"**

**Location:** Slovakia → Košický kraj → Okres Košice - okolie → Jasov



Grand Hotel  
Kempinski

HIGH TATRAS SLOVAKIA

The **Jasovská jaskyňa** cave is situated on the eastern edge of the **Slovenský kras** karst. Due to its significance and unique ornamentation, it was included into the **UNESCO** List of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Formed by the activity of the ground reach of the **Bodva river**, the Jasovská jaskyňa cave was already inhabited by the Neolithic man. The locals knew about the cave in the Middle Ages and used it as hiding in time of Tartar or Turkish raids.

The entrance of the Jasovská jaskyňa cave is situated in the eastern face of the Jasovská skala rock, 257 m above sea level. Its passageways are arranged in five levels and cover a total length of 2,811 metres. The sightseeing route is 720 m long and takes about **45 minutes**.

The cave is extra rich in **forms and colours of its dripstone ornamentation**. Many **species of bats** inhabit this cave.

The cave was probably discovered by members of the monastic order of the Premonstratensians from the local monastery, who also made the cave available for the public as early as 1846. A number of **historical inscriptions**, earliest of which goes back the era of the Hussite Wars and is dated 1452, have been preserved on the cave's walls. An area called the Bat Cathedral is used for **speleotherapy** and **climatotherapy of asthma and allergic diseases**.

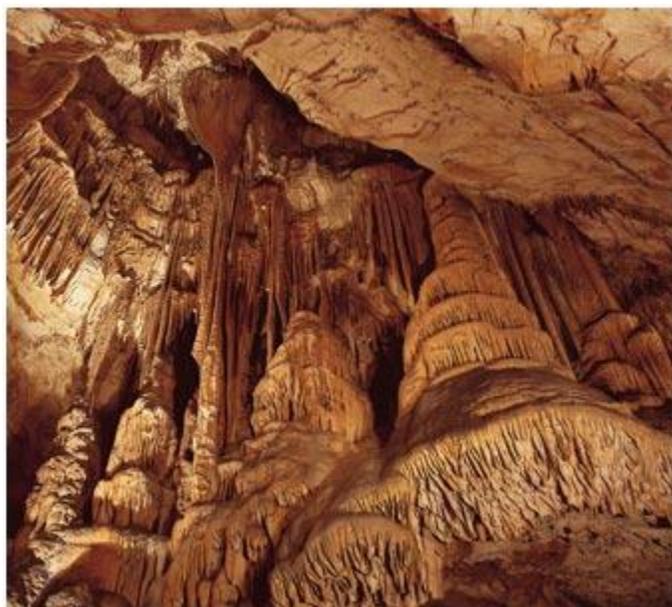
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## Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians – 2007



Grand Hotel  
Kempinski

HIGH TATRAS SLOVAKIA

Distance from Grand Hotel Kempinski: **2:50 h**

**Location:** Slovakia → Prešovský kraj → Okres Snina

The **easternmost Slovak National Park** is that of **Poloniny**. It contains original extensive beech and fir-beech forest and the **primeval forests of Stužica, Rožok and Havešová**, which were put on the UNESCO list of world natural heritage in 2007.

This remotest part of Slovakia is becoming ever more attractive for tourists. They can visit the **National Park of Poloniny**, which was added to the list of National Parks of Slovakia in 1997. The area of national park is 29 805 ha and acreage of protected area is 10 973 ha. It is situated at the point where **three frontiers meet: Slovak, Polish and Ukrainian**. The Park immediately neighbours with the Polish Bieszczadzski Park Narodowy and ukrajinský Užansky nacional'ny pryrodny park. The mountain area where the Park was established is also known under the Slovak name, the **Bukovské vrchy Mts.** The name of the Park derives from the Slovak term for special and unique alpine meadows - **poloniny** - which spread here above the upper timberline.

The **UNESCO** in the framework of the Man and Biosphere Programme defined the territory as the Biosphere Reserve of Východné Karpaty in 1993. The **primeval forests of Stužica, Rožok and Havešová** in the **Bukovské vrchy Mts.** were added to the **UNESCO** list of world natural heritage in June 2007 together with the Kyjov primeval forest in the **Vihorlatské vrchy Mts.** in CHKO Vihorlat near Poloniny and with the primeval forests in the Ukraine.

Almost 80 per cent of the forest area consists of rounded ridges and waterlogged valleys. Sharp stones are less frequent. Particularity of the territory is the occurrence of the largest complexes of original, in places virgin, **beech-fir woods** in Europe and the rare concentration of threatened animal and plant species. The land is characterized by the **occurrence of game** - brown bear, wolf, lynx, roe deer, catamount as well as wisent that only occurs open in NP Poloniny.

The main starting point for the trips to the National Park is the easternmost situated village of Slovakia, **Nová Sedlica**. Other starting points:

**Vihorlat** – surrounding Vihorlat Mountains

**Havešová** – Snina District, between Kalná Ráztoka and Stakčinska Ráztoka

**Rožok** – North-West from Ulíč Village, Poloniny National Park

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## UNESCO Intangible Heritage - fujara

**Fujara** is the most typical Slovak musical instrument. It was inscribed into the UNESCO List of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. The list was founded in 2001.

Fujara is an overtone fipple **flute** that can be up to 1.8m long. It is usually made from elder tree and has a characteristic meditation tone.

It is known nowhere else in the world but Slovakia. This country is considered to be the place of origin of this instrument, especially **the region of Poľana and North Gemer**. It used to be the typical instrument of shepherds. Fujaras were decorated by ornaments or figural decorations.

The longest instrument is the **Fujara Trombita**, up to 6m long that was used for signalling and for communication among shepherds on their pastures because of its magnificent and strong tone. It is made from pine wood.

