

# BRATISLAVA

SLOVAKIA - PART OF EUROPE WORTH SEEING



# Metropolis on the Danube River



Although Bratislava belongs among the youngest capital cities of the world, its history dates back to the Old Ages. During the course of the centuries it changed its name several times: from the German Pressburg, Latin Possonium, Hungarian Pozsony, to the Slovak folk version Prešporok.

The city lies at the foot of the Small Carpathian Mountain Range and is inextricably linked to the Danube River, the second longest European river. This European waterway was also at the birth of the first settlement in Bratislava and the river served as a thoroughfare for nations, as well as for cultural trends. Suitable geographic position was a pre-determining factor for Bratislava's famous past and present.

In the meantime the metropolis on the Danube River became a modern city, attracting visitors with a multitude of cultural offering, congress and shopping centres, as well as international standard hotels, together with a diverse culinary offer.

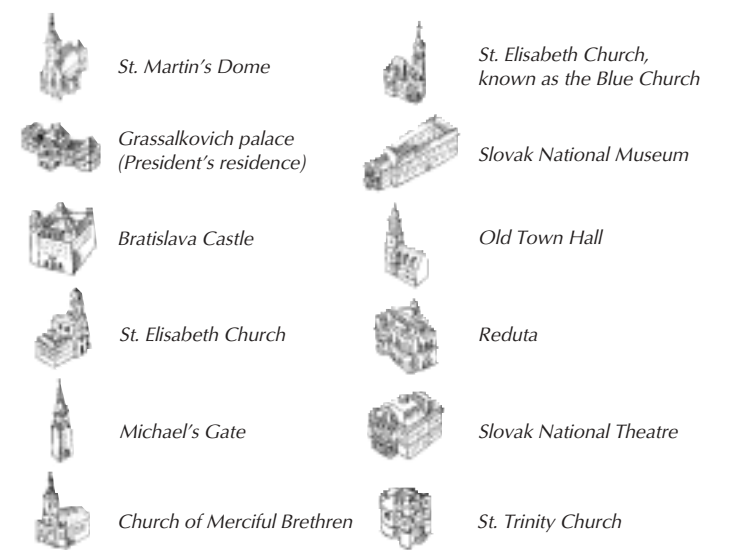
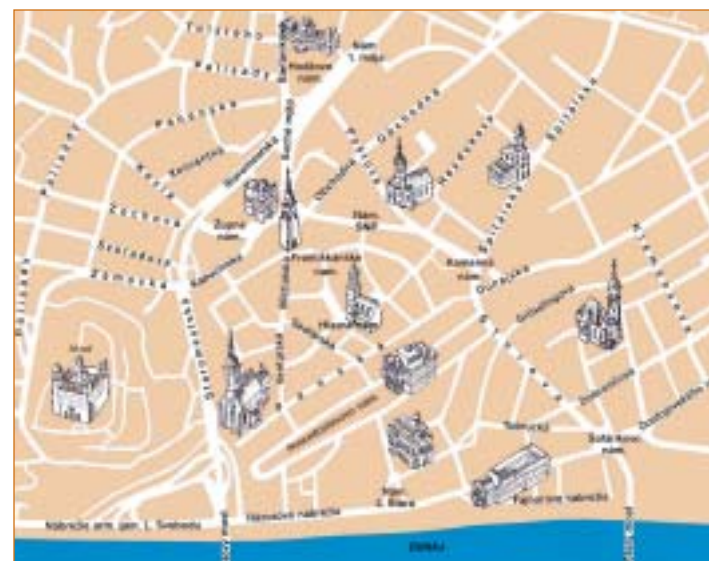
Capital city of the Slovak Republic Bratislava, with population of almost 500,000 people is today political, economic, cultural, scientific and social hub of Slovakia.

Accept this invitation to Bratislava, with its roots deep in the past, lively present and ambitious outlook to the future.



From left to right:

- Grassalkovich Palace residence of the President of the Slovak Republic
- Slovak National Theatre
- Shopping and entertainment centres are on an increase
- Modern gallery Danubiana is blended with the scenery of the Danube River
- Historic "dom U dobrého pastiera" is housing the "Historic Clocks Exhibition"
- One of the modern landmarks of the city
- Trip down memory lane on the most authentic carriage
- Unique atmosphere of the Old Town



# Charm of revived history

Streets of Bratislava are brimming with history. Archaeologists are still finding reminders of the life in the past, the Celts, Romans but also our Slavonic forebears from the days of the Great Moravian Empire.

Archives are housing valuable deeds documenting the glory of a mediaeval city, witnessing the coronation of 11 Hungarian kings and 8 regal wives. Gothic Dome of St. Martin was also a venue for the coronation of Maria Therese. Looking up from the banks of the Danube River you will be charmed by the majesty of Bratislava Castle, which bears features of several architectural styles.

Today the historic centre contains a number of beautiful, renovated town-houses in baroque and rococo style with romantic courtyards, several churches and monasteries, statues and fountains and old town houses. They form narrow streets and small squares with a special charm of revived history. Events of the "Cultural Summer Festival" fill every corner of the Old Town, together with Easter and Christmas markets and other cultural events. Unique atmosphere of the days when Bratislava was the coronation seat of Hungarian Kings are revived every year for the people and visitors of Bratislava during the coronation festivities.

From left to right:

- Ruins of an ancient Castle Devín towering over the confluence of rivers Morava and Danube
- Exhibition of traditional crafts in the courtyard of the Old Town Hall
- Gothic arch of the St. Martin's Dome presbyterium
- Ceramics from excavations of Roman settlement Gerulata (mid- 1<sup>st</sup> century – mid- 5<sup>th</sup> century AD) Bratislava-Rusovce
- Jewel of the classical architecture is the Primaciálny Palace
- revival of coronation festivities
- Coin Biatec dating back to 1<sup>st</sup> century BC
- Veduta of Bratislava from Franz Hogenberg from 1593



# Please, come in



Bratislava and music, two inseparable phenomena. Although musical life of the city progressed through various periods, it never abandoned the lives of its people. Bratislava was a concert venue for music giants such as W. A. Mozart, J. Haydn, L. van Beethoven, F. Liszt, A. G. Rubinstein and others. This rich musical heritage is well preserved and kept alive also by the modern musical life of Bratislava.

Music resonates throughout the contemporary Bratislava. In autumn the highlight is the Bratislava Music Festival – international festival of classical music, or for jazz fans there are the Bratislava Jazz Days, during the summer, events of the Cultural Summer Festival are filling with their art courtyards of old palaces, squares, streets and parks.


Bratislava is a home to a number of theatres. Slovak National Theatre is housing the opera theatre, P. O. Hviezdoslav and Malá scéna are drama theatres, Nová scéna is the home of musical theatre and many others, such as Štúdio S, Astorka Korzo'90, the State Puppet Theatre and the Radošinské naivné divadlo.

From left to right:

- City's rich night life
- Pantomime theatre Aréna
- Folklore ensemble Lúčnica
- Slovak National theatre
- Bratislava Jazz Days
- Concert of the Slovak Philharmonic – Reduta
- Bratislava Carnival in the city streets



# In a search of beauty



Rich past of the city is documented by collections in a number of museums and galleries with opportunities to appreciate the skills of the old masters, as well as meet the contemporary artists and their works. Slovak National Gallery is a home to works of local artists, as well as gems of European art. Gallery of City Bratislava has its galleries in several historic buildings in the centre of the Old Town. Apart from these two most important galleries there is a number of smaller galleries of modern art.

Most valuable collections of the Slovak National Museum are presented in exhibition "Jewels of the Slovak History" held at the Archaeological museum. Historic Museum has collections from general history, history of art and numismatics. Music Museum documents the history of Slovak music from the earliest days until present. All exhibitions are located in the Bratislava Castle. You will find here also a Museum of Natural History, Museum of Carpathian Germans and others. The City Museum is represented by: History of the City and Feudal Justice - Old Town Hall, Exhibition of Weapons and Town Fortifications - Michael's Tower, Wine and Wine-making exhibition - Apponyi Palais, Pharmaceutical exhibition - Pharmacy U červeného raka, Music exhibition - birth place of J. N. Hummel, Exhibition of Historic Clocks - dom U dobrého pastiera and many others.

From left to right:

- Exhibition in Mirbach Palais
- Historic "dom U dobrého pastiera" is housing the "Historic Clocks Exhibition"
- In gallery Danubiana
- Slovak national Gallery
- In gallery Danubiana
- Children workshop in the Slovak national Gallery
- Permanent exhibition "Jewels of the Slovak History" in the Museum of the Bratislava Castle





# Highlights

Visit of historic landmarks will leave visitors to Bratislava with some of the most lasting impressions. Among the most interesting are sacral buildings, reminders of exceptional historic, architectural and artistic value.

Reconstructed palaces, churches, monasteries and old town houses are hiding artworks of high artistic value. Quite a few artefacts, which you find in this city, can not be found elsewhere in the world.

In the official parts of the Primaciálny Palace the visitors can delight in a unique collection of 6 English tapestries from 17th century, depicting an ancient love legend of priestess Héro to Leandro.

Resting-place of a famous rabbi Chatam Sofer is visited every year by thousands of people from all over the world.

Most striking piece of modern architecture is a suspension bridge, called the New Bridge on one pylon only, where 80 metres high you will find a restaurant with panoramic view of the city.

Historic buildings are mixed with modern architecture buildings of 20th century, however it is the atmosphere, appreciated by people and visitors of the city, which is the jewel that prevails.

From left to right:

- Héro and Leander (17th century)
- Maximilian Fountain and unique atmosphere of the Main Square
- New Bridge over the Danube River connects the historical part of the city with newly built suburbs on the right bank
- Art Deco church of St. Elisabeth known as the Blue Church
- One of the unique busts depicting human characters by sculpture artist F. X. Messerschmidt
- Replica of a chess machine built by J. W. Kempelen
- Mausoleum of the famous Bratislava rabbi Chatam Sofer





# Beyond the city limits

Bratislava and its surroundings offer numerous opportunities for relaxation, whether it is walking tours through parkland, cycle-tourism along the Danube River dam bicycle route or it is a visit of wine cellars along the Small Carpathian Wine Route, majestic Červený Kameň with exhibition of period furniture and weapons, caves Driny, pilgrimage places Marianka and Šaštín and many other palaces of the Small Carpathian or Záhorie regions. Fans of folklore can visit the birth-place of famous pottery master Ferdiš Kostka with pottery exhibition in Stupava. Also famous for its pottery production dating back to 19<sup>th</sup> century is town Modra.

For the sport-loving visitors Bratislava has also a lot to offer. During the summer a popular relaxation place is a lake Zlaté piesky or Slnčné jazerá in Senec, only 25 km away. Water-sport complex in Čunovo with its equipment meets all the criteria of a world-class facility. Horse racing has also a long tradition in Bratislava. Tennis clubs have produced a number of world-class tennis players. Golfing fans can hit out at a 9-hole golf course in the historic park of Bernolákovo Manor, 5 km from Bratislava.

From left to right:

- Castle Červený kameň
- Altar in basilica of the Virgin Mary in Šaštín-Stráže
- Golf course in Bernolákovo
- Fertile vineyards on the sunny slopes of the Small Carpathian Range
- Water-sport centre in Čunovo
- Bicycle tours around Bratislava
- Racecourse in Petržalka



# Thousands tastes...

Restaurants, wine bars, cafeterias and bars in Bratislava offer a wide selection of meals and beverages, from the traditional Slovak dishes through to international cuisine. Discovering a city and a country can not be complete without tasting the national dishes in period style restaurants with traditional music or in modern restaurants, which offer traditional dishes, as well as modern international fare. Exotic dishes can be found in a number of Chinese restaurants, or in Japanese and Mexican restaurants. Centre of the town has a plethora of cafeterias, wine bars and beer halls where you can enjoy a cup of coffee, glass of wine or beer and soak up the atmosphere of Bratislava during the day or night.

And you may get surprised by the remarkable hospitality of the people of Bratislava

From left to right:

- In mediaeval style ...
- Autumn specialities of Bratislava kitchen
- Pleasant cafeteria ambience
- One of the landmarks of the city centre is a luxury hotel
- Wine tasting along the Small Carpathian Wine Route
- Diverse culinary offer
- Full cafeterias and terraces in the Old Town

