



Castles in Žilina region



Žilinský turistický kraj

www.zilinskyturistickykraj.sk



1 Budatín Castle



The history of the castle dates back to the mid-13th Century. It was constructed in order to serve as a point of control of the most important trade routes leading along the rivers Váh and Kysuca. The oldest part of the castle is a cylindrical tower, which originally formed the entire castle. It was surrounded by low circuit walls with a moat, probably traversed by a drawbridge. **Budatín Castle is therefore included in the list of the so-called water castles in Slovakia.**

The castle's ownership passed through the hands of several proprietors, e.g. Matthew Csák of Trenčín, the Balassa family and the Csáky family. The last proprietor, Count Gejza Csáky, was the owner of the castle until 1945. **Since 1953 Budatín Castle has housed the Považie Museum in Žilina.**

An integral part of Budatín Castle is the tinker craft – a Slovak phenomenon. The permanent exhibition of tinker crafts is the only specialised exhibition of its kind in the world.

An English landscaped park, probably founded in the mid-19th Century, is part of the Budatín Castle complex. In addition to finding a pleasant place to relax, the castle's visitors may also encounter a London plane tree, which was declared “The Slovak Tree of the Year” in 2016.



Did you know... ?

Katarína Suňogová was walled up in the tower of Budatín Castle? The order to wall her up came from her own father because she refused to marry Ján Jakušič, a groom her father had chosen for her. Instead, Katarína loved a knight named Fraňo Forgáč, who rescued Katarína from her prison. When Jakušič found out about the rescue, he challenged him to a duel. Fraňo was killed during the duel and Katarína had no choice but to marry Jakušič – the man she didn't love and the man who had killed her one true love.





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- Accessibility:** a parking lot directly at the castle



2 Strečno Castle



Strečno Castle was built at the beginning of the 14th Century to serve as a toll station collecting a toll for passage over the River Váh. Originally, the castle consisted of a tower and a small area surrounded by fortifying walls. Several conversions took place and more buildings, palaces, and walls were added to the core of the castle.

In the 14th and 15th Centuries, Strečno Castle served as a royal castle and later became the property of the nobility. **The most prominent owners of the castle were the Hungarian palatine Ferenc Wesselényi and his pious wife Zsófia Bosnyák.**

At the end of the 17th Century, Emperor Leopold I. ordered the demolition of Strečno Castle. The fortifications and the roofs of the palace were affected by the demolition the most, and the castle well and the cistern were filled in. Afterwards, the castle deteriorated for nearly 300 years.

After extensive reconstruction works, the Považie Museum in Žilina opened the National Cultural Monument to the public in 1995. In 2013, the medieval village of Paseka sprang up below Strečno Castle. The village consists of five authentic historical medieval buildings – the houses of a medieval baker, a fisherman, a folk healer, a shelter for pilgrims and a bell tower.



Did you know... ?

*In 1689, the preserved body of Zsófia Bosnyák (*1609, † 1644) was found in the crypt of the castle's chapel, even though she had been dead for 45 years? In 1698, Zsófia was transferred to a church in Teplička nad Váhom. This discovery all but confirmed what was on everybody's mind – she was a saint. Her remains were then put on display in a coffin with a glass cover in order to allow people to show their respect. In 2009, on the 400th anniversary of her birth, a mentally ill man took her remains outside the chapel and set them on fire.*





Did you know... ?

There are several legends surrounding Zsófia. She is said to have baked and given away small pieces of bread for free to the poor. The bread carried her name – bosniaks - and are baked to this day in the surrounding area of Žilina and Strečno.

The American film *Dragon Heart* (1994) and the German comedy *Siegfried* (2005) were filmed at Strečno Castle.



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Accessibility: a parking lot directly below the castle



3 Old Castle



The first written documents of its existence date back to 1323 when the castle is referenced under the name of Varín Castle. It was not until 1384 that the first mention of the Old Castle emerged (Starý hrad or Starhrad in Slovak). **Its present name was mentioned in order to distinguish the Old Castle from Strečno Castle referenced as a new castle situated nearby which was built in the 14th Century.**

The castle consists of two parts – in the upper part there is the core of the castle with a tapering tower and a Gothic dwelling tower connected at its other end (the southern part). To the east of the tower in the bailey, a dwelling for the garrison and farm buildings were built, which formed part of the castle's forward-defence complex. The bailey was surrounded by a neck ditch and a bridge probably spanned it. In the lower part (in the north) stood newer fortifications and buildings.

During the Slovak National Uprising, the Old Castle became a battlefield. Since the mid-18th Century, the castle has been deteriorating until it turned into a ruin. The current owners of the castle are the descendants of the Pongrác family and the castle is open to the public.



Did you know... ?

The Pongrác family and their descendants have been the owners of the castle for over 570 years? The most well-known member of the family was Pongrác from Svätý Mikuláš (present Liptovský Mikuláš). He gained military glory by defending the Kingdom of Hungary against the Hussites from the Moravian castles of Brumov and Sehradice. Fighting against the Ottomans at Smederevo Fortress furthered his glory. After the death of Emperor Sigismund of Luxembourg, he became a robber knight who formed alliances with others and together they robbed predominantly royal estates and their inhabitants. At the time he resided at Branč Castle. In 1446, the Chapter of Canons in Nitra appointed him the owner of Old Castle and Strečno Castle.



Start Point: Nezbudská Lúčka, train station

Total route length: 3.1 km

Duration: 1 h

Elevation: 103 m (ascent 124 m, descent 24 m)

GPS: 49.1780331N, 18.8903650E

Accessibility: by train/bus to Nezbudská Lúčka; a parking lot at the railway station; cycling route 5442 leads below the castle

WWW.TIKZILINA.EU

4 Hričov Castle



The first written record of Hričov dates back to 1254 when Béla IV gifted the castle with its adjacent estates to Master Tulus, the son of Farkaš. During the 14th and 15th Centuries, the castle's ownership passed through the hands of several proprietors. The most prominent proprietor of the castle was the Balassa family, from whom Matthew Csák of Trenčín forcibly took the castle. The castle was later owned by the families of Kapola and Sudivoj of Ostroroh. Not too long after that, the castle became royal property once again. King Sigismund of Luxembourg gave several castles (including Hričov Castle) located in the Považie region as a wedding gift to his wife Barbora. The turn of the 15th and 16th Centuries was particularly volatile from the point of view of the castle's ownership. At long last, Francis Thurzo acquired the castle from Anna Likarka in 1563.

However, in the second half of the 16th Century, the Thurzo family lost interest in the castle and the castle began to deteriorate very quickly. **The castle was situated on a rock in the vicinity of an old Považie road. Given the surrounding terrain, the castle needed to be limited in size, and as such is considered one of the smaller castles.**

There is an educational path leading to the castle consisting of 20 carved information boards on the history of the castle, and the fauna and flora of the surrounding area. The path forms a circuit with stops at Hričov Castle and several smaller caves located below the castle. Since 2010 the civic association *Zdru-*



ženie priateľov Hričovského hradu (Friends of Hričov Castle) has been preserving the castle. Their goal is the gradual conservation and presentation of the National Cultural Monument that is Hričov Castle.

Did you know...?

In the 16th Century, the Milanese constructor Giovanni Kilian was entrusted with maintaining Hričov Castle? He is known particularly for the Renaissance castle in Bytča, which he was commissioned to construct by Francis Thurzo († 1574).

Start Point: Hričovské Podhradie, village centre

Total route length: 1.5 km / **Duration:** 1 h

Elevation: 209 m (ascent 217 m, descent 17 m)
(stúpanie 217 m, klesanie 17 m)

GPS: 49.2116436N, 18.6196872E

Accessibility: a parking lot at Krčma Lipa (The Lipa Pub) in the village centre

WWW.HRADHRICOV.SK

5 Lietava Castle



Lietava Castle was most likely established in the last quarter of the 13th Century. A four-storey square-shaped tower and a smaller palace were built at the highest part of the rock, and fortifying walls stand to the north-east of the tower. In the 14th and 15th Centuries the castle was predominantly a royal property allocated “pro honore” to land judges, as well as given as security or into possession. Pavol Kiniži (†1494), Nicholas Kostka (†1556) and Francis Thurzo (†1574) are among the most significant owners who rebuilt and expanded the castle. Pavol Kiniži had a palace built south-west of the main tower, and its construction was finished upon completion of a large residential tower.

The new entrance into the castle leads into a square-shaped transit tower, which was connected to the perimeter wall on its north-west side. The northern courtyard was reinforced by a cylindrical bastion. At this place the construction was bent at a right angle to the east where it ended with a large four-storey horseshoe-shaped tower. Nicholas Kostka built a new gate by breaking through the northern perimeter wall and he constructed a roundel on the eastern side of the castle.

Francis Thurzo had the castle rebuilt in the Renaissance style. Fragments of this reconstruction (such as arched attics or remainders of the sgraffito decoration) adorn the castle to this day. The final fortification circuit was built around the castle during the period of his ownership. The start point was at a new tower



Did you know... ?

the coat of arms of Pavol Kiniži has been preserved at the corner of the central castle's residential tower? This well-known Hungarian commander from the period of the Ottoman wars received several properties in the current territory of Slovakia (including Strečno Castle) from King Matthias Corvinus. At the time, Lietava and Strečno had the same castellan – Teofil Thurzo – the grandfather of Francis Thurzo, who later owned the castle.

A little known fact is that during World War II the castle underwent repair (in the summer of 1941) performed by Jews. Sixty-two male workers worked in this Jewish labour camp.





gate and the wall continued to the north. Another gate was built close to the cylindrical tower – it was called Orlová (Gate of the Eagle). The palatine George Thurzo (*1567, †1616), Francis's son, continued to preserve the castle, but after his death, the castle began to slowly deteriorate.

The castle was abandoned in the mid-18th Century and after 250 years of deterioration, the monument fell into disrepair. In 1999 the association Združenie na záchranu Lietavského hradu (Association for the preservation of Lietava Castle) was founded and started restoration works on the castle. In 2008, the Association became the official owner of the castle through a deed of gift. **In 2017, the first official exhibition devoted to the history of the castle was ceremoniously opened on the occasion of the 450th birth anniversary of the palatine George Thurzo.**

Start Point: Lietava – Majer

Total route length: 1.8 km

Duration: 1 h

Elevation: 233 m (ascent 246 m, descent 49 m)

📍 **GPS:** 49.1605856N, 18.6848836E

Accessibility: a parking lot at Lietava – Majer

🌐 **WWW.HRADLIETAVA.SK**

6 Súľov Castle



Súľov Castle is a popular tourist destination. **It is one of the oldest castles in the Považie Region**, and the first written record mentioning the castle dates back to 1193 when the castle was given as a gift by King Béla III to Vratislav and Stanislav of Trenčín. Later on, the castle belonged to the members of the Súľovský family and then the castle was forcibly acquired by Rafael Podmanický. After a dispute with Rafael, the Sirmiensi family became the owner of the castle. **The castle was inhabited until 1780**, at which point it was in need of repair seeing as it was badly damaged. However, as a consequence of a lack of energy and financial resources, the castle continued to deteriorate.

The castle was situated between three rocks and its layout was adapted to the terrain. The castle was divided into two parts, which were connected by a drawbridge. The lower castle consisted of a large room. The upper castle was used by the aristocracy and guards. A kitchen, bakery, laundry room, storerooms, armouries, and treasury were all situated in the upper castle. At the very top of the castle there was an observation point with a wonderful view of the surrounding area.



Did you know... ?

Súľov Castle was called Katarína's Castle in the past? Katalinvár was named after the lady of the castle Katarína Bošániová who invested money in the castle and had it restored (from 1682). Katarína was the wife of Sigismund Sirmiensi-Súľovský. The Sirmiensi family owned the castle until the mid-16th Century.

Start Point: Súľov, a parking lot beneath Súľovské skaly (Súľov Rocks)

Total route length: 1.2 km

Duration: 45 min

Elevation: 206 m (ascent 206 m, descent 0 m)

GPS: 49.1748697N, 18.5833833E

Accessibility: a parking lot beneath Súľovské skaly (Súľov Rocks)

WWW.TIKZILINA.EU

7 Orava Castle



Orava Castle, a majestic landmark of Orava Region, is one of the most significant monuments of the castle architecture in Slovakia. **In 2013 and 2015, Orava Castle became the most visited building of Slovak museums in Slovakia.**

The current castle complex area was created by gradual construction of defensive, residential and economic buildings from the 13th Century to the beginning of the 20th Century and each part is a testament to various construction styles – Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Romantic. The castle hill has been inhabited since prehistoric times. **The first written record mentioning Orava Castle dates back to 1267 when the castle served three purposes – as a guard post, defence mechanism and administrative seat of the territory, which belonged to the castle at the time.** During its history, Orava Castle and the castle estate were in turns the property of the King and rich landlords.

In 1800 Orava Castle was struck by a large fire, burned down and all that remained was a ruin. Francis Zichy initiated partial restoration works and in 1906–1912 the middle part of the castle was restored by József Pálffy. Under the auspices of the then compossessor of the Orava Compossessorate, Edmund Zichy, the abandoned castle complex started to be utilised once again upon the establishment of the first museums in Slovakia in 1868 – the Museum of Orava Com-



Did you know... ?

Orava Castle consists of 27 buildings? If you were to visit all 155 rooms, you would need to climb more than 800 steps.



possessorate – in the castle premises. **In 1953, Orava Castle became a National Cultural Monument** and in 1953–1968 more restoration works were done. At present, it is managed by the P.O. Hviezdoslav Orava Museum in Dolný Kubín.

According to legend, a lady in white passes through the middle castle on All Souls' Day at night and on Palm Sunday in the early morning. A story has it that she was the wife of Knight Donč, who was her doom. On All Saints' Day, Knight Donč was in a bad mood and wrought havoc on the servants. He would not calm down. When he began beating a maid for no reason, his wife who saw the entire scene sought to prevent his malice and end the beating. This did not stop Knight Donč and when his wife continued to defend the maid, he cut off her hand in rage. His wife started bleeding and she continued suffering from All Souls' Day until Palm Sunday, the day she died. Knight Donč despaired, he could not find

Did you know... ?

The Castle was a filming location for movies such as Král drozdia brada ("King Thrushbeard"), Princzdná a žobrák ("The Princess and the Beggar"), Sokoliar Tomáš ("Thomas the Falconer"), and even for the first adaptation of the story about Dracula, "Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror".



peace and one time he even encountered the spirit of his dead wife in the courtyard. Donč died three years after his wife's death. It is said that the White Lady appears in the castle to this day and even after her own death begs for forgiveness for her husband.

In addition to the White Lady, a legend has it there is also another lady who frequents Orava Castle – the Lady in Black, Elizabeth Czobor, the second wife of George Thurzo, the Hungarian palatine, and owner of Orava Castle. Elizabeth Czobor was a competent and skilful lady of the castle who managed the Thurzo family's property very well during the absence of her husband who was constantly fighting on battlefields and taking care of political responsibilities abroad. She regularly checked the condition and order of her estates, including Orava Castle. To ensure the servants fulfilled their responsibilities in a proper manner, she once promised them to oversee the fulfilment of her orders even after her death. Since her death she sometimes appears at Orava Castle carrying a lit lantern and checking whether everything is just as she commanded. She not only oversees the castle, she also protects it.



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 **GPS:** 49.2619606N, 19.3584281E
Accessibility: a parking lot in the vicinity of the castle



8 The Great Castle of Liptov



The oldest of the Liptov royal stone castles, the seat of the court governor, the representative of the district governor of Zvolen in the Liptov area, later the seat of the governor of the independent Liptov administrative district and Liptov County. The castle is situated on Sestrč hill above the village of Kalameny in Dolný Liptov Region at an altitude of 999.96 metres above sea level. It is considered to be the castle with the highest altitude in the territory of Slovakia, Bohemia, and Moravia.

The first written record mentioning the castle dates back to 1262. At the end of the 14th Century, Liptov Castle was directly affected by the complicated political situation in Central Europe. The severely damaged castle spent several years under repair. The castle is situated in territory owned by urban associations in Liptovská Sielnica and Kalameny.

Its remains and the castle territory are maintained by the municipalities, forest landowners' associations and enthusiasts from Liptovská Teplá and the villages mentioned above. **The castle is freely accessible along the yellow and red hiking trails from the villages of Kalameny and Liptovské Vlchy**, and a significant portion of the ascent leads through exposed terrain.

Every year on Easter Monday, a traditional ascent to its modest ruins takes place and is organised by tourists from Liptovská Teplá.



Did you know... ?

There are various versions of the castle's legends about the 1474 siege of King Matthias Corvinus that mention a woman in a white dress wandering around the destroyed castle? She is a cursed daughter of a castle lord, and a kidnapped damsel who wanted to open the castle gates to the royal army. She may only be rescued by a virgin who carries her over a stream and is rewarded with hidden treasures. At other times, she appears in the form of a pig that carries the keys to the castle in its mouth.

Another legend maintains that a castle lord fired a cannonball from the castle walls in order to let fate decide who should be the owner of the castle and the manor. The cannonball fell into the Sielnica municipality and the ownership of Liptov Castle, therefore, passed onto Liptovská Sielnica.



Start Point: village of Kalameny, thermal spring and natural pond

Total route length: 2.5 km

Duration: 1h 30 min

Elevation: 421 m (ascent 421 m, descent 0 m)

GPS: 49.1474700N, 19.4300364E

Accessibility: a parking lot at the Kalameny thermal spring

WWW.MIKULAS.TRAVEL

9 Likava Castle



The largest castle ruin in Liptov Region and one of the largest castles in central Slovakia. Upon the consolidation of political circumstances in the first half of the 14th Century, the castle was built by Magister Knight Donč, the district governor of Zvolen and Liptov. The first written report mentioning the castle's existence dates back to 1341. **The castle served for protection of an important route – a country road leading from Budín through the current area of Dolný Kubín to Poland.** After Liptov, Turiec and Orava were connected through the Váh valley between Ružomberok and Kral'ovany, the castle's strategic importance increased due to its location at the crossroads of the most important trade routes. The information about the castle's surface area is also impressive: including the area of the western bailey hidden in the forest and two artificial earth platforms in the east, the dimensions of the castle are 538 x 238 metres.

The castle is still a valuable testimony to the castle architecture of the late Gothic and early Renaissance periods, as evidenced by the number of preserved architectural features, window soffits, gargoyles, pitch containers, embrasures, fireplace features, mantelpieces, and façade finishings. The tall thin walls of the upper castle's palaces rising from the edges of the rock or the bold S-shaped walls of the former castle tower and southern palace testify to the architectural skills, courage and soft aesthetic taste of the former constructors, who managed to combine the beauty of man's work with the splendour



Did you know... ?



That Likava Castle is also known for the stories of a Black Lady and the spirit of a murdered servant – the guardian of the Thököly treasures? Helena Krušičová who throughout her life acted in a compassionate and affectionate manner towards the subjects of the Likava estate began to appear as the Black Lady upon her death. It is believed that by passing through fields and stroking the grains, she protects the crops from storms, windstorms, and hail. Her blessing of the surrounding fields from the castle windows is a sign that the harvest will be good and bountiful. Stephen Thököly II with his most loyal servant hid family treasures in the underground castle cellars the night preceding the fall of Likava Castle, which had been besieged by imperial troops. Once the treasures were hidden, the count dealt a fatal blow to his faithful companion. The secret of Likava's hidden treasures and their hiding place belonged to him and him only. Ever since then, the spirit of the murdered servant wanders tirelessly through the castle ruins and faithfully guards the gold, gems, and pearls of the Thököly family against the greedy. He kills every daring treasure hunter yearning for the hidden treasure of Count Stephen.



of the surrounding countryside. During the summer season, the lower castle of Likava is accessible only to hikers who follow the red tourist trail leading to Predný Choč. The castle is the property of Žilina Self-Governing Region and is under the administration of Liptov Museum in Ružomberok.

Start Point: village of Likavka

Total route length: 2.3 km

Duration: 45 min

Elevation: 92 m (ascent 92 m, descent 17 m)

GPS: 49.1053133N, 19.3122200E

Accessibility: a parking lot in Likavka

WWW.LIPTOVSKEMUZEUM.SK

10 Liptovský Hrádok Castle and Manor-house



Did you know... ?

That according to a castle legend, a Hussite bride – a daughter of a castle lord – lost her life due to her father's resentment towards her chosen one?

The smallest of the three Liptov castles was built in 1341 by the district governor Donč in the guard settlement of Belansko. To this day, it retains its original layout of a two-tower castle core with a centrally-located palace and a small northern bailey with a small two-wing walk-through palace. In the 15th Century it was supposedly acquired by the Hussites and was damaged.

Approximately in the 16th Century, the castle was extended by a Renaissance fortification with corner bastions. Its final appearance was completed at the beginning of the 17th Century by Mikuláš Sandorffy and his wife Magdaléna Zayová, who contributed to the construction of the Renaissance manor-house in the western part of the bailey.

Over the course of the 18th Century, the castle and the manor-house in Liptovský Hrádok became the exemplary centre of the joint Likava and Liptovský Hrádok estate, specialising in the economic evaluation of the local forest resources, useful metals processing and salt trading.

At the beginning of the 19th Century, the entire building complex burned down and, unlike the manor-house, the Gothic castle core was not restored, and the castle was conserved in 1930. The premises of the castle and manor-house in Liptovský Hrádok have been the seat of the state forests' headquarters, prison and district court and since 1958 the Ethnographic Museum in Liptovský

Hrádok (today part of Liptov Museum in Ružomberok) has been residing there. In 2001, the castle and the manor-house became the property of a private owner and investor. Liptovský Hrádok Castle was the favourite seat of the most significant poet of the Kingdom of Hungary in the Renaissance period – Valentín Basso – who found the inspiration for his poems there and spent the most beautiful period of his life under the Tatra Mountains.



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Accessibility: a parking lot directly at the castle

11 Sklabiňa Castle



Originally it was a royal castle. It is assumed the castle was built on the site of an older hillfort approximately in the first half of the 13th Century. The first written record of the castle dates back to 1309 when it was owned by Donč, the district governor of Zvolen. **In May 1434 the castle was set on fire by the Hussites.** After an emergency repair was completed in the second half of the 15th Century, an extensive reconstruction followed. The watchtower was restored, a Gothic chapel was constructed and a new bailey with two bastions was built close to the medieval centre of the castle.

At the end of the 15th Century, the castle was again destroyed by fire. In 1527 Emperor Ferdinand I of Hapsburg gifted one half of the castle to his supporter Ferenc Révay, the governor of Turóc County, who acquired the castle's second part 13 years later. The castle remained in the ownership of the Révay family until 1945. The entire building underwent a thorough repair under new owners. The Révay family built a second bailey with a new gate, a protected semicircular bastion, and a square-shaped tower.

At the beginning of the 17th Century, a comfortable Renaissance manor-house was built in the bailey. The abandoned old castle started to slowly fall into ruin and the lower part with the Renaissance manor-house was inhabitable until the Second World War. **At the end of 1944, the Germans blew up the manor-house and burned down the nearby village of Sklabinský Podzámok.** Nowadays, the castle walls in the picturesque foothills of the Great Fatra serve only as a romantic rendezvous spot.



Did you know...?

That Sklabiňa Castle was the seat of the Turóc County and in 1527 it became the property of Ferenc Révay who became the hereditary governor of Turóc?

That according to legend, you can hear thunderous steps, the rattling of chains and weapons, and other peculiar sounds during thunderstorms? Reportedly, a faceless knight in a dark cloak has also been seen passing through the castle. A snake with a head as large as a calf lived below the castle and those who lay eyes on him are unable to move.

Start Point: Sklabinský Podzámok

Total route length: 1.3 km

Duration: 20 min

Elevation: 104 m (ascent 106 m, descent 5 m)

GPS: 49.0551111N, 19.0181333E

Accessibility: no designated parking lot

WWW.OBESKLABINSKYPODZAMOK.SK

12 Zniev Castle



The castle was built on a rocky foot of Zniev hill at an altitude of 985 m, **it is the oldest known castle in Turiec and one of the highest castles in Slovakia.** Béla IV (1235–1276) had the castle built after a devastating Mongol invasion in the vicinity of the older Znojov Castle.

The first written record mentioning the castle dates back to 1243 when the castle is referenced as castrum Turuch (Turóc Castle). **The castle is situated in a strategic location which served to protect and control the entrance to Turiec from an old trade route leading from Ponitrie.** At the same time, the castle was the first seat of Turóc County, although the seat of the governor was later moved to the larger and more accessible Sklabaňa Castle, and Zniev Castle started to be gradually called by its old name again.

In the following years, the original majestic seat of the Turóc governor paid the price for its inaccessibility as it gradually became uncomfortable and changed owners frequently. **In 1681, the castle was burned down by Thököly's rebels.** Ever since then the castle has been abandoned and has gradually deteriorated.

To this day, only the remnants of the square-shaped tower and lower foundations of the oblong residential building of the once-important castle have been preserved.



Did you know...?

Legend has it that the castle was named after a Hussite captain, Zniev, who acquired the castle without a fight with the help of his little aide?

Start Point: Kláštor pod Znievom

Total route length: 3.5 km

Duration: 2 h

Elevation: 453 m (ascent 477 m, descent 38 m)

GPS: 48.9683886N, 18.7730036E

Accessibility: no designated parking lot, it is possible to park in the parking lot at the cemetery

WWW.TURIEC.COM

13 Blatnica Castle



Blatnica Castle, a life-like “eagle’s nest” built on a narrow rock above the Gader gorges, was presumably built in the second half of the 13th Century by Peter of Brezovica. It later became royal property.

The castle complex was formed by a long narrow palace reinforced by semi-circular towers on the northern and southern parts and protected by a rocky gorge from the north-east. In 1539 Emperor Ferdinand I of Hapsburg gifted the castle to Ferenc Révay. Members of the Révay family had the castle reconstructed and the castle was expanded by a bailey with new buildings.

During the Thököly rebellion (1678–1686), the castle served as a safe haven for noblemen and persecuted clergy from the surrounding area. **In 1703 the castle was taken over by the insurgents of Francis II Rákóczi who probably set the lower castle on fire and plundered the entire premises.** In the following years, the castle began to gradually deteriorate. The Révay family gradually moved their residence to the nearby manor-houses in Štiavnička and Mošovce.

Over time, the abandoned castle became an economic building. **Its fate was finally sealed when a devastating fire in 1760 resulted in the castle becoming uninhabitable and in its gradual decline.**



Did you know...?

That according to legend, a castle lord took hold of another man’s bride, and as he grew tired of her, did not hesitate to kill her and wall up their son? He also poisoned his second wife. To this day you can hear a baby crying in the castle walls and encounter spirits of murdered women.

Start Point: Blatnica, memorial

Total route length: 2.2 km

Duration: 45 min

Elevation: 91 m (ascent 91 m, descent 0 m)

GPS: 48.9471153N, 18.9471378E

Accessibility: a parking lot at a memorial

WWW.BLATNICA.SK

14 Wedding Palace in Bytča

BONUS



The Wedding Palace in Bytča is one of the most significant Renaissance buildings in Central Europe. It is a unique building and its original character and utilisation is proof of the high cultural level as well as high social status of the Thurzo family, especially of George Thurzo, who had the palace built in 1601. **The palace was to serve as a venue for the wedding feasts of his daughters.** Given the fact it was the custom for the bride's family to host the wedding ceremony and the wedding feast, George Thurzo probably expected large feasts.

The palace served not only as a venue for wedding ceremonies but from the first half of the 17th Century it was used predominantly as a place of storage of salt, corn and other crops. The Wedding Palace was damaged by several fires. **Since 1970, the palace has been a National Cultural Monument** and has undergone a major renovation. **It houses a permanent exhibition reminding us of the unique history of the palace, the town of Bytča and the palatine George Thurzo.**

Did you know... ?

There was an alcove with a bed in the wedding hall? During the feast, the newly-weds spent their first wedding night in this bed and the guests thus had the opportunity to check whether the marriage was consummated. The alcove for the bed has been preserved in the hall to this day.



📍 **WEDDING PALACE IN BYTČA**

Zámocký areál, 041 01 Bytča

☎ +421 41 5523 027

✉ muzeum@pmza.sk

🌐 **WWW.PMZA.SK**

📍 **GPS: 49.2205611N, 18.5583417E**

Accessibility: a parking lot directly at the palace

15 Manor-house in Radola

BONUS



The details on the manor house's establishment are not yet fully known. **According to contemporary research based on archaeological and artistic-historical research, the manor-house is supposed to have been established in the third quarter of the 16th Century.** During this period a two-storey square-shaped construction with one residential area on each floor was built. Originally, the manor-house was a residential tower which served as a secure aristocratic residence. Upon the addition of several other rooms in the second half of the 17th Century, the building became a manor-house. On each floor a hall and three living rooms were built, and the individual floors were connected by a staircase leading between the two halls.

In 1658 the manor-house included manor stables, barns, a fruit garden, ponds, a brewery, a hop garden, a mill, and a sawmill. Until 1977, the manor-house served for residential purposes. **In 1977 restoration started in order to preserve the original architectonic features.** The manor-house is one of the extended expositions of Kysuce Museum in Čadca.

It is open to the public all year round, and visitors may see exhibitions, presentations of folk crafts, fairs, performances of folk groups or historical groups indoors as well as outside in the courtyard.



Did you know...?

The manor-house in Radola is a unique Renaissance building and the only preserved Renaissance mansion residence in Kysuce. The archaeological site in the vicinity of the manor-house is historically the oldest documented settlement in the region.

- ✉ **MANOR-HOUSE IN RADOLA**
023 36 Radola
- ☎ +421 41 4212505
- ✉ kastiel@kysuckemuzeum.sk
- 🌐 **WWW.KYSUCKEMUZEUM.SK**
- 📍 **GPS: 49.2954203N, 18.7882197E**
- ♿ **Accessibility:** a parking lot is not reserved



Events

Likava castle

September: IN THE CASTLE AND IN THE VILLAGE – cultural and educational event, where visitors will learn about the history of the castle and the legends of Likava and Liptov castles and their hidden treasures

www.liptovskemuzeum.sk

Orava castle

April/May: THURZO CELEBRATIONS – traditional event dedicated to unlocking the castle for the Summer tourist season

May: FAIRY TALE CASTLE – an event dedicated to fairy tales, especially for children

July: NIGHT OF THE BLOOD COUNTESS – a nightly show that tells the story of Elizabeth Báthory, the bloodiest woman in the world, also in the Guinness Book of Records

August: DRACULA – THE NOSFERATU VAMPIRE – all the ghosts of the castle, together with their boss Dracula, are waiting for their greatest celebration, which is this night show

A DAY IN THE MIDDLE AGES – an event during which Orava Castle comes alive with a medieval atmosphere full of music, dance, and martial arts, as well as forgotten stories. Skilled falconers will also show off their art, and they will certainly brighten the eyes of both children and adults

October: ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE DARK? – an evening tour dedicated to all those who do not want to spend the Autumn holidays at home and who like to be afraid

December: SAINT NICHOLAS AT ORAVA CASTLE – angels and naughty devils with Saint Nicholas will knock on the door of Orava Castle

www.oravskemuzeum.sk

Strečno castle

April: OFFICIAL OPENING OF STREČNO CASTLE – an adventurous tour of the life of famous castle personalities, medieval cuisine and crafts

June: CHILDREN'S DAY AT STREČNO CASTLE – the International Children's Day event will delight both young and old

July/August: NIGHT TOURS OF STREČNO CASTLE – Strečno Castle during the Summer is alive also at night and popular tours in the late hours attract hundreds of visitors

August: CASTLE GAMES OF SOPHIA BOSNIAK – an event dedicated to the most famous castle owner which takes visitors back to the Middle Ages

September: TIME TRAVEL – an attractive event for all enthusiasts of history, exceptional experiences and unusual tastes

October: NIGHT OF GHOSTS, PUMPKINS AND SPOOKS – traditional closing event of the current season at Strečno Castle

www.pmza.sk

Budatín castle

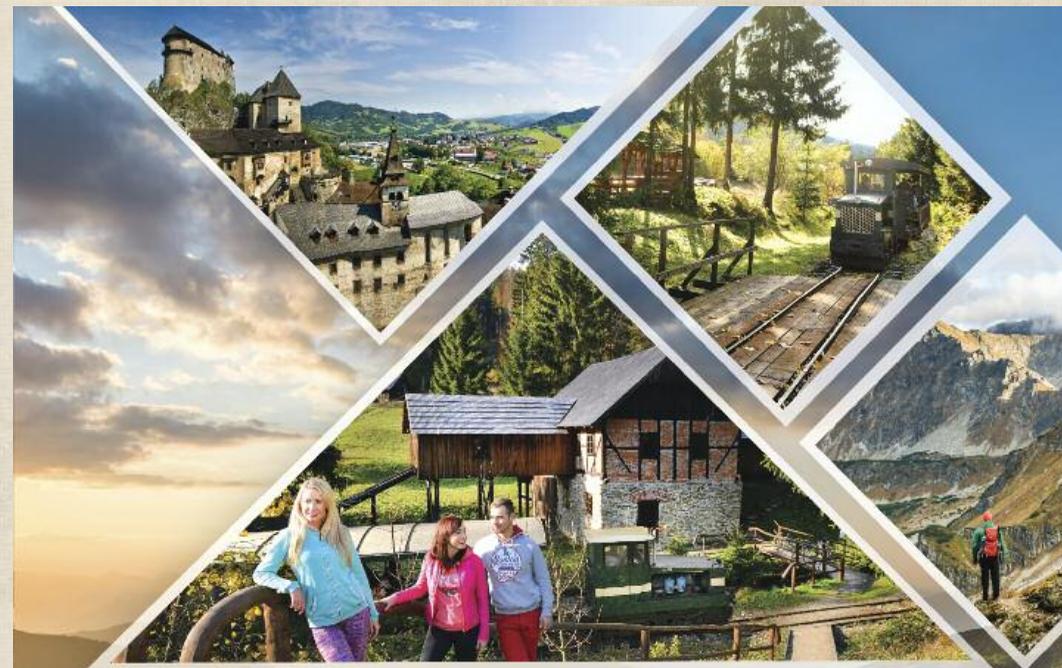
March/April: STATIONS OF THE CROSS (CALVARY) – ecumenical devotion of the Stations of the Cross in the park of Budatín Castle

June: MEETING OF MASTER TINKERS – Meeting of artisans from Slovakia and the Czech Republic accompanied by interesting events

July: GOLDEN TIMES OF BUDATÍN – the event mimics an event from the time of the last owner of Budatín Castle, Count Gejza Čáki, presenting the atmosphere of the era of the famous ruler

October: BUDATÍN MARKET – traditional closing seasonal event with demonstrations of craftsmanship, an extensive accompanying program and gastronomic specialities

www.pmza.sk



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www.northslovakia.com





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Ul. Komenského 48, 011 09 Žilina, Slovensko
Tel.: +421 41 50 32 361, www.zilinskyturistickykraj.sk
www.facebook.com/zilinskyturistickykraj



Žilinský samosprávny kraj
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Tel.: 044/55 65 401, www.visitliptov.sk



Oblastná organizácia cestovného ruchu MALÁ FATRA
Námestie Obetí Komunizmu 1, 011 31 Žilina
Tel.: 0918 327 496, www.regionmalafatra.sk



Oblastná organizácia cestovného ruchu Klaster ORAVA
Hviezdoslavovo námestie 1651/2, 026 01 Dolný Kubín
Tel.: 0911 747 339, www.visitorava.sk



Oblastná organizácia cestovného ruchu Organizácia cestovného ruchu Kysuce
Námestie slobody 30, 022 01 Čadca
Tel.: 0948 339 264, www.regionkysuce.sk



Oblastná organizácia cestovného ruchu Rajecká dolina
Nám. SNP 1/29, 013 13 Rajecké Teplice
Tel.: 0948 620 661, www.rajeckadolina.sk



Oblastná organizácia cestovného ruchu TURIEC-KREMNICKO
Námestie S. H. Vajanského 1, 036 49 Martin
Tel.: 0915 551 377, www.turieckremnicko.sk

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