

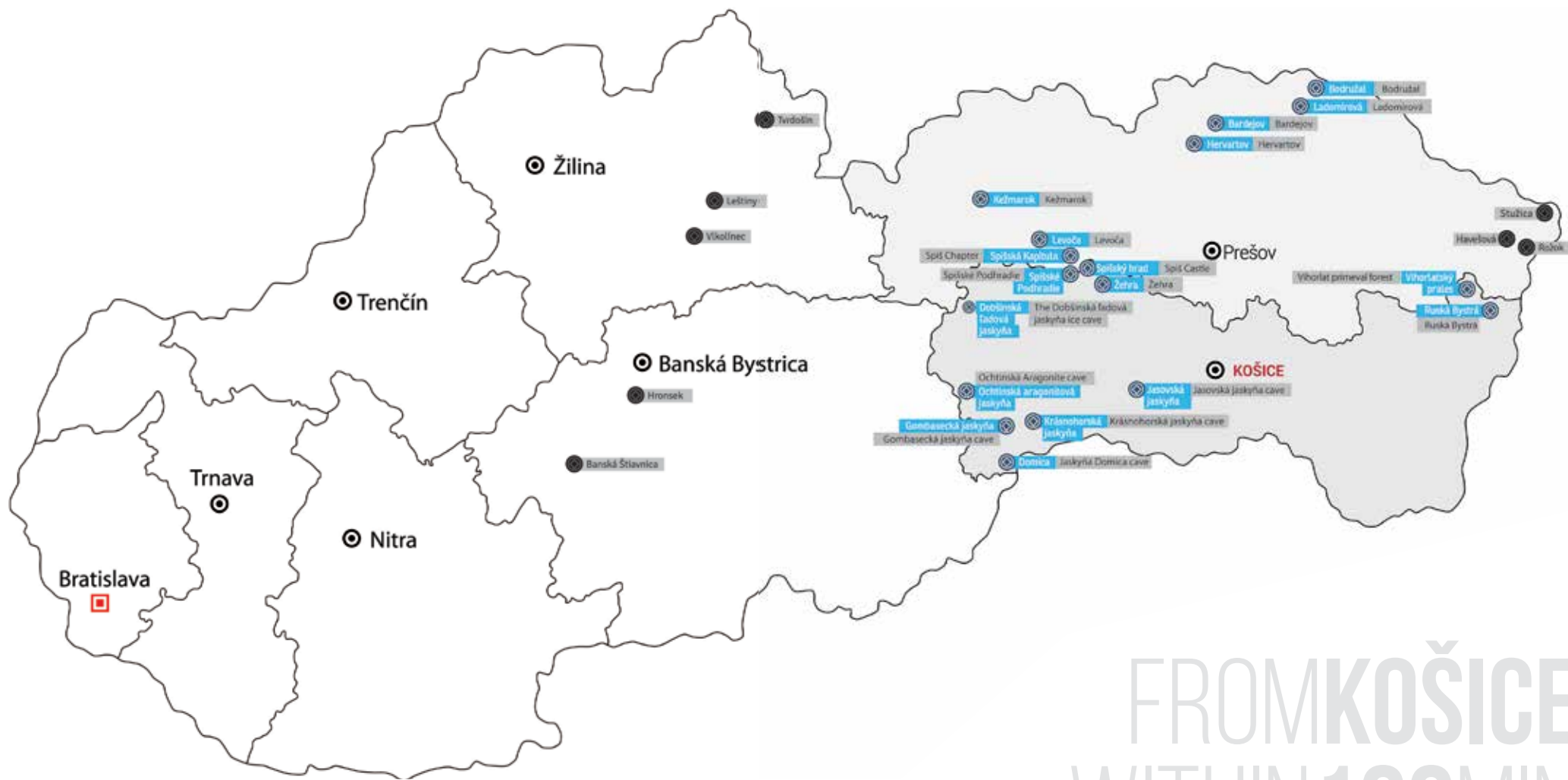


**18X
UNESCO
FROM KOSICE
WITHIN 100 MIN**



 unesco landmarks reachable from Košice within 100 minutes by car

 unesco landmarks reachable from Košice in over 100 minutes by car



FROM **KOŠICE**
WITHIN **100MIN**

FROM KOŠICE WITHIN 100MIN

The UNESCO is The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The main mission of this agency in the structures of the UN is to contribute to the security and peace through the promotion

of international cooperation in education, science or culture. The UNESCO was established on 16th November 1945, it is currently being based in Paris, has 195 Member States and 9 associated members.

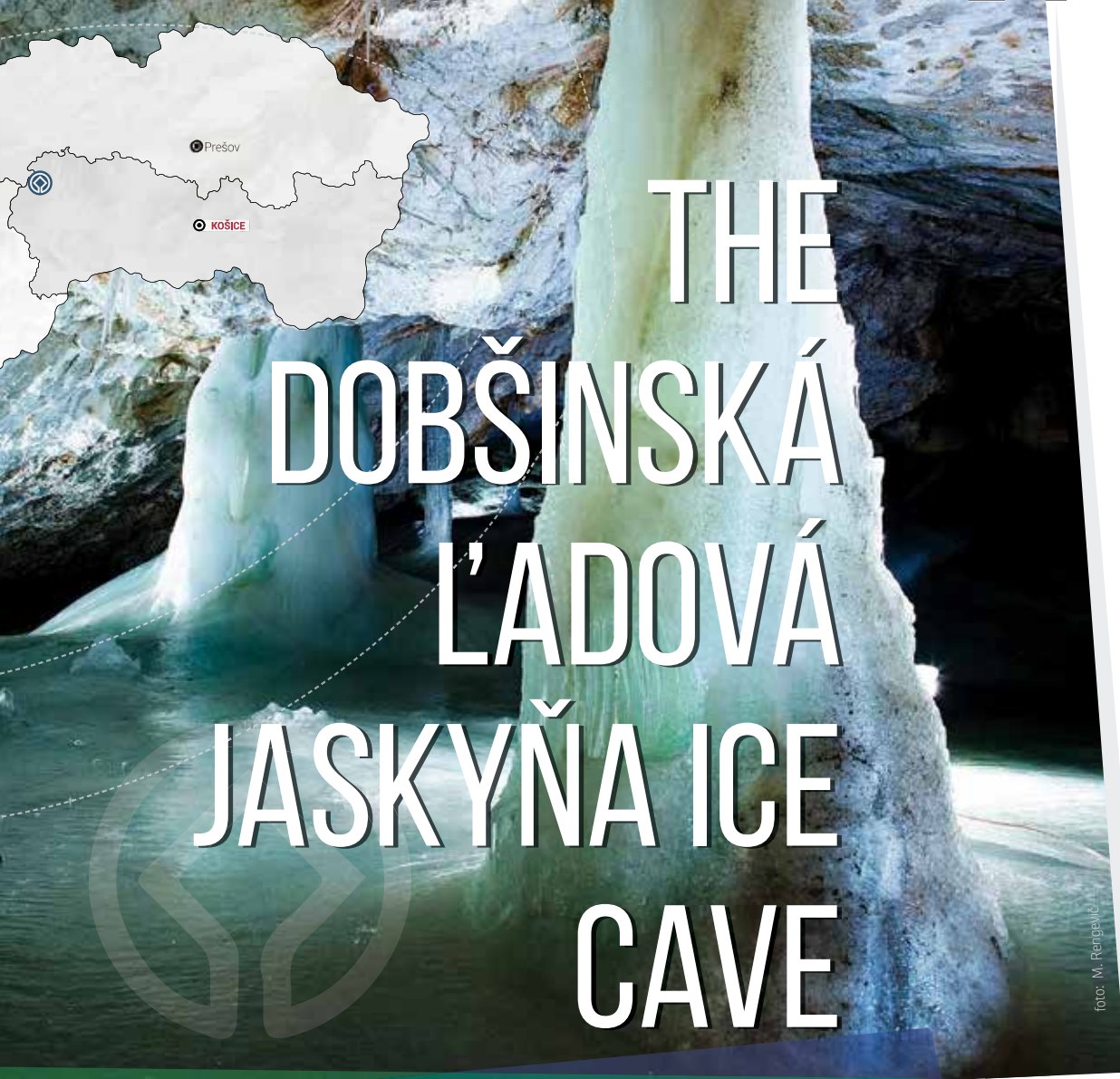
18X UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

The places having been created by thousands of years of inimitable natural processes, or hectolitres of sweat and millions of pairs of human hands - this is how we could characterize the UNESCO List of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which brings together over 1 000 of the most

beautiful, the most amazing, and the most unique sites in the world. The purpose of this global „collection“ is to preserve the most precious natural and cultural treasures of mankind, but also to strengthen international cooperation in an effort to preserve them.

The Košice region locale, and the whole of Eastern Slovakia in its wider range, is peppered with interesting monuments and sites that are hallmarked as the world heritage. Košice with its metropolitan railway and coach stations and the international airport is a natural centre of the whole region, thus a preferred starting point for visitors. They may comfortably get to as many as 18 Slovak sites included in the

UNESCO List of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage within 100 minutes by car. Quick accessibility of those sites, their historical, aesthetic, and cultural significance, makes the Košice region an inspirational place ideal for a gorgeous spending one's leisure.



THE DOBŠINSKÁ ĽADOVÁ JASKYŇA ICE CAVE

foto: M. Rengevič

The Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa ice cave ranks among the most valuable natural unique and beauty sites in Slovakia. As to its depth and length, the cave also ranks among the largest ice caves in the world. Its location allows its temperature to stay below the freezing point all year round, and this is the factor that has played a key role in creating its ice decoration over time. Ice is formed in the cave sections where the dropping cold air is piled up in the winter. The air cools the cave and maintains its temperature below the freezing point. Sufficient amount of ground water flow icing-up in the cave is also of importance. The total volume of ice in the cave is estimated at 110 thousand m³, which equals about two million full fuel tanks of standard cars. The Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa ice cave is also associated with the silver screen and with one of the legendary movie fairy tales, Good for Nothing - the Bravest Knight). It was shot in the Slovak - German co-production in the year

The ice in the cave would stay all the year round. It is one of the first caves in Europe with electric lighting – it has been installed since 1887. This is the most visited cave of the Košice region.

1982, directed by Martin Ľapák, on the motives of the Slovak folk fairy tale recorded by Pavol Dobšinský. One may get to the entrance to the cave, called the Ice Hole, along a winding walkway with an elevation of 130 metres. The length of the cave sightseeing route is 515 metres with the elevation of 43 metres, and would take about half an hour. The differences in temperature between the outside environment and the interior of the cave, especially in the summer, pose a burden on the human body. Therefore, it is advisable to relax before entering the cave so that your body may acclimatize itself

without any problems. The temperature in the iced parts of the cave moves within the range of -3.9° C up to -0.2° C. It is slightly warmer in the non-iced parts, just above the freezing point, from 0.8° C to 3.5° C.

Eugen Ruffinyi, the Royal Mining Councillor, penetrated in the lower parts of the cave for the first time in June 1870, and the very next year it was made accessible to the public.

It must have been popular especially in the summer heats.

In the year 1890, a concert was being performed in the Large Hall in honour of Charles Ludwig of Habsburg. Until the year 1946, the public was allowed ice skating in the cave.

The walk up to the cave from the car park in the village of Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa ice cave takes about 25 minutes, during which one passes the elevation of 130 metres.



reach

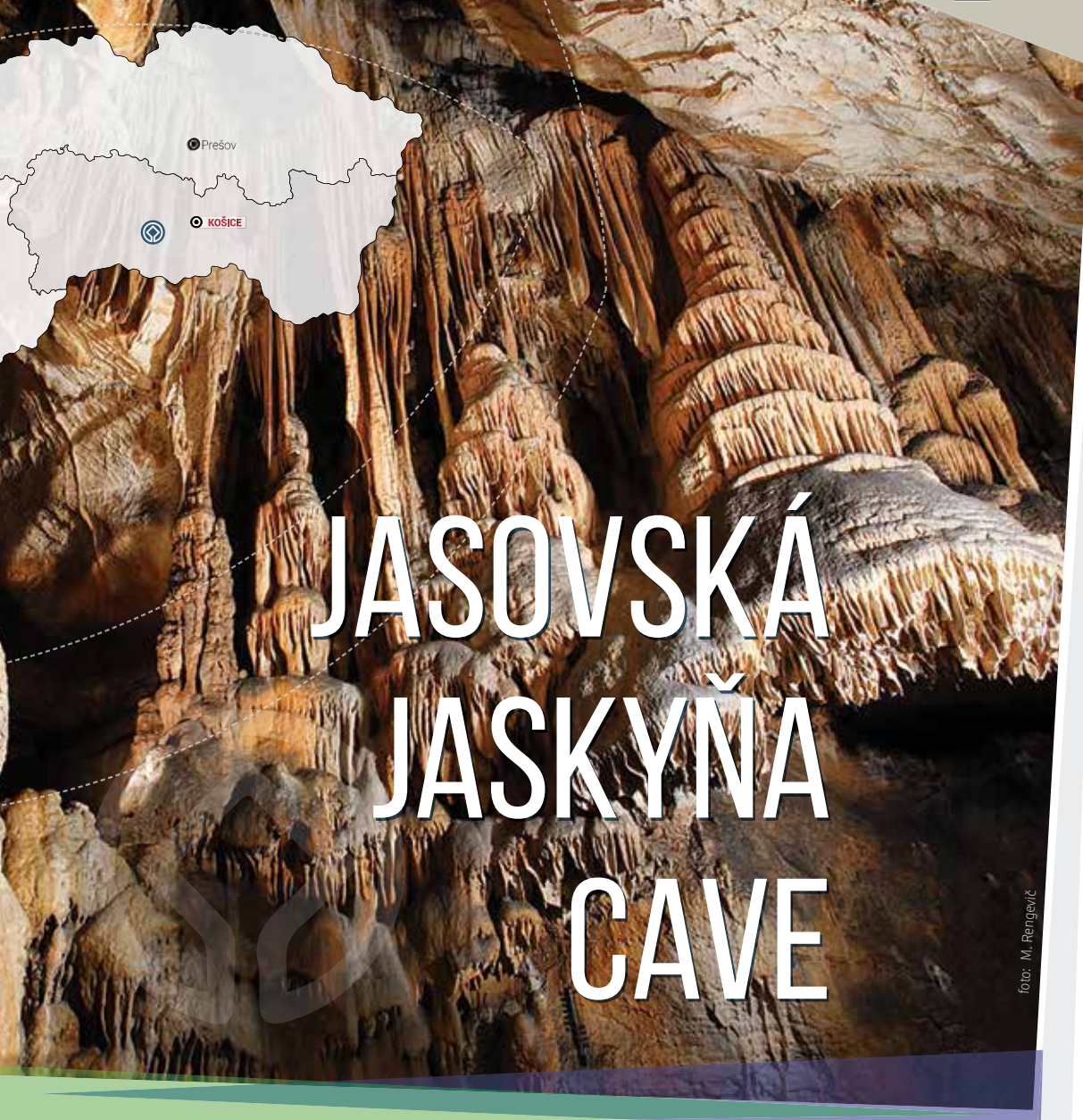
from Košice by car

from Košice by car

> May
< September

100 MIN

115 KM



JASOVSKÁ JASKYŇA CAVE

foto: M. Rengevič

This cave is one of the three Slovak caves used for the treatment of the respiratory tract diseases by inhalation of the cave aerosol. Up to 19 species of bats live in the Jasovská jaskyňa cave. This is the first cave open to public in Slovakia since 1846. From among the UNESCO World Heritage caves, this cave is closest to Košice.

Up to one fifth of the population suffers from allergies to be treated by medications. However, medical drugs need not be the only solution, because speleotherapy appears a very good alternative – the method using the properties of the caves, in particular the underground aerosol. The cave environment is virtually not replaceable in an artificial way, since it is dust-free, allergen-free, and its relative humidity approaches 100 per cent. The Jasovská jaskyňa cave currently serves as one of three caves in the country for the treatment of respiratory tract diseases. In addition, it is also a true witness of the history – the story has it that the cave was discovered by one of the monks of the Premonstratesian Order based in Jasov, with the first written mention of its existence dating back to 12th century. The cave is associated with a number of archaeological finds, from which it is clear that it was inhabited in the Neolithic period; some of the findings even point to a possible short-term settlements in the Paleolithic period. We may find inscriptions and drawings on the cave walls; for example,

One of the three Slovak caves used for the treatment of airways by inhalation of the cave aerosol. There are up to 19 bat species in the Jasovská jaskyňa cave. The first accessible cave on the territory Slovakia – since 1846. From among the caves of the UNESCO World Heritage, this one is closest to Košice.

there is an extremely valuable inscription of the year 1452, which records the victory of the troops of Ján Jiskra of Brandýs at the battle of Lučenec, and it is the oldest documented inscription in the Slovak caves. In the Dome of Bats we may find the date of 1576. Several parts of the cave are adorned by a rich sinter fling, sinter “waterfalls” or drums would also attract attention. Experts discovered up to 19 species of bats in the cave that assemble there especially in the winter. The Jasovská jaskyňa cave is one of the most important wintering areas of the Greater Horseshoe Bat in Slovakia. The length of accessible section of the cave is 550 metres, the tour would take about 45 minutes. Visitors would for sure feel it in their legs, since they are to climb 314 stair steps. The temperature of the cave varies between 8.8° C and 9.4° C, with the relative humidity ranging between 90 per cent and 98 per cent.

Health recovery stays for treating allergy and asthma in children started in the Jasovská jaskyňa cave in the year 1995. These healing stays take place in the Dome of Bats. Slovakia

and Germany are the pioneer countries in speleotherapy. Karol Klincko, MD, started to be applying this form of therapy in the Gomba-secká jaskyňa cave as early as in the year 1968.



reach

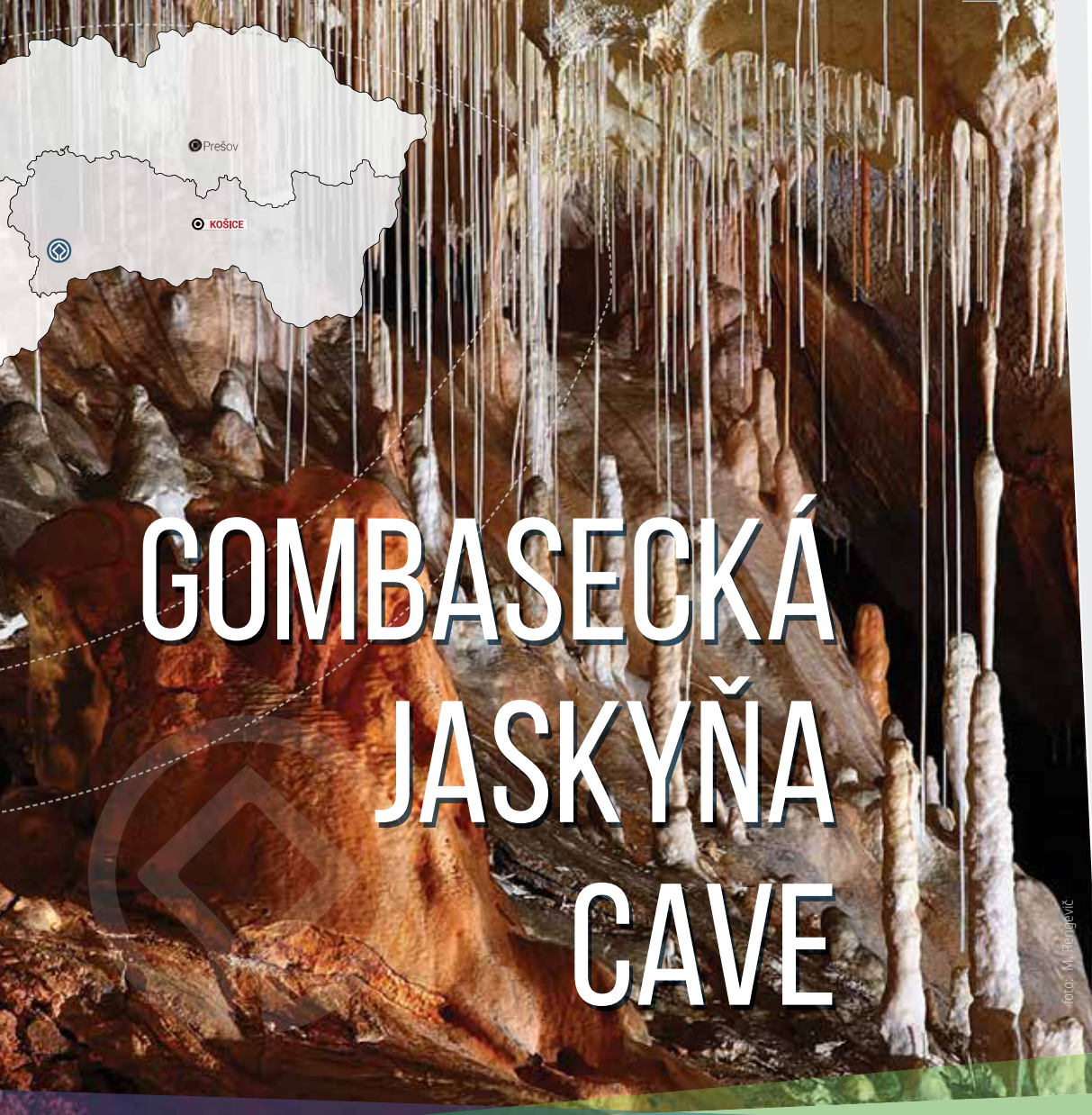
from Košice by car

from Košice by car

> April
< October

35 MIN

35 KM



GOMBASECKÁ JASKYŇA CAVE

foto: M. Trajngovič

There are several caves accessible to the public in the territory of the Košice region, each of them being unique enough to be seen with your own eyes. This is also true of the Gombasecká jaskyňa cave, whose interior is decorated with charming needles dangling from the ceiling. The "needles" are in fact extremely thin sinter straws (stalactite formations), which by virtue of their diversity materialize an infinite variability of nature creations. The snow-white glassy straws, 2 to 3 millimetres thick and 3 metres long, are the European rarity. They create a strong colour contrast against the background of brown-black limestone walls. The most impressive areas of the cave include the Marble Hall with a well eight metres deep or Hall of Hiroshima, which is dominated by a stalagnate reminiscent of a mushroom cloud. In the courtroom of Ladislav Herényi (named after one of the discoverers of the cave), these thin straws are so densely grouped together that they evoke an image of a stone rain. The cave is located in the middle of the Slovak Karst National Park and its entrance is located approximately 250 metres above sea level. It was discovered in the year 1951

by volunteer speleologists from Rožňava. The route shorter than 300 metres is available to the public from the total length of the cave (approximately 1.5 kilometres). However, the guided tour goes through almost the whole of this part two times, therefore it would take about half an hour. The walk through the

The cave is decorated by sinter straws reaching up to **3 metres** in length. This is **the first cave** in Slovakia that started to be exploited for speleotherapy.

cave itself is not physically demanding, as the total elevation is only 7 to 8 metres. In addition, the microclimatic conditions are suitable for the respiratory diseases treatment - the temperature in the cave is around +9° C, the relative humidity being 95 per cent to 97 per cent. This is one of the reasons why the Gombasecká jaskyňa cave began to serve the purposes of speleotherapy as the first one in Slovakia.

In the Gombasecká jaskyňa cave, there is also the lowest ice cave of the temperate climate zone - the Šilická ľadnica ice cave. This cave had been inhabited a number of times before its glaciation. The brothers Suchý discovered in this cave previously unknown spaces, including

a huge lake, in the summer of 2016. The total known length of the cave containing new corridors is thus 2 kilometres. However, the newly discovered space is hard to access, so only experienced speleologists can get there.



reach

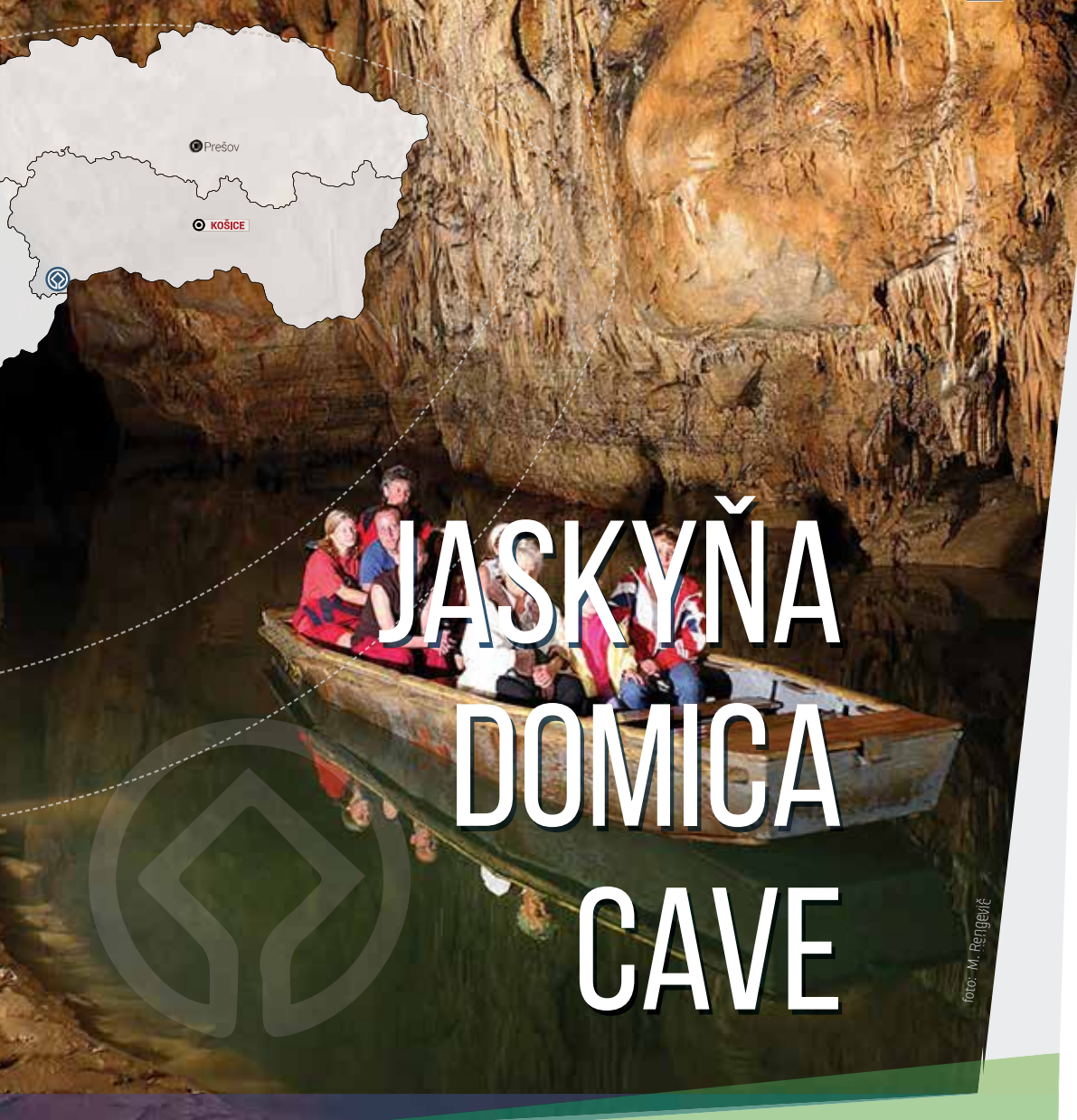
from Košice by car

from Košice by car

> April
< October

70 MIN

85 KM



JASKYŇA DOMICA CAVE

foto: M. Rejzgerič

If you want to experience the real thing, even a fairy-tale-like secrecy, the cave Domica would forever be associated with the fantastic fight between good and evil – in the year 1982, they were shooting here the famous fairy tale *Salt More Than Gold* with a stellar group of the actors cast.

The cave is located 95 kilometres away of Košice, in the Slovak Karst National Park, and along with the Baradla cave in the Aggtelek Karst on the territory of Hungary, they create a unique complex of a total length exceeding 25 kilometres. Domica is the longest cave in the Slovak Karst; visitors may take two guided tours there – the short one 780 metres long (45 minutes) and the long one, including a sail by boat around the underground creek Styx 930 metres long (60 minutes). The temperature in the cave ranges between 10.2° C and 11.4° C, its humidity oscillating between 95 per cent and 98 per cent. In addition to

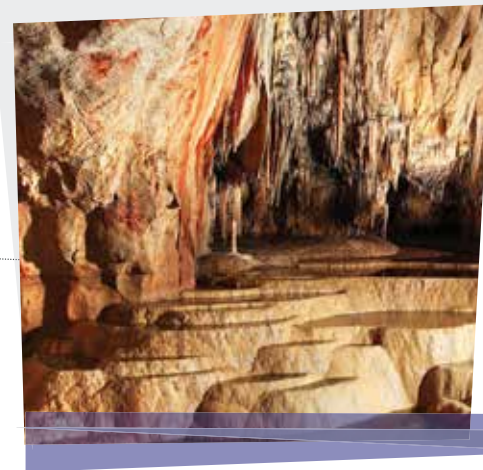
16 species of bats live in the Jaskyňa Domica cave. One may cruise the cave through the underground creek Styx at a length of **150 metres**.

voluminous karst decoration, the Domica cave would attract one by a high number of bat species. Up to 16 bat species have been found there until now, with the strongest representation of the Mediterranean Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus Euryale*) that creates a 1000 to 2000 members large colony, the only of its kind in Slovakia. The cave is also a convincing proof of the life and activities of prehistoric man. The 5-6 thousand years old archaeological findings are a proof of colonisa-

tion and exploitation of the Domica cave in the New Stone Age. One of the main attractions that have made the Domica cave famous is the underground creek symbolically named after the river Styx known from the Greek mythology. The preconditions for its being sufficiently filled with water include favourable weather conditions during the winter – if there is not enough snow, spring and summer would no longer “save” it. The sail along the underground creek Styx is about 150 metres long.

You can continue in making some more discoveries on the Hungarian side of the border, in the Baradla cave, which is part of the same entry on the UNESCO List of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage.

Domica is the only cave opening its season in February to end it up in December – it is thus accessible for up to 11 months in the year.



reach

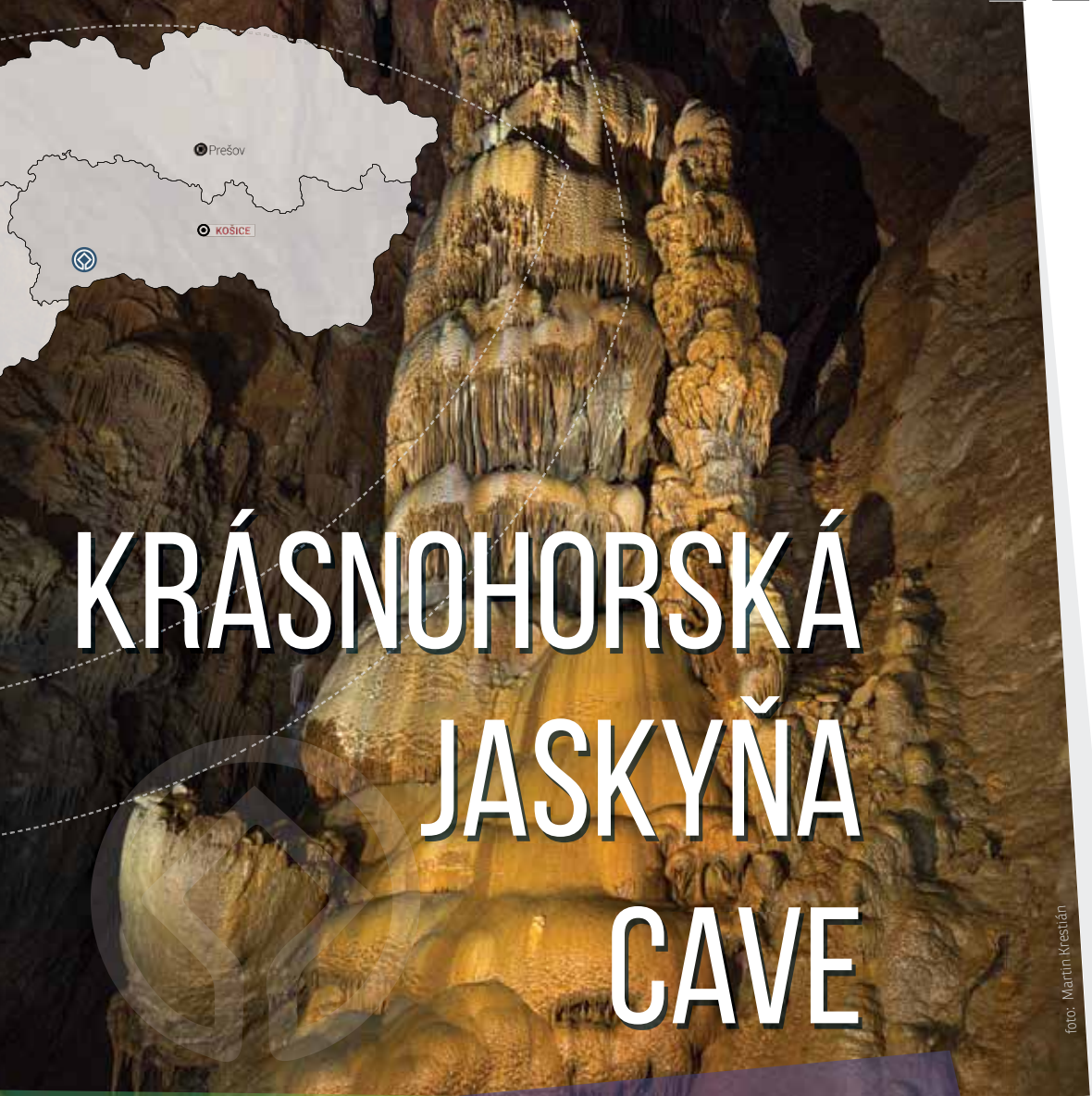
from Košice by car

from Košice by car

> February
< December

80 MIN

95 KM



KRÁSNOHORSKÁ JASKYŇA CAVE

foto: Martin Kresťán

From among the six available UNESCO World Heritage caves in the Košice region, the Krásnohorská jaskyňa cave is truly exceptional. Its uniqueness lies in the fact that walking in it is associated with a certain amount of adrenaline and sport activities. Although it is open to the public, the entry is only allowed when accompanied by experienced guides and wearing a complete speleological gear. The entrance to the cave is located at an altitude of 316 metres, at the exurgence of the Buzgó creek. The total length of the cave is 1555 metres, the temperature is around 9° C and the relative humidity is 98 per cent. In the Krásnohorská jaskyňa cave, interesting Earth pyramids have been formed. The 450 metres long guided tour leads to the unique Speleologists of Rožňava Dripstone, and is made accessible by wooden benches and ropes, by means of which the visitors overcome the Buzgó underground creek flowing through the main part of the cave. The flow of water in the creek decides on the possibility of

The Speleologists of Rožňava Dripstone (34 metres high) was until recently regarded the highest in the world, and is a rarity in the temperate climatic zone. The entrance in the cave is only possible with a guide while wearing the speleological gear.

entering the cave. The maximum water flow, at which the entry is still allowed, is 300 litres per second. At a higher flow, the benches are already under water. At certain times, the flow inside the cave ranges around 1300 litres per second; at the largest recorded flood, the flow was 6000 l/s. The last accessible part of the cave that hides the famed "icing" is the Hall of Giants. Its hallmark is the Speleologists of Rožňava Dripstone, having been for long considered the largest in the world and until recently being registered in the Guinness Book

of Records. The majestic stalagnate is almost 34 metres high and its weight is estimated at 2000 tonnes, putting on about 200 kilograms per year. Dripstones do not grow so quickly even in the tropics, where the conditions for the growth of sinter stalactites are many times better. For the sake of comparison, the average stalactite in the Slovak Karst would grow one gram for long tens even hundreds of years.

The main part of the cave is formed by a canyon-like corridor, which is extended at transverse dislocations into massive domes up to 45 metres high.



reach

from Košice by car

from Košice by car

> June
< September

60 MIN

70 KM



OCHTINSKÁ ARAGONITE CAVE

from M. Raagevič

In the access drift of the Ochtinská Aragonite Cave, you need to climb 104 steps and then you enter into a world of splendour, which could only be created by the all-mighty Mother Nature. This is another world unique site, as the cave is one of the three aragonite caves accessible on this planet. The other two are situated in Mexico and Argentina. In the cave, we may find three generations of aragonite, the first of which is 121 to 138 thousand years old. The second generation is most abundantly represented by several dozen centimetres long needles and curved even spiralled helictites about 14 thousand years old. The youngest generation is currently being formed on sediments and produces tiny tufts only 2 to 4 millimetres large.

230 metres are accessible of the total length of 300 metres and the tour takes half an hour. As to its size, the cave is not large, but it is extremely valuable. The varicoloured aragonite filling in the form of spirals, small needles, and formations resembling coral creates a diverse mixture of beautiful pictures. The

One of the three accessible aragonite caves in the world. The other two are in Mexico and Argentina. The oldest of the aragonite formations are almost 140 thousand years old.

Milky Way Hall is considered the most beautiful place of the cave, where white aragonite tassels in the ceiling crack create an impression of the stars of our galaxy in the light of the lamps.

This world treasure was discovered by chance in the year 1954 when tunnelling the geologic survey drift. It was made accessible to the public in the year 1972. The temperature in the cave is around 7.2° C to 7.8° C and the relative humidity ranges between 92 per cent and 97 per cent.

Aragonite is calcium carbonate and this mineral may have different shapes and appearances – one of upright, dripstone, fibrous, or ray-like, or the rarest one, reminiscent of coral (also called iron flower).



reach

from Košice by car

from Košice by car



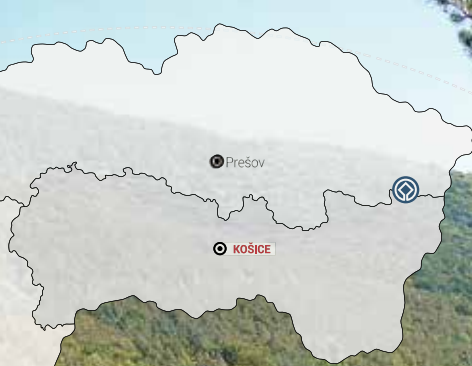
> April
< November



95 MIN



100 KM



VIHORLAT PRIMAEVAL FOREST

Forests extend on over 40 per cent of the territory of Slovakia, ranking it among the most wooded countries in Europe. Moreover, this tiny Central European country prides itself in the world's unique primeval forests – the forest areas in the Eastern part of the country with exceptionally well preserved fauna and flora. They are part of the international registration on the UNESCO List of World Cultural and Natural Heritage. This includes sites in Germany, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

The East Slovak “sea” – the Zemplínska šírava lake - is surrounded by the Vihorlat Mountains. The Vihorlat primeval forest is their part, a natural paradise, still untouched by man. When looking at the 240-year-old beech trees majestically protruding high above the human horizon, we find a link of our modern world with the forces that are still more powerful than we are. Both difficult accessibility of these natural areas and their systematic preservation have contributed to the fact that the habitat of the beech primeval forests exists in its original harmony and in full glamour. The endless natural cycle is constantly going on there without human interference, when the old trees give place

The oldest beech trees of Vihorlat are up to 240 years old. The primeval forest is also inhabited by remarkable animals – Fire Salamander, Rosalia Longicorn, or the snail Bielzia Coerulans.

to the new ones, and these immediately start growing up in appropriate places. If you look down to the ground dumb founded, you easily spot tiny green stems and leaves growing from dead fallen logs. The starting place to the Vihorlat beech primeval forest is located in the unique Morské oko sea eye lake, which is the third largest natural lake in Slovakia. The lake is spread over an area of approximately 14 hectares and its bottom is here and there up to 25 metres deep. The whole of the Morské oko lake may be bypassed along the sidewalk circling the lake. By its registration on the List of World Natural Heritage, the

Vihorlat primeval forest became a member of the group of such famous sites as the US Yellowstone National Park or the Grand Canyon, Mount Everest or Kilimanjaro.

Access in the forest had been restricted until the year 2012, as it is also a military area.

The most widespread plant of the Vihorlat primeval forest is the common beech, but also true firs, maple trees and red ash trees may be found there.



reach

from Košice by car

from Košice by car



All year round



100 MIN



95 KM



SPIŠ CASTLE

After exiting the long darkness of the Branisko road tunnel in the direction from Košice, you will be struck by a majestic silhouette of the Spiš Castle. Leaving the technical construction of the modern era,

One of the largest castle complexes in the world (4 hectares). This is the most photogenic site of the region and the whole of Slovakia. The films *Dragon Heart* directed by Rob Cohen (1992) and the *Last Legion* (2007) starring Colin Firth and Ben Kingsley were being shot at the Spiš Castle.

the visitor is confronted with the monument silently documenting the history. The Spiš Castle is a place that through its spirit, quite unconsciously, would evoke images of the distant past, a time of kings and subjects, clanking of medieval weapons and knight armour, and would also naturally offer you pondering over the meaning of the whole building as a placid chronicler of the times. The Spiš Castle – being a preserved landmark – is today a matter of pride of not just the Spiš region of Eastern Slovakia, but that of the entire nation. Its significance goes beyond the borders of the country, as evidenced by the annually increasing number of visitors from both near and distant corners of the world. Its attractiveness is enhanced by convenient accessibility from the

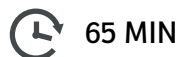
D1 Highway, but also by a high concentration of places of interest in its immediate surroundings, alongside with the Church of the Holy Spirit in Žehra, the Spiš Canonry, the village of Spišské Podhradie and the city of Levoča, the Spiš Castle creates a complex included in the UNESCO List of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The oldest preserved written mention of the Castle comes from the year 1249. In the beginning it performed the function of a border fortress on the northern border of the early feudal Historic Hungarian Kingdom, later it became an aristocratic mansion. Over the centuries, the castle was in the hands of various noble families, and was subject to power struggle. In the year 1780, the castle complex was destroyed by fire and the Spiš Castle gradually turned into ruins. Conservationists prevented its complete deterioration, when they began conservation work on the castle complex threatened by instability of the bedrock in the second half of the 20th century. A gigantic stone pattern – geoglyph – was created on the Northeast slope of the Castle Hill in the year 2008 under guidance of the Australian artist Andrew Rogers. The geoglyph shows a horse from a Celtic coin found during the archaeological research of the Spiš Castle. The pattern size is approximately 100 x 100 metres. Its line is created by a one-metre high and one-metre wide stone wall of travertine stones piled freely, without any binding material. The length of the wall is 800 metres, with 40 stonemasons and 80 local residents having been involved in its construction.

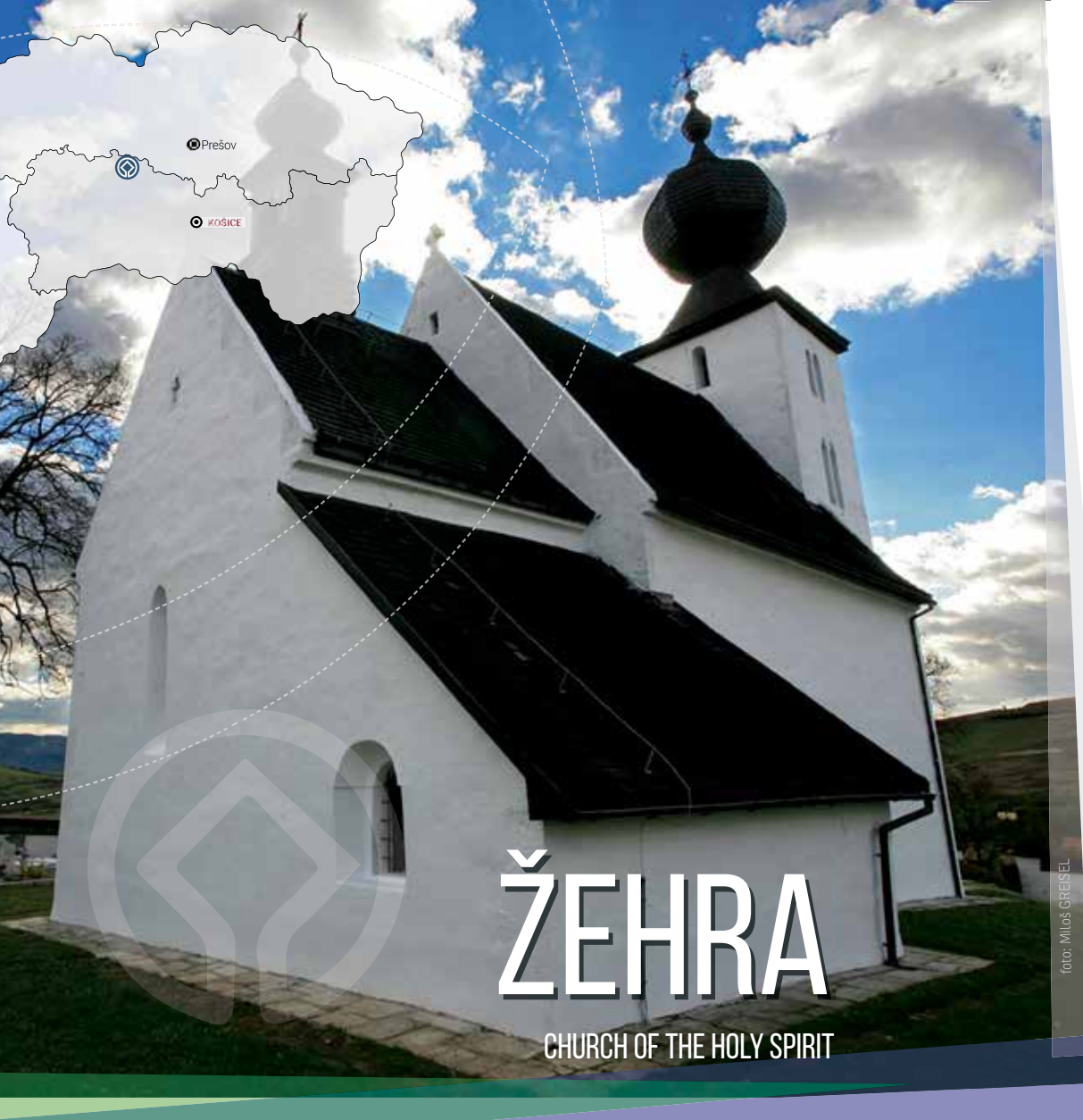
The season of the Spiš Castle usually starts on 1st April and the castle is open to visitors by the end of October.

reach

from Košice by car

from Košice by car





ŽEHRA

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

foto: Miloš GREBEL

An eye-catching white gem protrudes over the roofs of houses in the village of Žehra, hiding in its bowels the treasures of history. The tower of the little ancient church of the 13th century is roofed by a wooden dome of a non-traditional bulbous shape. Thanks to the first written mention of this building in the year 1245, we also learn of the existence of the village itself. Over the centuries, the church was restructured several times up to its present-day shape. Architecturally, the late Romanesque and early Gothic styles blend together in this building, and the interesting thing is that the Church of the Holy Spirit has been preserved to this day in an almost intact medieval form. In the church nave, the wooden cassette ceiling had existed at first, but centuries ago it burned out. After the fire, an interesting intervention was made, which completely changed the character of the interior – by adding a supporting octagonal pillar in the middle of the church, two naves were created. This architectural peculiarity is typical for several churches in the Spiš area and may be regarded unique in the world. The oldest object in the church is a currently no longer used stone baptismal font from the Late Romanesque 13th century, situated next to the altar. The church is unique for its rare medieval murals from the five periods

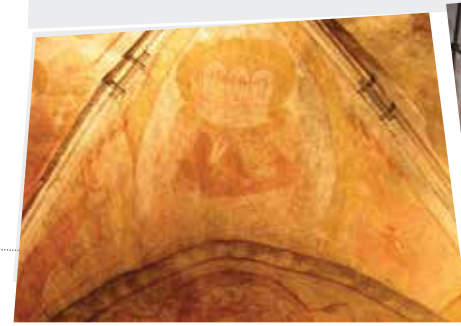
from the end of 13th until the 15th centuries. The most famous scene is the tree of life. The parish church, which in the cross section of history served both Catholics and Lutherans, is fortified with 93 steps of travertine leading up to it.

The Church has been preserved in its almost intact medieval form for centuries. By adding the pillar in the interior, two naves emerged, which is considered a unique trait in the world.

The village of Žehra is one of the stops on the Gothic pathway, the first thematic fact-finding tour in Slovakia. The village belongs among the oldest settlements of the Spiš region, as evidenced by many finds from ancient prehistory, such as the remains of the Neanderthal man. Through travertine extraction on the nearby travertine heap of Drevení, the archaeologists of today still uncover paleontological finds, among them the fossilized bones of the long extinct species of animals, such as mammoths.

In the cadastre of the village of Žehra, two monuments of global importance may be found. Alongside with the Church of the Holy

Spirit, the Spiš Castle is also part of the entry on the UNESCO List of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.



reach

from Košice by car

from Košice by car



All year round



65 MIN



75 KM



LEVOČA

Nearby the Spiš Castle, the city of Levoča lies, attracting the attention of almost any visitor by its atmosphere and uniqueness. The beautiful historical centre is encircled by the medieval city walls that have been preserved almost in their entirety; from among the original 15 bastions and towers, six have been preserved. The city walls are more than 2 kilometres long. Levoča was known especially as a free royal town with many privileges. The history also remembers this city as a centre of international trade, the capital of the Zipser Saxons Community, the Spiš County seat and the cultural and social centre of a wider neighbourhood. It is its abundant history which lies in the origin of the impressive authenticity of the present-day Levoča. We find in Levoča Europe's largest medieval square of rectangular shape with its sides in the ratio of 3:1. The square is surrounded by well preserved flashy townhouses, but its most prominent ornaments are the Town Hall, the Belfry, the Cage of Shame, and the biggest temple of the Spiš region – St. James Church. The church was built in the 14th century and is the second largest church in Slovakia, the biggest one being the St. Elizabeth Dome in Košice. We find in it a European rarity – as many as 14 Gothic and Renaissance altars. In European

It is a city with a distinctive signature of the greatest medieval artist of Slovakia – Master Pavol. In the second largest church in Slovakia – St. James Church in Levoča - 14 Gothic and Renaissance altars are located which is the world's unique record.

terms, only Levoča and Bardejov can boast of having the largest collection of Gothic altars of their own provenance and standing largely in their original locations. Not even the world's biggest galleries own such a high number of Gothic altars. The church was declared Basilica Minor in the year 2015. The most prominent feature of the sanctuary of the St. James Church is the world's largest late Gothic wooden altar with its height of 18.62 metres - the St. James Altar. This is the exceptional work of the renowned carver, Master Pavol, who operated in Levoča after the year 1500 and was having his carving workshop here. The works of this artist and woodcarver are of high quality and of wide range, being scattered across the country; in addition to Spiš, they may be found in the regions of Šariš, Gemer, and Liptov.

Levoča is the oldest place of pilgrimage of Eastern Slovakia. The Mariánska hora hill, watchfully overlooking the city, is the venue for the annual pilgrimage, which in the year 1995 was also attended by the Holy Pope John Paul II.

Levoča, the Spiš Castle, Spišské Podhradie, the Spiš Chapter, and the Church of the Holy Spirit in Žehra form a remarkable complex of military, political, and religious centres, as was common in medieval Europe, but hardly anywhere else has been preserved in such a complete and unaltered state.



reach

from Košice by car

from Košice by car



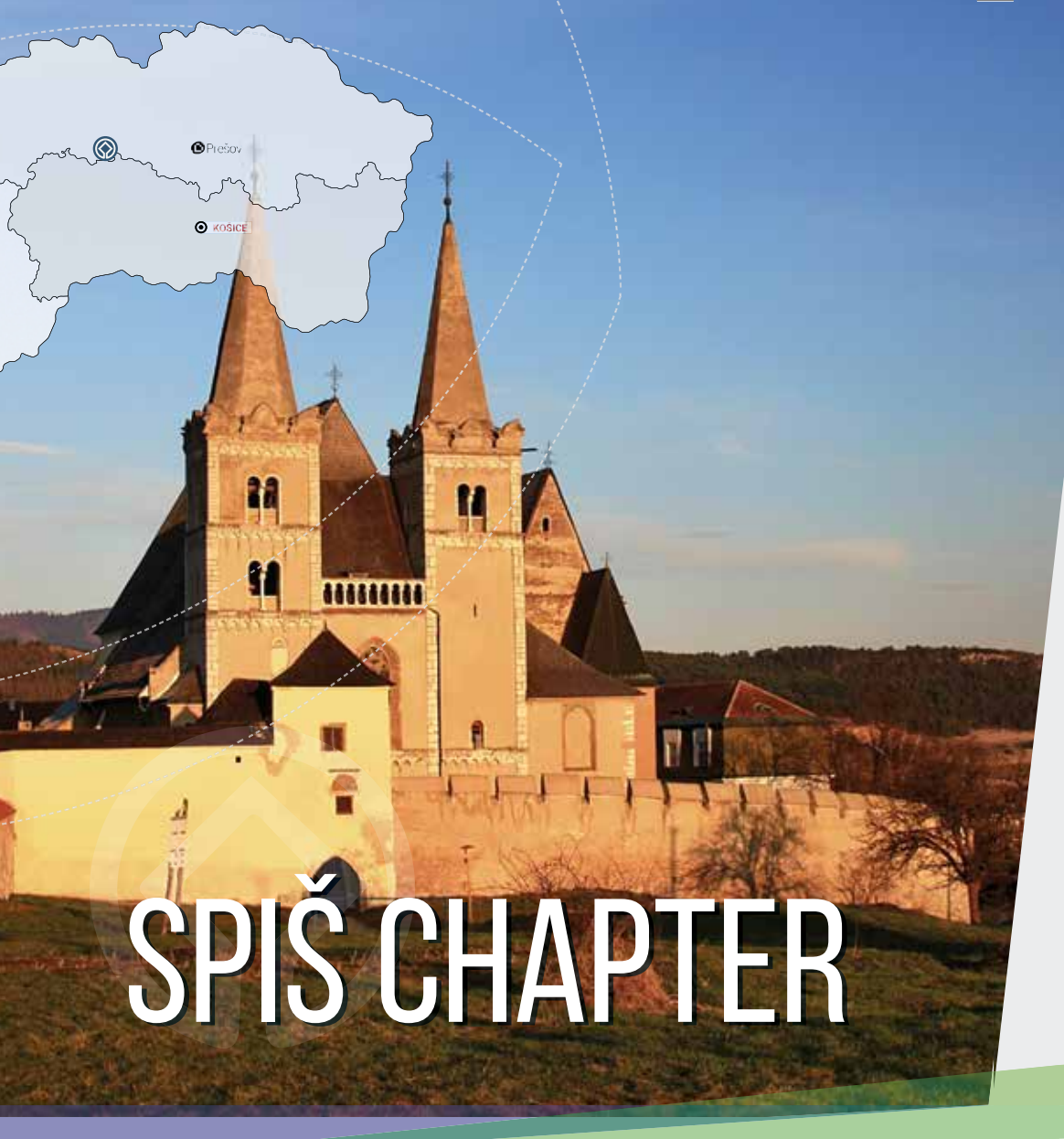
All year round



70 MIN



90 KM



SPIŠ CHAPTER

When viewed from the main tower of the Spiš Castle, a visitor cannot fail to notice an architecturally appealing complex of buildings in its immediate vicinity, enclosed by walls, located on a higher ground beyond the Spišské Podhradie village. The visitor is in fact looking at a unique Church town of the Spiš Chapter, which can be considered a sort of "Little Vatican". The central building of the Chapter is St. Martin Cathedral, which had initially served as the first Provostal church in the Royal territory. Originally a Romanesque church, it was rebuilt in the 15th century in the Gothic style. By extending the original building, quite a large presbytery emerged, and the building doubled in height. There are eight altars in the church, the Altar of the Virgin Mary Coronation is over 500 years old. An unusually secular wall painting from the year 1317 is highly interesting – the scene of

the Coronation of King Charles Robert, who is being blessed by the Virgin Mary holding little Jesus. The Cathedral forms a sort of a centre of the complex, whose boundaries are set by the city walls with three entrances, and its typical feature is a lane of the canonical houses. The lane forms the axis of the whole church town and is its only street. The existence of the Chapter underscores the historical significance of the entire site. As early as in the 11th century, chapels and a cemetery were situated on top of the Chapter hill, the place of today's Cathedral. The town had played an important role in the region since the beginning of the Church's life, until it became a bishopric at the end of the 18th century. In the early 19th century, a clerical seminary and the oldest Institute of Education in the historic Hungary were established here. In close proximity to the Chapter, in the locale of Pažica, the remains of the Way of the Cross may be found, built probably in the second half of the 17th century. This is probably one of the oldest Calvaries in this territory. The interesting thing is that this is a type of Calvario Jerusalem, with chapels arranged so that they are reminiscent of Jerusalem in the time of Jesus Christ. After subsequent interventions in the terrain and the buildings, that Spiš Jerusalem was discovered as late as in the year 2002.

The Spiš Chapter, being a Church's small town, is also known as "Little Vatican" in the region. Not far from the Chapter, the remains of the Way of the Cross are located, which recalls a replica of the Jerusalem Way of the Cross.

You may take part in divine service in the Spiš Chapter even today.

One of the oldest Romanesque sculptures in Slovakia, the White Lion, made of travertine.



reach

from Košice by car

from Košice by car



All year round



65 MIN



80 KM



SPIŠSKÉ PODHRADIE

reach

from Košice by car

from Košice by car



All year round



65 MIN



75 KM

Spišské Podhradie is now a small town of about 3800 inhabitants. In the past, however, it was one of the most developed towns of the Spiš region. The town was established as an extramural settlement. Although the first written mention of it comes from the year 1249, the site is much older. It benefited from its position beneath the Castle, its residents rendered all sorts of services to the Castle. The city ground plan reached its completion toward the end of the 15th century, when its form was given by the roads leading past the Castle Hill. The Irregular square is beautified by well preserved burgher houses showing the Gothic-Renaissance architectural handwriting, typical of them being subways with large gates. Crafts were flourishing in the city, the most famous of craftsmen having been its butchers.

Although no Jews live in Spišské Podhradie nowadays, they created there a fairly large community just before World War II. That phase of the history is witnessed by the Jewish cemetery beyond the city and the synagogue in the heart of the city. The synagogue with Moorish elements, which served the small Orthodox community, was built around the year 1875. Currently it is undergoing restoration, but it still tends to be the venue of cultural ventures. The travertine Hill known as Sivá Brada (the Grey Beard) is no doubt an interesting place to visit in the vicinity of Spišské Podhradie. A few decades ago, the gusher here was spewing water up to a height of two metres, but this is no longer the case due to a decreased pressure. Nevertheless, the water flows out onto the surface in the form of an effervescing pond on both sides of the Hill. On the top of the Sivá Brada, a Baroque Chapel of the Holy Cross protrudes, which has been standing here alone from the year 1675. Below the Hill, you can tap some mineral water into bottles, free of any additives, made by nature. We may also find an interesting attraction in Spišské Podhradie, which you definitely need to see – a falconry – the only station of its kind in the whole of Eastern Slovakia. There we can get to know the lives of predators living in Slovakia and abroad, such as eagles, falcons, buzzards,

The town of Spišské Podhradie had been an actual extramural settlement of the Spiš Castle in the 12th century, but in the following century it developed into a separate and independent town.

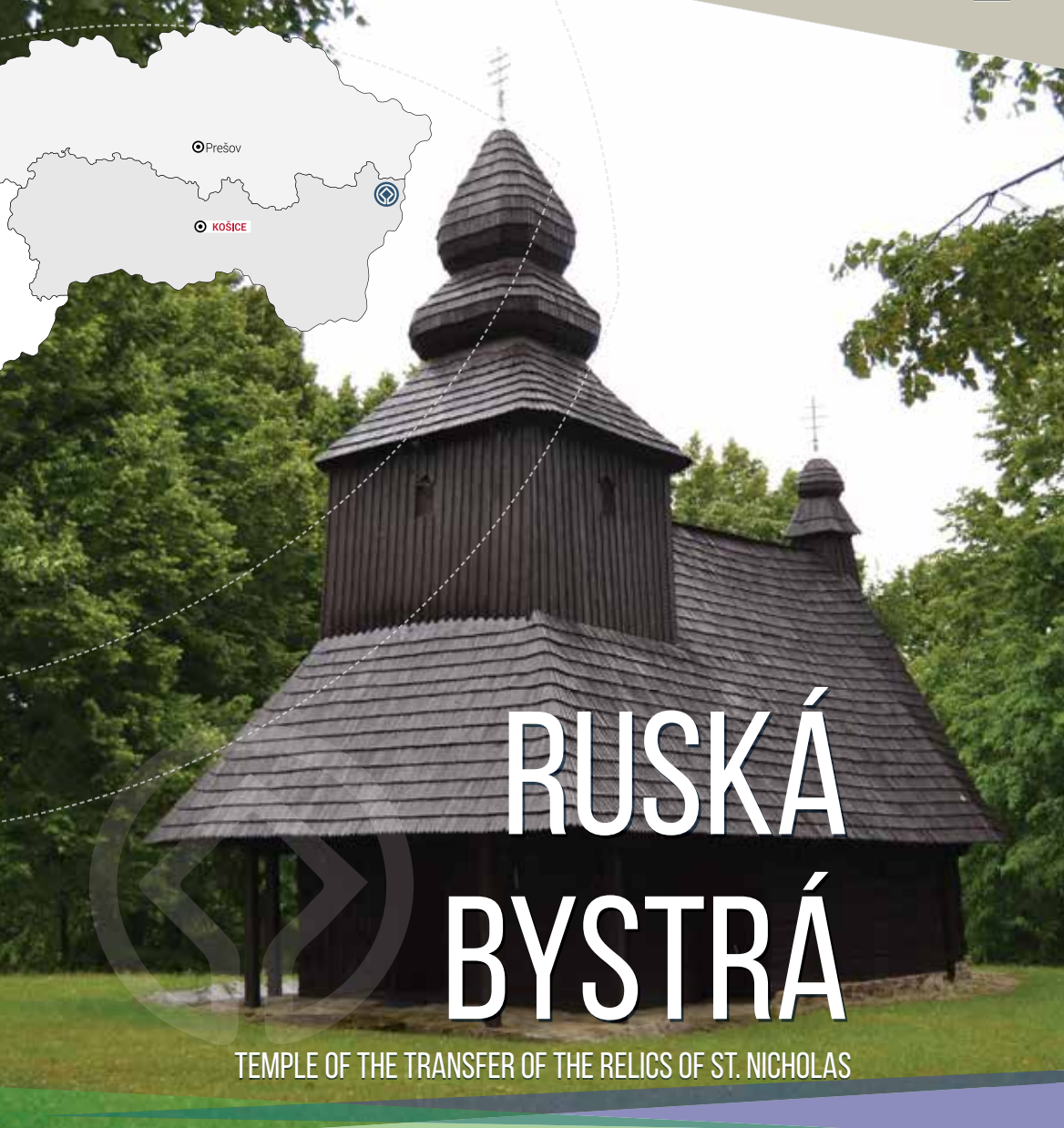
In the past, there were a number of guilds with their own Guild Articles in operation in Spišské Podhradie, with the most famous craftsmen in the town having been cloth makers, dyers, and boot makers.

owls, but also the Black Raven or Mexican Hawk. Definitely not just child visitors would appreciate the show of interplay of hawkers with the birds.

The renowned Spiš sausages had been produced in Spišské Podhradie, which were characterised by an extraordinary quality, and so no surprise then that until the World War I they had been delivered on a daily basis in the hotels and restaurants in Budapest, where they had been served as a specialty.

Spišské Podhradie is situated in a valley between two of the four medieval centres of the Spiš region, the Spiš Castle and the Spiš Chapter. Along with them, and the Church of the Holy Spirit in Žehra, the town of Spišské Podhradie has been included in the UNESCO List of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage from the year 1993.





RUSKÁ BYSTRÁ

TEMPLE OF THE TRANSFER OF THE RELICS OF ST. NICHOLAS

reach

from Košice by car

from Košice by car



All year
round



100 MIN



105 KM

In the beautiful surroundings of the sub-Vihorlat forests, in the village of Ruská Bystrá, the easternmost representative of all the Slovak wooden churches included in the UNESCO List of the World Heritage is situated – the Greek Catholic Temple of the Transfer of the Relics of St. Nicholas. The Church was built in the year 1730. It rises on an elevated place amidst the village and, as to its colour it stands out against the surrounding green background of massive trees. This three-dimensional building has a ground plan of successively arranged squares and consists of the small shrine, the nave, and the tower. The log cabin is not sheathed, but is protected by the overhanging roof covered by shingles. The exterior of the temple appears modest. The only expressive decorative feature is the top of the bell tower, which, however, is far from decorative fineness typical of other Greek Catholic wooden churches in the Carpathian region. The interior is dominated by a five-row Baroque iconostasis. The iconostasis is the heart of any Eastern-rite temple and forms the architectural-sacral divide between the shrine (a space for God) and the nave (a space for the believers). In the first row of the church in Ruská Bystrá, in the first and the main row

This is the easternmost representative of the UNESCO entry, „Wooden Churches in the Slovak Part of the Carpathian Arch”.

This is a unique place of tranquillity, where you may devote yourself to contemplation of the meaning of life in the shade of a tiny little church, surrounded by majestic nature.

of the iconostasis, there are icons depicting the Mother of God Hodegetria, Christ the Teacher, St. Nicholas, and St. Paraskevia. Due to the small size of the object, the iconostasis unusually protrudes into the side walls, and even to the temple ceiling. In the sanctuary, a rare icon of the Crucifixion is placed. The neighbourhood of the village of Ruská Bystrá provides almost endless possibilities for active recreation for both body and mind. One may wander to one's heart's content in the adjacent forests along the routes of hiking trails. Sturdy tourists may continue westward, up to the next UNESCO World Heritage site – the Vihorlat mountain range and its unique beech-tree primeval forest.

The small church in Ruská Bystrá is one of the virtual highlights of the “triangle of the far East” attractive to visitors. In the small area here, in addition to the Church of the Transfer of the Relics of St. Nicholas, you may

also visit by car, on foot or by bike, another interesting Greek-Catholic church (a national monument) in Inovce and also the so-called Beňatín travertine or the flooded Beňatín quarry with a unique “fossilized” whale.





LADOMIROVÁ

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH

Above the wooden Greek-Catholic temple in the village of Ladomirová, the protective hand of St. Michael the Archangel is tending, to whom the temple is dedicated. In the year 1742, they built not just the church itself, but also a belfry, from which three mighty bells clang. The so-called "babinec", i.e. the place where once women gathered, because they did not have the right to be staying in the nave, forms a kind of vestibule of the temple. The visitor is first attracted by the sight of three decorated temple towers. The highest of them is located just above the "babinec". Inside the temple, we may find a beautiful, artistically valuable Baroque iconostasis and the altar coming from the 18th century, which, however, was marked

by the unpleasant events of modern history of mankind. In the autumn of 1944, when a major tank battle of the Carpathian-Dukla operation was fought by Ladomirová, in which the village was almost completely destroyed and re-built after the liberation. Part of the icons from the St. Michael the Archangel Church was destroyed in World War II.

The temple was built in the year 1742 without using a single nail and belongs to the architecturally most valuable and most representative temples of the Eastern rite in Slovakia.

reach

from Košice by car

from Košice by car



All year round



80 MIN



95 KM



BODRUŽAL

ST. NICHOLAS TEMPLE

The St. Nicholas Greek Catholic temple in Bodružal is one of the oldest wooden churches of the Eastern rite in Slovakia, with its construction dated back in the year 1658. This is the log-cabin structure in the shape of three squares, which symbolize the Holy Trinity. In the two-part main tower, there are three bells, the oldest of which dates back to the year 1759. The Church is located on the hill above the village in a natural environment. The patron of the Church is Saint Nicholas, Bishop and thaumaturge, very popular for his philanthropy, who was Bishop in Asia Minor in about the year 300. At the back of the temple, we may also find a monument in

honour of the 400 soldiers who fell in World War I and their remains are buried in the local cemetery. Bodružal is one of the few Slovak municipalities which were substantially affected by the military operations during both world wars.

The temple of Bodružal served from the year 1968 until the mid-1990s for the ceremonies of two Churches – the Orthodox one and the Greek-Catholic one. Today it only serves the Greek-Catholics.

reach

from Košice by car

from K



All year round



100 MIN



105



KEŽMAROK

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY THE WOODEN ARTICULAR CHURCH

In the year 1717, Protestants of Kežmarok built a “new” Church of the Holy Trinity at the site of the first smaller wooden articular church within a record time of 3 months. The objects arose one after the other on the basis of the resolution of the Sopron Assembly of the year 1681, which allowed the construction of Protestant churches under precisely specified conditions. One of them included the material used, and so today we can admire in Kežmarok the majestic sacral building built of wood. Although its exterior is less conspicuous and fits into the atmosphere in the old Spiš municipal houses, in its Baroque interior it would make the visitor

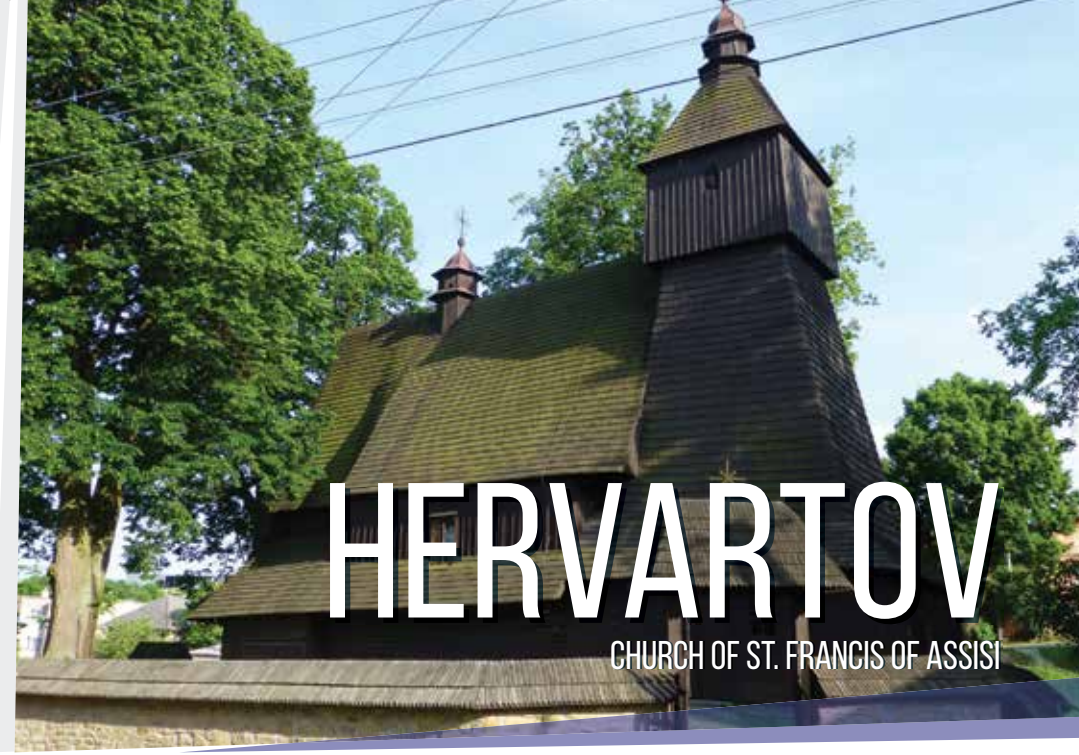
stunning by its decoration, which is far from being common. Most of the internal surfaces of the church, including its complete ceiling, is decorated with impressive paintings. It is interesting to note that all the paintings are exclusively painted on wood. The carving interior decoration, as well as the altar from the 18th century, are the work of Master Ján Lerch of Kežmarok. Parts of the massive baptistery located in the centre of the temple come from the original articular church. The oldest part of the church is the bricked

Next to its early predecessor, a modern Evangelical church stands, built in the late 1800s. The Protestant „triangle” is completed by the late Baroque building of the Lutheran Lyceum that educated a high number of exceptional literati and celebrities.

Baroque sacristy - originally an inn built in the year 1593, next to which the wooden church was built.

reach from Košice by car from Košice by car

info www.ecavkk.sk
 90 MIN
 115 KM



HERVARTOV

CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

The Church of St. Francis of Assisi rises in the upper part of the village of Hervartov, on a gentle slope, embraced by high lime trees, enclosed by a stone “wall” covered by shingle. It is the only Roman-Catholic wooden church among the Eastern Slovak wooden churches included in the UNESCO List of the World Heritage. It was built at the end of the 15th century and is the oldest wooden church in the Gothic style in this preserve. Its exterior has remained almost pristine even after more than half a millennium. The main altar was built between the years 1460 and 1480 and shows the Virgin Mary, St. Catherine of Alexandria, and St. Barbara. Some of the artefacts, such as originals of the side altar wings or the wooden case sanctuary from the early 16th

century, are deposited in the National Museum in Budapest. The interior decoration of the church was significantly influenced by the Reformation, when the church became a Protestant church for a short time. From this period, specifically from the year 1665, come the paintings on the southern wall of the nave. They present Biblical scenes of Adam and Eve under the tree of knowledge, of St. George in his fight with the dragon, and the parable of the wise and the foolish virgins. Their educational function is underscored the Bible quotes in Latin and in the Biblical Czech.

This is probably the oldest wooden church in Slovakia.

reach from Košice by car from Košice by car

All year round
 70 MIN
 75 KM



BARDEJOV

Near the border on Poland, there is a city with great individuality that would probably impress any visitor. The impressive city centre, for centuries preserved medieval monuments, but also the famous healing spa and the surrounding beautiful nature – these are the characteristics of Bardejov. The Bardejov City Hall Square is formed by a rectangle that defines the colourful burgher houses, built in the Gothic style. The system of Bardejov fortifications ranks among the perfect ones in the whole of Europe. At the end of 14th century, Bardejov became a free royal town. Skills of the Bardejov merchants and the development of craft are documented by 64 craft specializations with over 50 guilds. Thanks to this fact, Bardejov rose to the peak of fame and wealth in the 14th and 15th centuries, and that era is considered a "golden one". The most valuable of Bardejov medieval buildings is the St. Egidius Basilica; its 11 Gothic wing altars rank it among European unique sites of this kind. Another of the observable landmarks of the square is the late Gothic City Hall, a building standing almost in the middle of the Town Hall Square from the year 1509 surrounded by rich burgher houses. Today it houses the exhibition of interesting

items of the Šariš Museum, but it also serves as a venue for concerts. Distinctive architectural character has brought the city a number of victories in the online vote on the most beautiful city of Slovakia. In close proximity to the mountain range of Magura, in the radiant

The first written mention of the Bardejov Spa appeared as early as in the year 1505.

peace of the surrounding coniferous forests, there is one of the most important European spas - the Bardejov Spa. The first mention of local medicinal springs come from the period of the Middle Ages. In addition to the medical treatments and the beneficial mineral water, baths and walking around the beautiful parks and numerous forest paths are an inseparable part of the spa. Another important UNESCO World Heritage site in the city of Bardejov is the Jewish suburbium. This is an urbanistic curiosity of Eastern Slovakia, since it is the only partially preserved part of the former Jewish spa and the synagogue, which had been built by plan and in accordance with the rules of the Talmud.

Bardejov is known as the most Gothic city of Slovakia with the best preserved defensive system. In addition to the walls, the gate and ten bastions have been preserved. In the district

city of Bardejov, the centre of the upper Šariš region, there live approximately 35 thousand people.



reach

from Košice by car

from Košice by car



All year round



70 MIN



80 KM

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL LEGACY

Slovakia has 4 entries on the representative UNESCO List of the Intangible Heritage. The shepherd's pipe fujara, as a typical musical instrument of the country, and the fujara music were included in the List as the first entry in the year 2008. It had been playing the solo for Slovakia on the List for five years, when the Music of Terchová was added there in the year 2013. Two years later, in the year 2015, the third artefact associated with music was added – the bagpipes and the bagpipes culture. The latest entry applies to the traditional marionette theatre in Slovakia and was made in the year 2016.

The shepherd's pipe fujara and the fujara music

While admiring the beautiful images of the Slovak nature, creations of human hands and craft, perhaps no music would sound so aptly and authentically as the massive tones rolling out from long wooden tubes. The fujara is a particularly long flute with three holes for fingers. It is formed by a wider flute with a length of up to 2 metres and a smaller one, a 50 to 80 centimetres long flute. Shepherds used to be playing it from ancient times, especially in Central Slovakia. It is not just the national folk instrument, but also a historic and an artistically uniquely elaborated artefact. In the sound of the fujara, you can hear thundering lightness, but also the most natural local colour of Slovakia.

Music of Terchová

The village of Terchová is located in North Central Slovakia, and in addition to being the birthplace of the national hero Juraj Jánošík, it is also synonymous to traditional culture, customs, and folklore. In the UNESCO List of the Intangible World Heritage, this music is included as typical for that locale. It is materialized by smaller vocal-instrumental groupings, which by rhythmic melodies played on stringed instruments, would almost invite you to dance. Performances of the folklore groups of Terchová are part of various events, the most famous of them being the international festival of folk arts Jánošíkove dni (Jánošík Days). The traditional musical culture, transmitted by oral tradition, is a pride and a kind of brand of originality of the inhabitants of Terchová and its surroundings.

Bagpipes and the bagpipe culture

Bagpipes are among the most traditional folk musical instruments, having been known for long hundreds even thousands of years. Not just the instrument itself, but also the bagpipe culture is included in the UNESCO List of Intangible Heritage, embracing all the manifestations related to the production and use of this specific bag and its pipe. The bagpipe culture represents a long tradition represented chiefly by peasants and herdsmen in the territory of Slovakia, whose roots go back to 14th century. A specialized guild is instrumental in helping maintaining, promoting, and developing the bagpipe culture in Slovakia. The Slovak Bagpipe Players Guild currently registers some 40 sites, in which the tradition of bagpipe culture is still alive.

The traditional marionette theatre in Slovakia

The marionette theatre in Slovakia is not just an artistic or theatrical genre. It also provides space for expressing different points of view on the world, and as it specifically concentrates on children, it is also on educating moral values. The marionette theatre is an integral part of the Slovak theatrical and literary tradition, the traditional marionettes are made of wood and their movement is provided by employing various techniques. The original bearers of the traditions of the marionette show are the whole family dynasties, in which this art was inherited from generation to generation.



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