

Cycling

around

Slovakia





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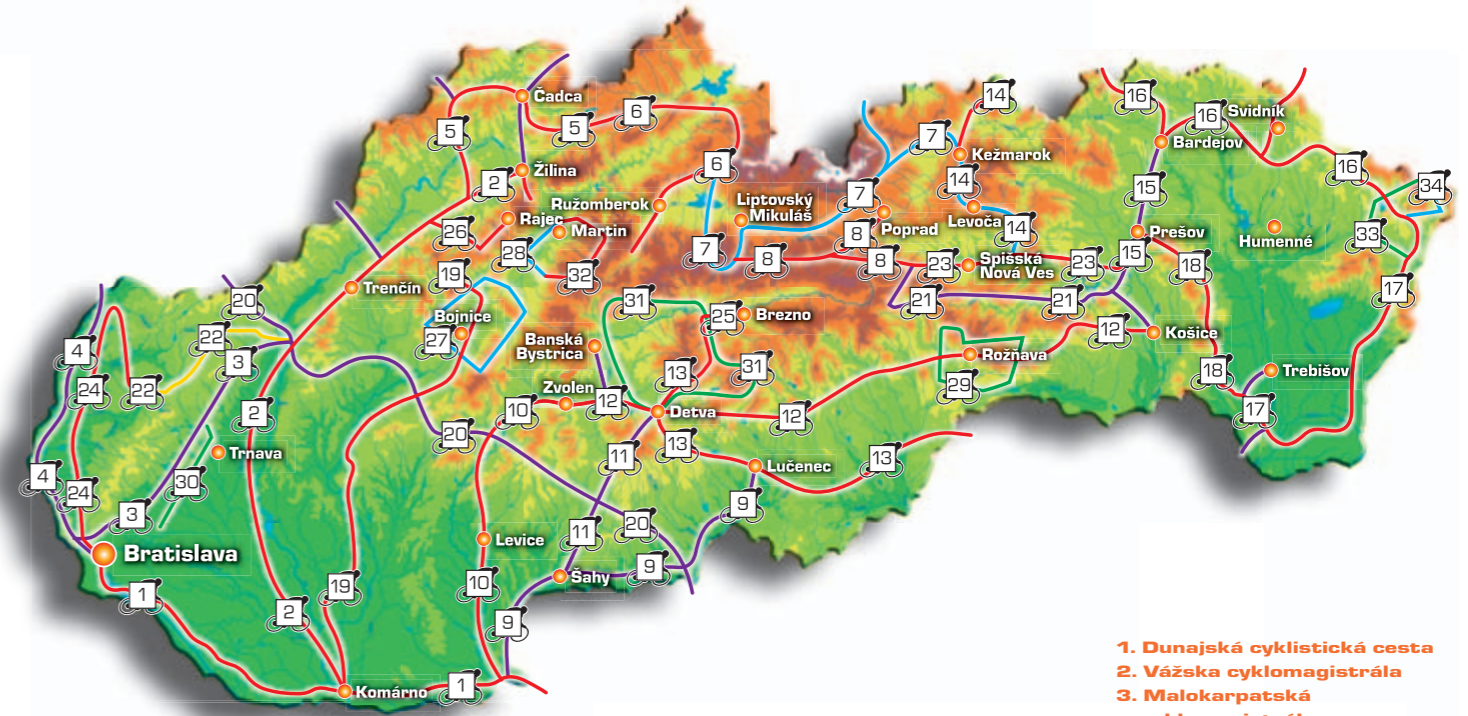
The Slovak Republic has exceptionally favourable conditions for touring by bicycle – now known as cyclotourism. This is thanks to a network of signposted cycling routes, as well as the natural landscape and the country's cultural sights. The latter include castles, manor houses, chateaux and other interesting architectural monuments. To this we can add a network of museums and galleries. Many towns are heritage reserves and there are hundreds of examples of traditional folk architecture scattered throughout the countryside.

If we consider that in almost every village in Slovakia there is a church and most of them are over 200 years old, this is a very good basis for thematic cycling tours. The little wooden or rare Romanesque churches are among the treasures to be seen. Natural sights, such as caves made accessible for the public, open-air museums of architecture and thermal swimming pools on the one hand and beautiful views into the distance or towards a backdrop of hills and mountains on the other, complete the varied picture of the attractions of bicycling in Slovakia. At present there are networks of cycling paths in Slovakia covering a total of 6 500 km, but these are not spread evenly throughout the country. There are areas with a dense network of biking trails or a moderate network, as well as areas with no signposted routes. The least demanding paths run along the dykes of rivers – the best-known of these being the Danube Cycling Trail (Dunajská cyklistická cesta) and a trail following the River Váh (Vážska cyklomagistrála); one of the roughest paths is a marked one leading to Zelené pleso (Green Lake) in the Vysoké Tatry – the High Tatra mountains.

The areas with the best and densest network of biking paths include Záhorie, the banks of the Danube, the hills of the Myjavská pahorkatina, the central and upper Váh valley (Považie), Kysuce, Turiec, the surroundings of the towns of Prievidza and Detva, the Slovak karst region (Slovenský kras), the Spiš region, the area around the city of Prešov and the Eastern Carpathians (Východné Karpaty). Some of the best-signposted trails for mountain bikes are to be found around the village of Terchová, with connections to the Orava region. Other ideal places for mountain biking are around Detva and along the cycling trails in the Slovak Ore Mountains (Slovenské rudohorie) and the Javorie. Further routes suitable for MTB are in the High Tatras, with paths connecting Poprad, the Tatras and the Zamagurie area. There are beautiful cycling routes near Spišská Nová Ves – in the Slovak Ore Mountains and the Slovenský raj (Slovak Paradise) area. There are also lovely trails in eastern Slovakia – between the Poloniny and Vihorlat hills.

The signposting of cycling routes

In Slovakia the cyclotourism routes are signposted according to the Slovak Technical Standard STN 01 8028. There are painted signs with the letter "C" and various symbols – mostly arrows – to indicate the route. The routes



1. Dunajská cyklistická cesta
2. Vážska cyklomagistrála
3. Malokarpatská cyklomagistrála
4. Okolo rieky Moravy
5. Kysucká cyklomagistrála
6. Oravská cyklomagistrála
7. Podtatranská cyklomagistrála
8. Popradská cyklomagistrála
9. Cyklomagistrála Poiplia
10. Pohronská cyklomagistrála
11. Hontianska cyklomagistrála
12. Rudohorská cyklomagistrála
13. Novohradská cyklomagistrála
14. Spišská cyklomagistrála
15. Šarišská cyklomagistrála
16. Východokarpatská cyklomagistrála
17. Dolnozemplínska cyklomagistrála
18. Slánska cyklomagistrála
19. Ponitrianska cyklomagistrála
20. Štiavnická cyklomagistrála
21. Hnilecká cyklomagistrála
22. Kopaničiarska cyklomagistrála
23. Hornádaska cyklomagistrála
24. Záhorská cyklomagistrála
25. Vrchárska cyklomagistrála
26. Považsko - Rajecká cyklomagistrála
27. Toryská cyklomagistrála
28. Znievska cyklocesta
29. Cyklomagistrála Slovenský kras
30. Malokarpatská vinna cyklocesta
31. Okolo Poľany
32. Turčianska cyklomagistrála
33. Snina - Zelený bicykel
34. Cyklistický chodník ikon

are colour-marked red, blue, green or yellow. The red routes are the long-distance cycling routes, of which there are at present 26 in Slovakia. These are the longer routes, for the most part running through river valleys and connecting a number of regions. They are also signposted with boards bearing the emblem or logo of the trail. Most of them connect up with long-distance routes in neighbouring countries. The blue colour indicates important regional trails or trails parallel to the long-distance cycling routes. Green is for circuits and trails of medium length and yellow mostly for short paths, connections between paths or detours to places of interest.

Basic rules for the cyclotourist

1. Keep to the signposted cycling routes.
2. Observe the rules for road traffic.
3. Protect your head with a cycling helmet.
4. In poor visibility switch on the red light at the back and white light at the front.
5. Be considerate towards those on foot.
6. Do not damage the countryside or frighten wildlife.

7. Do not leave rubbish behind you – take away with you whatever you bring.
8. Always ride so as to be able to stop if you encounter an unexpected obstacle.

Cycling maps and services

In Slovakia a set of 9 cyclotourism maps covering the whole country has been published. The maps are on a scale of 1:100 000 and each is accompanied by a guide in different languages. In 2006 a cyclo-tourist atlas of Slovakia was also published. To follow the trails we recommend the use of the relevant map, which can be purchased in bookshops throughout Slovakia.

The board and accommodation available depends on how attractive the area is for tourists. There are bike shops and services in every town and information offices in almost all the largish ones. Bicycle hire services are not common in Slovakia; they can be found only in the High Tatras or the Slovenský raj. A large amount of information about services and cycling routes can be accessed on the internet.



Rotunda of St. George in Skalica

Záhorie

Main route: Záhorie cycling route (Záhorská cyklomagistrála)

Length: 127 km

Elevation range: 662/727 m

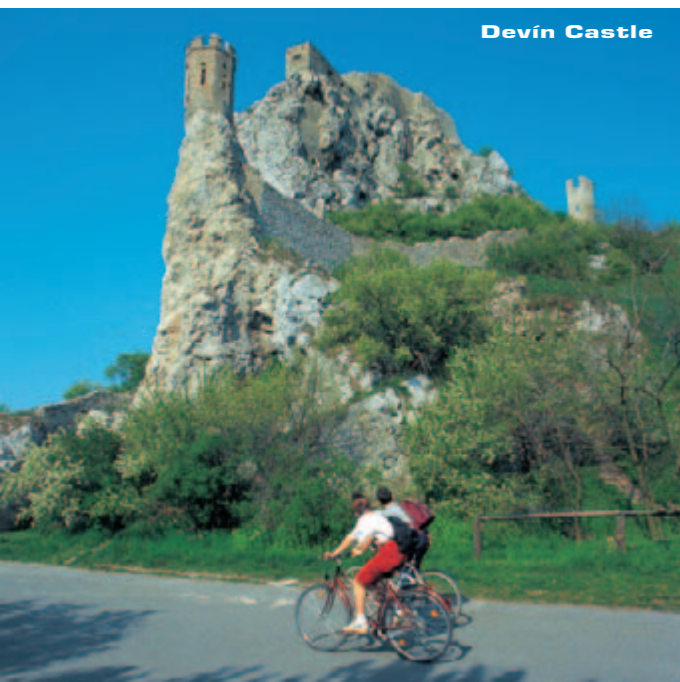
Level of difficulty: moderately difficult route suitable for a two-day trip



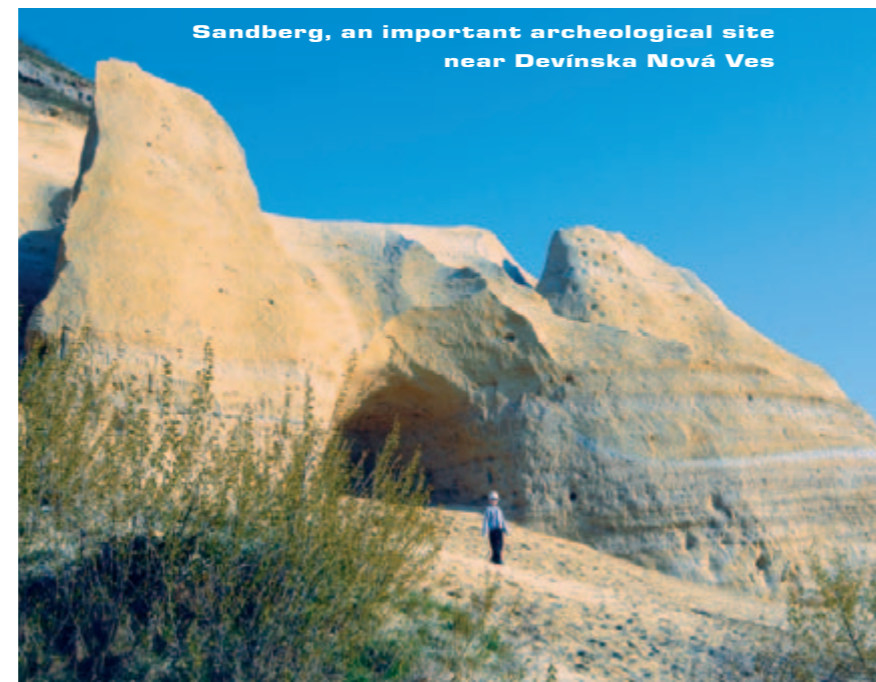
This red signposted long-distance route runs below Devín Castle to the town of Senica. It goes along national roads with low or moderate traffic, as well as along minor roads. The main attractions of the route are the historical and architectural monuments, of which there are plenty. The most beautiful include Devín Castle, the synagogue in Malacky, the church and Haban mill in Velké Leváre and the basilica in Šaštín-Stráže. In Holič the most interesting sight is a chateau once belonging to Maria Theresa, a windmill and a group of churches. The town of Skalica with its many churches and historical town square must, however, be regarded as an architectural gem on this route and the most valuable of the churches is the Romanesque rotunda dedicated to St. George.

Other routes:

Another lovely route leading to the Záhorie area is the River Morava Route (Okolo rieky Moravy). It allows you to ride along the service roads and dykes of the River Morava below Devín Castle up to the border with the Czech Republic north of the town of Holič or even north of Skalica. The most beautiful part of the 120 km cycling route is the first stretch where it goes through pleasant floodplain forests. In Záhorie there is another network of signposted cycling routes covering a total of 700 km.



Devín Castle



Sandberg, an important archeological site near Devínska Nová Ves



The Danube Cycling Trail



Bratislava

The green signposted cycling route leads from Austria through the Berg border crossing to the historical town of Komárno. For the most part it runs along dykes and the River Danube's service roads. There are two possibilities for trips from Bratislava along the Gabčíkovo dam dykes – a green or a blue route. Near the village of Kyselica you can cross over by ferry from one route to the other. The greatest attractions along the route are the monuments in the capital city of Bratislava and the town of Komárno. The main ones in Bratislava are Bratislava Castle, St. Martin's Cathedral and the Museum of Clocks, which are all very near to the cycling route after crossing the New Bridge (Nový most). Those in Komárno include above all Nová pevnost (New Stronghold) at the

confluence of the Danube and Váh rivers and the town's defences, as well as the nearby historical buildings in the town square.

Other routes along the Danube:

From Bratislava's New Bridge there is a parallel blue cycling route, running mostly along service roads and the Gabčíkovo dam dykes and ending at its weir. This route is 69 km long and you can turn off it into the picturesque floodplain forests along the Danube. Another route is an unmarked stretch of the Komárno – Štúrovo cycling path, 50 km long, which runs along the Danube's service roads or nearby national roads. The most interesting sights are the Roman camp Kelemantia in Iža and the former steam electric power plant near Radvaň nad Dunajom.

Main route: Danube cycling trail (Dunajská cyklistická cesta)

Length: 116 km

Elevation range: 0/43

Level of difficulty: easy, recreational route with minimum elevation gain, suitable for a one to two-day trip



Historical fortifications in Komárno



Smolenice Castle



Dechtice – the ruins of St. Catherine's Church



Čachtice Castle



Čachtice Castle

The **Little Carpathian** cycling route

The region of **remote** hillside settlements

Main route:
Little Carpathian cycling route
(Malokarpatská cyklomagistrála)

Length: 104 km

Elevation range:
673/716 m

Level of difficulty:
moderately difficult route suitable for a two-day trip

The red long-distance cycling route joins the trails to the Záhorie and Považie regions. In practical terms it links the Váh and Morava rivers. The route begins in Nové Mesto nad Váhom and runs along the foot of the Little Carpathians (Malé Karpaty) on moderately busy national roads to Vysoká near the Morava, where it ends. The northern part takes us past the eastern foothills of the Little Carpathians, the southern section past the western. The most interesting sights along the way are the castles and fortified manor houses. Some of them can be reached by bike, just by turning off for a short way, while for others you must park your bicycle in the village below and climb up to the castle on foot. In Nové Mesto nad Váhom we shouldn't overlook the most beautiful fortified church in the Považie region. However, the ruins of Čachtice Castle, associated with the legend of Elizabeth Báthory, can be regarded as the highlight of the route. In the village below the castle there is a manor house with a museum, where you can learn more about the story of the bloodthirsty lady of Čachtice Castle. In Podolie, right next to the route, you can see a unique scaled-down representation of Matthew's Kingdom and "visit" in a short time several beautiful miniature Slovak castles as they once

looked in the times of their former glory. In Vrbové there is the mansion of Móric Beňovský and a leaning tower. Another stop on the way involves a detour to the massive ruins of Dobrá Voda Castle, while in the southern part of the cycling route you can turn off to visit two more castles, first Korlátka and later Plavecký hrad.

Other routes:

From the Little Carpathian cycling route you can follow a yellow signposted biking path for two kilometres to reach the beautiful Romanesque fortified church in Lančár. This can be seen at a distance from the main route, because it stands on a rocky hill. Another lovely trail is the Malokarpatská vína cesta – the Little Carpathian Wine Route, which enables you to get to know the eastern winegrowing foothills of the Little Carpathians north of Bratislava. The route begins in the town of Modra and leads along national and minor roads with moderate traffic northwards to Trstín, where it joins the Little Carpathian cycling route. It is 36 metres long and the main attractions on the way, apart from the cellars in several of the villages, are the historical winegrowing town of Modra, two castles - Červený Kameň and Smolenický zámok and the cave of Driny, which has been made accessible to the public.

This red long-distance cycling route links the bike trails of the northern Záhorie and central Považie regions. It begins on the Váh valley cycling path near the village of Považany and ends in the town of Senica on the Záhorie cycling route. From Čachtice we go towards Stará Turá through the valley of Višnovská dolina, where in a village of the same name (Višnové) we pass beneath Čachtice Castle. The prime attraction of this route is, however, the distinctive Myjava area of remote hillside settlements with the remains of folk architecture. Gently rolling terrain broken by short steep stretches is typical of this landscape. From the top of many of the climbs there are beautiful views of the wide surroundings. The region is also known for its high-quality plum brandy (slivovica). The places of interest along the route include Čachtice, with its castle, manor and fortified church, the town of Stará Turá, which has a Hussite tower, and a swimming pool in Dubník, an area for recreation. Myjava is a town with interesting churches and a Museum of Slovak National Councils and in the village of Sobotišťe you can visit a manor house and the remains of Haban dwellings. In summer you can take a swim in Kunovská priehrada, a reservoir north of Senica.

Other routes:

There are over 300 km of cycling trails signposted in this area. One of the most beautiful is a 22 km yellow MTB route from Brezová pod Bradlom to Branč Castle. A green trail starting in Stará Turá takes you to the Barina district, where 6 km later the yellow trail begins. After a seven-kilometre climb this will take you to Holubyho chata, a chalet below the summit of Veľká Javorina or right up to the very top, to the TV transmitter. The reward for the effort is a panoramic view of the scenery in all directions.

Main route:
Kopaničiarska cycling route
(Kopaničiarska cyklomagistrála)

Length: 55 km

Elevation range:
647/624 m

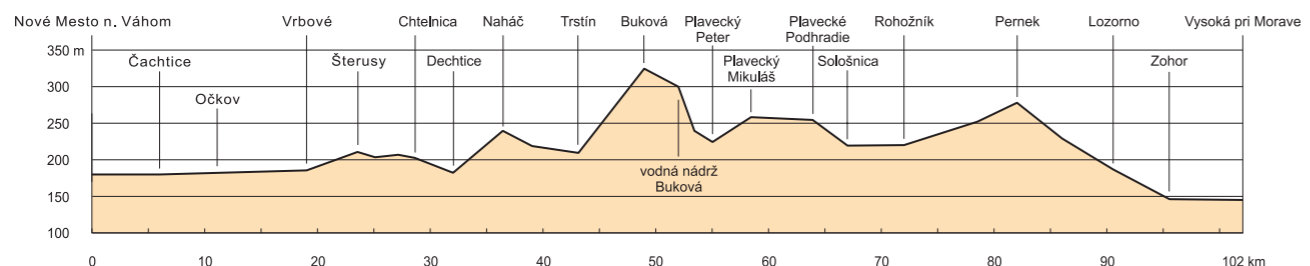
Level of difficulty:
moderately difficult route suitable for a one-day trip



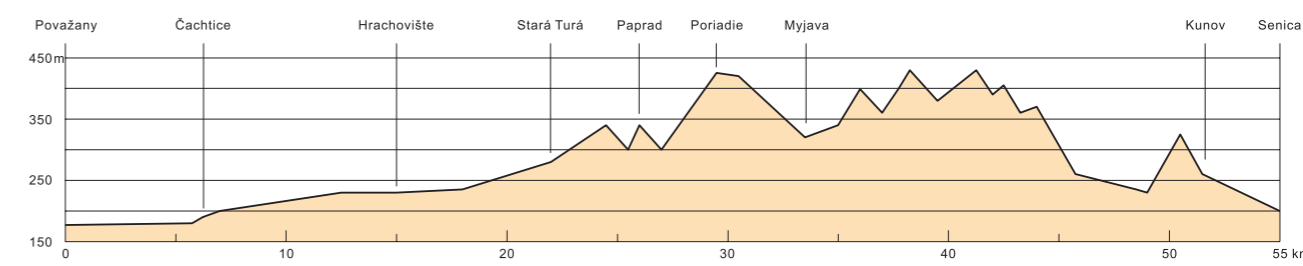
Červený Kameň Castle



The tomb of M. R. Štefánik



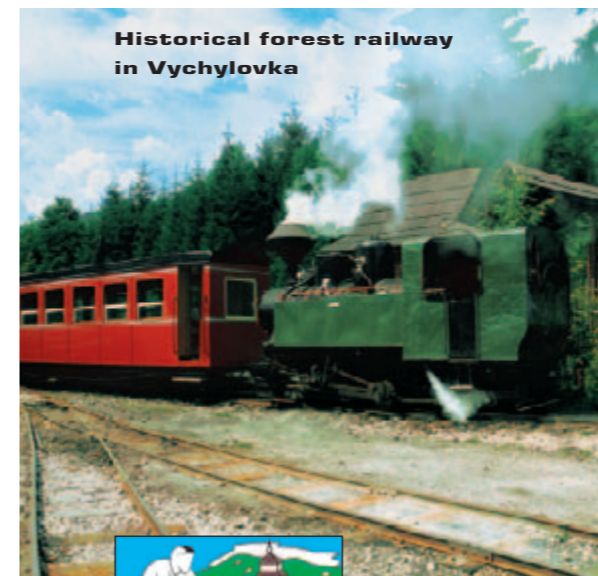
Little Carpathian cycling route (Malokarpatská cyklomagistrála)



Kopaničiarska cycling route (Kopaničiarska cyklomagistrála)



Beckov Castle



Historical forest railway in Vychylovka



Budatín Castle

The **Váh valley** cycling route

Main route:
Váh valley cycling route (Vážska cyklomagistrála)

Length: 147 km

Elevation range:
301/126 m

Level of difficulty:
easy, recreational route with minimum elevation gain, suitable for a two to three-day trip

This red cycling route takes you from the spa town of Piešťany to the city of Žilina.

The southern sections run along dykes and the River Váh's service roads and from Piešťany to Nemšová there are two possible routes (red and blue). From Nemšová the trail goes along the foot of the slopes of the Biele Karpaty (White Carpathians) and the Javorníky on roads with light to moderate traffic. In the Bytča area it follows the River Váh's service roads.

The main attractions on this route are the castles, manors and monuments. The castles include Beckov, Trenčín, Vršatec, Lednica and Považský hrad, the manors and

chateaux Lednické Rovne, Jasenica, Bytča and Budatín. Trenčín, Žilina and the spa town of Piešťany are the main heritage zones. The most important monuments we can visit are the church and monastery

at Skalka, a little church of Pomínovec, the manor and churches in Pruské and a church with the epitaphs of the Podmanický marauding knights in Považká Bystrica.

Other routes in the Váh valley:

Another interesting signposted route is the 76-km blue trail running parallel to the Vážska cyklomagistrála from Hlohovec, through Beckov and Trenčín to Nemšová. If you take the short yellow route leading off it, you can climb up to the Kostolec hill fort in Ducové, from where there is a beautiful view over the Váh valley. From the Zelená voda recreation centre in Nové Mesto nad Váhom it is possible to go along the red Štiavnická cyklomagistrála to the picturesque valley of Bošácka dolina, where there are a number of rare monuments and lovely countryside. The 36-km blue circuit through the Petrovická and Štiavnická valleys overlooked by Veľký Javorník peak is a lovely trail and the five MTB hill trails in the Súľovské vrchy are also worthwhile. One of them takes you to one of the most beautiful castle ruins in Slovakia – Lietava.



Lednické Rovne

The **Kysuce** cycling route

This red cycling route begins in the Váh valley on the Vážska cyklomagistrála in the village of Kotešová. It crosses the ridge of the Javorníky hills to the Kysuce region and in the foothills of the Kysucké Beskydy it climbs to the Demänová saddle, which is the dividing line between the Kysuce and Orava regions, where it ends. You can continue, however, into Orava along the red signposted Oravská cyklomagistrála. The main attractions of this route are the beautiful Kysuce landscape and the traditional wooden architecture. Long climbs and the following descents await us to the Semeteš saddle in the Javorníky and the Demänová saddle in the Kysucké Beskydy. The most remarkable natural sights along the way include the oil spring in Korňa, Klokočovské skálie and Vychylovské prahy. The open-air Kysuce Village Museum in Vychylovka with its narrow-gauge switchback

railway is a great attraction and we shouldn't miss a visit to the Kysuce Museum in Čadca and the manor in Ošadnica.

Other routes in Kysuce:

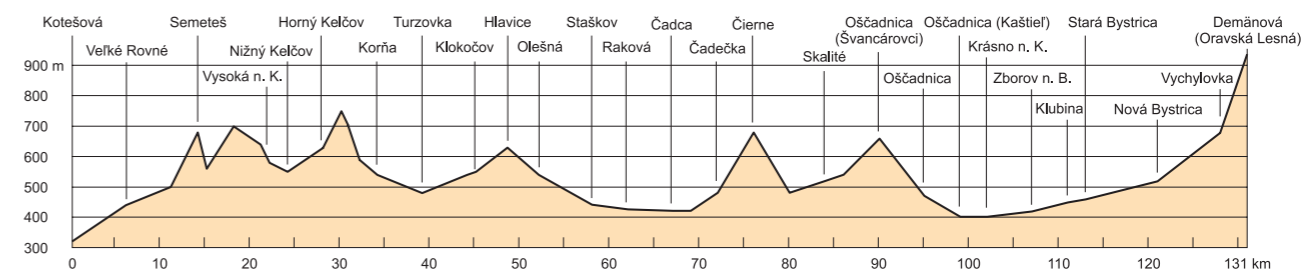
In Kysuce there is a network of more than 300 km of signposted cycling trails. One of the most interesting is the blue path from Čadca to Miklošová and Megoňka, which takes us to a rare natural sight – the Kysuce balls of stone. The blue trail connects the Kysucká cyklomagistrála and the Vážska cyklomagistrála. Its 26 km section runs from Krásno nad Kysucou to Budatín Castle in Žilina. In Kysucké Nové Mesto you can turn off along another blue trail to the museum in Radofa manor: A 29-km green MTB route goes from Čadca to Ošadnica through a number of Kysuce villages in the foothills of Veľká Rača.

Main route:
Kysuce cycling route (Kysucká cyklomagistrála)

Length: 131 km

Elevation range:
1830/1210 m

Level of difficulty:
moderately difficult route suitable for a two to three-day trip



Kysuce cycling route (Kysucká cyklomagistrála)



Orava, Liptov, Terchová

Main route: Orava cycling route (Oravská cyklomagistrála)
Length: 92 km
Elevation range: 822/1217 m
Level of difficulty: moderately difficult route suitable for a two-day trip



This red long-distance cycling route runs through Orava and connects the Kysuce and Liptov regions. It starts at the end of the Kysucká cyklomagistrála in the Demänová saddle and ends in the town of Ružomberok. It goes around the reservoir Oravská priehrada and along the foot of the Western Tatra mountains (Západné Tatry) before making its way into the Liptov region through the narrow valley of Kvačianska dolina. The main attraction is the region's beautiful scenery and the traditional architecture, as well as the many panoramic views over the picturesque hills. The trip can be made even more enjoyable if you break your journey to bathe in the thermal pools in Oravice or Bešeňová. In Zuberec you can briefly turn off the route to visit the open-air Orava Village Museum. When riding through Kvačianska dolina, you can descend to the right to the Oblazy watermill.

Other routes:

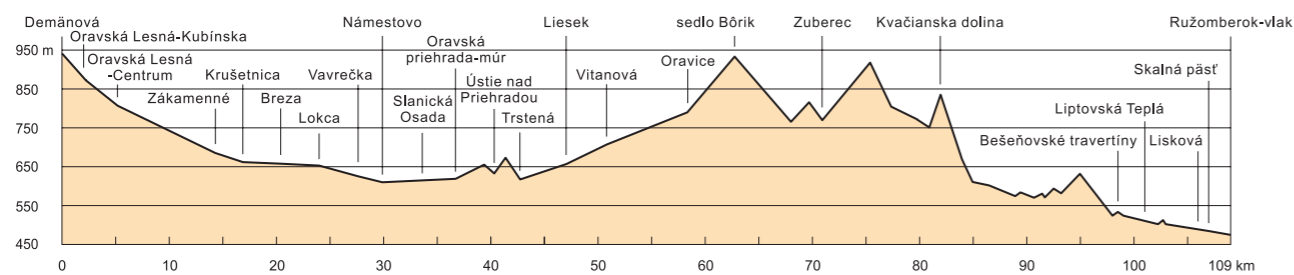
An exceptionally dense and high-quality network of cycling routes for mountain bikes is to be found in the environs of Terchová in the foothills of the Krivánska Malá Fatra and in the Kysucká vrchovina. They cover about 250 km in all. Terchová is a good starting point for trips lasting several days, having trails running from it in 12 different directions. The Liptovská cyklomagistrála is an interesting cycling route going through the northern foothills of the Low Tatras (Nízke Tatry). It is 74 km long and starts at Bešeňová on the Oravská cyklomagistrála and ends in the valley of the Čierny Váh. The places of interest on the route include a turning off to the largest wooden church in Slovakia in Svätý Kríž, the historical sights and a thermal pool in Liptovský Ján.



Orava Village Museum in Zuberec



Orava Castle



Orava cycling route (Oravská cyklomagistrála)



Sklabiňa Castle



Turiec

This red cycling route connects the towns of Martin - Vrútky with Turčianske Teplice spa at the foot of the southern slopes of the Krivánska Malá Fatra and the western foothills of the Veľká Fatra mountains. This is sometimes called the Turiec garden. The trail goes through lovely rolling countryside offering many panoramic views. The big attractions are the ruins of Sklabiňa and Blatnica castles, as well as a number of manor houses in the Veľká Fatra foothills. Beyond the village of Turčianska Štiavnička there is a mineral spring called Medokýš and from there we can follow a little path to the Teplické vodné serpentiný - a group of fish ponds and little lakes. You certainly shouldn't miss a little museum exhibition devoted to the photographer Karol Plicka in Blatnická kúria.

Other routes:

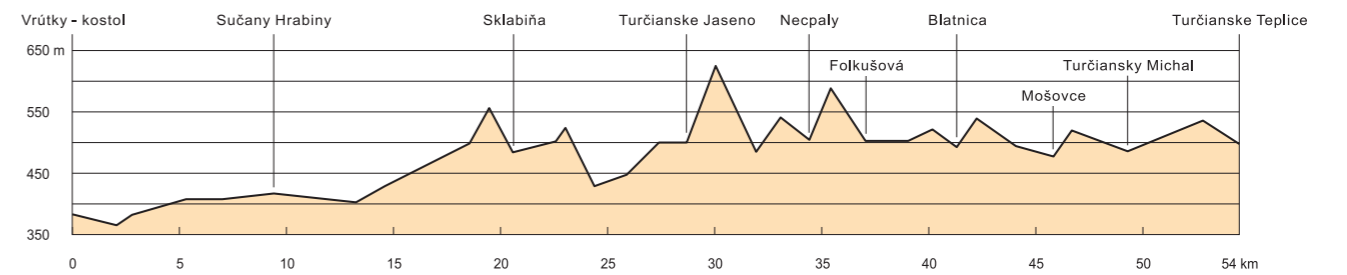
There are about 250 km of cycling routes signposted in the Turiec district. The ride along the Turčianska cyklomagistrála can be prolonged by continuing on the 45-km blue trail, Znievska cyklocesta, which takes us back from Turčianske Teplice to Martin, thus closing a longer circuit. There are several cycling paths into the valleys of the Veľká Fatra from which you have to return by the same route. Some of the most scenic are those in Gaderská and Blatnická dolina, but those in Necpalská, Belianska, Jasenská, Sklabinská and Kantorská are also very attractive.

Main route: Turčianska cycling route (Turčianska cyklomagistrála)

Length: 55 km

Elevation range: 450/340 m

Level of difficulty: moderately difficult route suitable for a one-day trip



Turčianska cycling route (Turčianska cyklomagistrála)



Tri vody – Three springs



Domica Cave

Krásna Hôrka



The Slovak karst region



Around Poľana

Main route:
Poľana Circuit
(Okruh okolo Poľany)

Length: 127 km

Elevation range:
2400/2400 m

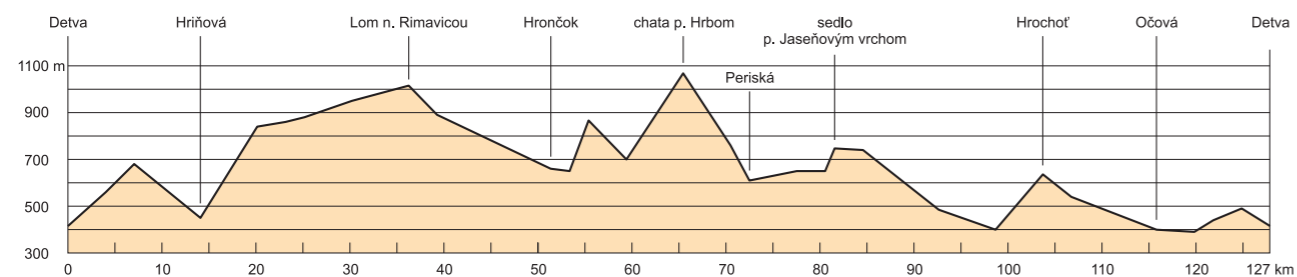
Level of difficulty:
strenuous route
for mountain bikes,
suitable for a two
to three-day trip

This strenuous green trail leads around Poľana, a volcanic massif. It is designed for mountain bikes and its attractions are the wonderful scenery, the traditional architecture and an abundance of views far into the distance. The usual place to join the route is in the town of Detva. One of the most interesting cultural sights is a gem of folk architecture – the village of Lom nad Rimavicou and the natural attractions include the meanders of the Kamenistý potok stream. In the Tri vody locality we pass the first blast furnace in the Hungarian kingdom, which has been reconstructed. At the highest point along the route there is a chalet called Chata na Hrbe.

Other routes:

The surroundings of Detva are a paradise for mountain bikers. Detva is the hub of Slovakia's

cyclotourism, as 4 of the main cycling routes intersect here. A 48-km section of the Hontianska cyklomagistrála takes you from here to Bzovík; from Lom nad Rimavicou the Novohradská cyklomagistrála goes for 70 km in the direction of Lučenec. Its main attraction is the Ružiná reservoir and the historical sights in the village of Dvín. The Rudohorská cyklomagistrála runs for 67 km from Zvolen to Kokava nad Rimavicou, and it is possible to continue along unmarked roads through the foothills of the Slovak Ore Mountains to as far as Košice. The Vrchárska cyklomagistrála goes for 33 km from Lom nad Rimavicou to Čierny Balog. Here the thing that draws visitors is a historical railway, the Čiernohorská železnica. All these main cycling routes are marked red. There are also several mountain bike trails in the nearby Javorie saddle.



Poľana Circuit (Okruh okolo Poľany)

This red long-distance cycling route is a circuit joining the most beautiful parts of the Slovak karst region and its surroundings. The main attraction is the beautiful karst scenery, the historical sights and panoramic views. You can start from Gemerská Hôrka or Plešivec and go in the direction of Domica. The greatest attractions open to the public are the Domica and Gombasek caves, Krásna Hôrka Castle and the manor house in Betliar. Other historical sights are the picturesque ruins of Turniansky Castle and the church in Štítnik. Other natural sights include the valleys Hájska and Zádielska dolina and the Silická ľadnica ravine.

Other routes:

In the Slovak karst region and the nearby surroundings there are 600 km of routes marked for cyclotourism. The green Domická cyklocesta runs southward 18 km from Tornaľa to Domica cave, while the blue

Koniarska cyklocesta goes 32 km from Gemerská Hôrka to an aragonite cave, Ochtinská aragonitová jaskyňa. The name of the route indicates that the route crosses the plateau called Koniarska planina. A green 17-km cycling trail leading to the ice cave Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa turns off the red circuit in its northern section. The 70-km red Hnilecká cyklomagistrála leads from the Palcmanová Maša reservoir in the southern foothills of the Slovenský raj through the valley of the River Hnilec to Margecany and the Ružín reservoir.

Main route: Slovak karst cycling route (Cyklomagistrála Slovenský kras)

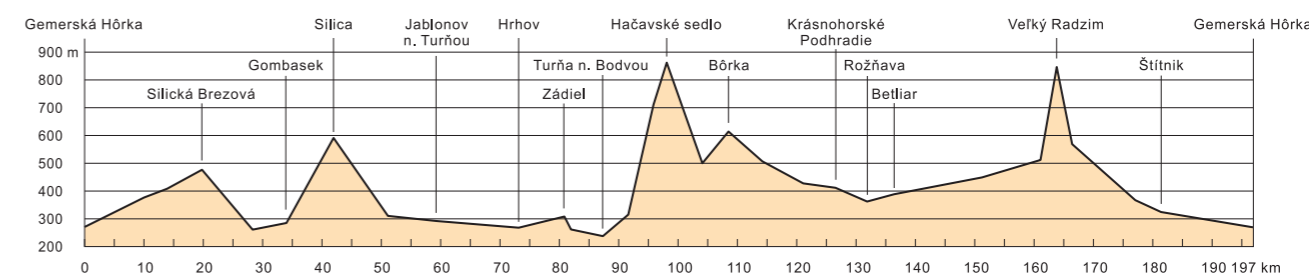
Length: 197 km

Elevation range:
2000/1868 m

Level of difficulty:
strenuous route
for road and
mountain bikes,
suitable for a two
to three-day trip



The chateau in Betliar



Slovak karst cycling route (Cyklomagistrála Slovenský kras)



Wooden church in Topoľa



Morské oko lake in the Vihorlatské vrchy



Horný Zemplín

Main route: Icon cycling path (Cyklistický chodník ikon - wooden churches)

Length: 53 km

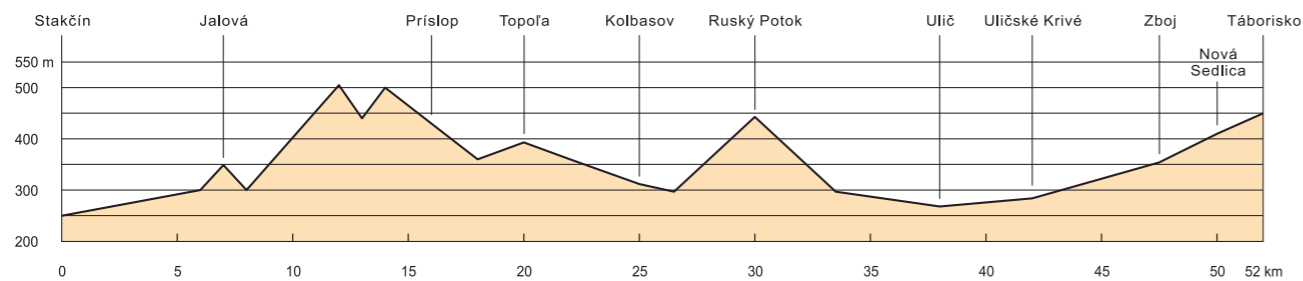
Elevation range: 720/500 m

Level of difficulty: moderately difficult route suitable for a one-day trip

This blue cycling route starts at the railway station in Stakčín and leads through the Poloniny foothills to its destination at the camping site above the village of Nová Sedlica, which is as far east as you can get when touring by bike in Slovakia. The cycling path goes along the southern bank of the Starina reservoir. The main points of interest on this route are 4 wooden churches. While the church in Uličské Krivé lies right beside the path, you have to turn off for a short way to the churches in Jalová, Topoľa and Ruský Potok and then return to the original route.

Other routes:

Several interesting cycling routes have been marked out in this area. The longest is a red 85-km section of the Carpathian Cycling Route (Karpatská cyklocesta) from Čertížské sedlo to the Ublá border crossing to Ukraine. The first part of the route runs along national roads with a moderate amount of traffic, the second along special forest roads. The route leads through Medzilaborce (Andy Warhol Museum) to Snina. It continues past the Snina fishponds, through the northern part of the Vihorlat range to Ublá. In the closing stages we ride past the little wooden churches in Šmigovec and Hrabová Roztoka (a short digression). Another long-distance cycling route is the Slovak stretch of a green international cycling trail known as Green Bicycle. This comes from Poland, crossing into Slovakia at the Ruské sedlo mountain saddle. It runs along the northern bank of the Starina reservoir to Stakčín, from where it continues along the national road to the Ublá border crossing. The first part goes along minor roads, the second along a road with fairly heavy traffic. The length of the Slovak section is 49 km.



Icon cycling path (Cyklistický chodník ikon)



Solivar near Prešov



Bardejov

The surroundings of Prešov

This green signposted cycling circuit lies to the west of the city of Prešov in the hills of the Šarišská vrchovina and the Bachureň range. It goes along secondary roads with moderate traffic and along forest roads. You can join the route at any place, but we will choose the village of Rokycany, which we can reach from Prešov. The main attraction on the route is the foothill landscape, views from the ridge of Bachureň and several manor houses along the way. The most beautiful of these is the one in Fričovce. In Lačnov you can go on foot to see a canyon, Lačnovský kaňon. There is a lovely mountain stretch awaiting us between the summits of Bachureň and Búče, which is also the highest point of the bicycle route.

Other routes:

Prešov has a large number of historical sights which can be visited before setting out along the long-distance cycling routes that start in this town.

The first of these is the Karpatská cyklocesta, a red one 95 km long ending at Duklianský priesmyk, a mountain pass. The main places of interest on the way are the historical town of Bardejov and its spa, Bardejovské Kúpele. It also passes several wooden churches. Two of the most beautiful are the remarkable Roman Catholic church in Hervartov (made of yew – a short detour) and an Orthodox one in Nižný Komárnik. The outdoor military museums in Svidník and at Dukla are also interesting, as is the open-air Ukrainian Village Museum in Svidník. The second cycling route leading southeast from Prešov is the 44-km section of the Slánska cyklomagistrála signposted in red. The most interesting things this route has to offer are the buildings of the salt manufacturing plant in Solivar, the Opal Mines in Dubník and the geyser in Herľany. The route is signposted as far as Červenica, but you can continue from there along unmarked paths.

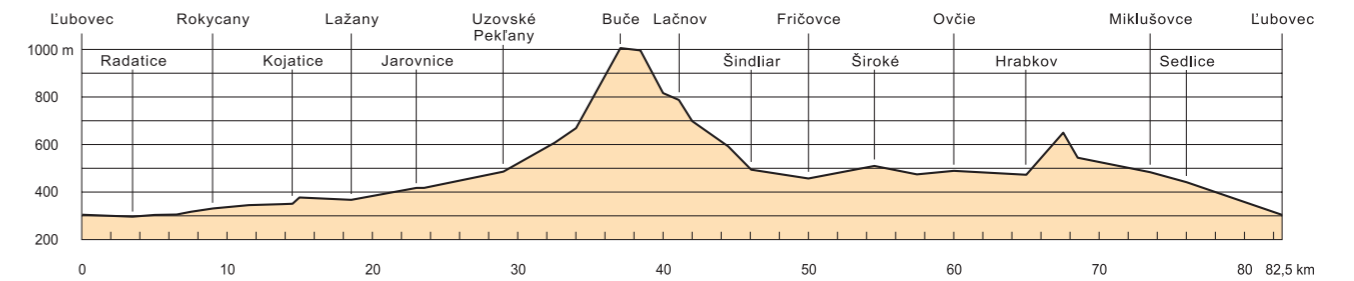


Main route: Circuit through the Svinka valley (Okruh údolím Svinky)

Length: 82 km

Elevation range: 970/980 m

Level of difficulty: moderately difficult route suitable for a one to two-day trip



Circuit through the Svinka valley (Okruh údolím Svinky)

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