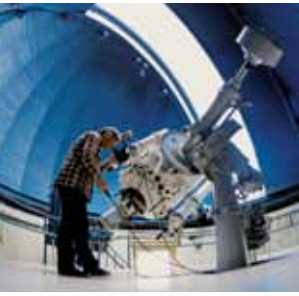




# Prešov Region



# Little Big Country





The Prešov region lies in the south-east of the Slovak Republic, bordering Poland and the Ukraine. In terms of area, it is the second largest region in Slovakia. The region's topography is rather ragged with hills and mountains covering the bulk of the area. The highest mountain of the region and the whole of Slovakia is Gerlachovský štít (2,655 metres above sea level) in the High Tatras (Vysoké Tatry). Thanks to the many natural places of interest and historical sightseeing possibilities (Levoča, Prešov, Bardejov, Poprad, Kežmarok), the region is a popular destination for visitors coming to Slovakia.



# Prešov



St. Nicolaus Church



Hviezdoslav Library

The city's advantageous geographical location on an old trade route leading from the south across Šariš to the north was a major precondition for the development of the local market settlement. Not far from Prešov, the route branched in several directions: towards Branisko, then to Spiš, across Bardejov and Dukla into Halič and across Plaveč into Poland. An important privilege of the city was the right to build a rampart. During war times ramparts turned towns into fortresses along important trade routes. Prešov was granted the right to build

St. Nicolaus Church



Karaff Jail







Altar



Burgher houses



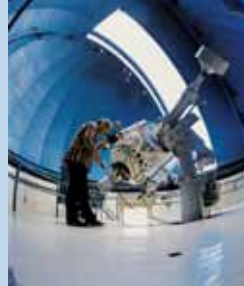
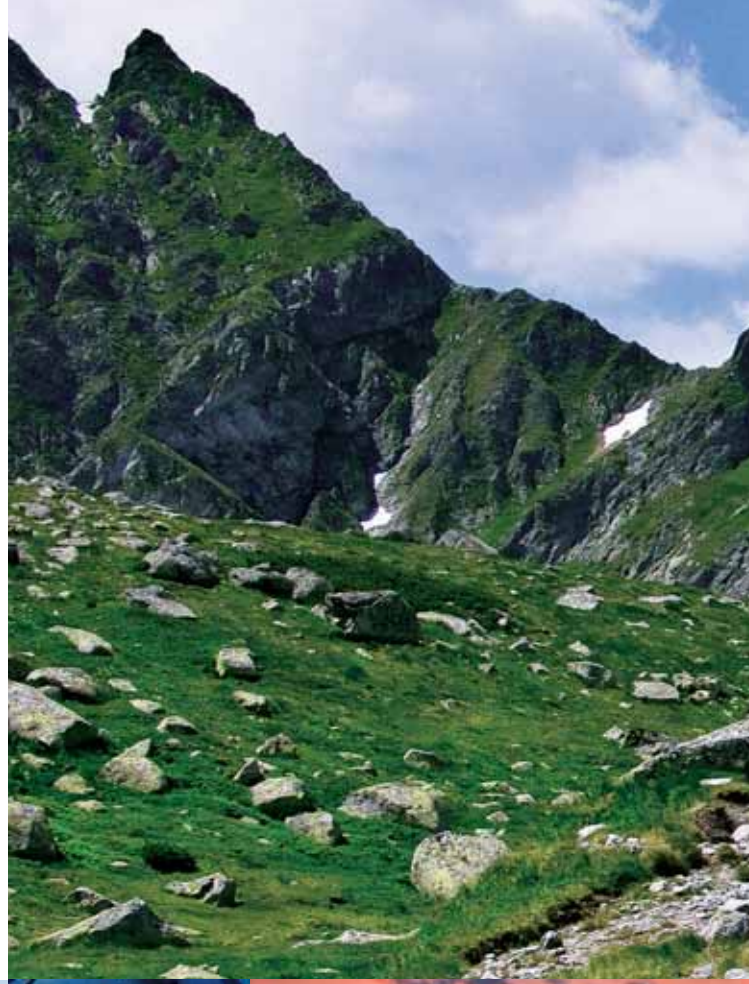
The saltern



Museum

a defensive wall, strongholds and towers by Louis I in 1374. After the completion of the defensive system in the mid-fifteenth century, the urban segmentation of the city and the arrangement of the streets stabilised and have essentially remained the same to the present day. The most extensive construction boom took place in 1887 after a large fire seriously damaged most of the buildings. That is when the facades of the medieval burgher houses in the centre were changed, small suburban houses were knocked down and several new buildings or even streets were built.

# The High Tatras (Vysoké Tatry)



Observatory at Skalnaté Pleso

The High Tatras (Vysoké Tatry) are the largest and most massive mountain range of the Carpathian Mountains. The shapes of the peaks moulded by glaciers are monumental and interesting in terms of morphology and the same is true of the deep valleys and basins, at the bottom of which tarns can be found, also referred to in Slovak as "sea eyes". The highest peak of the mountain range is Gerlachovský Štít (2,655 metres above sea level). There are twenty-five mountains in the High Tatras mountain range that are over 2,500 metres above sea level. The Tatras provide great opportunities for mountain hiking, rock-climbing or just pleasant walks and cycling. The end destinations of hikes and walks are not just the serviced mountain huts right below the peaks of the Tatras mountains, but also the tarns themselves with their crystal clear water. Some of the most popular are Štrbské Pleso, Popradské Pleso, Skalnaté Pleso and Hincovo Pleso, which is





Tery's Mountain Hut (Téryho chata)



Velické Tarn (Velické Pleso)



the largest tarn in the High Tatras. Among the most popular tourist resorts are Štrbské Pleso, Smokovce and Tatranská Lomnica. Apart from the many tourist trails, these places are also interconnected with the Tatras narrow-gauge electric railway line. Some of the popular trip destinations are Popradské Pleso, Sliezsky Dom, Hrebienok, the Studený Potok waterfalls and Skalnaté Pleso. An unusual experience is a drive in a cable car without a single supporting pylon from Lomnické Sedlo to Lomnický štít (2,632 metres above sea level)



The High Tatras (Vysoké Tatry)



The High Tatras (Vysoké Tatry)

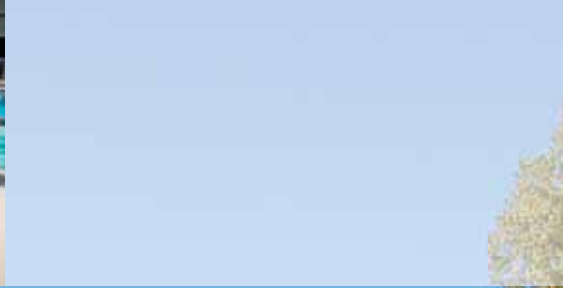


Great Cold Valley  
(Veľká studená dolina)



# AquaCity Poprad

AquaCity Poprad – the “Wellness Water Park” is situated below the High Tatras in the town of Poprad, offering a magnificent view of the mountain range. It is built on top of a geothermal source and is in operation all year round. Visitors can choose to swim in the thermal water, which has a constant temperature of 28 degrees Celsius, or to relax in a warmer pool with water temperature of 36 degrees Celsius.





## The Gothic route (Gotická cesta)



Spišský Štvrtok

Zápoľský Chapel (Kaplnka Zápoľských)

Part of this broad circuit of historical sights lies in the Prešov Region and is closely related to other gothic places of interest in the Košice Region.



# Spišská Sobota



St. George Church

Spišská Sobota is one of the best preserved medieval urban territorial units in Slovakia. It was once an independent town, but today it is part of Poprad. It has been a historical municipal reservation since 1950. Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque houses have been preserved in the town. The late Gothic altar in the St. George Church, which is situated on the town square, was crafted by Master Paul of Levoča.



St. James Church



# Levoča



St. James Church – the altar



St. James Church

St. James Church – the altar

St. James Church, a Roman Catholic parish church, is one of the most prominent historical monuments of sacral art in Slovakia. The church with its interior furnishings is a national cultural monument. The most admired part of the church is the main altar, which is the tallest Gothic altar in the world. It was made by the well-known Gothic woodcarver Master Paul of Levoča. The altar is 18 metres and 62 centimetres in height.



Wooden church



# Kežmarok



Wooden church

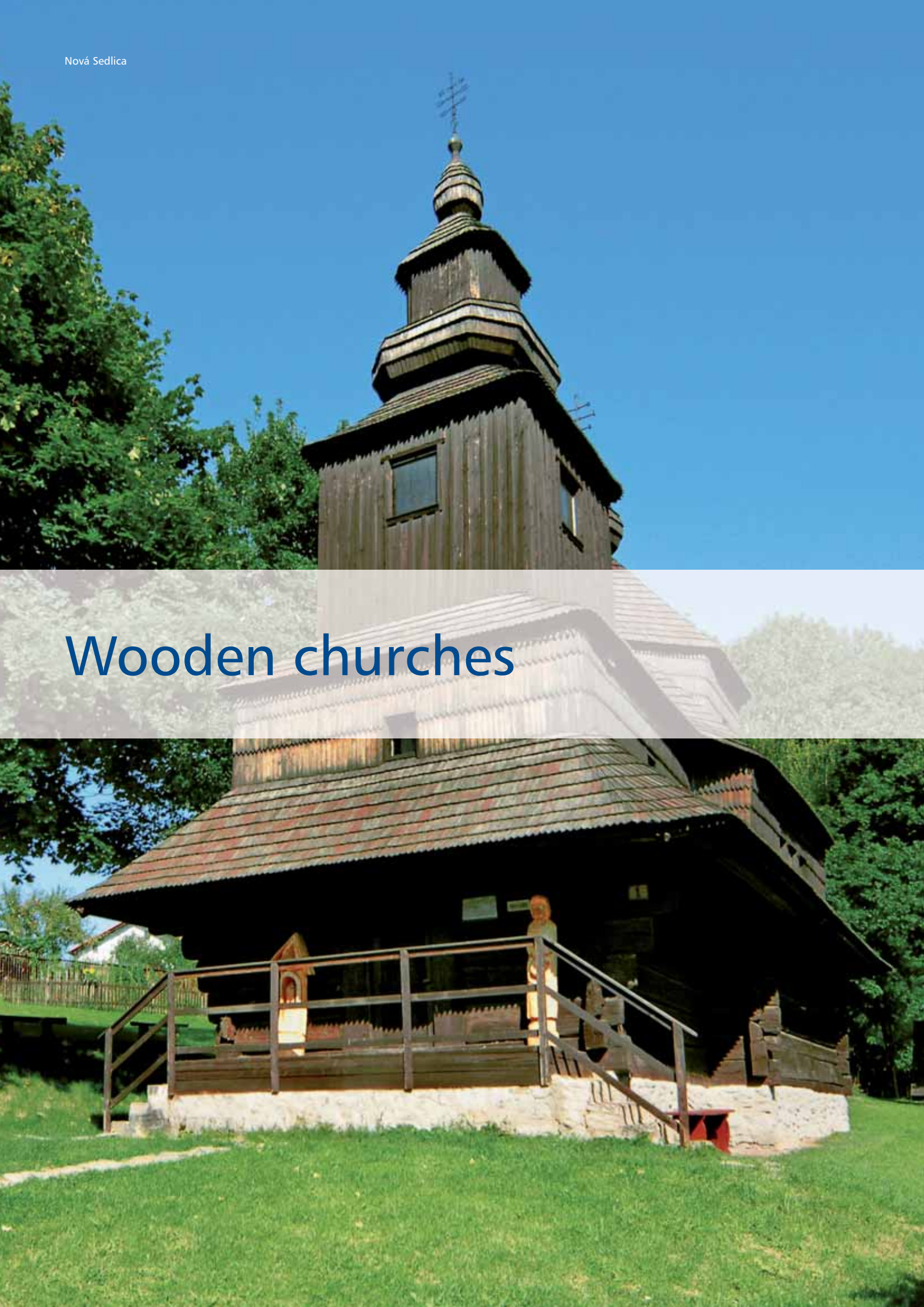
Kežmarok Castle

One of the town's historical monuments is the castle. It was built in the town's area to protect it against potential enemies. Eventually, though, its owners fought against Kežmarok, as the town did not want to give up the rights of an autonomous royal town and become an ordinary subordinated town. The skill of the local craftsmen is commemorated every year in July at the European Folk Craft Festival. Interesting products are made of wood, wicker, straw, maize husk, leather, clay, metal, glass and other materials, by skilful artists before the very eyes of visitors.



Radnica (Old Town Hall)

# Wooden churches





Miroľa



Ladomirová



Bodružal



Zboj



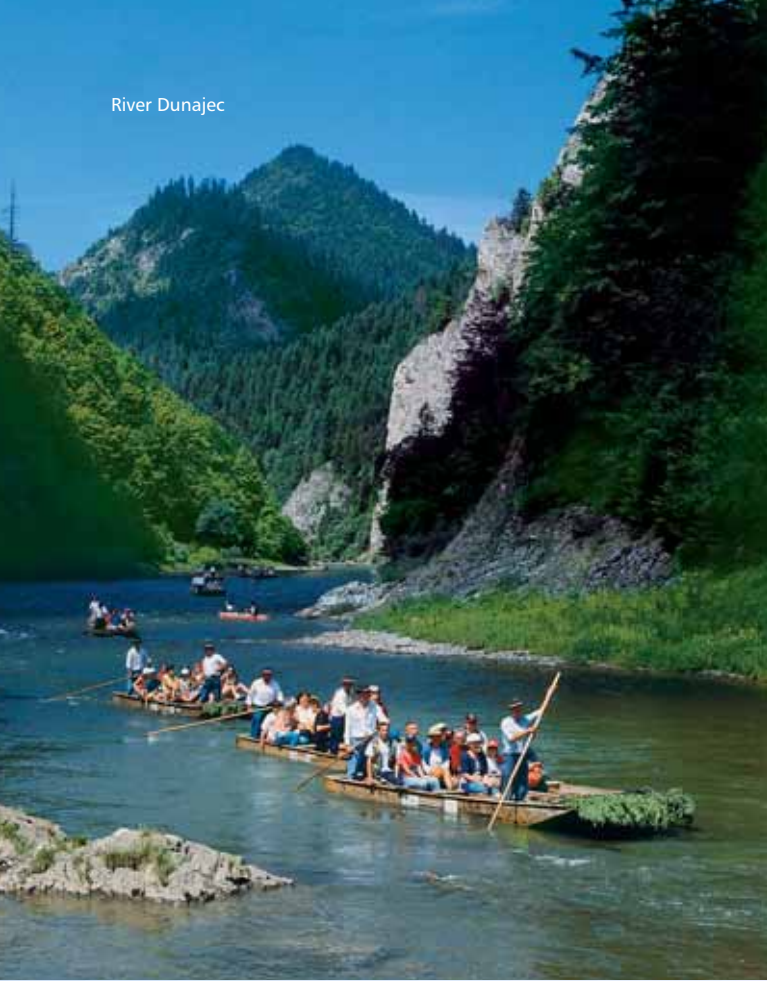
Miroľa

The uniqueness of Slovak wooden churches is in their authenticity, the precision of the work, in the well preserved state of most of the interior and exterior elements, and in the fact that they are still being used for religious purposes. Of all Slovakia, the largest number of these churches can be found in the Prešov Region. They are scattered along the so-called Carpathian Wooden Route, especially around Bardejov, Svidník, Medzilaborce and Snina.

From a religious point of view, they belong to the Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic and Evangelical churches.

Most of them come from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. They were built in various styles, using different technological methods, but what they all have in common is wood. They are beautiful in their variety and precious in their well preserved state. There are decorated period altars, paintings, carved pulpits, confessionals and other religious artefacts inside the churches.

River Dunajec



The Pieniny National Park is situated on the border with Poland. It is a very attractive tourist destination that was moulded by the Dunajec river. Rafting on the Dunajec is a very interesting and popular tourist activity.

# Pieniny, Dunajec



Pieniny



Pieniny National Park



# Červený kláštor (The Red Monastery)



Červený kláštor, a national cultural monument situated near the village bearing the same name, used to be inhabited by monks of the Carthusian and Camaldolese Order. The monks lived an ascetic way of life here, working as farmers and beekeepers, caring for the sick and collecting medicinal plants. In 1754, a pharmacy was founded here, which became famous even beyond the region's borders.



# Bardejov



Town Hall



Museum

Bardejov Spa was visited by famous historical figures like Alexander I of Russia or Elisabeth of Bavaria, who was also called "Sissi" and whose statue stands outside in the spa park. The success of Bardejov spa stems from the good quality of the Bardejov healing sources – alkaline salty ferrous cold mineral waters – and from the advantageous location in a shielded valley.

# Vyšné Ružbachy

Vyšné Ružbachy combines two natural healing aspects.

The first comprises the thirteen springs of hydrocarbonate, calcium-magnesium hypotonic thermal mineral water, and the second one is the favourable climatic conditions with therapeutic effects on neural and mental illnesses.

The mineral water has good healing effects on diseases of the circulatory system, digestive system, metabolic disorders, diseases of the kidneys and urinary tract or women's illnesses..



Swimming pool



Travertine lake



By damming up the Ondava river, a water reservoir was formed, covering an area of 1510 hectares with a maximum depth of 32.5 metres. Beaches have been created in some parts of the reservoir and the artificial lake is also a favourite place for fishermen.

# Domaša







# Medzilaborce



Statue of Andy Warhol

The Modern Art Museum of Andy Warhol in Medzilaborce was established in the home town of this famous representative of modern art. The museum houses a permanent exhibition of Andy Warhol's works, and precious artefacts related to the artist's origin, which have been acquired or borrowed from his relatives and friends.





# Winter in the Tatras





Ždiar



Ždiarska vidla



The High Tatras (Vysoké Tatry)

Winter tourism in the High Tatras provides opportunities for skiing in the resorts of Štrbské Pleso, Nový Smokovec, Tatranská Lomnica and Ždiar. When there is enough snow, skiing at Lomnické Sedlo below the Tatras peaks is an unforgettable experience. In Štrbské Pleso, trails are marked and maintained for those who enjoy running..

You can enjoy a drive on a sledge run in the freezing mountain air at Hrebienok or you can just take a walk through the Tatras countryside covered in snow. You can also try a unique combination of skiing and swimming in thermal water. This possibility is available to visitors of the ski resorts near Aquacity Poprad, Aquapark Tatralandia and the Bešeňová thermal swimming baths.

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