



Trnava Region



Little Big Country



The Trnava Region is located in the west of Slovakia near the borders of Austria, the Czech Republic and Hungary. Although in terms of population the Trnava Region is the smallest region in Slovakia, it is one of the most productive in the country in

is the abundance of geothermal and therapeutic springs, which are used in natural health spas and which also serve for recreational purposes. The spa tradition in the Trnava Region is well developed and of a high standard, with the spa towns of Smrdáky



the fields of industry and agriculture. The fertile lowlands of the Danube floodplains alternate with the Little Carpathian mountain range, which borders the lowlands Záhorská nížina. The region of Trnava is not only rich in history and spiritual and cultural life, but also in various protected nature areas. It has a wealth of natural beauties, attractive tourist localities and architectonic gems. The Trnava Region is split into three sub-regions – the Záhorie region in the north, the central Trnava region and the region of Žitný ostrov in the south, which is the largest source of quality drinking water in Central Europe. All three sub-regions have their own distinct population spreads, traditional architecture and local customs. A very significant feature of the region

and the world-renowned Piešťany enjoying particular popularity. Not far from Piešťany on Kostolec hill in Ducové we can find the foundations of one of the oldest Christian buildings in the territory of Slovakia – a Romanesque rotunda from the 10th century. A major archaeological finding from this locality is the Moravian Venus statuette, which is estimated to be around 22,800 years old. Natural treasures in the region include in particular the picturesque landscape of the Little Carpathians mountain range (Driny Cave, Smolenice Karst). The Trnava Region is also home to numerous castles and palaces, which make very popular hiking and cycling destinations.



Trnava



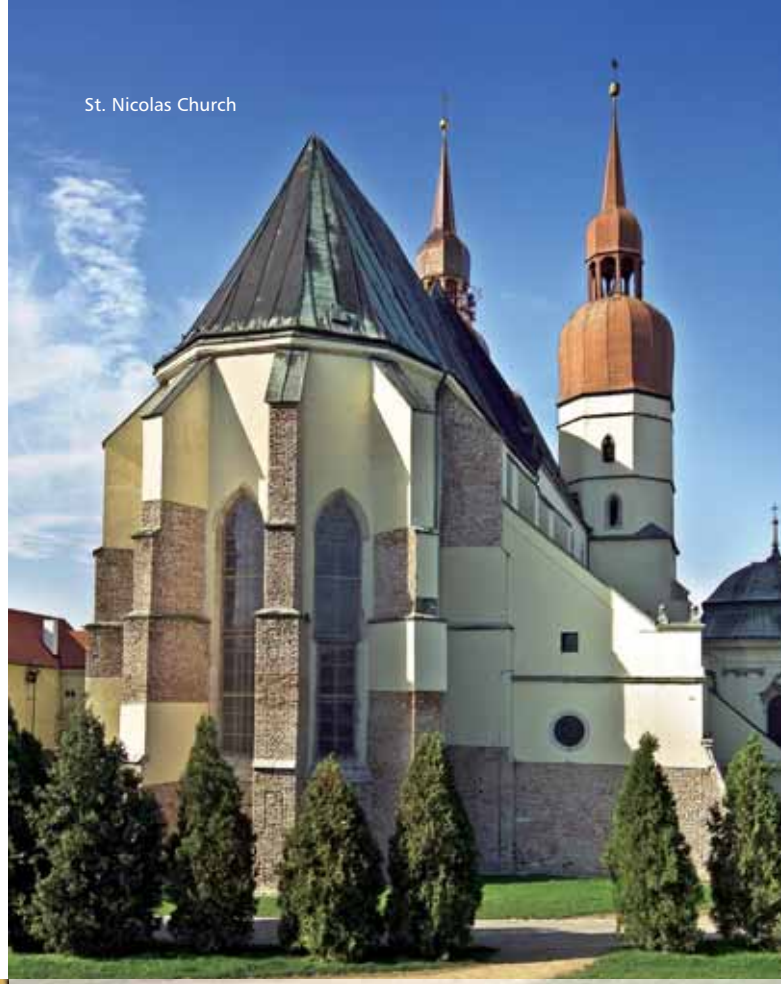
The Holy Trinity

West Slovakia Museum

The regional centre Trnava lies at the heart of the Trnava downs at an elevation of 146 m above sea level. The first written chronicle on the city of Trnava dates back to 1211, when it was mentioned in a deed of Esztergom Archbishop John on the donation of revenues from the local church to the Esztergom canonry. Trnava was the first town in the territory of current-day Slovakia to be granted the privileges of an autonomous royal town, which were granted to it in 1238 by Hungarian King Belo IV.

Initially a centre of agriculture, the town gradually started changing into a centre of production, trade and crafts. The original document granting the privileges is preserved by Trnava to the present day as national cultural heritage. The highly extensive fortifications covering an area of 60 hectares were built up by the town in the 13th century. They comprised brick towers that were linked together by wood and earth embankments, which were later replaced

St. Nicolas Church

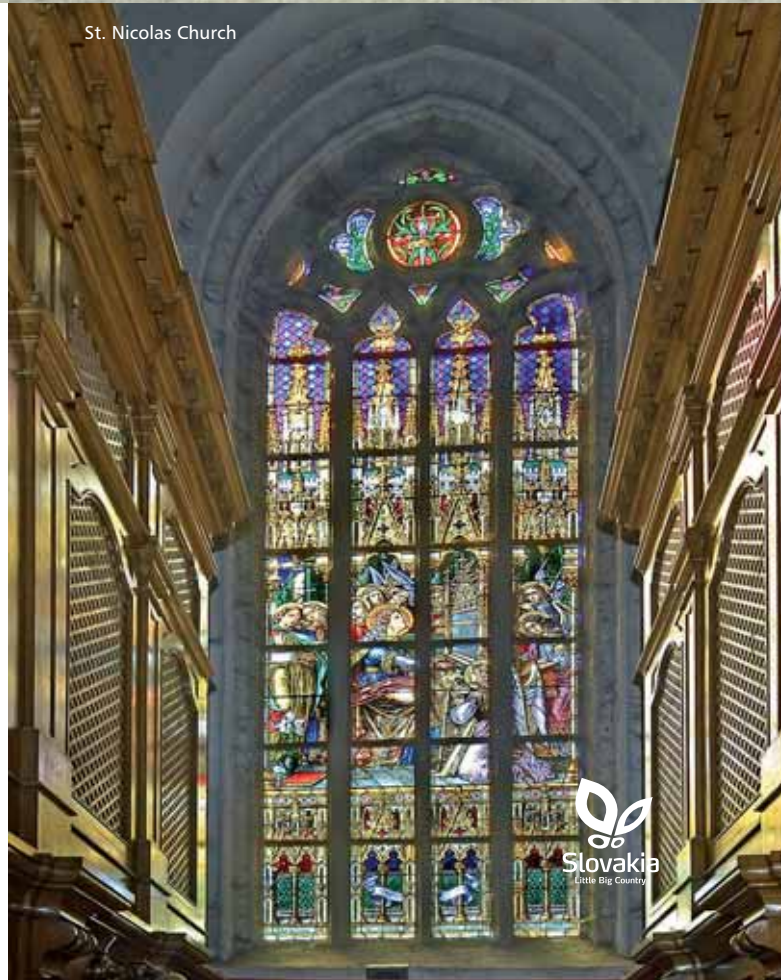


St. Nicolas Church

The Mortuarium

by a stone rampart. The importance of the town of Trnava increased, especially in the 16th century, when Bratislava became the administrative centre of the country and Trnava assumed the role of the country's cultural and religious centre. With the establishment of Trnava University in 1635, containing philosophy, theology, law and medical faculties, Trnava found itself with the stature of a university town, which became renowned throughout Europe. In 1777, however, at the order of the empress, Trnava University was moved to the Buda part of current Budapest. This was a huge loss that was not just felt by Trnava, but also Slovakia. The university was soon joined by a rich and rare library, archives, collections, prints and later on, also the canonry and the Archbishop.

St. Nicolas Church



St. Nicholas Church





St. John the Baptist Cathedral

The rich history of the city has left its mark in the shape of many architectonic monuments. A walk through the historical city centre, classed as a municipal heritage reservation, gives you the chance to get acquainted with some impressive architectonic buildings that have sprung up over the centuries. The almost regularly-shaped city centre is defined by the old city bulwark. The main square, and the city itself, is dominated by the renaissance Town Tower, Old Town Hall, the baroque complex of Trnava University buildings and especially the renowned Trnava churches, thanks to which Trnava was afforded the name of the 'Little Rome' of Slovakia. The rarest sacral monuments in the city include the first Early Baroque church to be built in Slovakia – St. John the Baptist Cathedral. A true gem of the interior is the massive wooden central altar

from 1640. In 2003 the Cathedral was visited by Pope John Paul II during his visit to Slovakia. The oldest church in Trnava is the original Roman Church of St. Nicolas. A huge gothic basilica type temple was erected on its foundations, and to the end of the 18th century Archbishop Imrich Esterházy had the baroque Chapel of the Virgin Mary annexed to it. Thanks to a painting of her there Trnava is a well-known place of pilgrimage. Both the synagogues in Trnava come from the 19th century, representing fine examples of Jewish architecture, combining historical expression with oriental elements. The majority of urban architecture has preserved its classicist and historical feeling to the present day.



St. John the Baptist Cathedral

The Virgin Mary of Trnava

St. John the Baptist Cathedral

St. Nicolas Church

Gallery of J. Koniarek

The City of Trnava has a rich network of cultural facilities: the J. Palárik Theatre, West Slovakia Museum, the Juraj Fándly Library, the Gallery of Ján Koniarek, Trnava Community Hall, the Synagogue, the Contemporary Art Centre, Regional Cultural Centre, and the House of Music. Key cultural events in the year: Trnavská Musical Spring, Lumen – international gospel music festival, Dobrofest – international festival devoted to the inventor of the resophonic guitar - the Dobro, the M. Sch. Trnavsky international singing competition, Trnava Summer of Culture, the Trnavská brána folklore festival, Trnava Days of Organ Music, the Trienálie plagátu Trnava competitive poster exhibition, Trnava Days of Choir Music, Trnava Musical Autumn.





Červený Kameň



Červený Kameň Castle

The history of Červený Kameň Castle dates back to 1240 and it is a unique example of Central European building of the time. The original royal fortress represented part of the border fortifications of the western frontier of the Kingdom of Hungary. At the end of the 16th century it became part of the estate of the Pálffy family, which converted the rather austere fortification into a renaissance-baroque seat with exquisite interiors. Visitors

to the castle can visit the museum, which documents the life and ways of the nobility from the 16th to the beginning of the 20th century. The museum collection showing how military equipment developed is, in terms of quality and size, among the best preserved and most valuable historical collections in Slovakia. The castle wine room in front of the castle bridge gives you the chance to sample some fine wines from the Little Carpathians winegrowing region.



Smolenice Castle



Smolenice

The original fortress was later converted into a romantic castle. Smolenice Castle enhanced the picturesque panorama of the Little Carpathians and it was built in connection with the so-called Czech Route (Česká cesta) in the 14th century. The castle changed owners several times, but in 1777, when its indebted owner was forced to hand it over to the Pálffy family,



Smolenice Castle

the castle started to fall into decline. After many years of title disputes, the new owner Móric Pálffy, and then his son Jozef, went ahead with reconstructing the altered fortifications into a romantic castle in line with the designs of Budapest architect Jozef Hubert. The castle now serves as a congress venue for the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAV), and is open also to the public in the summer months.

The best known Slovak spa for the treatment of rheumatic and locomotive apparatus disorders, Piešťany spa resort, is one of the leading spas of its kind in Europe thanks to the quality and scope of its services, it enjoying huge popularity with international clientele. The treatment procedures at Piešťany spa resort focus on restoring the full functionality of the locomotive apparatus. There are ten natural springs here with unique thermal waters with sulphur content, and the springs also yield some of the best quality sulphur mud in the world. The combination of balneotherapy, individual and group

Piešťany

rehabilitation, massages, carbonic therapy, light therapy, electrotherapy, heat therapy and other specialised and relaxation procedures produce the perfect requisites for the successful treatment of people suffering from disorders of the locomotive apparatus, i.e. the bones, muscles and connective tissue, as well as diseases of the central and peripheral nerves, without which proper movement is not possible. Special care is given at the Piešťany resort to children, who are successfully treated here for diseases such as cerebral palsy and associated conditions.



In 2004 the tradition of golf returned to Piešťany after an absence of 90 years. Back in 1914 the first golf course in Slovakia was opened here, hosting international tournaments in the 1930s. The 9-hole course has everything that a standard golf course should have. A club house, a café-bar, golf shop, golf academy and a driving range. Two rounds of the 9-hole course produces a PAR 66 over a distance of 4110 m. The grounds also house a training area, putting greens and croquet. In the winter season golfers, sports enthusiasts and novices can keep in



The Spa Bridge

touch with their sport at the indoor golf centre on the estate. The complex is also linked to a balneotherapy centre, where you can relax and recharge your batteries. The combination of golf in the beautiful surroundings of the Spa Island (Kúpeľný ostrov) and a stay at the spa is ideal for people who wish to relax and enjoy sport at the same time. The River Váh and Sĺňava Lake are ideal for water sports, canoeing, yachting or rowing. The Sĺňava water dam covering 4.3 km² is situated between the town of Piešťany and the village of Drahovce. It got its name thanks to the large

number of sunny days it enjoys throughout the year. The dam is equipped with a water-ski tow course and a jetty, with camping close by. An artificially created island that acts as bird sanctuary has been set up in the lake, and is now a protected nature reserve listed by UNESCO. Various rare species of bird have their nesting grounds here. The flatlands around Piešťany are ideal also for cycling.



Smrdáky



Smrdáky Spa

The small and tranquil natural health spa resort Smrdáky, which lies in the Záhorie lowlands, received its name, meaning 'stinky', thanks to the smell emanating from the natural springs, as they have the highest sulphur content of any spa water in Europe. Folk legend has it that a shepherd cured his "aching feet" in the unpleasantly pungent water, giving rise to the reputation about the therapeutic effects of the waters springing from the marshland. The reputation about the miraculous effects spread like wildfire.

Baron Jozef Vietoris established his own spa bathhouse here in 1832 and 1833, building the first spa building and manor house for himself, his family and his special guests. Following extensive reconstruction and modernisation, the original manor house has served ever since as a spa treatment building. The spa resort is made up of an architectonically interesting complex of buildings. Even though it has been modernised and adapted several times, it has still managed to preserve its original look. The spa resort specialises primarily in the treatment of skin diseases in combination with disorders of the locomotive apparatus using the spa's unique natural riches – hydrogen sulphide mineral water and sulphur mud.

The Baťa Canal is a navigable water channel where people can spend a holiday, a weekend or some free time. The quays on the Baťa Canal offer rowing boats or motorboats for hire, or you can take a trip on a piloted boat. There is also a houseboat that offers visitors a one-hour excursion from Skalica to Sudoměřice (Czech Republic) to the technical monument "Výklopník". During the season, various fun evenings, country dances and barbecues are organised at the various docking points along the canal, basically everything that a good summer needs.

This water channel was created in the middle of the 20th century as an irrigation project for the region, and originally no thought was given to using it for recreation. It was later

used also for the transportation of coal. The official name of the Baťa Canal was only given to this unique water canal on 1 May 2002 in the presence of Tomáš Baťa Jr., reviving the old colloquial name "Baťák". The Baťa Canal starts in the Czech Republic at Otrokovice (in Baťov) and ends in the Slovak Republic at the dock in Skalica. The total length of the route Skalica - Otrokovice is 55 km. Along the route you pass through 13 canal locks and cover an elevation of 18.6 m. There are 50 bridges spanning the canal, which are now classed as unique technical monuments. The dock Skalica – Baťa Canal is about 4 km from the centre of the town and is the only place on the Slovak side where you can get on and off.

The Baťa Canal



The many ancient Slovak towns that could boast the status of autonomous royal town in bygone centuries included also the town of Skalica at the border with the Czech Republic. The first reliable mention of the town dates to 1217. Sometime around then the oldest building in the town was built – St. George’s Rotunda. Skalica has preserved the historic feel of its centre to the present day and so now boasts a fairly well preserved historical core – a protected heritage zone. The town centre comprises a unique triangular-shaped main square

Skalica



Church of St. Michael



Trdelník



Church of St. Michael

bordered by various historical sacral and secular buildings, some of which are located in the adjacent side streets. The outer edge of the centre is surrounded by a Middle Ages bulwark, which is best preserved at the Franciscan complex of buildings. The Zahorie Museum has some interesting expositions on display, depicting the tradition of Zahorie culture, and containing items from the everyday life of the people from the past. There is also a Paleolithic collection documenting the oldest settlement in the Zahorie, as well as artefacts from the Hussite period, from the wars against the Turks and the Habsburgs, and exhibits from the Škarniclov – Teslík printing house and various guild organisations. In 1372 the town of Skalica was

promoted to the status of royal town and given the right to hold its own annual market. The tradition of the trade market has been maintained to the present day and goes by the name Skalica Days. A long renowned local specialty of Skalica is the so-called ‘Skalica trdelník’, a special sweet log cake from yeast dough coated in crushed nuts and baked on an open flame. Sampling this special delicacy is an essential part of the event called ‘Trdlofest’, which is traditionally held in May and which symbolically opens the summer tourist season. Traditional winemaking is a distinctive part of the town’s culture, and its roots here probably stretch back to the second half of the 15th century. Skalica has made its mark not just on the Slovak wine map thanks primarily to Frankovka wine.





Dobrofest Trnava

Since 1992 Trnava has been transformed each year for one week in the summer into an international centre of good music and fun. Dobrofest is an international music festival in memory of American Slovak, John Dopyera, born in Dolná Krupá, inventor of the resonophonic guitar. The Dobro first appeared on the music scene in the middle of the 1920s. In the USA they regard it as an American folk instrument. It was created at a time when

electromagnetic pickups and boosters still did not exist. It is an impressive link in the chain between the acoustic and electric guitar. The name for the new guitar came about as a play on words from the first letters of the company name DOpyera BROthers and the Slovak sense of the word, meaning 'good'. The sales slogan of the Dopyera brothers was: Dobro means good in any language. Although Dobrofest is not focused just



on bluegrass music, as it is a multiple genre music festival, for the third year now it has been part of the pan-European event European World of Bluegrass (EWOB). The descendants of the Dopyera family regularly take part in Dobrofest.



Dolná Krupá



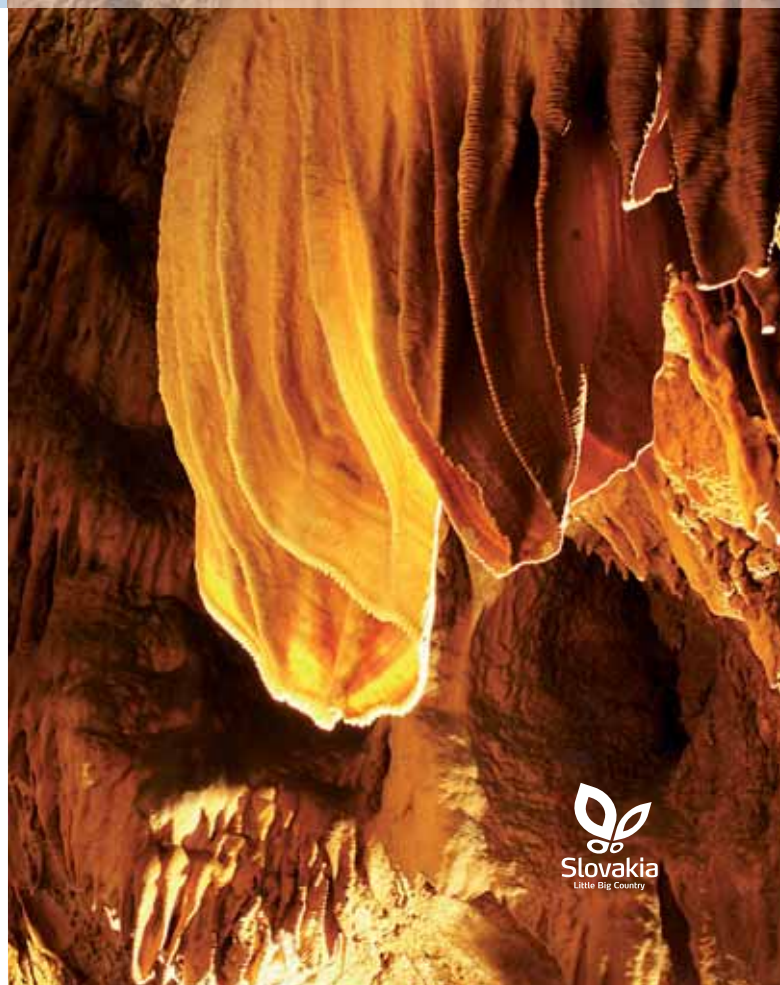
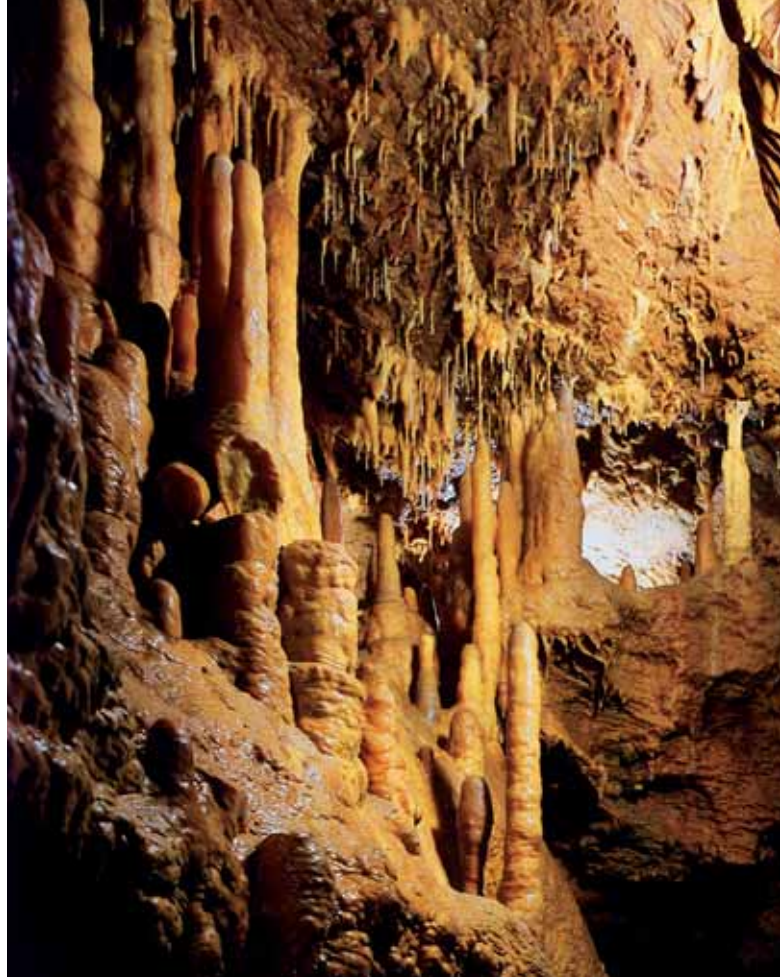
House of Beethoven

The classicist manor house in Dolná Krupá from 1793-95 is presently one of the most exquisite examples of rural classicist architecture in Slovakia. It was renowned for its rich collections of art, a library containing thousands of volumes of books, and for its exceptional gallery of paintings. Next to the Manor House there is a baroque groundskeeper's cottage, referred to as Beethoven's Pavilion, containing an exposition of the Music Museum showing the life and works of Ludwig van Beethoven.

Occasional exhibitions are put on by the Music Museum also in the Manor House itself. The pavilion together with the Manor House give homage to the time that this famous composer and friend of Count Brunswick's family spent here. It was here that he allegedly composed the famous Moonlight Sonata. The Manor House grounds were originally also home to a small theatre building, famous also for performances given here by L. van Beethoven, but the building is no more.

Driny Cave

Driny Cave is the only accessible cave in Western Slovakia and constitutes part of Smolenice Karst in the Little Carpathians, south west of Smolenice. This mysterious cavern has been known to locals since the 19th century, but it was not until 1932 that access was made possible. The cave is typified by its sinter screens with serrated edges.





Thermal spas

Velký Meder

This thermal spa is situated in the beautiful environment of a forest park spanning 14.7 hectares. The new covered recreational complex is open all year-round. The covered pool with atypical shape is 300m² in size and together with the semi-covered thermal pool for sitting in, it creates the ideal conditions

for relaxation for every kind of visitor. The thermal water of this spa is very therapeutic in the treatment of problems with joints, the spine and muscle fatigue, and helps regenerate the overall organism. The covered facilities also provide jetted baths, massages, bio-solarium, sauna world, beauty salon, and magnetotherapy treatment. There are also two water slides, mini golf, children's playgrounds, a restaurant and beach volleyball.



Vincov les

Vincov les thermal spa is located on the outskirts of the town of Sládkovičovo, about 50 kilometres from Bratislava. Thermal water with a temperature of 62 degrees Celsius flows up through a thermal borehole. The renovated facility has a total of 5 pools in operation. There is a swimming pool with a temperature of around 26 degrees Celsius, and 2 recreational pools with a temperature of 28 degrees Celsius and a depth of 1.3 metres for those who want to relax more. For the little



Galandia

Galandia

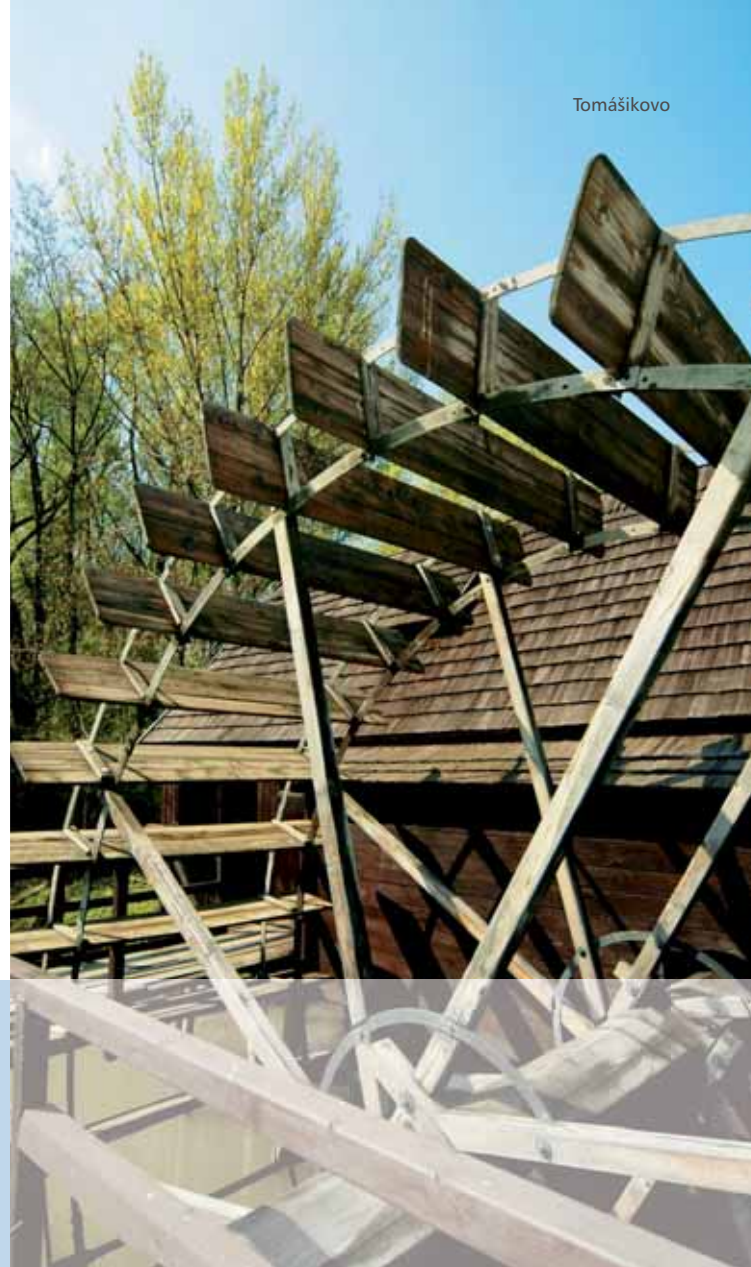
The thermal spa Galandia water world with 513 m² of indoor pools is open to visitors all year. The outdoor part, which is only open in the summer season, comprises a 25 m swimming pool, 2 water slides, and a children's pool. Visitors can also take advantage of the children's playground or try their hand at beach volleyball. The indoor part of Galandia houses a large pool, children's pool, thermal pool and tube water slide.

ones there is a children's pool with a temperature of 32 degrees Celsius and for those who just want to sit and relax in the hot water there is a relaxation pool with a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius and massage jets.

The grounds also house a new congress, information and advisory centre that can be used throughout the year, including fully equipped training and congress premises, catering services and the possibility to relax in a covered pool.

The Little Danube

This tranquil tributary, which is also not too demanding for water sports enthusiasts, combines with the main flow of the Danube to produce the island Žitný ostrov. It flows from Bratislava to Kolárovo, where the Little Danube joins the River Váh. Travelling down this peaceful water course offers one the chance to take in the wonderful nature of the Danube floodplain forests. You can stop along the way to visit the various ancient watermills. In addition to taking a cool dip in the river or having a picnic along the riverbank, you can also enjoy the pleasant summer atmosphere.





Jelka



Tomášikovo



The Little Danube



The Little Danube





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