

LOWER ZEMPLÍN AND COUNTRY TOURISM

Michalovce
Tourist Gateway to Zemplín



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MICHALOVCE
srdce zemplína

Museums

Zemplín Museum in Michalovce

- Zemplín museum in Michalovce was founded in 1957. Exhibits and all museum collections are placed in historical premises of the Baroque-Classical manor house. The manor house itself and all former agricultural administration objects as well as renovated rotunda basement, which are situated in the museum area, represent important valuable cultural sights. Permanent expositions offer insight to documented flora, fauna, geological and geographic materials of the region of Zemplín as well as its complete cultural, historical and economical development.



The oldest sacral building in the town is situated at the Zemplín museum site – rotunda basement with a circular nave.





The Museum and Cultural Centre of the South Zemplín in Trebišov

- If you want to see this really interesting museum with a lot of historically very precious artefacts, you should visit a beautiful town park with French garden. In a Baroque-Classical manor house which was built to the request of Imrich Count Csáky in 1786 you can see a number of famous permanent expositions, e.g. Tokaj Winegrowing and Viticulture with the Archive Tokaj Wines, History of Agriculture in Eastern Slovakia, Folk Clothing and Traditional Crafts in Zemplín, Historical Tractors and Internal Combustion Motors, Steam Ploughs and Funicular Traction Ploughing, Development of Threshing in Eastern Slovakia and diverse archaeological relics of Trebišov district. Thematic fine art exhibitions, expositions of thematic philatelic collections (matchbox label stickers), ethnography, history or numismatics are also worth visiting.



Kráľovský Chlmec Museum of National History and Science

- Regional Museum of Medzibodrožie and Použie is one of the youngest museums. It was founded only in 2006 but its collection fund, oriented on particular region, is quite interesting.

Guitar Museum in Sobrance

- It is a unique museum being the only of its kind in Europe and the second one of its kind established in the world. A museum in American Nashville actually represents the only potential competitor. Another unique feature of the museum is perhaps the most precious exhibit – the guitar by Gracioso brand name, produced in neighbouring Czech Republic, which featured at the beginning of George Harrison's musical career. Legends of Czech and Slovak music scene Petr Janda (Olympic) and Maťo Ďurinda (Tublatanka) also donated one of their guitars to the museum. Apart from this collector's treasure trove, you can look at the collection of around 200 electronic guitar pieces, an exhibit documenting The Beatles since their formation through all stages of their musical career. The museum is located close to the Sobrance town centre, not far from the Orthodox church.



The Salt House in Velké Trakany

- There was formerly a harbour on the Tisa River in Velké Trakany where ships and barks anchored and imported salt from the Eastern Carpathian Mountains. This river branch is already disconnected today but the Baroque building of the former salt office reminds local people and visitors of previous significant role of the village.

A museum was established at the site of the salt house and there are many expositions mainly dedicated to transport of salt, shepherd craft or village ethnography.



Literary Museum of Pavol Horov

- One of our important poets and translators has his own museum in his native village. It is established in the building of the former school and was founded in 1987. Two thematic expositions dedicated to literary work of Pavol Horov and his natives are accessible there.



Galleries

- Every larger town requires its place for presentation of art, either it is a fine art, photography or folk art. Michalovce is not an exception and thus the Zemplín Enlightenment Centre houses gallery and lounge where exhibitions and presentations of a wide range of artists, photographers and folk artists take place.



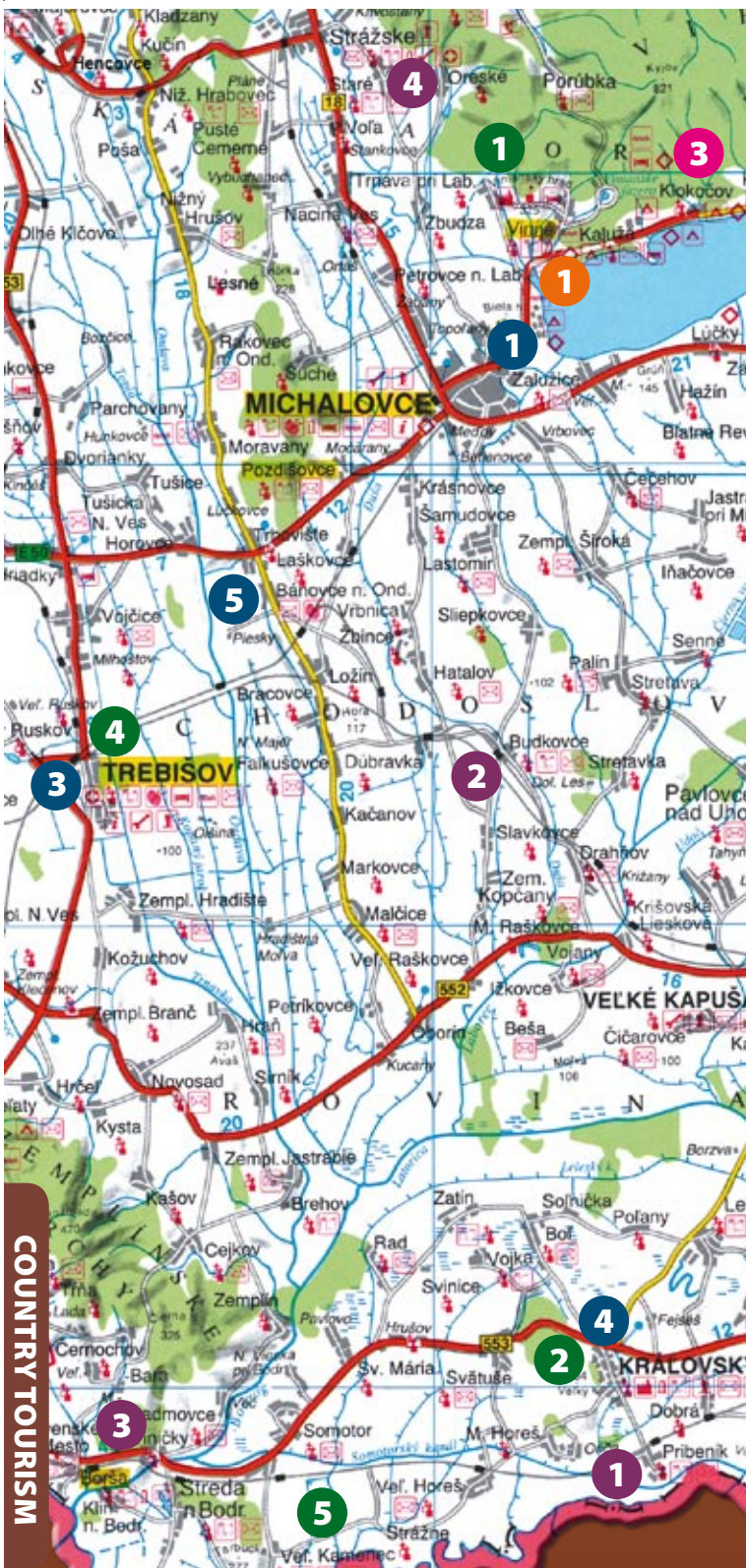
- Exhibitions and vernissages have been held over nearly two decades at the Small Gallery of Municipal Cultural Centre in Michalovce where works of a large number of professional and amateur artists have enjoyed public attention. Symposium of painting and sculpture has been organized once every two years since 1998 so beauties of the Zemplín region displayed on art pieces receive wide public attention and leave a living legacy to future generations.
- The gallery of photography of world-renowned photographers Robert and Cornell Capa, whose mother Juliana Berkovitsová came from Veľké Kapušany, can be found in the Veľké Kapušany Muni-



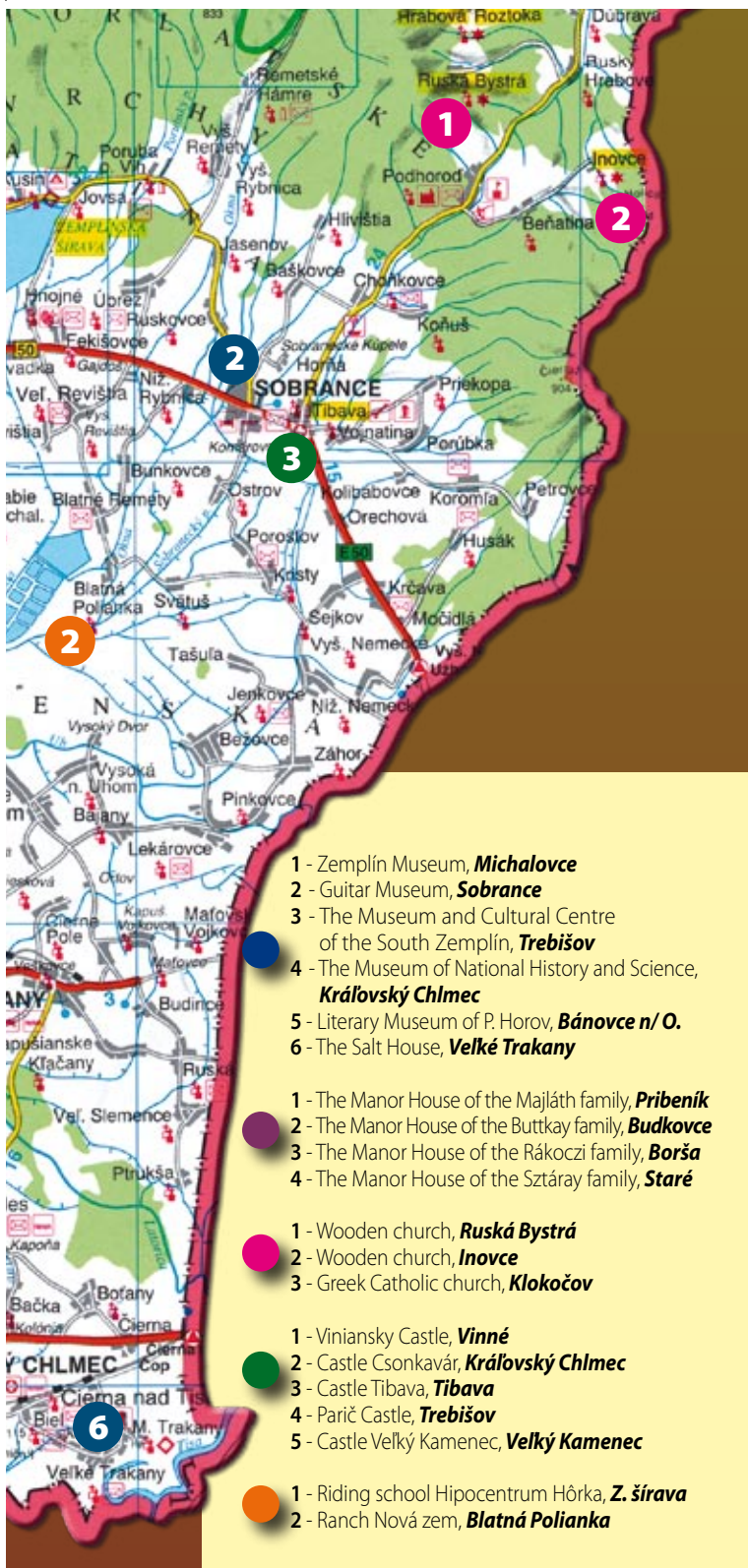


pal Cultural Centre since 2003. Robert Capa was a legendary war photographer who served on many battlefields. His profession turned fatal for him during the Vietnam War when he accidentally stepped on mine. His brother Cornell acted as a director of the International Center of Photography in New York City. You can see reproductions of both photographers' works, history and development of photography, photographic objectives and apparatus in this gallery. Other part of the gallery serves as an exhibition room for presenting works of current photographers.





COUNTRY TOURISM



- 1 - Zemplín Museum, **Michalovce**
- 2 - Guitar Museum, **Sobrance**
- 3 - The Museum and Cultural Centre of the South Zemplín, **Trebišov**
- 4 - The Museum of National History and Science, **Kráľovský Chlmec**
- 5 - Literary Museum of P. Horov, **Bánovce n/O.**
- 6 - The Salt House, **Veľké Trakany**

- 1 - The Manor House of the Majláth family, **Pribeník**
- 2 - The Manor House of the Buttokay family, **Budkovce**
- 3 - The Manor House of the Rákóczi family, **Borša**
- 4 - The Manor House of the Sztáray family, **Staré**

- 1 - Wooden church, **Ruská Bystrá**
- 2 - Wooden church, **Inovce**
- 3 - Greek Catholic church, **Klokočov**

- 1 - Viniarsky Castle, **Vinné**
- 2 - Castle Csonkavár, **Kráľovský Chlmec**
- 3 - Castle Tibava, **Tibava**
- 4 - Parič Castle, **Trebišov**
- 5 - Castle Veľký Kamenec, **Veľký Kamenec**

- 1 - Riding school Hipocentrum Hôrka, **Z. Šírava**
- 2 - Ranch Nová zem, **Blatná Polianka**

Castles

- When you drive from Strážske to Humenné, you can observe the ruins of the Brekov Castle from far away. The castle was built to guard over in the Middle Ages (13th century) and was an integral part of the castle system on the Hungarian-Polish Road. Brekov Castle hill is a part of the net of European important localities and you can walk to the castle ruins through the path from the village of Brekov.



- Brekov Castle, as well as Viniansky Castle, was built in the 13th century to protect the road leading to Poland. The castle was destroyed and rebuilt a number of times. It was later owned by counts from Michalovce who decided to move away from the castle in mid 17th century. You can get to the castle ruins by two paths. One path leads from the village Vinné and the second one, a little more difficult, from close village Trnava pri Laborci.



Nowadays, you can only find ruins of the former "Csonkavár" castle in Kráľovský Chlmec. It was rather a castle mansion which was built by Peter Perényi, a great nobleman, after the Battle of Mohács (1526) and served as an aristocratic seat. The Castle Csonkavár also met similar doom as other castles in neighbourhood, and was ordered to be demolished, which was a revenge on the owner for his supporting the Anti-Habsburg uprising.

- Tibava Castle Ruins are located on rocky hill over a former stone pit in the village Podhorod', which lies 15 km off Sobrance. The castle was built in the 13th century as a guarding castle and already one hundred years later, the castle is mentioned in historical documents as an abandoned castle. Visitor can only observe marks of the castle buildings' stone foundation but view of the surrounding country is well worth seeing.
- New Tibava Castle is about 4km distant from the old castle but already belongs to the cadastral area of the village Choňkovce. This castle was built in the second half of the 14th century. Today, you can find preserved foundations of medieval castle at the site of New Tibava Castle.
- Parič Castle can be found directly in the town park in Trebišov. The first written record dates back to 1254. Magister Andronik, a son of župan Paris, is mentioned as the owner of the castle. The castle was later largely rebuilt by the Drugeths, its other owners, who built additional three-storey palace and surrounded the castle with brick wall fortification. Only one section of the wall is well-preserved today.



- A Gothic castle that stands on the hill on the edge of the village Veľký Kamenec represents an architectural and historical landmark of the village Veľký Kamenec. According to the historical documents from 1820, the castle was owned by the sons of the nobleman Šimon, Ján Huňady gained the castle in 1459.

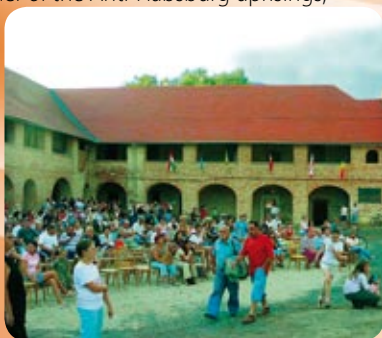


Mansions

- Mansion of the Count Majláth family, which is situated in Pribeník, was built as a one-storey Baroque style building in 1789. Later, a chapel was additionally built to the mansion and the chapel currently serves as a public Roman Catholic church. The mansion has been recently thoroughly reconstructed and renovated to its original magnificent appearance. Park surrounding the mansion is very well-preserved. Village Pribeník is renowned for its tradition of horse breeding that was introduced by J. Count Majláth.



- One of the most significant landmarks of the village Budkovce is also late Renaissance manor house of the Buttkey family from 1617. It is located on the small square in the middle of the village and there are community health centre and pharmacy in the premises of the manor house today.
- Renaissance-Baroque mansion in the village Staré undoubtedly belongs to the most valuable cultural landmarks in Michalovce district. Its beginning dates back to the 17th century when it was owned by the Sztáray family. Later mansion residents, then Zemplín župan Ján Filip Sztáray with his wife, had the mansion rebuilt in Classicist-Baroque style. The history of the Sztáray lineage in Staré ends upon the violent death of Štefan Sztáray. The mansion has been in the village ownership since 1990 and is partially reconstructed nowadays.
- František Rákoczi II, a notable leader of the Anti-Habsburg uprisings, was born in the castle mansion in the village Borša. Originally, there was an extensive water castle, protected by earthwork and water-filled moats, which was later rebuilt by its owners to a representative fortified feudal seat in Renaissance style. Today, there is a museum with artefacts relating to history of the mansion and the Rákoczi family.



Wooden Churches and Sacral Buildings

- Wooden church in Ruská Bystrá is a precious historical monument that was inscribed under the UNESCO World Heritage List with seven other similar buildings in 2008. Greek Catholic church is dedicated to St. Nicholas. Cabin type of building consists of three parts. One part is an altar room, second one is a ship and the third one is area under the tower. The altar room has a hexagon-like shape. Interior is designed in Baroque-Rococo style and as well as the whole building dates back to the 18th century.



- Greek Catholic church dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel in Inovce is a bit younger than the wooden church in Ruská Bystrá. It was built in 1836. Pieta from 1842 by Michael Mankovič forms one of the most interesting parts of church iconostasis.



- Village Ruská lies on the borders with Ukraine, a few kilometres ahead of Velké Kapušany. This border village takes pride in a Roman Catholic church in which remains of István Dobó, a renowned native and Eger castle captain, were found during the floor reconstruction. He was buried in the church in 1572. Remains were again ceremonially buried in the reconstructed tomb located in the temple.
- Klokočov is not only a recreational centre of Zemplínska šírava, but is also a significant pilgrimage place. Greek Catholic church in the village is visited due to its magic picture. Pilgrimage ceremonials are held in August, on the feast day of the Assumption of Mary.

Agritourism and Rural Tourism

- The Lower Zemplín region is thanks to its own character predestined to development of agritourism and rural tourism. Equestrian tourism, sport horseback riding or hippotherapy are supplementary services provided by the centres of rural tourism and agritourism.
- Riding school Hipocentrum Hôrka in Zemplínska šírava offers tourist services, chiefly in equestrianism. Two open-air riding halls serve to more demanding customers who have some riding skills. If you want to learn riding, you can take riding lessons from instructor.
- Ranch Nová zem is situated at the end of the village Blatná Polianka in Sobrance district. The ranch is a peaceful place full of relax close to Senianske fishponds, an important ornithological area.
- Show jumping competitions in Pribeník are becoming year by year the most attractive event, not only for spectators enthusiastic about sport. The competitions are usually held annually in May and take place in the premises of the local vocational high school.



Technical Monuments

- A rope bridge which connects villages Ptrukša and Boťany over the Latorica River belongs to rarities of the Zemplín region. The suspension bridge hangs at height of seven metres over the river, is 106 m long and was built in 1968 by local workmen who used to take this shortcut on their way to work at the railway transshipment station in Čierna nad Tisou. The bridge is a much sought-after site and is used by both tourists and cyclotourists.
- Vihorlat Narrow Gauge Railway (gauge 760 mm) helped to gather wood, coal, stone and various iron products to Michalovce and Uzhhorod. Narrow Gauge Railway Michalovce-Remetské Hámre-Great Vihorlat Lake (Morské oko) with detours is the most interesting of all narrow gauge railways. The track was 43 km long and led through plain and foothill as far as the interior of the Vihorlat mountain range. The railway line was introduced in the period of establishing the Czechoslovak Republic and was in operation until the early 1970s.



- Watermills in the villages Vyšná Rybnica, Hnojné, Jenkovce and Ruskovce and also water sawmill are thanks to their preserved original architecture and witty technical equipment classified as national cultural monuments. The only preserved part of original watermill in Ruskovce is a turbine from 1589 that is still used as a part of small hydro power plant and is a protected technical monument.
- Underground homestead cellars excavated in tufa soil in the villages Malá and Veľká Trňa and Viničky in 1567 are also recorded on the National Cultural Monuments Register. The cellars were initially built as shelters against the invasion of Osman warriors. The best quality Tokaj wines mature here thanks to the constant year-round temperature.

You can find more information on the website
www.dolnyzemplin.sk

This material was created with the financial support of European Union from European Regional Development Fund within the framework of the project Michalovce – Tourist Gateway to Zemplín.



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Graphical editing: Excel enterprise, s.r.o.