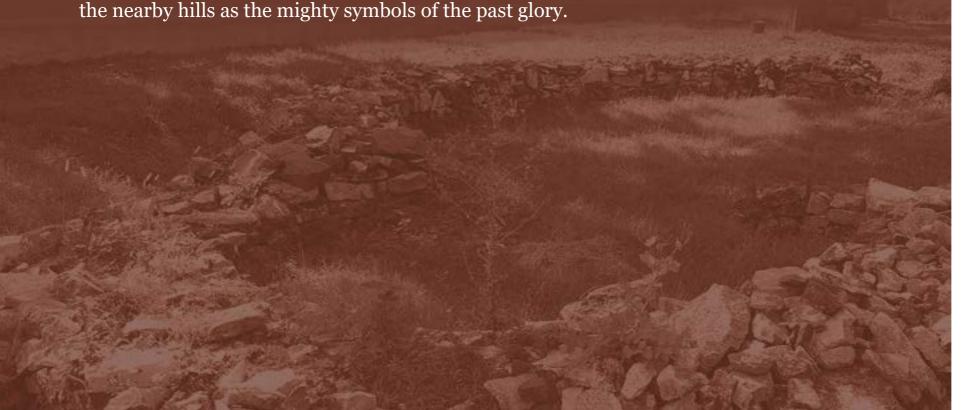


# Insights into the past

Exploring Michalovce you can feel its history breathing on you from every historical building and heritage site in the town centre, as well as from the remains of a stone rotunda near the manor house - once the residence of the Sztáray family. The former glory of the town is still preserved by the Golden Bull building, as well as the Town Hall which is a long-standing landmark of the town centre that houses a clock tower. The sacral buildings with long and more recent history, as well as a chapel on Hrádok Hill, provide an insight into the unique town on the banks of the Laborec river. Castle ruins rise proudly above the nearby hills as the mighty symbols of the past glory.





# 1. ROTUNDA

The oldest sacral building on the territory of Michalovce the remains of a stone rotunda with a circular nave and a horseshoe shaped apse – was discovered and examined in the 1970s with its origin estimated back to somewhere between the  $9^{\text{th}}$  -  $12^{\text{th}}$  century BC. A stone plaque was found with an inscription which is still yet to be deciphered.



# **2. MANOR HOUSE**

Manor house is the former Sztaray family residence built in Baroque-classicist style with ground floor side towers. Since 1951 it is a part of Zemplín Museum housing several permanent exhibitions. Its grounds feature a 19<sup>th</sup> century horse stable in a nearby park with late renaissance structure locals call "Old manor house".



# 3. ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY OF VIRGIN MARY

In the medieval church, originally built in the Gothic style and rebuilt to the Baroque style in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a gothic bell in the steeple has been preserved up to the present day. The church interior houses a Gothic pastophorium, a late Renaissance aristocratic epitaph, a Baroque altar, a commemorative plaque dating back to 1749, a Rococo pulpit, as well as the 19<sup>th</sup> century donor's pew.



# 4. GREEK CATHOLIC PARISH CHURCH OF MOTHER OF GOD

The construction of the Baroque-Classicist Greek Catholic church was fully completed according to the drawings of the Theresian Construction Chamber probably in 1787. The main entrance is decorated by a Rococo cartouche bearing a double-headed eagle with the Imperial Crown and a ribbon with a Cyrillic inscription. The interior walls and ceiling frescoes, as well as the church furniture are all from the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

# 5. ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHAPEL

The hilltop of Hrádok is crowned with a Neo-Gothic chapel a Sztáray family tomb which is considered a free copy of the St. Michael the Archangel Chapel in Košice. It was completed and consecrated in 1898. The chapel steeple houses a bell from 1894. The tympanum over the entrance displays the Coat of Arms of the House of Sztáray dating back to 1893 (when the construction of the chapel began).



# 6. CHURCH AND MONASTERY OF THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Redemptorist Monastery was built in the early 1930s, with the Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit (since 2012 a Basilica Minor) constructed in 1934 - 1935 in the Neo-Byzantine style. The Basilica interior houses beautiful wall and ceiling frescoes, as well as the relics of Blessed Dominik Trčka, next to the church a bell tower was built.



# 7. TOWN HALL

The new building of the Michalovce Municipality was constructed in 1927 - 1928 according to a design by Ľudovít Oelschläger on the grounds of a former private house. A part of the building was let for rent. On the former watch tower serving the local fire brigade a clock was installed later. A small park was originally planted in front of the Town Hall.





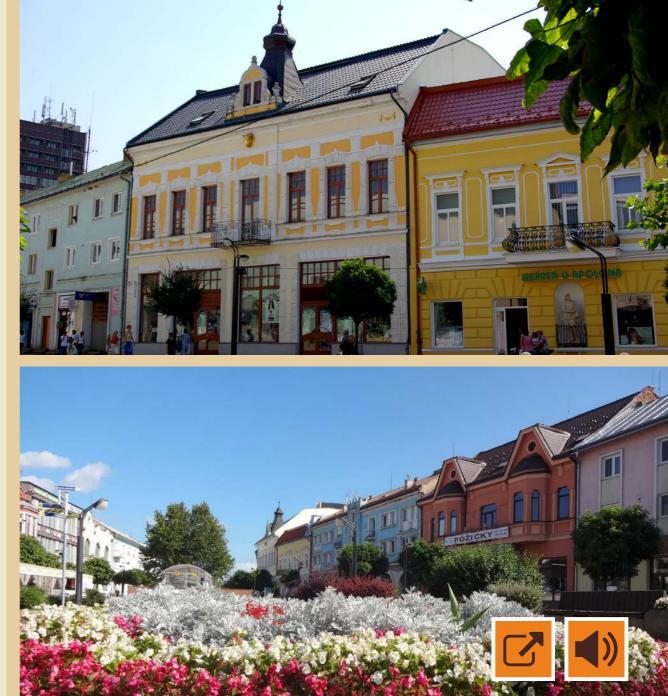
# 8. BANK BUILDING (HOUSE OF HEALTH)

The building rebuilt significantly to the Hungarian Art Nouveau style around 1912 was originally the seat of a bank as evidenced by the architectural elements on the facade a beehive, as well as the figures of a blacksmith and a reaper situated between its windows. The building was a seat of various banks and from the 1950s on, there used to be a library, while nowadays the building serves to health care providers.



# 9. GOLDEN BULL BUILDING

The construction of the storeyed Golden Bull Hotel was commissioned in 1905 - 1906 by one of the most prominent Michalovce citizens at that time - Gabriel Strömpl. Its huge space accommodated a pub, a confectionery and coffee-shop, a restaurant, as well as a huge multipurpose hall. There was a lodging section, various other rooms along with a terrace, garages, and an automobile repair shop, as well as a petrol station.



#### **10. FARMER'S HOUSE**

This multi-storey building was completed in the second half of the 1920s (with contributions by farmers). As a result, several agriculture-related institutions moved in. The building gained its fame for Teodor Jozef Mousson (1887-1946) the painter of the Sun and the people of the Zemplín region - whose atelier was situated in the attic.





#### 11. OBSERVATORY (MOUSSON'S RESIDENCE)

Jozef Teodor Mousson - the painter of the Zemplín sun and its people - lived and worked in different locations in Michalovce in 1911 - 1944. In 1931 he settled down with his family in a villa on Hrádok Hill (rented to him by Count Alexander Sztáray). Eventually the painter added an atelier to his villa. Later, the building was converted to serve as an observatory.



# 12. TOURIST SITES AND CURIOSI-TIES IN TOWN SURROUNDINGS

Michalovce surroundings offer several historical, cultural and natural curiosities. One of them is Vinné Castle that overlooks the nearby village of Vinné. Vinné Castle was probably built in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century in order to protect a road leading to Poland. The castles in Brekov and Jasenov served similar purposes. In the past, the village of Vinné, as well as its surroundings was a property of the noblemen from Michalovce and comprised a part of their dominion. Various battles and conquests in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries repeatedly damaged the castle. Later the castle was reconstructed by the Sztáray family. However, in the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century



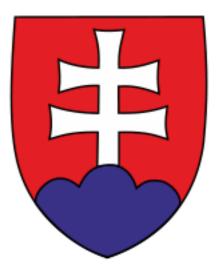
the family left this inconvenient residence to build a new manor house in the village. In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century the castle was demolished and remains a ruin to the present day. Another major cultural heritage site is the first stone-built church in the village of Ruská, the Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross dating back to the period of 1150 - 1200. The Romanesque church was extended in the 14<sup>th</sup> century with a Gothic tower. The present day form of the church is the result of a reconstruction carried out in 1914 - 1922.



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#### SLOVAKIA - UKRAINE: COOPERATION ACROSS THE BORDER SLOVENSKO - UKRAJINA: SPOLUPRÁCA NAPRIEČ HRANICOU

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