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 **BRATISLAVA**



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GOOD IDEA



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BRATISLAVA



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WELCOME TO BRATISLAVA

Bratislava is the only capital in the world located on the border of three sovereign states – Slovakia, Austria and Hungary. Besides its strategic location on the River Danube, the city takes pride in its rich history. The first Celtic oppidum was founded here in the 2nd century BC. The location at the intersection of two important historical trade routes, the Danube and Amber Roads, highly influenced the development of trade and handicraft. For 247 years was Bratislava the capital of the Hungarian Kingdom (1536 – 1783) and for 267 years also the coronation city (1563 - 1830). It experi-

enced rapid growth under the reign of Maria Theresia crowned the Hungarian queen in 1741 and the Bratislava Castle became a representative royal seat. Not only the Castle, but also the newly built aristocratic Baroque and Rococo palaces enjoyed bustling political, social and cultural life enriched by visits of musical genii, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Joseph Haydn or Franz Liszt. After the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989, Bratislava started to profile as a modern European metropolis and an attractive tourist destination.

BASIC INFORMATION

Location: 65 km far from Vienna, 200 km from Budapest and 330 km from Prague. The largest airport in Central Europe, Vienna International, is 40 minutes away from Bratislava city centre by car, and the Bratislava Airport of M.R. Štefánik only 15 minutes away. **Area:** 367,6 km²

Population: 429 564 (2017)

Currency: EURO

Unique history,
attractive sights, rich
cultural life, excellent local
gastronomy, quality wine and
modern shopping centres
make Bratislava
an ideal city-break
destination.



1.

Bratislava Castle

← The former seat of the rulers, today the symbol of Bratislava and the seat of the Museum of History. There is a wonderful view of the city and the neighbouring countries from its 47-metre-high crown tower in which royal coronation jewels used to be deposited.



3.

Old Town Hall

↑ The former seat of the city self-government is since 1868 the seat of the Bratislava City Museum, the oldest museum in Slovakia. After climbing up the narrow stairs leading to its 45-metre-high tower you will be rewarded with a beautiful panoramic view of the Old Town.



2.

St. Martin's Cathedral

↑ A three-nave Gothic church from the 15th century and the former coronation church. A gilded replica of the coronation crown fixed on the top of the cathedral tower at a height of 85 metres and weighing 150 kg reminds of this glorious age.

4.

Primate's Palace

← A Classicist palace built in the 18th century in which the Peace of Pressburg was signed after Napoleon's victory at the Battle of Austerlitz between the representatives of the French and Austrian emperors. The Palace houses a gallery depositing a unique collection of six English tapestries from the 17th century and also serves as the seat of the Mayor of Bratislava.



5.

Michael's Gate

← The only preserved gate of the city fortification system dates back to the 14th century. The upper terrace of its 51-metre-high tower provides an enchanting view of the Bratislava Castle and the Old Town. The tower houses the Museum of Arms.



6.

Grassalkovich Palace

➤ A Rococo summer palace from the 18th century used to be known for its rich social life and a famous composer Joseph Haydn also performed here. Since 1996 it serves as the seat of the President of the Slovak Republic.

7.

Blue Church

→ The St. Elizabeth's church built in the Art Nouveau style at the beginning of the 20th century is remarkable for the blue colour of its façade made with attention to detail with often use of mosaic. It is a popular place for weddings and baptisms.



8.

Slavín

→ The largest war memorial in Central Europe is thanks to its height of 52 metres one of the dominating features of the city skyline. It is the burial ground of 6845 soldiers of the Soviet army who died during the liberation of Bratislava in World War II.



9.

Synagogue

→ The synagogue was constructed in 1923 - 1926 in the Cubist style according to the plans of the architect Artur Szalatnai-Slatinský. The permanent exhibition of the Jewish Community Museum is installed upstairs and is open to the public during the summer season.



10.

UFO

← A unique observation deck on the pylons of the SNP Bridge at a height of 95 metres with amazing views of the city and visibility of up to 100 km. It offers the most beautiful sunset combined with a culinary experience.



Devín Castle

↑ A castle ruin built on a high rock towering above the confluence of the Danube and Morava rivers is one of the most important historical and archaeological localities in Central Europe. Moreover, it offers enchanting natural scenery with unrepeatable views.



Bratislava Statues

→ Bratislava's statues are among the most photographed attractions of the city. You can spot an elegant guy Schöne Náci, the curious Čumil, Napoleon casually leaning on a bench, or the statue of H. Ch. Andersen.





For sights and attractions see the map on the inside back cover.



CORONATION CITY

The past ...

Short after the Battle of Mohács (1526), ancient Prešporok (present-day Bratislava) became an administrative and later, between 1563 and 1830, also a coronation city of the Kingdom of Hungary and the seat of the king and the archbishop. Ten kings, one queen and eight royal wives from the Habsburg Dynasty were crowned in the St. Martin's Cathedral. Maria Theresa was the only ruling monarch crowned with all honours and ceremonies, namely on 25 June 1741. Under her reign the city enjoyed a construction boom and rich cultural life. She ordered to build a baroque palace Theresianum into the existing castle palace for her son-in-law Duke Albert of

Saxe-Teschen, governor of Hungary, who was a big art lover. The works collected on the Bratislava Castle served as the basis for the collection of the Albertina Museum in Vienna.

... and the present

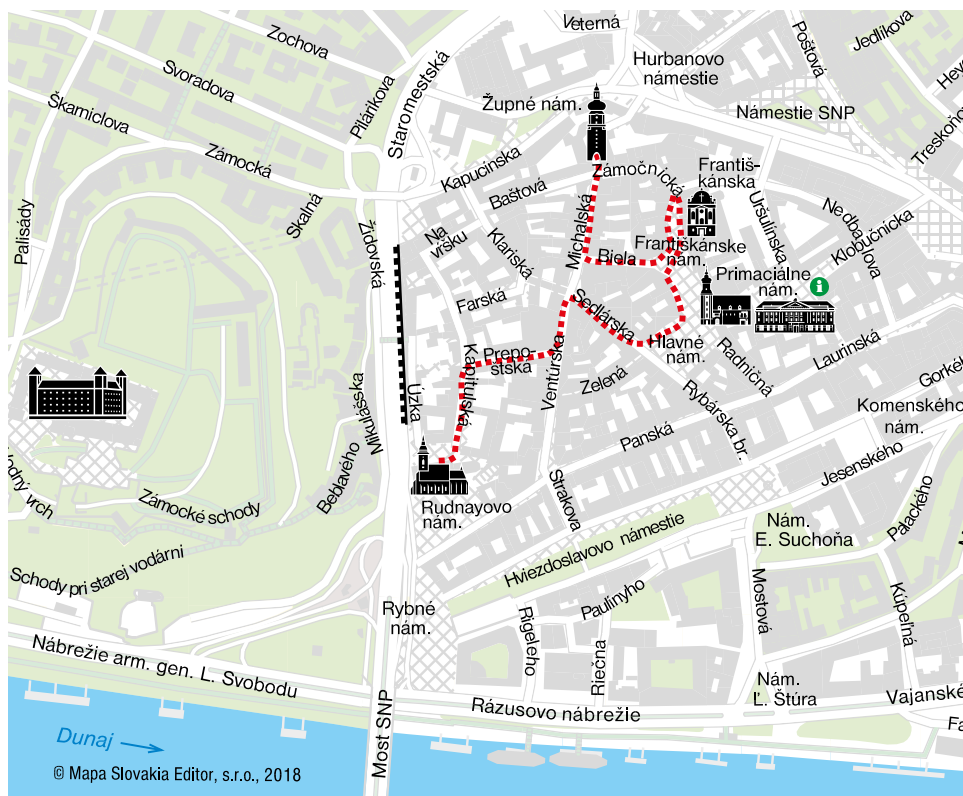
The coronation tradition comes to life every year in June for one whole week. A series of events with a rich program is a unique experience for adults and children alike. The Coronation Festival also includes a celebration of Maria Theresa's favourite wine – the Festival of Fränkisch. During the coronation all fountains were filled with wine and this custom continues to this day.

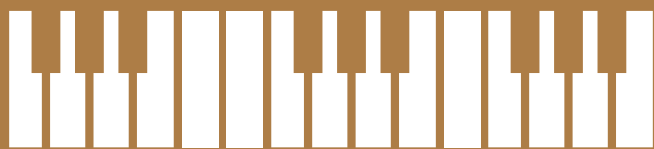






Follow the route of the coronation procession of Hungarian rulers commemorated with 178 crown-shaped brass plaques set into the pavement.





CITY OF MUSIC

Bratislava is rightly considered the city of music. In the past, musical geniuses such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Joseph Haydn, Ludwig van Beethoven, Anton Grigorievič Rubinstein, Franz Liszt or a Bratislava native son and brilliant pianist Johann Nepomuk Hummel used to demonstrate their musical talent here. Antonio Salieri and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy also honoured Bratislava with their visits. While wandering around the Old Town, do not forget to notice several commemorative plaques placed on the walls of palaces connecting the city with all those representatives of classical music. The current opera ensemble gained the Slovak National Theatre a world-re-

nowned reputation due to a wide range of quality classical performances featuring opera stars such as Peter Dvorský, Lucia Popp, Edita Grúberová, Adriana Kučerová and others. The Slovak Philharmonic situated in the Reduta building has been the centre of musical life in Bratislava for more than six decades.

To the most prestigious classical music events held in Bratislava throughout the year belong Bratislava Music Festival, Convergence Chamber Music Festival and Viva Musica! Festival. Jazz lovers should not miss Bratislava jazz days, which is one of the largest events of this kind in the Central Europe.



Visit the Museum of Johann Nepomuk Hummel housed in a small garden house at Klobučnická Street.





For those who wish to learn more about the city's musical history, a guided walking tour Musical Bratislava is an ideal choice.



CITY OF MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Museums


Bratislava is home to 30 specialized museums. In the City History Museum situated in the Old Town Hall you can find out more about the city history and the daily life of its inhabitants from prehistoric times until the end of the 1930s, while the Museum of History in Bratislava Castle documents history and the ethno-cultural development of the Slovaks, as well as a rich numismatic collection from ancient times to the present.

Galleries

Bratislava is the perfect destination for visual art lovers. Rich collections ranging from medieval to contemporary art are on display in the Bratislava City Gallery and the Slovak National Gallery in their

permanent expositions and temporary exhibitions. There you can also discover several plaster and bronze casts of the Character heads made by the sculptor Franz Xaver Messerschmidt during his stay in Bratislava. The only preserved original, the bust of the Capuchin, is exhibited in the Bratislava City Gallery in the Mirbach Palace.

Best examples of Slovak modern art can be seen in the Nedbalka Gallery with the interior layout similar to the Guggenheim Museum in New York. Less than 20 kilometres away from the city centre is the Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum, one of the youngest European museums of modern art, offering a unique symbiosis of works of art, modern architecture and surrounding nature.

A high-angle, wide shot of a modern art gallery. The space is characterized by a central spiral staircase with white, curved railings that descend from the top level. The floor is made of light-colored wood with a herringbone pattern. The walls are white and feature several framed landscape paintings. A large, circular skylight with a geometric pattern is visible at the top of the frame, and a smaller, similar skylight is visible at the bottom of the spiral. A few people are seen on different levels, including a woman in the foreground on the left and a man in the middle ground. A grey circular overlay in the top right corner contains text.

Admire and relax
with a good cup
of coffee in the
Gallery Nedbalka.

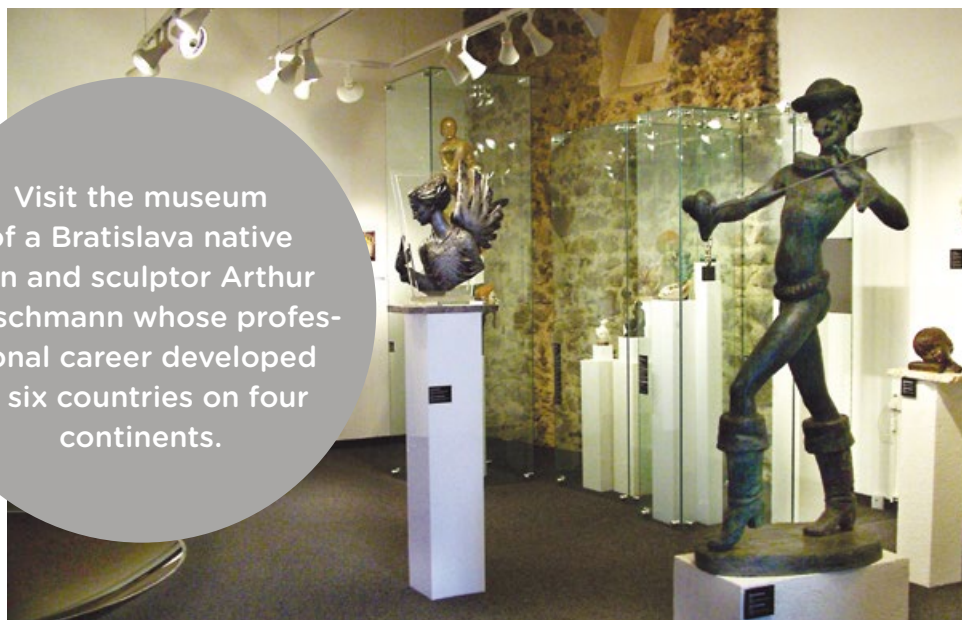


The life and work of
F.X. Messerschmidt in
Bratislava can be remem-
bered in a cafe bearing
his name.





A boat trip to Danubiana or a walk through The Passage by Matej Krén in the Pálffy Palace are an unforgettable experience.



Visit the museum of a Bratislava native son and sculptor Arthur Fleischmann whose professional career developed in six countries on four continents.



FAMILY-FRIENDLY CITY

Are you planning a family holiday in Bratislava or are you already here? No problem! The city offers various activities allowing your children to have fun while learning something new. Bratislava has a number of significant public green areas to explore. Sad Janka Kráľa, the oldest public park in Central Europe, is only a short walk from the city centre and during the summer months there is a popular artificial beach with many attractions open in its immediate vicinity. The public transportation system will conveniently take you to the nearby parks Horský Park and Bratislavský lesopark (Bratislava Forest Park). In the latter there are various sporting facilities and possibilities for fishing and rowing waiting for you, or let a cable car take you

up the Kamzík Hill where you can test your courage on the high ropes course or by a ride on a summer bobsleigh track. Because all children love animals, a visit to the Bratislava ZOO is always a good idea. It is home to 178 animal species and a unique exposition of Mesozoic reptiles, DinoPark, can be also found on its premises. Creative children can improve their skills in the International House of Art for Children – Bibiana, while older children will be captivated by an exposition of the Museum of Transport. An indoor centre FUNCITY in the Cubicon Gallery with many slides, climbing frames and other surprises is a good choice to amuse children especially when the weather is not so favourable. Similar facilities can also be found in the shopping centres.







A rich collection of vehicles ranging from bicycles to locomotives can be admired in the Museum of Transport.









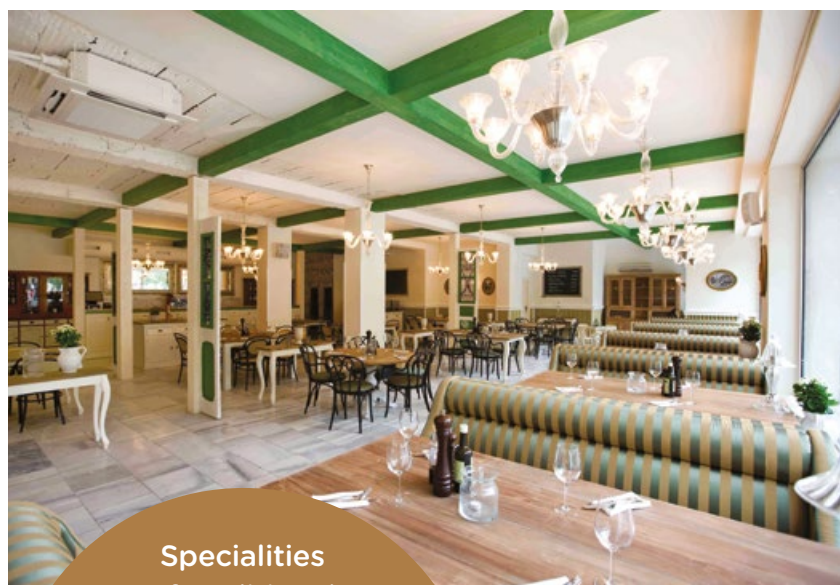
Bratislava is justifiably proud of its unique gastronomy heavily influenced by Slovak, Austrian and Hungarian cuisines. Restaurants and wine pubs serving traditional Slovak dishes such as bryndzové halušky (potato dumplings with sheep cheese), lokše (potato dough pancakes), roasted goose or duck, are an integral part of the city. Good food and good beer belong together and exquisite local beer made according to the traditional Pressburg recipes is offered in several brewery restaurants. Bratislava rolls made from butter pastry with nut or poppy filling are definitely the most famous local dessert. A pleasant

smell of a wide range of local delicacies is a magnet for all visitors of the annual Christmas markets. Bratislava's culinary palette cannot be complete without trendy restaurants with international cuisine that recently popped up in the historic city centre as well as in the Eurovea shopping centre set by the River Danube.

Dinner with a view

Those who would like to combine tasty food with panoramic views of the city should not miss the chance to visit the restaurants such as UFO.watch.taste.groove, Altitude Restaurant or Sky bar.





Specialities of traditional Pressburg and Slovak cuisines are offered in restaurants Zylinder, Bratislavská reštaurácia, Hradná hviezda, Modrá hviezda, Savoy and others.





Source: Altitude Restaurant



Try real Bratislava rolls with a good cup of coffee in cafes Kaffee Mayer, F. X. Messerschmidt and Zeppelin Café.

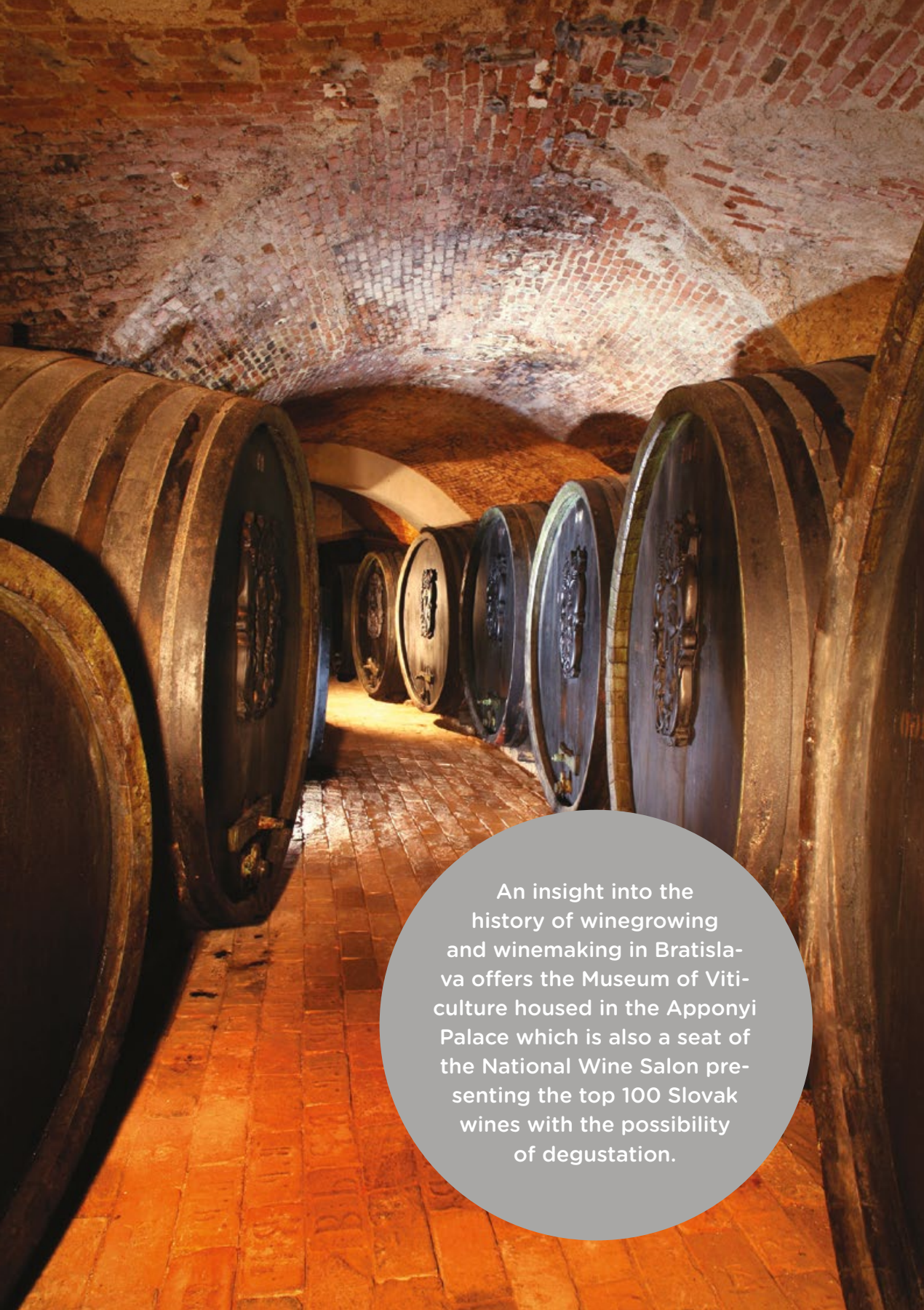


CITY OF QUALITY WINE

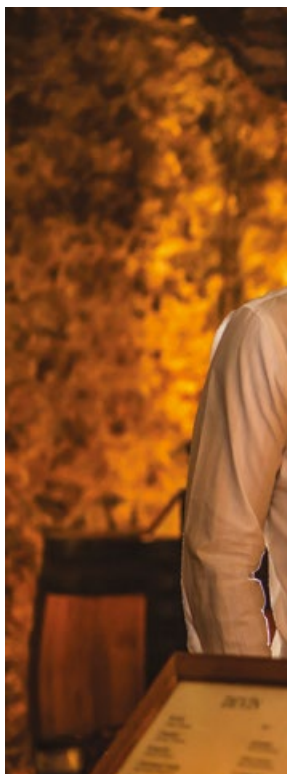


The history of winegrowing on the territory of present-day Bratislava dates back to the 3rd century AD and is attributed to the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius. In the mid-19th century two important wine companies were based in Bratislava - Hubert and Palugyay. Still and sparkling wines of the Chateau Palugyay wine brand were enjoyed by members of social elites all over the world, and so deservedly called royal. They were even served on board the Titanic. Maria Theresa's favourite wine Račianska frankovka could never be absent from the emperor's table. The nearby Little Carpathians winegrowing region has an excellent climate conditions for the production of white wines

such as Rhine Riesling, Grüner Veltiner, Chardonnay or new local grape varieties Devín and Pálava. Red wine grape varieties grown here are Blaufränkisch, Cabernet Sauvignon, Alibernet, Dunaj and Blauer Portugieser. International prizes won in world's prestigious contests such as Concours Mondial de Bruxelles and Vinalies Internationales in Paris guarantee the high quality of wines produced in the Little Carpathians winegrowing region. The Bratislava neighbourhood Devín is famous for the production of traditional currant wine made from black and red currants which can be tasted in every local wine pub.



An insight into the history of winegrowing and winemaking in Bratislava offers the Museum of Viticulture housed in the Apponyi Palace which is also a seat of the National Wine Salon presenting the top 100 Slovak wines with the possibility of degustation.





An unforgettable experience and authentic atmosphere - this is what the traditional grape harvest festivals are about.





Volkswagen Slovakia

The Bratislava plant in Devínska Nová Ves is the only automobile production plant in the world that manufactures vehicles of five brands under one roof (Volkswagen, Audi, Porsche, Škoda and Seat). Watch the cars being produced on a commented guided tour and the more courageous ones can try an adrenaline ride in Volkswagen Touareg on a unique off-road track.

White Water Sport Area Divoká voda

The water sport complex in Čunovo built on an artificial canal of the River Danube offers a great opportunity to test your courage and skills not only by traditional adrenaline water activities such as

rafting and jet skiing but also by paintball or four-wheel riding.

A journey back in time through the socialist-era monuments

Distinctive socialist architecture has significantly changed the face of the city and influenced everyday life of its inhabitants. Large-scale housing estates are perhaps the best examples of Socialist realism although they used to be downgraded and unflatteringly called "dormitories." The largest housing estate is Petržalka situated on the right bank of the River Danube with more than 100,000 inhabitants. Since 1989 the housing estates have been transformed to modern, comfortable and functional places to live, work, shop and relax.



See the most important sights of socialist architecture during a ride in a legendary Czechoslovak car Škoda 110 or a retro bus Karosa Škoda.



Learn about daily life in bunkers of the former defence system in Petržalka during the hour-and-a-half-long excursion in a military car GAZ 69.

Bunkers in Petržalka

Still rather unknown historic attraction is located in Petržalka neighbourhood just a stone's throw from the former Iron Curtain. Several military bunkers from the original fortification system built in 1938 now house the Museum of Petržalka Fortification. The Museum with preserved original equipment documents history and the defence system of pre-war Czechoslovakia as well as the daily life of soldiers of the border guard.







After the sun goes down, Bratislava truly comes alive. You can start soaking up its evening atmosphere in one of many cosy little cafes set in the historic city centre. During the summer months let yourself be lured by restaurants found on every corner and make yourself comfortable on their terraces to enjoy the culinary delicacies or a glass of quality wine from the Little Carpathians vineyards. A not-to-be-missed experience for true romantics

is an unforgettable evening walk by the River Danube with charming views of the illuminated city dominants. The most breath-taking night views of Bratislava offer the UFO observation deck atop the SNP Bridge and the revolving restaurant Altitude situated in a television tower. Whether you are a music lover or just want to party all night long, there is a wide range of music clubs, bars and discos to choose from.





Enjoy night-time views of city's landmarks during a sight-seeing tour.





SELECTED EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

January - February

Bratislava ball and carnival season

March

Permanent expositions of museums and galleries

April

ČSOB Bratislava Marathon
Devín – Bratislava Run
Easter in Bratislava
Bratislava City Days

May

May Festival
Slovak Food Festival
Napoleon's Siege of Bratislava
Night of Museums and Galleries

June

Bratislava Coronation Days
Festival of Fränkisch
The Cultural Summer and Castle Festival
Castle Festival (*June – September*)
Street Art Festival
Gourmet fest

July

Viva Musica! Festival (*July – August*)
Cathedral Organ Festival (*July – August*)
Summer Shakespeare Festival

August

Days of craftsmen ÚLUV
Knights at Devín
Uprising Reggae Festival

September

Bratislava Music Festival
Grape Harvest Festival in Rača
Roman Games in Gerulata - Rusovce
Convergences Festival

October

Bratislava Jazz Days
Bratislava Mozart Festival
International Festival of Contemporary Dance

November

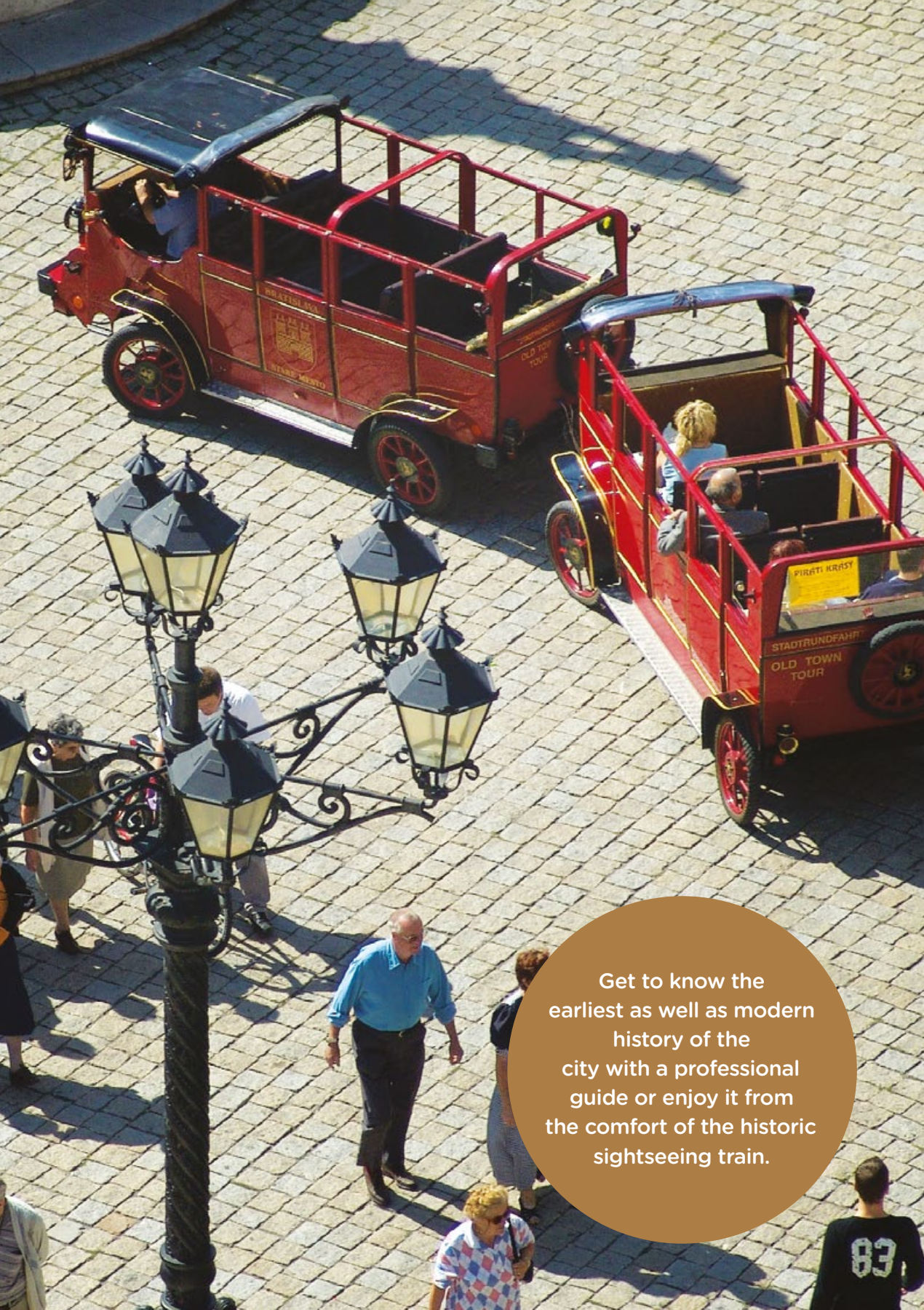
Month of Photography
St. Martin's Days – The Festival of Young Wine
International Film Festival
Christmas Markets (*November – December*)

December

International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music
New Year's Eve Run across Bratislava's Bridges
New Year's Eve in the City







Get to know the earliest as well as modern history of the city with a professional guide or enjoy it from the comfort of the historic sightseeing train.

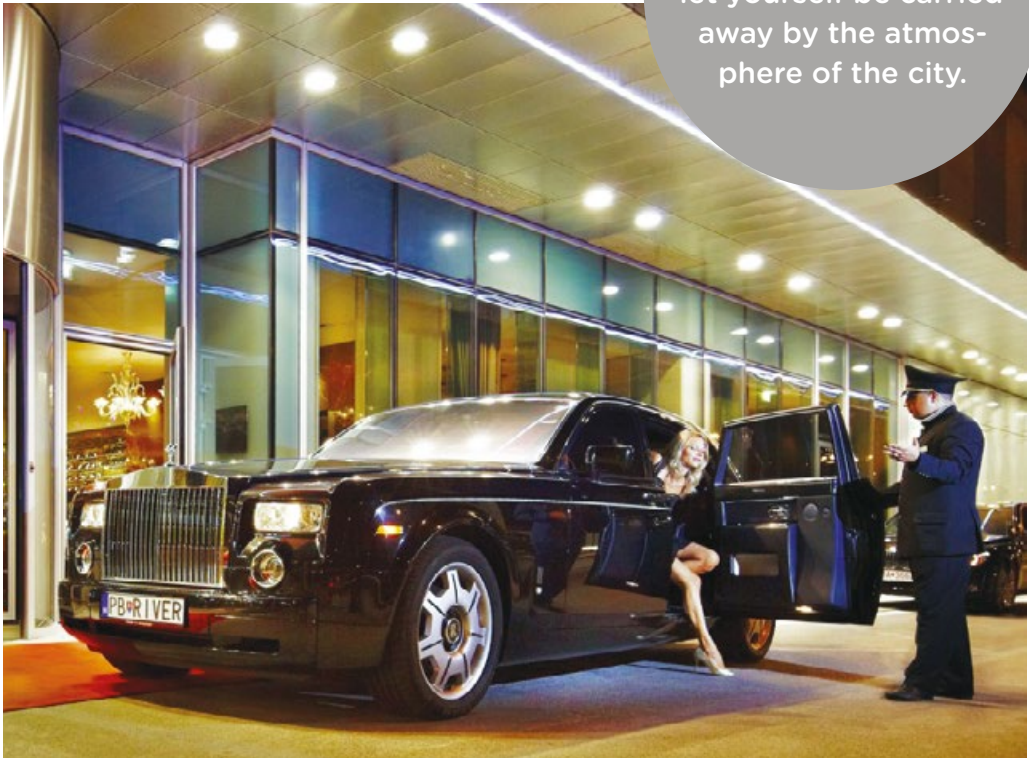


Bratislava currently has more than 120 accommodation facilities. Renowned hotel chains such as Marriot, Radisson Hotel Group, IHG, Accor, Hilton Worldwide, Austria Trend Hotels, Falkensteiner Hotels & Residences, Lindner, NH Hotels, or Vienna House have discovered Bratislava as a modern and charming city. Thanks to its excellent location on the border of three countries and one- to three-hour flight time from most European cities, Bratislava is an ideal

place to host conferences and incentives. Bratislava's four- and five-star hotels offer fully technically equipped conference and meeting premises. More information on accommodation facilities in the city can be found on www.visit-bratislava.com or www.bratislavahotels.com. For those who are unable to book accommodation prior to their arrival to the city, it can be easily arranged at the tourist information centres.



Take advantage of hotel packages and let yourself be carried away by the atmosphere of the city.





Bratislava CARD

City&Region



www.visitbratislava.com

- Unlimited use of public transport in Bratislava and the Bratislava Region
- Free admission to 14 museums and galleries in the city and region
- Free guided walking tour of the city centre daily at 2 PM
- More than 100 other attractive discounts of up to 50 %
- Information and online sale at visitbratislava.com/bc

www.visitbratislava.com



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