

# WELCOME TO BANSKÁ BYSTRICA



*Discover, experience, taste ...*

**visit**   
BANSKÁ BYSTRICA



**Discover the city in the heart of Slovakia embraced by mountains!** Enter and learn about the mining history of the medieval royal town or experience the vividness of the developing metropolis. Plunge into the charming atmosphere of picturesque streets, reveal the secrets of hidden courtyards and taste some local specialities. You can look forward to a warm welcome and unforgettable experiences. You can look forward to a city with a heart.

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Banská Bystrica at night

## LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

Ideal location with excellent access. Choose between the express road R1 which brings you directly to the gates of our city and the comfort of trains. Do you want to get here in a quicker and more comfortable way? You can get off a plane at Sliač Airport just a few kilometres away from Banská Bystrica. We are right in the centre of Slovakia! Water activities, mountains, culture and historic sites - everything is close from here. There is plenty of inspiration for trips and roaming around.

**Area:** 103.4 km<sup>2</sup>

**Altitude:** 362 m

**Population:** 78 724

**Coordinates** (Slovak National Uprising Square):  
48° 44' 74" N, 19° 08' 94" E

### PLANE

**1** The international Sliač airport is situated just outside the city and guarantees comfortable access.

Sliač Airport  
962 31 Sliač  
Tel.: +421 (0)45 / 544 33 23

### BUS

**2** SAD Banská Bystrica

Open daily:  
7.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.  
Information: +421 (0)850 / 111 010  
Dispatching: +421 (0)48 / 414 54 26

### TRAIN

**3** If you prefer travelling by rail, you can use new modern trains that will bring you to one of the railway stations within the city.

Tel.: +421 (0)48 / 229 64 73  
Non-stop info: 18 188

### URBAN MASS TRANSIT

Banská Bystrica Transportation Company, dispatching:  
+421 (0)48 / 410 13 03

### TAXI

Expres taxi: +421 (0)48 / 18 111  
VIP taxi: +421 (0)800 500 123  
CITY taxi: +421 (0)48 / 160 00  
ABC taxi: +421 (0)48 / 415 1515  
BB TAXI: +421 (0)48 / 411 5757  
FUN taxi: +421 (0)48 / 16 777  
One taxi: +421 (0)905 442 544

### CAR RENTAL

Are you planning some trips around the area? In the city you can find several car rental companies to give you the independence and freedom you need when planning your stay.

Alwe – rentacar: [www.rentacarbb.sk](http://www.rentacarbb.sk)  
Autonovo: [www.autonovo.sk](http://www.autonovo.sk)  
BB Car: [www.bbcar.sk](http://www.bbcar.sk)  
Lion Car – second-hand cars:  
[www.lioncar.sk](http://www.lioncar.sk)  
Rai Internacional: [www.rai.sk](http://www.rai.sk)

### TIP:

During the tourist season you can try a guided train ride which will take you through all the historic monuments and interesting sights in the city.



Touring train





Town Castle Barbakan

## HISTORY

Discover the secrets of the city with a royal history! Let yourself be guided through centuries with stories of burgher houses, majestic churches, magnificent castle area and citadels. Learn how we used to be the “copper” city with a rich mining history and a centre of resistance during the Slovak National Uprising. And do not miss the historic square with splendid renaissance houses turned into museums and modern architecture, original in its atypical design and creativity.

## JEWELS OF THE CASTLE AREA

**4 Matej's House**, which attracts attention with its height – it has five floors – was built in the second half of the 15th century. It is integrated into a miner's bastion and on the facade of the building there is a coat of arms of the King Matthias Corvinus and his wife Beatrix. Today it houses an interesting exhibition of the Central-Slovakian Museum on the history of Banská Bystrica.

**1** **Námestie Štefana Moyses** 20  
[www.stredoslovenskemuzeum.sk](http://www.stredoslovenskemuzeum.sk)  
**Open:** June – September: Mon - Fri  
 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m., Sun 10.00 a.m.  
 - 12.00 noon, 1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.  
 October – May: Mon - Fri 8.00 a.m. -  
 4.00 p.m., Sun 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon,  
 1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

**5 The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary**, built in the 13th century on the basis of a Romance basilique, is the oldest building not only within the castle area but in the whole city. This church is home to the real jewels of Gothic art in Slovakia: A copper baptismal font, the altar in the Chapel of St. Barbara made by Master Paul of Levoča, and a unique sculpture of Jesus on the Mount of Olives situated in the niche on the South facade of the church.

**1** **Námestie Štefana Moyses** 1

**6 The Praetorium**, built around 1500, used to be the municipal seat.

Besides Gothic elements it also has some Renaissance elements - among the most interesting is the loggia with cross-arched vault on the first floor - and some traces of Baroque reconstruction in 18th century. Today the building serves as an exhibition area of the Central-Slovakian Gallery.

**1** **Námestie Štefana Moyses** 25  
[www.ssgbb.sk](http://www.ssgbb.sk), **Open:** Tue - Fri 10.00  
 a.m. - 5.00 p.m., Sat - Sun 10.00 a.m. -  
 4.00 p.m.



The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary

**7 Barbakan** - The castle area used to be entered through a drawbridge over a moat. The construction of the castle was finished in 1512 with the construction of a barbican around a town tower with three bells. The heaviest weighs around one tonne. Currently the premises are home to a stylish café and restaurant; these genuinely historical premises also create the perfect atmosphere for concerts and other social events.

**1** **Barbakan Cofee & Restaurant**  
 Námestie Štefana Moyses 26  
[www.bystrickybarbakan.sk](http://www.bystrickybarbakan.sk)  
**Open:** Mo - Fri 7.30 a.m. - 11.00 p.m.,  
 Sat 8.00 a.m. - 12.00 midnight, Sun  
 9.00 a.m. - 11.00 p.m.

## DOMINANT FEATURES OF THE SLOVAK NATIONAL UPRISING SQUARE

**8 Clock Tower** - This dominant feature of the square is situated in its upper part; it was built in the middle of 16th century and most definitely attracts many tourists. From the gallery, 20 m above the square, you can admire a beautiful panorama of the mountains around the city and the nearby streets. The tower is nicknamed "Leaning" due to its tilt of 68 cm, and you can get to its top by climbing 101 stairs.

**1** *Námestie SNP 24*

### TIP:

Tired after climbing up and down the Clock Tower, you will surely appreciate a refreshing scoop of ice-cream.



SNP Square

**9 Church of St. Francis Xavier** - The collegiate church, today also known as the Cathedral, was built at the beginning of the 18th century. The layout of the church was inspired by the Jesuit Church of the Gesù in Rome. The interior of the Cathedral was designed in line with the liturgical reforms from the Second Vatican Council and was renovated in 2001.

**10 The Stone Fountain** - Although the history of the fountain reaches back to the 16th century, its current and unique form only came into being in the first half of the 20th century. Today it is an important part of the historic centre and a source of refreshing water during warm summer days. After an overall reconstruction in 2009 it now attracts attention using sound effects as well as a light show of changing colours.



The Marian Column

**11 The Marian Column** - In 1719 a column with a statue of the Virgin Mary on a polygonal pedestal was built on the square in front of the Clock Tower, as a gesture of gratefulness for the end of the Great Plague epidemic.

### DID YOU KNOW THAT?

The surroundings of the Marian Column are a geomantic site. It is a site of extreme force that will fill you with positive energy. The strongest force field is on the spot where the statue is looking.

**12 The black Granite Obelisk** dates from 1945. It is a memorial to Soviet and Romanian soldiers who died while liberating Banská Bystrica during World War II.

## NOBILITY OF THE BURGHER HOUSES

**13 The Town Hall building** was built in the 15th century by joining two separate Gothic houses and has served as the municipal seat for almost a quarter of a millennium. Several precious items are preserved here: a beautiful Neo-Baroque copper chandelier, an original door with the year of its origin - 1698 - stamped on it, valuable frescos and vaults. Currently you can also find the tourist office for Banská Bystrica located here as well.

**1** *Tourist office BB, Námestie SNP 1, [www.icbb.sk](http://www.icbb.sk). Open: May – October: Mon - Fri 9.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m., Sat 9.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m., Sun 2.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m., November – April: Mon - Fri 9.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m., Sat 9.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m., Sun closed*

**14 Thurzo's House**, which became the seat of the Thurzo-Fugger Company in 1495, is famous for its renaissance sgraffito facade and "Green Room" with precious fresco decoration. Nowadays it houses one of the exhibitions of the Central-Slovakian Museum.

**1** *Nám. SNP č. 4 [www.stredoslovenskemuzeum.sk](http://www.stredoslovenskemuzeum.sk) Open: June – September: Mon - Fri 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m., Sun 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon, 1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m., October – May: Mon - Fri 8.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., Sun 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon, 1.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.*

**15 Bethlen's House** is remarkable mainly due to the historical events which took place here: In 1620 the

Hungarian Assembly met here to elect Gabriel Bethlen, Prince of Transylvania and a leader of an anti-Habsburg uprising, as the King of Hungary. Today it is part of the Central-Slovakian Gallery which regularly hosts various exhibitions here, mostly focused on modern and contemporary art.

**i** Dolná 8, [www.ssgbb.sk](http://www.ssgbb.sk), **Open:** Tue - Fri 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m., Sat - Sun 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

### NOTE:

Above the entrance portal of the house at no. 29 in Dolná Street you will find a relief with a bizarre bird, its chest shaped as a human head, which is pecking its own nose.

**16 Benický's House** - The most characteristic element of this house - an open arcade loggia with six arches on stone columns entwined with vine - was built by Tomáš Benický, who bought the house in 1656 and whose name the house now bears. Its other owner - Ladislav Szentiványi - had a coat of arms placed above the entrance portal, with miners in traditional costumes on the sides.

**i** Námestie SNP 16



The Slovak National Uprising Memorial

## MODERN ARCHITECTURE

**17 The Villa of Dominik Skutecký** - A work of Dominik Skutecký, one of the most important representatives of realistic painting in Central Europe at the turn of the 20th century, is presented in his family villa in Horná Street 55, and was built by the painter according to his own design in a Neo-Renaissance style at the end of the 19th century.

**i** Horná 55, [www.ssgbb.sk](http://www.ssgbb.sk)  
**Open:** Tue - Sat 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.  
Sun - Mon closed

**18 The Slovak National Uprising Memorial** - The combination of a memorial and a museum housed in a monumental building was finished in 1969. The architectonically impressive building has a partition in the middle, which according to the architect Dušan Kuzma symbolises the fissure, tragic story and fight between the two sides during World War II. Inside both of the concrete "shells" you will find the Museum of the Slovak National Uprising.

**i** Kapitulská 23, [www.muzeumsnp.sk](http://www.muzeumsnp.sk)  
**Open:** Daily except for Monday: May - September: 9.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.  
October - April: 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

### TIP:

Make sure not to miss the exhibition of heavy military equipment and aircraft from World War II that are situated in the park in front of the museum.



Giant puppets

## CULTURE AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Are you looking for art, are you interested in history or do you want to have fun? Certainly you will choose from the year-long list of music, dance, gastronomic, sporting and other events. Museums and galleries offer unique permanent exhibitions. And in the Town Hall and the State Science Library they will surprise you with extraordinary thematic exhibitions. Do not miss the excellent theatre performances in the State Opera, the Puppet Theatre na Rázcestí or the theatre Štúdio tanca.



**19 The Puppet Theatre na Rázcestí in Banská Bystrica** - The repertory of the Puppet Theatre na Rázcestí, which has been playing in Banská Bystrica for over fifty years, has something to offer all age groups. The theatre produces plays for children and for young people and adults, and as the first theatre in Slovakia, it has introduced an interactive theatre project for toddlers. While they prefer working with the puppets for children's productions, in the plays for adults they combine various means of expression, theatre genres and methods.

**i** Skuteckého 14, [www.bdnr.sk](http://www.bdnr.sk)

The Puppet Theatre na Rázcestí organises the biggest puppet event in Slovakia - the Bábkarská Bystrica (Puppet Bystrica) Festival. Date of the festival: September/October.



The Puppet Theatre na Rázcestí



**20 The theatre Štúdio tanca (The Dance Studio)** is a professional dance theatre which offers original projects presenting contemporary dance to the broader public. They have performed in many Slovak theatres, participated in international festivals and produced several films and documentaries.

The theatre Štúdio tanca also created a tradition of the Four (+1) Days of Dance for You Festival, where current contemporary dance projects of Slovak production or co-production are presented. The festival also includes various side events including film screenings, discussions and workshops. Date of the festival: October.

**i** Komenského 12  
[www.studiotanca.sk](http://www.studiotanca.sk)

**Municipal Theatre – Divadlo z Pasáže (Theatre from the Passage)** is the only professional community theatre in Slovakia that works on a daily basis with people with disabilities and other communities. During the sixteen years

of its existence it has developed a unique system of artistic education for the mentally disabled. Every two years it organises the International Community Theatre Festival - Arteterapia.

**i** Lazovná 21  
[www.divadlozpasaze.sk](http://www.divadlozpasaze.sk)

**21 State Opera**, created in 1959 under the name of Spevohra Divadla Jozefa Gregora Tajovského (Operetta of J. G. Tajovský), was given its big honour - the title of opera - after the creation of the Slovak Republic in 1993. The National House, built between 1927 - 1929 according to the project of the prominent Slovak architect Emil Belluš, was chosen as its headquarters. The State Opera hosts opera, operetta, musical, ballet and concerts and its repertory includes works of Slovak as well as foreign authors.

**i** Národná 11  
[www.stateopera.sk](http://www.stateopera.sk)

**22 The Central-Slovakian Gallery** focuses on presentation, research

## DID YOU KNOW THAT?

The State Opera in Banská Bystrica is the youngest and smallest opera in Slovakia. However, this does not diminish its importance, as this opera is very productive and its plays often fill in the vacancies in opera dramaturgy in Slovakia.

and the creation of a collection of modern and contemporary art. It also offers space to the new and young generations of artists. The gallery has its exhibitions in three independent buildings within the city centre: Short-term exhibitions are situated in Praetorium on the Štefan Moyses Square and in Bethlen's House in Dolná Street; the third building - the family villa of Dominik Skutecký - houses the permanent exhibition of the works of this important Slovak painter. The gallery also works with the public and its visitors through crafts and animation workshops etc.

**i** Dolná 8, [ssgbb@ssgbb.sk](mailto:ssgbb@ssgbb.sk)



Dixieland jazz festival

**14 The Central-Slovakian Museum-** has three exhibitions documenting the development of society and nature in the Banská Bystrica Region and the city itself. Within the **exhibition in Thurzo's House** on Slovak National Uprising Square the visitors can see several rooms dedicated to various areas of the history and culture of this region. A considerable part of the second floor is occupied by a collection of burgher furniture, ethnographic materials and a new exhibition on mining. The exhibition also includes the "Green Room" in Thurzo's House with precious mural paintings from the end of the 15th century.

**4 In Matej's House** within the castle area, a treasury has been created of the most precious collections. You can find here a replica of a traditional Slavic half-buried house, a collection of medieval tiles and cold weapons. There are also rooms dedicated to the important personalities of Banská



Exposition in Matej's House



State Science Library

Bystrica and a collection of over 700 items presenting the rich history of crafts. The exhibition of Gothic sculpture and painting contains unique objects of Slovak and European importance.

**23** The exhibition **Nature of Central Slovakia in the Tihány Manor House** in Radvaň is divided by topics into eight rooms. The animals, plants, rocks, minerals and fossils on display provide a picture of the nature of the Central Slovakia Region.

**24 County House** - In 1766 the seat of the Zvolen Parish was relocated here. Today it is the seat of the State Scientific Library and the Literary and Music Museum with three exhibitions. At the premises of the Puppet Salon, take a peek into the history and tradition of puppetry in the Region of Banská Bystrica. In the popular Musical Instruments exhibition you will have a chance to see and try out various musical instruments, and in the Museum - the House of Muses Exhibition you will find some unique

exhibits produced by important literary figures and musicians.

**i** Lazovná 9, [www.svkbb.eu](http://www.svkbb.eu)

At the end of September do not miss an important sporting event - **the Marathon of Banská Bystrica**, which is among the three most important marathons in Slovakia

**i** [www.marathonbb.com](http://www.marathonbb.com)

**18 The Slovak National Uprising Museum** - The current exhibition, situated in the premises of the Slovak National Uprising Memorial, is called "Slovakia in the Anti-Fascist Movement in Europe between 1939 - 1945" and was opened for public on 27 August 2004 to mark the 60th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising. It presents political, military and social events in the history of Slovakia between 1918 - 1948 with regard to the history of Europe.

**i** Kapitúlská 23, [www.muzeumsnp.sk](http://www.muzeumsnp.sk)

**Open:** Daily except for Monday: May - September: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., October - April: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



The Marathon of Banská Bystrica

## TIP:

**25** Not far from the city you may find the national cultural monument **Kalište** - one of the 102 towns and villages that were burnt down during WWII, but the only one that has never been reconstructed. Visit a thematic exhibition or follow a nature trail.

**i** +421 (0)918 899 430, +421 (0)918 899 413, [www.muzeumsnp.sk](http://www.muzeumsnp.sk)  
Open: Daily except for Mondays, in May - September between 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Live chess



## CALENDAR OF TOP EVENTS IN BANSKÁ BYSTRICA AND AROUND (IN 2012)

No.	TOP EVENTS - BANSKÁ BYSTRICA AND SURROUNDINGS	MONTH	LOCALITY	DESCRIPTION
1	<b>BANSKOBYSTRICKÁ STOPA</b> (The Snow Track of Banská Bystrica)	January	Králiky	sports event for cross-country skiing lovers
2	<b>EUROPA SC HIGH JUMP – BANSKOBYSTRICKÁ LATKA</b>	February	Banská Bystrica	international indoor athletic meeting -high jump competition
3	<b>VISEGRAD CUP</b> <b>SLOVAK SLED DOG CHAMPIONSHIP</b>	February	Králiky	sports and social event
4	<b>MUSIC SPRING OF BANSKÁ BYSTRICA</b>	March – June	Banská Bystrica	classical music concerts
5	<b>SPRING AT THE SQUARE</b>	March – April	Banská Bystrica	programme based on folk Easter traditions, Easter market, presentation of folk crafts
6	<b>INTERNATIONAL DIXIELAND FESTIVAL</b>	May	Banská Bystrica	UNITED EUROPE JAZZ FESTIVAL Banská Bystrica – Hradec Králové – Šalgotárján – Zakopané
7	<b>GRILLIADA</b>	May	Banská Bystrica	gastronomy festival focused on grilling
8	<b>CULTURAL SUMMER OF BANSKÁ BYSTRICA</b>	June – September	Banská Bystrica	holiday music and cultural programme
9	<b>INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL ARTETERAPIA: FREEDOM 2012</b>	June	Banská Bystrica	international festival of community art with the theme of home and liberty
10	<b>BANSKÁ BYSTRICA DAYS</b>	June	Banská Bystrica	municipal days with a rich cultural programme
11	<b>YOUTH MULTIMEDIA FESTIVAL YNÍ VÍKEND</b>	June	Banská Bystrica	a multimedia youth festival
12	<b>OUTBREAK 8!</b>	June	Banská Bystrica	an international hip hop festival
13	<b>INTERNATIONAL AVIATION DAYS SIAF</b>	September	Sliac	an excellent aviation show featuring pilots and aircraft from Slovakia and abroad
14	<b>RADVAŇ FAIR AND FOLK CRAFTS MARKET</b>	September	Banská Bystrica	a traditional fair in Banská Bystrica preserving past traditions, values and the skills of the craftsmen in a mining town
15	<b>BARBAKAN FESTIVAL</b>	September	Banská Bystrica	a unique combination of film, music, visual and literary art
16	<b>MARATHON OF BANSKÁ BYSTRICA</b>	September	Banská Bystrica	a sports event
17	<b>PUPPET BYSTRICA</b>	September – October	Banská Bystrica	the biggest puppet event in Slovakia
18	<b>GITARIÁDA (Guitar Competition)</b>	September – October	Banská Bystrica	a competition between guitar and bass guitar players from Slovakia and the Czech Republic
19	<b>MUSIC AUTUMN OF BANSKÁ BYSTRICA</b>	October – December	Banská Bystrica	a cycle of classical music concerts
20	<b>CHRISTMAS IN BANSKÁ BYSTRICA</b>	December	Banská Bystrica	a sparkling Christmas tree, the square with many stands, programme from 30 November till Epiphany, New Year's Eve programme and welcoming of the New Year

The programme may be subject to change. More about the events on [www.visitbb.sk](http://www.visitbb.sk)



Banská Bystrica Days

## TRADITIONS AND CRAFTS

You will see that we are a city which honours its folk and crafts traditions. Take the opportunity to get acquainted with the precious heritage of our ancestors via attractive performances of local folk groups or a crafts market, where you may find stylish wood carvings, textiles and bee products, among others. Try out and learn the crafts of our ancestors in workshops that are open all-year-round.

### MARKETS

During the year there are several markets organized in Banská Bystrica, where folk arts and crafts products and traditional gastronomic specialties are combined with history, entertainment and a cultural programme.

With the start of spring, new life and Easter the city centre is transformed into a colourful marketplace. You may find in this market a wide range of traditional products, including



Easter market

Easter whips and decorations used by girls to reward boys for a symbolic whipping and soaking on Easter to bring them health and beauty throughout the year, honey bread, corn husk dolls, flower decorations and of course, ornately decorated eggs. As if by magic, fragile egg shells turn into fabulous small pieces of art.

The largest and most well-known market in the city is the **Radvaň Fair**, which was added to the list of Slovak Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2011 due to its uniqueness. It builds on a tradition which started in

the 17th century and it is estimated that nowadays it is usually visited by over 40,000 people. Every year this famous fair presents a huge number of craftsmen who offer their home-made products. The symbol of this fair has been a wooden stirring spoon for as long as anyone can remember, which is used for competitions between boys and girls during the fair.

The year ends with the **Christmas Market** where you can enjoy the true Christmas atmosphere, with the scent of mead, mulled wine, punch and grilled sausages. The craftsmen offer various products made of wood, ceramics, leather, corn husk crèches, Christmas decorations made of glass or straw and many other practical Christmas trifles.

You do not have to buy these products made by the craftsmen themselves, you can also make them yourself! You can learn the traditional techniques used already by our great-grandparents in various courses. Here you can,



Christmas in Banská Bystrica

for example, make a wooden whistle, original clay mug, wire jewellery or a woven basket, you can learn how to weave on a loom, tie-dye or discover the secret of making bobbin lace.

#### 26 Regional ÚUV Crafts Centre

– has its seat in the city centre in a reconstructed burgher house from the first third of 16th century. Within its Crafts School, ÚUV offers several kinds of leisure activities for children and adults based on creative workshops. You can take part in its annual Open House, traditional crafts courses taught by professional craftsmen, audio-visual lectures and have a look at the exhibitions of folk art masters and designers.

**i** Dolná 14

Tel.: +421 (0)48 / 412 57 03  
www.uluv.sk



Radvaňský jarmok

Working with a potter's wheel



#### 27 Central Slovakia Cultural Centre

– One of the important activities of the Central Slovakia Cultural Centre is the Folk Crafts Workshop, created in 1993 with the aim of preserving, teaching and promoting folk crafts typical for the Upper Hron River region. Its main role is to support interest in tangible and intangible culture and its preservation, as well as in regional arts and the aesthetic education of children and the broader public. The public workshops are available in the afternoons on selected days.

**i** Dolná 35

Tel.: +421 (0)48 / 412 39 65  
www.sosbb.sk

Guilds grew in popularity in the 15th century in Banská Bystrica. These guilds unified craftsmen according to the branches of their work. They were presided over by a master. Among the first guilds created in Banská Bystrica were the guild of butchers in 1443, the guild of tailors in 1481 and a guild of cobblers one year later. In the 18th century Banská Bystrica became the main cen-



Playing the bells

tre of hat making and in Radvaň there was a famous blueprint workshop owned by the Beniačová family. Blueprint is textile dyed in ink with negative patterning in one or more colours. This technique was quite frequent in traditional clothing and today you can find this remarkable type of textile in the Central-Slovakian Museum.

Folklore



#### TIP:

In the Literary and Music Museum you can see folk musical instruments and tools related to their fabrication and use. Examples include the traditional fujara, bagpipes, heligonka, bells, various string instruments, horns, as well as whips, scourges or rattles. You can try playing the original musical instruments, participate in activities focused on rhythm and movement or test your knowledge in quizzes and competitions.

**i** Lazovná 9

www.svkbb.eu

Open: Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sat 8:00 a.m. – 12.00 noon





View from Suchý vrch Hill

## SPORT AND LEISURE

Do you want to have an active vacation? Visit the modern sport facilities within the city or choose from a number of hiking and bike routes. High quality sports facilities, modern ski centres and 200 km of well-maintained cross-country skiing tracks are all waiting just for you. Are you looking for more adrenaline? Experience rafting down the Hron River, rock-climbing or paragliding.

### 28 Do you like swimming?

Try the renovated Štiavničky swimming pool. You will find here a 50 m swimming pool, a baby pool with fountain, a relaxing whirlpool, a water slide, a steam sauna as well as the recently renovated sauna world and a new stylish restaurant. Štiavničky indoor swimming pool.

**i** Štiavničky indoor swimming pool  
Cesta na štadión 30  
[www.plavarenstianicky.sk](http://www.plavarenstianicky.sk), **Open:**  
Mon – Fri 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., Sat  
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., Sun 11:00 a.m. -  
10:00 p.m. sauna: Mon – Fri 10:00 a.m.  
- 10:00 p.m., Sat – Sun closed

### 29 Summer at the swimming pool

During hot summer months everyone appreciates the opportunity to cool off. The Aqualand swimming pool features pools for good swimmers, relaxing pools for the less skilled ones, water slides for the courageous and child pools for the youngest. If you are tired of swimming, you can play beach volleyball, five-a-side football, mini-golf or table tennis. Within the Aqualand area there is also a lake where you can swim, row or do water biking. There is also bowling, and indoor tennis, badminton and squash courts.

**i** Aqualand Banská Bystrica  
Švermová ul. – Štiavničky  
[www.aqualandbb.eu](http://www.aqualandbb.eu)  
**Open:** June, July, August or depending  
on the weather, daily from 9:00 a.m.  
to 7:00 p.m.



Rafting on the Hron River

### 30 Adventure on the Hron River

Raft down the Hron River and experience great fun with a bit of adrenaline. The na Mlynčoku boating launch in Slovenská Ľupča provides complex services for rafting down the river, including rental and the transport of boats and equipment.

**i** [www.splavhrona.sk](http://www.splavhrona.sk)

### TIP:

Fishing enthusiasts will experience fabulous moments by the Hron River, and the same goes for the lovers of nature and hunting.

**i** [www.rybybb.sk](http://www.rybybb.sk)  
**i** [www.lesy.sk](http://www.lesy.sk)

### Where can you climb?

Not a professional rock climber, but would you like to try this sport? We have something for you that will surely meet your expectations. Learn the basics of wall climbing and, although these walls are not made of granite and stone, they are not much easier to conquer. You can then take advantage of this experience when you try outdoor climbing.

**i** Bouderingová café Euphory Base  
Camp, Starohorská 33

[www.euphory.sk](http://www.euphory.sk), **Open:** Mon – Fri  
5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m., Sat – Sun 2:00  
p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

### 31 Sports under one roof

Whether you prefer fitness, aerobics, spinning or table tennis, you don't have to look far within the city - you can find all of these under one roof. The centre, with a surface area of 2,800 m<sup>2</sup>, offers a wide range of activities and guarantees a pleasant sports experience as well as regeneration with the help of a good massage or a coffee in the café.

1 Fitaréna, Ul. 29. augusta 36  
[www.fitarena.sk](http://www.fitarena.sk)

### Skiing for everyone

Winter means snow and snow means downhill and cross-country skiing. The surroundings of Banská Bystrica are home to several ski centres, which offer good skiing options for both experienced skiers and beginners. Well-maintained ski slopes and cross-country skiing tracks, refreshments, ski services and ski schools



Šachtický



SKI Králiky

are a guarantee of quality and your satisfaction.

1 Ski Králiky, [www.skikraliky.sk](http://www.skikraliky.sk)

1 Ski Centre Šachtický  
[www.skisachticky.sk](http://www.skisachticky.sk)

1 Sport Centre Selce – Čachovo  
[www.selce-cachovo.sk](http://www.selce-cachovo.sk)

1 Park Snow Donovaly  
[www.parksnow.sk](http://www.parksnow.sk)

### Golf

In the neighbourhood of Banská Bystrica there are two 18-hole golf courses. GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB HRON, TRI DUBY in the Sliach area is just a few kilometres outside the city. A little bit further is the highest quality golf course in Slovakia - Grey Bear in Tále. The fact that it hosts several international events speaks of its renowned quality and professionalism.

1 GOLF and COUNTRY CLUB HRON,  
TRI DUBY, Badín 692  
Bookings: +421 (0)918 683 252

1 Grey Bear Golf Course, Tále 100,  
Horná Lehota, Tel.: +421 (0)48 / 6712  
512, +421 (0)911 348 843

## TIPS FOR TRIPS

The surroundings of Banská Bystrica offer a large number of choices for shorter and longer hiking trips. A dense network of marked hiking trails in the Low Tatra, Veľká Fatra or Kremnica Mountains makes it easy for any age group of hikers to make their way around.

### Interesting hiking paths around Banská Bystrica:

1. Banská Bystrica – Králiky – sedlo Tri kríže – Malachov: 7 h, 10 min
2. Staré Hory – Majerova skala – Krížna – Turecká: 5 h, 15 min
3. Donovaly – Šachtická – Banská Bystrica: 5 h, 40 min
4. Králiky – Skalka – Vyhnavatová – Kordíky – Králiky: 6 h
5. Dolný Harmanec – Japeň – Staré Hory: 4 h, 15 min

### Nature trails around Banská Bystrica

Nature trails are special kinds of marked hiking trails, of varying lengths, in areas which are interesting from natural, cultural or historic perspectives. The trails have several stops with numbered information boards containing details of interesting facts, phenomena or structures.

**Forestry nature trail of Joseph Dekret Matejovie** – both branches of the interesting nature trail start in the picturesque village Dolný Jelenec near

the memorial to outstanding Slovak ranger J. D. Matejovie. The first route has 14 stops – it goes through the Veľká Fatra National Park to Staré Hory and is 9.5 km long. In 2011 the second branch of the trail was opened; it has 12.5 km and 6 stops and it crosses the Staré Hory Mountains around the restored bunker Mor ho! to Špania Dolina. It offers its visitors beautiful open views of the Low Tatra, Veľká Fatra and Kremnica Mountains. It is suitable for family hikes and you can get there on foot, by bike or on cross-country skis in the winter.

1 Forests of the Slovak Republic - Branch in Slovenská Ľupča, [www.lesy.sk](http://www.lesy.sk)

### Mining nature trail in Špania Dolina

This mining nature trail will introduce you to the mining history of Špania Dolina and bring you to the hidden spots in the surrounding forests where its history was written; the trail starts near Klopačka (Knocking Tower) and will first take you uphill around shafts and adits to the top



Ludovika shaft, Špania Dolina

of the Maximilián slag heap with a beautiful panoramic view of the surrounding mountains. It will take you approximately two and a half hours to finish this trail with ten stops; however, the total elevation gain is only 70 m, making it less demanding and suitable for families with children.

**1** *Banické bratstvo Herregrund (Herregrund Mining Fraternity), Špania Dolina 132, [www.herregrund.sk](http://www.herregrund.sk)*

### **32** Rock view on Suchý vrch Hill

Suchý vrch Hill above Banská Bystrica hides a spot exceptional not only for its good accessibility and beautiful nature but also for the grand adventure that waits for you on the way. To access the Trávný Ždiar rock lookout, also known as Small Slovak Paradise, you have to take an interesting path surrounded with ancient trees and huge stones, and eight ladders hidden between the rocks. As a reward you will get a splendid view of the natural Kremnica Mountains,

Velká Fatra and Prašivá Hill. This image will remain engraved in your heart for years to come.

### **TIP:**

Explore the day and night sky at **Vartovka Observatory** which used to serve as a guard tower. Nowadays you can get there by following the hiking path marked in yellow.

### **33** Calvary on Urpín Hill

Calvary is one of the most beautiful jewels of Banská Bystrica and it winds around the northeastern foot of the extinct volcano Urpín. Currently, Calvary consists of a historic alley with the stations of the cross, the Church of the Erection of the Holy Cross on the top of the hill and a newly built monastery. In the Urpín alley you may find 71 protected trees of different species, mainly the large-leaved lindens. Some of these trees are 200 – 300 years old.



Calvary on Urpín



Sauna World, Štiavničky swimming pool

## RELAX AND REST

Rest and relax in hotels and guest-houses with wellness programmes or in healing spas in the neighbourhood. Let them spoil you without having to do anything and heal your body, soul and mind. Healthy mineral springs and geomantic spots pulsing with positive energy are the medicine you need for everyday stress and bustle.



## 28 Sauna world within the Štiavničky indoor swimming pool

- For those who love relaxing and sauna we have prepared a newly renovated sauna world where you can enjoy several types of saunas: traditional Russian sauna, Finnish sauna, Turkish sauna or the infra-sauna. You will also find an outdoor cooling pool, an ice fall, a whirlpool for 12 people, various kinds of massages and an exclusive bar.

**1** *Sauna World at the Štiavničky indoor swimming pool, Cesta na štadión 30*  
**Open:** Mon - Sun 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., Tuesday - only for women, other days mixed sauna  
[www.stiavnickysauna.sk](http://www.stiavnickysauna.sk)



Spa park, Sliač

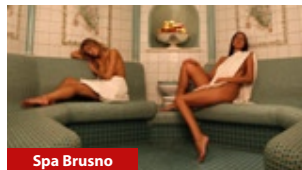
**34** **Sliač Spa** has been offering services to the public since the 16th century. It is well-known for its healing mineral water and a beautiful forest park. There is also a rehabilitation pool and summer thermal swimming pools. Healing water is used to treat diseases of the circulatory system and locomotor system, as well as oncological and female diseases.

**1** *Kúpele Sliač, a. s., [www.spa-sliac.sk](http://www.spa-sliac.sk)*

**35** **Kováčová Spa** specialises in the treatment of diseases of the locomotor system, nervous system, digestive system and metabolism disorders, kidney and urinary tract diseases and gynaecological disorders. Spa treatment is also recommended for regeneration and relaxation. This spa treatment is based mainly on baths in pools and tubs complemented with thermal packs and classical, underwater and reflex massages. During the summer you can swim in thermal pools situated directly in the village of Kováčová. Swimming pools for children and adults, good refreshment facilities, massages and a 38 °C pool; all these are guarantees of an enjoyable day.

**1** *Wellness Kováčová, s. r. o. - Spa House Detvan, Kúpeľná 70, Kováčová*  
[www.kupelekovacova.sk](http://www.kupelekovacova.sk)

**36** **Brusno Spa** located just a few kilometres away from Banská Bystrica, offers undisturbed peace, fresh air and unforgettable environment in the middle of splendid nature and with views of the Low Tatras peaks.



Spa Brusno

Various healing treatments and wellness programmes adjusted to your needs use healing water from the lo-

cal mineral spring. The spa specialises in the treatment of patients with circulatory system and digestive system problems, metabolism disorders and work-related diseases.

**1** *Kúpele Brusno, a. s. - Spa House Polana, Kúpeľná 2, Brusno*  
[www.kupelebrusno.sk](http://www.kupelebrusno.sk)

**37** **Kaskády Hotel** - Near the city of Sliač you may find the natural resort of Kaskády Hotel which is situated in a pleasant natural environment to take advantage of local healing thermal springs. The hotel swimming pools are filled with mineral water from the



Kaskády Hotel

natural source, which has positive effects on chronic and inflammatory diseases of the locomotor system. The hotel offers holiday packages like Spa & Wellness, Medical & Spa, Beauty & Spa, Love & Spa, Vitality & Spa or the Ayurveda package.

**1** *Hotel Kaskády \*\*\*\*, Letecká 19, Sliač - Sielnica, [www.hotelkaskady.sk](http://www.hotelkaskady.sk)*

**38** **Fuggerov Dvor** - The wellness centre at the Fuggerov Dvor Hotel will make you forget about everyday stress. In order to achieve harmony between your body and soul, the centre features a vital world which

There are several **mineral springs** around Banská Bystrica. Besides the ones used in spa resorts to treat various health problems, there are others which are worth seeing and tasting - and you can combine their visit with a trip to the surroundings. In the village of Čerín there is a mineral spring known for its delicious water with low sodium content. A bit further there is the National Natural Monument Mičinské travertíny - these are travertine formations with a spring lake and mineral springs in travertine wells on the top..

will please everybody, including children. Here you will find saunas (dry, wet, herbal), a steam bath, infra cabin, solarium, "adventurous shower" and whirlpool bathtub for 6 people. You may also use a swimming pool and fitness equipment or relax while having a pleasant massage. A perfect view of the surrounding nature can be enjoyed from the interior of a glassed-in observatory tower

**1** *Fuggerov Dvor, Seľčiansky diel 596, Selce, [www.fuggerov-dvor.sk](http://www.fuggerov-dvor.sk)*

## TIP:

Geomancy sites - sites with exceptional force which will charge you with positive energy. One of them is also on the stations of the cross route along the Calvary on Urpín Hill.



Ministry of Fun

## NIGHTLIFE

Experience Banská Bystrica also at night! Taste our delicious local beer on a summer terrace on the main square, get familiar with Slovak wines in stylish wine bars and visit the biggest disco club in Slovakia. Whether you prefer spending the evening in one of the many traditional cellars, a quality evening with live music or dancing all night long with a mixed drink, you will find everything here.

### WHERE TO QUENCH YOUR THIRST WITH GOOD BEER?

**Smädny Mních (Thirsty Monk)** – a stylish beer parlor directly in the city centre where you can quench your thirst with local domestic and import beers. The numbers speak for themselves - you can choose from almost eighty different draught and bottled beers!

**1 Smädny Mních, Dolná 12**  
[www.smadnymnich.com](http://www.smadnymnich.com)  
**Open:** Mon - Thu 12:00 noon - 1:00 a.m., Fri 12:00 noon - 4:00 a.m., Sat 4:00 p.m. - 4:00 a.m., Sun 4:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight

### WHERE TO FIND THE BIGGEST CHOICE OF WINE?

**Coffee, Beer & Winebar "U Kemov":**  
 Only "U Kemov" in Banská Bystrica of-



U Kemov

fers you an incredible range of nearly 300 types of wine from the whole world under one roof. It is an ideal place to organise a wine, beer or coffee tasting! The pleasantly furnished interior complements the atmosphere and enhances the agreeable experience.

**1 Coffee, Beer & Winebar "U Kemov"**  
 Námestie SNP 20, [www.ukemov.sk](http://www.ukemov.sk)  
**Open:** Mon - Wed 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m., Thu - Sat 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 midnight, Sun 12:00 noon - 10:00 p.m.

### DID YOU KNOW THAT?

**39** You can find the biggest and most modern club in Slovakia – **Ministry of Fun** right here in town, which often welcomes popular musicians from Slovakia and abroad. Come and enjoy a concert, an exhibition or a private party in the sky boxes.

**1 Club Ministry of Fun**  
 Europa SC, Na troskách 25  
[www.ministry.sk](http://www.ministry.sk)

### WHERE TO ENJOY GOOD MUSIC?

**Klub 77** – music and theatre club, where you can enjoy more than one concert per week! Rock, jazz, metal, alternative genres... everyone will find something to their liking. Other options include theatre performances, screenings, discussions, exhibitions and darts tournaments.

**1 Klub 77, Horná 54, [www.klub77.sk](http://www.klub77.sk)**  
**Open:** Mon - Thu 12:00 noon - 12:00 midnight, Fri 12:00 noon - 4:00 a.m.,

Sat 4:00 p.m. - 4:00 a.m., Sun depends on programme

**Jazz klub 12** – a club which sticks to the motto: "Jazz is life and life is jazz". Simply a club full of jazz and blues and even books about awesome Jazz music.

❶ **Jazz klub 12, Horná 12**

**Open:** Tue – Thu 4:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight, Fri 4:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m., Sat 4:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight, Sun closed



Jazz klub 12

## LOOKING FOR A GOOD TIME?

**Kapitol pub** – features themed parties every week. Among the favourite ones are the oldies party with hits of the 70's, 80's and 90's, known and loved by generations. Great music, excellent drinks and a perfect atmosphere are sure to make you dance.

❶ **Kapitol pub**  
Kapitulská 10  
[www.kapitolpub.sk](http://www.kapitolpub.sk)

**Open:** Mon – Thu: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m., Fri 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 a.m., Sat 6:00 p.m. - 5:00 a.m., Sun closed

## WHERE CAN YOU AVOID TEENAGERS?

**Retro club Luxor** – this club, in a retro style, attracts people in their thirties and older, filling in a gap in the club scene in Banská Bystrica. The music of the 80's and 90's of all genres helps create a perfect "nostalgic" atmosphere.

❶ **Retro club Luxor**  
Námestie SNP 5

**Open:** Tue – Thu 7:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m., Fri – Sat 7:00 p.m. - 5:00 a.m., Sun – Mon closed

## SOMETHING FOR COUNTRY LOVERS?

**Pub Cowboy** – the atmosphere of the Wild West in a stylishly decorated pub with regular country concerts.

❶ **Hostinec Cowboy**  
Ďumbierska 18/A

**Open:** Mon – Thu: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m., Fri 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m., Sat – Sun 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

### TIP:

Also visit some of the open-air festivals, for example Fun Radio Dohoda, which takes place within the premises of the open-air swimming pool, or Bažant majáles at the athletic stadium in front of the student dormitories in Tajovského street. Enjoy a warm summer night full of music stars under the sky full of stars.



Copper Bystrica tart, Národný dom

## GASTRONOMY AND LOCAL PRODUCTS

Try our regional cuisine and discover its usual charms. Let yourself be seated by friendly staff in one of the many excellent restaurants and enjoy. Taste the excellent local beer Urpiner, produced using a traditional method, some sweets from the famous local bakery, home-made spirits from local plums or delicious ribs from Banská Bystrica. Enjoy your meal!



### Banská Bystrica ribs



#### TIP:

Taste the genuine ribs from Banská Bystrica in Koliba U sv. Krištofa.

❶ Koliba U sv. Krištofa, Uľanská cesta 170, Open: Sun – Thu 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., Fri – Sat 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 midnight

#### Traditional Slovak specialties:

In Banská Bystrica you can also find traditional Slovak specialties like bryndzové halušky (potato dumplings with bryndza sheep cheese and bacon), pirohy (potato pasty filled with bryndza sheep cheese and bacon on the top) or kapustové strapačky (potato dumplings with sauerkraut and bacon).



Shepherd's hut na Šachtíčkách

**Bakery:** Make sure to stop in a famous bakery on the main square. Crunchy bread, juicy fruit rolls and home-made yeast; all these prepared with love and based on years of experience guarantee the best quality. The start of the baking tradition in this house dates back to the 1930's when popular anise pretzels were made here, among the locals known as "ónajzky".

❶ Pekáreň Mihalik, Námestie SNP 10

Open: Mon – Fri 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Sat – Sun closed.

**Beer:** Urpiner, produced by the brewery of Banská Bystrica, is evi-



Urpiner - brewery in Banská Bystrica

dence that Slovak beer can compete not only with Czech beer but also with European beers. This is often acknowledged in various tasting competitions where Urpiner has already won many international awards. For example, by 2012 it has gained nine Czech Beer Seal awards. No doubt that this success can be attributed to high quality ingredients, a traditional recipe, classical technology and the original taste of the beer.

❶ Banskobystrický pivovar, a. s.

Sládkovičova 37, [www.urpiner.eu](http://www.urpiner.eu)

#### Dairy products from Selce:

Dairy production in Selce started in 1992 and soon it built a great reputation. Due to its quality and freshness the yoghurts, cheese, sour milk etc. from Selce, which are produced exclusively from the milk of local farmers, have gained many fans not only in the region of Banská Bystrica, but in other regions as well. On its website the dairy offers online shopping as well.

❶ Mliekareň Kopanica Selce, s. r. o.

Selčianska 2, Selce  
[www.mliekaren-selce.sk](http://www.mliekaren-selce.sk)

**"Kutle" from Selce:** "Kutle" means "tripe" in the local dialect of Selce. In the past it used to be the meal of the poor but today the dishes made of tripe are often considered delicacies, and the inhabitants of Selce know how to appreciate them. The Day of

Kutle – a competition in cooking tripe goulash is an opportunity for cooks to present their skills. It has a long tradition and certain charm enriched with the characteristic aroma of smoke, good-smelling food and fascinating lines of cauldrons.

#### GRILLIADA

This gastronomy festival will tickle your taste buds! An original festival, the only of its kind in Slovakia, opens the grilling season in the second half of May and fills the air with the delicious aroma of grilled specialties. Famous restaurants from Banská Bystrica and its surroundings meet here to measure their strength and are rated by professionals as well as the wider public.

❶ [www.grilliada.sk](http://www.grilliada.sk)

#### Grilliada



## SURROUNDINGS

**Slovenská Ľupča:** The Hladlovský family farm in Slovenská Ľupča has always been associated with sheep breeding and making sheep-milk products. Later they added an Alpine breed of cattle called Braunvieh which gave the dairy farm its name. Therefore today you can enjoy our original full-fat ripened cheese Hladovec which is very similar to Italian Parmesan. In the tasting room on the farm you can accompany this cheese with a sip or two of some of the best Slovak wines (which you can have without the cheese too).

❶ Jozef Hladlovský, Dairy Farm – Braunvieh, Ľupčianska 18, Slovenská Ľupča, [www.syryhiadlovsky.sk](http://www.syryhiadlovsky.sk)

**čipkársko:** A traditional delicacy from Brusno was named after lace (lace = čipka) which our ancestors used to buy in Špania Dolina and Staré Hory and sell while wandering from one market to another. At the back of

their wagons they used to have special metal containers with a chimney, named machines, where they cooked this tasty food. Every year in May there is a competition in Brusno in cooking this local speciality which contains meat, root vegetables, potatoes and “trhance” (kind of potato dumplings).

❶ Municipality of Brusno, Ondrej nad Hronom 360, [www.brusno.sk](http://www.brusno.sk)

**Štiarc:** Štiarc or štirc is a traditional meal that women used to cook for their miner husbands. This special food is known in many villages around Banská Bystrica: in Riečka, Tajov, Kordíky, Králiky, Staré Hory and Špania Dolina there is a competition for cooking štiarc every July. Although štiarc is prepared in a slightly different way in every village, the base is trhance, made of potato dough, and mixed with fried pieces of bacon; sometimes sheep cheese (bryndza) or butter can be added. This meal can be accompanied by fresh or sour milk.

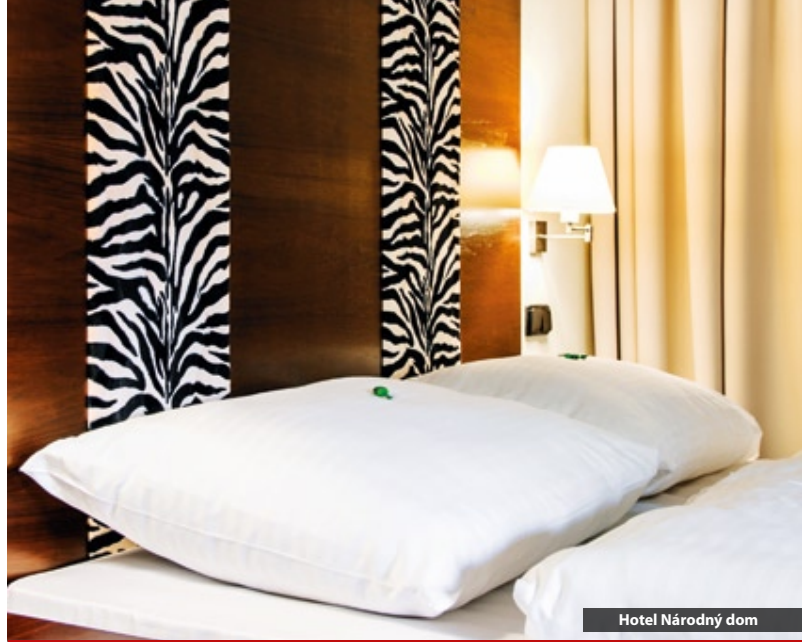
❶ Municipality of Špania Dolina, Špania Dolina 132, [www.spaniadolina.sk](http://www.spaniadolina.sk)

### TIP:

Špania Dolina is also known for excellent plum jam. Visitors can also try mixing this jam in September during the exhibition and presentation of the results of the Josef Langer International Symposium of Sculpture and Painting.



Restaurant Kráľický hostinec



Hotel Národný dom

## ACCOMMODATION

We offer accommodation for everyone. Try our heartiness and hospitality in hotels and guest-houses or find private accommodation. Available options are truly vast. You can choose between elegant and stylish rooms in buildings from the 15th - 16th centuries or cosy apartments with a family atmosphere far from city bustle, in a pleasant mountain environment.

**Tradition:****Národný dom (National House)**

– the building is a national cultural monument built in an Art Deco style as a reflection of the new world view of the time. In the Národný dom Hotel you will feel exactly what this movement represents: modern, seductive, intoxicating and addictive.

- 1 **Národný dom Hotel** \*\*\*  
Národná 11  
[www.hotelnarodnydom.sk](http://www.hotelnarodnydom.sk)

**Famous:**

**Hotel Lux** – “Your home while travelling” is the motto of the most famous hotel in the city, under Urpín, which opened its gates to the public for the first time almost 50 years ago. It is situated



Lobby, Hotel Lux

uated in a beautiful environment in a city park near the historic centre.

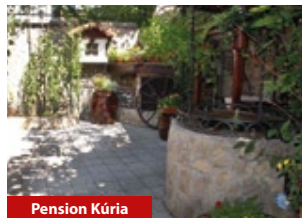
- 1 **Hotel Lux** \*\*\*  
Námestie slobody 2  
[www.hotellux.sk](http://www.hotellux.sk)

**Cosy:**

**Guest-house Kúria** – a traditional house situated right near the city

castle area. You will find cosy comfort and quality services.

- 1 **Pension Kúria** \*\*  
Bakosova 4, [www.kuria.sk](http://www.kuria.sk)



Pension Kúria

**TIP:**

The Kúria guest-house is the birthplace of world-famous architect Ladislav Hudec, who is known as the man who changed the face of Shanghai.

**In the centre:**

**Hotel Arcade** – is situated in the historic centre of Banská Bystrica, directly on the Slovak National Uprising Square. The building of the hotel is a protected monument and was constructed in the 16th century. The hotel houses a delicious restaurant, French baguette shop, patisserie and even its own bakery.

- 1 **Hotel Arcade** \*\*\*  
Námestie SNP 5, [www.arcade.sk](http://www.arcade.sk)

**Comfort:**

**SLOS apartments** – an apartment house in the historic centre – offers high-standard accommodation in interestingly named rooms where

everyone can find their place.

- 1 **SLOS Apartments** \*\*\*, Horná Strieborná 16, [www.ubytovaniebb.sk](http://www.ubytovaniebb.sk)

**Peace and fresh air:**

**Mountain Hotel Šachtička** – in the splendid environment of the Low Tatras Mountains, in the saddle under Pánske dielo, with an atmosphere reminiscent of typical Alpine hotels, offers everything one may need to rest and relax. Come to try for yourself!

- 1 **Mountain Hotel Šachtička** \*\*\*  
[www.sachticka.sk](http://www.sachticka.sk)

**Where it comes to life:**

**Hostel YMCA** – You do not need breakfast in bed, but you prefer meeting people from all over the world? Then you are at the right address. In the centre for good money.

- 1 **Hostel YMCA**  
Lazovná 17, [www.hostel.ymca.sk](http://www.hostel.ymca.sk)

**Luxury:**

**Amrys Guest-House** – an elegant guest-house in a renovated historic

building in the pedestrian zone has an ideal location and although it is in the city centre, the environment is very quiet.

- 1 **Pension & restaurant Amrys** \*\*\*  
Horná Strieborná 23  
[www.amrys.sk](http://www.amrys.sk)

**TIP:**

Banská Bystrica is also ideal for organising congresses – several hotels in the city centre and nearby are even specialised congress hotels.

- 1 **Congress Hotel Dixon** \*\*\*\*  
Švermova 32  
[www.dixon.sk](http://www.dixon.sk)  
1 **Hotel Lux**  
Námestie slobody 2  
[www.hotellux.sk](http://www.hotellux.sk)  
1 **Hotel Kaskády** \*\*\*\*  
Letecká 19, Sliač - Sielnica  
[www.hotelkaskady.sk](http://www.hotelkaskady.sk)  
1 **Hotel Kongres Gala** \*\*\*\*  
Hronsecká cesta 1  
976 31 Banská Bystrica  
– Hronsek  
[www.kongreshotel.sk](http://www.kongreshotel.sk)



Pension Amrys





Špania Dolina

## SURROUNDINGS

Not only in the centre of our city but also just outside its walls, there are unique options for amazing trips that will help you discover new cultural sites and natural beauties. Find your way to Ľupča Castle, to the wooden church in Hronsek, to the unique mining village Špania Dolina, the famous Harmanec Cave or the cleared ridges of the Low Tatra Mountains with fascinating panoramas of the countryside. You will come across some magical places to fall in love with.

### 40 Špania Dolina

Back in 1979 a preserved part of Špania Dolina with distinctive mining houses was proclaimed a Reservation of Folk Architecture. The picturesque mining village in the Staré Hory Mountains is dominated by an original early Gothic Church of the Transfiguration of our Lord from 1254, which can be accessed via an extraordinary wooden staircase with 162 wooden steps. On the main square you will find the most important monument related to mining – Klopačka (Knocking Tower) dating back to the 16th century. Today it houses a stylish guest-house with a restaurant and a choice of delicious home-made specialties. Another remarkable building is the Chapel of the Holy Crypt from the 17th century, which is a miniature copy of the Holy Crypt in Jerusalem and the only one preserved in Slovakia. You can also see here typical mining houses from the 19th century, plastered in clay and whitewashed, with wooden shingle roofs. In the municipal building you can visit the mining museum called "Our Museum of Copper" and learn more about the rich mining history of the village. If you prefer fresh air, you can follow the mining nature trail. Špania Dolina is full of life all-year-round. Gourmets will appreciate traditional pig butchering or the štiarc cooking competition, theatre lovers are welcome at the theatre festival and music enthusiasts can enjoy the jazz festival in July. International symposiums of sculpture and painting are regularly organised here.

- i** Herregrund Mining Fraternity  
Špania Dolina 132, Tel.: +421 (0)908 927 636, +421 (0)905 651 057  
[www.herregrund.sk](http://www.herregrund.sk)
- i** Municipality of Špania Dolina  
Špania Dolina 132  
Tel.: +421 (0)48/419 82 71  
[www.spaniadolina.sk](http://www.spaniadolina.sk)



Bobbin lace

### Bobbin Lace of Špania Dolina

An inseparable part of the tradition of Špania Dolina is bobbin lace – a heritage which has been handed down from one generation to another for centuries. The lace of Špania Dolina, made with traditional techniques, is famous for its delicacy and beauty. A characteristic sign of its lace is mainly its uneven jagged edges. In Špania Dolina there are regular courses in bobbin lace production and the Klopačka houses a museum of bobbin lace.

- i** Guest-house Klopačka, Špania Dolina 102, [www.klopacka.sk](http://www.klopacka.sk)

## DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Water necessary for the mining activities in Špania Dolina was brought by a 36 km long water pipe from the foot of Prašivá Hill in the Low Tatras Mountains. Today there is a nature trail along this water pipe which goes from Banská Bystrica to Donovaly

### 41 Slovenská Ľupča

The first written record of Ľupča Castle dates back to the 13th century and it says that the medieval castle served to guard the road passing through the valley of the Hron River going eastwards. In the 15th century it was part of the endowment of the Hungarian queens and it served as accommodation to the king and his companions when hunting. It was rebuilt several times and was given its current form during a Neo-Gothic reconstruction in 1870. In the courtyard of the castle you may notice a protected linden tree, which is over

seven hundred years old, and stories say that the King Matthias Corvinus used to sit under it. Several events are held in the castle grounds during the summer months. The most famous is the festival of medieval and contemporary bagpipe music "Ozveny hradných múrov" (The Echo of the Castle Walls).

#### 1 Ľupča Castle

Tel.: +421 (0)48/ 418 74 29, +421 (0)911 580 164, +421 (0)903 518 603

e-mail: [info@hradlupca.sk](mailto:info@hradlupca.sk)

web: [www.hradlupca.sk](http://www.hradlupca.sk)

**Open:** July – August daily, except for Monday 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. September – June upon agreement

### 42 Harmanec Cave

One of the most important caves in Slovakia, hidden in the mountain range of Veľká Fatra to the northwest of Banská Bystrica, is characterised by the high occurrence of white soft sinter which creates here beautiful wall waterfalls, curtains and small lakes. The extraordinary underground com-

## TIP:

When you visit Slovenská Ľupča, you should surely stop by the House of Crafts. You can check out the room with traditional crafts, but also try several of the techniques yourself.

#### 1 House of Crafts

Námestie SNP 14

Slovenská Ľupča, [www.lupca.sk](http://www.lupca.sk)



Harmanec Cave

plex is home to nine kinds of bats. From mid-May till the end of October the cave is open daily except for Mondays and it is accessible via a serpentine nature trail.

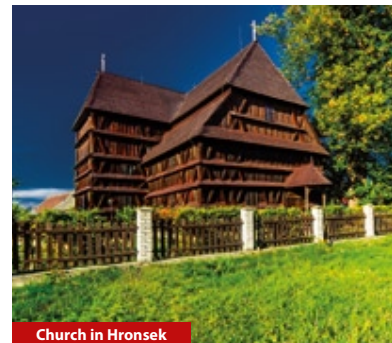
**1 Dolný Harmanec,** Tel.: +421 (0)48 / 419 81 22, e-mail: [harmanj@ssj.sk](mailto:harmanj@ssj.sk), [www.ssj.sk](http://www.ssj.sk)

### 43 Hronsek

The articulated wooden church dating back to 1725 – 1726 was constructed according to some very strict rules, for example without

using a single metal nail. The ground plan of the church is cross-shaped; the vault is similar to a ship turned upside-down. Inside the church your attention may be attracted by a Baroque altar from the middle of the 18th century with six interchangeable paintings, a wooden chandelier with six arms and a precious Baroque organ. The overall capacity of the church with benches arranged in a manner similar to an amphitheatre is 1100 seats and due to its perfect acoustics it is also used for interesting, intimate concerts. In 2008 the church and the nearby wooden Baroque belfry were added to the UNESCO list of World Cultural Heritage.

**1 If you are interested in seeing the interior of the church, contact Ms. Júlia Kolárová (the house next to the church, no. 6), Tel.: +421 (0)48 / 41 88 128** Cirkevný zbor ECAV v Hronseku: A. H. Krčméryho 8, Hronsek [www.hronsek.sk](http://www.hronsek.sk)



Church in Hronsek



Ľupča Castle

**44 Tajov**

The village of Tajov was founded in the 15th century as one of the centres of mining and metallurgy. One of the oldest cultural monuments in the village is the originally Gothic Church of St. John the Baptist. Inside the church there is a wooden Gothic sculpture of St. John the Baptist from the 16th century, which is among the most valuable sculptures in Slovakia. Tajov is also known as the birthplace of several outstanding personalities. You can learn about the life and works of the writer Jozef Gregor Tajovský and his wife, the writer Hana Gregorová, in an exposition installed directly in his picturesque wooden house birthplace. In the entrance part of the house you will also find an exposition from Jozef Murgaš, another personality from Tajov, who was a Catholic priest, a pioneer of wireless telegraphy and author of the altar painting in the Church of St. Elisabeth in Banská Bystrica. The exposition was installed by the Literary and Music Museum in Banská Bystrica and is available upon prior notice.

**1** *Literary and Music Museum  
Lazovná 9, Banská Bystrica*



**J. G. Tajovský Memorial House**

+421 (0)48 / 419 73 57, [www.svkbbu](http://www.svkbbu)

**1** *Municipality of Tajov, Tajov 79  
+421 (0)48 / 419 72 13, [www.tajov.sk](http://www.tajov.sk)*



**Water flume**

**TIP:**

**45** Visit the beautiful and peaceful forests near Harmec and admire the resourcefulness of our ancestors showed in the construction of an ingenious system for transporting stacked wood down a water flume in the Rakytovo Valley. The water flume was probably constructed in the 19th century and was made of wood only. Its total length is 2,450 m. Every year at the end of April you have the opportunity to see how transportation used to work - thanks to this marvel, the last functioning flume in Central Europe.

**1** *Mestské lesy, s. r. o., Československej armády 26, [www.lesybb.sk](http://www.lesybb.sk)*

**46 Pustý Castle**

Pustý Castle, also known as Old Zvolen Castle, will surprise visitors

with its size. The castle fortification encloses an area of 7.6 hectares, which makes the castle one of the largest ruins, not only in Slovakia but also in Central Europe.

**1** *[www.pustyhrad.eu](http://www.pustyhrad.eu)*

**47 Staré Hory**

The village of Staré Hory was founded as a mining settlement in the 13th century and since then silver and copper ores have been extracted and processed here. The village is dominated by an originally Gothic and later Baroque Church of the Virgin Mary which is a pilgrimage place, and in 1990 it was given the status of Basilica Minor by the pope. Since the 17th century it has been one of the most important traditional places of pilgrimage in Slovakia. The most famous pilgrimage is held on 15th August, the day of the Assumption. An important part of the pilgrimage place is a spring called Studnička (the Little Well), which, according to local legend, has waters that once healed a local priest of a severe disease. As a sign of gratitude he built a small sanctuary and gradually other notices

of gratitude and memorial boards started to gather there.

**1** *[www.starehory.sk](http://www.starehory.sk)*

**48 Čierny Balog**

This open-air forestry museum is a place where you can relax, learn and have fun while surrounded by nature. There is a gamekeeper's lodge, natural amphitheatre and a children's playground. A nature trail of 3.3 km and with over 70 stations will reveal you some secrets about nature and the history of forestry. To access the open-air museum, visitors can use the historic Čiernohorská railway which crosses beautiful rural landscape and marvelous countryside. A ride in the wooden wagons of the historic forest railway takes you back to when it used to transport wood. This national cultural monument serves now as a tourist attraction and operates on a route of 16 km along the Chvatimech – Čierny Balog – Vydrovská dolina line.

**1** *VYDRA - vidiecka rozvojová aktivita  
Hlavná 56, 976 52 Čierny Balog  
+421 (0)48 / 619 09 44, [www.vydra.sk](http://www.vydra.sk)*

**Čiernohorská railway**





# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## Dialling codes:

International calling code: **+421**

Long-distance calling code: **048**

Postal code for Banská Bystrica: **974 01**

Important phone numbers: **1181**

## Police:

State Police: **158**

Municipal police: **159, 048 / 4330 804** - nonstop service (telephone)

## Emergency services:

Yellow Angel - motorist assistance, nonstop: **16 116**

SOS Integrated rescue system: **112**

Fire and rescue service: **150**

Emergency medical service: **155, 16 155**



## CONTACT:

### Information centre in Banská Bystrica

Námestie SNP 1, Banská Bystrica  
Town Hall

### Opening hours:

1. 5. - 30. 9.

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

1. 10. - 30. 4.

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

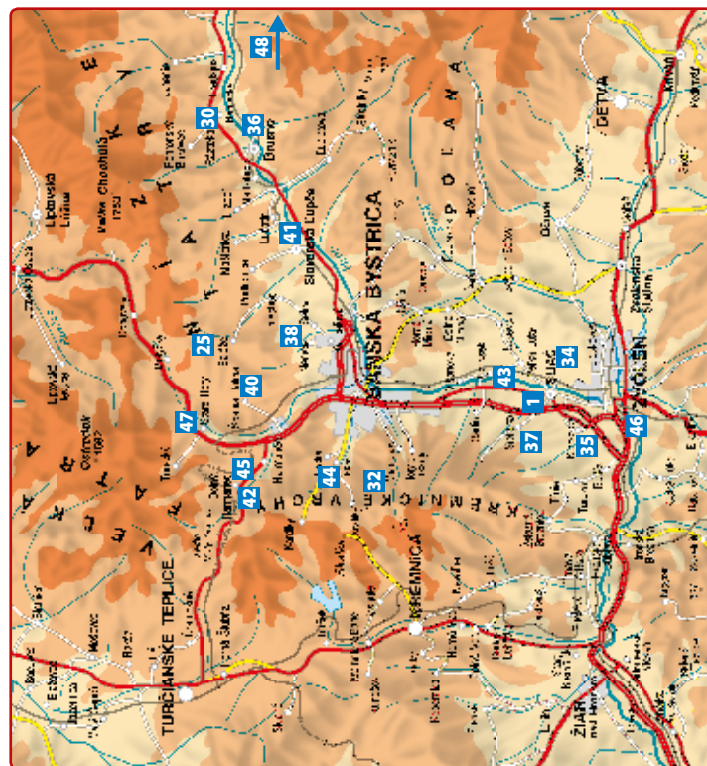
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

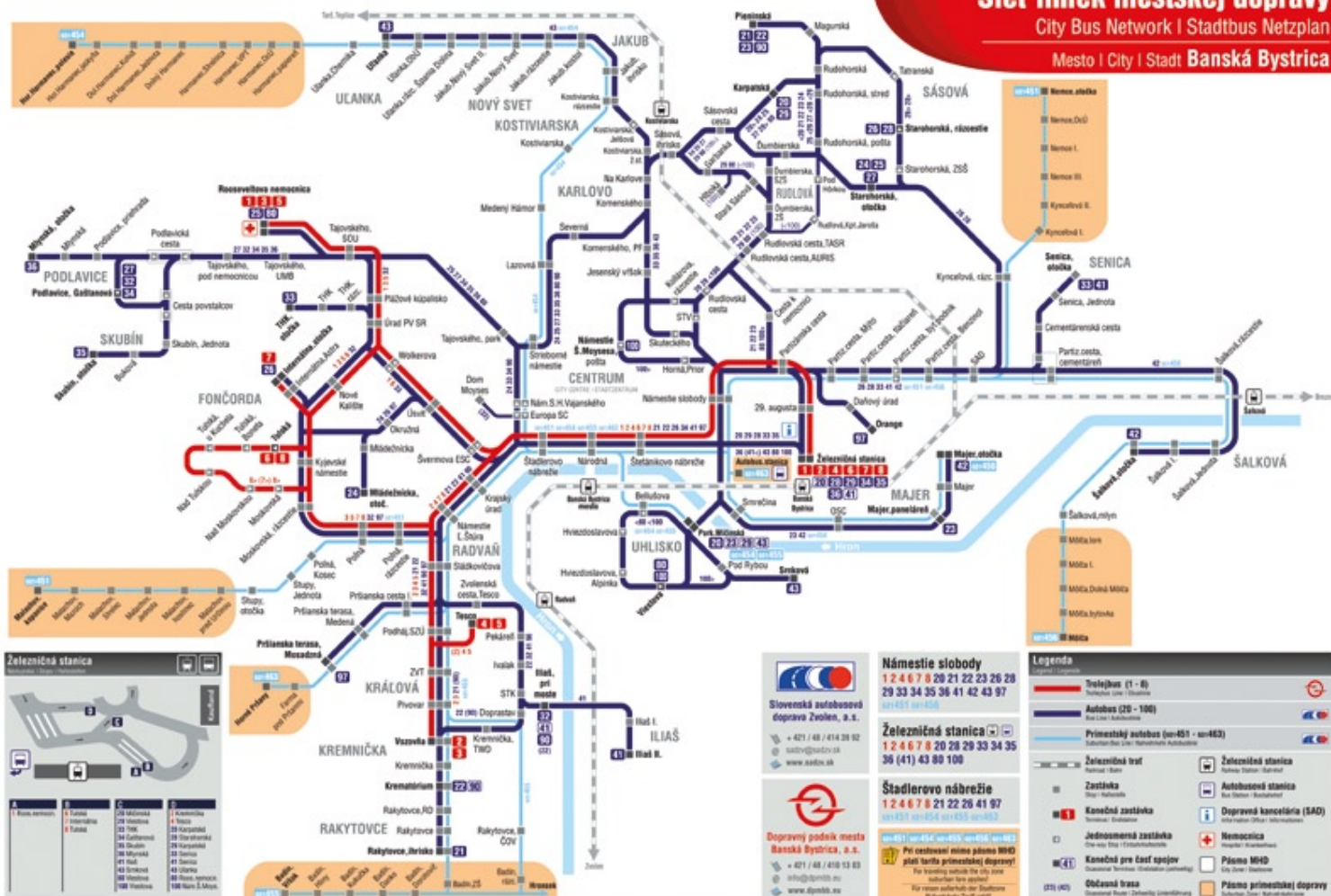
Infoline: **048 / 415 50 85, 0907 846 555**

**ic@banskabystrica.sk**

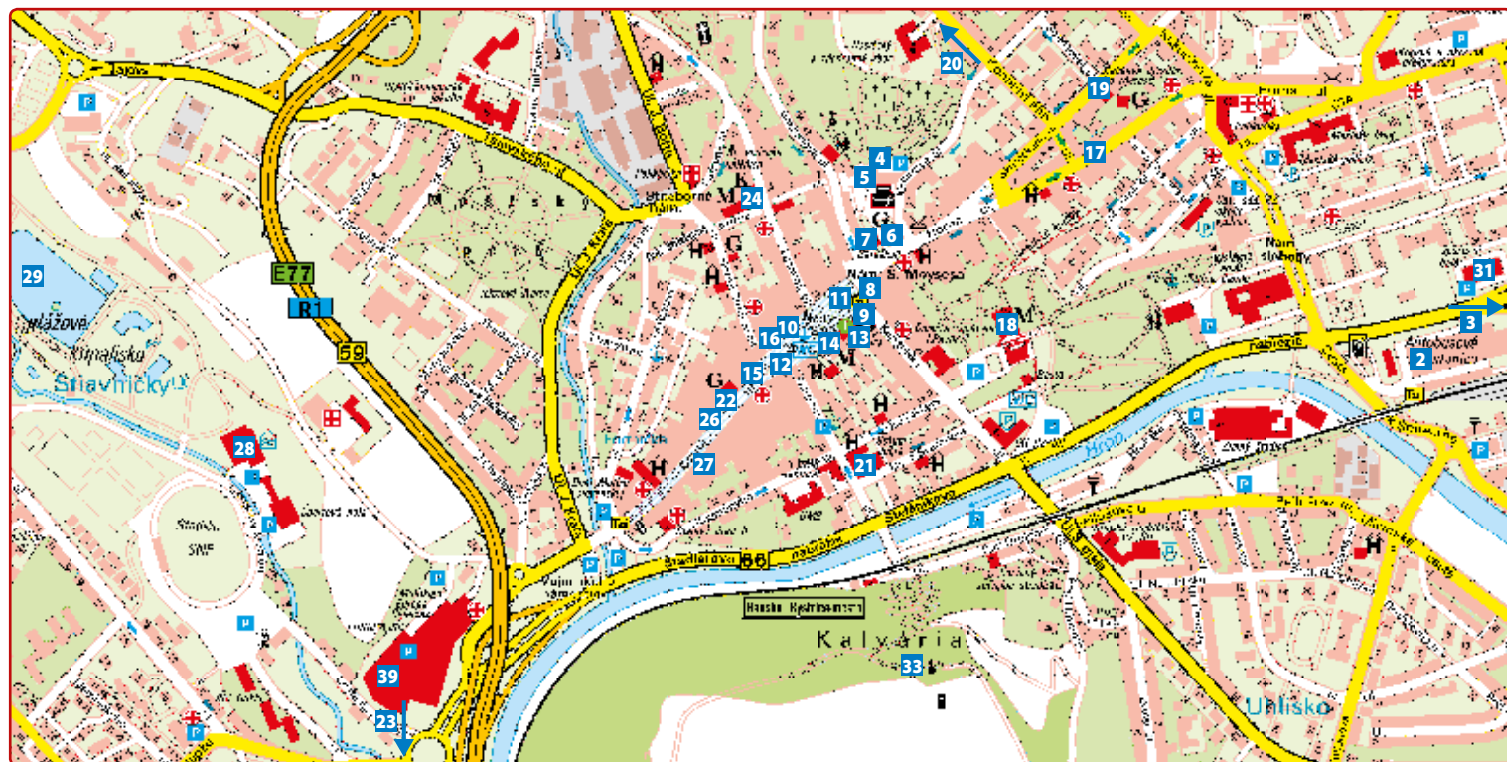
**www.icbb.sk**



- 1 Sliach Airport
- 25 Kalište
- 30 Shipyard on Mlýnsok
- 32 Trávný Ždiar on Suchý vrch
- 34 Sliach Spa
- 35 Kováčova Spa
- 36 Brusno Spa
- 37 Kaskády Spa
- 38 Fuggerov Dvor
- 40 Church of the Transfiguration of the Lord, Špania Dolina
- 41 Luptá Castle
- 42 Harmanecká Cave
- 43 Articulated wooden church in Hronsek
- 44 J. G. Tajovský Memorial House
- 45 Water channel Rakytovo
- 46 Pustý Castle
- 47 Church of the Virgin Mary, Staré Hory
- 48 Čiernohronskej Railway



- |   |                           |   |                                      |  |  |
|---|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 2 Bus station                             | 10 Stone Fountain         | 18 Memorial to the Slovak National Uprising | 27 Central Slovakia Cultural Centre  |  Pharmacy   |  Gallery          |
| 3 Railway station                         | 11 Marian Column          | 19 Puppet Theatre na Rázcestí               | 28 Indoor swimming pool Štiavničky   |  Police    |  Library         |
| 4 Matej's House                           | 12 Black Granite Obelisk  | 20 Theatre "Štúdio tanca"                   | 29 Swimming pool with beach Aqualand |  Parking  |  Hotel          |
| 5 Church of Assumption of the Virgin Mary | 13 Town Hall              | 21 State Opera                              | 31 Fitaréna sports centre            |  Church   |  Motel          |
| 6 Praetorium                              | 14 Thurzo's House         | 22 Central Slovakian Gallery                | 33 Calvary on Urpín                  |  Chapel   |  Tourist office |
| 7 Town Castle - Barbakan                  | 15 Bethlenov dom          | 23 Tihanyis Manor House                     | 39 Ministry of Fun                   |  Memorial |  Post office    |
| 8 Clock Tower                             | 16 Benický's House        | 24 County House                             |                                      |  |  |
| 9 Church of St. Francis Xavier            | 17 Dominik Skutecky Villa | 26 Regional ÚĽUV Crafts Centre              |                                      |  |  |





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974 01 Banská Bystrica, **[www.visitbb.sk](http://www.visitbb.sk)**, in 2012

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Michal Rengevič et al. **Maps:** © VKÚ, a. s., Harmanec



MESTO BANSKÁ BYSTRICA

