

EXPLORE THE BENEDICTINE CULTURAL HERITAGE
IN CENTRAL EUROPE

VIA BENEDICTINA ON THE WAY

Travel guide

CZECH REPUBLIC

SLOVAKIA

POLAND

HUNGARY





Czech Republic

Benedictine Archabbey in Břevnov
Broumov Monastery
Benedictine Abbey in Emauzy
Kladruby Monastery
Benedictine Abbey in Rajhrad
Sázava Monastery
Museum Teplice
Museum Třebíč



Slovakia

Parish Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Diakovce
Parish Church of of the Most Holy Saviour in Hronovce - Čajakovo
Parish Church in Hronský Beňadik
Benedictine monastery of Saints Cosmas and Damian
Romanesque monastery church in Rimavské Janovce
Monastery of the Transfiguration of Jesus in Sampor
Monastery Skalka
Monastery of St. Hippolyte in Nitra at the bottom of the hill Zobor



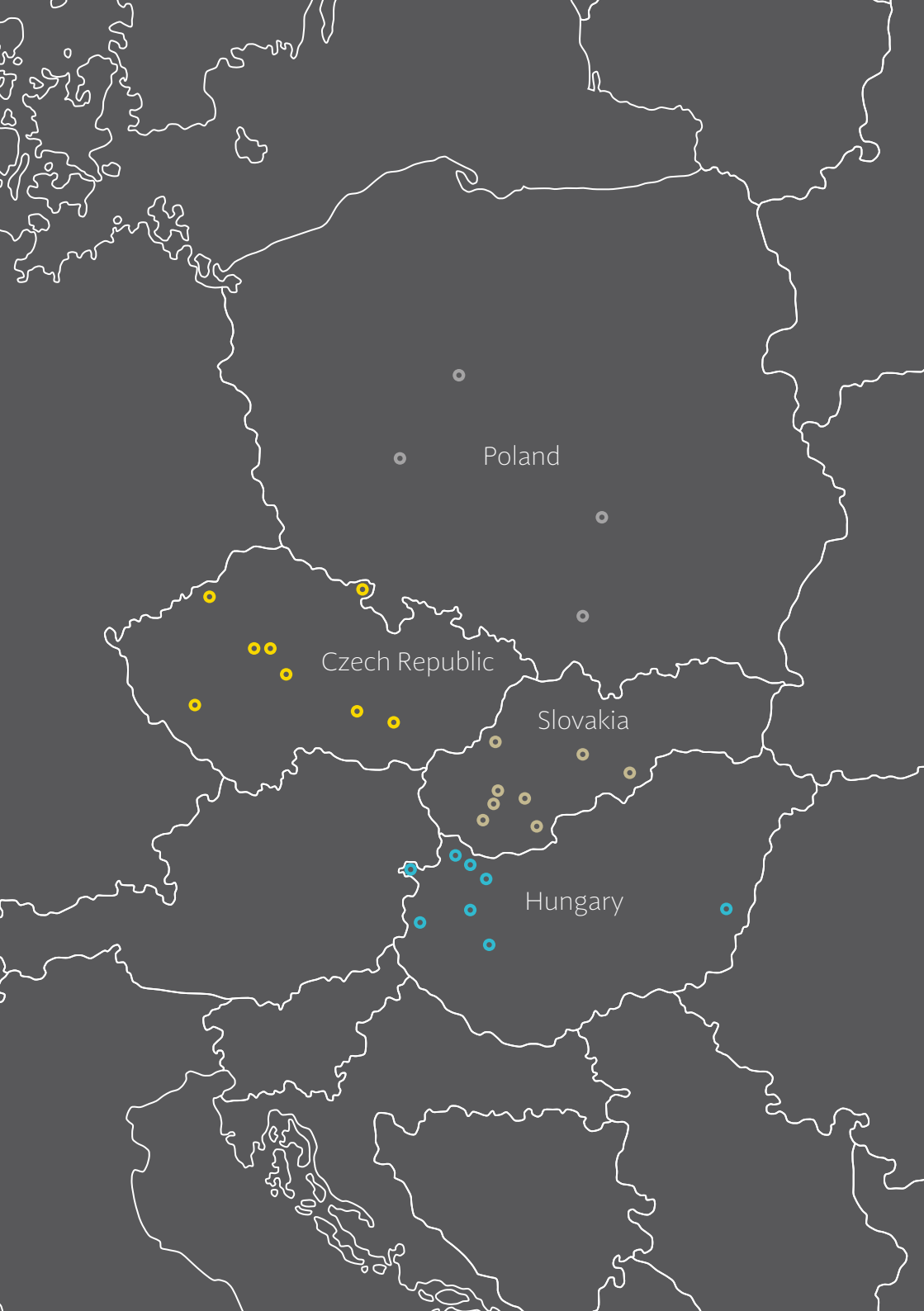
Poland

Monastery Holy Cross
Monastery Lubiń
Monastery Mogilno
Monastery Tyniec



Hungary

Monastery of Saint Maurice of Bakonybél
Csolt Monastery - Medieval Ruins (Vésető)
Benedictine Priory of St. Mor in Győr
Former Benedictine Abbey in Ják, today's Parish Church
Benedictine Abbey and the Church of St. James in Lébény
The Benedictine Pannonhalma Archabbey
Sopron Benedictine Church of the Blessed Virgin
Tihany Abbey



Poland

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Benedictine Archabbey in Břevnov

CONTACT

Benedictine Archabbey in Břevnov
Markétská 28/1
169 01 Praha 6 – Břevnov
Tel.: +420 220 406 111

RESERVATION

Tour: tel.: +420 220 406 270, e-mail: klaster@brevnov.cz

WEB

www.brevnov.cz

During more than a thousand years of history of Břevnov, which has been an important religious, but also a cultural and economic institution since its foundation, the monastic life here was interrupted several times – most recently in 1950, when the Břevnov Monastery was, as well as other monasteries, closed down by the Communist government. The renewal of the Benedictine monastic communities in Břevnov and other places in our country, as well as the restoration of the monastic buildings, began in 1989 and have continued ever since.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Ladronka
- Pilgrimage route from Prague to the Loreta convent in Hájek

SUMMARY

According to the Rule of Saint Benedict, the Benedictine monks are Christians who in the community pray and work together. The prayer is a private prayer (especially so-called *lectio divina*, the meditative reading of the Bible) and a public, liturgical prayer (so-called *opus Dei*, the work of God: the Eucharistic worship and *divinum officium*, clock worship in the chancel). Work is also considered to be kind of prayer for Benedictines: according to the position of the monastery and dispositions of Brethren it includes manual work, work in the religious administration and scientific work, in education. Monks make four vows: vow of poverty, vow of purity, vow of obedience (in the Benedictine tradition they are all together called “conversion of manners”) and vow of stability (lifelong permanence in a monastery or in a particular community).

The current look of the monastic garden is the result of the overall baroque reconstruction of the area by K. and K. I. Dientzenhofers and partial later arrangements. The part of the enclosed religious order, i. e. the lower part, where the actual building of the monastery is located, is open to the public daily from 6:45am till 8:00pm; (the pavilion called Vojtěška, according to the legend the meeting place of St. Adalbert and Duke during the founding of the monastery – this pavilion is accessible only within the guided tours). The so-called upper garden (to the north from the monastery, above the enclosed religious order part) is permanently open.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: from the highway D1 to the southern connecting road in the direction of Smíchov, behind the Barrandov Bridge to the Zličov tunnel, in the direction of Břevnov until Strahov tunnel. From this tunnel turn left to Patočkova street. By bus: public transport – by trams no. 22 and 25 to the station Břevnovský klášter (Břevnov Monastery).

What to visit?

Inside space of Břevnov Monastery

Offer for organized groups

Group tickets

Opening hours

Weekdays: only groups booked in advance

Summer time — Saturday and Sunday: 10am; 2pm; 4pm

Winter time — Saturday and Sunday: 10am; 2pm

Visitors can see the baroque Basilica of St. Margaret, the Romanesque crypt from 11th century and the baroque prelature with Theresa hall. The guided tour takes about 90 minutes.

Accommodation and catering is available in the Monastery.



Broumov Monastery

CONTACT

Monastery Broumov

Klášterní 1

550 01 Broumov

Tel.: +420 491 521 283

E-mail: vkcb@broumovsko.cz

RESERVATION

Tour guide: prohlidky@broumovsko.cz, +420 491 521 283

WEB

www.klasterbroumov.cz

The area of the Broumov Monastery offers visitors a peaceful ambiance in the centre of Broumov. It is an example of the top baroque architecture and especially the monastic Church of St. Adalbert undoubtedly belongs among the most beautifully decorated churches in Europe.

In this temple, which can be seen during the guided tour, you can find a large amount of various reliquaries, i.e. boxes containing the remains of the saints, for example the reliquary of St. Adalbert, Lawrence of Rome, Clement and many others. The most valuable relic of the Broumov Monastery is certainly the copy of the Shroud of Turin, which was found in the monastic church in 1999. The exposition of the Shroud of Turin together with precious liturgical vestments can be seen in the monastic refectory. Another interesting room worth visiting is the library with 17 thousand volumes and a treasureable globe.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- sandstone rock cities Adršpach, Teplice nad Metují, Ostaš
- Broumov group of churches
- Monastery Broumov

SUMMARY

In 1213 King Ottokar I of Bohemia gave the Broumov region to Benedictines from Břevnov Monastery in Prague. The former fortress was shortly after the year 1300 rebuilt to a monastery in Gothic style. The Břevnov Monastery was burnt down by the Hussites in 1420 and Abbot Nicholas and some other Benedictines escaped to Broumov. It was an important moment for the Broumov Monastery, because it was preferred to the abbey and united with Břevnov into one single complex. Then it became one of the most important Benedictine monasteries in the Czech territory. The boom in the history of the monastery was in the turn of the 17th and 18th century. That time is associated with extensive constructions in baroque style and architects Christoph and Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofers.

In 1950 the Broumov Monastery became a concentration camp for priests, monks and nuns of various monastic orders. In that time various horrible reconstructions were done in the monastery. An example of these reconstruction can be seen in the faulty wiring in the monastery halls. Nuns used to work here in Broumov in some of factories and a state homestead. When the monastery was given back to Benedictines in 1990, the nuns left to Moravia. However, no Benedictines live here because there are only about 30 of them in the Czech Republic and the majority lives in a district Břevnov in Prague.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: from Prague, take the highway D11 towards Hradec Králové, then continue on the road E67 that leads to Náchod and from there continue on the local road 303 to Broumov

By bus: regular transport connection from Hradec Králové

Offer for families with children

Special tour guide and events

Offer for organized groups

Group tickets

Opening hours

April – October: MO – SUN/ 9am – 4pm

November – March: MO – SUN/ 10am – 3pm

The area of the Broumov Monastery is together with the monastery café open to visitors throughout the year.

Accommodation and catering available in the Monastery.

What is there to visit?

Inside space of Broumov Monastery



Benedictine Abbey in Emauzy

CONTACT

Benedictine Abbey in Emauzy
Vyšehradská 49/320,
128 00 Praha 2 – Nové Město
Tel.: 221 979 228
E-mail: emauzske.opatstvi@tiscali.cz

RESERVATION

Guided tour: tel: 221 979 228, e-mail: emauzske.opatstvi@tiscali.cz

WEB

www.emauzy.cz

Originally it was a medieval monastery in the centre of Prague. The most valuable monument preserved in the cloister is a cycle of wall paintings with the themes from the Old and New Testaments; so-called Emauzy Cycle from the second quarter of the 14th century. Apart from the cloister there are also the monastery church, the Imperial Chapel with Beuron decoration, baroque refectory and atrial quad opened to the public.

The Benedictine Abbey was established in the 14th century in a high gothic style. The most valuable monument preserved in the cloister is a cycle of wall paintings with the themes from the Old and New Testaments; so-called Emauzy Cycle from the second quarter of the 14th century. The community currently consists of three members, who inhabit the smaller part of the complex; the Order rents the rest of the monastery for the use of offices, occasionally for social events, conferences, etc.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Vyšehrad castle
- New Town Hall (www.nrpraha.cz) in Charles' square (Karlovo náměstí)
- National Memorial to the Heroes of the Heydrich Terror in the Resslova street

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

The monastery was established in 1347 by King and later Emperor Charles IV; the completed buildings were ceremonially consecrated on Easter Monday in 1372. The reading from the Gospel about the meeting of Christ with his prentices in Emauzy, which is connected to this event, led to the later given name "In Emauzy", or "Emauzy" for short. The Benedictines from Croatia settled in the monastery being invited by the monarch to recreate the tradition of church service in the Slavic language in Bohemia. While translating and copying books they used a typical script – the Glagolitic script. During the Hussite movement the monastery eluded destruction, apparently for its exclusive position in the religious life; even the only men Utraquistic monastery was establish in Emauzy. The re-catholicization occurred at the end of the 16th century.

In 1635 Emperor Ferdinand III brought in the Benedictines from the Spanish monastery Montserrat to Emauzy. Under their administration the monastery was rebuilt in the baroque style. Spanish Benedictines brought the cult of the Virgin of Montserrat to Emauzy. In 1880 the monastery was acquired by the Benedictine congregation of Beuron, which was forced to leave Germany because of the Bismarck's anti-clerical campaign. In the background of this congregation the exclusively ecclesiastical art, so-called Beuron Art School, developed. Beuron artists newly decorated the interiors of the monastery and simultaneously the reconstruction of the buildings in a historical spirit took place.

The monastery was dissolved during the Nazi occupation, the Abbot together with several monks were interned in a concentration camp. The monastery was almost destroyed by Anglo-American bombing raid in February 1945. The religious institutions in Czechoslovakia were abolished in 1950 and the reconstruction of the buildings was adapted to the new utility for Science and Healthcare use. The Benedictine Order returned to Emauzy in 1990 when the monastery was given back to the Order in the restitution. There is a regular church service provided in the monastery church consecrated in 2003.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

The monastery is well accessible by public transport (the underground station Karlovo náměstí and by trams no. 3, 5, 10, 24, the tram stops are in the vicinity).

Opening hours, accessibility

May – September: MO – SAT / 11am – 5pm
April, October: MO – FRI/ 11am – 5pm
November – March: MO – FRI / 11am – 2pm

The tours are not organized, a visitor receives a guided tour text (possibly in various languages) and is free to enter and walk through the monastery.

What is there to visit?

Former refectory
The Imperial Chapel and monastery church



Kladrubby Monastery

CONTACT

Kladrubby Monastery
Pozorka 1, 349 61 Kladrubby u Stříbra
Tel.: +420 374 631 773
E-mail: kladruby@npu.cz

RESERVATION

Guided tour: kladruby@npu.cz, tel.: +420 374 631 773

WEB

www.klaster-kladruby.cz

The Monastery was founded by Vladislaus I, Duke of Bohemia. The construction was conducted in the Romanesque style with gothic elements. The most significant reconstruction of the monastery took place in the years 1712 to 1726 by architect Jan Blažej Santini-Aichl, who rebuilt the baroque gothic Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, St. Wolfgang and St. Benedict. The lapidary sculptures of Matthias Bernard Braun are also located in the monastery.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- The town Kladruby
- The town Stříbro
- Riding-school Jízdárna Světte

SUMMARY

The Benedictine monastery in Kladruby was established in 1115 by Vladislaus I, Duke of Bohemia, who was later buried in the monastery. The Duke donated a big fortune to the monastery. The monastery served for religious activities as well as for diplomatic negotiations. Over the centuries the influence of the monastery rose and fell. In 1712 the reconstruction of the Church of Virgin Mary was begun under the supervision of a distinguished Baroque architect Jan Blažej Santini-Aichl, which lasted until 1726. The new architectural style was called the Czech baroque gothic style, represented primarily by Santini. Under the guidance of Santini the three-nave was reconstructed and a monumental dome was built, which now looks like a crown hanging up above the nave of the church.

Further the western frontage and northern forefront were rebuilt. The entrance shield was given a monumental sculpture of the Virgin Mary, which referred to the Romanesque and gothic traditions of the monastery. The interior area was brightened by the crown above the crossing of the church and the altar space was filled with an altar designed by Santini. The Church of Virgin Mary was consecrated in 1726 and today is one of the largest ecclesiastical structures throughout Bohemia. After its completion the construction of a new convent and a new prelatore began. These were allegedly designed by architect Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer. The construction works were completed in 1770. The monastery prospered in all aspects, but orientated towards the Enlightenment system of government, the state authorities tended to increasingly interfere with the monastery jurisdiction more and more. Joseph II, the Holy Roman Emperor, proceeded to the abolition of the monastery in 1785, two years after the death of Amand Streer who had no successor. The monastery structures were utilised as a military hospital in 1798. Between 1800 and 1818, the monastery served as a hostel for the troops, a hospital, military quarters and residence for invalids.

Field Marshal Prince Alfred I Windischgrätz bought the monastery and the manor at an auction in 1825. Half of the price was forgiven for his loyalty to the Austrian Monarchy. However, he paid little attention to the Kladruby monastery, due to his residence nearby in Tachov. In 1864, Alfred II Nicholas Windischgrätz established a brewery inside of the original convent with the Church of Virgin Mary left to its fate. In 1918 the main line of the family Windischgrätz died out and due to the ongoing land reform the family lost their manor in Tachov. The new owner Ludvík Aladár Windischgrätz moved to Kladruby along with his extensive library and family archives. There the family of Windischgrätz settled until 1945. Kladruby was then confiscated in compliance with the Presidential Decree and it became a property of the state.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: on the highway D5, turn on exit 107 towards Stříbrno, then to the monastery on the road no. 193 (in the direction of Horšovský Týn and Domažlice).

By bus: bus stop "Kladruby, okres Tachov" or „Kladruby - U školy"; the bus stop is located about 900 metres from the area of the monastery.

By train: the train station "Stříbro"; the station is located about 7 km walking from the monastery, can be reached on the blue touristic path, or about 6 km on the road no. 193; it is possible to go to Kladruby by bus.

Opening hours

April, October: Sat, Sun and holidays from 10am to 4pm
May - September: Tue-Sun: from 10am to 4pm

What is there to visit?

The inside of Kladruby monastery

Offer for families with children

Reduced admission for children

Offer for organized groups

If booking in advance you can visit specially combined tour



Benedictine Abbey in Rajhrad

CONTACT

Benedictine abbey Rajhrad
Klášteří 1

664 61 Rajhrad u Brna

Tel.: 547 229 136

E-mail: rajhrad@muzeumbrnenska.cz

RESERVATION

Guided tour: tel. +420 547 229 126, e-mail: prohlidky.rajhrad@muzeumbrnenska.cz

WEB

www.rajhrad.muzeumbrnenska.cz

After the internment of Benedictines in 1950, this sight was so irresponsibly neglected by the state that today it needs extensive reconstruction. So far the most expensive reconstructions were those of the static securing of the foundations and of the upper structure of the building. The monastery is an immovable cultural sight. Within this object there is another cultural sight – the furniture of the library and the library fund representing 64 000 historic volumes. Most of this library fund was deposited in the eastern wing of the quadrature of the monastery till the half of the year 2004. The books were deposited in an inconvenient environment, in a statically disrupted part which was supposed to be cleared out. Today, the renovation of the library is finished and the books are put back in their place. Nowadays, there is also a static securing done in the eastern part of the building. Northern, western and eastern wings of the quadrature are in present day already reconstructed and serve mainly to the Monument of literature in Moravia.

The reconstruction of the southern wing of the prelature was carried out in 2012 and this wing serves as an exposition area today. The temple of the Abbey of St. Peter and Paul is permanently used for church service. The adjacent presbytery is the seat of the Order. Agricultural buildings of the monastery are used only partially for various purposes. The rest of these buildings could not be used due to their state of disrepair. These buildings are also being gradually repaired.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- The old saw Rajhrad
- The Rajhrad mill
- Convent of the Sisters Těšitelky

SUMMARY

The Benedictine abbey in Rajhrad went through very hard times in the previous decades. In 1950, under the operation 'K', the abbey was also attacked by special units of the Secret state police and by the units of People's Militias. The community was dispersed to so-called 'concentrating monasteries' which were serving as concentration camps for monks.

The abbot Wenceslaus Pokorný and the other monks were interned in Králíky, Hejnice, Osek and Želiv. After the release from the internment, the monks could not live together and they could not wear their monastic attire in public. The community was gradually dying out and only two Fathers survived the fall of communism, P. Paul in the Priestly home in Moravec and P. Benedict, who took over the devastated buildings of the abbey from the state, but he could no longer be in charge of the monastery due to his old age. P. Radim Valík, the benedict of Břevnov, was temporary in charge of the monastery till the arrival of the renewed community in July in 1997. With the aid of Austrian and German Benedictine monasteries, it was possible to repair the building of the presbytery and so create the convent for the community of three members. The goal of a small fellowship was to assure the continuity of the Benedictine order in Rajhrad, to restore the life in this abbey and to try to save the ruined buildings, which are immovable cultural sights.

The original Benedictine community was founded there in 1084, when the Benedictines came there from Břevnov.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: from Prague – route Brno - on the highway
By bus: from Prague – Brno-Pohořelice-Rajhrad
By train: Prague- Brno – Rajhrad

Offer for organized groups

Group tickets

Opening hours

Abbey temple: whole year 9:00 - 17:00

MONUMENT OF LITERATURE IN MORAVIA

May – September: from 9am to 5pm (except from Mondays)

October – April: from 9am to 4pm (except from Mondays)

What to visit?

Inside spaces of Rajhrad Monaster



Sázava Monastery

CONTACT

Národní památkový ústav - správa kláštera v Sázavě
Zámecká 72, 285 06 Sázava
Tel.: +420 327 321 177, e-mail: sazava@npu.cz

RESERVATION

Tour guide: sazava@npu.cz

WEB

www.klaster-sazava.cz

Sázava is the third oldest monastery in Bohemia. Founded by the hermit Procopius at the site of his hermitage on the river Sázava with the help of the Přemyslid dukes Oldřich and Břetislav. In the 11th century it was a Benedictine spiritual centre of Slavic education, which was a patrimony of the Slavic Apostles Saints Cyril and Methodius. Contacts and exchange of cultural values with Kievan Rus.

In the surrounding countryside there are minor pilgrimage stops emblazoned with legends and myths about St. Procopius. In the woods not far from the monastery there is also a wooden Way of the Cross in so-called Devil's furrow. It is a prehistoric and medieval way, according to the legend ploughed up by St. Procopius with the tame devil harnessed to a plough. The area of the Sázava Monastery is accessible to those interested in a guided tour of the exteriors and interiors of the former convent and Sanctuary church usually from April to October. Tours begin at pre-set hours. Tours at other times for groups of 7 people and more are possible by prior arrangement and reservation only if the operating conditions allow it. Foreign visitors are usually lent a guided tour text in Polish, English, German or Spanish. Visitors can look around the exteriors or relax in the north garden of the monastery with a Church of St. Cross from the 11th century freely and without entrance fee. All year round, it is possible to visit the regular church service in the Roman Catholic Church of St. Procopius. Occasionally there are concerts and other cultural events held within the monastery. In connection with the celebration of the feast of St. Procopius at the beginning of July it is also possible to take part in the Pilgrimage of St. Procopius. During the pilgrimage festivals there are other relics of St. Procopius exhibited for the pilgrims: St. Procopius's arm, the spoon of St. Procopius and his cup, which he was supposed to turn water into wine in.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Walking and cycling trails in the nature
- Huť František with a unique exhibition of contemporary glass art "Paths of Glass"
- Romanesque church of St. Jacob in Stříbrná Skalice in Rovná
- Český Šternberk castle
- Kutná Hora – sights of UNESCO
- Chateau Konopiště

SUMMARY

The monastery area has strong genius loci, where various spiritual and cultural ideologies crossed paths in the course of history. It is also home to many styles of architecture and art of the Romanesque, gothic, baroque periods up to Neo-Renaissance classicism. One of the attractions is archaeological foundations of the foundation church of St. Cross from the 11th century in the northern garden and unfinished gothic church with high pillars of the southern nave from red sandstone. The baroque decoration of the temple of St. Procopius includes, among other things, the miraculous Amorous painting of St. Procopius and the relics of this saint patron of the Czech land in the crypt of the temple. The most beautiful area of the former convent is a gothic caputular chapel from the time of Emperor Charles IV with mural paintings celebrating human motherhood of Mother of God, Virgin Mary. The unique images are so-called Madonna of Sázava leading about five-year-old baby Jesus by the hand and a pregnant Virgin Mary. The exposition Staroslověnská Sázava with a number of medieval Slavic and Latin manuscripts and archaeological findings follows. A baroque refectory and gothic so-called Abbey chapel are also parts of the exhibition. In the cloister there are the whitened frescoes gradually unfolded now. These were whitened by the secular owners after the abolishment of the monastery during the Josephine reforms. The baroque frescoes were inspired by the legends of St. Procopius and the stories from the history of the monastery. They were discovered in 2007 on more than 1000 square meters of walls.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: on the highway D1 (Prague-Brno), exit at 34 km (Ostředek) and further 10 km to the town of Sázava.

By bus: From Prague by the line of Prague Integrated Transport (PID) no. 382 from the final metro station "C" "Háje", final station: Sázava-Černé Budy (by the bridge), about 3 minutes' walk to the monastery

Opening hours

April, October: Sat, Sun and holidays from 10am to 3.30pm

May, September: Tue-Sun: from 10am to 3.30pm

June: Tue-Sun: from 10am to 5pm

July-August: Tue-Sun: from 10am to 5.30pm

What is there to visit?

Sázava monastery area

Offer for families with children

Reduced admission for children

Offer for organized groups

Group tickets



Museum Teplice

CONTACT

Regional museum in Teplice
Zámecké náměstí 14,
415 01 Teplice
Tel.: +420 412 359 000
E-mail: info@muzeum-teplice.cz

RESERVATION

Guided tour: tel.: +420 412 359 000, e-mail: info@muzeum-teplice.cz

WEB

www.muzeum-teplice.cz

The convent was founded by the second Queen of Bohemia Judith of Thuringia and is probably her final resting place. Archaeological researches of the past 70 years have shown that the convent was not burned or significantly damaged during the Hussite wars.

Nowadays, it is possible to visit the building under the exhibition *Po stopách zaniklého kláštera v Teplicích* (Following the tracks of an ancient convent in Teplice) in the local regional museum located on the ground floor of the recently renovated so-called Romanesque wing of the castle. The exhibition, which aims to introduce the convent to the European context, can be found in eight halls in addition to the architectural articles and written sources, and graphics representing the place. The authors of the exhibition also illustrate the architectural history on two models of the convent. On the touch screens and in the multimedia projection rooms the films on archaeological excavations in the 50s of the 20th century can be seen, when there were possibly found the remains of the second Queen of Bohemia Judith of Thuringia.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- The Spa Teplice
- Educational path audioteplice.cz

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

The queenly convent in Teplice was founded by the second Queen of Bohemia Judith of Thuringia around the year 1160. Written sources have more likely mentioned the convent since the end of the 13th century (1278), the year of its devastation. After that time the convent was in financial stringency for a half-century. The spiritual administration of the convent was ensured by a male monastery from nearby Postoloprty.

The convent began to prosper during the reign of Charles IV mainly due to capable abbesses Anna (from 1356 to 1370) and Margaret (1385-1414). It is interesting that neither during the Hussite wars was the convent ravaged despite the Hussite attack from 1421. In 1426 the convent was attacked and devastated by the Catholic army in retaliation for a previous alleged truce with heretics. There is only a little known about the extent of damage, but the convent probably persisted until 1435, when the newly elected abbess Eliška from Doubravice wrote a letter, from which it followed that Benedictine nuns from Teplice were at that time absolutely penniless and in exile. The chronicle Bartoška from Drahovice states that in 1435 Jakoubek from Vřesovice hold, among other things, the city of Teplice. In November 1437 he and his future heirs were noted to obtain the goods of the convent by King Sigismund. The nuns left the place and probably went to the Monastery of St. George at Prague Castle.

After the end of Hussite Wars, the former convent buildings were reconstructed into a secular fortified residence, which appears in the sources as "castle" or "fortress". The rights of the convent finally expired in 1512 when the manor house in Teplice changed to an autonomous manor.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: from Prague on the main road E55.
By bus: Bus and train stations in the city.

Offer for organized groups

Educational programs

Opening hours

All year round daily except Monday
THU – FRI/ 12pm – 5pm
SAT – SUN/ 10am – 12pm and 1pm – 5pm

What is there to visit?

Museum exhibition

Offer for families with children

Reduced admission for children



Museum Třebíč

CONTACT

Museum of Vysočina

Zámek 1

674 01 Třebíč

Tel.: 568 610 022, 777 746 982

E-mail: infobazilika@mkstrebic.cz

RESERVATION

Guided tour: tel. 568 610 022, 777 746 982, e-mail: infobazilika@mkstrebic.cz

WEB

www.muzeumtr.cz

The largest Benedictine monastery in Moravia, home to St. Procopius' Basilica, is a cultural landmark of the capital of Western Moravia – Třebíč. In Czech or Moravian surroundings there is nothing to be compared with this Basilica from the early 13th century. Various parts of the building represent the Rhineland Romanesque-gothic architecture of the first quarter of the 13th century (for example the Northern portal, the Dwarf Gallery, the Crypt). The historical is on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list along with the Jewish Quarter. It was added in 2003 is open to the general public.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Jewish quarter in Třebíč
- Porta Coeli in the frontal monastery (Cistercian convent)
- Žďár nad Sázavou (former Cistercian convent)

SUMMARY

On the borderland between Brno and Znojmo in an unpopulated land of the river Jihlava in 1101 the Moravian Přemysli-des Oldřich and Litold established the Benedictine monastery. By its extensive foundation they established the largest Benedictine monastery in Moravia of that time, and even until the middle Ages the idea of establishing a monastery of Konráds was still alive.

Even though this place was later protected by walls, still it was a fatal place for the Benedictines. After the Hussite riots that shook up with the economic base of the monastery, Hungarian troops dashed to Třebíč. In May 1468 the Hungarian troops besieged the monastery. Moravia came under the Hungarian administration, the monastic properties were confiscated by the secular lords, and the monastery was occupied by a military garrison (still in 1478 in a private letter it is written about the presence of Hungarian troops). The Abbey without economic provision could not redeem the standing property and was itself dependent on the support of a debenture lords. The Benedictines were expelled from Třebíč between 1524 and 1536.

The family Osovský bought the monastery in 1557 and began with its reconstruction into an aristocratic residence. Other construction works took place in the time of family Valdštejn, who administrated the manor since 1613. The castle was rebuilt in baroque style and even the basilica regained its original religious purpose after many years. We owe to baroque builder Francis Maximilian Kaňka invited by Valdštejns for a considerate construction works of a medieval building.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: close connection to highway D1, from Velké Meziříčí it is 22 km to Třebíč.

By bus and train: bus and train stations on the other side of the valley.

Offer for families with children

Reduced admission for children

Offer for organized groups

Group tickets

Opening hours

June – September: MO – SUN/ 9am-6pm

October – May: MO – SUN/ 9am-5pm, FRI/ 9am-3pm

Whole year is St. Procopius' Basilica free for entry after 3pm

What is there to visit?

Several museum expositions

Slovakia

- Parish Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Diakovce
- Parish Church of of the Most Holy Saviour in Hronovce - Čajakovo
- Parish Church in Hronský Beňadik
- Benedictine monastery of Saints Cosmas and Damian
- Romanesque monastery church in Rimavské Janovce
- Monastery of the Transfiguration of Jesus in Sampor
- Monastery Skalka
- Monastery of St. Hippolyte in Nitra at the bottom of the hill Zobor



Parish Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Diakovce

CONTACT

Parish Diakovce

Diakovce 108

925 81 Diakovce

Tel.: +421 31 77 952 20

E-mail: farnost.diakovce@abu.sk

RESERVATION

Tel.: +421 31 77 952 20, E-mail: farnost.diakovce@abu.sk).

WEB

www.diakovce.sk

The Church of the Virgin Mary in Diakovce, together with the monastery in Hronský Beňadik, churches in Hronovce – Čajakovo and in Rimavské Janovce, and also with the chapel in Skalka nad Váhom belong to the still functioning sacral buildings in Slovakia built in the Middle Ages for the Benedictines. The church and its side chapel of St. Stephen the King is the only still standing part of the former monastery. It is a valuable example of Romanesque brick architecture. It features an unusual two-storey layout.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- thermal swimming pools Diakovce
- Romanesque church in the town Čierny Brod–Hed
- watermill Tomášikovo
- waterworks Gabčíkovo

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

The fertile region of modern day Diakovce belonged to the Benedictine Archabbey in Pannonhalma since the early Middle Ages (probably since the beginning of the 11th century). The monks of Pannonhalma had a manor farm estate here, where they arranged one of their agricultural courts, so-called grangia. Even before 1102 there was a church dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It became a staple of the subsidiary monastery (priory) subordinated to the Archabbey in Pannonhalma. In 1228 a new church of this subsidiary was consecrated, again dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The church was preserved until today, however in a modified form, mostly because of the extension of the Neo-Romanesque basilica in the 19th century. The original part of the church is one of the most important examples of medieval monastic architecture in Slovakia. The most notable feature is the two-storey layout and the brick material, from which not only the outer walls were built, but also their sculptural decorations.

The Priory in Diakovce existed until the end of the 16th century. After a brief period of the reformation spread among the urban population it was given back to the Benedictines of Pannonhalma in 1636. The monks worked there until 1787, when the monastery was abolished within the reforms of the emperor Joseph II. They came back again in the late 19th century and remained until the forced dissolution of the monastery in 1950. The monastery church went through some building interventions (superstructure of the towers, modification of the western façade, vault reconstruction) in 18th century. Major reconstruction took place in the years 1872 to 1875, when a new three-navy Romanesque basilica was built by the western frontage of the church according to the plans of architect Frederick Schulek.

In the closer and more distant surroundings of Diakovce many of the small late-Romanesque sacral buildings were preserved, their brick architecture reveals the possible influence of the church in Diakovce. They are located in the area of the main current of the river Danube, its largest tributary channel Little Danube (churches on Žitný ostrov) and also in the area of Dolný Povází (Gáň, Malá Mača), where you can find picturesque corners of nature and other attractive places, such as watermills (Tomášikovo, Jelka) or waterworks (Kráľová, Gabčíkovo).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: road R1, exit at Galanta, and then carry on further on the road 507 towards Diakovce.

By bus: regular bus service from the town Šaľa; by car towards Šaľa and then to Diakovce (4 km).m).

Opening hours

It is possible to visit the church during the regular times of church service or upon agreement with the parish administrator.

What can you visit?

Church



Parish Church of of the Most Holy Saviour in Hronovce - Čajakovo

CONTACT

Parish Hronovce
Jána Zelenyáka 16, 935 61 Hronovce
Tel.: +421 36 779 60 22
E-mail: hronovce@nrb.sk

RESERVATION

Tel.: +421 36 779 60 22, E-mail: hronovce@nrb.sk

WEB

www.hronovce.sk

Former monastery in Hronovce – Čajakovo (former Lekýr) used to belong to the group of around 12 medieval monasteries on the territory of modern day Slovakia, about which we can say with confidence that they were Benedictine monasteries (along with monasteries in Nitra – Zobor, Hronský Beňadik, Diakovce, Bzovík, Skalka nad Váhom, Rimavské Janovce, Krásna nad Hornadom, Klížske Hradištie, Ludanice, Mengusovce – Štôla and Prievidza). The only still partly preserved building of the former monastery is today's parish church. The original wall of the Romanesque cathedral hides under its Baroque design. The church belonged amongst the large, three-nave churches. It had a sculptural stone decoration from which we know several fragments. The three-nave basilica layout and the well-known architectural elements indicate that it was probably a representative building. The history and architecture of the monastery in Čajakovo are still just waiting for further exploration.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Levice – Romanesque church in the local area of Levice–Kalinčiakovo, castle and other monuments
- Štúrovo – thermal swimming pool VADAŠ
- Želiezovce – Parish church of St. George with partially preserved Gothic architecture and frescoes in the interior, the Baroque mansion of the House of Esterházy, Neo-Gothic tomb of the House of Esterházy in the cemetery, Municipal Museum

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

Date of foundation of the Benedictine Abbey in Čajakovo (formerly Lekýr) is unknown. It was probably built in the early 13th century when its monastery church, which is still partly preserved today, was built. It already existed in 1255. We know relatively little about the fate of the monastery. It was most probably rather a smaller and poorer monastery, but its late Romanesque church was characterised by a more sumptuous three-nave layout and sculptural stone decoration. It was definitely constructed by lesser known aristocratic founder of the monastery (perhaps named Serafin, possibly from the family of Kačičovci), who wanted to have a similarly representative monastery church in Čajakovo as for example the one nearby Bíňa built by aristocrats from the family of Hunt-Poznanovci. The monastery ceased to exist shortly after 1508, although the titular abbey still existed for some time. The monastery church is the only standing remnant of its architecture. It remained preserved in the Baroque style and torso form. The western part of the church was destroyed by an explosion at the end of the World War 2.

There is a village Bíňa only 9 km south of Čajakovo with a church of former Premonstratensian monastery, one of the most important Romanesque architectural monuments on Slovakian territory. Its architecture was closely related to the architecture of the nearby Royal and Archbishopric castle in Esztergom. Going north on the way to Levíc from Čajakovo it is possible to visit Želiezovce with original Gothic parish church of St. George or the Baroque mansion of the House of Esterházy. The village Jur nad Hronem lies on a small turnoff, where the reconstructed preserved Romanesque church of St. George can be found.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: for example from Levíc in the direction of Esztergom, HU – road no. 76 (approximately 30 km)

By bus: regular bus and train service from Levíc

Autobusem: pravidelná autobusová a železniční doprava z Levíc.

Opening hours

It is possible to visit the church during the regular times of church service or upon agreement with the parish administrator.

What can you visit?

Church



Parish Church in Hronský Beňadik

CONTACT

RKFÚ

Pod kláštorom 1

966 53 Hronský Beňadik

Tel.: +421 45 689 31 98

E-mail: hronsky.benadik@nrb.sk

RESERVATION

A few days in advance on telephone number: +421 0903 218 531

WEB

<http://farnosthronskybenadik.webnode.sk/>

Former Benedictine monastery in Hronský Beňadik is the oldest and most important still remaining Benedictine cultural monument of the Slovak Republic. It lies in a beautiful valley of the river Hron on the outskirts of Štiavnické vrchy and is one of the most important Gothic buildings in Slovakia. Its origins date back to the 11th century when the Benedictines were settled here by Hungarian king Géza I. This monarch also very generously took care of his material security and enabled the monastery in Hronský Beňadik to become one of the most important and richest religious institutions of the medieval Hungarian kingdom. The Benedictines left the monastery in the 16th century and it subsequently underwent significant fortification modifications in connection with the defence against the Turks. Currently it functions as a parish council and the headquarters of the Order of Pallotines. Today this building of the former Benedictine monastery and a church impresses with its beauty and grandeur as well, draws attention to its unique atmosphere.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Nature suitable for walking
- Water reservoir Lipovina
- Rock dwelling Brhllove
- Ruins of the castle Levický
- Regional Museums in Nová Baňa, Levice or Zlaté Moravce

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

The beginnings of the monastery in Hronský Beňadik date back to the 11th century when the Hungarian King Geza decided to build a monastery dedicated to St. Benedict at this place. Preserved sources allow us to coherently follow the history of the monastery and its increasing importance since the 13th century. Certain obstacles of both spiritual and material development of the monastery were constant property disputes led by abbots, especially with the Archbishop of Esztergom. Despite that the abbey in Hronský Svätý Beňadik was one of the richest religious institutions in Hungary. The following centuries continued to bear signs of the disputes of the monastery with the Archbishop of Esztergom, moreover in the 15th century the monastery was burnt down by the Hussites. In the 16th century in the history of the monastery all the aspects were leaning to a certain decline. After 1528 there were no abbots leading, but only the administrators were chosen by the king. This fact was also associated with the chaos that occurred there, whether it was concerning the property matters or the religious matter. The arrangement of these complex relationships occurred after 1565, when a chapter of Esztergom became the owner of the abbey. Despite of the financial difficulties, which engulfed the monastery in the 14th and 15th centuries, an extensive reconstruction of the church and monastic buildings in the Gothic style was carried out during this period. The 17th and 18th centuries carried the signs of reconstructions of parts of the monastery, which were damaged during the Turkish raids. Another disaster that struck the monastery was a fire, which spread from the village on 31 July in 1881. The damage that the fire caused was enormous and it was necessary to start another big reconstruction. Within that the greater part of what remained of its original, the Gothic facility of the church had to be carried away.

Altars were transferred to various other churches and other monuments ended up in the Archbishop Museum in Esztergom. At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries the Conservation and Restoration took place in Hronský Beňadik, the exterior was renovated and new neo-Gothic altars were placed in the interior.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: take the motorway R1, from which you can take the exit right by this village. You can park directly in front of the church.
By bus: direct bus connection from the Zlaté Moravce and Levice.
By train: direct train connection from Levice and Žiar nad Hronom.

Opening hours

Opening hours during the summer season (from June 1 to September 30):

Monday – Friday: 10.00am – 12.00pm, 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Saturday: 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Free admission

What can you visit?

Church

Cloister

Offer for organized groups

Possibility to book a guided tour.



Benedictine monastery of Saints Cosmas and Damian

CONTACT

-

RESERVATION

-

WEB

www.obec ludanice.sk

The Benedictine monastery of St. Cosmas and Damian in Ludanice is an example of a small country manor monastery, where the monks were supposed to be praying for blessings and the salvation of the soul of the founder and his family. The abbey is interesting in its eastern patrocinium. The consecration of an eastern saint also occurs in Ludanice in the case of today's remaining parish church with partially original Romanesque material (not presented). From the architecture of the abbey today nothing has remained above the ground but from the archaeologically explored southern wing there is (respectively it will be in the near future) presented the reconstruction on the current ground level with information boards. The complex is located in the centre of the village and is part of a park and a playground.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Benedictine monasteries in Nitra, in Zobor and in Klišské Hradište
- Castle Oponice

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

Benedictine Abbey of St. Cosmas and Damian in Ludanice is an example of a small country manor monastery. The object first stood in the 13th century, while the south wing (so far the only archaeologically explored) was built in the following century. During the 16th to 18th century the monastery completely ceased to exist. On its site, in the southern part, Nitra Chapter built a residential-economic complex in the 17th-18th centuries (sanitized in the eighties of the 20th century). On the larger, northern part of the monastery an early modern cemetery was established, which was working until the late 18th century there. The bigger part of the abbey, including the church, is located on private land and has not yet been archaeologically investigated. On the site there is (respectively will be in the near future) presented the reconstruction of the southern wing of the monastery on the current ground level, which also includes information boards.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: take the road R1, exit at Sered', then follow the road 64 to Ludanice

By bus: The town is accessible by regular bus and train services.

Offer for families with children

The complex is located in the centre of the village and is part of a park and playground.

Opening hours

The area of the former monastery is still open and accessible to the public. Entrance to the grounds is free. The area is without any problems also wheelchair accessible.

What can you visit?

Presented reconstruction at the current ground level with information boards.



Romanesque monastery church in Rimavské Janovce

CONTACT

Parish Jesenské
Pekárenská 226
980 02 Jesenské
Tel.: 047 / 56 98 235
E-mail: farajesenske@gmail.com

RESERVATION

Guided tour in the church: +421 047/56 77 113

WEB

www.rimavskejanovce.sk

The Romanesque church in Rimavské Janovce is a rare gem of the region Gemer - Malohont. In the context of the spread of education, culture, business, craft, and skills and of course the faith, it is an imaginary Alpha of Christianity in the region. A witness that survived for nearly a thousand years. The atmosphere, which reflects the events of many centuries, is offered even today. It blends forces of religious beliefs and resistance to everything that time has brought. To feel it is an experience that can be enhanced by a rare Baroque organ and its mysterious sound still used during modern day church services. To look 'up' in this area is enforced not only by the humility in the moment, but also a number of noble crests on the coffered ceiling. Their placement was a thank-you to the benefactors who have so greatly contributed to its preservation.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Town Rimavská Sobota with its historical centre
- Medieval churches that are part of the tourist route of the so-called Gothic route Gemera-Malohont

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

As there has not yet been a complex archaeological research carried out on the site of the former monastery in Rimavské Janovce, we can only assume that there used to be a complete architectural unit with ecclesiastical character, offering to the monks a living space, the scriptorium, refectory, buildings for architecture and needless to say the church, typical for the construction of monasteries. At its centre there used to be a cloister garth surrounded by cloisters.

The whole settlement inevitably became a different form due to the monastery being founded. Many estates were transferred under the administration of the monastery and further evidence of their severity is also in the existence of other monastic parts, such as the aforementioned location Apátik (translated as the Little Abbey), or Barátkút (translated as the Monk's Well). In 1552 there was no abbot in the monastery in Rimavské Janovce. The last one was believed to be killed by a miller's apprentice on his own land in the mill.

We expect that after these tragic events, not only the abbey ceased to exist, but also the buildings collapsed, property was destructed, and more. The process of the downfall of the monastery itself could have been slowly completed by expanding the Reformation, and was concluded by the Turkish raids during the Turkish occupation in the 16th century. Only the church withstood these destructive factors. It stayed there and still stands nowadays.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: from the town Rimavská Sobota using information boards.

It is possible to park near the church.

By bus: Direct bus and train connections from Rimavská Sobota.

Opening hours

It is possible to visit the church only during the regular times of church service.

In other times it is only possible to enter the church accompanied by Mrs. Fačková, she needs to be notified in advance.

What can you visit?

Church



Monastery of the Transfiguration of Jesus in Sampor

CONTACT

Monks from religious Order of St. Benedict
Monastery of the Transfiguration of Jesus
Sampor 50, 962 31 Sliač
Tel.: +421 915 800 124, E-mail: benediktini@benediktini.sk

RESERVATION

Accommodation: domhosti@benediktini.sk

WEB

www.benediktini.sk

The Monastery of the Transfiguration of Jesus represents the first Benedictine monastery in the Slovak Republic after the dissolution of religious orders during the Communist dictatorship. Following the formation of the monastic community and the construction of the monastery as a spiritual centre in the heart of Slovakia was created. The routine for each day in a monastery is a liturgical prayer of the monastic community, which is accessible to all visitors. During the day monks are engaged in different work connected to the monastery tours, construction, caring for guests or cultivating the land of the monastery and other activities. The monastery also occasionally organizes various activities for the general public, such as a variety of spiritual renewals and spiritual-educational seminars. In the future (after the completion of the construction of Dum hostí, translated as the Guest House), the monastery will also provide the visitors and tourists with an other with an opportunity to buy products from the monastery.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Zvolen Castle
- Arboretum Borová hora
- Church of St. Elisabeth

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

The Benedictines returned to Slovakia in the Jubilee year. The Bishop of Banská Bystrica, Rudolf Balaz played a key role here: in 1998 he released his two diocesan priests, Vladimír Kasan and Blazej Škvark, to enter the Order of St. Benedict. They decided to enter the Abbey of Týnec (Krakow, Poland), from which they tried to register in Slovakia in only two years. In 2000 they managed to get a temporary residence for the restoration of the Order of Benedictines in parish building in Lubietova. However, they leave Lubietova two years later for unsteady financial situation of this building. Finally they were able to receive a rectory in Bacúrov, which was uninhabited for nearly 30 years, as a gift. The Slovak Benedictines lived at this place until the opening of a new monastery in Sampor in 2010. In Bacúrov monks did a lot of work. Within two years, the former presbytery changed beyond recognition. First the roof was replaced, and the ground floor and surroundings of the building were repaired and adjusted. The former parish building then changed to a „monastery in a small edition.“ At this point the House of St. Benedict was officially established as a branch house of the Týnec Abbey under the new monastic foundation. Despite the rich history of the Benedictines in the Slovak Republic and the possibility to take some of the historic sites, a decision to start the construction of the new monastery was made. This decision had many conditions for many reasons, mostly that it was necessary to ensure proper growth of a new community without unnecessary burden associated with caring for historic monuments, pastoral ministry, or improper location. Due to the favour of father Bishop Mons. Rudolf Balaz and the generosity of parishioners from Sliač we became the owners of the seven-hectare site in the village Sampor. This location perfectly meets the needs of monastic life, as it provides ample space, peace and it is also accessible to guests. The foundation stone for the construction of a new monastery was given a blessing by Pope John Paul II during his last visit to Slovakia. More information can be found on the website of the monastery construction. With Monday on 24 May in 2010 will remain firmly incorporated in the modern history of the Benedictines in the Slovak Republic. On this day father Bishop Rudolf Balaz consecrated the Monastery Church of the Transfiguration of Jesus with the participation of fathers Bishops Viliam Judák and Tomas Galise, abbots, monks, a number of priests and clerics, as well as believers from all over Slovakia. Father Abbot Bernard Sawicki OSB, abbot of the abbey Týnec announced after the end of the festivities a new monastery as a simple priory, and named father Vladimír Kasan OSB as the first prior. In 2013 the second phase of construction of the monastery began, associated with the expansion of its own building of the monastery for the future cloister part and construction of the so-called House of Bread, which serves especially for visitors.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: From the town Zvolen or from Banská Bystrica (through the village Veľká Lúka), about 10 km from the road R1.

By bus: busses SAD Zvolen pass the village Sampor (route Zvolen – Lukavica).

Opening hours

The monastery temple is open throughout the day (until 8:15pm).

What can you visit?

The monastery is not accessible for the tours of the indoor premises.



Monastery Skalka

CONTACT

Parish Office Skalka nad Váhom
father Peter Beňo
913 31 Skalka nad Váhom I/41
Tel.: +421 32 65 84 240
E-mail: skalka@fara.sk

RESERVATION

Guided tour in the monastery: +421 949 782 346 alebo na skalka@fara.sk

WEB

<http://klastorskalka.sk/>

Ruins of the Benedictine monastery of St. Benedict in Skalka near Trenčín is the oldest Benedictine monument in Trenčín Region. Skalka became an important sacral object after the arrival of St. Benedict around the year 1031 and his subsequent martyrdom. In 1083 saints Andrew Svorad and Benedict became the first canonized saints of the Hungarian kingdom and Skalka has since then become a major pilgrimage site - the oldest in the Slovak Republic.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Trenčín Castle and Museum
- Spa Trenčianske Teplice
- Parish Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

A small area of space in Mala Skalka with a monastery and a cave in Velka Skalka conceals as well as the magical atmosphere also several cultural - historical references not only in Slovak, but also in the Central European context.

Skalka near Trenčín is a place associated with the oldest legend of the period of the Hungarian kingdom - "Live of the Saints and hermits Andrew Zorard and Benedict Martyr, written by Mauro, Fivechurch bishop." At the area of the monastery there is an entrance into Benedict's cave - stone Early Gothic portal from the run of the 13th and 14th centuries - which can be considered the oldest publicly accessible cave in Slovakia. Currently, the area of the monastery is used for the occasion of a pilgrimage, which is held annually on the weekend following the feast of St. Andrew Svorad and St. Benedict on 17 July, they also hold an art-literary symposium Ora et Ars, Catholic pilgrimage conference Nove Svitani (New Dawn) and other cultural-spiritual events. When visiting the ruins of the monastery complex, a visitor first examines the Garden of Eden with the remains of houses from the times of the Jesuits, where is also a bell tower preserved, then they go through a Gothic portal to the natural limestone caves. From there they enter the Chapel of St. Andrew Svorad and St. Benedict, where a painting depicting these two saints is located above the altar. Subsequently they go to the other two chapels, in the first one - the Chapel of the Virgin Mary - there is located the Bethlehem, in the second - the Chapel of the Passion of the Lord - a visitor can see the crucified Christ - Corpus and the Holy Sepulchre.

The entire complex set in the fascinating natural scenery is filled with spiritual atmosphere.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: between municipalities Trenčín and Skalka nad Váhom follow the road 507.

By bus: bus service from Trenčín. Stop Zastávka u kostela in Mala Skalka, about 1 km walk to the monastery.

Opening hours

May, September - during weekends and public holidays 10am to 5pm, June - August - every day except Mondays 10am to 5pm

Admission: free

The area of Nova Skalka with cloister is accessible all year round.

What can you visit?

Church

Monastery area

Offer for families with children

For families with children from the age of 5 years and older we recommend a half-day trip - the car can be parked in the area of Mala Skalka, a walk through the forest educational pathway to the monastery Velka Skalka, tour of the monastery, around Vah back to Mala Skalka. A possibility of barbecue along the way.

Offer for organized groups

In the case of a larger group/tour (even outside season) it is necessary to contact the parish administrator.



Monastery of St. Hippolyte in Nitra at the bottom of the hill Zobor

CONTACT

-

RESERVATION

-

WEB

www.hradiskozobor.sk

The Monastery of St. Hippolyte in Zobor was until the 13th century one of the most important religious institutions, not only on the territory of present-day Slovakia, but also in the context of Hungary at that time. It ceased to exist, like many other monasteries in Hungary in the late 15th century or early 16th century. There is no aboveground masonry left from the medieval Benedictine monastery. Only the ruins of Camaldolese monastery are visible, which was built on the site of the former Benedictine predecessor in the 18th century. The area is now part of a hospital for respiratory diseases founded in the 20th century. The Benedictine tradition today at the site in addition to the information panel reminds people that the nearby cave is one in which one of the local monks – St. Andrew Svorad – lived like a hermit until the beginning of the 11th century. The church of St. Michael in Nitra – Drazovce is accessible near the monastery on a light tourist path. It is one of the numerous Romanesque sacral buildings that have been preserved around Nitra area.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Nitra castle and cathedral church
- Romanesque church of St. Michael from the 11th century
- Agricultural Museum with archaeological exhibits

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

Monastery of St. Hippolyte in Nitra on Zobor is the oldest monastery in Slovakia. The question of its founding is still not reliably resolved; however it is likely that it was founded in the 9th century. During the 11th and 13th centuries it fulfilled an important function of one of the centres of religious, public and cultural life in Hungary. It had its own scriptorium and a school; it had a large land property and also fulfilled the function of so-called trustworthy town, a sort of medieval notariat. After the 13th century, its importance slowly waned and at the end of the 15th century it stopped being mentioned in the written sources. In its place there was a monastery founded in the end of the 17th century for the monks of the order Camaldolese who were operating there until the abolition of the monasteries under the terms of the so-called Josephine reforms in 1782. The architecture of the medieval Benedictine monastery was largely destroyed by the construction of Camaldolese monastery. In the 20th century, in the same location there was a hospital for respiratory diseases built in addition to the monastery. The archaeological research therefore depicted only tiny remains of the former monastery. They also include far only one Romanesque stone carved architectural article – volute head, which is interesting in that when it lost its original function, it was remade into a sink.

On the site today it is possible to see only the ruins of Camaldolese monastery church of St. Joseph, there are no preserved aboveground walls from the medieval monastery. The site is not officially accessible because it is located on the premises of the hospital (bacterial environment), after notifying the reception the visitors are usually allowed to visit the remnants of the Baroque monastery. The site is only partially available for visitors with mobility problems, there are several steps leading to the ruins of the Baroque church.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: the site is now located in the area of respiratory diseases hospital in Nitra on Zobor. It is accessible by car.
By bus: regular bus service.

Opening hours

At the area in front of the sanatorium there is an information board about the history and the results of archaeological research of the monasteries of Zobor (only in Slovak).

What can you visit?

Ruins of a Baroque church

Poland

- **Monastery Holy Cross**
- **Monastery Lubin**
- **Monastery Mogilno**
- **Monastery Tyniec**



Monastery Holy Cross

CONTACT

Klasztor Misjonarzy Oblatów Maryi Niepokalanej - Sanktuarium Relikwii Drzewa Krzyża Świętego
Święty Krzyż 1

26-004 Bieliny, gm. Nowa Słupia

Tel.: +48 413 177 021, Tel.: +48 413 178 279

E-mail: infoswkrzyz@gmail.com

RESERVATIONS

Accommodation: tel.: +48 413 177 021, e-mail: pokojeswkrzyz@gmail.com

WEB

<http://www.swietykrzyz.pl/>

Holy Cross Abbey is one of the most important pilgrimage places in Poland. It is also an important point for many tourists. Its history is included in the stylistically diverse buildings preserved since the foundation: Romanesque wall of the first church, gothic cloister, baroque church and Olesnicki chapel. The location of the monastery is extraordinary – on the top of one of the highest mounts of Holy Cross Mountains. One can get more information about the history and rich ecosystem in the Natural History Museum of the Holy Cross National Park which is situated in the old north-western wing of the monastery.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Museum of Ancient Metallurgy
- The medieval settlement

SUMMARY

Holy Cross Abbey was the first sanctuary in Poland. Until today it remains an important place of worship and an exceptional historic complex. For centuries it was a witness to important events in the history of the country that influenced the architecture. In the proximity of the monastery there are objects of historic value. One found many remains of furnaces used to iron smelting. Therefore Museum of Holy Cross Ancient Metallurgy was opened in Nowa Slupia. Culture and Archeological Center was established too because of rich prehistoric settlement in the area. The lands were a place of national liberation struggles in the 19th century. Death of Prince Adam Czartoryski in 1861 was honored by the celebration of a solemn Mass and installation of the stone mound, the remains of which can be seen in the eastern part of the clearing. The stone figure of a pilgrim at the foot of Bald Mountain is one of the most recognizable landmarks in the region. It is often related to St. Emeric.

The monastery is situated in the Holy Cross National Park in a strict nature reserve. There are unique geological forms (boulder fields) and fauna (larches, firs). Exhibition in the Natural History Museum shows the richness of the local nature. One can see there the history of Holy Cross Mountains, forest ecosystems and peculiarities of their nature. The coat of arms of the Holy Cross Abbey (double cross) was placed as a part of the coat of arms of the Holy Cross province to stress the significance of the monastery in the history of the region.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: Route DW756, turn into Route DW753 (Huta Szklana)

Offer for organized groups

Possibility of guided tours with a guide

Opening hours

Apart from the mass hours:

Working days 9am – 5pm

Missionary exhibition: MO – SAT 9am – 5pm, SU after holy mass till 5pm

What is there to visit?

The Monastery portal

The Monastery

The Church

Holy Cross Chapel

Missionary exhibition



Monastery Lubin

CONTACT

Benedictine Abbey
ul. Mickiewicza 6, 64-010 Lubin
Tel.: +48 (65) 5177 222
E-mail: benedyktni@benedyktyni.net

RESERVATION

Guided tours: tel.: +48(065)5118334, e-mail: oprowadzanie@benedyktyni.net
Accommodation in the guest house: tel.: +48 (65)5118334, e-mail: domgosci@interia.pl

WEB

www.benedyktyni.net

Lubiń Abbey is exceptional in many ways – its history is perfectly preserved not only in documents but also in its walls. The works of monks living in the monastery after the Second World War can be given as an example of a life according to the rule of their patron Saint Benedict: pray and work. Their efforts revived the monastery and the church to their former glory. Lubiń monks and laymen staying in the abbey on a temporary basis can practice meditation in the Centre for Christian Meditation. These works were crowned by recognizing the Lubiń Abbey as Historic Monument in 2009.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Lagoon Zemborzycki
- Wrocławski park

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

Comparing to other convents in Poland, the Lubiń Abbey has a unique, well-kept written history. It is also one of the monasteries in Poland with the longest activity, where the periods of suspension were short. Not only source documents advocate the historical and cultural value of the abbey but also the church and its equipment, which was preserved in an excellent state, in spite of many adversities. Through its multi-style structure the building reflects the changing history of the abbey. In its walls the church does not only store memories about rulers and abbots, but it is also the blessed brother Bernard from Wąbrzeźno who rests there. The monastery walls remember also the visit of Adam Mickiewicz and the Primate Cardinal Stanisław Wyszyński. The monks have cared for the parish organised by the abbey since the 13th century, the witness of which is the perfectly preserved, baroqueised Saint Leonard Church.

Two very interesting sites appeared near Lubiń in the 20th century: General Dezydery Chłapowski Landscape Park and an open-air film museum. An agro-ecological park, created in 1992, is also located nearby. This way the agricultural landscape of this land, created with great efforts of its landlord in the 1820s, has been preserved. Living in Turew, Dezydery Chłapowski introduced state-of-the-art agricultural improvements. Due to his achievements Chłapowski was invited to prepare plans of granting land ownership for peasants in the Grand Duchy of Posen. The picture of the Polish landed gentry, narrated by the landscape in the park may be completed with the vision of their everyday life by visiting the 'So-plicowo' open-air film museum in Cichowo. A whole tourist and entertainment centre, connected both with the history of this land and Polish literature, was created there.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: route 308 from Kościan

By train: to the Kościan railway station and further by bus in the direction of Gostyń

Opening hours

Guided tours only from 9am to 11:30am and from 2:30pm to 5:00pm (winter time to 4:00pm)

The Church of the Nativity of Our Lady is not accessible for tourists during the services, which start at the following times:

12:15pm Midday prayers

5:30pm Vespers (winter time: 4.30pm)

6:30pm Holy Mass

What is there to visit?

Saint Leonard Parish Church

Abbey Church of the Nativity of Our Lady

The monastery

Part of the monastery garden

Offer for organized groups

Groups up to 25 people



Monastery Mogilno

CONTACT

Abbey of st. John the Evangelist in Mogilno
ul. Benedykta XVI nr 1
88-300 Mogilno
Tel.: (0-52) 315 24 08
E-mail: biuroparafialne@klasztor.mogilno.com.pl

RESERVATIONS

Accommodation and guided tour: tel.: +48 663101855, e-mail: biuroparafialne@klasztor.mogilno.com.pl

WEB

www.klasztor.mogilno.com.pl

Mogilno Abbey is one of the oldest Benedictine complexes in Poland. It is so much more valuable as until today its walls have preserved the traces of all modifications and the ups and downs of the monastery. The most remarkable part is the church, in which the turbulent and changing history of Poland is written from the lowest parts up to the roof, from the external shape to the interior equipment.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Gothic parish church of Saint James the Greater
- public beaches in Chałupki and Kopczyn
- Gothic church of Saint Mary Magdalene in Kwieciszewo
- Mierucinek" Natural Reserve
- The Piast Trail
- Saint James's Trail (Route of Santiago de Compostela)

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

On the boarder of Greater Poland and Kuyavia lies the town of Mogilno. It was given the town privileges in 1398 by Władysław Jagiełło, although it had belonged to the 'black monks' (the Benedictines) from the 11th century. The monks were brought to Mogilno, which was at that time quite a big settlement, by Casimir the Restorer. The long history of the abbey was not covered by its vicissitudes. A bit of luck led to the situation that the exceptional complex shows both original Romanesque interiors (one of the few in Poland), the medieval layout of the monastery with a central court and the Baroque church décor as well as unique Rococo woodcarving. Apart from the post-Benedictine monastery complex it is also worth to visit other sights of the town. Especially interesting is the St. James the Elder parish church from the 16th century. On one of the Gothic bricks of its walls the crest of the town of Mogilno was imprinted in the Middle Ages. Currently the church is a part of Saint James's Trail and the Piast Trail. There is also a real treat for lovers of industrial revolution architecture – 19-century railway station with the rail infrastructure (water tower, warehouses and signal boxes).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

(by car (routes, car park), public transportation)

By car: Route No. 15 (Ostróda-Trzebnica), turn into Route nr. 254

By train: train route Olsztyn – Poznań

Opening hours, accessibility

Apart from the mass hours:

Working days 8am, 6pm

Sundays and holidays 8am, 9:30am; 11am; 12:30pm; 6pm

What is there to visit?

The church

The monastery

Offer for families with children

Possibility of negotiating accommodation prices for families with many children. Free access for pre-school children

Offer for organized groups

Possibility of negotiating accommodation prices for groups over 35 people and ministry groups.



Monastery Tyniec

CONTACT

Benedictine abbey in Tyniec

ul. Benedyktyńska 37

30 – 398 Krakov

Tel.: +48 12 688 54 50

E-mail: rezerwacje@jg.benedyktyni.com

RESERVATION

Guided tour, accommodation: tel.: +48 12 688 54 50, e-mail: rezerwacje@jg.benedyktyni.com

WEB

www.benedyktyni.com

Tyniec Abbey, from the very beginning, was of great significance, especially in a religious way but also artistically and politically. The attention paid to the liturgy is visible in the not very large but great collection of preserved liturgical objects. Benedictine spirituality is a foundation of the existence of the abbey. Monks organise retreats, seminars and meditations. The interior of the church and of the monastery are a reflection of the artistic changes since their beginning. The remains of the older building phases permit to trace the development of architectural forms. Very unique stone details are stored in the Museum.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Main Market Square in Kraków
- Historic Centre of Kraków
- Church of the Virgin Mary in Kraków
- Wawel Cathedral and Wawel Royal Castle
- Jewish District (Kazimierz)

SUMMARY

For nearly 1000 years Tyniec Abbey rises above the river Vistula near Kraków. It reflects artistic changes in successive epochs. Remains of Romanesque buildings were preserved (part of the church and of the monastery). There are also gothic cloister, gothic-baroque church and baroque monastery buildings. The Abbey is marked on the historical map as a place of great economic and political importance. For centuries it was witness to many important events in the history of the country. After the closing of the abbey in 1816 Benedictines came back here after more than hundred years. Gradually, the monastery was restored and regained its former glory. Today, visitors can enjoy not only the beauty of the Tyniec landscape and architecture but also profit from wide-range educational and spiritual offer.

Tyniec Abbey is also a great place for a history lesson. Situated near the former capital, it was not only witness but also subject of territorial fights. Its present look was shaped by reconstructions after war activities (e.g. walls from the Bar Confederation). Successive restorations were also caused by destructions in military actions. On the map of Poland Tyniec is a well-recognized place. Today, the abbey offers visitors an attractive tourist route: visiting the abbey and museum exhibitions as well as educational workshops for children and adults. They allow people to learn about history of the monastery and life of monks and their work.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car – exit Tyniec on the southern bypass of the city; free car park – small at the monastery (in front of the barrier), larger on the right side of the Benedyktynska street, buses can park by the Vistula river; By bus – bus line 112 from Rondo Grunwaldzkie (travel takes 25 min.); By plane – Kraków-Balice airport is situated 10 km from the monastery (taxi service is secured)

Opening hours

The courtyard is open from 6am to 10pm;
Museum in the summer time open from 10am to 6pm, in the winter season from 10am to 4pm.

What is there to visit?

Guided tour of the monastery
Abbey museum

Offer for families with children

In the museum there is a small children corner; once in a month workshops for families are organized.

Offer for organized groups

There is a possibility to organize workshops about history of the place and Benedictine heritage

Hungary

- Monastery of Saint Maurice of Bakonybél
- Csolt Monastery – Medieval Ruins (Vésztő)
- Benedictine Priory of St. Mor in Győr
- Former Benedictine Abbey in Ják, today's Parish Church
- Benedictine Abbey and the Church of St. James in Lébény
- The Benedictine Pannonhalma Archabbey
- Sopron Benedictine Church of the Blessed Virgin
- Tihany Abbey



Monastery of Saint Maurice of Bakonybél

CONTACT

SZENT GÜNTER VENDÉGHÁZ

H-8427 Bakonybél, Szent Gellért tér 1.

Tel.: 0630-9001-992, Email: termek@szentmauriciusz.hu

RESERVATION

Accommodation in the guest house: online form (found on the website) must be submitted by email at gunterhaz@gmail.com

Guided tours: see contact information above

Regular tickets can be bought in the gift shop

WEB

<http://www.szentmauriciusz.hu/>

The Benedictine church and monastery built in 1754 in Baroque style and recently expanded with a souvenir shop.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- A chapel close to the village with the statue of Saint Gellert, the stations of Christ's sufferings and the Holy Trinity, at Ivy Spring, next to a lake supplied by the spring.
- The Ethnographic Museum in the village.
- The museum of nature and forestry called the House of the Bakony Forests.
- The 19th-century American ranch, not very far from the village, with horse-related activities.
- Multiple routes for trips in the nearby forests and hills, offering beautiful scenery, caves and a lookout tower on the highest peak of the Bakony Mountains.

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

Dedicated to Saint Maurice, the monastery was founded by the first Hungarian King (the future Saint Stephan) in 1018. The foundation chart, however, dates to 1037, which some believe is a fake, due to possible 13th century elements. According to some sources, Saint Gerard Sagredo left the court of the king and became a hermit at Bakonybél, within the year of 1023, which shows that the monastery was fully functional at that time. Through several centuries the monastery flourished; however, it had some unfortunate events. The complex was burnt down at the end of the 13th century, but luckily 21 of the Árpád-Age charters were saved. The 15th century saw the collapse of the monastery's inner hierarchy, which led to its isolation with the Abbot being the only monk for two years. From around 1548, the buildings were abandoned due to the Ottoman conquest, although by the beginning of the 17th century the monks returned and restarted the monastery functions with new buildings, which are still visible today. These buildings were built in Baroque style. The Benedictine community saw two dissolutions. The first was in 1786, under the religious intolerance of Reforms of Joseph II. The other was in 1950, under the communist regime. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the new government of Hungary granted permission for the monks to return in 1989, but the monastery was fully refounded in 1998. Nowadays, the monastery is active, operating a guest house, a garden of herbs, and a bookbinding workshop.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: the road no. 82 (Győr –Veszprém), when reaching Zirc turn towards Pénteszgyőr and Bakonybél

By train: the nearest train station is in the village Zirc (then follow instructions above, also there are buses reaching the village of Bakonybél from Zirc)

Opening hours

Guided tours take approximately one hour. Available on weekdays and Saturdays at 2pm.

Pre-booked groups can have guided tours at other times.

Individual visitors can visit the church, botanic garden and the arboretum independently during the opening hours.

Gift shop is open Monday to Saturday 10am – 5pm, Sunday after the Holy Mass 10:45am to 12pm

What to visit?

Church

Botanical garden

The Amber Fountain

Offer for organized groups

Group tickets



Csolt Monastery – Medieval Ruins (Vésztő)

CONTACT

Csolt Medieval Monastery Ruins - Historical site and Exhibition
5530 Vésztő
Mágori hill
Tel.: 06/66/477/148
E-mail: info@vesztomagor.hu

BOOKING

See contact information above. Organized groups must book tours in advance.

WEB

http://www.wenckheim.hu/veszto_magor.htm

Zalavár Abbey, home to the Benedictines for over 500 years, demolished later and today used as a national historic monument side.

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

Zalavár Abbey was founded in 1019 by King Saint Stephen in honour of Saint Adrian. It was home to the Benedictines for over 500 years, until in 1541 the monks had to leave the buildings which were then transformed into a stronghold, successfully defending itself against Ottoman occupation. In 1702, the Austrian military office was ordered to demolish the abbey. The villagers used the remains as construction and building materials for new buildings. Only some nicely carved stone elements remained from the medieval monastery (today in the Museum of Keszthely).

In 1715 as Göttweig Abbey received the estates, the Benedictines had to move to the nearby Zalaapáti which belonged to the domain of Zalavár. Until 1777 the estates were used as a manor of Göttweig Abbey, but then the monastery was re-established. The Baroque church and cloister were built between 1777 and 1781. The monks had to leave five years later because of the abolition decree of Emperor Joseph II, but they returned in 1802. The abbey was definitely closed in 1948, after the establishment of the communist regime. Today, the church serves as the parish church of Zalaapáti, while the monastery itself is a psychiatric care home and is not open to visitors.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: from the town Mezőberény follow the road no. 47 up north to Szeghalom and then turn left in the direction of Vésztő

By train: the closest train station is located in the village Vésztő, about 5 km from the historical site

Offer for families with children

Reduced admission for children

Offer for organized groups

Group tickets

Opening hours

May 1 - August 31 every day between 9am and 6pm

September 1 - April 31 every day between 10am and 4pm

The memorial cannot be visited in any other times.

What to visit?

Baroque parish church, memorial and museum site



Benedictine Priory of St. Mor in Győr

CONTACT

9022 Győr, Széchenyi tér 9th
Sara Szabó Kelemen
Tel.: 06 (96) 513-020

RESERVATION

kelemenosb@gmail.com or the contact number above

WEB

<http://www.bencesgyor.hu/>

The Benedictine Priory of St. Mor with 11 monks. Enter and find your place of strength and tradition to stop during the day. The entire southern side of the priory occupies a former noble Convict.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Püspökvár, the residence of Győr's bishops, easily recognized by its incomplete tower
- Győr's oldest buildings are the 13th-century dwelling tower and the 15th-century Gothic Dóczy Chapel
- The Cathedral, originally in Romanesque style, was rebuilt in Gothic and Baroque style
- Benedictine church of St. Ignatius of Loyola
- Carmelite church
- Museum of Roman Archaeology
- recently modernised spa called Rába Quelle with several indoor and outdoor pools, slides and saunas

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

In 1802, the first monks settled down in Győr, after which Francis I allowed the Orders to reunite, but the monks were expected to teach in schools, in exchange. Győran is an active monastery with 12 monks and most of them work in the high schools they run. They also provide ecclesiastical services outside of Győr. The church at the site was built by Bartolommeo Torre between 1633 and 1641, originally belonging to the Jesuits, and is a variant of the Il Gesu in Rome with two towers. The building is also influenced by the Jesuit church in Vienna. The unique 'Student Chapel' is located in the loft of the church, and was designed by Imre Makovecz in 1995. Today, the monastery is also a pharmacy museum. In 2012 the priory became an independent member of the Hungarian Benedictine Congregation.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By train: 10 minute walk from the main train station in Győr

Opening hours

Opening hours are on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 5pm to 6pm

Other admissions available upon request at the following e-mail address: kelemenosb@gmail.com

What to visit?

Active monastery

Benedictine Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola

Pharmacy museum

The former Abbot's House is currently the headquarter building of the Xantus Museum



Former Benedictine Abbey in Ják, today's Parish Church

CONTACT

Szabadnép utca 27.
9798 Ják

RESERVATION

Tel.: +36 94 / 356-014, E-mail: muvszerv@jak.hu

WEB

http://www.jak.kornyeke.hu/latnivalo/5136_jaki_templom

The parish church of Ják is the most complete Romanesque Church in Hungary, said to be Hungary's greatest treasure. It was originally built as the church of a Benedictine monastery. The village church at that time was a rotunda in front of the façade of the main doorway of Ják church. Today it is in the attention of laics and professional due to its artistic wealth and brilliant landscape location.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- picturesque towns and quiet villages close to the Austrian border
- area is ideal for those who love skiing but don't want to spend a fortune on hotels
- Őrség National Park
- plenty of thermal bathes, the most famous are in Bükk and Sársvár

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

The abbey and church of Ják is devoted to Saint George, and was founded around 1220 by Márton Nagy Jáki (Comes Marthinus Magnus), a Hungarian nobleman. Its abbot was first mentioned in a source in 1223, and it is known that the church was consecrated in 1256 by the bishop of Győr. The monastery supposedly burnt down before 1331. Thomas Bakócz, archbishop of Esztergom, and the Erdődy family, were amongst its possessors, and in 1532 Ják was damaged and set ablaze by the Turks. However, it was probably not desolated by the monks till 1562. In 1566, the complex was set on fire again. Due to these fires, most of the buildings of the complex were unfortunately demolished, excluding the iconic basilica and the smaller round-church in front of it. The iconic basilica is monumental, has three naves, and has semi-circular apses. It is known today as the church of Ják, and is one of the earliest and most symbolic still standing Romanesque churches in Hungary. According to the plans and design of the church it had many phases and it bears the traces of renovations from 1660 and 1896-1904. Therefore nowadays, it stands in its 13th century form with medieval and Baroque frescos inside. Ják is also famous for its gate, which is decorated with Norman motifs. The house of the abbot, which is located next to the church, was probably the residence of the Ják family during the middle ages. The Chapel of Saint Jacob which is also present at the site served as the medieval parish church from around 1250. Although the monastery is not there anymore, the church is active, and it is used for exhibitions.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

by car: from Szombathely on the road no. 86 towards Körmend,
turn left to Ják

by train: the nearest train station in the neighbouring village
Balogunyom about 5 km away

Opening hours

every day from 9am to 6pm

What can you visit?

Architectural monument (basilica), exhibitions



Benedictine Abbey and the Church of St. James in Lébény

CONTACT

Templom tér 2
9155 Lébény

RESERVATION

Tel.: (20) 251-4994
E-mail: szentjakablatogato@gmail.com

WEB

<http://www.lebeny.hu>

The Abbey is a famous historical monument including the monastic Church of St. James. Originally, the church was built for a Benedictine Monastery. Its three naves and three apses are formed in a basilica structure. Columnar capitals are sculptured in the form of plant ornamentation.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- St. James Visitor Centre
- Lutheran Church
- Chapel of St. Anthony of Padua
- Stone crosses, chapels, columns image around the village
- Tölgési Forest – 120-hectare forest in the heart of Neusiedl Hanság National Park
- Numerous lakes surrounding Lébény offer excellent opportunities for hiking and fishing

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

The Monastery at Lébény was established between 1199 and 1203, by a nobleman, for private worship. The complex was dedicated to the Apostle Saint James the Great. Though the existing charter for approving the donations and construction was signed by Andreas II (1208), one of the walls of the church had “1206” engraved in them, which may indicate that the church was already built at that time. It is also mentioned in the Regestrum Varadiense (an important language memorial), which was made in the late cathedral chapter of the present Oradea (Nagyvárad) in the 13th century. The monastery of Lébény was attacked and burnt down several times; the first by Mongols, then the second by King Ottokar I of Bohemia; and thereafter by the Turks, which was probably in 1529 and definitely in 1683. The monastery was taken back from the Turks by the arch-abbot of Pannonhalma in 1540. He named a new abbot, although the title only existed on paper for a little bit longer than two decades. In 1563 the monastery was burnt down again for the third time and was left devoured. Presently, the only part of the complex that is still standing is the iconic three-nave Romanesque church in the middle of Lébény village. This church is one of the most important Romanesque style buildings of Hungary, which was most probably restored in the 17th century by the Jesuits, and it was the first ever Hungarian monument that was restored in the second half of the 19th century. In addition, the Romanesque church is also operating as a parish of the village.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: from Győr towards Mosonmagyaróvár on the road no. E60

By train: the closest train station is in nearby village

Mosonszentmiklós, about 4 km from the monastery

Offer for organized group

Group tickets

Opening hours

Daily between 9am and 5pm except for Monday, at other times as well on request.

What can you visit?

Architectural monument

Parish church of the village

Visitor's centre

Museum



The Benedictine Pannonhalma Archabbey

CONTACT

Vár 1, 9090 Pannonhalma

Tel.: (+36 96) 570 191

E-mail: info@osb.hu

RESERVATION

Tel.: (+36 96) 570 191

E-mail: info@osb.hu

WEB

<http://www.bences.hu>

The most notable landmark in Pannonhalma and one of the oldest historical monuments in Hungary, founded in 996. It is located near the town, on top of a hill (282 m above the sea level). Saint Martin of Tours is believed to have been born at the foot of this hill. It is the second largest territorial abbey in the world, after the one in Monte Cassino.

Its notable sights include the Basilica with the Crypt (built in the 13th century), the Cloisters, the monumental Library with 360,000 volumes, the Baroque Refectory (with several examples of trompe l'oeil) and the Arch abbey Collection (the second biggest in the country). Today there are about 50 monks living in the monastery. The abbey is supplemented by the Benedictine High School, a boys' boarding school.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Way of the Cross (Baroque, 1724)
- Blessed Maurice Lookout Tower in the woods nearby
- Pannonhalma Apatsagi Museum

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

Surrounded by forests, located on the top of the hill of Saint Martin 15 km from Győr, Pannonhalma, founded in 996, is one of eight UNESCO heritage sites in Hungary. It is also the largest active monastery in Hungary and considered one of the top three most important Benedictine abbeys, second only to Monte Casino. The actual building of the church dates back as far as to the 13th century, but earlier – in the 11th century – remains have been found due to archaeological research. The last important medieval abbot, Mattheus Tolnai had a late Gothic chapel built on the northern side of the church. The monastic buildings were partly built in the thirteenth and fifteenth century, the latter one is indicated in the north-eastern corner of the cloister with the year 1489. A small part of the earlier wall with a Vir dolorum fresco can be seen in the northern wing of the cloister, left from the thirteenth-century Porta Speciosa.

The monastery played an important role as fortification, too. In 1242 Abbot Uros defended it against the Mongol troops, in the sixteenth century it became part of the defence system against the Ottoman conquest. In this time the abbey was left by the monks several times for shorter or longer periods. The Benedictines finally returned to the monastery in the late seventeenth century. The reconstruction of the buildings happened under the Arch-abbot Benedek Sajgó (1722–1768). The work was interrupted by the abolition of the religious orders under Emperor Joseph II, and was finished only after the reestablishment of the monastery in 1802 by Francis I.

The Abbey played an important role in the twentieth century, as well. Two of its monks, Kolos Vaszary and Jusztinián Serédi became archbishops of Esztergom. The monks gave shelter to many persecuted people during WW II when the building complex stood under the protection of the Red Cross. The opening of the secondary boarding school in 1939 brought considerable changes in the life of the monastery since many of the monks became teachers there. This school was one of the eight remaining catholic schools during the communist regime (1950–1989). The monastery houses a library with over 360,000 volumes, an archive with more than hundred medieval documents (not possible to visit) and a museum with many precious liturgical and secular artefacts (paintings, goldsmith's works, liturgical dresses, etc.). Beside the medieval and Baroque parts Pannonhalma Abbey is also known for modern art and architecture: the secondary school (mid-twentieth century), the bronze gate of the tower (1996) and the new furniture of the church (2013). Pannonhalma is also a leading producer of fine wine for the Pannonia region, owning over 100 hectares of land nearby for their vineyard.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: From the directions of Győr, Hegyeshalom, Budapest take the Highway 82 (Veszprém), exit off the M1. From the direction of Lake Balaton take Highway 82 through Veszprém. From the direction of Székesfehérvár take Highway 81 on the Kisbér-Mezőörs route. Regular train or bus transportation from Győr.

Opening hours

You can visit monastery during the whole year.
The audio guide is available in several languages.

What can you visit?

The Basilica and the Crypt
The Library
The Millennium Monument
The Arboretum (Botanical Garden) and Herbal Garden

Offer for families with children

Reduced admission for children

Offer for organized groups

Group tickets



Sopron Benedictine Church of the Blessed Virgin

CONTACT

9400 Sopron

Templom u. 1.

Tel.: +36 30 306 67 410

E-mail: info@sopronbences.hu

RESERVATION

Tel.: +36 30 306 67 410

E-mail: info@sopronbences.hu

WEB

<http://www.sopronibences.unas.hu> (nefunguje)

The Sopron Benedictine church consecrated to the Blessed Virgin acquired its present form after a number of major reconstructions. The church is one of the most outstanding examples of 13th century Gothic architecture in Hungary. In the building complex of the church and monastery, there is rich permanent exhibition of cultural and architectural history at present.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- City centre
- Firewatch Tower
- Walls with Roman origin
- Széchenyi Square and Flag of Loyalty
- Kecske Church
- Esterházy Palace (baroque)
- Eggenberg House
- City Hall (eclectic, 1895)

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

The Sopron Benedictine church was originally built in the mid-thirteenth century for the Franciscan Order. The friars lived and worked here until 1787 when they had to leave because of the abolition decree of Emperor Joseph II. Fifteen years later the Benedictine Order received the church and the friary's buildings. From then till 1948 the Order administered the church and ran a secondary school in the town. After the establishment of the communist regime the monks had to leave Sopron and returned only in 1996. Actually their task is the pastoral care in the church and in the retirement home which received the former building of the secondary school.

The thirteenth-century church (founded before 1250) with one spire is one of the most outstanding gothic monuments in present-day Hungary. Two coat-of-arms over the entrance recall the history of the church: one representing a goat refers to the medieval donors, the Geisel family, the other representing Saint Martin refers to the modern owners, the Benedictine Abbey of Pannonhalma. Two details of the building complex merit special attention: the medieval pulpit in the northern wall of the church and the gothic chapter house in the cloister. The fragments of the former wood screen can be seen in the museum.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: from Győr follow the highway no. M85, then continue on the road no. 85 in direction of Austrian border and Wien.

By train: the church is about 15 minutes from the main train station in Sopron

Opening hours

There are guided tours in Hungarian and museum, education activities are available for children. The interactive exhibition may be visited without a guide.

What can you visit?

Benedictine church and retirement home
Exhibitions



Tihany Abbey

CONTACT

Tihanyi Bencés Apátság,
H-8237 TIHANY,
I. András tér 1.

RESERVATION

+36 87 538 200

WEB

<http://tihany.osb.hu/hu/>

A Benedictine monastery established at Tihany on the northern shore of Lake Balaton on the Tihany Peninsula in the Kingdom of Hungary in 1055. Its patrons are the Virgin Mary and Saint Aignan of Orleans. The founding charter of this abbey is the first extant record of Hungarian language. The still functioning abbey is a popular tourist attraction due to its historical and artistic significance. It also has the best view of Lake Balaton.

ACTIVITIES NEARBY

- Open-air Ethnographic Museum
- Hermits Houses
- Balaton Uplands National Park
- Inner and Outer Lakes add to the uniqueness of Tihany, formed in former volcanic crater
- A Geyser Field formed around 3 million years ago stretches between the Sarkad forest and the Inner Lake

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

Tihany Abbey, founded in 1055 and dedicated to Saint Aignan, is located on a peninsula jutting into Lake Balaton, in Veszprém County. Tihany is the burial site for King Andrew I in eleventh century and is the only preserved medieval tomb of a Hungarian ruler.

It was at Tihany where the oldest document containing a phrase from the Hungarian language was created – the Foundation Charter of Tihany Abbey – however this document was collected for safekeeping during the Ottoman occupation and is now housed in Pannonhalma.

As royal foundation the monastery belonged to the wealthiest in the Middle Ages. For some decades it also acted as place of authentication, although it lost this right in 1353. As the Ottoman was reached the region Tihany Abbey was also transformed into a castle. The monks left the place in the second half of the sixteenth century. After the Ottoman period the Abbey and its estates went into the hands of the Austrian Altenburg Abbey. Pannonhalma Abbey bought it in 1716 and the monks could return to the monastery. In the following century the monastic buildings – the church and the cloister – were reconstructed in Baroque style. Today the only visible medieval part of the Abbey is the crypt under the choir of the church. The eighteenth-century furniture made by Sebastian Stuhlhof between 1754–1779 is an outstanding monument of Central European wood-carving. The frescoes of the church originate from the late nineteenth century and were painted by the leading Hungarian painters of the time (Károly Lotz, Bertalan Székely, Lajos Deák-Ébner).

The monastic life ceased twice in the modern period. First after the abolition decree of Emperor Joseph II in 1786, but the Benedictines returned in 1802 to live in the Abbey till 1950. Then again after the establishment of the communist regime when the monks had to leave for more than four decades. The Order received the Abbey in 1990 and it was reestablished as dependent priory of Pannonhalma Abbey in 1992.

In the Abbey Museum one can see some medieval stone carvings of Tihany and of other medieval monuments, e.g. the former Benedictine Abbey of Jásd. In 1921 Tihany also briefly held prisoner the last Habsburg, Charles I, after attempting to retake the throne. The rooms used then by the King and the Queen are visible in the monastery.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get there

By car: From Veszprém towards Csopak on the road no. 73, then turn left towards Balatonfüred on the road no. 71.

By train: the closest train station is in the nearby village Aszódő, about 5 km from the Abbey

Opening hours

November 1 – March 31: 10am – 4pm

April 1 – April 30: 10am – 4:30pm

May 1 – September 30: 9am – 6pm

October 1 – 31: 10am – 5pm

Sundays and feast-days: from 11:15am

What can you visit?

Active Benedictine monastery with museum and guest house
Historical Exhibitions of Benedictines and the Art Gallery

Offer for families with children

Reduced admission for children

Offer for organized groups

Must be booked at least 10 days in advance at tba.titkarsag@gmail.com

Photography

Klášter Broumov – photo contest Via Benedictina 2014
Arciopatství Břevnov – photo contest Via Benedictina 2014
Opatství Emauz – photo contest Via Benedictina 2014
Klášter Kladruhy – photo contest Via Benedictina 2014
Opatství Rajhrad – photo contest Via Benedictina 2014
Klášter Sázava – photo contest Via Benedictina 2014
Muzeum Teplice – photo author Zákupák
Muzeum Třebíč – photo author Bjalek Michal
Farní kostel Diakovce – photo author Marek Šeregi
Farní kostel Hronovce – Čajakovo – photo author Ferenc Kertes
Farní kostel v Hronském Beňadiku – photo author Kwakinek
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Kostel Rímské Janovce – photo author Ľuboš Repta
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Klášter Mogilno – photo contest Via Benedictina 2014
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Klášter Csolt – photo author Civertan
Převorství Győr – photo author Pe-Jo
Farní kostel Ják – photo author Ciladis
Opatství Lébény – photo author Vadaro
Arciopatství Pannonhalma – photo author Zairon
Kostel Sopron – photo author Zyance
Opatství Tihany – photo author Rezirezi

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