





# Castles and chateaus

The surrounding area of Nitra is rich in ruins of castles and former houses of aristocratic families. Discover the old ruins of the fortifications, or admire the preserved beauty of chateaus and parks.

## Gýmeš Castle



History of the village of Jelenec is linked to the Gýmeš castle, whose ruins are located on the quartzite top of the forested hill called Dúň. It was built sometime before 1253 as seat of the ancestors of the Forgach family, one of the most powerful Hungarian houses, who owned the castle for almost seven centuries. It has been burned down and destroyed several times.

**Start:** Jelenec - Remitáž, parking lot

**Route:** approx. 3 km; follow yellow  and green  markings

**Duration of the rise:** 1h

**Start:** Kostolány pod Tribečom, parking lot

**Route:** 2.5km; follow yellow  and green  markings

**Duration of the rise:** 50min



Hrušov Castle



Gýmeš Castle




Oponice Castle

Above the village of Oponice, there is **ruin of Oponice Castle**. The castle was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century to defend against the Tatars and Turks. To this day, the perimeter walls have been preserved, recognizable are also the big fortification tower and parts of the palace.

## Hrušov Castle

The ruins of Hrušov Castle are found in the Tribeč Mountains above the town of Topolčianky. The castle was probably built at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century as a part of Matúš Čák's estate. It was repeatedly conquered and damaged, but the most massive centre part of the castle has been preserved to this day.

**Start:** road No. 511, direction Skýcov, parking lot

**Route:** 1.5 km; along the road or following the red  marking

**Duration of the rise:** 30min

## Čierny hrad Castle

The remains of Čierny hrad (Black Castle) are located on the top of a hill on a side ridge of Tribeč above the village of Zlatno. Only a small wall and tiny remains of the stone castle have been preserved. It is assumed that it was created at the turn of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Start:** village Zlatno

**Route:** 3.5 km; following the yellow  marking

**Duration of the rise:** approx. 1h

## Topolčianky Chateau

At the northern end of the village, there is an **extensive English park**, which integrates the **monumental Classicist chateau**. Three renaissance wings are currently used as a hotel with a restaurant. In the southern classicist wing, there is a **museum** with historical furniture. Located here are one of the most valuable collections of ceramics in Slovakia, a collection of functional stylistic clocks and a cabinet of local historical weapons and oriental souvenirs. Remarkable is the **Chateau Library**. Containing more than 14,000 volumes, it is one of the few fully preserved historical libraries in Slovakia.

**Info:** [www.zamok-topolciany.sk](http://www.zamok-topolciany.sk)

**Opening hours:**

X.-IV. Tue-Fri: 9:00-14:00 | Sat-Sun: 12:00-15:00

V.-IX. Tue-Fri: 9:00-15:00 | Sat-Sun: 12:00-16:00

## Oponice Chateau and Castle

The Renaissance chateau was created in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, edited several times later, and in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was rebuilt in the classicist-neogothic style by the Apponyi family. Nowadays, it serves as a luxury hotel with a capacity of 150 beds. In addition to the hotel complex, wellness centre and English park, it also contains a **valuable baroque Apponyi library** with interior in empire style. The unique library, which belonged to the largest ones in Hungary, was founded by count Anton Juraj Apponyi around 1744. This aristocrat lived in Vienna and collected about 25,000 specimens of books. At the present day, the library has more than 20,000 copies of books and various prints.

**Info:** [www.chateauappony.sk](http://www.chateauappony.sk)

**Opening hours of the library:**

Mon-Fri: 9:00-15:00 (12:00 lunch break), Sat-Sun: 12:00-16:00

## Mojmírovce Chateau

The Baroque-Classical chateau with its beautiful park was considered to be the prettiest in Hungary. Its dominant feature is the salon of Count Grassalkovich, who was born in Mojmirovce. The chateau serves as hotel and congress centre with wellness and bowling alley. A 300 years old cellar, a shooting range and horse stables also belong to the chateau.

**Info:** [www.kastielmojmirovce.sk](http://www.kastielmojmirovce.sk)

## Pustý Chotár Chateau, Beladice

The Neoclassical chateau with its painted stained glass windows and lavish cassette ceilings is surrounded by a **large park** with an open-air **gallery of artistic ceramics**. Today the building serves as a hotel.

**Info:** [www.tartuf.sk](http://www.tartuf.sk)

## Ghýczy Chateau, Nové Sady

At the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, a Renaissance chateau was built on the foundations of a medieval building. In the present, the renovated chateau serves as a museum and for organizing cultural activities.

**Info:** [www.novesady.sk](http://www.novesady.sk) | 0904 621 557



# Museums and Expositions

## National Stud Farm Topolčianky

It was established in 1921 and belongs to important European growing and breeding centres of noble warm-blooded horses. Its uniqueness lies in the breeding of 5 breeds of horses. The centre of the stud farm is its historical riding school. Visitors can ride a horse, have a ride in a carriage, or visit the Hippological Museum.

## Hippological Museum

The only hippological museum in Slovakia presents the characteristics of individual breeds of horses, models of production premises, successes of the stud farm in horse breeding, furnished workrooms of a saddler a wheelwright and a blacksmith, as well as a bedroom and kitchen of a horse breeding worker, equipped with old furniture. In the pavilions, you can see horse collars, saddles, multiple types of harnesses and other equipment. A new carriage house exhibits various means of transport, such as buggies, carriages, wagons, and sleighs.

**Info:** [www.nztopolciany.sk](http://www.nztopolciany.sk)

**Opening hours:** Mon-Fri: 8:00-16:00

## Regional Museum Mojmirovce

The museum is located in the elegant premises of the renovated summer house of Prince Aldobrandini. The permanent exposition consists of a preserved part of the original parish library of Urmin, which keeps valuable prints and manuscript books, special for their bindings and engravings. Visitors get to learn about local aristocratic families. Tea salon offers a display of period furniture and a wine-growing and wine-making exposition is also a part of the museum. On the grounds of the museum, there are unique statues made of concrete, depicting local and regional monsters.

**Info:** [www.muzeummojmirovce.sk](http://www.muzeummojmirovce.sk)

**Opening hours:** Mon-Fri: 8:00-15:30

## Ethnographic Museum Topolčianky

The ethnographic room contains historical objects from the life of rural people from the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to the basic necessities of life, there are also items such as a loom, a spinning wheel, a lantern, etc.

**Info:** [www.topolciany.sk](http://www.topolciany.sk) | 037/6301263

## House of Forgach Museum

Since 2009, there has been a permanent exposition of the House of Forgach Museum in the Baroque chateau in Jelenec. It shows archaeological finds from Gýmeš Castle and portraits of the Forgach family members. One room houses an ethnographic exhibition, which represents the so-called front room.

**Info:** [www.forgach.org](http://www.forgach.org) | 037/7764950, 037/7764959



# Natural Landmarks

## Wisent Menagerie Topolčianky

It was founded in 1958 on an area of 140 hectares as the only place of breeding the largest European mammal in Slovakia - the European bison. In 1964, the entire area was declared a study area. It is designed for keeping 12 wisents at a time. An educational forest path goes around the whole reserve.

**Info:** [www.lesytopolciany.sk](http://www.lesytopolciany.sk)

**Opening hours:** Mon-Sun 9:00-17:00, feeding times: 9:00, 14:00

## Jelenec chestnut plantation

The protected grounds with an area of 3.8 hectares is located about 5km north of the village of Jelenec. It is the oldest artificial plantation of edible chestnut, which was successfully acclimatized in the midst of oak-hornbeam forests. Some trees here are 300 years old or even older. The subject of protection is the old growth of edible chestnut, established under Gýmeš Castle by the Forgach family in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

**Info:** the area is accessible freely. However, it is closed for the public during maturation of the chestnuts (October-November)

## Arborétum SAS Mlyňany

It was founded in 1892 by Dr. Štefan Ambrózy-Migazzi. It is one of the largest and loveliest in Central Europe. A Neoclassical chateau lies in its centre. The arboretum consists of five parts and a garden nursery. The oldest part is the Ambrózy Park. Other parts are dedicated to the areas of Eastern Asia, Northern America, and Slovakia. The path from the entrance dedicated to flowers and rose garden will take your breath away especially in spring and in autumn, during the bloom of **rhododendrons and azaleas**.

**Opening hours:**

1. April - 25. October:

Mon-Fri: 7:00-18:00 | Sat-Sun: 8:00-18:00

26. October - 31. March:

Mon-Fri: 8:00-17:00 | Sat-Sun: 8:00-17:00

**Info:** [www.arboretum.sav.sk](http://www.arboretum.sav.sk)



Arborétum SAS Mlyňany

## Ranch pod Babicou, Bojná

- More than 120 animals of more than 30 species from 6 continents
- two ponds with fishing opportunity
- in Bojná, you can also visit the Vály Fortification and the Archaeological Museum of Great Moravia
- **Info:** [www.babica-bojna.sk](http://www.babica-bojna.sk) | [www.hradiskovaly.sk](http://www.hradiskovaly.sk)



objav miesto,  
zazi pribeh  
discover the place,  
live the story



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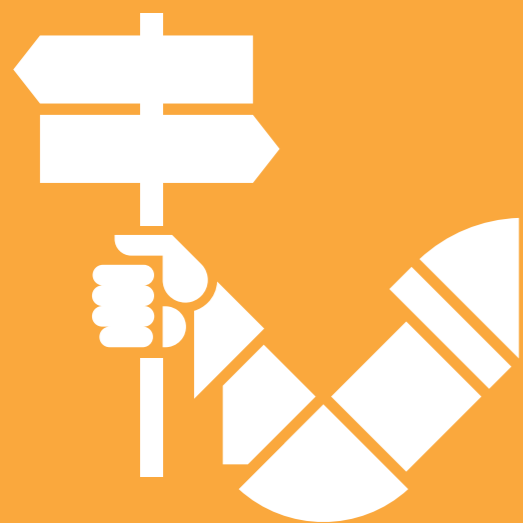
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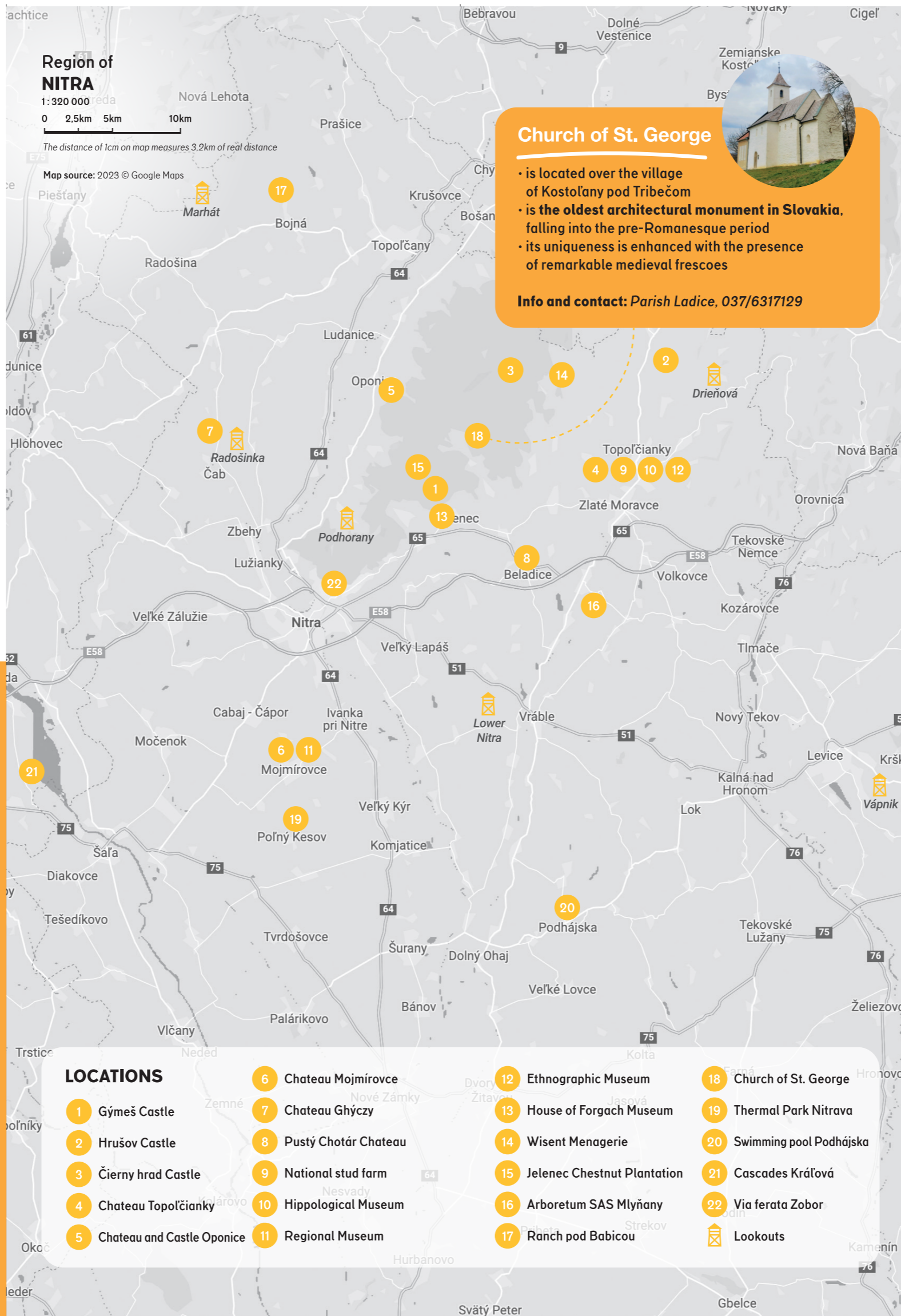
Stetankova trieda 1, 949 01 Nitra



www.nitra.eu



# Trips to the Nitra region



## Tourist lookouts

### Lookout Podhorany

• height 8 m | GPS: 48.37092, 18.12277 | views: Žibrica Hill and mountain ranges: Tribeč, Malé Karpaty, Považský Inovec

### Lookout Radošinka

• height 15 m | GPS: 48.414291, 18.009032 | views: mountain ranges: M. Karpaty, Považský Inovec, Tribeč, Strážovské hills; in good visibility one can see as far as Bratislava

### Lookout Drieňová

• height 5 m | GPS: 48.47542, 18.48594 | views: countryside, Hrušov Castle, hills Žibrica and Zobor, Inovec mountain range

### Lookout Vápnik

• height 9 m | GPS: 48.18237, 18.64281 | views: city of Levice, Levice Castle, hill Sitno and mountain ranges: Štiavnické hills, Pohronský Inovec, Tribeč, Novohrad hills (HU)

### Lookout Marhát

• height 17 m | GPS: 48.59466, 17.97076 | views: mountain ranges: Považský Inovec, Tribeč, Vtáčnik, Biele Karpaty; Cities: Nitra, Topoľčany, Partizánske, Nováky; Castles: Tematín, Devín

### Lookout Lower Nitra

• height 15 m | GPS: 48.257744962, 18.263724446 | views: Danube plain and mountain ranges: Tribeč, Inovec, Štiavnické hills

## Relax and adrenaline

### Cascades at waterworks Kráľová

Walks, skating, and cycling along the dam, sightseeing cruises, sport and relax  
Info: www.kaskady.sk

### Thermal swimming pool Podhájska

Thermal healing pools, Aquamarin wellness centre, summer swimming pool with attractions  
Info: www.tkpodhajska.sk

### Thermal Park Nitrava

Thermal medicinal pools, wellness, water attractions, Aquapark with water slide  
Info: www.thermalnitrava.sk



### Via ferata Zobor

• secured climbing wall under the top of the mount Pyramid  
• access by blue tourist marking from the Pyramid or from the pension ARTin, where there is also equipment for rent  
• it consists of four parts: Dubová (Oaks), Brezová (Birches), Lanový most (Sail bridge) and Výstupovka (Climb)  
• difficulty of the routes: B,C  
Info: www.viaferratazobor.sk  
Open: from May to November