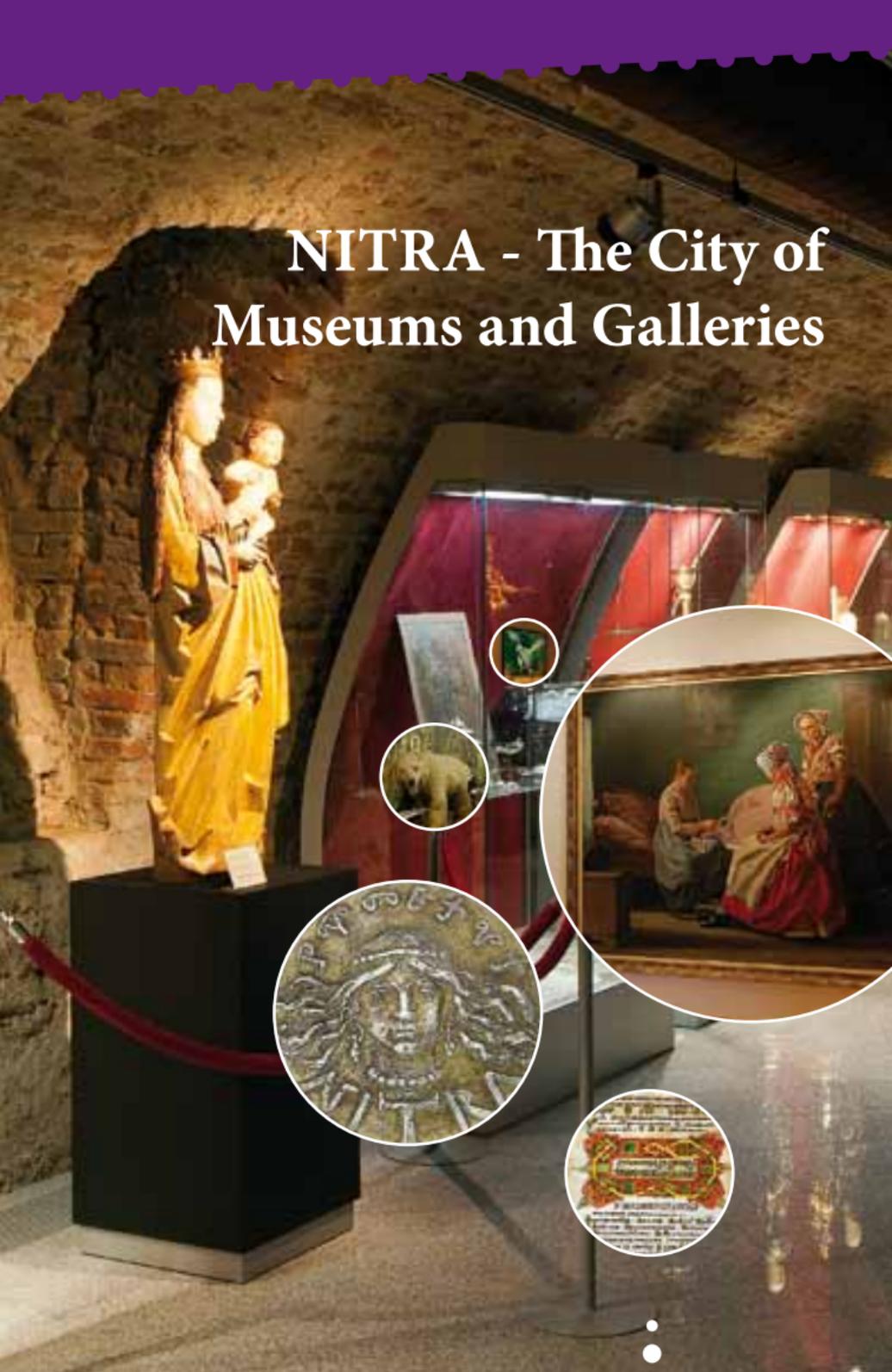


NITRA - The City of Museums and Galleries



Project was co-financed by ERDF- EU funds
„Investícia do Vašej budúcnosti“
„Investment into your future“



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The Beginnings of Museology in Nitra

The formation of Museology in Nitra is related to the arrival of Piarist Order at the invitation of Ladislav Maťašovský, the Nitra bishop in 1698. The members of this Order disposed not only of a theological, but also an educational qualification and had the mission to educate the youth in their schools. The Esztergom Canonry gave them a house on the corner of today's streets of Kupecká and Štefánikova trieda, which is now considered to be the building of the first Nitra Grammar school. The structural foundations of the future school and convent were laid on the hill of St. Andrew in 1701 and the construction was completed in September 1703.

The reputation of the high-quality training and education, rendered by the Piarists, spread rapidly through the whole country. It caused, that the Piarist Grammar school had 800 students already during the first year of its existence and this number increased to several thousand students in the period of the First Czechoslovak Republic. The students came to Nitra from all parts of Slovakia, many of them found their accommodation and meals in families, so that the family income in Nitra also increased. In addition to the valuable pedagogical work, the professors of the Grammar school carried out other activities that enriched not only the school, but also the cultural life of the town and its wider surroundings. They were engaged in literary, scientific and journalistic activities, stage-craft and museology and associations promoting national awareness. The Grammar school had its own theatre with an auditorium and a stage. It was built by Ján Gustíny – Zobrohľavský, the Nitra bishop, in 1765. Students performed tens of theatre plays there. In 1900, County Museum was established on the ground floor of the Grammar school. Professor of History, Dr. Ján Tóth, one of the museum founders, collected many ethnographic objects, different books and coins. He also obtained a famous collection of plants – the Herbarium of Holuby. Together with Ignác Gonda Opatril, they enriched the museum's collections with the valuable archaeological artefacts from the Nitra vicinity. Professor Jozef Hollrigl, who in addition to educational activities collected folk costumes, pottery, embroidery, Easter eggs and archaeological artefacts, referred his precious collection to the museum. After the County establishment was cancelled, the museum was put out of order. In 1923, it was nationalized and renamed to Regional Museum. It was re-opened to the public only in 1932 and continued its functioning until 1945, when it was struck during an air-raid, damaged and left to its fate. The damaged collections were moved to Bojnice, where the Regional Museum of Nitra was formed. And, so it happened that while in other towns of Slovakia the new museums were formed the museum in the county town of Nitra was abrogated and an effort of several generations of collectors went to waste.

Night of Museums and Galleries – La Nuit des musées

On the occasion of the International Day of Museums held on May 18th, the museums and galleries, not only in Slovakia, are organizing the already traditional event – the Night of Museums and Galleries. The Night of Museums and Galleries is a pan-European event, which takes place under the auspices of the Council of Europe to present the cultural heritage, the importance of its recovery and protection, dissemination of information about the cultural diversity of individual countries and regions of Europe, by an informal education and cultured repose in a maximum extent. The activities of museums and galleries are targeted to those spheres that are otherwise hidden to the public. During this time, the museums open their hidden chambers and dispose secrets usually hidden from the eyes of visitors. Thus, the visitors are introduced the secrets of the museum background. Uncovered secrets help the public to understand better the importance of museums in protection of present even through knowledge and information acquired this way. The Nitra museums also participate in this action and hold their doors open for a symbolic fee until late night.





? Did you know that there is an exposition installed on the grounds of the museum, where more than 2200 unique archaeological finds are disposed from the whole Slovak area from Stone Age to 18th century?

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The Museum of the Nitra Region

The professors and students of the Piarist Grammar school, who were the pioneers of the Museology in Nitra, started to collect museum items in their school collection in the first half of the 19th century. The collections of the Grammar school were first introduced to public in May 1878. The museum was on the premises of the school until 1951, when it was abrogated in Nitra and the collections were moved to Bojnice. The direct ancestor of today's museum – the Local Museum of National Geography in Nitra – was established in December 1962 and located in the building of the Big Seminary. In the middle of the 70s of the 20th century, after the necessary personnel and technical equipment, the museum started fulfilling all its tasks. The staff of the museum developed some activities that were not typical for that time; they cooperated with schools, study circles, informal groups and individuals, created a space for presentation of remarkable projects. The following activities were known: Theatre under the Castle, Children's Gallery of Fine Art, String Quartet of Nitra, International Guitar Festival Citara aediculae, Chamber concerts and lecture cycles.





At present, Regional Museum seats in a Neo-Renaissance Building of the Town Hall, built in 1880. The museum supervises almost 84 000 collection objects of the following fields: Archaeology, Ethnography, Numismatics, Geology and Zoology. There are also the gold-plated plaques from Bojná among them. Each year, the museum organizes from 15 to 20 exhibitions, some lectures, debates, concerts, as well as some non-traditional events and activities of the museum education. The exhibition called Bojná – An Unknown Centre of Nitra Principality, obtained the Annual Award of the magazine Monuments and Museums for the year 2006. The museum provides a space for activities of organizations, associations and individuals that are close to the focus and mission of the museum.

Museum of the Nitra Region also administrates the branch office – The City Museum in Zlaté Moravce and an external exposition – The House of the Folk Living Šaľa.

Museum of the Nitra Region

Štefánikova tr. 1, Nitra

Phone: +421(0)37/651 42 53

www.muzeumnitra.sk

Opening hours:

Mo: 9.00 - 15.00

Tu – Fri: 9.00 - 17.00

Sa – Su: 10.00 – 17.00

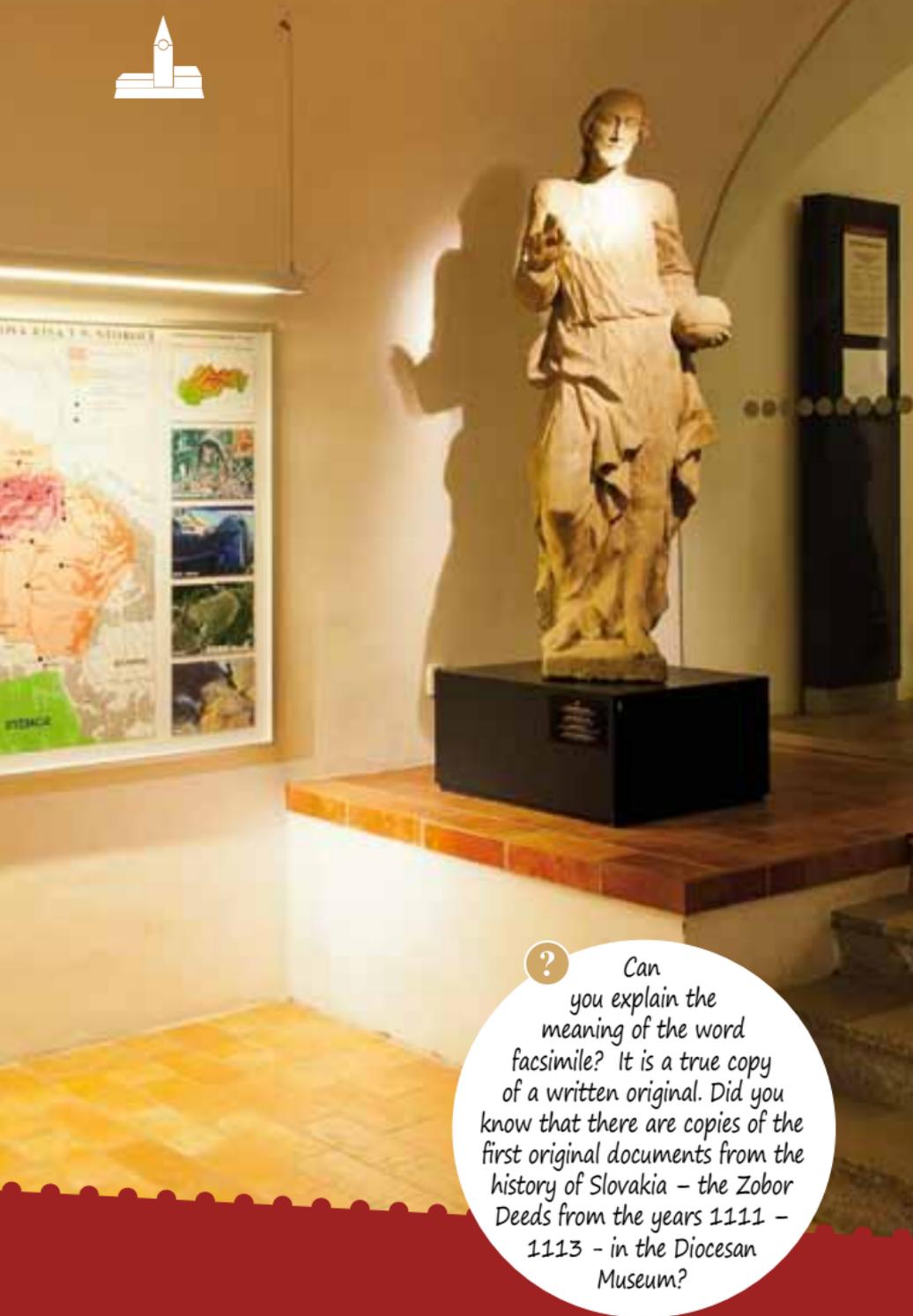


MUSEUMS



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Diocesan Museum of the Nitra Diocese



? Can you explain the meaning of the word *facsimile*? It is a true copy of a written original. Did you know that there are copies of the first original documents from the history of Slovakia – the Zobor Deeds from the years 1111 – 1113 – in the Diocesan Museum?



The intention of the Diocesan Museum of the Nitra Diocese, which is located at the Nitra Castle, is to build a professional academic institution that protects, makes accessible and promotes church and art monuments. By the means of exposure – the facsimile of documents and Christian art, the museum wants to participate in a development and strengthening of historical and Christian awareness of the public but first of all, the youth.

In 2007, on the feast-day of St. Cyril and Methodius, the above-ground part of museum was opened. A year later, the second part – a Treasury, where the Cathedral Liturgical Treasure is exhibited, was made accessible.

In the above-ground exposition there are the facsimiles of the various documents, which are closely connected to the origin of Christianity in our territory, the originals and models of some archaeological discoveries, such as the pyxes from Čierne Kľačany. There are also the Kiev letters written in original form of Glagolitsa in the second half of 9th century, as well



Diocesan Museum

Pontifical office in Nitra
Nám. Jána Pavla II. č. 7, Nitra
Phone: +421(0)37/772 17 47
www.biskupstvo-nitra.sk
Opening hours:
April-Oktober
Tu-Su: 10.00-18.00
November-March
Sa-Su: 10.00-15.00



as the oldest manuscript from the territory of Slovakia, the Nitra Gospel Book (Nitriansky Evanjeljár) from 1083.

There are a lot of precious and artistically valuable liturgical objects in the treasury basement, such as chalices, monstrance and crosier. The Chalice Udalrica de Budy is one of the most interesting. It dates back to the 15th century and is decorated with 18 ancient coins, including the coins of the Emperors Nero and Hadrian.

There is also the monstrance of the Bishop Jakub Hašek or the gift from the Pope Paul VI to the Secret Bishop Ján Chryzostom Korec in this museum.





Slovak Agricultural Museum in Nitra



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Did you know that the Nitra Steam Narrow Gauge Railway is the longest functional historical narrow-gauge railway in Slovakia?

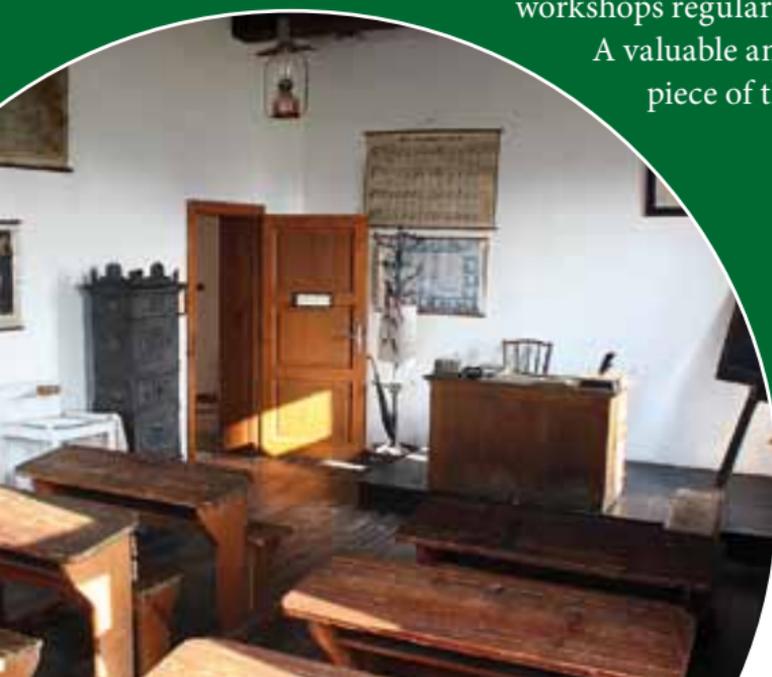
The Slovak Agricultural Museum is the only one of its kind in Slovakia, which specializes in documentation of the history of agriculture. It was founded in Bratislava in the year 1922. In 1960, it was moved to Nitra. It is a part of the State Enterprise Agrokomplex-Výstavníctvo Nitra since 1978.

The expositions of the museum are dedicated to the traditional forms of agriculture from the prehistoric times to the 80s of the 20th century:

- Agriculture from the oldest times to the Middle Ages
- The agricultural motives in Art
- The traditional crafts and processing activities
- Agricultural machinery and aircraft
- Protection of farms against fire

Part of the museum is skanzen - an open-air museum with buildings from the whole territory of Slovakia built during the 19th and 20th centuries, which show the technological operations of processing in the animal and plant production: bakery, mills, seed cleaning machine, oil pressroom, stamping mill for hemp, farm dairy, distillery, vineyard hut (hajloch), apiaries. There is a reconstruction of an ancient farmhouse from the early middle ages, from the period of the Great Moravian Empire, situated in a nature area of the museum. The biggest attractions of the skanzen are the farmyard, public school with the exhibition of textbooks and teaching aids, historical shop – market, where the in-store tastings of traditional chicory coffee and creative workshops regularly take place.

A valuable and unique piece of the museum





is the Nitra Steam Narrow Gauge Railway (SNGR), which was obtained from the surroundings of Želiezovce. At present, the SNGR transports museum visitors on two lines – the first ring leads around the museum (1.6 km) and the second line connects museum with the exhibition centre (1 km).

There are the following technical exhibits in a functional wagon stock: diesel-electric locomotive, sightseeing wagon, 2 historic wagons from Korytnica, hand trolley, rail hub from Radošina (1908), the electric children's train, the wagon Šaling from Dobročá from the period of the Slovak National Uprising, wagons (beet-wagons, service wagons, bagged and dry goods wagons).

Slovak Agricultural Museum presents working technical exhibits, for example presentation of oil-pressing, production of straw band, the crushing of hemp with stamping mill, the tread mill show with a horse drive, the ploughing by a tractor and the grain crushes.

Slovak

Agricultural Museum

Dlhá 92, Nitra

Phone: +421 (0)37/657 25 53

www.spmnitra.sk

Opening hours:

Tu-Sa: 9.00-17.00

Su: 13.00-17.00



MUSEUMS

Mission Museum

Mission Museum of Nations and Cultures in the mission house in Nitra was founded in 1925 and its exhibits were various objects sent or brought by the Slovak, Czech and Austrian missionaries from all around the world.

In 1950, when the activity of the Society of the Divine Word was broken by force, the museum was also affected by bad luck. Many exhibits have been lost or destroyed. Part of them was returned to the Mission House and on August 15th 1996 the museum was opened to the public again. During the recent years, the museum collections have been extended several times and supplemented with about 250 new exhibits of stuffed animals from all continents. The unique collection of butterflies and beetles is a part of this exposure. It was donated to the museum by the German province of the Society of the Divine Word from the former school museum in Bad Driburg.

The visitors of the museum can become acquainted with a story of the founding of the Missionary Society of the Divine Word. This small exhibition is located in the corridor of the Mission House next to the museum.

On the Calvary hill that is located close by the museum there are 14 Stations of the Cross. The pilgrims can follow their devotion of the Cross at these places.



Did you know that there are 4 permanent expositions in the Mission Museum? The Story of St. Arnold Janssen, The Exposition from the pilgrimages of our missionaries, The Animals from all over the world and The Butterflies from all over the world.

Mission House of Godmother

Kalvária 3, 949 01 Nitra

Phone: +421(0)37/ 776 94 11

www.svd.sk

Opening hours:

Mo-Su: 14:00 - 18:00

In case of an organized group please announce your visit in advance



In the church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary, the pilgrims can perform their devotion. If a priest is present, they can celebrate the Holy Mass. The time of the Holy Mass has to be negotiated on phone in advance.

Under the Calvary hill, there is the renewed small cave of the Virgin Mary of Lourdes, where the pilgrims can pray the Holy Rosary and Litany to the Virgin Mary.

There is a shop Verbum located in the building of the Mission house, where the visitors or pilgrims can buy the publications about the Nitra Calvary, biographies of the Slovak missionaries, devotional objects, etc.

The organized groups can in advance request a tour with a guide in a museum or projection of a movie about one of the Slovak missionaries in the auditorium of the Mission House, or a short lecture on the missionary activity of the Society of the Divine Word. The guide will be ensured by a missionary who is present at the Mission House.





Did you know that each of the objects exhibited in the Nitra Synagogue, is connected to a particular person as a remainder of a concrete human fate and his/her personal tragedy?

Synagogue – The Museum of Jewish Culture

The Synagogue is a precious architectural monument of the town of Nitra, which is listed in the Central Register of Monuments Fund of the Slovak Republic. It is located in the monumental area and protection zone of the urban conservation.

The synagogue was built by Neolog Jewish community according the design of a Budapest architect Leopold (Lipót) Baumhorn. The foundation stone of the Synagogue was laid on July 12, 1910. The building with two towers bears the typical features of its architect - the Moorish, Byzantine and Art Nouveau elements. The original owner of the Synagogue was the Jewish Religious Community, but since 1991, the owner of the property has been the Town of Nitra, which was given by the plaque of Chatam Sofer for the preservation of this valuable object the Slovak National Museum – the Museum of the Jewish Culture in Bratislava. The inauguration of a reconstructed



synagogue as a concert and exhibition hall took place in 2003. The 100th Anniversary of the Nitra Synagogue was celebrated by a festive Gala Evening and opening exhibition The Nitra Synagogue 1911 – 2011.

On the grounds of former female gallery, the permanent exposition of the Slovak National Museum – the Museum of Jewish Culture is installed, which is dedicated to the memory of the Holocaust under the title: THE FATES OF THE SLOVAK JEWS, which is the only exposition of its kind in Slovakia. Premises of the museum also house the graphic work of an Israeli artist Shragu Weil, the native of Nitra. The Small Exhibition Hall in the Synagogue is used for an occasional presentation of art works made by Slovak and foreign authors.

An original tabernacle formed by a hall with a dome and four columns, which also uphold the women's gallery, is currently used as a concert hall. Various concerts, theatre performances, readings, beneficial, as well as cultural and social events take place here, too. It is also a place, where the domestic and foreign cultural events are held. The Synagogue enriches cultural and social life in the town of Nitra. Since 2009, it is a part of the Slovak Jewish Heritage Route.

Synagogue

Pri Synagóge, Nitra

Phone: +421(0)37/652 53 20

Visits of the Synagogue:

Tu: 13.00 – 18.00

We-Thu: 9.00 – 12.00, 13.00 - 18.00

Sa-Su: 13.00 -18.00

The entries for the organized groups of visitors can be booked by the NISYS on demand of visitors.



Synagogue – Exhibition Hall

Did you know that since 2003, the Synagogue has been used as a concert and exhibition hall, where susceptible audience can find rare artistic experiences?

In the Nitra Synagogue there is installed a permanent exhibition of the prestigious Israeli artist Shraga Weil (1918-2009), the native and honorary citizen of Nitra.

Even though the core of his work is graphics, he also produced many book illustrations and monumental projects. His capricious work can be admired at various important places all over the world, such as the Parliament Buildings – Knesset in Jerusalem and the monumental decoration of the Kennedy Centre in Washington, D.C. In the last years of his life he moved from graphic works to oil painting in which he contemplatively returns to the events of his life.

This important artist, who spent his childhood and youth in Nitra, never forgot his birthplace, not even after leaving to Israel after World War II. Shraga Weil spoke fluent Slovak even after many years spent in a new country; he visited his birth town twice and left more than 30 graphic sheets here. Nearly all of them can be admired on the premises of the Nitra synagogue. These graphics are very valuable for Nitra, not only because of their author, but also because of their themes: the feature motifs clearly inspired by the biblical and

Jewish traditions. The Synagogue houses works from some of the artist's graphic cycles, such as The Song of Songs (Pieseň piesní), Pardes and Biblical Musicians (Biblickí hudobníci).





The Foyer Gallery

The Foyer Gallery is a part of the Old Theatre of Karol Spišák in Nitra, which is located at the street of the 7th Marching Regiment (ulica 7. pešieho pluku) in the centre of the town Nitra (Slovakia). Mária Herodeková, the administrator of the gallery and the stage designer of the Old Theatre, exhibited here for the first time in March 2009. Since then, the exhibitions have been taking place regularly in this gallery. In regard to the number of spectators, visiting performances, the Foyer Gallery is delighted by a high visit rate. It is the only gallery in Nitra, which is accessible for wheelchair visitors, as well. The exhibitions are open daily from September to June. Admission is free. In 2012, the exhibition of works made by pupils of primary art-schools under the title „saw-drew-painted“, took place in the gallery for the first time. The works were inspired by the staging of the Old Theatre. The Foyer Gallery wishes to start a new tradition and organize the mentioned exhibition annually.

The following artists have been exhibiting in this gallery up to the present time: Mária Herodeková, Jana Farmanová, Viliam Šulík, Jaroslav Zikmundovský, Katarína Jahnová, Michaela Batelová, Livia Boliešiková, Emília Jakubisová, Igor Derevenec, Peter Pauko, Erik Fehér, Denisa Huňady, Andy Wsól, Daniel Mihálik, Tomáš Roller, Dušan Blažej, Viliam Slaminka and pupils of the primary art-schools...

The Foyer Gallery

Ul. 7. pešieho pluku 1, Nitra

Phone: +421(0)37/ 652 50 03

www.staredivadlo.sk

Opening hours:

September - June

Mo-Su: 7.00-19.00

GALLERIES



Nitra Gallery

The Nitra Gallery was established in January 1965. The gallery started to work in the building of the Big Seminary, which was the Provincial Museum of Nitra at that time. The same year, it obtained rooms in the building of the previous County House, where it has been situated up to these times. The exhibition activities in the County House were started by organizing an exhibition of the former and contemporary artists on December 12th 1965. Thanks to its exhibitions, collections, cultural and educational activities that exceeded the scope of the city and district, the gallery was gradually given a regional importance in 1968 and the county one in 1972. In 1980, the gallery opened its Youth Gallery, which was very unique in Slovakia at that time, providing space for the young visual artists from all over the country. In 1982, in connection to the administration of the estate and works of the academic artist František Studený, the gallery was renamed to The František Studený Gallery. Since 1990, the new name of the institution was the Nitra State Gallery. When the regional cultural centres were established, it was attached to the Cultural Centre of the Nitra Region (Ponitrianske kultúrne centrum) and renamed to the Gallery of the Nitra Region (Ponitrianska galéria) and existed under this title until 1999, when it took back its former and present name - the Nitra Gallery.



The Nitra Gallery disposes 5 exhibition rooms: the Representation halls that present the major collective national and international projects, curator research projects and sets if solo exhibitions; the Saloon was established for the chamber presentations of authors. In 2001, the activity of the Youth Gallery was re-established, which followed the work of students and of art school graduates. There is also a room for the alternative art under the name BUNKER in this gallery, which has offered students, artists and curators an opportunity to work with the current manifestations of art, either the visual arts and theatre, or music since 2008. The Colour Gallery was established in 2010 and provides a space for presentation of educational activities of a gallery educator. In 2010, the Virtual Gallery was created, as a part of the gallery website and, was established for presentation of a rich collection fund including the latest and older works in the field of fine art, sculpture, drawing, graphics and the other media. At the same time, it is somehow a compensation for the missing permanent expositions.

?

Did you know that in addition to the exhibition activities, the gallery offers a rich programme for the cultural, educational and training events?



Nitra Gallery

Župné námestie 3, Nitra
Phone: +421(0)37/657 96 41
www.nitrianskagaleria.sk
Opening hours:
Tu-Fri: 10.00 – 18.00
Sa-Su: 13.00-18.00

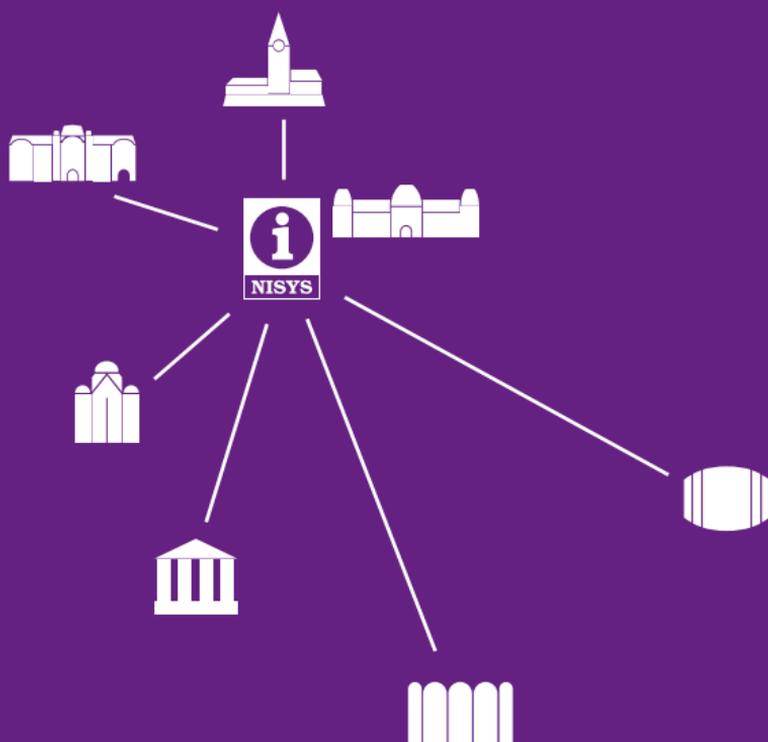
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NITRA – The City of Museums and Galleries

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