



Map Legend

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | The Town Tower | 15 | The Town Fortification |
| 2 | The Holy Trinity Sculptural Group | 15/A | The Northern Tower |
| 3 | St. Anna Church | 15/B | The Lower Gate |
| 4 | St. John the Baptist Cathedral | 16 | The Sculptural Group of St. Joseph |
| 5 | The Theological and Philosophical Faculties | 17 | Archbishop palace |
| 6 | The Medical Faculty | 18 | "The Status Quo Ante Synagogue" |
| 7 | St. Adalbert Seminary - Adalbertinum | 18/A | The Orthodox Synagogue |
| 8 | The General Seminary - Rubrorum | 19 | St. Joseph Church |
| 9 | The Seminary of Virgin Mary — Marianum | 20 | Church of Assumption |
| 10 | Aristocratic Seminary (Convictus Nobilium) | 21 | St. Helen Church |
| 11 | St. Stephen Seminary | 22 | The Evangelical Church |
| 12 | The House of Music | 23 | The Town Hall |
| 13 | St. Nicolas Basilica | 23/A | The West Wing Hall |
| 13/A | The Charnel House | 24 | The Theatre of Jan Palárik |
| 14 | Olah's Seminary | 25 | St. Jacob Church |
| | | 26 | The Church of the Holiest Trinity |
| | | 27 | Koppel Mansion |

ACCOMMODATION

In case you plan to stay in Trnava for more days, we offer you a selection of accommodation facilities:

- a) Holiday Inn ****
- b) Hotel Impiq ****
- c) Hotel London ***
- d) Penzión Patriot ***
- e) Hotel Spectrum ***

Guided Town Tour

During the tour, you will get to know the rich history of the town, as well as with its sacral and secular architecture. We offer you one-hour and two-hour tours. The tour program can be customized to suit your requirements.

WANDERING THROUGH LITTLE ROME

Wanderings in the summer months of July and August begin every Sunday at 4.30 pm.

More info at www.regiontrnava.sk or info@trnavatourism.sk

enjoy your
discovering

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Sacral Trnava

[www](http://www.regiontrnava.sk)

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Introduction

The majestic sound of the bells of Trnava churches has been part of the lives of citizens of Trnava for hundreds of years. Whether you are taking a walk in the historic centre in the morning, in the afternoon or in the evening the metal chiming of the bells can take you to the time when the kings lived. Get to know the history and genius loci of Trnava town which is an important crossroad of all pilgrimage towns.

The rich history of the town left the present generation a spiritual message and a heritage transferred into a beauty of secular but mostly sacral architectural treasures. It includes Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque from the early stage up to the Baroque Classicism. You can see all this when looking at the silhouette of Trnava made of towers of churches. Thanks to them Trnava received and apt attribute Little Rome.

continue

Opening hours of Tourist information centre — Region Trnava

May — September
Mon — Sun 10 am — 6 pm

October — April:
Mon — Sun 10 am — 5 pm

More detailed information about the tours, the climbs to the Town Tower, the sights of the town and the nearby surroundings will be provided by the **Tourist Information Centre — Region Trnava**

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TRAVEL IN
SLOVAKIA
GOOD IDEA

Three beautiful monuments

(4)

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

The largest and the most splendid church of Trnava is the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist with two towers. The beginning of a construction period in the era called "**Trnava Baroque**" is connected with the Cathedral. The Early Baroque church, pure in style, meant a prestige not only for the town but also became a model of the new concept of sacral architecture throughout the country. The church was part of the University buildings, so it also fulfilled an educational function. Its magnificent fully

wooden altar dating from 1640, 20.3 m high and 14.8 m wide, is up to the present the highest altar in Slovakia. The main painting of the altar shows the Baptism of Jesus Christ, a theme taken up by further scenes from the life of St. John the Baptist painted in cartouches on the ceiling. Under the church there is a crypt where members of the Society of Jesus are buried as well as members of Palatine Nicholas Eszterházi's family. In 2003 Holy Father John Paul II honoured the Cathedral with his visit.

St. Nicolas Basilica

This **characteristic dominant of Trnava**, which is up to the present a pilgrimage place to Virgin Mary, **was built in 1380 to 1421** on the place of an old Romanesque predecessor. The gothic five-nave basilica with a two-tower frontage and baroque chapels has a sanctuary with eight high stained-glass windows with stone tracery. The oldest altar is the Early Baroque All-Saints Altar dating from 1659. The Baroque chapel of the Virgin Mary of Trnava with her

miraculous merciful painting is exceptional among the other chapels. **Every year, thousands of worshippers pray in front of the painting.** In the side chapels there are precious Renaissance and Baroque epitaphs of Esztergom archbishops, and on the southeast side of the presbytery of St. Nicolas Basilica a **Romanesque chancel house — the ossuary was discovered**, which is the oldest sacral building in Trnava.

Orthodox Synagogue

A building without towers with a shrine located on the eastern side in the niche where the rolls of Torah were deposited. On the western side, the gable top is complemented by stone panels of Decalogue. **The interior still shows that the synagogue was built according to strict orthodox criteria. In the western part, there was an entrance hall into**

the main nave intended for men and a gallery for women with entrance through stairways. The galleries included a mechitza — a wooden partition behind which women sat. The impressive interior combines elements of preserved original parts with modern architecture.

(3)

St. Anna Church

The church was built by the Ursulines with means from the sisters' dowries and donors' gifts. The centrepiece of the classicistic pillar High Altar is the large painting by Joseph Zanussi: "**St. Anna Tutoring Virgin Mary as a Child**" considered to be a symbolic

representation of the mission of the Ursulines order. Under the Virgin Mary Altar there is a decorated tin coffin containing the relics of the Holy Martyrs of Košice. It is the last church built in the historic centre, making it the youngest of the oldest.



(22)

The Evangelical Church

The church is an atypical building constructed according to the project by the architect Josef Marek in 1924. The whole of the interior was to focus on the pulpit, which is why the church has a semi-circular ground-plan, with amphitheatrically arranged rows of

benches and gallery. In 1974 a modern suspended lower ceiling was installed. The impressive three-tower functionalist building has a square main tower with a tower clock, bells and a glockenspiel, and two lower rounded towers.

(13A)

The Charnel House

The oldest sacral masonry building in Trnava and one of the biggest in Slovakia is the **Charnel House which was used to store human bones from older graves.** This Romanesque building is of a circular ground plan and it was

built of untreated quarry stone. A three-meter layer of bones was revealed in the burial chapel, which means it was used long before it ceased to exist in the middle of the 14th century.



(14)

Oláh's Seminary

The Renaissance building, built in 1561 by the Archbishop Nicolas Oláh on the basis of the resolution of the Council of Trent, was the first divinity seminary in the Hungarian Kingdom. This three-wing double-storey building gained its contemporary shape after several

reconstructions. **From the beginning of the 17th century until the mid-20th century, it served as a home for old priests, and since 1979 there has been the Museum of Book Culture in the Oláh's seminary.**

(18)

The Status Quo Synagogue

A representative two-tower building, whose frontage is formed by projecting towers and stone panels of Decalogue at the gable top, was built in 1887 according to the design of the architect Jakob Gartner, an important Viennese synagogue specialist. The interior is formed by an apse

and a prayer hall with a gallery for women supported by cast iron pillars. Above the prayer hall there is a cupola that was originally made of glass. Today, it is used as a centre of contemporary fine art, established by the Gallery of Ján Koniarek.



(19)

St. Joseph Church

The Church of St. Joseph is characterized by Baroque architecture with distinctive features of the German Renaissance. The Calvinists began with its construction in 1616 and as other Protestant churches of a hall type it was built without a tower. In 1701, the Chapel

of the Virgin Mary of Loreto was added and in 19th century a wooden bell tower with a Baroque cupola. **On the main altar there is a painting of St. Joseph the Foster-Father. The decorations on the ceiling include four oval cartouches with scenes from the life of St. Joseph.**

(26)

The Church of the Holiest Trinity

The Church of the Holiest Trinity was built by the Trinitarians in 1710 to 1729, however from 1853 it belonged to the Jesuits. **The most significant work of art in the interior is the painting on the High Altar showing the founders of the Order of the Holy Trinity, St. John of Matha and St. Felix of Valois**, by the Austrian painter



(21)

St. Helen Church

building the ribbed vault and the gothic pastophorium in the wall of the sanctuary were preserved. In the sanctuary there are stained-glass windows. The southern chapel has the oldest and the only preserved Gothic table altar in Trnava.

(12)

House of Music

It is a Baroque building built on the one of the oldest medieval masonry foundations in Trnava. During Gabriel Bethlen's uprising, the crown of the Hungarian Kingdom was **deposited there, which is hinted at by the Latin inscription on the attic: "I, a stranger, once used to dwell under this roof"**. The House of Music accommodates

expositions concerned with the life and work of the significant Trnava-born Slovak composer, Mikuláš Schneider Trnavský, who was devoted mainly to sacral music. His main achievement is the development of a uniform Catholic mass book with 541 songs, almost half of them composed by him.

(25)

St. Jacob Church

The Franciscan church, one of the first churches, contains the largest number of altars in Trnava. Two are in the sanctuary, one in the sacristy, ten in the nave of the church and one in the chapel. On the sides of the gable there are the statues of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Anthony of Padua. The central painting of the altar, painted by Jozef Zanussi, shows St. Jacob standing on a cloud and

surrounded with a halo. **An interesting architectural piece is the St. Anthony Altar in the sanctuary.** In its centre there is a statue of Virgin Mary, the border contains oval paintings with scenes from St. Anthony's life. St. Jacob Church is a sacral building which is also referred to as the stopping point of pilgrims on their way to see the remains of St. Jacob in Santiago de Compostela.

(20)

Church of the Assumption

The Clarists' monastery and church form one of the oldest monastery complexes in the town. It was mentioned as early as 1239, when Pope Gregory IX took it under his patronage. The sanctuary of the one-nave church is still covered by the original ribbed vault, however in the 17th century the church was reconstructed in the Baroque style. The rear part was divided into two storeys: on the

upper storey an oratory with rich stucco decorations of the vault and the walls was created, on the lower storey there was a dining hall. **Since 1954 the complex has accommodated the West Slovakian Museum.** A very interesting exposition of the Museum is an exhibition of bells and the history of bell foundry having a rich history in Trnava.

Chronology of historical milestones

1211

First written reference of Trnava and a proof of the existence of the parish church of St. Nicholas

1238

King Belo IV granted Trnava **the privilege of a free royal town**

1239

The first written reference of the **Clarisian monastery**

1382

King of the Hungarian Kingdom and King of Poland, Ludovít I the Great, died in Trnava

1543

The arrival of the Esztergom chapter to Trnava

1553

King Ferdinand I appointed **Nicholas Oláh as Archbishop of Esztergom** and the cardinal Hungarian archbishop seated in Trnava

1560

Archbishop of Esztergom, **Nicolas Oláh, called the first Archdiocesan Synod to Trnava**

1561

Emperor **Ferdinand I confirmed the founding charter of the Jesuit College in Trnava**, which was the first of its kind in the territory of then Hungary Kingdom

1566

Nicolas Oláh established a **seminary for education of priests in a house near the town parish** (Oláh's seminary)

1629

The foundation **stone of the University Church**, today's Cathedral of St. John the Baptist was laid

1635

Establishment of the Trnava University by the Jesuit order at the head of Péter Pázmány

1708

The Archbishop of Esztergom and Cardinal Kristian August, on the basis of the results of the investigation of the **miraculous weeping of the painting of Virgin Mary** of Trnava by the commission of the ecclesiastical ministry, **proclaimed the testimonies as credible** and granted the public worship of the merciful painting

1710

21. 11. — A walk in the streets of Trnava with the painting of Virgin Mary of Trnava, after which the **plague miraculously ended** in Trnava

1734

The first members of the **Order of St. Ursula came to Trnava**

1739

The foundation stone of the building of the Virgin Mary Chapel at St. Nicolas Dome was laid

1741

Consecration ceremony of the Baroque Chapel of Virgin Mary at St. Nicolas Dome

1777

Maria Theresa issued a decree on the transfer of the University to Buda

1792

Establishment of **Slovak Scholastic Association**

1820

Archbishop of Esztergom, **Alexander Rudnay, moved the Archbishop seat of Trnava back to Esztergom** at the order of the sovereign

1870

Establishment of **St. Adalbert's Association**

1922

The Vatican removed the Slovak part from the Esztergom diocese and put it under the administration of the Trnava apostolic administration

1923

The solemnly laid foundation **stone of the Evangelical Church**

1970

St. John the Baptist Cathedral was declared a **national cultural monument**

1978

The Vatican announced the establishment of an independent Slovak Church Province with a metropolitan seat in Trnava

1997

Opening ceremony of the **University of St. Cyril and Methodius (UCM)**

2003

Visit of Pope John Paul II in Trnava

2008

St. Nicolas Church was granted the **title Basilica minor**