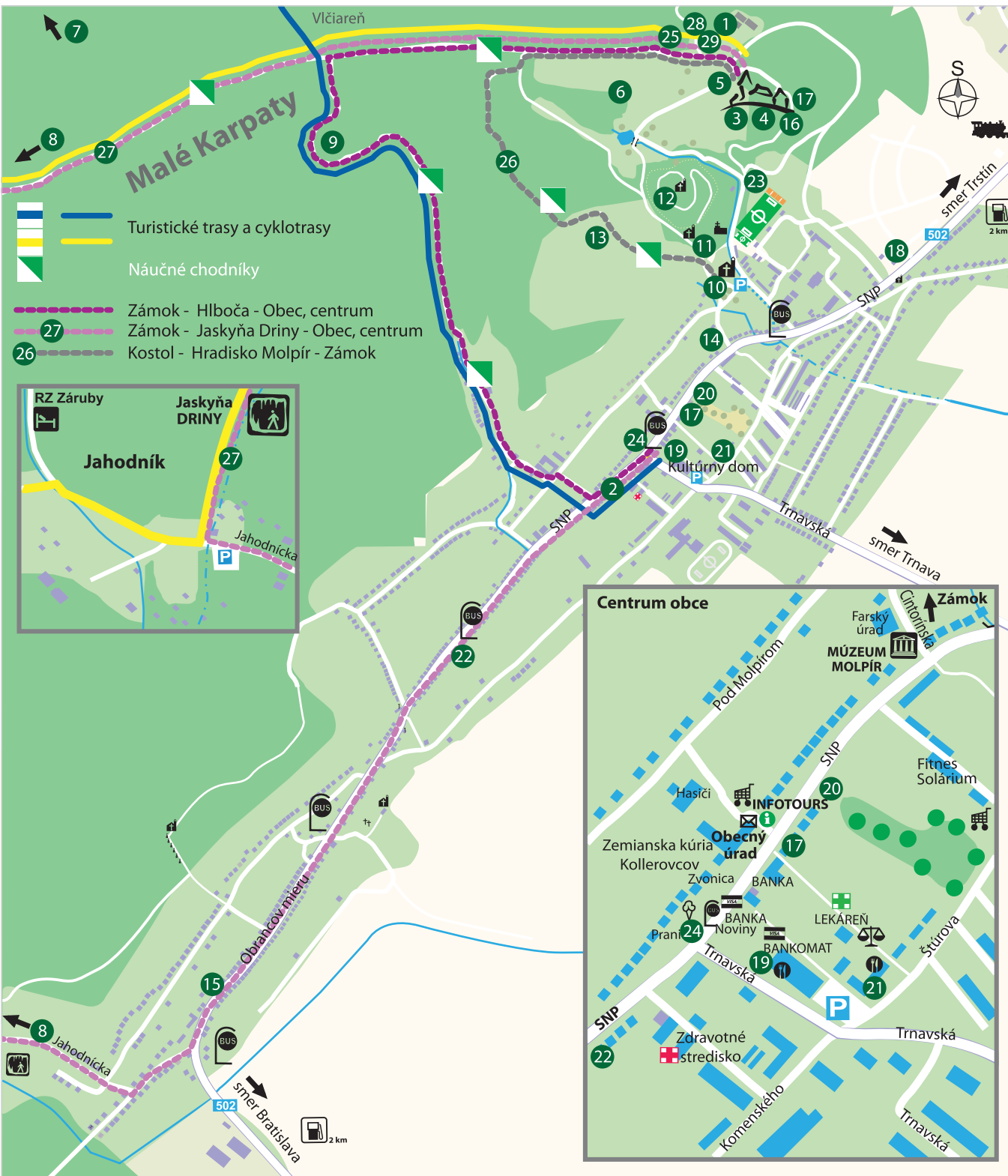


- 1 Village Mountains
- 2 Main Street
- 3 Exposition of photos of Pálfi family
- 4 Smolenice Castle
- 5 Castle Tower
- 6 English Park
- 7 Hill Záruby
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Tourist Miniguide - Smolenice - Region TIRNAVIA

Wonderful Smolenice Castle
at the foot of the Malé Karpaty



TOURIST MINIGUIDE

SMOLENICE

From the tower of romantic castle, from the fort Molpír, or from any of the surrounding hills you will have a view of the picturesque village situated in the foothills of the mountains Malé Karpaty. Follow the footsteps of its ancient past, admire the extraordinary natural wealth that surrounds it, taste local specialties and try sweet mead ... Welcome to the pearl of mountains Malé Karpaty. Welcome in Smolenice!

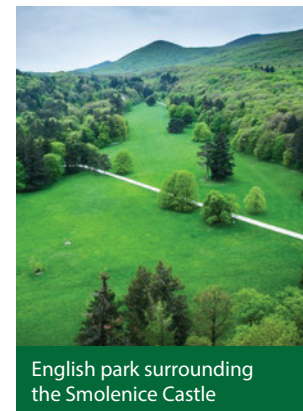
THE CASTLE AND GUARD CASTLE AT ONCE

4 Smolenice Castle

Did you know that Smolenice Castle was initially a guard castle? For this purpose, it was built in the 14th century. Firstly the castle was owned by the king, later by Erdödy family, but it was Joseph Pálfi who decided to re-build the shambles into a romantic residence in the 19th century. If it reminds you the famous French castles along the river Loire, you are right! It was the source of earl inspiration which was given as a project to Joseph Hubert - author of Bojnice Castle. Today, the castle is the youngest and the most beautiful jewel of western Slovakia.

5 View from the tower

If you climb ninety-nine stairs, you will be in the three floors observation tower of Smolenice Castle. However, we recommend a short break - in the gallery between the second and third floor, where you can find an exhibition of contemporary photographs from the life of noble Pálfi family. Photos capture not only the construction of the castle, but also the everyday life of noble family until 1945, when the castle was nationalized. Since 1953 the castle belongs to the Slovak Academy of Sciences.



English park surrounding the Smolenice Castle

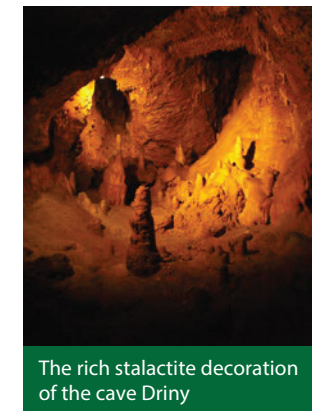
6 English Park

Part of the romantic silhouette of the castle is an English park. The count found inspiration in Scottish and English parks. On its generous area are planted many rare tree species. Along with a pond it is the ideal place for a walk, picnic and sports activity. Asphalted pavement through the park to the castle was made in one night because of visit of the Soviet politician Nikita Khrushchev, who spent the night at the castle.

NATURAL WEALTH

7 Mountains Malé Karpaty

Picturesque scenery of the village is formed by the mountains Malé Karpaty. This diverse and legally protected landscape spreads for one hundred kilometres from Bratislava to Nové Mesto nad Váhom. Even the name of the mountains reveals that the height is not the thing which makes them so special. The highest peak Záruby with 768 m.a.s.l. is accessible for everyone. Interesting is that just around Smolenice are concentrated the most of natural treasures. Discover the hidden corners of the Karpaty mountains and forests.



The rich stalactite decoration of the cave Driny

8 Cave Driny

The beauty of the Malé Karpaty demonstrates cave Driny. It is the only cave in the western Slovakia which is open for public visitors. It reveals its charms for visitors for more than seventy-five years. It was discovered by accident. Thanks to dogs which regularly vanished in a rocky hole, the explorers came with the idea of uncovering the secrets of the mysterious hole. For this purpose they used ladders. Today we owe them the most important tourist attraction of this area.

9 Waterfall Hlboča

If you are collectors of unforgettable experience, do not miss the view of the natural wonder a small waterfall in the protected area - in the valley of Hlboča. However, it is necessary to be at the right time in the right place! Nine meters high waterfall, the only one in the Malé Karpaty, appears only in the spring, at the time of melting of snow. During a tour in March or April definitely do not miss it.

FOLD INTO MINIGUIDE

Tourist Miniguide - Smolenice - Region TIRNAVIA



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT VILLAGE

1 The first settlement

The territory of today Smolenice has been colonized since the 6th century BC. "Arms" of the Malé Karpaty and later also multiple of medieval guard castles, to which belonged from 13th century also castle in Smolenice, were strategically protecting this locality. Originally, the village stretched in so-called "General Mountains" northerly from the former castle. From the ancient time the mountains were important source of stone, wood and lime for not only domestic but also for townspeople of Trnava.



Earl Joseph Pálfi (1853-1920), the patron of the village Smolenice

2 Trade Road

The local guild of resin used the natural riches to the production of resin. This fact can be connected with the first historical name of the village "Villa Solmus". Hopefully "this material was not sticking on the heels" of traders who used to visit the village. Thanks to them and their goods the importance of the village was greatly rising. In fact, since 1256 The Villa Solmus has been one of the stops of Via Bohemica - The famous Czech - Hungarian trade road, linking Prague and Buda.

3 Earl Pálfi

Famous Pálfi family significantly contributed to industrial development of Smolenice, especially Earl Joseph Pálfi. He was an educated man, a good economist and manciple. In Smolenice and its surroundings he founded fish ponds, sawmills, farmyards, distilleries, and he was devoting to horses breeding. Besides that, his name is connecting with the construction of Smolenice Castle and Chemical Factory of Joseph Pálfi that preceded the current Chemolak.





Historical photograph from the 19th century depicts Joseph Pálfi with children during the walk in Smolenice. In the distance you can see ongoing construction of Smolenice Castle.

SACRAL MONUMENTS

10 Local Church

To the precious monuments of Smolenice belongs also the Church of the Birth of the Virgin Mary. It is located in a quiet place, on a hill above the village, surrounded by more than three thousand year old lime trees. It was built on the foundations of the original Gothic church. The extensive renovation in 1642 was due to Gabriel Erdödy and his wife Mary Pálfi. The simple exterior of the Renaissance type with remains of Gothic architecture and beautiful decorated portal contrasts with the early Baroque decoration.



Chapel of St. Vendelín that still dominates in the cemetery

11 Chapel

Lives of Pálfi family were closely linked to Smolenice. Thanks to them the village gained world acquaintanceship and hallmark of aristocracy. So it is natural that the place of their last rest is in the local cemetery. Dominant is the family tomb with Chapel of St. Vendelín carrying the inscription on the facade: "For eternal rest of myself and my family. Joseph Pálfi, Earl from Erdöd. 1896 ". There, next to their former vassals, are dreaming their eternal dream Joseph Pálfi, his parents, son and two sisters.

12 Calvary

If you choose a forest path, near a cemetery, northerly from the Church of the Birth of the Virgin Mary, you arrive to a hill with three crosses and the Chapel of the Ascension of the Lord. As the path follows, the number of stops on the calvary road is rising. The road will lead you to the chapel, hidden in the forest stand. Artistic reliefs of calvary from 1912, were made by the Munich company Mayerische Kirchliche Kunstanstalt.

LIVE HISTORY

13 Fort Molpír

Above the village Smolenice is a mysterious hill Molpír (354 m.a.s.l.). There were Celtic and also Slavic forts in past. In the 6th century it had an area of more than 12 ha and wide stone ramparts limited the three courtyards and acropolis. In addition to many valuables there were found the remains of human sacrifices. It was not cannibalism, but the religious and cult reasons that led origin people to these acts. They believed that they will gain qualities and strength of their victims...

14 Museum Molpír

Small and nice. That is local Museum Molpír, situated in the building of the old rectory. In the six rooms it guards the treasures of ancient history and documents of the remarkable life stories. A stable place have found there the findings from Molpír as glass beads, cannel ceramics and ancient weapons supplemented by old books of parish library. Another room is devoted to the inventor of the parachute, Štefan Banič. Next folk furnished room from the 19th century will tell us more about dowry of former bride.

15 Štefan Banič

Significant local native Štefan Banič (1870 - 1941) is famous for his discovery of parachute during his life in the USA, where he left because of work in 1907. To invention, through which he wanted to save the lives of pilots, was motived because of tragedy that he had been a witness. He himself tried the parachute by jumping from a fifteen floors building and gained a valuable patent. However, before returning he reportedly sold it to US military for 50 \$...



Archaeological findings from the Celtic fort Molpír

WINE AND MEAD

16 Wine Tradition

Seven pruning knives and clay wine vessels from the fort Molpír are material witnesses of the ancient connection between this locality and wine. Indeed, in 1401 the village already had fourteen vineyards! Citizens of Smolenice were selling their wine directly from the yard - "Pod Viechou". These houses were marked with a chaplet of vineyard leaves or a bouquet. In the secret room of vaulted cellars winemakers even hid their products because of the financial control.



Visit company Včelco and take the opportunity of tasting.

17 Wine at the Castle

Wine Shop Gallery "seeks" and offers its customers the best regional and international wines. In the village shop you can taste new one, "wine of the week" or buy a bottle of good wine. In the case of your interest we can provide guided tasting in places of magical southern bastion of Smolenice Castle, which is also an essential stop on the popular Little Carpathian Wine Route.

18 Meadery Včelovina

Do you like discovering new tastes? If so, we guarantee that you will be enchanted by the magnificence of the royal drink - mead. A good quality of honey, water, yeast and a masterful job - it is a secret of the best world mead that was in 2003 also awarded in Apimondia. It is not a surprise that to produce one bottle bees must fly up to 70 000 km. In company Včelco they will show you a process of production and share with the experience of the taste of the famous "liquid gold".

TIPS FOR TRIPS

25 Cycle Route

Mountains Malé Karpaty have many hiking trails, which you can choose from according to your interest and condition. The starting point of several hikes is Smolenice Castle. We recommend: **Cycle route Smolenice Castle - Vličiareň - Cave Driny - Smolenice, centre.** The less demanding route takes you through winding forest paths with multiple stops. Do not miss a visit of cave Driny.

Distance: 6.5 km, Difficulty: easy, Duration: 1.5 hours.

28 More difficult hiking

Smolenice – Havrania skala - Záruby - Záruby, sedlo - Smolenice Castle.

Rock Havrania skala, visible from afar, offers unforgettable views. Moreover, it is a popular climbing wall for young climbers.

Distance: 12 km, Difficulty: medium, Duration: 4 hours.

29 Smolenice Castle - Čertov žľab - Ostrý Kameň - Čertov žľab - Smolenice Castle

From the stop at Ostrý Kameň you can have a view of Karpaty and the western part of Slovakia called Záhorie.

Distance: 12km, Difficulty: hard, Duration 4 hours

26 Easier hiking

Church, Cemetery - Molpír - Smolenice Castle.

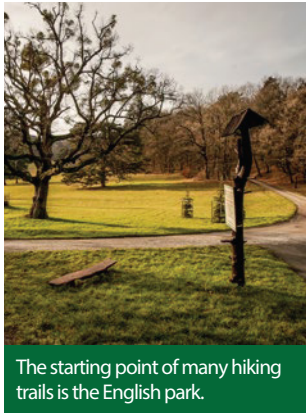
At the top of Molpír information boards introduce you the ruins of a Celtic fort. The beautiful views of the surrounding mountains from the rocks are certainly at least equally motivating.

Distance: 3 km, Difficulty: easy, Duration: 1 hr.

27 Smolenice Castle - Vličiareň - Cave Driny - Smolenice, centre.

A hiking alternative of the cycling route.

Distance: 6.5 km, Difficulty: easy, Duration: 2.5 hours.



The starting point of many hiking trails is the English park.

WHERE TO EAT AND STAY

19 Havran Pub

The stylish restaurant in the centre is a place where you can try its famous taste of traditional dishes, delicious pizza and fine regional wines. The building includes a heated terrace and a cheerful pub. The attentive staff provides prompt service.



Havran Pub

20 Pizza Halenár

In a pleasant atmosphere of the restaurant to which belongs a summer terrace heated in wintertime, you can choose from a variety of dishes, including pizzas and breakfast menu.



Pizza Halenár

21 H & K Restaurant

Original rural restaurant offering delicious local specialities and a summer garden.

22 Pension Villa Agnes

The pension located 5 minutes of walk from the village centre provides you perfect conditions during your stay. Guests can use the lounge and summer terrace with fireplace. There is a possibility of storing bikes and breakfast on request.

23 Shepherd's Hut
Koliba pod zámkom

Take a last opportunity and refresh yourself before the tourist route across Malé Karpaty.

ATTRACTIONS

Opening hours

Definitely do not miss a visit of the magical Smolenice Castle available in months July - August, 10.00 am - 6.00 pm (Admission: adult / 2 €, child, senior citizen / 1 €).

Cave Driny gladly welcomes you every day except Monday, during the months from April to October every hour and half at 10.00 am, 11.30 am, 01.00 pm, 02.30 pm. (Admission: adult / 6 €, student / 5 €, child, senior citizen / 3 €).

Molpír Museum opens its doors every summer from July to August, in time 10.00 am - 04.00 pm. (Admission: adult / 1.50 €, child, senior citizen / 0.70 €).

Mead "Včelco" offers its newly opened tasting rooms and shops with a direct view of the castle.

TOP EVENTS

SLOVAK CUP IN MOUNTAIN BIKING - MTB
Come to the castle park and support the best Slovak cyclists (July)

ROUTE ACROSS THE FAIRY TALE FOREST

Fairies, waterman, and other fairy tale creatures wait next to the Smolenice Castle for children each year during the celebration of Children's Day (June)

ON WHEELS AGAINST THE CANCER

Charity event next to the Smolenice Castle and musical performances of artists (August)

GHOSTS AT THE CASTLE (October, November)

CONTACT

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- is a division of Trnava Tourism (Regional Tourism Organization). Village Smolenice is a part of a tourist destination TIRNAVIA - Trnava and its surroundings. In the region TIRNAVIA we recommend visiting the attractions and landmarks in the villages: Smolenice, Suchá nad Parnou, Ružindol, Jaslovské Bohunice and Špačince.

We are looking forward to you! In TIRNAVIA - region of the world wines!