

Connect to free wifi VisitBratislava



ENJOY EVEN MORE

- Unlimited travel by public transport
- Free admission to selected museums and galleries
- Free guided walking tour and other discounts up to 50 %

Text: Maroš Borský
Photo credits: Viera Kamenická,
Rudolf Klein, Róbert Vrlák
Design: sowa | brandstudio
Map: MAPA Slovakia Editor s.r.o., 2022



Implemented with the financial support of the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic.



Online sale Bratislava CARD

Bratislava Tourist Board
Primaciálne nám. 1
P. O. BOX 349
810 00 Bratislava
btb@visitbratislava.com
www.visitbratislava.com

Tourist Information Centre
Klobučnícka 2
SK-811 01 Bratislava
Tel.: +421 2 16 186
Tel.: +421 2 59356651
touristinfo@visitbratislava.com

VI / 2022

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL 5

The memorial commemorates the 105,000 Jewish victims from Slovakia who were murdered during the Holocaust. Erected in 1996, it is an important site of public memory for Bratislava residents. Many citizens remember the synagogue that stood on the site until 1969, when the SNP Bridge was constructed. Its demolition is perceived as an irreparable loss for the city. You may find historical images of the synagogue in many local cafés.

The centerpiece of the memorial is an abstract sculpture with a Star of David. A granite platform features the word 'Remember' in Hebrew and Slovak. A silhouette of the lost synagogue is engraved on the adjacent granite wall.

The memorial is the site of the official Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration event, which takes place annually on September 9.



JEWISH CEMETERIES 6 7

There are two Jewish cemetery compounds in Bratislava, historically linked to the two Jewish communities active in the city until World War II. The Orthodox cemetery is a large, 4.4-hectare compound with over 7,000 graves located on a slope facing the Danube river. Established in 1845, the cemetery is a unique heritage site of international prominence. The most visited graves are those of the son and grandson of the Chatam Sofer, Ketav Sofer (1815-1871) and Shevet Sofer (1842-1906), and of other members of the family. The grave of Alfred Wetzler (1918-1988), who escaped from Auschwitz and co-authored the Vrba-Wetzler report, can also be found here. The cemetery chapel, designed by Friedrich Weinwurm and Ignác Vécsei, is one of the best-preserved monuments of interwar architecture in Slovakia.

The Neolog cemetery is smaller, with about 2,000 graves. It was established in 1873, after the separate Neolog community was founded. Architect Artur Szalantai-Slatinský and engineer Eugen Bárkány are buried here.

www.jewishcemetery.sk



Jewish Bratislava

- Jewish Heritage Route
- Memorials, museums, cemeteries
- Thematic tours & Pilgrimage sites

Bratislava has a rich Jewish history dating back to 1291, when the city received its municipal charter from Hungary's King Andrew III. This important legal document granted Jews the same rights as other citizens. In the following centuries, the city's Jews were on several occasions expelled and returned again to the city, which for almost 250 years served as the capital of the Hungarian Kingdom, making its Jewish community the most prominent in the country. A number of important rabbis and scholars lived in the city, which was an important center of Jewish learning thanks to the famous Pressburg Yeshiva, which functioned until 1941.

Much of this heritage was shattered during the Holocaust, and in the subsequent decades of communism and post-war emigration. The community was decimated and numerous Jewish sites were demolished. Despite this unprecedented destruction during the 20th century, a small but active Jewish community continues to live in the city. There are many interesting places with Jewish links in Bratislava. You can find out about them at the dedicated website and online guide: www.jewishbratislava.sk



SLOVAK JEWISH HERITAGE ROUTE

Bratislava's synagogue, which also contains the Jewish Community Museum, plus the Museum of Jewish Culture and the Chatam Sofer Memorial are part of the Slovak Jewish Heritage Route, which links the major Jewish sites in Slovakia and is part of the European Routes of Jewish Heritage network.

www.slovak-jewish-heritage.org



CHATAM SOFER MEMORIAL ①

The Chatam Sofer Memorial is a unique compound, the last remnant of a centuries-old Jewish cemetery that was razed in the 1940s, leaving only this small section preserved. An underground space contains twenty-three graves, including that of the Chatam Sofer and those of other prominent rabbis that once lived in Bratislava. This architecturally attractive monument was built in 1999-2002 under strict rabbinic supervision, based on the designs of architect Martin Kvasnica.

Moshe Schreiber (1762-1839), known as the Chatam Sofer, was born in Frankfurt and served as rabbi in Prostějov, Matersdorf and Bratislava (1806-1839). He was a leading rabbinical authority in his time and head of the famous Pressburg Yeshiva, which was a prominent center of Jewish learning in Europe. Orthodox visitors from all around the world travel to Bratislava and pray at his grave.

The compound is not a museum, but a Jewish pilgrimage site of international importance. Visitors are kindly requested to observe modest dress.

www.chatamsofer.sk



SYNAGOGUE ②

The Heydukova Street Synagogue is the only remaining synagogue in Bratislava. It is an active house of worship with Orthodox services led by Rabbi Baruch Myers. Constructed in 1923-1924 according to the designs of Bratislava-based architect Artur Szalatnai-Slatinský (1891-1961), the building is a modern steel-and-concrete construction with a mélange of historicist and Cubist elements. It adheres to the rules of traditional synagogue architecture with a metallic bimah (raised platform, where the Torah is read) in the middle of the sanctuary and gender-separated seating. The exterior is towerless, and faces the street with a seven-pillared colonnade front. Holocaust memorial plaques are installed in the synagogue courtyard. The synagogue features a charming garden, which is an oasis of peace in Bratislava's busy city center.

JEWISH COMMUNITY MUSEUM ③

The Jewish Community Museum was established by the Jewish Community of Bratislava in 2012. It operates a permanent exhibition, The Jews of Bratislava and Their Heritage, and attractive special exhibitions in the upper floor of the synagogue building. The collection includes Judaica from the Bratislava region and personal objects of members of the local Jewish community. A highlight of the museum is a visit to the synagogue sanctuary. The museum is open during the summer season between late May and early October.

www.synagogue.sk



MUSEUM OF JEWISH CULTURE ④

The Museum of Jewish Culture is a branch of the Slovak National Museum. It was established in 1994 to focus on Jewish culture and Holocaust documentation in Slovakia. In the permanent exhibition is a memorial hall with the names of important Jewish personalities of Slovak descent, and an installation featuring a synagogue sanctuary. The museum is located in the Baroque Zsigray mansion dating from the 18th century, one of the few remaining houses of what was once the Jewish neighborhood of Bratislava.

A highlight of the museum collection is two chevre kadisha jugs from Senica, depicting the activities of a local Jewish burial society. Dating from 1734 and 1776, the jugs belonged to the local Jewish community until its deportation to the camps in 1942. After the war, the jugs were entrusted to the Slovak National Museum.

www.snm.sk

