

Monastery

The neighbouring Franciscan monastery was also part of important historical events. During the Middle Ages, the town's mayor was elected here. In 1526, the first Habsburg, Ferdinand I, was elected as the King of Hungary here as well. His family then ruled Hungary for almost 400 years.



Tower tours



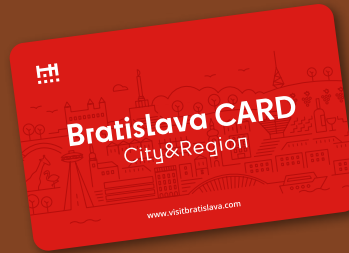
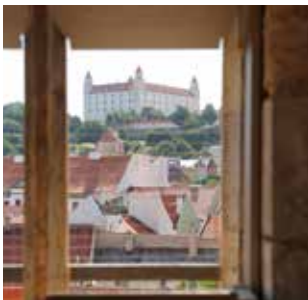
Opening hours:

July – August, Monday – Friday, 10.00 – 16.00.

Other months of the year by arrangement at:
kostolba@frantiskani.sk

Climbs up the church tower at half hour interval.

The possibility to climb the tower, a tour of the treasury and VR visualization are available for a fee of 1€. Tickets can be purchased at the temple treasury.



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SmartGuide

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Franciscan Church

OF LORD'S ANNUNCIATION

- The oldest church in the Old Town
- Exhibitions and virtual tours
- View from the tower

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The oldest church in the Old Town

The **Franciscan Church of Lord's Annunciation** is located in the centre of Bratislava. The church, which was dedicated to the annunciation to the Virgin Mary, has a long history. It is the oldest preserved sacred building in the city centre. **Its solemn consecration took place in 1297.** The church was built by the Hungarian King Ladislav IV. Kumánsky in the 13th century to commemorate his victory over the Bohemian King Přemysl Otakar II. in the Battle on the Marchfeld.

The church was built in the **Gothic style** as a simple single-nave church. The original Gothic presbytery and the side walls of the nave have been preserved intact to this day. They are the oldest original part of the church. **The main altar** dates back to the first half of the 18th century. There is a **coloured stained-glass window of the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary** from the end of the 19th century, based on an original oil painting from the 18th century. The side altars from the 18th century are in baroque style. The pulpit, dating from 1756, is rococo style and decorated with several important reliefs. One of the **traditional ceremonies of the coronations of the Hungarian kings** took place in the Franciscan church. The new Hungarian monarch dubbed here selected noblemen as Knights of the Golden Spur.



The Gothic Chapel of St. John the Evangelist

This **representative Gothic chapel** was built as a side extension of the Franciscan church in the 14th century. There was an older chapel on this site, mentioned in written sources as early as 1296.



The tradition of the **Nativity scenes** has spread thanks to **St. Francis of Assisi**, therefore during the Advent season, a number of them of various sizes from many countries of the world and mainly made of natural materials such as wood, corn husks, clay, wax and banana leaves are exhibited in the church and the chapel.



The largest known **Baroque painting in Slovakia** with impressive dimensions of 5 m x 5.65 m is exhibited here, **Queen of the Angels** by an unknown artist is from the collection of the Bratislava City Gallery, dates from from 1730 to 1740 and was restored in 2011 to 2017.



Crypts

From the chapel there is an entrance to the crypts, where in the past, besides the Franciscan friars, famous families of the Hungarian kingdom and noblemen were buried. They longed to have at least one member of their family buried here. The last nobleman was buried here in 2011. There are 14 crypts in the underground of the church and chapels. In addition, there are crypts under the altars and a tangle of grave pits under the aisle of the church.



Cityscape view from the church tower

Between 1410 and 1420, the hexagonal Gothic tower was added to the south side of the nave. Later on, structural damage was detected and today the church tower is replaced by a true neo-Gothic copy.

During the climb up the tower, visitors will find **interesting exhibits** such as the clapper of the original bell, the spire from the top of the tower and a case with a **document describing the historical circumstances** at the time and the repair process, which were inserted into the spire after the reconstruction of the church in 1896.



The original Gothic part of the tower was relocated to the Janko Kráľ Park, where it is a significant architectural element and serves as a gazebo.



Temple Treasury with virtual reality

In the former upper sacristy, it is possible to see a selection of the most representative works of **precious metal art and craftsmanship as well as liturgical vestments** from the inventory of the Franciscan church and monastery. The oldest of the preserved goldsmith's art liturgical objects is a silver censer dated back to the year 1208. **The Telegdi chalice**, which is considered one of the most beautiful objects of Hungarian goldsmith's art of the late Middle Ages, is also a rare exhibit.

You can experience an **attractive presentation and 3D virtual tour** of the Franciscan church and tower. Enjoy!

