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BRATISLAVA TOURIST BOARD

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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So Much To Do

During the main tourist season, the castle offers many activities and events. As a part of the ticket, visitors can complete **training in the skills** necessary to become a knight. Devín Castle is also famous for its jousting tournaments – **Knights at Devín,** and concerts such as Tribute to Freedom. Other events include **conjuring performances,** lectures and events promoting **archaeology.**

There is also a festival for the local currant wine, Devínsky ríbezlák, made here since 1922. It is sold in wineries and shops in Devín village.
You can also taste it in selected wine bars in Bratislava and during events.



Interesting Sites in the Area

- The 13th century **Holy Cross church** in Devín. A burial site from Great Moravian times was discovered in its vicinity. Statutes of Saints Cyril and Methodius stand in front of the church. It is a stop on the cross-border **European Cultural Route of Saints Cyril and Methodius** (www.cyril-methodius.eu).

- The **Gate of Freedom memorial** at the confluence of the Morava and the Danube is dedicated to those killed by the totalitarian Czechoslovak regime while attempting to cross the fortified border with Austria – the Iron Curtain.



- **The international cycle route Eurovelo 13 –** the Iron Curtain Trail – passes under Devín Castle. Its Slovak section from the border crossing Hohenau - Moravský Sv. Ján is 87 km long and runs in a unique natural landscape beside the River Morava. There is also an educational trail by the river with 39 stations that can be followed on foot or by bike. The **Cycling Bridge of Freedom** straddles the River Morava at **Devínská Nová Ves.** Many people like to visit the **sandstone cliffs at Sandberg,** where fossilised sea creatures have been found.

Devín Castle is a few minutes by car from the centre of Bratislava and there is a free carpark at the foot of the castle. You can also take the bus Nr. 29 from the city centre (Most SNP) and get off at the Hrad Devín stop. Cross the road and continue along the embankment until you get to the parking lot beneath the castle. Adventurous visitors can travel by bicycle or by boat from the city centre (lod.sk).
www.visitbratislava.com/biketrips/to-devin-and-morava/

Devín Castle is closed on Mondays.
For more information on current opening hours, visit
www.muzeumbratislava.sk

* Last admissions half an hour before closing time.
* In winter the indoor areas (exhibitions, toilets) are closed, but the castle grounds are still open. The whole site is closed in unfavourable conditions such as snow or freezing weather.

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MÚZEUM MESTA BRATISLAVY
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BRATISLAVA

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Devín Castle

- History and Nature
- A Tower with a Story
- Jousting Knights



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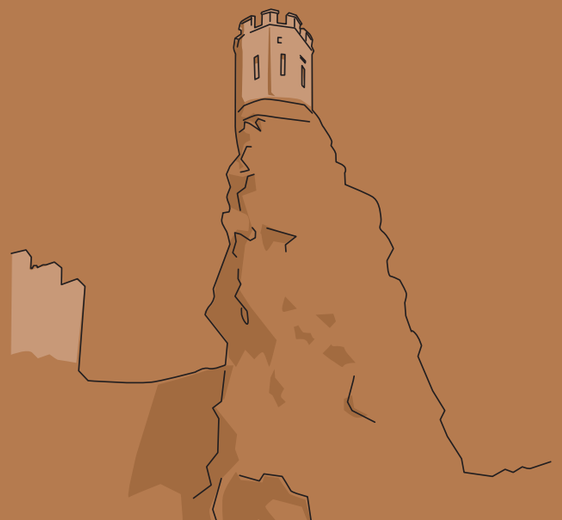
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Devín

The ruined castle that stands on the rocky peak (212 m a.s.l.) **above the confluence of the Danube and the Morava** is one of the most important historical and archaeological sites in Central Europe. It also offers a unique view of an **enchanting landscape.** It is a **national cultural heritage monument** managed by the Bratislava City Museum in the Bratislava borough of Devín, 12 km from the city centre.

History in a Nutshell

This strategic site was almost continuously inhabited from the Neolithic Age to modern times. The **Celts** occupied Devín from the end of the first century BC and left many traces of their mature culture. From the first century AD, they were replaced by a **Germanic population** that established contacts with the **Roman Empire.** Devín had great significance as the **crossroads of the north-south Amber Road and the trade route following the River Danube.** The Migration Period left fewer traces at Devín, the most famous being a charred loaf of bread.





Devín **first appears in written sources** in 864, when it is referred to in the Annals of Fulda as Dowina. In the Great Moravian period, Devín was a **strategic military fortress.** Important finds from this period include the foundations of a church and a small adjoining cemetery used by the upper classes. There was probably a stone castle at Devín in the first third of the 13th century. The **castle and village flourished** in the early 15th century when the castle was held by Nicholas Garai, Palatine of Hungary. From 1460 to 1521 the counts of Svätý Jur and Pezinok owned the castle. In 1527 it was granted to Stephen Báthory, Palatine of Hungary. It remained in the Báthory family until 1605. The last noble family to own the castle were the **Pálffys,** who acquired it in 1635. They did not make any major changes to it, however. In 1809, during the Napoleon Wars, French soldiers laid explosives under the castle and blew it to pieces. In 1932 the Pálffys sold Devín Castle to the Czechoslovak Republic for a symbolic 1,000 crowns.



Nature

To the north of the castle, the Little Carpathian mountain range rises, including the peak **Devínska Kobyla** (514 m), which is part of a national nature reserve. There are more than **460 species of plant** on the castle hill at Devín including several and endangered species such as *artemisia austriaca* and *dianthus praecox lumnitzeri.* You may see **lizards** and **grass snakes,** or birds like the **northern wheateater** and **white wagtail; kestrels** nest in the cliff face below the castle.



Exhibitions at the Castle

The castle's six-hectare area is divided into the lower, middle and upper castles. It includes the **preserved** remains and illustrative reconstructions of buildings from the **Roman, Great Moravian, medieval and modern periods** accompanied by bilingual information panels. Since Devín Castle was destroyed in 1809, it has no indoor rooms and there is limited space for exhibitions. In the courtyard of the middle castle, the **cellars of the Renaissance palace have been restored** to host short-term exhibitions of archaeological finds from the castle and its surroundings. The **castle well** in the courtyard dates from the 15th century and is 55 m deep. During reconstruction of the upper castle in 1990, several **caves** were discovered by chance which may have been used as places for refuge and storage. At present it hosts a **permanent exhibition** telling the story of the castle in the medieval and modern periods, and a geological exhibition highlighting the traces left by the sea that covered the area in the Tertiary period.





The sea sand in an abrasion fissure in the caves of the upper castle is evidence that there was sea here 16 million years ago.



An Endless Panorama

From the lookout platform atop the recently reconstructed upper castle, you can see a beautiful panorama encompassing the lower castle, the confluence of the Danube and the Morava, the Devínska Kobyla mountain and parts of Austria. The border is in the middle of the Danube. The viewing platform has a telescope and a sketch map of visible landmarks.

A Tower with a Story

One of the highlights of the castle is the elegant tower called the **Maiden Tower** or the **Nun,** about which many stories are told. One tells how Nicholas, the lord of Devín, fell in love with Margaret of Carinthia. Her father refused his consent, but the young man eloped with Margaret to Devín Castle, where everything was ready for their marriage. They had just made their vows in the chapel when the girl's uncle arrived with his men-at-arms. The newlyweds sheltered in the narrow tower on the cliffs, but the outnumbered Nicholas was killed and Margaret, overcome by grief, threw herself into the Danube.



An interesting feature of the confluence is the different colours of the waters.