

The Tourist Guide

of Sites in Mošovce

ŠRZ Drienok Mošovce



Peter Ret'kovský

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Dear Reader,

The aim of this booklet is to provide a tourist with a practical guide around the sites in Mošovce and its surroundings. Last part of the file contains maps of Mošovce with the most important roads, lanes and paths that will lead you to the most interesting places of our village and its surrounding nature. The places described in this booklet are marked in the map together with three suggested sightseeing routes:

- **Red Track:** A complete tour, which includes all the sights in Mošovce, and forest paths together with the visit of the legendary *Baron's grave*. Estimated length: 4 hours.
- **Green Track:** Sightseeing in Mošovce, during which you can see the most interesting sights in Mošovce without ever venturing to the surrounding nature. Estimated length: 2,5 hours
- **Brown Track:** It's the trip to the *Baron's Grave*, which will lead you through beautiful paths in the mountains of Veľká Fatra. Estimated length: 1,5 hours.

It is also possible to visit all the museums in Mošovce. At the back side of the cover you will find a list of contacts to guides, who, after previous arrangement, will be happy to provide a tour of the premises, as well as a professional lecture.

To help you compare the historical development of our town, pictures of old or non-existent buildings have been included to document their historical shape.

Last but not least, I would like to thank everyone who helped me with my work, either directly or by providing various materials.

Author

Mošovce

Mošovce (picture below) is one of the largest villages in the Turiec region. Many preserved historical buildings are the evidence of the 770 years of its existence. It was mentioned for the first time in the deed of donation by King Ondrej II.

Originally, Mošovce was made up of two settlements: The first one, Machyuch, was located in the area of today's Starý Rad, and the



PICTURE: LAMS Martin

second one, Terra Moys, which gave the village its current name, occupied the place of the present day Vidrmoch. And it is the name of the second settlement meaning The Land of Mojš, which makes us believe that the whole village once belonged to certain Mr. Mojš, whose name might have been an abbreviation of a compound Slavic name Mojtech, similar to the names Vojtech or Mojmír. Throughout the history the name of the village has undergone many variations ranging from Mossovyeh, Mosocz, Mossowecz, villa regia Mayos alio nomine Mossovyeh, oppidioum Mayus sue Mosocz, Mosocz olim Mayus to the present-day Mošovce.

The name of a separate ancient part of Mošovce, a former settlement Chornukov, has been preserved in the modern form of Čerňakov.

second one, Terra Moys, which gave the village its current name, occupied the place of the present day Vidrmoch. And it is the name of the second settlement meaning The Land of Mojš, which makes us

A - Vidrmoch - legend

This legend has been recorded by Jozef Tatár in his work Živý poklad as follows:

This story happened long before king Leopold issued the Articles for the boot-makers of Mošovce. The town boasted with loads of shoemakers, but you could walk the town three times around without ever finding a boot-maker. Therefore, when a master boot-maker moved into the town, people were so delighted that they almost kissed him.

The boot-maker's house stood on a small hill at the edge of the town. He had many customers, and was so busy that he often didn't know what to do first. Sometimes it was the mayor's wife who came, sometimes single maidens, townsmen, or peasants. Some ordered new boots; the poorer ones only came with repairs.

– I can't handle this alone! Look at my hands how they're shaking – complained the boot-maker to his wife.

– You have to understand dear neighbors, I have so much work that I almost don't go to sleep anymore!

And they told him:

– Why don't you get an apprentice? Four hands are more than two!

– Apprentice, apprentice, but where to get one?! A tough job for a boot-maker, who has his workshop full of leaking boots.

No work was done while the boot-maker went through all the surrounding towns and villages, while he searched fairs for an able apprentice of the boot-making craft. But it was of no use. The trip was in vain. It was as if all the apprentices ran away from him, hid in the highest mountain-tops of Turiec, and from there laughed at him, (not being so young anymore) climbing there after them dead tired. Well, this was the dream he had. But a dream is just a dream; it can't bring him an apprentice.

Right after the boot-maker opened his eyes, he heard a man talking a strange language in the kitchen. He suspected it would be German, because he had heard it at one of the fairs. He put his pants on, and it took them a while, before they were able to somehow understand each other. The boot-maker was happy when he somehow understood the man's Horná Štubňa German and learnt that his early guest was the apprentice he dreamt about so many nights. He felt stupid for not looking for his savior in Horná Štubňa, where the German settlers lived.

The master was relieved. Even before they really agreed on the wage, they were talking to their boot-making tools; one in Slovak, the other one in weird German. The boot-maker didn't mind at all that his new apprentice only knew a couple of Slovak words. Neighbors sometimes taunted him:

– Master, and how do you talk to your apprentice?

He always responded calmly and politely:

– Well, we talk with work, with our craft.

Since then the boot-maker's workshop at the edge of the town did much better. Happier times moved into the boot-maker's house. The number of customers kept increasing, as well as the reputation of their work. Now they were able to make enough boots for the master and his wife to go selling them on fairs. Sometimes he was able to sell in Slovenské Pravno, sometimes in Kláštor. No wonder that the master's treasure chest was filling up miraculously fast.

Gradually more and more work had to be done by the apprentice. At first he would just mumble incomprehensively, and curse silently. Later, especially when the master was out, he would sit on a bench under a lime-tree, put his arms on his belly and rest. When someone approached the boot-maker's house, he got nervous. He was trying his best to find an excuse, because he was aware of the amount of hard work waiting for him. He told the customers to come see directly the master, who sometimes didn't show up in the workshop for the entire week. He was just selling and making money. In these

moments the apprentice looked unhappy and greeted everyone with his tongue-twisting German:

– Vidr moch, vidr moch, oh, god, vidr moch!

– Arrgh, work again, work again! – was the English translation.

And although after a year the apprentice ran away from the master, people remembered his words. Since then they wouldn't say they were going to the master boot-maker, but that they were going to Vidrmoch.

Although today no boot-maker lives in Vidrmoch anymore, people continue living there. And work? Work tastes exactly the same as it does anywhere else.

B - Lutheran School



PICTURE: Author

This was originally the building of a Lutheran school (picture on the left), later it became a part of the Primary School of Ján Kollár, who himself learned and studied in this building. There is a small hill behind the edifice. When people were taking away layers of soil from the hill, they supposedly found the remains of middle-age knights, who were buried along with their horses. According to a legend, anyone who disturbs their eternal peace should suffer from the consequences of an ancient curse. That might have also been the reason, why the villagers quickly buried the bones, and today nobody knows, where this unique discovery lies.

At present, the building is being used for business purposes.

[C - Lutheran Church](#)



PICTURE: Author

Religious equality allowed also the Lutherans of Mošovce to build their own church with a belfry in the years of 1864 – 1871 (picture on the left). It was erected at the edge of the town. The original church from the year 1783 was smaller and lacked a tower. The building catches the eye with its plain classical appearance and a portal just under the tower covered with a high roof.

The rectangular building of the church was renovated in 1927. Three sides of the church are lined with a gallery supported by columns. In 1973 – 1975 a major reconstruction of the church took place. Benches, windows, galleries, as well as the altar, and preacher's post were replaced. The belfry holds three different-sized bells, whose ringing summons people to church or announces someone's death. Originally the bells also struck every 15 minutes.

[D - Lutheran Community Center](#)



PICTURE: Author

The building served as a church community center, secular community center, library, and until the revolution of 1989, also as a movie-theater (picture on the left). Right now it used for business purposes.

[E - Štefan Krčméry and the Lutheran Preacher's Home](#)

Štefan Krčméry (picture on the opposite page) was born on December 26, 1892 in Mošovce. After finishing his theology studies, he became the editor of *Národné noviny* (The National Newspaper),



PIC.: LAMS Martin

later held the post of the Secretary of *Matica slovenská* in Martin (Slovak cultural institution) and at the same time worked as an editor in *Slovenské Pohľady* (The Slovak Views). He died in 1955 in Pezinok struck by a mental disease, and is buried in the National Cemetery in Martin.

He was a poet, literary critic, and translator, as well as a significant figure of his time.

He was born in the Preacher's



PICTURE: Author

Home (picture above), which stood at the place of the present-day building (picture on the left), erected after the Second World War. This building also holds a commemorative tablet of Krčméry, which reads: **In this house**

was born PhDr. Štefan Krčméry, 26.12.1892 – 17.2.1955, luth. preacher, poet, lit. scientist and secretary of MS.

[F - House with a Portal and a Granary](#)



PICTURE: Author

The only preserved house with a portal and a granary is the house number 144 in Krčméryho Street (picture on the left). This traditional architecture has also been preserved in several houses in the village of Blatnica.



PICTURE: ALU SNK

G - Anna Lacková-Zora



PIC.: LAMS Martin

She was born on August 7, 1899 in Mošovce (picture on the left). At first she worked as a bank-clerk, but then devoted all her time to her literary work. She began during the First World War, later wrote children's poems, novels about the life of women, and the Štúr Generation (a 19th century group of scholars lead by Ľudovít Štúr, who codified the language and strived to preserve the culture of the Slovak people). In her books she concentrated not only on personal, but also social problems.

The house in which she was born stood above the grocery store in Partizánska Street, but she spent her childhood in the house number 90 in Krčméryho Street (picture above).



PICTURE: Author

H - Distillery „Starý mlyn“ (The Old Mill)



PICTURE: Author

Before World War Two, this building served as an old mill, used by farmers from near and far for grinding grain (picture on the left). Its mill wheel was propelled by the water of „Horný Potok“ (The Upper Brook), which is a branch of the main stream Mošovka. The connection of Horný Potok with the site of the old mill continues until

present-day, as now its water provides cooling for the distillation apparatus.

I - Fire-Department Building



PICTURE: Author

This building (picture on the left) is the residence of the voluntary fire department in Mošovce, but its large hall and garden are especially in the summer used for organizing various events and festivities.

J - Hide Processing Facility



PICTURE: Author

This building complex (picture on the left), now abandoned, used to serve for the purposes of a hide processing facility. Now its chimney holds a nest for a couple of storks, who return there every spring to raise their offspring.

K - Original Houses of Mošovce



PICTURE: Author

Houses number 198 and 199 in the Starý Rad Street (picture on the left), document the original architecture of Mošovce. In the past most of the houses looked like this, except that instead of the black and white striping they were entirely white.

L - Birth-house of Ján Kollár

Over the entrance to the site, where the house of Ján Kollár's birth once used to be, shines his famous statement: „**Slávme slávne slávu Slávov slávnych**“ (Let's splendidly celebrate the glory of glorious Slavs – picture below)



PICTURE: Exposition of the Museum of Ján Kollár

The house of Kollár (picture on the left) was similar to many houses in Mošovce. It stood in the former Ševcovská Ulica (Shoemaker Street), which now bears the name of Ján Kollár. The house was designated with the number 16.

Between the house and the street, there was a small neat garden with an old walnut tree.

In this type of houses, the rooms were interlocked with each other. In the frontal part there was a bigger room with two windows facing the street and two windows facing the yard. Then there was an anteroom with the main house entrance, which also served as a kitchen. Behind the anteroom was a back-room, which was smaller than the front one. The house also had a pantry, behind it lay a granary, woodshed, and other utility rooms. The house and all the other parts were wooden, only the granary was later built from stone by the father of Ján Kollár.



PICTURE: Author

On August 16, 1863 a fire spread in the Ševcovská Street. Apart from other houses, also the house of Ján Kollár was burned down, leaving only the masoned granary (picture below).

In 1974 a museum was created, and then in 1982 recreated, in the former granary. The exposition briefly depicts the history of the village, its famous people, but most of all chronologically describes the life and work of the important native of Mošovce, Ján Kollár.

Ján Kollár was born on July 29, 1793. He attended schools in Mošovce, Kremnica, Banská Bystrica, and Bratislava. Later he studied in the German town of Jena, where he fell in love with Friderika Schmidt. The



PICTURE: Author

character of Friderika appears in Kollár's most famous collection of poems Slávy Dcera (The Daughter of Sláva) in the form of allegorical Mína,. Because of her mother's disapproval, they weren't able to get married until her death in 1835. Two years later, Kollár's daughter Ľudmila was born. He died in Vienna, where he worked as a professor of Slavic Archeology. He is buried in Prague.

Kollár's name is closely related to the idea of Slavic togetherness, which he considered to be the salvation of small European Slavonic nations in the embrace of big Russia. Because of this idea he came into conflict with many contemporary scholars, who were trying to define Slovaks as a separate and independent nation.

M - Miloslav Schmidt

He was born on February 2, 1881 in Mošovce in a family of an innkeeper and baker. After finishing school in Kremnica and



PICTURE: Author

completing an apprenticeship at his father's bakery, he became the leading person of the family enterprise. He also used his abilities in the cultural and national area. After coming to Martin, he became interested in organizing voluntary fire brigades

in Slovakia. Until his death he held the position of the chief of the Martin Fire Brigade, as well as the post of the chief of the Land Union of Fire-Brigades, which united almost all fire departments in Slovakia. Because of his work, the organization of fire-protection in Slovakia improved tremendously.

He died on May 8, 1934 in Martin.

The inscription on his house in Kollárova

Street (picture above) reads: **In this house was born the great creator of voluntary fire protection in Slovakia, Miloslav Schmidt.**



PICTURE: Author

N - Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity

The gothic church of the Holy Trinity with a tower (picture on the opposite page below; present day shape: picture on the opposite

page above) – the dominant of the surroundings – belonged in the past to the most monumental sacral buildings in Turiec.

The tower, a significant dominant of the town, fulfilled several roles: The town and its surroundings resounded with the ringing of its four bells. The biggest one – Obecný, was cast in 1704 and weighed 900 kg, the second one was called Odschod, the third one Median, and the fourth, which weighed 70 kg, bore the name of Umrláč. A tiny bell was located separately in the church wall.



PICTURE: Author

The tower, situated at the church's main facade, was built separately facing west, and had a rectangular ground plan of 8,6 x 7,2 m. Its height of 45 meters had to be supported by the thickness of the walls, with three of them being 1,5 m thick, and the fourth, common with the church wall, measuring 1,2 m. This thickness can also be observed today at the remnants of the tower wall.

The basic building material was square and raw stone. The corners were accentuated by stone blocks. The tower was covered with a low pyramid-shaped roof with the original shingle covering.

Windows were located at two thirds of its height and were finished with arcs. Under the windows, on three sides of the wall (southern, western and northern), ticked a tower clock. The predecessor of this clock was an ancient sundial



PICTURE: LAMS Martin

situated in the southern side of the church wall.

By the end of the 19th century, the church, at that time almost 600 years old, was considerably damaged and run-down. Because it was built on a marshland, the 1,5 m thick stone gothic vault began to crack on many places even in spite of being secured by thick stone pillars at the sides of the church. There was a threat of the vault falling apart, and therefore the patron of the church – Baron František Révai – ordered its demolition.

Unlike its predecessor, the new neogothic church, which was created at the same site, took only 2 years to build (1912-1913). The building methods of the historizing sacral architecture were considerably close to today's procedures. To secure the stability of the church, it was built on a thick concrete platform. The new church is displaced from its predecessor by a couple of meters in the southwestern direction.



PICTURE: Lippan M.:Mošovce

The new church has three halls, and a lateral, hexagonal tower, which accommodates a staircase leading to the church gallery.

Originally, the old tower was left intact (picture on the left). After a closer examination, however, it was found that it was leaning – it diverged 45 cm from the vertical. Because of fears of its collapse, on June 21, 1913 it was decided that the old tower would be demolished, and a new one would be built in its place. As a support of this decision, Baron Révai donated 80.000 crowns for its construction. However, during the demolition the adjacent wall of the newly built church began to crack, and therefore the tower wall had to be rebuilt up to the height of the top of the church roof, and is still standing there in symbiosis with the church.

[O - The memorial of SNP \(Slovak National Uprising\)](#)



PICTURE: Author

The monument (picture on the left) dedicated to inhabitants of Mošovce, who lost their lives in the Second World War bears the inscription: **Samuel Hrianka, Ondrej Feriančík, Jozef Matušovič, Ján Mičík, Enriko Tomanica, Miroslav Košík, Alexander Mizera and Jozef Pálka, citizen of Mošovce, who sacrificed their lives for their country in the glorious Slovak National Uprising in 1944-1945.**

[P - School](#)



PICTURE: Author

The building of the Primary School of Ján Kollár (picture on the left) is famous for its pleasant environment. Its corridors are full of exhibitions of children's works, live plants, as well as wall paintings, which positively contribute to the motivation of students and make their time spent at school as enjoyable as possible.

Its corner stone was set on October 28, 1928 and the celebration of its opening on September 5, 1932 was joined by the president of Czechoslovakia, T. G. Masaryk.

[O - Statue of Ján Kollár](#)

It was dedicated in 1963 (picture on the next page), with Kollár's great-granddaughter, Ľudmila Schnabelrauch attending the

dedication ceremony. Its author is Fraňo Štefunko. The inscription at the monument quotes a section of Kollár's Slávy dcera: „**Ne z mutného oka, z ruky pilné naděje kvitne. Tak jen i zlé může státi se ještě dobrým**“ (Not from the sorry eye, but from the diligent hand the hope blossoms. Only this way still the wrong can be turned into the right).



PICTURE: Author

R - Frico Kafenda



PIC.: Beňovský J.:
Mošovce
v premenách času

Frico Kafenda (picture on the left) was born on November 2, 1883 in a house, which stood at the right side of Krčméry Street, right below the main square (picture below). He was a significant Slovak composer, conductor, pianist, and pedagogue. One of many important Slovak musical personalities raised by Kafenda, was the composer of the first Slovak national opera Krútnava, Eugen Suchoň.

After finishing his studies, Kafenda worked in Germany as a conductor, but after World War One he returned to Slovakia. He also attempted to compose the first Slovak national opera, but because of the outbreak of the War, his work remained unfinished. He died in 1963 in Bratislava.

Today there is free area in the place of Kafenda's house.



PICTURE: Lippan M.:Mošovce

S - Old Town-School



PICTURE: Lippan M.:Mošovce

The building from 1860, which stood below Kafenda's house on the right side of Krčméry Street (picture on the left) and was originally designed to serve as the district court, became in 1922 the seat of the State Town-School (grades 6-9). It, however, lacked both a gym and a garden, and its premises were as a whole unsatisfactory, therefore construction of a new school building, which still stands at the main square, was commissioned at the end of the 20s.

Today, the building of the old town-school no longer exists, and like in the case of Kafenda's house, its site has been turned into a green meadow.

T - The Old Mansion

Long time ago there was another family of noblemen living in Mošovce in addition to the Révais – the squire family of Rakšánsky.



PICTURE: Author

In the 15th century their old mansion was probably already standing at the place of today's supermarket (picture on the left). At the end of the 19th

century a Jewish school was located in the building. Its last owners at the beginning of the 20th century were the Révais, who didn't need the mansion anymore, had it demolished, and turned the ground into vegetable gardens for their servants.

U - The Manor-House



PICTURE: Author

One of the most interesting and most beautiful historical monuments of our region is no doubt the Révai rococo-classical manor-house in Mošovce (picture on the left; interiors in the pictures below and on the opposite page). It was built in the 2. half of the 18th century.

The Family Révai has been dated back to the 13th century. They come from the Sriem County. In 1556 and 1635 they were promoted to barons and on June 17, 1723 to counts. The coat of arms of the Lords de Reva, which can be seen at the front facade of the manor-house, is made up of a wolf growing out of a golden crown, holding three roses in front of him. Mošovce became the property of the Révai family in 1534, six years after it had been donated to them by Ferdinand Habsburg.

The building of the manor-house had originally two stories, with a rectangular ground-plan. The building has a block character, and is situated at the edge of an extensive park. Its frontal facade creates the border of the rectangular square, inarguably serving as its architectonic dominant.

Considering the usage of space, the entrance parts of the ground-floor are conceived in a rather grandiose style. Other rooms are connected to the entrance corridor. Cellars are built under a part of the object with a 9 meter deep well located in the basement. A wide wooden staircase provides access to the first floor.



PICTURE: ALU SNK

The rooms in the ground-floor have simple arches without any distinct ornaments. The only exception is the so-called „writing-room“, with a plastic motive on the ceiling, corresponding with its purpose: a sealed envelope with four hearts. According to the legend, this is where the countess's love letters were written...

Most rooms on the first floor have straight ceilings. A representative character can be observed in a room with a rococo-classical furnace. Inside you can find original doors and rococo-classical forged rails at the ground-floor windows. After 1945 the manor-house served as a school: At first it was used as a state Children's Home for War Orphans, with the agricultural part serving as a kindergarten. Later it was turned to a special boarding school, and after that the building hosted the Vocational School of Agriculture.



PICTURE: ALU SNK

In the first half of the 90s, the object was sold by the town-hall to the Slovak Film Studios in Bratislava, which renovated the building and used it for recreational purposes. In the past years the attractive interiors were used several times by movie-makers. The last shootings were the ones of a saga of squires of Turiec called, Alžbetin Dvor. After yet another reconstruction and adaptation, the manor-house started serving as a Via Magna Hotel. Today it is again being prepared for the visitors of Mošovce.

V - Agricultural Pavilion



PICTURE: Author

The area adjacent to the manor-house is used by agricultural buildings from the first half of the 19th century, which take up a large U shape (picture on the left). Originally they served as garages for carriages, and later for cars of Baron Révai. After the Second World War they became the home of agricultural vehicles of the local cooperative. At present they are deserted.

W - Old Manor-house



PICTURE: LAMS Martin

The old manor-house (the central building in the picture on the left), which was situated in the northern part of the extensive square, was torn down in 1952. When and how it was built, or who was its creator is unknown. It is probable that it was very old, because when it was destroyed by fire in 1760, Baron Jozef Révai didn't restore it, but rather decided to build a new one. It is said, that when the Révais had their new manor-house built, they had the first floor of their old residence dismantled, because supposedly the servants didn't deserve to live in

the noblemen's chambers. Also the thickness of the remains of the old walls actually suggests that their purpose was to bear something more than just a roof.

X - Chapel

Special attention should be paid to the English park, which has been an inseparable part of Mošovce since the second half of the 18th century. It nicely merges with the surrounding nature, because most of the trees in the park are local species. The leaf trees include maples, ash-trees, beeches, oaks, hornbeams, lime-trees, locust-trees, and birches, the pine-needle trees are represented by spruces, pines, and firs. As for rare exotic trees, there is a specimen of ginkgo biloba from eastern Asia, and a chestnut tree. Its area of 16.5 ha makes the park one of the largest parks in central Slovakia. It was founded by barons Révai, probably even before the building of their new manor-house was started. The park is a typical example of an English-style park, where groups of trees give way to grassy meadows and water surfaces.



PICTURE: Author

In 1911 the Révais built a mausoleum located in a western extremity of the park (picture on the left). This art-nouveau-style pseudogothic building is divided into two levels. The upper part served as a chapel, the bottom part as a crypt. The main hall ends in a cross-style vault. The facade is richly decorated with neogothic shapes.

At present, the object hosts the Museum of Crafts of Mošovce, which exhibits tools used at manufacturing of famous products of Mošovce.

Y - Greenhouse

In 1913 an art-nouveau greenhouse (picture below) was built not far from the garden pavilion. It was located on the left side of the path serving as the main entrance to the park. Stone material from the old gothic church, demolished in 1912, was used at its construction, but unfortunately, the building of the greenhouse didn't manage to survive until today.

It was a small building facing east and west. Around 1930 the new owners of the Révai estate, the Hubays, had the antechamber of the greenhouse renovated. The three outer walls of the greenhouse



PICTURE: Lippan M.:Mošovce

were for the most part rebuilt again, using the decorative corner stones of the old church and tower. This way the material from the oldest times of Mošovce (beginning of the 14th century) was saved for future generations. The entrance of the greenhouse faced south. Over it was a Latin inscription, which read: ANTUQUIOR ET TAMEN JUNIOR SUM QUAM VIDEOR. It meant: I AM OLDER AND YET YOUNGER THAN I SEEM. It's a shame that several years ago we weren't able to appreciate the significance of this monument. After World War Two, the greenhouse was in a critical condition. People were disassembling the precious stone material and using it for construction of their own houses. Today you can't find the art-nouveau greenhouse in the park anymore. It was not only an interesting and magical building, but also a symbol of the last of the real styles in the arts.

Z - Pavilion



PICTURE: Author

In the park you can also find a classical garden pavilion with a round ground-plan and added lateral wings (picture above). The pavilion with its large semicircular windows is covered by a dome-roof. It was built in 1800 to serve as a greenhouse. Its calm and pleasant air gives a finalizing touch to the overall appearance of the park.

Until recently it was used for storing tools for the maintenance of the park, then it was turned into an aqua-center with a sauna, massages, and a pool with a countercurrent. At present it is abandoned.

a - Ginkgo biloba



PICTURE: Ginkgo biloba

A curiosity in our nature is a specimen of the ginkgo biloba tree (for twig and leaves see the picture on the left). It's an antique species, belonging to coniferous trees, whose leaves turn yellow each autumn and fall off. It has been growing on Earth since the Mesozoic period, which means it's been around for more than 200 million years. The scientists were long convinced that it had become extinct millions of years ago, but in the 17th century they found entire forests of ginkgo in the Chinese province Tsche-Tschjang. Now it's used as a decorative tree all around the world, because it is resistant to pollution and doesn't suffer from

almost any pests. It also contains precious substances, which are used as a component of medication that supports the overall condition of the body and the soul. It has survived all the climatic changes and cataclysms, which killed many plants and animals, such as the explosion of the atomic bomb over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It reaches a respectful age of 1 200 to 2 000 years. Around 140 specimens live in Slovakia.

b - Stables



PICTURE: Author

In the time of the Révais, this building (picture on the left) was used as stables, later it served as a workshop. Right now, it's abandoned.

c - The Alleys



PICTURE: Author

One of them is located next to the park of Mošovce, just opposite the lake and the Island of Love (picture on the left). In the past they were used by the nobility for their horseback or carriage trips. Together with the park they form a protected area.

d - The Lake and the Island of Love - Legend

The lake was originally a part of a system of ponds in Mošovce, built by Baron František Révai in 1890 (picture on the next page). The island, situated in the middle of the lake, is connected to one of the local legends, which talks about the love of the baroness and Jánošík –Slovak equivalent of the famous Robin Hood. The story has been recorded by Jozef Tatár in his work Živý poklad as follows:

The fair in Mošovce was so crowded that a whole army could get lost in there easily. The young baroness Révai was having a hard time finding her way through the mass of bodies, which were trying to get everywhere where prime goods were being sold. She didn't love shopping that much, it was only that fairs were one of the possibilities how to get out of the manor-house and see some people. Although her beauty was stunning, almost no one recognized her on these occasions, because she cleverly covered her face. But there was one young lad, who didn't get fooled by her disguise. He managed to get right behind her and covered her eyes with his hands. She quickly pressed her hands against his and whispered excitedly:

– Jánošík!

He released her and addressed her in an equally excited manner:

– Mária!

She turned around, and looked at him carefully. Monk's robe suited him quite well.

– How did you recognize me? – she asked quietly.

– It was my heart that recognized you!

Then he took hold of her hand and whispered to her ear:

– I'll wait for you on the island when it gets dark...

And the same way as he had appeared, he vanished in the crowd.

Right next to the old manor-house, there was a park with a pond, whose middle part rose above the water and formed a small island. That's where Jánošík was waiting for lady Mária. He was sitting on the shore and watching the surface. Suddenly he heard footsteps, but didn't turn around. She approached him and hugged him from behind. He took her hands and said:

– You seem uneasy. Your hands are shaking. Did anything happen?

– I can't get used to that damned house, everything's pressing me and falling down on me in there.

– So why did you...

– ... Marry the old and ugly Révai? Daddy had promised it to him. As if he hadn't known how it goes in the noble courts. May he rest in peace, but this I will never forgive him. I was free at Starhrad. And here I'm closed within these four walls. Oh!



PICTURE: Author

Mária sobbed and continued:

– This is no life! I can't even look at anybody, not to mention a smile. Old ogre! I can't take this anymore!

– Come on, I'm here now, – Jánošík caressed her teary face.

– Now you're here, but you'll leave eventually, and I will be

sad for many nights and days.

Jánošík hugged her tight, and they would have stood there until God knows when, if they hadn't heard the maid's voice:

– My lady, the lord is looking for you. Hurry to the manor-house!

Jánošík would meet Mária on the island every time he was in town. But not all the servants were on the side of the beautiful baroness of Mošovce, and not all the servants could be muted by a gold-piece. And so baron Révai learned about a meeting of his wife and Jánošík on the very day when he showed up in town again.

When Jánošík remained alone and was just going to set off on his trail, he noticed the maid running towards the pond again.

– Come, quick, help, my lord is beating lady Mária! – the maid was shouting hardly catching her breath.

Jánošík got angry. He flew towards the manor-house as a falcon. He had to wait for the maid, though, because she knew the best way how to get inside without encountering the baron's guards.

– This way, follow me! – she led him to the door, behind which the furious baron was raging. He listened for a while. Révai was shouting, Mária was sobbing.

– So you feel like meeting youngsters!? A woman of noble origin is having an affair with a no one, who beside that terrorizes decent people! You can bathe in gold! Take this!

The whip slashed and sank into soft woman's body. Mária cried. Jánošík waited no more, smashed the door and ran into the room. The baron's blood suddenly stopped flowing. He was paralyzed. Jánošík grabbed his whip, pressed his throat with the other hand and with tremendous power threw the baron in the corner of the room.

He ran to the baroness, and tried to untie her from the table. At the very same moment three guards rushed in.

– Stop! – cried Jánošík.

– Don't come a step closer if you like your life!

When the baron saw his guards, he cried boldly:

– Catch him, put him in chains! Move it!

The guards attacked the baron's unexpected guest, but he had no problem dealing with them. He threw them all around the room. When they were panting and lying on one heap scared, he ordered them:

– Take the baron and stretch him on a bench! Give him 50 clubs, but be honest, because I’ll be back!

Jánošík then took the exhausted Mária to the island, where he visited her day after day. After a short time she recovered and gained strength, because all wounds heal faster on the Island of Love in the park of Mošovce. Don’t you believe? Go try it yourselves!

e - The Ponds



PICTURE: Author

The system of ponds (picture on the left) was built in 1890 by the baron František Révai. Right now they belong to the Secondary Vocational School of Agriculture and Fishery, which uses them for practical training of their students, as well as for business purposes.

f - The Baron’s Grave

The name of the last descendant of the Révais, František (picture on the opposite page), who didn’t want to be buried in the family crypt, but rather on the Snakes’ Hill amid beautiful nature, is connected with a legend called The Baron’s Grave, which was captured by Jozef Tatár in his book Živý poklad as follows:

It was very hard to find the last member of the landlords of Mošovce, the Révais, in his luxurious manor-house. Every day, when there was no storm or blizzard, or when no permanent rain was ruling the country, the people would see him roam the deep forests of Veľká Fatra. He knew very well all the interesting hideouts and paths that the shy deer used to frequent, knew the puddles where the

wild boars were taking their nap, as well as thickets with napping bears. He liked steep hills, as well as crystal-clear brooks that please the eye and the ear. He was a passionate hunter, and so no wonder that when during one of his wanderings he noticed a beautiful deer, he pressed his teeth together and squeezed his rifle.

– There, at the stream, can you see it? – he whispered to his squire Janko Predáč.

– Yes, it’s him, my lord, it’s that hart of fourteen that responded to our call from Podjavorie the other day, – said Janko and pressed closer to the horse’s mane.

– You’re not getting away this time, – whispered the baron to himself and spurred his white beauty.

The horse crept to the edge of the wood. The baron was pointing his gun at the deer, and when he thought the animal might pick up



PICTURE: LAMS Martin

his scent, the valley reverberated with an elongated gunshot. The deer jumped on his hind feet, and started fleeing with giant leaps. The baron overcame his anger and started following the deer. Janko Predáč didn’t hesitate and set off after them. He was riding for a longer time. When he was sure that the baron couldn’t be too far from the deer, he heard a long scream. He spurred his horse powerfully, and in an instant he witnessed the baron’s horse dragging

the baron around a meadow. He decided quickly. As a lightning bolt he came to the rescue. With his own life at stake, he managed to stop the bewildered animal. He immediately released the bloodied baron from under its heels.

– My lord, are you all right? – he asked him. But he got no answer. Only some kind of a dying groan reached his ears, as he, himself wounded, was climbing his horse to fetch help.

When František Révai regained consciousness, he saw with his blurred eyes, the thin branches of the pine-trees. Suddenly a magnificent storm, which bent the young trees almost to the ground, replaced the idyll. The healing forest tranquility was replaced by the cracking of branches and deafening grumbling. As if it had been the end of the world. The baron spent the remains of his strength to lay



PICTURE: Author

up a little, bent his head forward, and when he managed to focus his eyes, he beheld the forest-king Fatran himself standing in the middle of the meadow. He was sitting on his dream-deer. Fatran spoke to him:

– I will save you, I will heal you, because I know, how much you love my black woods, hills, and valleys of Fatra. I will heal you with the tranquility of my forests and the crystal water from my springs. But I have one condition. When your time comes, you have to return to these woods forever!

– I will save you, I will heal you, because I know, how much you love my black woods, hills, and valleys of Fatra. I will heal you with the tranquility of my forests and the crystal water from my springs. But I have one condition. When your time comes, you have to return to these woods forever!

As soon as he finished, he disappeared in a dark thicket. The storm subsided. Janko Predáč with the rescue-squad transported the baron to his manor-house. Many doctors came and then left with their head down. They weren't giving him big chances. They were preparing him for the worst.

Once, when he had already accepted that he would never recover, he remembered the words of Fatran. He decided to return to the woods once again. Now for the last time – he will go to die there.

But at the surprise of many, right after his first, second, and third stay in the woods, he began to recover. First they drove him in a carriage, then he walked there and back, and later he returned to the horseback again.

Baron Révai recovered. He felt young again. For many years people would meet him walking around his favorite sites. While he was still alive, he had a tombstone built under the Snakes' Hill, to remind him of the place where he was born for the second time. Many years passed, before he was buried into a grave amid the beautiful woods. So he fulfilled Fatran's condition.

[g - SOUPaR](#)



PICTURE: Author

The Secondary Vocational School of Agriculture and Fishery was established in 1960 (picture on the left). At first it used the premises of the Révai manor-house. The school also creates possibilities for boarding students, who find accommodation in the school dormitory. During the summer vacation, the dormitory is used for providing accommodation to guests from various parts of the world. The school is also active in the business area, including activities such as wholesaling and merchandizing of fish bread in the ponds of Mošovce.

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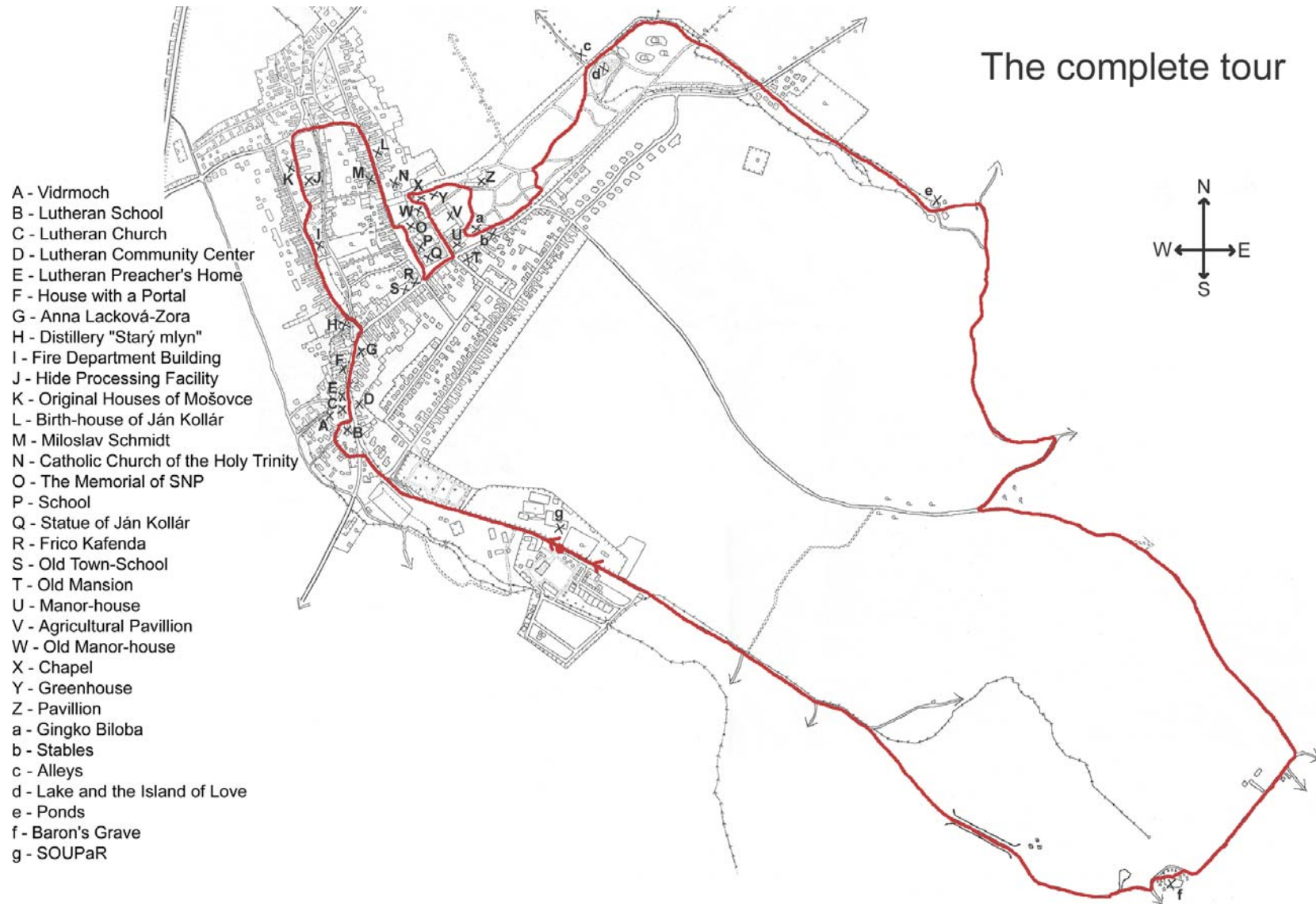
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MAP: Complete Tour



MAP: Shortened Route

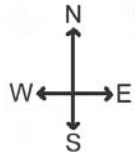
Shortened tour - Mošovce

- A - Vidrmoch
- B - Lutheran School
- C - Lutheran Church
- D - Lutheran Community Center
- E - Lutheran Preacher's Home
- F - House with a Portal
- G - Anna Lacková-Zora
- H - Distillery "Starý mlyn"
- I - Fire Department Building
- J - Hide Processing Facility
- K - Original Houses of Mošovce
- L - Birth-house of Ján Kollár
- M - Miloslav Schmidt
- N - Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity
- O - The Memorial of SNP
- P - School
- Q - Statue of Ján Kollár
- R - Frico Kafenda
- S - Old Town-School
- T - Old Mansion
- U - Manor-house
- V - Agricultural Pavillion
- W - Old Manor-house
- X - Chapel
- Y - Greenhouse
- Z - Pavillion
- a - Gingko Biloba
- b - Stables
- c - Alleys
- d - Lake and the Island of Love
- e - Ponds
- f - Baron's Grave
- g - SOUPaR



MAP: Baron's Grave

The Baron's Grave



f - The Baron's Grave