

# Slovakia

## Tekov

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## KATOLÍCKA SPOJENÁ ŠKOLA SV. VINCENTA DE PAUL LEVICE



Catholic School of St. Vincent de Paul Levice is located in Saratovska Street No. 87 in a city of Levice, Slovakia. The school can be found in a part of Levice – Rybníky, its founder is Roman Catholic Church.

Our Catholic School of St. Vincent de Paul is a part of a complex of schools providing a pre-school and primary school education as well as the secondary one. A great addition is also a leisure centre within our premises. There are more than 100 children attending the nursery, 272 the primary school, 100 the grammar school / gymnasium / and 256 take part in extra-curricular activities organised by the leisure centre.

The pedagogical team is young and well-qualified. They fulfil their mission of educating pupils and students according to the religious views of the school. Our aim is to help our students in every possible way to give them the best starting point for the future.

Teachers make an effort to work with their students in such way that the students gain various skills, enhance their intellectual abilities, acquire good morals and social attitudes. They do all that should contribute to help them develop their personality and allow them to get integrated into society.

We are proud of language teaching, using modern technology, spiritual assistance for our students or if needed even for their loved ones; participating in organised extra-curricular activities, such as outings, social activities and sporting events. We gained many awards in various fields of our curriculum.

## REGION TEKOV

Tekov is a region full of traditions.

It has got a rich history and nowadays we commemorate them at typical folk festival. The region is well known for its unique traditional costumes (kroje in Slovak). This region is also known for its vineyards. During the year there are organised different kinds of events.

For example, I can mention fairs (jarmoky) in Levice or in Nová Dedina. In Starý Tekov Reconstruction of The second world war takes place annually near the river Hron. Starý Tekov used to be more important than Levice in the past. Tekov was the provincial town - a long time ago it had a wooden castle that was burnt down after the attack of the Ottomans.



## LEVICE CASTLE

Levice castle was built in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The castle had a protecting function. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century it was a part of the Matúš Čák's estate. In 1434 the castle burnt down, but it was restored. Since 1529 it is under Tekov administration. In 1663, the Ottomans conquered the castle. A military commander, L. de Souches, pushed them out of the castle. From 1702 to 1709 the Rakoczi's disposal was completed. Near the main castle is the Renaissance castle which was built by the Captain Stefan Dobó (in command of Tekov region) in 1571. Nowadays, the rooms of the castle serve as a museum of Tekov region. The original Gothic castle remained in ruins and have been preserved in the last century. Fully preserved remained only Gothic circular bastion, which serves as a tea room in the present.





## LEVICE CALVARY

Calvary can be found on the hill on the northern part of the town. Probably from the beginning of the 18th century the Chapel of Advancement of St. Cross was standing here fenced by the wall, where there were 3 wooden crosses as well as a wooden belfry. Around the year 1800 the chapel was changed into a small church. In the 19th century probably 5 independent stations of the cross were added.. Until the end of WW2 Levice calvary was in preserved condition. The beginning of its end occurred after liberational combats at the end of the war, when calvary got devastated.

After the war citizens used the masonry from damaged objects as building materials to repair their houses. Just small remnants of the church's walls and fence have remained. On the remnants of the former calvary a new one has been built up. Revitalization of Levice calvary has been managed by Patrimoniun Servandi NGO. 14 new Chapels of the stations of the Cross have been built up and a torso of the historic. In 2010 a 7 meter high metal cross was fixed to the structure of the tower on the land of calvary.



## LEVICE FISHPONDS

Levice fishponds by the stream of Perec were declared as a preserved area in 1974. The area occupies 91,83 hectares and directly interlocks the town residential area of Levice. This significant avifauna area was shaped from 1950 – 1956 as a system of artificial fishponds. Geological underlayer is formed by alluvial silts of the river Hron (gravel and sand). The banks of the ponds are lined by vegetation of alders, poplars and willow trees. Stems, hyssop loosestrife, meadow saffron and bur – reed form the majority of the growth of water vegetation. The flora of water vegetation provides water fowl a good protection, which live here all the year round or stay here during its migrations.



## WINE-GROWING IN TEKOV

Tekov is the northern border of wine-growing in Central Europe. This area has a rich history. For about 1000 years, it has produced different types of wine

During production they follow traditions and use almost no chemicals. For growing vines, there are excellent conditions. We grow mainly white and red wine, because there is an ideal volcanic land. This region is also known for its beauty and tranquility.



## PUKANEC

It is situated in the Štiavnica mountain. In past it was one of 9 royal mining towns, where silver and other precious metals were mined. Collecting localities of amethyst can also be found in Pukanec.

Pukanec, a former independent royal mining and craft town, you can visit a Roman – Catholic church of St. Nicolas, an Evangelic church, or the Museum of artisan's trade. Preserved town walls and a sculptural group of the Holy Trinity can also catch your attention. The village organises annual Pukanec craft fairs that are always held at the first weekend of July. Visitors have an opportunity to admire demonstrations of craftsmen, try local specialities and relax watching various cultural programmes.



## TEKOV FOLK COSTUME

Our folk costume is characteristic especially for decorated bonnet and is believed to be the most beautiful Slovak folk costume. Bonnet wear only married women. Bonnet is a colourful needlework decorated with ribbons and pearls or is only plain with white lace. Unmarried girls have ribbons in the braids. Men's folk costume has three parts and the first is a plain white shirt with many colourful needleworks. Second and third parts are pants and waistcoat made of blue fibre. A black hat was worn on the head.





## RIVER HRON

Hron is our second longest river. The length of Hron is two hundred ninety-eight kilometres. Its most important feeders are rivers Black Hron and Slatina. This river is important for fishing. It is possible to raft on the river on a small boat. It streams under Kralova Hora Hill in the altitude nine hundred eighty metres above the sea level. Directly on the shore are a lot of historical monuments. In vicinity of the river there are meadows and forests ideal for recreation. Markus Aurelius wrote a book called „To Myself“ when he was in the area of the river Hron.



## TYPICAL SLOVAK FOOD

Typical Slovak food is bryndzové halušky. It is made of potatoes, sheep cheese and you can add fried bacon. Next typical Slovak food is pirohy. It is made of potatoes. You can fill it with sheep cheese or meat. Some people like the next typical Slovak food and that's poppy noodle. Our traditional biscuit is Horalka. You can buy it in every shop in Slovakia. And the last one is duck, which you will eat in Tekov.



# BANSKÁ ŠTIAVNICA

- Gunpowder used for the first time in the world

They have known him already in ancient China, but for the peaceful purposes were used for the first time only in Štiavnica. According to the legend, a volcanic eruption gave rise to a kind of štiavnická caldera or crater with a diameter of about 25 kilometres 15 million years ago, which is also one of the largest in Central Europe.

- Underground as Emmental

The Underground City is thanks to mining activity drilled as Emmental. Almost in any house you would find the entrance to the tunnel.

- The richest source of silver and gold in Europe

Banská Štiavnica was for a long time the richest source of silver and gold in Europe. In region of Štiavnica it was mined about 250 tons of gold and 4 and half million tons of silver in total.

- The first Mining University in the world

Štiavnica was also the liveliest European science laboratory at that time, therefore the first Mining University in the world was built here. Around the Mining

University there are the enchanting botanical gardens, with a redwood tree and Japanese cedar.

- Calvary of Banská Štiavnica

The unique complex of religious buildings located on a hill of volcanic origin called "Scharfenberg" (Island Peak) is a calvary. It is only 45 minutes walk from the city center. These are the most beautiful Baroque buildings in central Europe.

- The first World Scientific Congress

It took place in Banská Štiavnica in the 19th century. Many important figures came , the inventor of the steam engine James Watt and Johann Wolfgang Goethe, then personalities of European science and culture. The congress was probably organised by Ignatius Born, considered to be the founder of the Order of the Illuminati

- Mineshafts for everyone

Nowadays, you can visit several tunnels in Banská Štiavnica. Michal is an appropriate tunnel, with its length only 75 meters and everyone can go through it within 5 minutes.

- Sitno legends similar to The Lord of the Rings

An experienced tourist will enjoy a trip to Sitno, the highest mountain of the Štiavnické hills with ruins. You will find the fascinating views and you will learn about the myths and legends similar to The Lord of the Rings.





## THE MONUMENT ŠIKLÓŠ ON VÁPNIK HILL

This memorial site is located about 4 km from the town Levice (direction to Mýtne Ludany village) on the top of Vápnik, where in the past was an observation point of Marshal Malinovskij, the commander of the second Ukrainian front, who was conducting military operations from this position in the southern part of Pohronie from 20 December 1944 till 25 March 1945. There is a concrete monument with an observation tower. Renovated monument was presented to public on 9 May 2015.

The peak represents the remains of travertine – silt, where apart from travertine also a graceful recrystallised type marked as „Levice golden onyx“ has been mined until recently. Thanks to its beauty it is considered the European unicum and it is absolutely one of the most expensive processed stones.



## BRHLOVCE

An ancient village lies in the basin surrounded by easy slopes that belong to a southern piedmont of the Štiavnica mountain. It is located 15 km east off the town Levice. Features of the surroundings were formed by volcanic activities of Tertiary, whose evidence are local areas of porous andesite tuffs and puff – stones. The beginning of Búr stream is situated in the valley of the village.



Thus it has become well – known, attractive place of both local and foreign tourists due to rocky dwellings carved into easily treatable tuff and puff-stones, in the local part known under the name "Šurda", where the entire street along with both dwelling space and farming space in the rock was declared as a national reserve of rustic /folk/ architecture in 1983.

Rocky dwelling, settlement No.142, won the international award Europe Nostra Award 1993 for the saving and restoration of this architectural sight. According to local traditions rocky space for dwelling allegedly originates in the way of protection from the Turks in the 16th and 17th century. It is sure that Matej Bell mentions it in his work "Notitia Hungariae novae historico geographica divisie in parks quatuor" from 1742.