

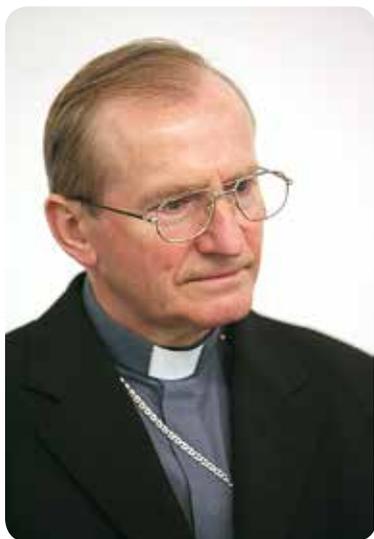


# CULTURAL GUIDE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE APOSTOLAT  
MILITAIRE INTERNATIONAL  
September 21 – 26, 2014







Welcome to Slovakia!

I am glad that you have accepted our invitation and come to Bratislava for this AMI Conference. I believe that aside from your professional interests, you will have the opportunity to learn more about our people, our church, and our country. This brochure will introduce you to some basic

information about Slovakia. I hope that it will give you precious guidance on those several occasions when you come into contact with our country's citizens, church community, and capital city, and that it will help you form your own picture of us.

You have come here as soldiers who are faithful Christians – Catholics. I would like to tell you that the first Christian soldiers came to our territory as early as around 250 AD. They were members of a legion led by Marcus Aurelius, who later went on to become Roman emperor. History shows that the local warriors cut the legion off from access to water. That summer was hot and a fight awaited the legion. They couldn't hope for victory without water for their people and horses. Therefore, the Christian soldiers prayed and asked God for rain. Soon after, rain started falling and it was so heavy that they could catch water in their helmets and quench their thirst and water their horses. And so, refreshed, they won the battle. In gratitude, Marcus Aurelius had a relief called "The Rain Miracle" made on a column which can still be seen in Rome in the Piazza della Colonna. May also your presence – you Christian soldiers, be an encouragement to the faith of our Armed Forces and Armed Corps members.

When you pray and attend service, in your prayers to God, think of us, of this country and of the people of this country, so that the Almighty might send the heavy rain of His mercy down upon us. Pray to God to help us overcome the dangers of evil, which is the only enemy of every man and the entirety of humankind.

May this AMI Conference also go down in the history books of our Ordinariate, our Armed Forces, and our homeland as an encouraging testimony of Catholic soldiers from many countries of the world; a testimony to fortify many with spiritual power forever.

I would be glad if you could witness a good example of the living faith and take with you good stimuli to your lives and to your countries.

There is a saying in Slovakia: "When a guest comes into your house, so does God come into your house". And this is how I want to welcome each of you – in faith, with respect, and warmly!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "+ František Rábek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

**+ František Rábek,**

Bishop Ordinary of the Armed Forces  
and Armed Corps of the Slovak Republic

## THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

**The Slovak Republic** is situated in the heart of Europe. The territory of Slovakia borders to the Czech Republic and Austria in the west, to the Hungary in the south, to the Poland in the north and to the Ukraine in the east. Slovakia has more than 5 million inhabitants. Most people are Slovaks but there are also some minorities and ethnic groups.

The Slovak Republic was formed on the 1 January 1993 by the division of Czechoslovakia. The constitution of the Slovak Republic was signed on the 3 September 1992 in the Knights' Hall of Bratislava Castle.

Since the 1 May 2004 Slovakia has been a member of the European Union, since 21 December 2007 a member of the Schengen Area, and since 1 January 2009 a member of the Eurozone.

**The official language** is Slovak. Official currency is Euro. The republic is headed by the president, elected by the parliament for a period of five years. The capital of Slovakia is Bratislava.

**The surface of Slovakia** is predominantly mountainous but there are many plains in the south and in the eastern part too. There are wheat growing areas, corn growing parts, sunflowers areas, and vine growing areas and fruits orchards.

The highest mountains are the High Tatras. The most famous tourist centres are Chopok, Lomnický štít or Donovaly. The highest peak of Slovakia is Gerlach with height of 2655 m.

Slovakia has a lot of rivers. The longest one is Váh and the Danube is the biggest one.

The territory of Slovakia is very rich in mineral springs. Many of them are thermal. World famous spas are in Piešťany, Trenčianske Teplice and Bardejov.

**Most of the Slovaks** practice some form of Christian religion, primarily Roman Catholicism. Over 60% of the population are Roman Catholics. There are also Protestant, Eastern Orthodox and some other smaller religious minorities.

## BRATISLAVA

Bratislava is the capital of Slovakia and, with a population of about 500,000, the country's largest city. Bratislava is in south-western Slovakia, occupying both banks of the Danube River and the left bank of the Morava River. Bordering Austria and Hungary, it is the only national capital that borders two independent countries.

Bratislava is the political, cultural, and economic centre of Slovakia. It is the seat of the Slovak president, the parliament, and the Slovak Executive. It is home to several universities, museums, theatres, galleries and other important cultural and educational institutions. Many of Slovakia's large businesses and financial institutions also have headquarters there.

The history of the city has been strongly influenced by people of different nations and religions, namely by Austrians, Czechs, Germans, Hungarians, Jews, Serbs and Slovaks. The city was the capital of the Kingdom of Hungary, a part of the larger Habsburg Monarchy territories from 1536 to 1783 and has been home to many Slovak, Hungarian, and German historical figures. Its former name was Pressburg.

The city's 19th-century history was closely tied to the major events in Europe. The Peace of Pressburg between Austria and France was signed here in 1805. The Castle was ruined by Napoleon's French troops during an invasion of 1809. In 1825 the Hungarian National Learned Society - the present Hungarian Academy of Sciences - was founded here.

Before World War I, the city had a population that was 42% ethnic German, 41% Hungarian and 15% Slovak. After World War I and the formation of Czechoslovakia on October 28, 1918 the city was incorporated into the new state. The city became the seat of Slovakia's political organs and organizations and became Slovakia's capital.

On March 27, 1919, the name Bratislava was officially adopted for the first time. During the World War II, Bratislava was declared the capital of the first independent Slovak Republic. After the war, it became again a part of the Csechoslovakia.

In 1968, after the unsuccessful Czechoslovak attempt to liberalise



the Communist regime, the city was occupied by Warsaw Pact troops. Shortly thereafter, it became capital of the Slovak Socialist Republic, one of the two states of the federalized Czechoslovakia.

Bratislava's dissidents anticipated the fall of Communism with the Bratislava candle demonstration in 1988, and the city became one of the foremost centres of the anti-Communist Velvet Revolution in 1989.

In 1993, the city became the capital of the newly formed Slovak Republic following the Velvet Divorce. In the 1990s and the early 21st century, its economy boomed due to foreign investment. The city has also hosted several important cultural and political events.

Most historical buildings are concentrated in the Old Town. *Bratislava's Town Hall* is a complex of three buildings erected in the 14th–15th centuries and now hosts the Bratislava City Museum. *Michael's Gate* is the only gate that has been preserved from the medieval fortifications, and it ranks among the oldest of the town's buildings, the narrowest house in Europe is nearby.

The historic centre is characterised by many baroque palaces. *The Grassalkovich Palace*, built around 1760, is now the residence of the Slovak president, and the Slovak government now has its seat in the former *Archiepiscopal Palace*. In 1805, diplomats of emperors Napoleon and Francis II signed the fourth Peace of Pressburg in the Primate's Palace, after Napoleon's victory in the Battle of Austerlitz. Some smaller houses are historically significant; composer Johann Nepomuk Hummel was born in an 18th-century house in the Old Town.

Notable cathedrals and churches include the Gothic *St. Martin's Cathedral* built in the 13th–16th centuries, which served as the coronation church of the Kingdom of Hungary between 1563 and 1830. *The Franciscan Church*, dating to the 13th century, has been a place of knighting ceremonies and is the oldest preserved sacral building in the city.

A curiosity is the underground restored portion of the *Jewish cemetery* where 19th-century *Rabbi Moses Sofer* is buried, located at the base of the castle hill near the entrance to a tram tunnel. The largest military cemetery in Bratislava is *Slavín*, unveiled in 1960 in honour of Soviet Army soldiers who fell during the liberation of Bratislava in April 1945. It offers an excellent view of the city and the Little Carpathians.

Other prominent 20th-century structures include the *Most Slovenského národného povstania* /Bridge of the Slovak national uprising/ across the Danube featuring a UFO-like tower restaurant, *Slovak Radio's* inverted-pyramid-shaped headquarters, and the uniquely designed *Kamzík TV Tower* with an observation deck and rotating restaurant.



## **Special facility of the office of The Slovak National Council Častá - Papiernička.**

The facility with capacity of 158 beds and 22 extra beds is designated to serve primarily to the Slovak National Council and its bodies, parliamentary parties and movements to organize conferences, workshops, training and social events.

Moreover, it is used as a recreation facility used by members of parliament and by employee staff of the Slovak National Council. At the times, when the facility is not being used for the above purposes, free capacities are offered to organize foreign trade activities

### **Location**

The special facility is located in a picturesque protected landscape area Malé Karpaty, approximately 40 km north-east of Bratislava. From Bratislava it can be reached by the main road, taking direction to Pezinok and Modra. After the town of Modra, between villages Dubová and Častá, there is a turn-off to the village Píla. The village is some 2 km long, located in a valley. The special facility Častá – Papiernička is to be found approximately 1 km beyond the village, on the right side of the road.

### **Places to visit**

Besides the capital Bratislava, the most popular and easily accessible places to visit are towns with the tradition of viticulture and wine production like Modra and Pezinok, or the castle Červený Kameň (Red Stone) or the village Budmerice. In the vicinity of the facility Častá – Papiernička there is also a game preserve, offering possibilities to organize hunts.

SEPTEMBER 21 – 26, 2014



## The Military Ordinariate of Slovakia

The Military Ordinariate of Slovakia was established subject to Canon Law by the Holy See on 1 March 2003 to render spiritual service to Catholics in the Armed Forces and Armed Corps of the Slovak Republic. The Military Ordinariate is placed at the level of an independent diocese. The Military Ordinariate creates suitable conditions for the continuous and adequate spiritual care of those serving within the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, the Police Force, the Slovak Information Service, the Corps of Prison and Court Guards, the Railroad Police, the Fire and Rescue Service, the Mountain Rescue Service, and the Customs Administration, as well as spiritual care to imprisoned persons based on the decision of a state authority. This spiritual care is provided based on specific living conditions and on the need for a specific form of such care. The Military Ordinariate is seated in Bratislava with St. Sebastian as its Patron Saint. From the very beginning, it has been headed by Mons. František Rábek. The main temple is St. Sebastian's Cathedral.

\* \* \*

### St. Sebastian's Cathedral.

The building is of an oval layout with a matroneum and a 25-metre-high tower on the entrance side, where chimes are to be installed in the future. The cathedral has a structured roof with girder beams inside symbolically resembling the crown of thorns. On the front wall, there is a massive mosaic created by Marko Ivan Rupnik, SJ, that was installed in 2011. The key scene of the mosaic is the figure of Jesus Christ entering the Cenacle after the Resurrection and appearing to the Apostles. To the right of the Cenacle there are figures of the Apostles of the Slavs. A dying St. Cyril falling into a furrow is handing over his mission to St. Methodius,



who holds a pot of grain that he sows in the furrow of earth, which symbolizes the spreading of the faith.

In the right part of the mosaic, St. Sebastian is kneeling; he is the main Patron Saint of the cathedral as well as the diocese, a soldier and a martyr. Queuing behind him are the figures of St. Gorazd, successor to St. Methodius; blessed Zdenka, the Patron Saint of prison service; and Pope Saint John Paul II, holding the papal bull and establishing the Military Ordinariate of Slovakia. In the left part of the front wall of the cathedral is St. Michael the Archangel, the Patron Saint of policemen.

The tabernacle stands in the left part of the choir on a granite pedestal in the shape of a rock mass. The tabernacle models the 9th century Romanesque St. Martin's Church, located above Drážovce close to Nitra, and commemorates the beginnings of Christianity in our territory. The tabernacle is made of fired earthenware and created by the sculptor Michal Zdravecký. On the back side of the granite pedestal there are jars with holy oils. On the elevated stage of the choir in the central axis of the church sits a block-shaped sacrificial altar made of a single piece of granite weighing 5 tonnes.

On each side of the altar are bronze gold-plated roods in the shape of the rank Ordinariate chaplains wear on their uniforms in the place of rank stars. One of the roods on the front side of the sacrificial altar contains a reliquary with the remains of St. Sebastian.

To the right of the table there is a granite ambo with a gold-plated scroll of the Holy Writ transforming into a burning flame in the shape of a sword with a cross-shaped hilt, symbolizing the power of God's word. In the right part of the choir, there is a bishop's throne placed on an elevated stage. This throne was created by Milan Opálka and consists of five parts. The bottom part represents a plough made of tank steel and aims to emphasize the Bible verse: "they shall beat their swords into ploughshares".

The backrest of the sedes is of an irregular shape and made of olive wood; it symbolizes the wooden part of the plough through which the bishop is wedded with his people and the entire Church.

The armrests of the throne are made of the same material and represent the handles of the plough and, hence, the bishop's personal en-

### 33 HYMNUS APOSTOLATUS MILITARIS INTERNATIONALIS

(Guión en Do, para Coro)

Auctor: Mons. Dr. Luis Martinez

Andante moderato.



mf

Mi - li - tes su - mus, e plu - ri - bus



po - pu - lis, U - ni - ti ta - men,



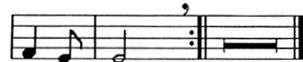
u - na fi - de Do - mi - ni, laeti a - du -



na - ti sub duc - tu Ec - cle - si - ae,



in A - pos - to - la - tu, In - ter - na - tio -



na - li.

D.C. hasta  y salta a CODA.

(Recitatio orationalis)

Tu, qui cognovisti militarem stylum, cum duo Centuriones, ante faciem gentium, Dominum et Deum te confessi sunt, sub praecatu Matris, dona nobis quaesumus, etiam et familiis, Patriis et comitibus: pacem tum et spiritum iustitiae et amoris, fidei et servitii, activi, obedientis, efficacis, prompti, Populo et Ecclesiae.

**CODA**

rall. molto.....



In - ter - na - tio - na - li.

gagement. The olive wood symbolizes peace. The seat is made of fleece to incessantly remind the bishop of his mission among the people of God. In the top part there are the personal arms of the bishop – ordinary to remind him of his ardour in his quest for the salvation of his people.

The throne, although made of steel, is not static and continues to vibrate after the bishop stands up. The face wall of the choir is to be covered with a mosaic illustrating the Stations of the Cross.

The chapel of the Holy Family, with its granite grail-shaped baptismal font, was built on the right side of the entrance in 2011. The chapel wall is covered with a mosaic of the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and Jesus Christ after His birth in the stable in Bethlehem.

# PROGRAM

## General Assembly of the Apostolat Militaire International (AMI) September 21 – 26, 2014

---

### Sunday, 21. 9. 2014

- All day; Arrival delegates from **Vienna Airport**
- 11.00 hrs Meeting Executive Committee  
+ Prearrangements for the conference  
+ Setup conference office
- 12.30 hrs Lunch
- 13.30 – 15.00 hrs Preparation conference/conference room  
+ Arrival and registration of the delegates
- 16.00 hrs Welcome address by **Mgr. Frantisek Rabek**,  
Bishop of the Armed Forces of Slovakia, followed  
by a welcome address by **General Major Norbert  
Sinn**, President of AMI  
Wreath laying before the Holy Mass on a cemetery  
in Bratislava or somewhere else, to be confirmed
- 18.00 hrs Opening Pontifical Service by **Mgr. Frantisek Rabek**,  
Bishop of the Armed Forces of Slovakia.
- 20.00 hrs Opening Dinner in **Častá Papiernička**
- 

### Monday, 22. 9. 2014

- 08.00 hrs Breakfast
- 09.00 hrs Welcome address/ lecture by **Lieutenant-General  
Ing. Peter Vojtek**, Chief of the General Staff  
of the Slovakian Armed Forces
- 09.30 hrs Introduction and short presentation of the delegates

10.00 hrs	Lecture A: Introduction of the themes of AMI 2014: "Hundred years after the big war and the moral and ethical challenges for the future" and "Evangelii Gaudium, inspiration for the military" by, <b>General Major Norbert Sinn</b>
10.45 hrs	Coffee/tea break
11.15 hrs	Reports & discussion by President of AMI, Secretary General and Liaison Officer
12.00 hrs	Lunch
13.30 hrs	Lecture B: Period 1914 – 1945, lessons learned, perspective for the future in the context of ethics and moral by <b>Prof dr. Luc de Vos</b> from Belgium (tbc)
14.15 hrs	Discussion with speaker
14.30 hrs	Lecture C: Period of the Cold War by <b>Major General. Pavel Macko, MD. - 2nd Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Slovakian Armed Forces</b>
15.15 hrs	Discussion with speaker
15.30 hrs	Coffee/tea break
16.00 hrs	Working Groups
17.00 hrs	Result of the Working Groups, day 1
17.30 hrs	Time for reflection, spirituality
18.00 hrs	Holy Mass
19.00 hrs	Dinner
20.00 hrs	Swimming pool

---

**Tuesday, 23. 9. 2014**

08.00 hrs	Breakfast
09.00 hrs	Lecture D: Contemporary times, what did we learn from the past; moral and ethical challenges for the future by <b>Mag. Gerhard Dabringer</b> , assistant head of the Institute for Religion and Peace in Vienna
09.45 hrs	Discussion

10.15 hrs	Coffee/tea break
10.45 hrs	Working Group
12.30 hrs	Lunch
14.00 hrs	Lecture E: How did conflicts develop, from 1914 until now, on the African continent? What are the lessons learned and what moral and ethical challenges faces Africa for the future by <b>Dr. Gerald Hainzl</b> , Senior Researcher at the Institute for Peace Support and Conflict Management at the National Defense Academy in Vienna and lecturer at the University of Vienna
14.45 hrs	Discussion
15.00 hrs	Lecture F: Historical overview of the last 100 years from a Hispanic point of view, not only in Spain but also in South America by a lecturer of Spain (tbc)
15.45 hrs	Discussion
16.00 hrs	Coffee/tea break
16.30 hrs	Working Group
17.30 hrs	Result of the Working Groups, day 2
18.00 hrs	Time for reflection, spirituality
18.30 hrs	Holy Mass
19.30 hrs	Dinner
	<i>Parallel 10.00 hrs – 17.00 hrs Spouses Programme</i>

---

### **Wednesday, 24. 9. 2014**

08.00 hrs	Breakfast
09.00 hrs	Lecture G: The Apostolic Exhortation “Evangelii gaudium”: Inspiration and encouragement for Christian soldiers by a Slovakian speaker
09.30 hrs	Discussion
09.45 hrs	Lecture H: The Apostolic Exhortation “Evangelii gaudium”: The call for social reform and the idea of a Just Peace by <b>Mgr. Everard de Jong</b> ,

	auxiliary bishop of Roermond (NL) and bishop for the department of justice and security
10.15 hrs	Discussion
10.30 hrs	Coffee/tea break
11.00 hrs	Working Groups
12.30 hrs	Lunch
14.00 hrs	Working Groups
15.00 hrs	Final results of the working groups/press release
16.00 hrs	Coffee/tea break
16.30 hrs	Miscellaneous topics of interest of AMI + Financial Report 2013 + Discharge of the treasurer and of the AMI Secretary General + Approval of the new statutes + Elections of the new executive counsel + Date and topics of the AMI Conference 2015 in Spain + Closing address by the President of AMI
17.30 hrs	End of session
18.30 hrs	Holy Mass
19.30 hrs	Dinner
20.00 hrs	Swimming pool <i>Parallel 10.00 hrs -17.00 hrs      Spouses Programme</i>

---

### Thursday, 25. 9. 2014

07.30 hrs	Spiritual nourishment, morning prayers by <b>Padre Annie Walscharts</b>
08.15 hrs	Breakfast
08.45 hrs	Departure and cultural program
18.00 hrs	Closing Pontifical Service by <b>Mgr. Frantisek Rabek</b> , Bishop of the Armed Forces of Slovakia.
19.30 hrs	Reception and closing dinner. Closing speeches

**Friday, 26. 9. 2014**

08.00 hrs            Breakfast

08.30 hrs            Individual departure delegates

## Some useful Slovak words and expressions

Good morning.	Dobré ráno.
Good day / hello.	Dobrý deň.
Good evening.	Dobrý večer.
Good night.	Dobrá noc.
Nice to meet you.	Rád Vás spoznávam.
How are you?	Ako sa máte?
My name is ...	Volám sa ...
Thanks, very well.	Ďakujem, veľmi dobre.
Yes	Áno
No	Nie
May be	Možno
Coffee	Káva
Tea	Čaj
Beer	Pivko
Red / white wine	Červené / biele víno
Water	Voda
Mineral water with lemon	Minerálka s citrónom
Glass	Pohár
Thanks	Ďakujem
Here you are / You are welcome	Nech sa páči.
Please	Prosím
Slovakia	Slovensko
I like Slovakia	Slovensko sa mi páči

## Ten beautiful slovak words for intermediate

Little angel	Anjelik
Baby child	Bábätko
Icicle	Cencúľ
Blueberry	Čučoriedka
Little ball	Guľôčka
Mom	Mamička
Level crossing	Priecestie
Speckle	Škvrnka
Ice cream	Zmrzlina
Tadpole	Žubrienka

## Ten words you can meet in slovak church

bishop	biskup
Church	Ćirkev
priest	kňaz
kneeling pad	kľakätko
church	kostol
cathedral	katedrála
cross	kríž
prayer	modlitba
Holy mass	svätá omša
Holy communion	sväté prijímanie

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

### **1. AMI Secretary General**

Nelleke Swinkels – van de Vorst

Esdoornstraat 21

5682 CM Best – NL

Tel.: 0031 – 6 5479 6857

Fax.: 0031 – 499 37 4444

E-mail.: [nellekeswinkels@onsbrabantnet.nl](mailto:nellekeswinkels@onsbrabantnet.nl)

### **2. Father Luboslav Farkas**

Tel.: 00421 918 685 357

E-mail.: [luboslav.farkas@gmail.com](mailto:luboslav.farkas@gmail.com)

### **3. Father Peter Dzihak**

Tel.: 00421 903 820 816

00421 905 837 513

E-mail.: [dzihakp@gmail.com](mailto:dzihakp@gmail.com)

### **4. Účelové zariadenie**

Kancelárie Národnej rady SR

Častá - Papiernička

SK - 900 89 Častá

N 48° 23' 38.94"

E 17° 17' 57.58"

Tel.: + 421 33 649 5182 - 4

Fax: + 421 33 640 5130

Mobil: + 421 910 853 015

E-mail: [castapapiernicka@nrsl.sk](mailto:castapapiernicka@nrsl.sk)

**5. Ordinariát OS a OZ SR**

Nám. 4. Apríla 18  
SK - 900 33 Marianka  
Slovak Republic

Tel.: 00421 2 65 93 60 08

Fax.: 00421 2 65 93 60 09

E-mail.: rabek@kbs.sk

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL: 112**

## USEFUL MAPS

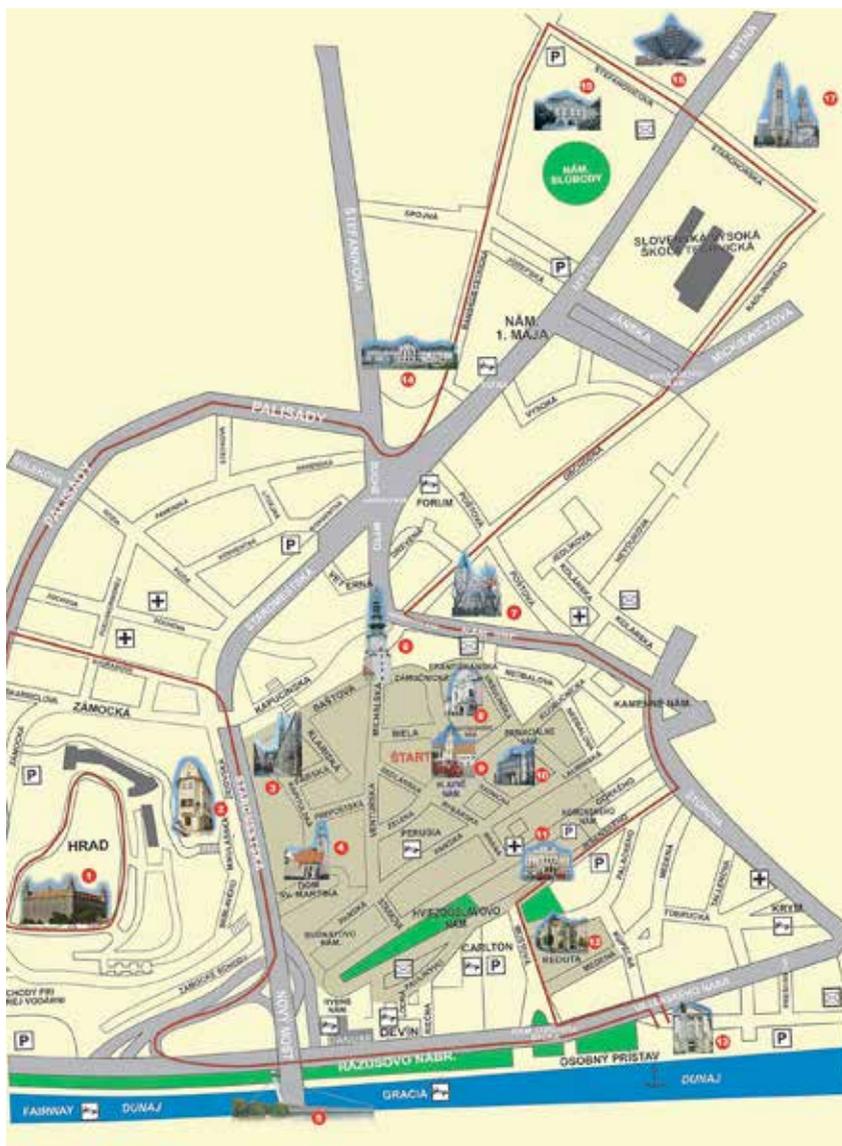
Slovakia



Bratislava – historical centre (1)



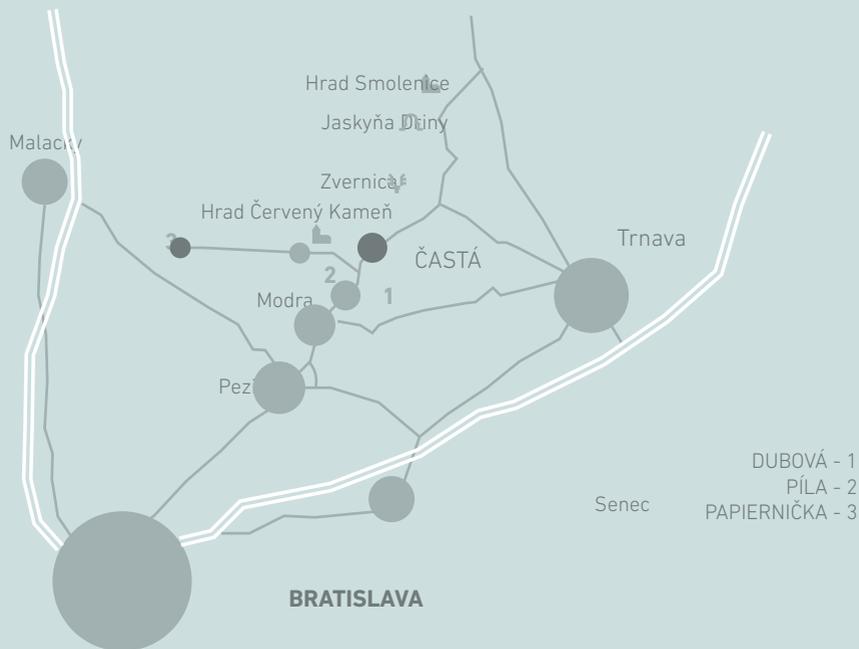
Bratislava – historical centre (2)



## NOTES

NOTES

NOTES



Účelové zariadenie  
 Kancelárie Národnej rady SR  
 Častá – Papiernička  
 89 Častá 900

N 48° 23' 38.94"  
 E 17° 17' 57.58"

Tel.: + 421 33 649 5182 - 4  
 Fax: + 421 33 640 5130  
 Mobil: + 421 910 853 015  
 E-mail: [castapapiernicka@nrsr.sk](mailto:castapapiernicka@nrsr.sk)

© Ordinariát Ozbrojených síl a ozbrojených zborov  
 Slovenskej Republiky 2014

St. Sebastian's  
Cathedral

