

Religious Cycling Routes in the Danube Area



BÁČ



TRNAVA



MARIANKA



BRATISLAVA



GYŐR



PANNONHALMA



ESZTERGOM

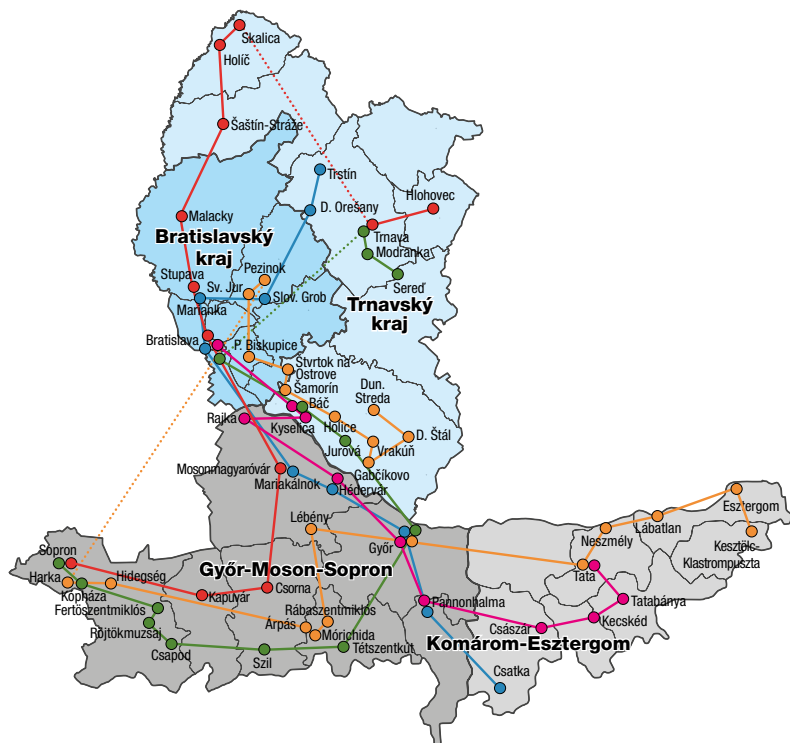


KISZISZ



KLASTROMPÜSZTA





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Marian cult and holy wells

Duration:	4 days
Overall route length:	243,874 km
Lowest/highest route point:	103/387 m asl.
Types of roads:	cycling routes, less frequented public roads, field roads
Road quality:	average

The route passes through the following towns and villages:

Day 1 – Trstín-Hájiček – Dolné Orešany – Slovenský Grob

Day 2 – Slovenský Grob – Marianka – Bratislava

Day 3 – Bratislava – Máriakálnok – Hédervár – Győr

Day 4 – Győr – Pannonhalma – Csátka



Along the route, we can see important pilgrimage sites of the **Marian cult** in the **Danube region**. The beginnings of the Marian cult in this area date back to the reign of King Stephen I of Hungary who, according to tradition, entrusted his country to the protection of the Virgin Mary.

The idea of creating **Marian pilgrimages** came about because of the large number of Marian pilgrimage sites, while the well-known El Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route in Spain was used as a model.

ROUTE:

1. **Trstín-Hájiček** | 48.5316408N, 17.4734356E

Church of the Virgin Mary

The historically rare complex and pilgrimage site of Hájiček lies above the village of Trstín, with the Church of the Virgin Mary, a wooden bell tower, a little well and the Stations of the Cross. According to tradition, this location was already known in the 13th century.

2. **Dolné Orešany**

48.4387781N, 17.4285094E

Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and Church of the Holy Trinity

The Gothic Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary is located in the centre of the village. It dates back to the 14th century and is the oldest building in the village. The new vault (net rib) of the nave from the late Gothic period dates back to 1525. Inside the church, there is a wooden organ from 1640. During the repair of the outer walls of the church in 1965, a mural of a large figure of St. Christopher was discovered on the north side.



3. **Slovenský Grob**

48.2607489N, 17.2726611E

Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows

This pilgrimage site is associated with the legend of a miracle. According to our grandparents, it is said that a farmer from Grob ploughed out the Madonna and Child in the form of Our Lady of Sorrows (either a picture or a statuette) in the field. On the spot where the farmer ploughed out the picture (statuette), worshippers built a small chapel with a wooden statuette to protect the village.

4. **Marianka** | 48.2480631N, 17.0648447E

Basilica of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary

Marianka is the oldest pilgrimage site in Slovakia. Its origins and history are partly enshrouded in legends. The historiographers of the Pauline Order created a written record of an orally disseminated legend about a hermit who lived in the valley who carved a statuette of the Virgin Mary (1377) out of pear wood and hid it in a hollow tree when he had to escape during the riots in Hungary. The statuette was not found until several decades later.

5. **Bratislava**

48.1419731N, 17.1048747E

St. Martin's Cathedral

St. Martin's Cathedral is the largest and the most important three-nave Gothic church in Bratislava. Construction began in the 13th century on the site of an older cemetery; it acquired its current form in 1849. It gained great importance during the time when Bratislava was the capital of Hungary for about 200 years (1563 - 1830). Eleven monarchs and eight royal wives were crowned in the Gothic Church of St. Martin. The most famous of them was Empress Maria Theresa.

6. **Máriakálnok**

47.8648739N, 17.3341767E

Chapel of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary

One of the many legends speaks of how warriors fighting the Turks and other sick people who drank water from a local spring were miraculously healed. In 1873, the building burned down, but the painting and statue they found there remained undamaged. One year later, the chapel was rebuilt and a royal sceptre was placed in the hands of the merciful statue of Mary and a royal orb was placed in the hands of the baby Jesus.

7. **Hédervár**

47.8351917N, 17.4618378E

Church of the Virgin Mary

The chapel is the pride of the village, it is also registered in the Register of Values of the Győr-Moson-Sopron County. The records indicate it was built in 1296-1303. It was a parish church, a Marian pilgrimage site and also the funeral chapel of the Hédervár family.

8. **Győr-Kiskútliget**

47.7006114N, 17.6672422E

Chapel of the Virgin Mary (Kiskút)

In 1928, Baron Rezső Kruchina hung a picture of the Virgin Mary with baby Jesus on a tree in a grove called Kiskút. Here he prayed for his seriously ill son, and showed his gratitude for the boy's recovery with a sign reading "Mary helped".



9. **Pannonhalma** | 47.5529981N, 17.7607672E

Benedictine Archabbey

The Archabbey was founded by Grand Duke Géza in 996 on the Holy Pannonian Hill (Mons Sacer Pannoniae), i.e. on the Mount of St. Martin. In 1996, when the abbey and the area were exactly a thousand years old, they were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

10. **Csatka-Szentkút** | 47.3760569N, 17.9912817E

Holy Well

Szentkút (Holy Well) is located in a valley, about a kilometre from the village of Csatka. The Baroness Ágnes Fiáth had the chapel built here in 1862. Signs giving thanks on the walls of the pilgrimage chapel are a testament to the miraculous healings. It is said that Vilmos Meizler was blind, but in 1792 his sight was restored here. According to the pilgrims, the water of the holy well cures leg pain and paralysis. Even now, pilgrims take water home from the miraculous spring. The main holiday of the church is held on the 8th of September there every year, on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



10 Szentkút



4 Marianka



8 Győr-Kiskútliget



9 Pannonhalma



7 Hédervár

Statues and paintings of the Virgin Mary, Marian traditions and pilgrimage sites

Duration:	5 days
Overall route length:	317,901 km
Lowest/highest route point:	104/246 m asl.
Types of roads:	cycling routes, less frequented public roads, public transport
Road quality:	average

The route passes through the following towns and villages:

Day 1 – Sopron – Kópháza – Fertőszentmiklós

Röjtökmuzsaj – Csapod – Szil

Day 2 – Szil – Tét – Tetszentkút – Győr

Day 3 – Győr – Jurová – Bács

Day 4 – Bács – Bratislava

(transfer by train from Bratislava to Trnava)

Day 5 – Trnava – Modranka – Sereď



The beginnings of the **Marian cult** in this territory date back to the reign of King Stephen I of Hungary, who in parallel with the spread of Christianity also contributed to the veneration of the Virgin Mary and, according to tradition, he entrusted his country to her protection. The figure of the Virgin Mary often complements the statues of the Holy Trinity.

A journey or pilgrimage is a social experience, it strengthens the sense of togetherness, and it creates a space for discussions, for contemplation, prayer and repentance. It is a test of both spirit and body.

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – a day commemorating the visit of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth is celebrated in Hungary on the 2nd of July, following an old tradition. In Hungary, this period also marks the beginning of the harvest, and since Catholics performed their work under the protection of the Virgin Mary, this holiday was given a peculiar name: the Feast of the Virgin Mary with a Scythe (Sarlós Boldogasszony).

ROUTE:

1. Sopron

47.6875694N, 16.5938078E

Church of the Holy Spirit

Where the church stands, the road once led to the vineyards on the other bank of the Ikva stream. The Johannites probably had it built next to their hospital. Above the Gothic windows, the hexagonal stone helmet roof is decorated with a cross with a rooster from 1673. The interior of the church, including the vault, is decorated with larger-than-life frescoes (rather than statues) of the teachers of the church, created by the noted painter Stephan Dorfmeister in 1782 and erected in the recesses.



1 Sopron

2. Kópháza

47.6329281N, 16.6481997

Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The daughter of the Hungarian magnate and provincial judge, František Nádašdy, was often ill. The young Eleonora made a vow that if she recovered, she would enter the convent. However, her parents insisted on her marriage. On the day of the wedding there was a violent storm and the bride was killed by lightning. In 1670, a shaken father had a stone chapel built over her grave in memory of his daughter. The small building was later expanded into a Baroque pilgrimage church.

3. Fertőszentmiklós | 47.5924897N, 16.8611797E

Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows

At the end of the 15th century, Gergely Bezerédj Vörös had a statue of the Virgin Mary erected in the middle of his estate. Less than half a century later, during a severe storm, lightning struck the statue and shattered the pillar, but the statue itself remained intact.



3 Fertőszentmiklós

4. **Röjtökmuzsaj** | 47.5583494N, 16.8350769E**Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary**

The old church of the village was looted by the Turks, but after its reconstruction (1760) it was demolished again in 1879. During the construction, workers working on the banks of the Lajta river found a nice statuette of the Virgin Mary, but one commander of the retreating Ottoman army stole it and became seriously ill. When he put it back in place, he miraculously recovered. Miraculous healings were also recorded in the village of Vimpác. In 1587, they built a Minorite monastery at the pilgrimage site.



4 Röjtökmuzsaj



5 Csapod



6 Szil

5. **Csapod** | 47.5121333N, 16.9180133E

Statue of Our Lady of Sorrows

On the Main Street on the outskirts of the village, there is a statue of the Virgin Mary holding the body of her son, Jesus, in her lap. The inscription on the pedestal reads: Erected by Kocsis György.

6. **Szil**

47.4999669N, 17.2335958E

Church of the Last Supper

The Church of the Last Supper was built in 1890 on the site of the old Church of All Saints. There is a statue of Jesus on the main altar, and opposite the pulpit, on a pillar, in a cabinet with columns and a canopy stands a statue of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Grove.



7 Tétsszentkút



8 Győr



9 Jurová

7. **Tétszentkút** | 47.4896725N, 17.4956797E**Church of St. Anthony of Padua**

At the place where the chapel originally stood, a baroque church was built (1744) and dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua. A wounded imperial officer prayed to be healed and begged for the intercession of St. Anthony of Padua. In a dream, he heard the voice of the Virgin Mary advising him to bathe in a spring on the outskirts of the village of Tét. He obeyed and was miraculously healed.



10 Báč

8. **Győr**

48.3790897N, 17.5918064E

Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (Basilica)

The main church of the Győr Diocese, founded by King St. Stephen I of Hungary in 1001, stands on Káptalan Hill at the confluence of the Danube and Rába rivers. The cathedral is a dual pilgrimage site. The image of the Virgin Mary came to the city from Ireland. The painting in Győr began to weep tears of blood in 1697. The church is also the place of eternal rest of the Blessed Bishop Vilmos Apor, who died a martyr's death in 1945. In 1997, Pope John Paul II presided over the beatification of Vilmos Apora and at the same time he elevated Győr Cathedral to the status of a minor basilica.



10 Bács

9. **Jurovák** | 47.9335061N, 17.5261364E**Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary**

This 1778 Classicist church was renovated in 1927. According to one of the legends, the church was built on the current site by angels. Jurovák was one of the ancestral residences of the Counts Erdődi Pálffy, of the houses of Erős and Katona.



11 Bratislava-Vrakuňa

10. **Báč** | 48.0035528N, 17.3714028E**Franciscan Monastery and Church of St. Anthony of Padua - A Merciful Image**

From the very beginning, the Monastery and Church of St. Anthony of Padua has been a favourite spot for this area and for all of Žitný ostrov (Rye Island). Even in the past, the faithful came en masse to the feast of St. Francis (4th October), on the day of St. Anthony (13th June), but in particular on the Porziuncola indulgence (2nd August). People have been venerating this merciful image since the 18th century, and they pray for the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary before this miraculous image.

11. **Bratislava-Vrakuňa** | 48.1472019N, 17.2074747E**Church of the Virgin Mary**

The chapel is on Hradská street near the road. A statue is still preserved in the chapel – thought to be a wooden sculpture of the risen Christ. The chapel was built in 1880.

12. **Bratislava** | 48.1460494N, 17.1104589E**Church of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary**

The Church of the Brothers of Mercy (1692), dedicated to the Visitation of the Virgin Mary, is situated in the centre of Bratislava. In the vicinity of the church there is a monastery and a hospital run by the monks, who are fulfilling the legacy of their founder, St. John of God, Per corpus ad animam – Through the body to the soul.

13. **Trnava** | 48.3790897N, 17.5918064E**Basilica of St. Nicholas**

The gracious painting of the Virgin Mary of Trnava was painted according to a template from the Roman Church of Saints Alexis and Boniface. The Virgin Mary is depicted with a dark face and in dark clothing; it is a Byzantine type of Mary in prayer. The traditional Novena to the Virgin Mary of Trnava in the Minor Basilica takes place from 13th to 21st November.





14 Trnava-Modranka

14. **Trnava-Modranka**

(Marian Pilgrimage)

48.3510350N, 17.6071719E

Parish Church of the Holy Trinity

There is written mention of the church and cemetery in the settlement of Modranka dating back to the 16th century. The gracious statue of the Virgin Mary of Loreto is located above the wooden altar. The pilgrimage always takes place on the second Sunday in May.

15. **Sereď – Stredný Čepeň**

48.3026825N, 17.7277564E

Chapel of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary

A Marian pilgrimage takes place here every year, on the Sunday after the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. The beginnings of the pilgrimage in this place date back to the 1830s, when Sereď and its surroundings were in the grip of a cholera outbreak.



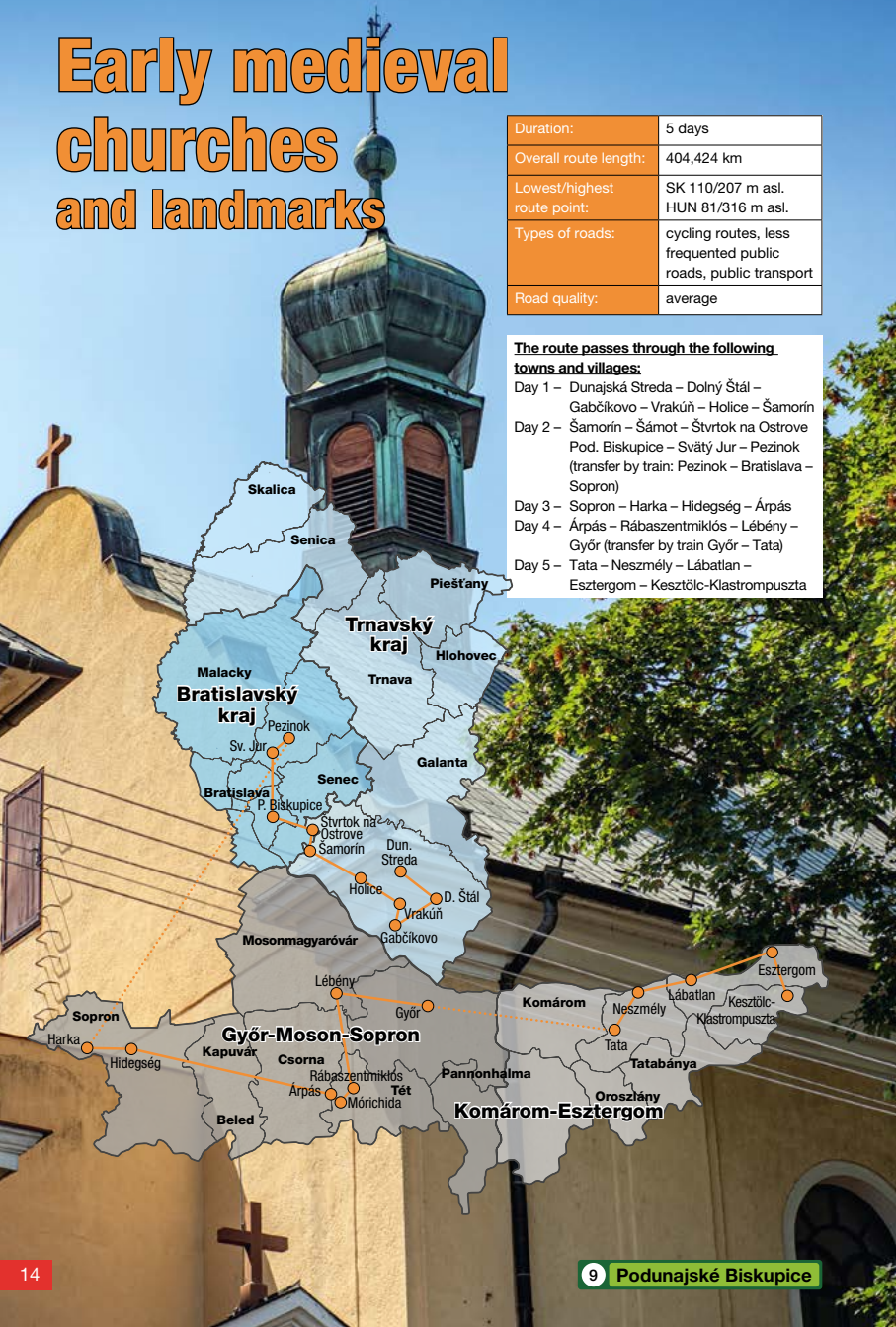
15 Sereď – Stredný Čepeň

Early medieval churches and landmarks

Duration:	5 days
Overall route length:	404,424 km
Lowest/highest route point:	SK 110/207 m asl. HUN 81/316 m asl.
Types of roads:	cycling routes, less frequented public roads, public transport
Road quality:	average

The route passes through the following towns and villages:

- Day 1 – Dunajská Streda – Dolný Štál – Gabčíkovo – Vrakúň – Holice – Šamorín
- Day 2 – Šamorín – Šámot – Štvrtok na Ostrove Pod. Biskupice – Svätý Jur – Pezinok (transfer by train: Pezinok – Bratislava – Sopron)
- Day 3 – Sopron – Harka – Hidegség – Árpás
- Day 4 – Árpás – Rábaszentmiklós – Lébény – Győr (transfer by train Győr – Tata)
- Day 5 – Tata – Neszmély – Lábattlan – Esztergom – Keszölc-Klastrompuszta



Early Middle Ages - Romanesque architecture (1000–1400 A.D.). Romanesque art is the first universal style after antiquity. Romanesque architecture is mainly associated with ecclesiastical buildings. The peak period of Romanesque ecclesiastical architecture is the 11th–12th century, when a number of episcopal churches, cathedrals, parish churches, monasteries, baptismal chapels, funeral chapels, and charnel houses (ossuaries) were built.

ROUTE:

1. **Dunajská Streda** | 47.9924306N, 17.6168858E

Parish Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and St. George

The oldest historical and religious monument of the city from the early period of the Arpad dynasty. Extensive work was done on the church as it was renovated in the Baroque style in 1742–43.

2. **Dolný Štál** | 47.9333019N, 17.7124364E

Church of St. Martin

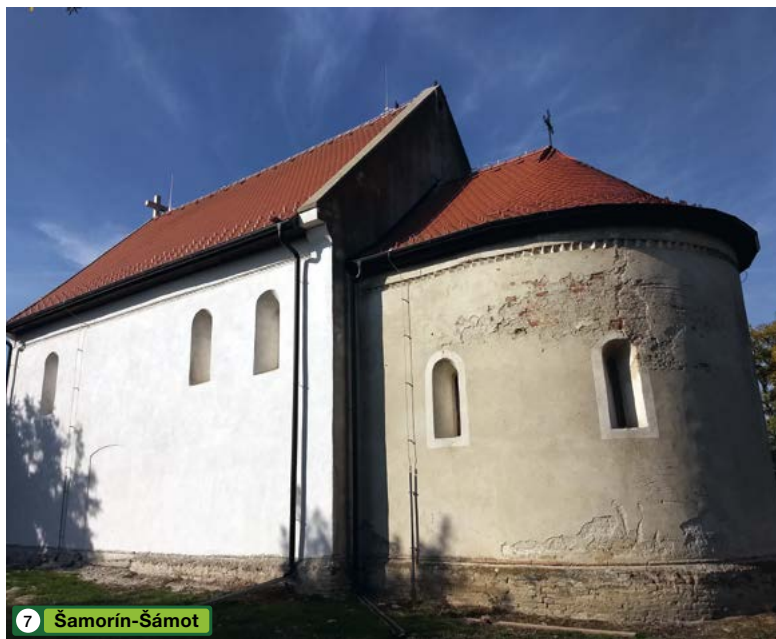
This Gothic church (14th–15th century) was built in the middle of the village on a slight hill no later than the middle of the 15th century. However, the massive tower and the perimeter walls of the nave suggest that the building may be older.

3. **Gabčíkovo** | 47.8916694N, 17.5756733E

Church of St. Margaret of Antioch

Originally a mid-14th century Gothic church. The main altar of St. Margaret of Antioch is late Baroque with columnar architecture from 1770 and a 1929 painting by M. Fay.





7 Šamorín-Šámot

4. **Vrakúň** | 47.9393547N, 17.6029192

Church of St. James the Elder

The church was built in the village sometime around the middle of the 14th century as a typical building of that period in the form of a single nave with a polygonal presbytery vaulted with a cross ribbed vault.

5. **Holice** | 47.9956514N, 17.4840033E

Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

The Romanesque brick church was built in Holice in the last quarter of the 12th century. The size of the church is a testament to the wealth of the village, which at that time was the seat of the administration of the Bratislava castle estate, incorporating 18 municipalities.

6. **Šamorín** | 48.0264064N, 17.3112708E

Church of the Reformed Christian Church

The history of the church dates back to the first half of the 11th century, perhaps even farther back. The church acquired its current form during further reconstruction in the mid-to-late 13th century.

7. **Šamorín-Šámot** | 48.0335400N, 17.3499206E

Church of St. Margaret

The little church was built here as a typical late Romanesque building around 1260, in a period when other Romanesque buildings were built in the area (Hamiľakovo, Kalinkovo, Mierovo).

8. **Štvrtok na Ostrove**

48.0976958N, 17.3558631E

Church of St. Jacob

The church was built as a late Romanesque building sometime in the 1230s and 1240s. It was a single nave with built-in towers on the west side and a polygonal presbytery.

9. **Podunajské Biskupice**

48.1242617N, 17.2097750E

Church of St. Nicholas

The church in the village, which was the property of the Esztergom archiepiscopate, was built sometime around the middle of the 12th century on the site of an older 11th-century church. This little church was apparently too small

even at that time, so a Romanesque three-nave with a tower was added to the west side, which has been preserved to this day.

10. **Svätý Jur** | 48.2577064N, 17.2064631E**Church of St. George and a Wooden Bell Tower by the Church**

The towerless Gothic building was built in the last quarter of the 13th century. The elevated presbytery with an underground chapel is a proof that the Gothic church was connected to the older Romanesque sacral building.

11. **Pezinok** | 48.2888125N, 17.2684600E**Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary**

The church originally had no tower. Its beneficiary was a family of earls from Svätý Jur and Pezinok, as evidenced by their coats of arms mounted in the vault. The vaults of the church were built in the 15th century in the late Gothic style according to the model of the vaults in the Cathedral of St. Vitus in Prague.

12. **Harka**

47.6342972N

16.6021822E

Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Local legends say that Turkish conquerors placed a flag with a crescent moon on this late-13th century church. After the expansion of Reformation, the church belonged to the Evangelicals until 1673.





13. **Hidegség** | 47.6250417N, 16.7432914E

Church of St. Andrew

The circular chapel of the church located on a hill above the village was built in the 12th century. The small sanctuary is decorated with murals from the period after the Tatar invasion.

14. **Mórichida-Árpás**

47.5119083N, 17.4039147E

Church of St. James the Apostle

The Church of the Premonstratensian Order, founded by the county governor Móric, dates back to the first half of the 13th century and is a rare example of bricked sacral architecture from the Romanesque period in the transition to the Gothic style.



15. **Rábaszentmiklós**

47.5388267N, 17.4151839E

Rotunda of St. Nicholas

The most important monument of a small village on the banks of the river Marcal is a medieval church from the period of the Arpad dynasty, built before the Tatar invasion.

16. **Lébény**

47.7374019N, 17.3877625E

Church of St. James

The Benedictines settled in the area of Lébény during the reign of the Arpad dynasty. The church, which stands at the highest point in the village, was built in about 1212. Its patron is the apostle St. James.





16 Lébény

17. **Győr** | 47.6887903N, 17.6316089E**The Ruins of the Church of St. Lazarus**

The remains of the Árpáadian parish church of St. Lazarus, the oldest church in Győr, are located on the south side of Győr Basilica, in the middle of Bishop Apor Vilmos Square.

18. **Tata**

47.6394633N, 18.3157825E

Calvary

A church stood in the village of Szent Iván on the hill called Calvary in the Middle Ages. It was the property of the Benedictine abbey.

19. **Neszmély**

47.7362408N, 18.3599847E

Church of the Reformed Church

The east-facing church stands by the main road in the open space of the complex, partially fenced by a stone wall with embrasures.



19 Neszmély

20. **Lábatlan** | 47.7399361N, 18.5092061E

Church of the Reformed Church

The Church of the Reformed Church, a protected monument, was built on the site of a medieval church from the time of the Arpad dynasty in the 14th–15th century. Research in 2000 revealed a bricked corner of the church, which probably stood there before the 14th century.

21. **Esztergom** | 47.7979886N, 18.7363803E

Royal Chapel (Castle Chapel)

The Royal Chapel, built by Béla III, was a part of the new royal residence. It is the rarest monument of Hungarian Romanesque architecture, unique amongst Hungarian monuments, since it is one of the first buildings where the Gothic style appeared.

22. **Keszölc-Klastrompuszta** | 47.7009181N, 18.8347867E

The Ruins of the Pauline Monastery and the Church of the Holy Cross

The Order of St. Paul the First Hermit (the Hungarian Pauline Order) is the only monastic order founded in Hungary in the Middle Ages. They established a church and a monastic monastery dedicated to the Holy Cross beneath the Pilis caves. The church, built in the Gothic style, was twenty-six metres long and eight metres wide. At the ruins of the church, a memorial mass is traditionally held every year in mid-September to commemorate the founders of the order. At that time, the ruins of the former monastery once again becomes the seat of the Pauline Order.



22 Keszölc-Klastrompuszta



15 Rábaszentmiklós



20 Lábatlan



Famous saints and monuments of the High Medieval Period

Duration:	4 days
Overall route length:	251,622 km
Lowest/highest route point:	103/231 m. asl.
Types of roads:	cycling routes, less frequented public roads
Road quality:	average

The route passes through the following towns and villages:

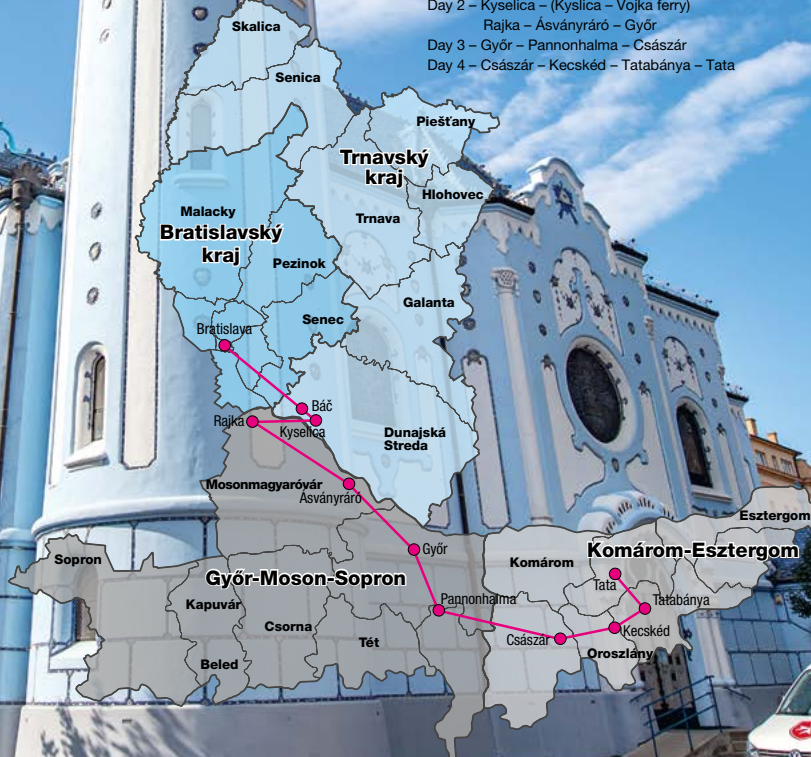
Day 1 – Bratislava – Báč – Kyselica

Day 2 – Kyselica – (Kyslica – Vojka ferry)

Rajka – Ásványráró – Győr

Day 3 – Győr – Pannonhalma – Császá

Day 4 – Császá – Kecskéd – Tatabánya – Tata



St. Elizabeth, St. Martin, St. Jacob, St. Anthony, St. Roch, St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Joseph, St. Peter and St. Paul, St. Margaret, St. Stephen, St. Ladislav

Along the route, we get to know the popular saints of the Danube region and the forms of their veneration.

St. Martin is venerated, among other things, as the patron saint of his native region, Hungary. He was born in Pannonia in Savaria (known today as Szombathely) in 316. He was a soldier, however after Jesus appeared to him, he accepted Christianity, left the military, and set out on a missionary journey.

St. Anthony of Padua was a Franciscan theologian and preacher having Portuguese roots. He is venerated as the patron saint of the poor and the Catholic Church.

St. Roch was from France. He is known as the patron of captives, the sick, hospitals, doctors, pharmacists, and as a protector against plague and diseases.

ROUTE:

1. **Bratislava** | 48.1419731N, 17.1048747E

St. Martin's Cathedral

St. Martin's Cathedral is the largest three-nave Gothic church in Bratislava. Construction began in the 13th century on the site of an older cemetery. It gained great importance during the time when Bratislava became the capital of Hungary for over 200 years (1563–1830). During this period, eleven monarchs and eight royal wives were crowned in the Gothic Church of St. Martin. The most famous of them was Empress Maria Theresa.

2. **Bratislava** | 48.1433553N, 17.1167717E

Church of St. Elizabeth

The single-nave Art Nouveau Church of St. Elizabeth (Blue Church, 1909) is characterized by its blue plaster and blue-glazed roofing.



3. **Báč** | 48.0035528N, 17.3714028E

Church of St. Anthony of Padua

A former Baroque Franciscan Monastery, the Church of St. Anthony of Padua is one of the important pilgrimage sites in the West Slovak village of Báč in the Trnava region. On the main altar there is a picture of St. Anthony of Padua, the patron saint of the church. There is also a gracious image of the Virgin Mary in the church. The building of the Franciscan monastery in Báč is sadly also known in the history of Slovakia as a place where several priests and notable representatives of the Catholic Church were imprisoned by the communist regime.

4. **Kyselica** | 47.9873861N, 17.3884083E

Church of St. Rosalia of Palermo

Based on the promise of the local inhabitants of Kyselica, a church was built after the plague ended in 1831 as an expression of gratitude to St. Rosalia of Palermo (a protector against infectious diseases).

5. **Rajka**

47.9993483N, 17.2012094E

Church of St. Martin

During Roman times, the border line known as limes, protected by forts, stretched along the Danube river, defending the empire. In the early 14th century, one of the watchtowers (Rajka) was transformed into a chapel. The stout, wooden tower and arched windows, that are intact, are beautiful examples of the Romanesque and Gothic styles. Later, the baroque nave of the church was added to this tower chapel.

5 **Rajka**6 **Ásványráró**6. **Ásványráró**

47.8264347N, 17.4947961E

Church of St. Roch

The church was built in the 17th century in the Baroque style and was dedicated to the healer of the sick, St. Roch. It acquired its current form in 1903, when the Weinckheim family had it rebuilt and expanded in the spirit of historicist romanticism.

7. **Győr** | 47.6878419N, 17.6348133E
Benedictine Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola

The Jesuits arrived in 1626, and from 1634 to 1641 they built this church that was modelled after the Roman Church of the Gesù. By 1667, the monastery and the school buildings were completed.

8. **Pannonhalma**

47.5529981N, 17.7607672E

Benedictine Archabbey

The Archabbey was founded by Grand Duke Géza in 996 on the Holy Pannonian Hill (Mons Sacer Pannoniae), i.e. on the Mount of St. Martin, and his son, St. Stephen, King of Hungary, confirmed all the rights and privileges granted to this church institution in 1002.

9. **Császár** | 47.5029125N, 18.1404292E**Church of St. Peter and St. Paul**

This church is a protected monument, stands at 36 metres high, and is dedicated to the Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul. It is situated by the main road and is the dominant feature of the village centre.

9 **Császár**



7 Győr

10. **Kecskéd** | 47.5241975N, 18.3096747E

Church of St. Anne

The Baroque one-tower church was built around 1860 and dedicated to St. Anne. Two richly decorated reliquaries, which come from the nearby Kamaldul monastery in the village of Majk, are worthy of attention.

11. **Tatabánya** | 47.5582544N, 18.4253711E

Church of St. Stephen

In a mining settlement — which is today the town of Tatabánya — a three-nave neo-Gothic church of the basilica type was built in 1912.

12. **Tata** | 47.6516567N, 18.3241964E

Roman Catholic Parish Church of St. Emeric (Capuchin Church)

The church belongs to the Capuchins, who immigrated to the city at the invitation of Count Joseph Esterházy. The Capuchins are symbolized by a white belt around their brown robes.



12 Tata



4 Kyselica

Religious orders

in the Danube region

Duration:	6 days
Overall route length:	381,581 km
Lowest/highest route point:	106/422 m asl.
Types of roads:	cycling routes, less frequented public roads, field roads, public transport
Road quality:	average

The route passes through the following towns and villages:

Day 1 – Sopron – Kapuvár

Day 2 – Kapuvár – Mosonmagyaróvár

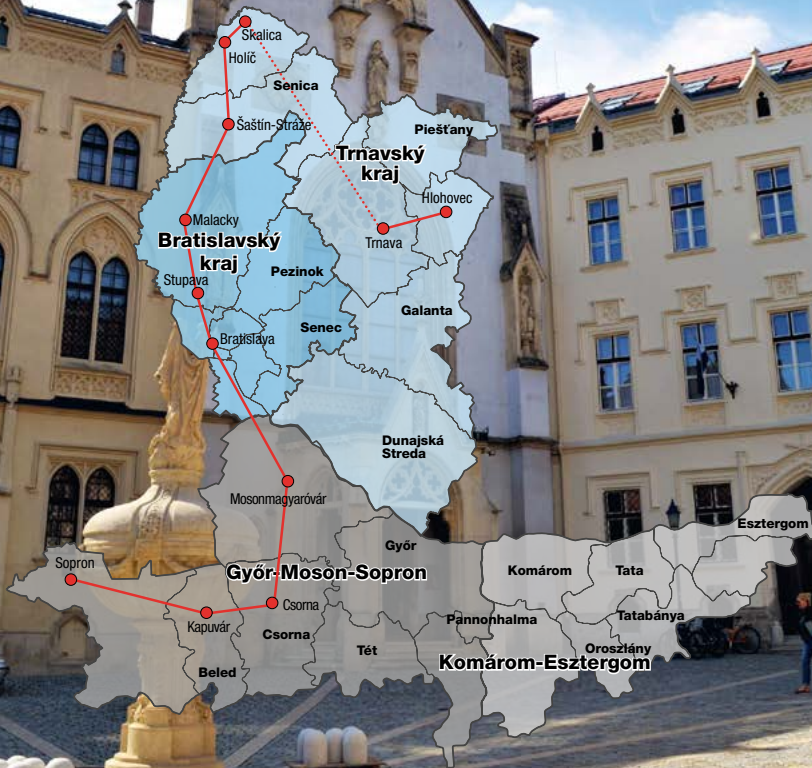
Day 3 – Mosonmagyaróvár – Bratislava

Day 4 – Bratislava – Malacky

Day 5 – Malacky – Šaštín-Stráže – Skalica

(transfer by train from Skalica to Trnava)

Day 6 – Trnava – Hlohovec



The Ursulines, Paulines, Carmelites, Piarists, Franciscans, Jesuits

The Order of St. Ursula was founded by St. Angela Merici in 1535. The Ursulines devoted themselves to the education of girls, nursing the sick and the feeble.

The Pauline Order is a male monastic order with a hermit's way of life founded in Hungary; it exists to this day. Its official name is the Order of St. Paul the First Hermit.

The Order of Friars Minor (or simply the Franciscans) is a Roman Catholic mendicant order founded by St. Francis of Assisi (12 January 1182 – 4 October 1226) in 1209.

The Piarist Order (the Piarists) is a Catholic male order devoted to teaching. In the past, it was also known as the Order of Pious Schools.

Jesuits - The origin of the Jesuit Order dates back to the times of the religious conversion of St. Ignatius of Loyola, but to 1534 in particular. Together with St. Ignatius of Loyola, his six friends made a lifelong vow of purity, poverty, and missionary work in the Holy Land in the Chapel of St. Dionysus at Montmartre in Paris on the 15th of August 1534.

ROUTE:

1. **Sopron** | 47.6836892N, 16.5905919E

Ursuline Church and Monastery

The Sopron Ursuline Monastery was founded by Mária Niggel of Vienna in 1746. The first church dedicated to the Holy Spirit was also built at that time, and in 1773, it was graced by a visit from Queen Maria Theresa.

2. **Sopron-Bánfalva** | 47.6774097N, 16.5518128E

Church of the Queen of Heaven

A small chapel was built here in 1441, dedicated to St. Wolfgang; the chapel's caretaker was a Pauline hermit. A few years later, his fellow monks also settled here and they began building a church and a monastery in 1482.

3. **Kapuvár**

47.5892217N, 17.0296069E

Franciscan Church

Church of St. Francis of Assisi

The brother of an ordinary day labourer on the Esterházy estate was kicked to death by a horse. When Örzse Kovács prayed for poor Istók that night, St. Francis appeared to her and told her to build a church and a monastery for the Franciscan brothers at the scene of the accident. The woman spent decades collecting pennies, and many helped her out, until finally her dream became reality.



2

Sopron-Bánfalva



4. **Csorna** | 47.6121039N, 17.2504608E

Church of the Assumed Virgin Mary and Premonstratensian Abbey

The most impressive buildings in Csorna are the Premonstratensian Abbey and the parish church in the city centre. The patron of the local church founded the monastery in 1180.

5. **Mosonmagyaróvár** | 47.8783253N, 17.2707136E

Piarist School

Teaching began at the first high school in Moson county in 1739. Until the nationalization of the school (1948), the youth of the town and nearby areas were taught by the Piarists.

6. **Bratislava** | 48.1445667N, 17.1086328E

Franciscan Church in Bratislava Old Town

Originally a Gothic church, later undergoing architectural modifications, it is the oldest historically preserved sacral building in the capital of Slovakia.

7. **Stupava** | 48.2731869N, 17.0335297E

Church of St. Stephen

The Church of St. Stephen, the king of Hungary, is a Roman Catholic church originally built as a castle church in the mid-14th century. The appearance of the church often changed due to additions.

8. **Malacky** | 48.4359956N, 17.0188711E

Franciscan Church and Monastery

In 1621, when the last of the Balaš family died, the Pálfi family took over and began extensive re-Catholicisation and construction of this Franciscan monastery with a church with underground crypts.





9 Šaštín-Stráže

9. **Šaštín-Stráže** | 48.6389267N, 17.1429922E**Basilica of Our Lady of Sorrows (Pauline)**

The Basilica of Our Lady of Sorrows in Šaštín-Stráže is one of the most important basilicas in Slovakia. The basilica is associated with the veneration of Our Lady of Sorrows, whose statue is located on the main temple altar, and is visited by tens of thousands of pilgrims every year.

10. **Holíč** | 48.8100867N, 17.1616881E**Church of St. Martin**

The Church of St. Martin is a Baroque-Classical building (1752 to 1755). It was originally built together with the adjacent complex of buildings as a monastery church of the Capuchin Order.



8 Malacky



10 Holíč

11. **Skalica** | 48.8470664N, 17.2281958E

Jesuit Church of St. Francis Xavier

The history of this Jesuit church dates back to 1693, when the foundation stone was laid not only for the church, but also for schools and colleges. It is dedicated to Francis Xavier. A fire swept through the church in 1724. Fifty years later, the church was taken over for a short time by the Pauline Order.



11 Skalica

12. **Skalica** | 48.8467622N, 17.2319008E

Franciscan Church of Our Lady of Sorrows and Monastery

The first Franciscans settled in Skalica in the first half of the 15th century. In the past, the Franciscan monastery was the seat of the province, a religious theological school and a library. The church is a single-nave Gothic building. The Franciscans remained there until 1950.

13. **Trnava** | 48.3771219N, 17.5834492E

Church of St. Jacob (Franciscan)

One of the distinctive urban landmarks of Trnava is the Franciscan Church of St. Jacob. In the 1230s, the Franciscans settled on the outskirts of the city near the walls, as was the custom, on the site of an old abandoned abbey.



12 Skalica

14. **Trnava** | 48.3783675N, 17.5848303E**Church of the Holy Trinity (Trinitarian, Jesuit)**

The Church of the Holy Trinity and the adjacent monastery were built by a Trinitarian Order. In 1807, the church and high school were taken over by the Benedictines; later, in 1852, the college was taken over by the Jesuits along with the church.

15. **Trnava** | 48.3782008N, 17.5882531E**Church of St. Anne (Ursuline)**

The baroque Church of St. Anne, the youngest of the churches in the historic core, closes the chapter of Trnava's Baroque sacral architecture. The Ursuline Sisters, an order devoted to the education of girls, settled in Trnava in 1724.

16. **Hlohovec** | 48.4319022N, 17.8007525E**Franciscan Monastery and Church of All Saints**

The history of the monastery is connected with the papal bull of Pope Paul II from 1465, which allowed the Franciscan church to be built near the All Saints Chapel. The first inhabitants of the monastery were Franciscans from Bosnia, who fully developed their activities after the monastery was built in 1492.



16 Hlohovec



BRIEF FACTS ABOUT THE PROJECT:

Project name:	SacraVelo – Network of Cross-Border Bicycle Pilgrim Routes in the Danube Area SacraVelo – Sieť cezhraničných pútnických cyklotrás v okolí Dunaja
Project acronym:	SacraVelo
Operation programme:	Interreg V-A Slovak Republic - Hungary Cooperation Programme
Co-financing fund:	European Regional Development Fund
Priority axis:	1. Nature and Culture
Specific objective:	1.1 Increasing the attractiveness of the border area
Lead partner of the project:	Local government of Győr - Moson - Sopron (HU)
Main cross-border partner:	Trnava Self-Governing Region (SK)
Project partners:	Bratislava Self-Governing Region (SK) Komárom - Esztergom County (HU) Municipality of Szil (HU) Municipality of Báč (SK)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The objective of the SacraVelo project is to create a new and unique cross-border tourism product by presenting and offering a rich cultural, religious and natural heritage on the territory of two counties (HU) and two regions (SK) along the Danube River on the Hungarian-Slovak border.

The project innovatively combines elements of religious and active tourism with a broad reach at both local and regional, as well as international levels. The network of pilgrimage routes for cyclists is well connected to the existing international EuroVelo cycle routes. The SacraVelo project achieves a new Hungarian-Slovak attractiveness by developing the cycle routes (marking hundreds of kilometres of safe cycle routes), building cycle centres in the villages of Szil (HU) and Báč (SK), and interconnecting sacral sites in Győr-Moson-Sopron county, Komárom-Esztergom county and the Trnava and Bratislava regions. The partnership includes two county self-governments, two regional self-governments and two municipalities, whose local and regional activities will be elevated to an international level through the partnership.

The main tasks for development of the project infrastructure include the construction of cycle routes, cycle centres, information points and rest sites. Soft activities include directions for how to reach tourist destinations, presentation of attractions using traditional tools (events, four-language publications).

The use of modern communication tools (mobile application, website) will mean pilgrims on bicycles and tourists will have more information when searching for sites. The network of SacraVelo cycle routes will offer many opportunities for locals and will also be attractive to tourists coming to the border region. Cross-border religious and cultural tourism, in combination with active tourism, will help draw more visitors to the region and, with IT support, will ensure the preservation and popularization of the religious and cultural heritage.



Partners of the SacraVelo project



Győr-Ménfőcsanak
Megyei
Önkormányzat



Trnavský
samosprávny kraj



Bratislavský
samosprávny kraj



Komárom-Esztergom
Megyei
Önkormányzat



Szil Község
Önkormányzata

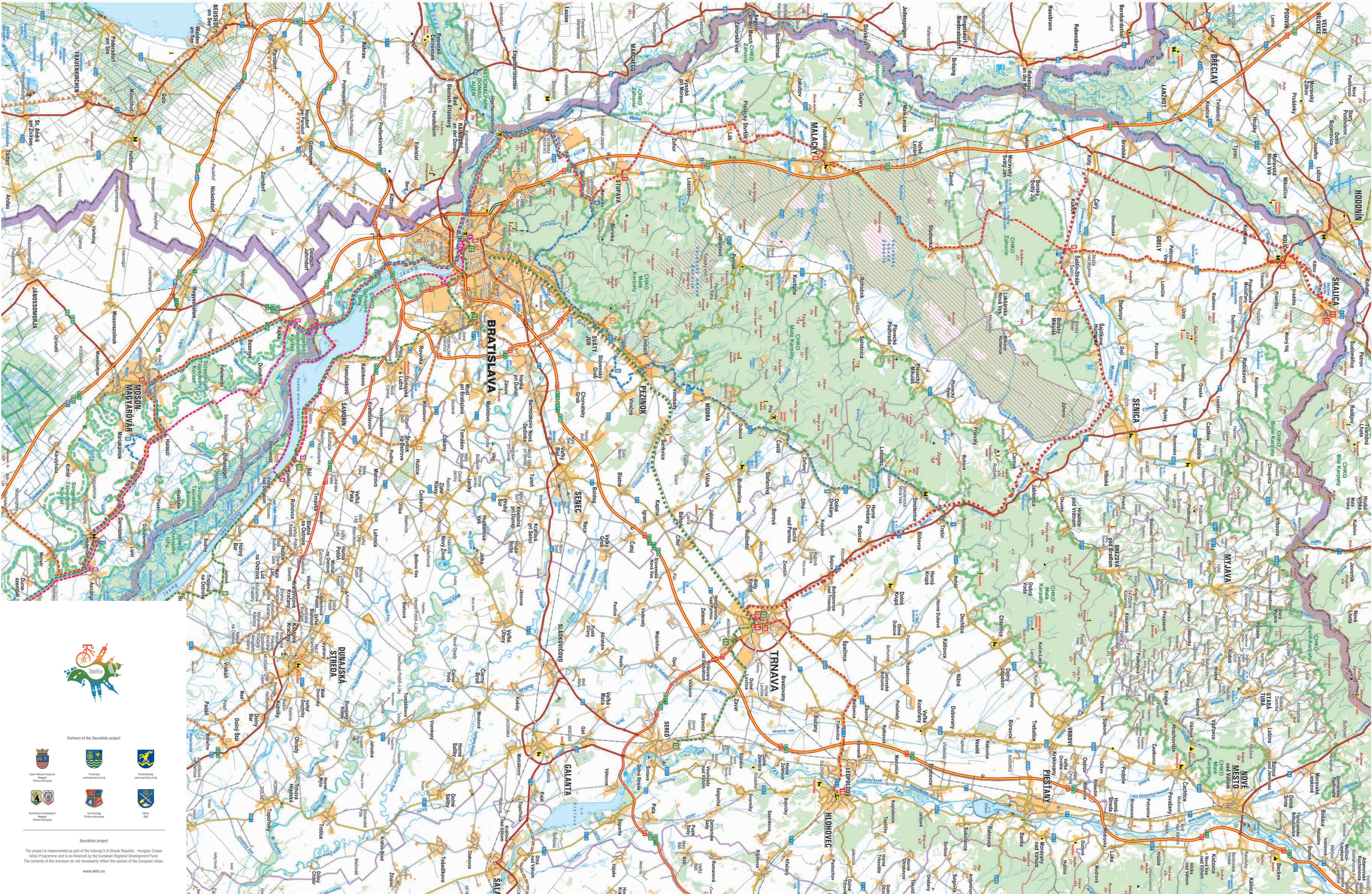


Obec
Báč

SacraVelo project

The project is implemented as part of the Interreg V-A Slovak Republic - Hungary Cooperation Programme and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund. The contents of this brochure do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union.





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