



Along the Hiking Trails

Hiking with the “luftáks”

Use of the surrounding forests for recreation, to rejuvenate the body and even for therapy was already being promoted by members of Modra’s town council as they sought long ago to develop tourism. Emphasis was placed on protecting valuable natural resources and they were mindful of how the buildings they permitted should be architecturally constructed. These offered food and lodging to luftáks, as those who enjoyed long hikes were called.

Harmónia – Resort and a Climatic Spa

The first summerhouse was built in 1890 and was rapidly followed by others, to be joined by a tavern and rooms for the night. These ingenious villas, designed to fit sensibly with the surroundings, hosted theatrical performances and dance parties, and quickly became part of the town’s cultural life. In these best of times, Harmónia attracted affluent guests not only from nearby Bratislava, but Budapest and Vienna, too. These once posh resorts can probably be no longer restored to their former glory, but a walk through the surrounding area will let you discover beautiful, natural scenes and the remarkable vineyards on the side of the mountains.

Piesok Resort – “Zochova Cottage”

About 6 km above Modra, in the Little Carpathians Protected Landscape Area, is the Piesok recreation and tourist resort. A settlement was established here by loggers from Bavaria and Tyrol (“huncokári”) who had probably been invited by the Pálffy Family around 1740. The beginnings of tourism around Piesok date back to the 19th century, when the first city villa was built to accommodate guests. The 1880s saw the “Manor House” become a favourite meeting place of important residents of Modra. The Czechoslovak Tourist Association, which became associated with the activities of Modra’s tourist association after 1918, built a tourist cottage in Piesok in 1932 and named it Zochova Cottage. The area stands out with its beautiful scenery and many protected plant and animal species. Geologically, Piesok was in the past a seabed until the land rose as the mountains were formed. Hard quartzite later created Traja jazdci (Three Riders), Kamenná brána (Stone Gate), Bartolomejské skaly (Bartholomew’s Rocks), Medvedia skala (Bear Rock), and Tisové skaly (Yew Rocks), rock formations which have been declared a natural monument.



Four places, one experience

Modra is cooperating with the Austrian towns of **Illmitz**, **Jois** and **Purbach** in a cross-border project, while joining together also in a regional and vinicultural context. Discover and enjoy this sunny region and don’t think about the border.
www.modra.sk | www.jois.info | www.illmitz.info | www.purbach.at



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Websites: www.modra.sk, www.visitmodra.sk

www.modra.sk

MODRA

EN

nature~
tourism

Modra's charm lies not only in its historic houses, fertile vineyards and fields. It is surrounded by green forests and groves, where a receptive eye can discover many beautiful corners.

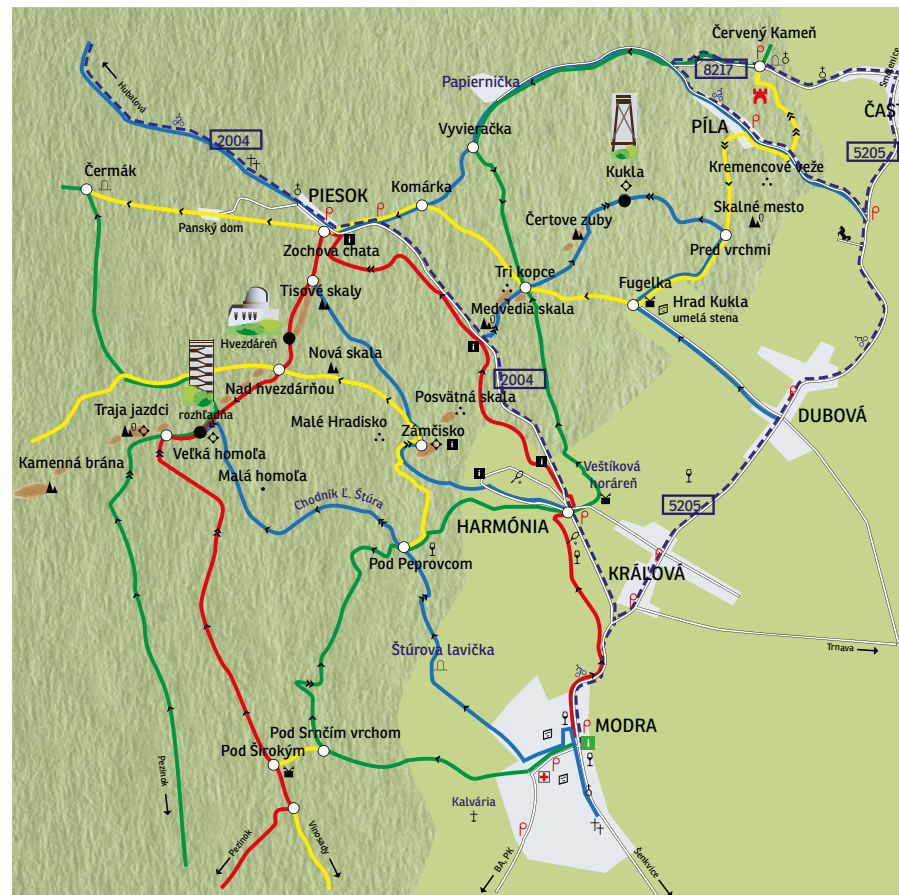


Although the Little Carpathians are not renowned for their height, dense forests, well-maintained hiking trails and easy availability are why they have become a popular place to rest for residents and guests from Modra, as well as visitors from Bratislava and far away. There are many opportunities available both in winter and summer for active leisure, rejuvenation, and recreation. Cycling enthusiasts will also find something to enjoy here.

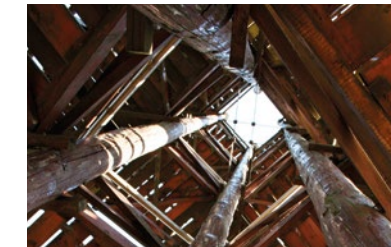


Tourist Offer of Modra's Surroundings

	rock formation		wine tasting
	free-climb rock formation		tennis court
	aid-climb rock formation		bus stop
	artificial climbing wall		medical facility
	cross, cemetery, memorial, chapel		information center
	outlook		information table
	castle		cycling routes
	gamekeeper's house		hiking routes; ascent; greater elevation
	riding area		



Velká Homoľa's lookout tower provides a nice view in return for the one-hour ascent from the Piesok parking lot. In good weather, you can see up to 150 km away, and not just Slovakia, but the Czech Republic, Hungary and Austria, too.



Where to go

You can choose from a wide variety of routes whose difficulty and time to complete vary. Whether you choose a half-hour walk to the symbolic Štúr Bench, or spend several hours enjoying beautiful views and learning about the history of the area, well-marked trails are there to guide you. Our tips:

- **Piesok - Zochova Cottage**
It takes two hours to arrive here from Modra. Public transport is also available.
- **Velká Homoľa Lookout Tower**
The architecturally interesting, twenty-meter- high observation tower on top

of Velká Homoľa (709 m) peak was built in 2001. Hiking to it, you will pass the observatory.

- **Zámčisko**
The route from the Zochova Cottage bus stop should take you less than two hours. The top of Zámčisko offers a fantastic view of Modra and the surrounding Danube Basin. A one-time Slavic hillfort along During the Great Moravian Empire, there was a Slavic hillfort situated here that was part of a defensive line.

For further trips to inspire you, visit www.modra.sk.

