The only preserved original town gate. As part of the town's fortifications it protected and enabled entry from the northern outskirts. Built in 1610 – 1618.

The Upper Gate is a four-storey building with a square floorplan. The arched passage on the ground floor was protected by a moat, drawbridges and embrasures. The front wall is fitted with a small embossed Modra coat-of-arms and Latin inscription, an excerpt from Psalm 127: "Unless the Lord watches the town, the guards stand watch in vain." The other two town gates, the Lower in the south and the Pezinok in the west, were demolished in the late 19th century when the defensive function of the walls vanished and hindered developing transport.

#### 2. St. Stephen The King Church

A historicist three-nave southwest oriented hall building from 1873 - 1876. After the construction of the town walls, when the original St. John the Baptist Parish Church happened to be located behind them, it took over the function as a Roman Catholic parish church. Its origin is related to the two older buildings: St. Barbara's Gothic Church from the 14th century, built by German colonists, and the original urban tower from 1634 that stood before it and near the Town Hall. When the small church ceased to meet capacity, it was first expanded and eventually demolished. The town tower was incorporated into the new building of the St. Stephen King Church as a church tower on the vacated space. The author of the project was Ignatius Feigler Jr., member of a Bratislava architectural family. St. Barbara's Church is remembered with the dedication of one of the side altars, bell, and marble cartouche over the entrance.

3. Our Lady of the snows Chapel Baroque rotunda from 1760. Its floorplan and spatial design represent a type of Baptistery. It was located next to the now non-existent Lower Gate and near today's Catholic parish, which

was used for baptisms. 4. German lutheran Church

The origins of Modra's Evangelical Congrega-



1672 it was one church, common to burghers of German and Slovak nationality. The division of the church for German and Slovak congregations occurred after a huge fire in 1729.

The fire destroyed all church property, including two wooden prayer rooms. The congregations separately ensured the construction of the new church buildings, managed by a joint convention and presbytery until 1822.

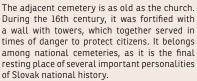
The look of the churches was conditioned by applicable regulations. The Congress of Sopron in 1681 allowed Hungarian Evangelists to build churches, parishes and schools in the free royal towns under Articles No. 25 and 26, but with more restrictions. Buildings had to be located outside the walls, could not be made of durable materials, and churches were not allowed to have a tower and entrance from the main street and the like. This also conditioned the construction of both original Modra Evangelical churches. Restrictions were lifted only after the issuance of the Toleration Patent by Joseph II (1781) and subsequent legal regulations during the tenures of his successors, Leopold II and Francis I. The building for Modra's former German Evangelical Church a.c. had two predecessors, but both were destroyed by fire. The present one, with a neoclassical facade, was built in the first half of the 19th century.

#### 5. Slovak lutheran Church

The Slovak Evangelical Congregation Church a.c. in Modra was also built on the site of an older wooden articular church from 1715. The current neo-Romanesque rebuilding is from 1834. It was renovated in 1921.

#### 6. St. John the baptist Church

The oldest monument in Modra. It stood in the center of old Modra (Altstadt). Its origins date back to the end of the 13th century. Recent comprehensive conservationist research has several building alterations and modifications, as well as the existence of the former tower and ossuary. The most valuable is the discovery of sections belonging to early Gothic wall paintings. The church interior is dominated by baroque decoration and equipment. In the 16th and 17th centuries it was used by Modra Evangelists.



When walking through the town, visitors can view other interesting architectural structures in addition to the typical winery and town houses with cellars. These include the former mansion of Emperor Charles I of Austria's Chancellor; of the knight Arthur Polzer, from 1922 - 1954 serving the needs of the High School for Winemaking and Fruit Cultivation; the building belonging to today's Educational and Cultural Academy, originally the Royal Hungarian Teaching Institute from 1887 and later also Masaryk's First State Teaching Institute. The High School for Winemaking and Fruit Cultivation and the former complex of the Evangelical orphanage also have an interesting history.

**History of Town Areas** Modra is not the only historical center; there are also three interesting and popular local areas – Kráľová, Harmónia, and Piesok – Zochova Cottage. Each of them has a unique past, but all

four form an image that becomes stored in the

memory of visitors.

Kráľová - Located 2 km from the town center, on a raised foot of the Little Carpathians. The earliest history of the area dates back to the 14th century, when an extinct village called Malá Ves was situated here. It allegedly belonged to the Hungarian Queen Mary, daughter of Louis the Great and the wife of King Sigismund. Modra founded the present Kráľová in 1609 as its liege settlement after accession to royal town. In 1665, after being burned down by Turkish soldiers, it was built anew. Mainly Czechs, Croats and Germans settled here. An important chapter of modern history is the anti-fascist and partisan resistance during World War II, which involved many of Kráľová citizens. Today's Kráľová successfully presents itself with delicious wine in addition to the original indigenous folk traditions.

Harmónia - Harmónia has an area of 188 ha represents a popular suburban resort, foundcalled Harmónia was built in 1890. Soon sevings, and the center began to flourish with a rich and promote several types of medical stays. Today, Harmónia has approximately 600 cot-

tages and recreation facilities, prospects of its

Piesok - Zochova chata - Located 6 km from

The first urban villa was built here in the 19th initiative of the Club of Slovak Tourists.



and is located 2 km from the town center. It ed in the late 19th century. The first urban villa eral villas and cottages permitting trippers to rest in a healthy forest arose in the surroundtourist, entertainment and cultural life. After World War II, there have been many ownership changes. A new generation of nature lovers have tried to use Harmónia as a climatic spa

further development being fulfilled.

the center, in the protected landscape area of the Little Carpathians. Piesok - Zochova Cottage has long belonged among the most picturesque and most popular tourist and recreational areas in the Little Carpathians. Its emergence was induced due to mining activities, and from the mid-18th century by settled German loggers. They created the seed for a colony here, consisting of seven settlements, the still existing mountain cemetery, the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene, and a single-class school where the writer Fraňo Kráľ worked for a short time as well.

century. The House of Nobility – gamekeeper's house and lodging with a restaurant – became  $% \left( {{\mathbf{p}}_{i}} \right)$ a popular meeting place for Modra townspeople and the seat of Modra's bourgeois casino in the 1880s. Zochova Cottage opened on 30 April 1933 in the center of the location, built at the

The magical nature, extensive deciduous and coniferous vegetation, rare and protected species of flora and fauna, unique rock formations, numerous hiking trails, the lookout, observatory, the reconstructed and comfortably equipped Zochova Cottage, the natural swimming pool, and ski lifts attract visitors year-round, eager to replace the urban environment with mountains and actively recover their strength.





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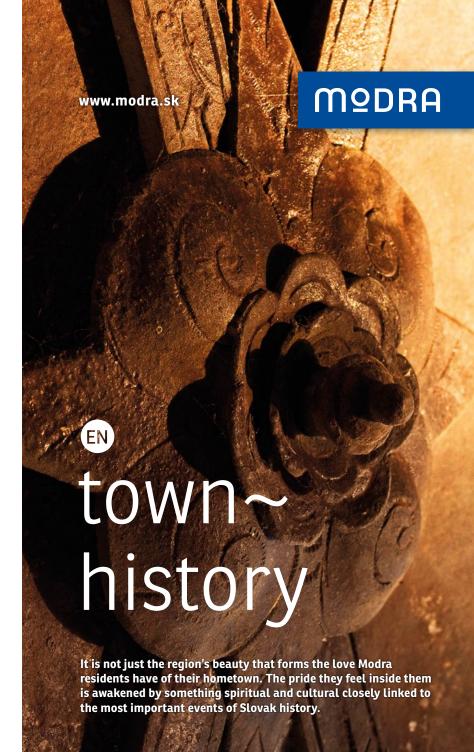
this sunny region and don't think about the border.

project, while joining together also in a regional and vinicultural context. Discover and enjoy Modra is cooperating with the Austrian towns of Illmitz, Jois and Purbach in a cross-border

### Four places, one experience









### Golden nuggets of Modra history

Modra has a unique, 13 centuries-long past. It can offer the experience of contact with its history, historic forms and stories to a perceptive visitor. These are also written in the irregular shapes and corners of the old square, the winding streets, castle walls, churches, the facades of winery and town houses, the vineyards, bricked cellars, ceramic workshops, and the plaques. It pays to read them.



## Modra's story at a glance

As a settlement, Modra has existed since the early Middle Ages. Over the centuries, in addition to the name Modra, it also had other names — Modur, Modor, Modern, Modern, Modorinum.

The existence of the mountain foot Slavic settlement in the 9th century is archaeologically documented. The first written mention of the village of Modra (villa Modor) is from 1256. It gradually developed into a small town and then a larger one.

After the establishment of the Hungarian Kingdom it belonged to Bratislava Castle. In the 14th century it was the town of the Hungarian queens (1361 - civitas reginalis de Modur), then a liege town (oppidum), owned by several noble families (Matúš Čák, Stibor's, Ország's). In the 16th century it became a free town, and in the early 17th century it gained the privileges of a free royal town

German colonists played an important role in the legal, economic and cultural development of the town in the 14th to 17th centuries, along with an extensive trade in wine. In addition to many Hungarian towns, Modra wine went to Moravia, Silesia or southern Austria. The elevation of Modra among the most important Hungarian royal towns was decided by two Habsburg emperors and simultaneously Hungarian kings -Rudolf II and Matej II. Modra citizens called them the town fathers out of gratitude, along with Maximilian II, who left Modra permanently in the royal possession in 1569.

The historic center itself represents a unique urban monument. It is the conserved testimony to the vineyard town's spatial and structural rebirth into a royal town.

Modra's largest construction development took place in the 17th century.

The main attention was paid to the con-

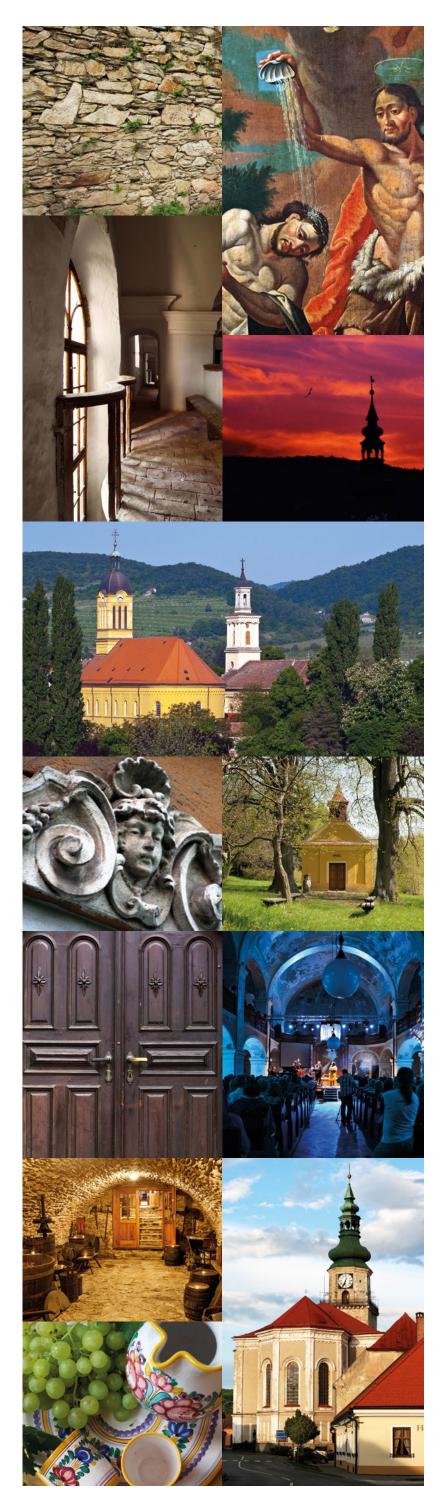
struction of the town hall, town tower, and walls with gates and towers. Due to its numerous corners Modra gained the humorous nickname Fieleck ("viel" – numerous, many, and "die Ecke" - corner, edge).

Up to three defense systems protected the citizens against external dangers over the centuries. The Zámčisko refuge fort (9th – 13th century), the old Modra – Altstadt fortification (14th – 16th century) and the Renaissance town walls (from the 17th century).

The walls protected the inhabitants from the 150-year danger of Turkish invaders and the anti-Habsburg rebel armies. Turkish troops ravaged the St. John the Baptist Church standing outside the walls and on 3 September 1663 they burned down the newly established unfortified liege settlement of Kráľová. In the years 1741 – 1934 Modra was the seat of 6 superintendents – Evangelical bishops.

Modra has always been perceived as a tolerant and multicultural town. This is evidenced by the permanent peaceful coexistence of townspeople of Slovak, German, Czech, Croatian and Serbian nationality as well as Catholic, and Evangelical a.c. and the Jewish part of the population. Only a short, violent recatholisation in the 17th century and two totalitarian regimes in the 20th century may be mentioned as an exception.

Modra takes a unique place in modern Slovak history. It is permanently connected to the personality of Ľudovít Štúr, codifier of standardized Slovak, and Evangelical bishop Samuel Zoch, the first modern-day Slovak governor of Bratislava.



### **Economic and cultural traditions**

It is not possible to learn about the current Modra without becoming familiar with the centuries-enduring traditions. These represent a bridge from the past to the present.

Modra education is one of the oldest in Hungary. The first written mention of a school dates back to 1501. Excellent teachers and students of the Evangelical gymnasium, founded in 1594, spread its good reputation at home and abroad. Masaryk's First State Teaching Institute, the forerunner of today's Educational and Cultural Academy, offered up the first Slovak teachers after the establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

However, Modra owes its excellent wines for its greatest reputation at home and abroad. Modra has cultivated the vines on the southern slopes of the Small Carpathians since time immemorial, but intense wine trade developed only after the Tatar invasion with the help of German colonists in the 14th century. Modra's dominant position in Slovak viticulture and winery is represented by today's High School for Winemaking and Fruit Cultivation, the only one in Slovakia, as well as several currently top winemakers with an excellent international reputation. In addition to vineyards, forests accounted for another important part of the town's economic base. Part of the allocated Modra forest had the designation of "Royal Forest" in 1569 - 1773. They were owned by Hungarian kings. The reason was the logging of massive oak to build of royal ship fleets.

In the early 18th century, German loggers moved into the most remote corners of Modra's forests in the last colonization wave. They called themselves "Waldleute" (forest people). Their descendants still live here today. Seekers of metal and those with gold fever did not avoid the Small Carpathian mountain areas of the Modra forest district either over the centuries. However,

written records of mining exist only from the beginning of the 19th century, when two mining companies operating 14 quarries were created in Modra. Gold and silver ore were located deep underground and only lead-ore mining became more effective for a short time. The town had good conditions for the work of craftsmen. The activity of eleven guilds had already been approved in the early 17th century. In the early 19th century, more than 500 artisans operated their business in 41 various crafts. Written records of the milling industry date back to the 14th century. The existence of this technically demanding craft was related to the use of the natural energy of mountain streams. The milling guild united millers from 13 mills in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The origins of pottery date back to the

inception of Modra. A pottery guild

was founded in 1636. The State Pottery Workshop was founded here in 1883. The emergence of the Slovak Folk Majolica production team dates back to 1952. The history of Modra pottery and ceramics is full of excellent masters of this craft. Master Ignatius Bizmayer was honored with the Slovak national artist title for his exceptional figural production. Many ceramists currently run private workshops. In addition to the vineyards, ceramics and history, Modra's "family jewels" include urban forests and a forest park with typical flora and fauna. Due to the quality of the environment, Modra is a seat of administration for the Protected Landscape Area of the Little Carpathians, the Bratislava UK observatory, two hunting associations, and the outlook on Veľká Homoľa, a popular destination for tourists. The beginnings of organized tourism date back to 1892.

# Personalities that in the past contributed to the development and glory of the town

Michael Ritthaler – rector of the Modra Evangelical Gymnasium. In times of violent recatholisation he was forced to go into exile. From 1681 he was the librarian in Wolfenbüttel for Duke Rudolph Augustus.

**Martin Schreiber** – author of the oldest Modra history book entitled "Description of the Free Royal Town of Modra", from 1719.

Pavel Jakobei – he came from a family of Czech exiles from the Battle of White Mountain. In 1722 he began to teach biblical Czech at the Modra Evangelical Gymnasium. He was the author of one of the first Czech-Slovak grammar books from 1742.

Jozef Hajnóczy – Modra native, Hungarian enlightenment lawyer, reformer of modern liberal and civil society. On 20 May 1795 he was executed on the Bloody Field below Buda Castle, together with four other leaders of the Hungarian Jacobins.

**Franz Raffelsperger** – Modra native, father of the idea of establishing the first travel agency in the world (he asked for the concession on 10 October 1828).

**Ľudovít Štúr** – codifier of standardized Slovak, editor and publisher of the first Slovak political newspaper, a leading figure of the Slovak national movement in the 1840s.

**Karol Štúr** – the older brother of Eudovít Štúr, poet, publicist, teacher, translator and politician. In Modra he served as a professor and rector of the Evangelical Gymnasium and later as an Evangelical pastor.

**Dionýz Štúr** – director of the Imperial Geological Institute in Vienna, a prominent geologist, naturalist, zoo- and phyto-paleontologist, mountanist, hydrogeologist. Samuel Zoch – Evangelical bishop, co-author of the Declaration of the Slovak Nation in 1918, the first modern Bratislava governor, supporter of the Czechoslovak Republic.

**Samuel Jurkovič** – leading figure of modern Czechoslovak architecture. In Modra he designed the orphanage building.

**Gejza Dusík** – composer, pioneer of modern Slovak pop music, co-founder of Slovak operetta.

Many generations of today's personalities grew up on the fertile Modra's historical mycelium. The unique atmosphere of the town has inspired such important Slovak writers in the recent past like **Janko Kalinčiak**, **Ján** Smrek, Lýdia Vadkerti-Gavorníková. Vincent Šikula and contemporary poet Jozef Mihalkovič. It is possible to meet these current personalities -winemakers, ceramists, painters, sculptors, writers, musicians and photographers – during a visit to our town. Whether in the vineyards, cellars, workshops, studios, workshops... You will be most welcome!

