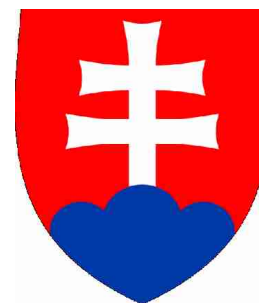


From [Vienna](#) the trip went on to [Bratislava](#) in [Slovakia](#).



Flag

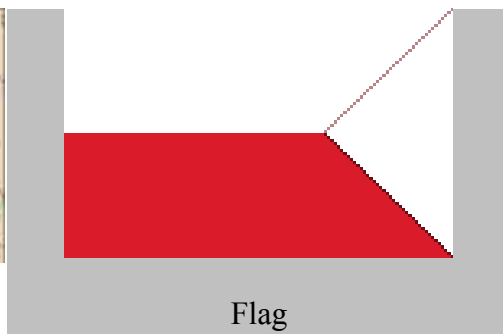


Coat of arms

The location of Slovakia in Europa  
Slovakia, officially The Slovak Republic, has about 5,4 million inhabitants, and an area of about 49 000 km<sup>2</sup>.

Slovakia is relatively young as an independent state, and was independent as late as in 1993 when [Czechoslovakia](#) was dissolved. During the history the area has been part of more powerful states, such as [Great Moravia](#), [Kingdom of Hungary](#) and [Austria-Hungary](#).

Since it got its independence, Slovakia has been a stable democracy with a big economic growth. The country became member of EU and NATO in 2004, and in 2009 Slovakia went into the Euro-zone.



Flag



Coat of arms

The location of Bratislava in Slovakia

Bratislava (Pressburg/Pozsony) lies by an important strategic spot, the place has been inhabited in many thousand years and was fortified by among others the Romans. It got city rights in 1291. The city was a part of Hungary from 907 to 1918. It was the capital of The Kingdom of Hungary from 1536 to 1784, and a part of Austria-Hungary from 1526 to the end of WWI. It was Hungarian coronation city between 1563 and 1830, and seat of the Hungarian Parliament from 1542 to 1848. In 1919 the city became a part of Czechoslovakia, and the present name was introduced. Between 1939 and 1945 it was capital in the state Slovakia, which was founded on German initiative in 1938. Then it again became Czechoslovakian, before it again became capital in Slovakia in 1993.



We took the train from Südostbahnhof. They were working to integrate two railway stations into one big modern station.



At Praterkai. We can see Danube in the background.



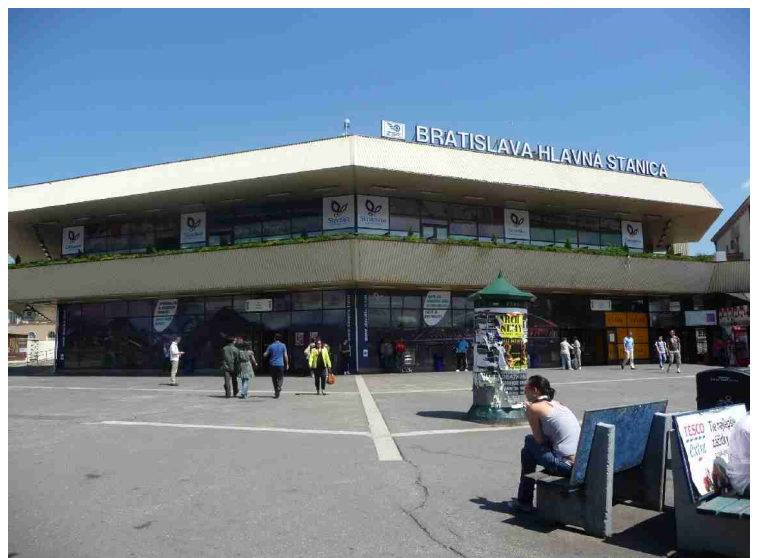
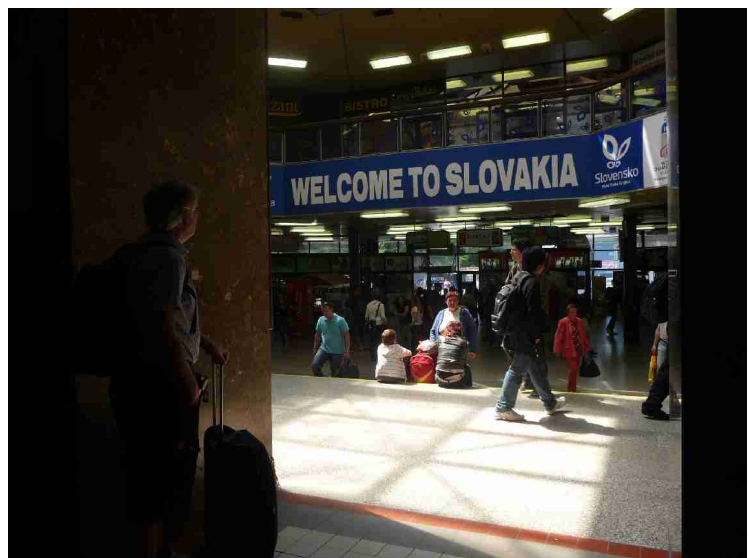
A bridge is crossing Danube and New Danube.



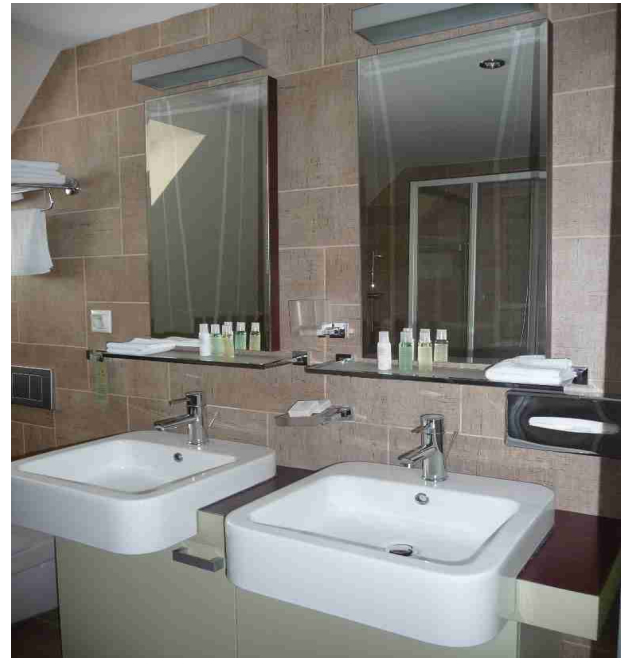
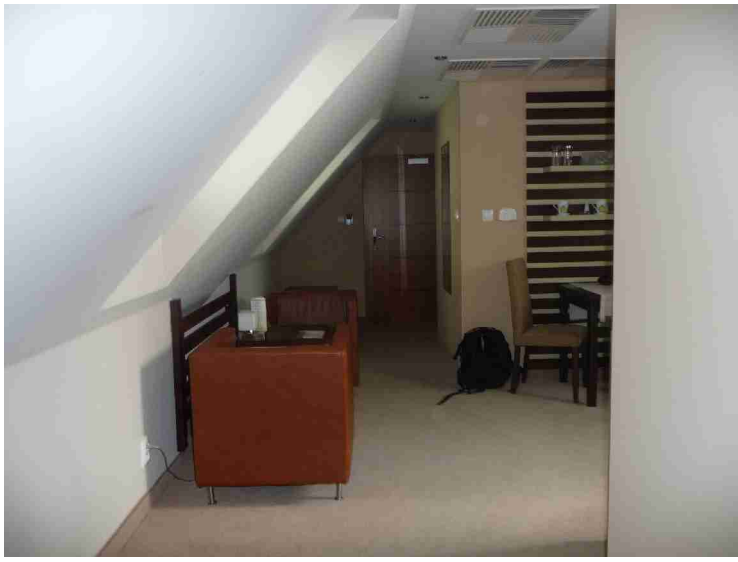
New Danube is a side arm of Danube that is used for regulation of the water level at high water.



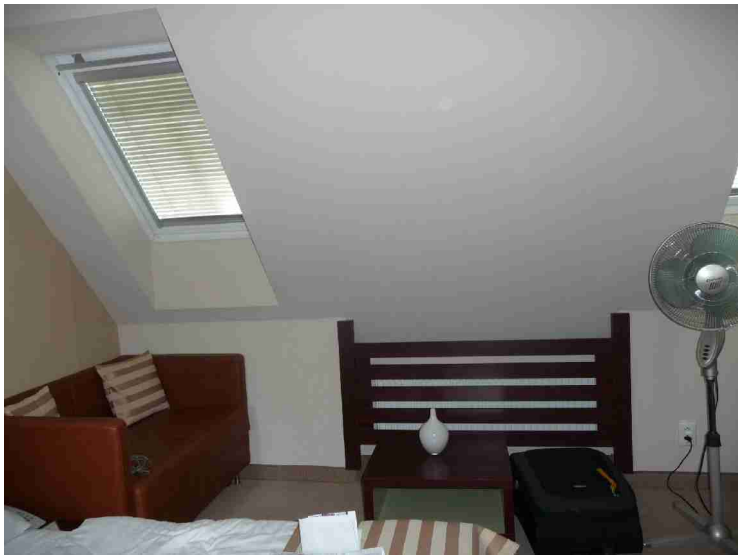
This is the first station we are arriving to in Slovakia.



The main railway station in Bratislava. We got there after 1 hour and 5 minutes traveling time. When we came out of the station we took a taxi to the hotel. It took only 5 minutes by taxi. We could not drive all the way because the hotel lies in the pedestrian area. We had to walk the last 300 meters.



Pictures from the hotel. The room we got was very well equipped.  
The hotel is called [Hotel Michaelska Brana](#) and it lies very centrally in the middle of the old town.



The flat was on the top floor and we had cherries right outside the roof window.

[St. Micheal's gate](#) is the only gate remaining of the 4 gates in the old city wall. It was built about year 1300.



Time for a small beer after the train trip.

This is the tower that the gate passes through.



Some art in the pedestrian street.



A small sightseeing car of old age.



Mozart lived in this house when he was 6 years old.



There are almost only pedestrian streets in the center of the old town.





This is where [Nový Most](#) (The new bridge) cross over Danube.  
We can also see up to the old castle.



Here is [St. Martin's cathedral](#). It is the biggest and nicest and also one of the oldest churches in Bratislava, and is especially known as the coronation church in The Kingdom of Hungary. A copy of Hungary's crown is placed at the top of the church steeple.



Statues outside the church.



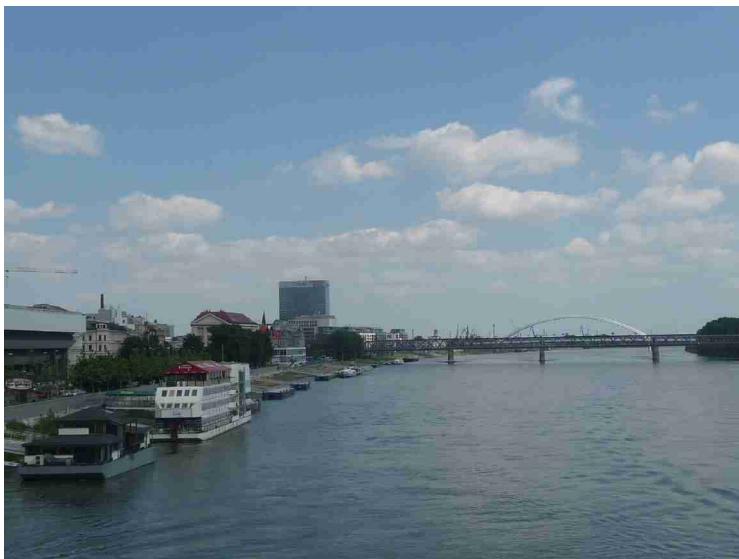
The body of the saint [John the merciful](#), who was a patriarch in Alexandria from 606 to 616, lies in this chapel. It lies on the wall of St. Martin's cathedral.



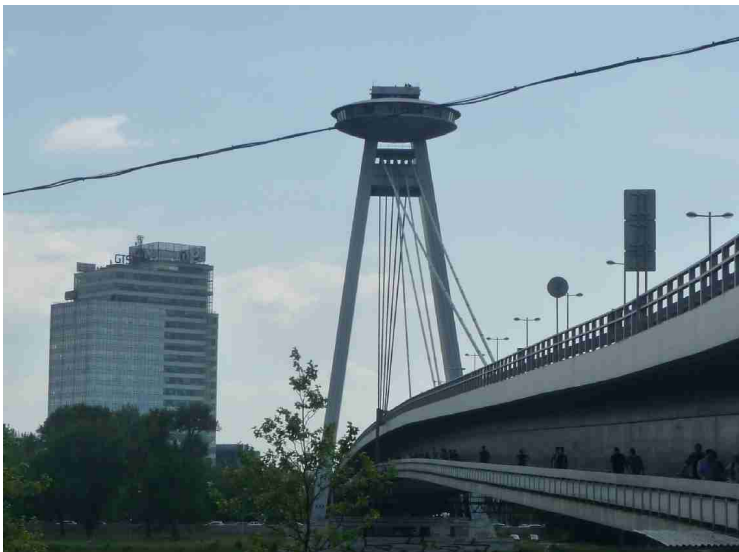
Nový Most (New bridge).  
In the top of the pylon, which is 84.6m tall. There is a ufo like restaurant.



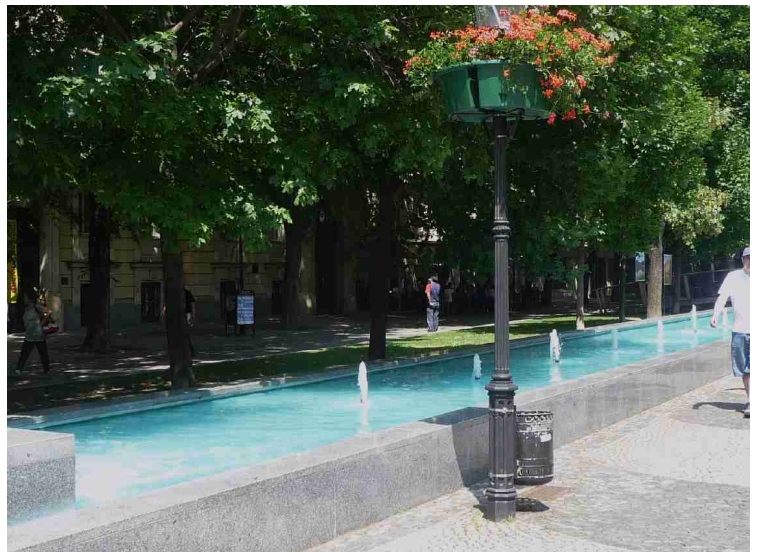
View from the bridge.



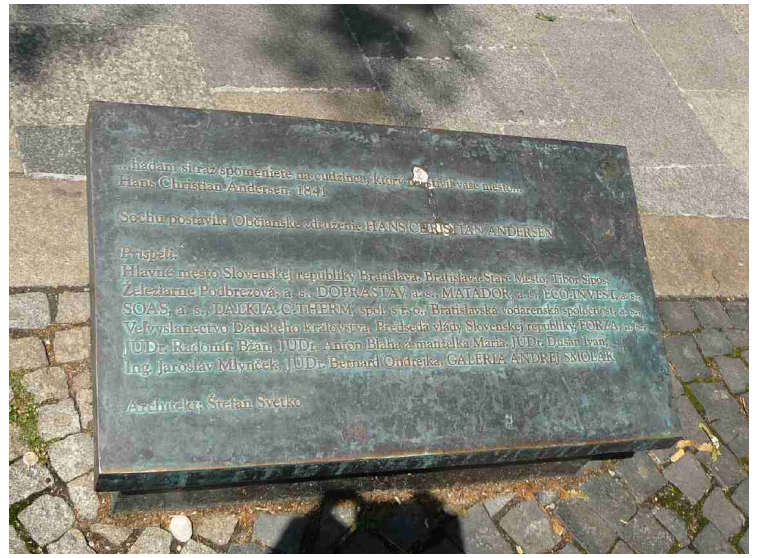
More views from the bridge.



The bridge and the ufo restaurant seen from another angle.



Fountains in the pedestrian area.



This plaque lies in front of the statue.

A statue of H.C. Andersen in memory of a visit he made here in 1841.



Štefan Králik was a physician and a poet.



Time for some wine.



Nice label.



Here is Kjell sitting. It was an Irish restaurant, so therefore we had Irish Stew, but it was not as good as when we make it ourselves.





This is at [Hlavné námestie](#) or the main square. To the left we see the old town hall.



Roland- or Maximilian fountain in the middle of the square. [King Maximilian II](#) built this a public water supply in 1572. On the top is a statue of Maximilian.



Original statue of [Napoleon](#). The statue was made in 1997 in memory of the peace treaty in Bratislava that was signed in 1805 after Napoleon had defeated Austria, which Slovakia was a part of.



Adjacent to the main square, at the Franciscan square, we find these sales stalls and small sightseeing bus.



The sightseeing bus.



Candy roof over one of the windows of the [town hall](#).



Hungarian bank at the main square.



Sales booths at the Franciscan square.



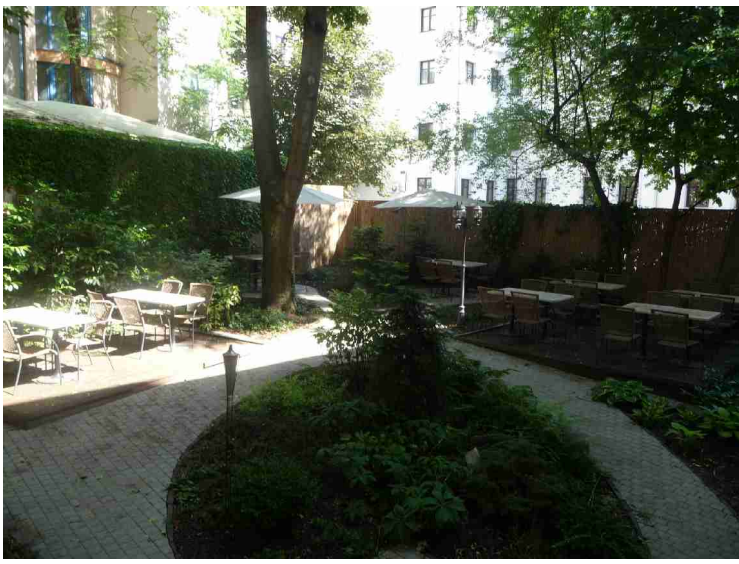
A peep into the Franciscan church.



Looking into the street leading to our hotel.



In the reception of the hotel.



The garden at the back of the hotel.



Fashion shop in one of the side streets.



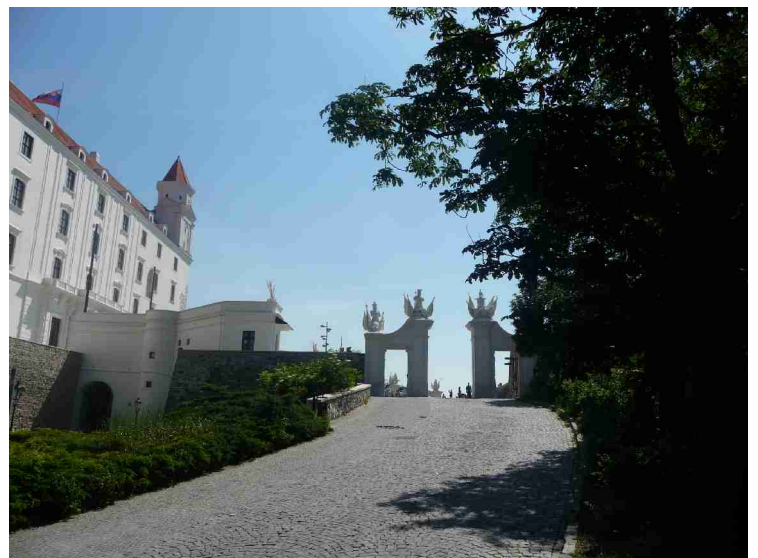
On the way up to the castle we came past this memorial of [Raoul Wallenberg](#), Swedish diplomat who saved many Hungarian Jews in Budapest during WWII.



One of the entrances to the castle area, the Vienna gate from 1712.



[Bratislava castle](#) is the main castle of Bratislava. It was mentioned the first time in 806, but there is found remnants after fortifications here back to 2500 BC. It has been changed many times and it burned down in 1811 and not rebuilt until in the 1950s.



On our way up to castle square.



View over Danube from the castle square.

A statue of [Svatopluk I](#) who was a warrior king in the end of the 800s.



More view. We also see the bridge Nový Most.



There goes tourist trains up here too.



A poster with a plan showing how the castle is going to be when the restoration is finished.



Excavations.



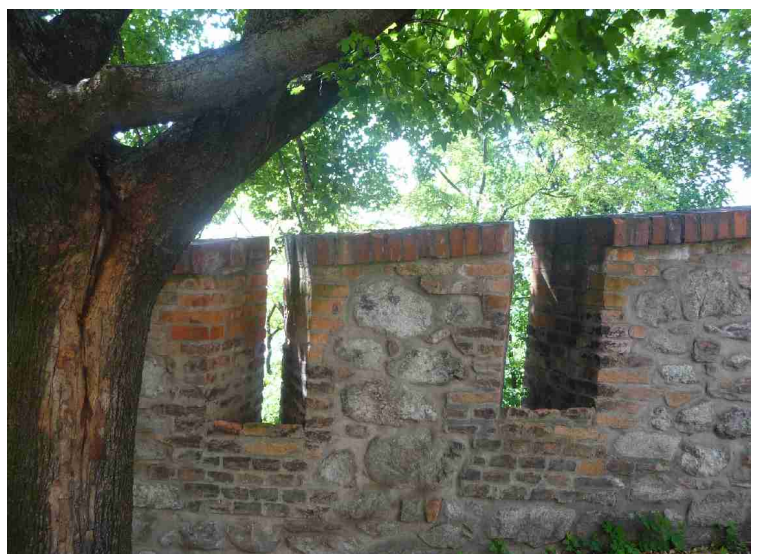
A view further down the Danube. The old town to the left.



Now we are on our way down again. Heavy walls.



Here we are looking back, towards the castle.



Loopholes.



The Sigismund gate from the 1500s.



View upwards, towards the gate.



Time for a beer.



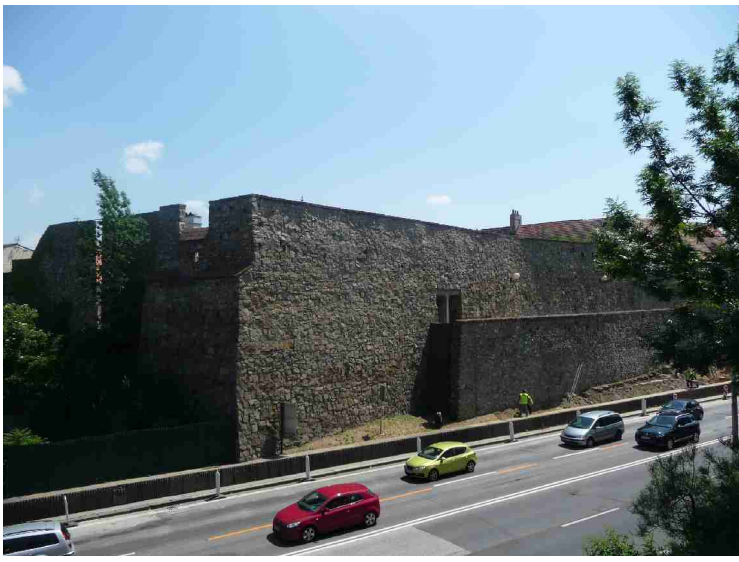
Kjell ordered the beer trough the open window over the stair case.



[The house of the good sheperd.](#) It was built during the years 1760–1765 with a shop on the ground floor and living quarters higher up. Today a watch museum.



Remnants of the town walls.



More remnants of the town walls.



Here is the [Grassalkovich palace](#) at a distance. The palace was built as a summer palace in 1760 for count Antal Grassalkovich, a Hungarian nobleman.



Guards outside the palace.



In 1939–1945 it was the seat for the president of the 1. Slovakian republic.



In 1950 it became an activity house for school children in Bratislava and it was gradually heavily damaged. It was restored early in the 1990s and after 1996 it is again seat for the Slovakian president.



Now we needed food. We went to an Indian restaurant. A little snack before the food.



Kjell is waiting for the food.



Kjell is still waiting for the food.



Anne Berit takes some photos of the decorations while waiting.



Good food.



A picture of the lid of the box, in which the bill was presented.

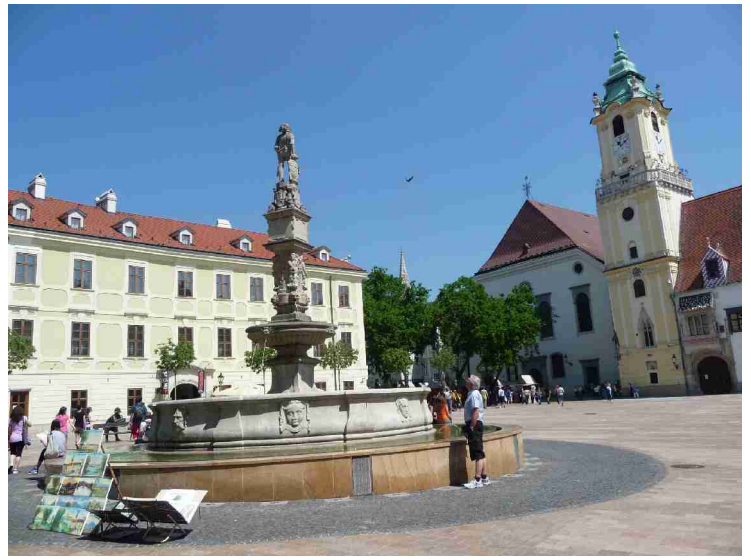


A picture of the castle, taken from the hotel room.





The next day Kjell is having a chat with Napoleon.



The Maximilian fountain again.



This is a statue, which is called «men at work»



This guy has arranged himself besides. He appreciate «donations»



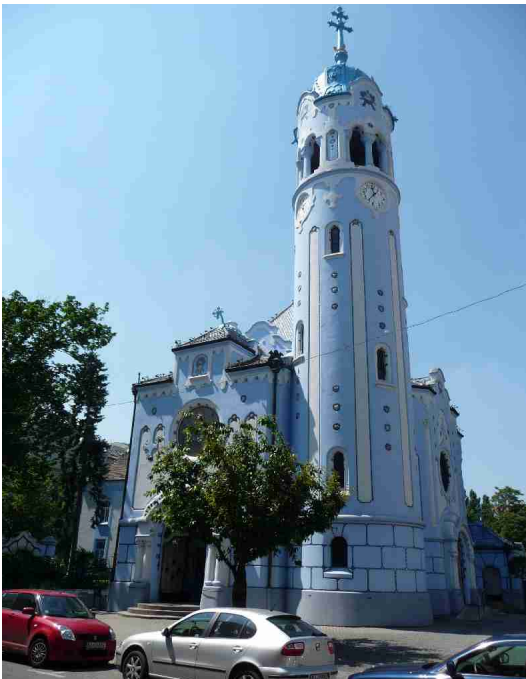
Here both are at work.



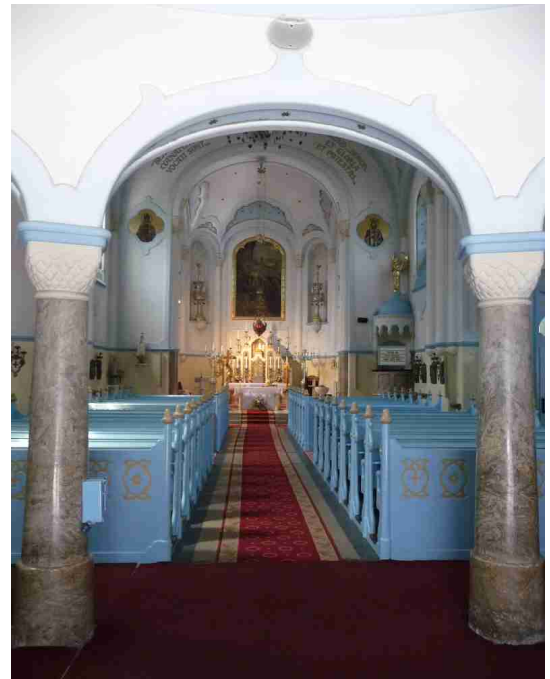
This grid is hanging over one of the pedestrian streets, [Laurinska](#).



One of the trams in Bratislava.



St. Elisabeth church, better known as [The Blue Church](#) because of the church's color.



The church was closed, but we took a picture through the door.



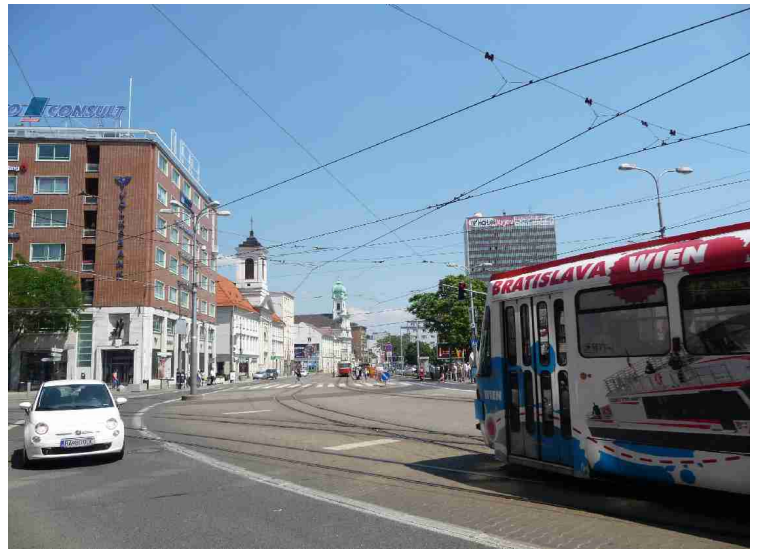
This looks as a memorial outside the church.



Incorrect parking.



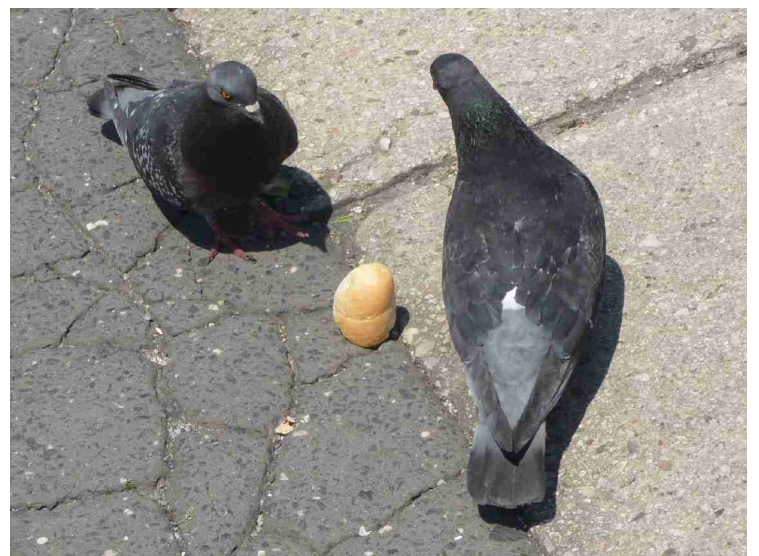
Nice building.



Street picture.  
The nearest church is St. Ladislav church.



Another square.



Pigeons with the first cut of a loaf.



Time for som beer after all the walking.



A statue right besides.



The restaurant where we were sitting.



This is in fact a post box.



Hurbanova námestie. It was here the taxien driver took us the day we came from the railway station. We had to go by foot from here to the hotel.



This plaque lies molded into the street, which leads through the city gate.



The door sign on our room.



Frantiskanske námestie.



Hungarian bank at Hlavné námestie.



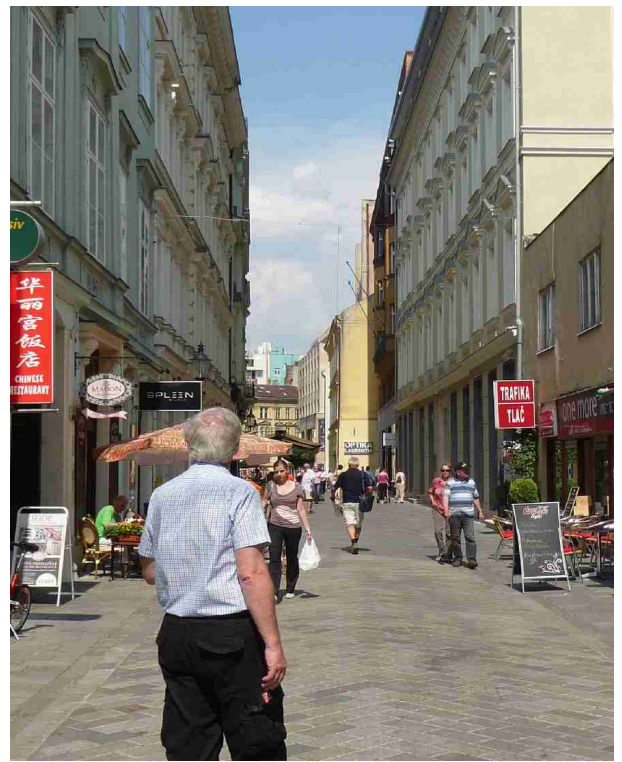
On this sentry box is written about a sentry box, which stood in the outskirts of Hlavné námestie from 1767 to 1860.



Frantiskanske námestie



Kjell is discussing with the photographer.



On our way along Laurinska.



Outside a Chinese restaurant at Laurinska.



They had good food.



This guy is sketching people.



Here we are on our way back to the hotel again.



At the city gate again.



He is playing guitar, harmonica and drums simultaneously.



He has deserved a Euro.



A last picture from the street where we stayed.

This was the last city on our Inter rail trip. We ordered a limousine at the hotel and we were taken directly to the airport in Vienna. We went with this airplane back to Gardermoen.

