

The Wooden Churches and Bell Towers

Prešov region

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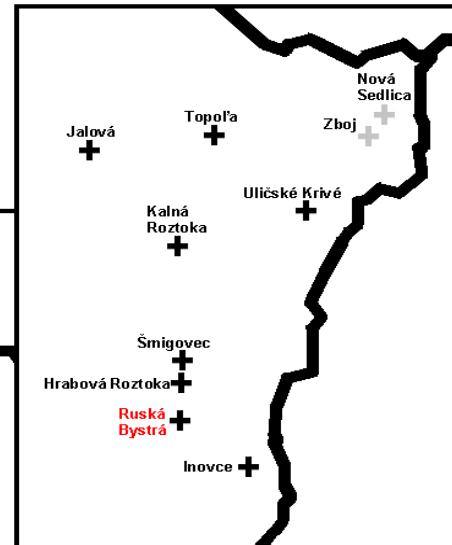
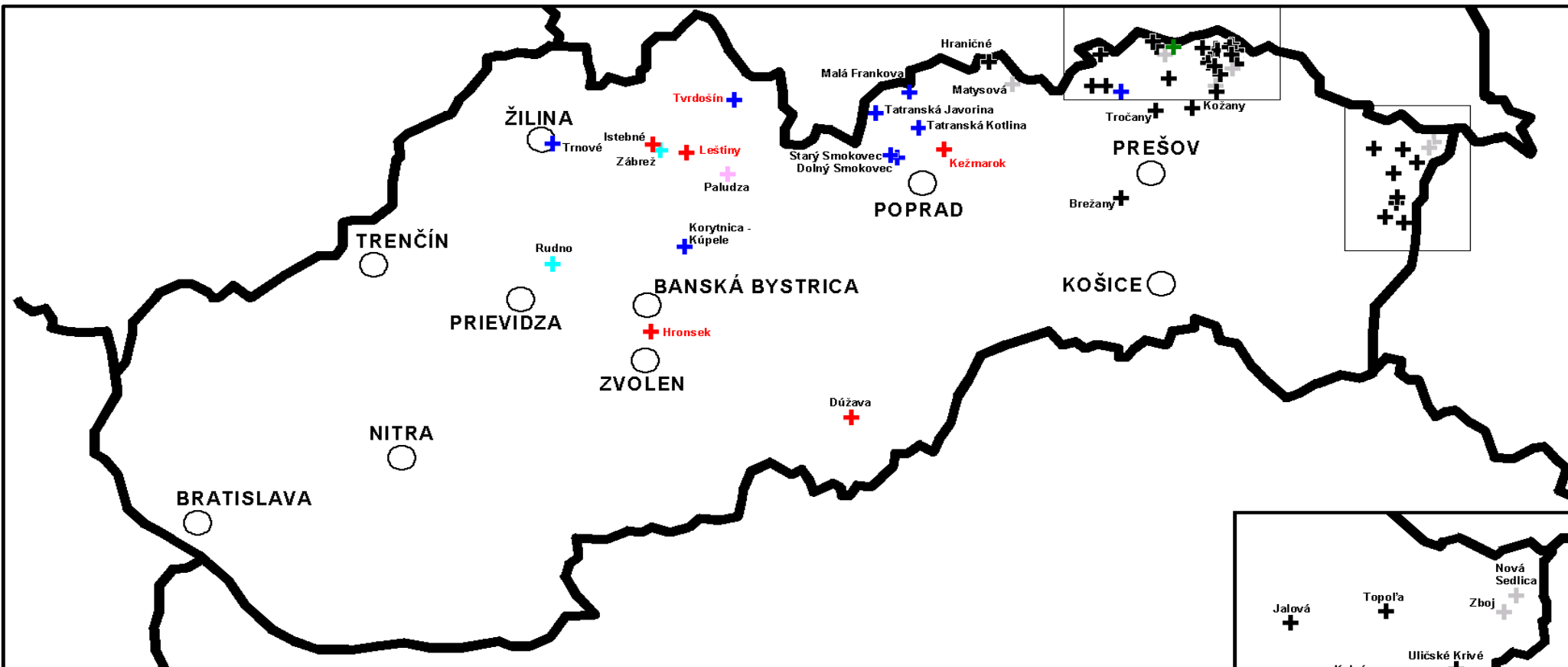
The Wooden Churches

Introduction

- one of the greatest treasures and jewels in Slovakia
- unique architectural and religious structures
- the connection of folk art traditions and perfect harmony with countryside
- expression of
 - skills of the masters
 - faith and trust of man in God

Location

- majority was built in Eastern Slovakia
- in past more than 300 wooden churches here
- north of Eastern Slovakia- nowadays around 50 wooden churches and several bell towers
- most of them on original spots from 16th-19th century



	Am ursprünglichen Ort stehend	Heute an anderen Orten stehend
Griechisch-Katholische Kirchen	+	+
Römisch-Katholische Kirchen	+	+
Evangelische Kirchen	+	+
Orthodoxe Kirchen	+	+
Kirchen unter UNESCO-Schutz	Hronsek	
Sonstige Kirchen	Trnové	



Place

- dominant position among other buildings in village
- located on the upstream
- surrounded by:
 - smallish cemeteries
 - log (wooden) or stone fence with gate
 - wooden bell tower
 - trees (especially lindens)

Material

- **wood** = only humble and available material
 - red spruce, oak,...
 - whole interior and exterior even the smallest details made of it
 - cut in spring, in winter moved to place of future church, in the next spring the construction of church begun
 - no nails in construction
- **metal**
 - used in decorative and functional elements (crosses, grids, fitting windows and doors)

Exterior



- **roof**

- covering- shingle
- various geometrical ornaments
- decorations applied in the process of laying and profiling shingles

- **spire**

- the most impressive element of the exterior
- placed above the narthex
- pyramid or a conic shape



- **„izbica“**

- the extend square room on the towers of the oldest temples
- adopted from the medieval stone sacral architecture

Interior

- **basic characteristic**

- oriented on East-West direction
- parts: narthex, nave and sanctuary (polygonal shape)
 - symbolize the Holy Trinity
 - the space of three parts highlighted by trio westward elevating towers

- **iconostasis**

- dominant of each wooden church of Eastern rite
- from the Greek eikon - painting, stasis – structure
- wooden wall with pictures separating the altar from the rest of the church
- creative and functional core of the sacral object
- “wall” consisting of several rows of icons
 - display exact liturgical canon
 - painted on the wood
 - deep symbolic meaning

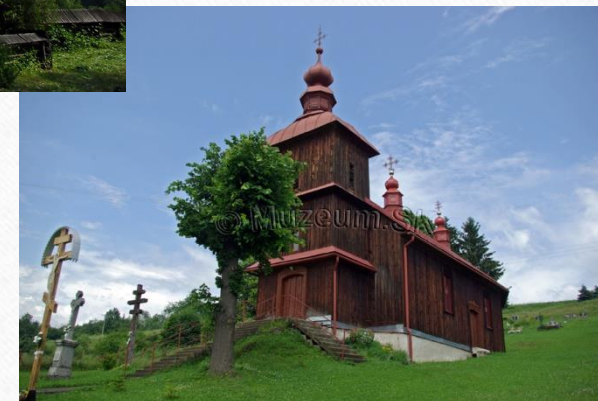
Iconostasis



Division

1. creed

- a) Greek Catholic-Vyšný
Komárnik, Kalná
Roztoka, Jedlinka ,...
- b) Orthodox -Varadka,
Hútka, Medvedie,...
- c) Roman Catholic -
Hervartov
- d) Protestant
(Evangelical) -
Kežmarok



2. another division

a) the oldest preserved Roman Catholic wooden churches

- influenced by Gothic style
- Roman Catholic church in the village Hervartov (district Bardejov)

b) younger Protestant prayer houses

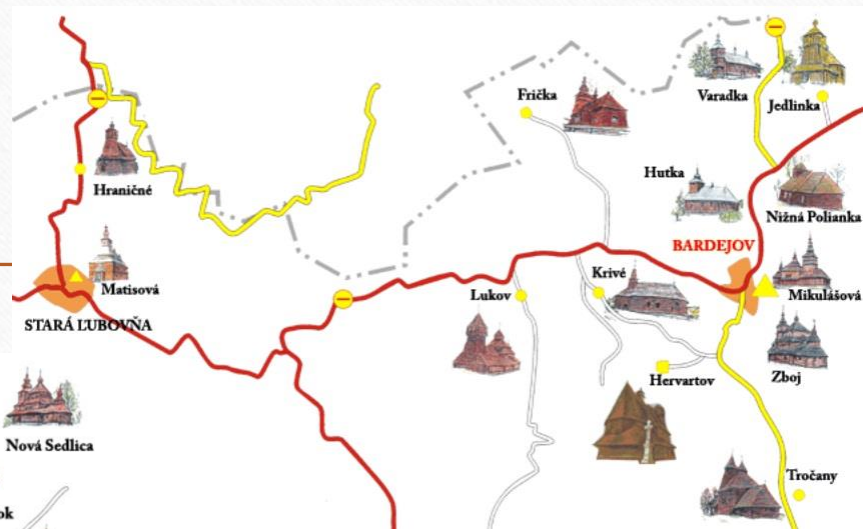
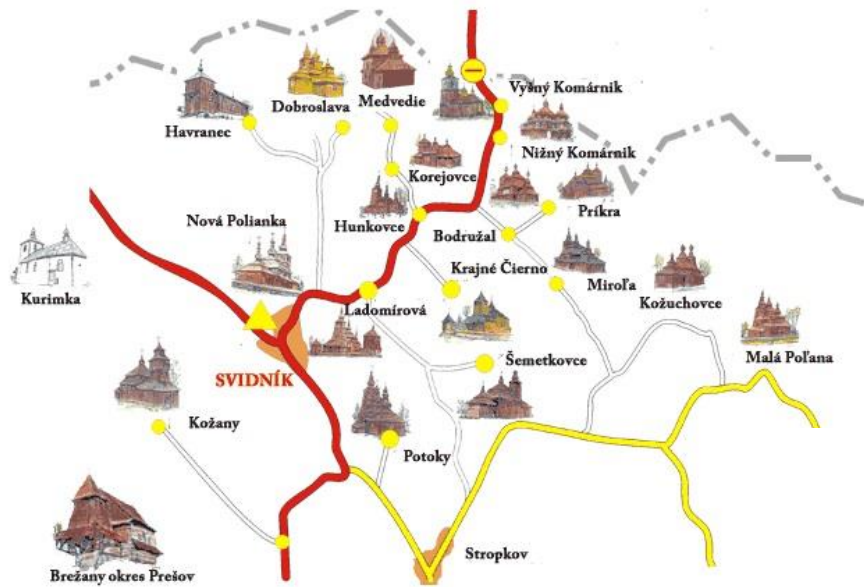
- footprint in the shape of a Greek cross
- created by Artic issued by Emperor Leopold I in 1681
- aritical church located in Kežmarok





c) wooden churches of the Eastern Rite

- built in the 17th-19th century
- first owned by the Greek Catholic denomination, later some of them changed into Orthodox church
- their iconostasis ornamented in the Baroque and Rococo styles
- most of these temples still hold worships
- in 1968 -the set of 27 wooden churches of Saris and Upper Zemplin = **national cultural monuments**:
 - district Snina -5 Temples (Uličské Krivé , Topoľa , Ruský Potok , Kalná Roztoka , Hrabová Roztoka),
 - district Svidník- 10 temples (Bodružal , Miroľa , Prikra , Šemetkovce , Korejovce , Hunkovce , Krajné Čierno , Dobroslava , Nižný Komárnik , Ladomirová)
 - district Stropkov- 1 temple (Potoky)
 - district Prešov- 1 temple (Brežany)
 - district Bardejov 7 churches (Jedlinka , Kožany , Krivé , Tročany , Fricka , Lukov-Venécia)
 - district Stará Ľubovňa- 1 temple (Hraničné)
 - the newest ones: Greek Catholic wooden churches in Vyšná Polianka and Varadka .





- **open-air museums:**

- The open-air museum of Saris Museum in Bardejov Spa -2 temples : Zboj , Mikulášová
- The open-air museum of Museum of Ukrainian Culture in Svidník- 1 Temple: Nová Polianka
- The open-air museum Vihorlat Museum in Humenné- 1 temple: Nová Sedlica
- The Lubovňa open-air museum of museum in Stara Lubovna- 1 temple : Matysová

- **interest-** wooden church from the village Habura (Mala Poľana) made it to the Czech town of Hradec Králové

d) wooden churches of the Slovak part of Carpathian Mountain Area entered into the UNESCO World Heritage List

- in UNESCO since 2008
- extraordinary worldwide value
- Roman Catholic churches in Hervartov, (Tvrdošín)
- Evangelical articular churches in Kežmarok (Leštiny, Hronsek)
- churches of Eastern rite in Bodružal , Ladomírová and (Ruská Bystrá)

Hervartov

- Roman Catholic wooden church of St. Francis of Assisi
- built in second half of 15th century
- located in the centre of the village
- the oldest and best preserved wooden church in Slovakia
- material: red spruce
- parts:
 - nave of rectangular shape
 - polygonal presbytery → sanctuary → the main altar with the picture of Virgin Mary, St. Catherine of Alexandria and St. Barbara
 - small sacristy
 - place under the tower (like narthex)





- **the interior:**

- painting with figural and herbal motive
- monuments from the Reformation period:
 - polychrome wooden baptistery from 17th century
 - shelter and panel painting „Last Supper”
 - the most valuable artifacts in church
 - figural motives of
 - Adam and Eve in Paradise,
 - battle of St. George with dragon
 - the Parable of the ten Virgins
 - quotations from the Bible in Latin, Biblical Czech and Slovak language

Ladomírová

- the Greek Catholic wooden church of St Michael the Archangel
- built in 1742 without any metal nail
- vastly damaged during Second World War
- restored in 1946
- damaged again by a storm 1957
- repaired in 1958
- the area:
 - cemetery surrounded by a log fence
 - independent belfry with column construction (the tower of columned structure)



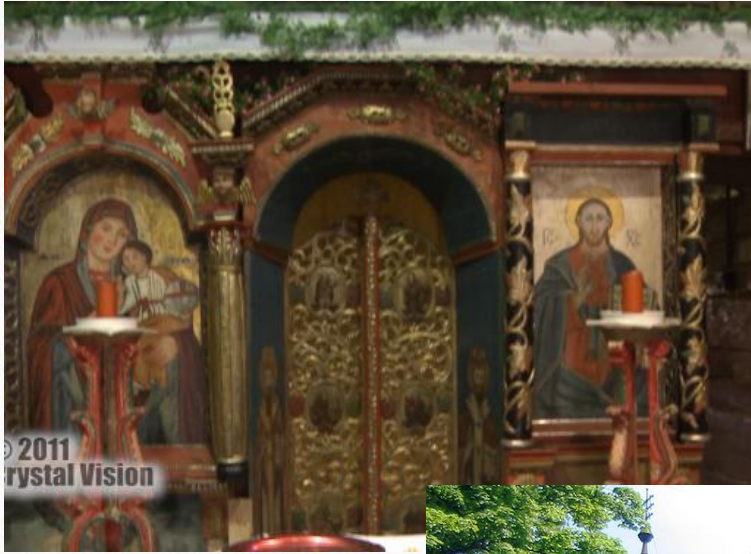
- **the interior:**
 - three parts
 - three spaces
 - three towers (the shape of an onion dome)
 - three crosses
 - iconostas and altar from the mid-18th century
 - five rows and five levels

Ruský potok

- the originally Greek Catholic wooden church of St Michael the Archangel
- built in 1740
- transferred to the Orthodox Church in 2000
- structure : classical rustic
- the tower, narthex and nave (columned structure)
- consists of:
 - three parts
 - three spaces
 - two towers
 - two crosses

Boyko type





- **the interior**

- iconostasis

- national cultural monument
 - four rows and on four levels
 - 18th century

- liturgical books printed in from Lvov and other Ukrainian towns

- the mid-17th century

- **the wooden bell tower**

- situated next to the church
 - from 1956

Kežmarok

- the artical Evangelical Church of the Holy Trinity
- one of the best preserved Slovak wooden sacral buildings
- built in 1717 next to an older sacral stone building from 1593 (today sacristy)
- suitable for 1500 people
- material: yew, red spruce
- no metal components
- the ground plan: the form of a Greek cross





- **the interior:**

- construction looks like a ship
- the ceiling looks like the sky
- rounded windows like in ship
- the Baroque style
- the church organ with wooden pipes



Mini gallery of wooden churches in Ulič

- opened in October 2009
- models of preserved churches but also non-existing churches
- material: oak, pine
- made in scale 1:10 by Sheltered Workshop in Ulič
- prize of one replica: 830 €
- time of production of one model: around 2 weeks
- nowadays -12 miniatures of wooden churches in district Snina (border area Ulič)
 - Topoľa, Ruský Potok, Uličské Krivé, Ulič,...
 - +brief information about these churches

Mini open-air museum of wooden churches in L'utina

- located near the Basilica minor in L'utin (district Sabinov)
- 41 models of wooden churches in the Prešov region with a few Polish churches
- replicas at a scale of 1:10
 - +information panels with their description and brief history
- divided according to district (Bardejov, Snina, Svidník) and also group of Polish churches
- future.: together 50 replicas of wooden churches

The new Greek Catholic wooden temple of St. Family

- consecrated in 2015 near this area
- replacement of old one (burnt in 1908)



Sources

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Thank you for your attention ;)

Be proud of our unique wooden treasures!

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