



... Relaxation and Experience

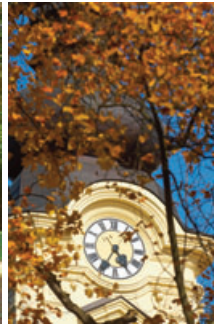
The Castle Building, The Park and The Courtyard

The castle is Slovenia's biggest baroque castle which, according to local lore, boasted 365 rooms. Many legends can be traced back to this castle. The most famous one is the legend of the flying dragon with the golden crown. The castle building is surrounded by a huge park in the English style. The big tulip trees, the American sycamore trees, the honeylocust trees, the red beeches, the European hornbeam trees and the oak trees give the park a sense of majesty and agelessness. And in different spots of the castle's courtyard energy coming from the depth of the earth can be felt as a pleasant sensation of warmth.

The Castle's Park



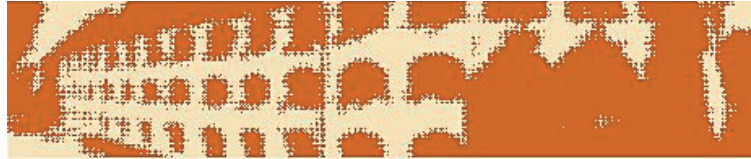
The Chapel's Bell Tower



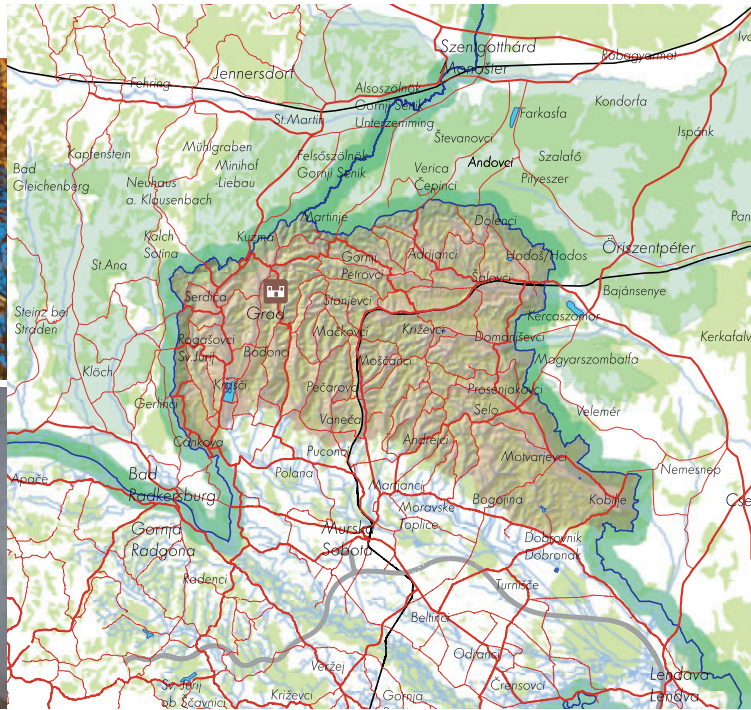
The Remains of gothic Architecture



The Gun port from the Beginning of the 16th Century



Where can you find us?



Traditional Events in The Nature Park Goričko

- The Wetlands Day - around 2nd February
- Easter Workshops - one or two weeks before Easter
- The Park's Day - around 24th May
- The Days of European Cultural Heritage - the 3rd week in September
- The Three-Countries-Cycling Marathon - the last Saturday in September
- The Autumn Bazaar in the Castle - the 3rd Saturday in October
- Halloween Night - the last Sunday in October
- Andrew's Mass and Fair - Saturday, around the 30. November

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Castle Grad

... From the Past

The castle Grad lies in a settlement with the same name, on the steep hill consisting of basaltic tuff, in the northwest of the Goričko region. The area around the castle was incorporated into the Hungarian state by King Bela III, who in the year 1183 bestowed it to the Cistercian monastery in Szentgotthard. The estate, named *Lyndwa*, was referred to in a document dating from 1208, the castle building from 1275 and the archaeological excavations prove that the castle existed already in the 11th century. According to oral tradition, the castle was built by the Knights Templars. The castle was given its present appearance during the 16th and 17th centuries, in the 18th and 19th centuries it was renovated and the present bell tower was added to the castle chapel (1751, renovated in 2001), which was the concluding action of the baroquisation of the castle.

Over the centuries the castle had many owners. After 1275 it became the property of the Amade family, as the Hungarian King Andrew II bestowed the estate to Count Nikolai of Vas. Between the years 1365 and 1685 it fell into the hands of the Szechy feudal family, who promoted Protestantism in the 16th century. In 1685 they were followed by the Batthyany family, then the Nadasdy, Szecheny and Szapary families.

Between the two World Wars the castle was owned by the industrialist Geza Hartner from Murska Sobota. In the year 1945 a unit of the Russian army was stationed here, after the Second World War the building was nationalised. New occupants moved into the empty rooms, and one part of the building was also used for offices. Between the years 1960 and 1990 the castle was left to fall into ruin.

In recent years the castle has been undergoing renovation (since 1995). The idea of integrating border regions into the protected

The view on the castle and the castle's courtyard during the renovation and archaeological excavations in the year 2004.



... To the Future

nature area and the Goričko-Raab-Őrség Nature Park stretching over the borders of three countries has also contributed in seeking to securing financial support for the renovation of the castle from the Slovenian State as well as from European funds. Since 2003 the restored rooms have served as offices for the Goričko Nature Park and as an information centre for the Three Countries Park. On the ground floor there are now workshops for old handicrafts. In the year 2006 the final phase of the static reconstruction was completed and the archaeological excavations lifted another veil from the past.

The vision for the development of the activities within the castle is to offer its visitors an experience of its magnificent past and at the same time to find a place to relax and discover the essence and values of human existence:

- to feel how nature and the energies of nature work
- to become familiar with life in a transboundary zone and experience cultural interaction where three nations meet
- to get to know more about art and culture
- to feel health and well-being through physical activity

We have joined the Europarc Federation and the European Green Belt Initiative with the aim of being connected with people who appreciate nature, the cultural landscape, and who are attempting to coexist with threatened vegetal and animal species, which we want to conserve within the European network initiative Natura 2000.

... We offer

Workshops for old handicrafts • You can visit the workshops for old handicrafts (cartwright's shop, blacksmith's, potter's workshop, weaver's shop, a herbalist's and a distillery) and learn about the traditional use of natural resources and the manual skills of workmanship.



The Wedding Hall • The biggest and the most beautiful renovated room on the first floor is intended for receptions, occasional exhibitions, cultural performances and civil weddings. ↓



The Knight's Hall • In the largest room of the ground floor, occasional exhibitions are held and visitors can watch a film on the Nature Park Goričko. Furthermore, various special events take place in this large room. ↑

The Round Lounge Room • In this room consultations and meetings of Slovenian and foreign experts are held.

Information Centre for the Visitors • Beside information on the castle, the nature park and on current activities and events, visitors can buy typical products from the Goričko region produced by the finest craftsmen.

The Black Kitchen and The Tasting Room • In these two rooms tasty local dishes from the Goričko Region can be served upon ↓ request.

The Castle's Round Wine Cellar • There are many cellars in the castle's underground. One of them has been opened to visitors. In the round Wine Cellar we serve top wines produced in the ↓ vineyards and cellars of the region of Goričko.

