

Village of the Year

2025



MINISTERSTVO
ŽIVOTNÉHO PROSTREDIA
SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY



SLOVENSKÁ AGENTÚRA
ŽIVOTNÉHO PROSTREDIA
SLOVAK ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY



Foreword

The wealth of Slovakia lies in its regions and the Village of the Year confirms this. The winner of this competition represents our country in the European space and deserves dignified conditions. Therefore, approaching the responsibility for this event is not a simple task. After several years of stagnation, the 13th edition proudly presents a number of competing villages comparable to the historically most popular years.

European Working Group for Rural Development and Village Renewal organised the first European Village Renewal Award in 1990. The Village of the Year, the national variant of this competition, has been organised by the Slovak Republic for more than 25 years. I am very glad that over this time we have succeeded in creating space for presenting our natural landscape, environmental protection efforts, cultural heritage and national history.

An inseparable part of the competition's philosophy is highlighting the outcomes achieved in the field of rural care, with emphasis on competitiveness, uniqueness, and the ability to bring innovative solutions to the process of caring for the environment. The goal is to display the successes and uniqueness of Slovak villages, the creative work of their inhabitants and to encourage them to continue developing their home. It emphasizes the effort of competing villages to approach village renewal at the European level, while preserving the soul of the Slovak countryside.

The Village of the Year serves as a populariser of rural life and villages across Slovakia. It reminds us that the village is a symbol of solidarity and the foundation of the communities that shape our national identity and of a dignified way of thinking about our country and the environment, which surrounds us. I believe that those who value what they have and respect the environment and heritage passed down by their ancestors also respect themselves and can face the challenges that life brings with a healthy sense of pride.

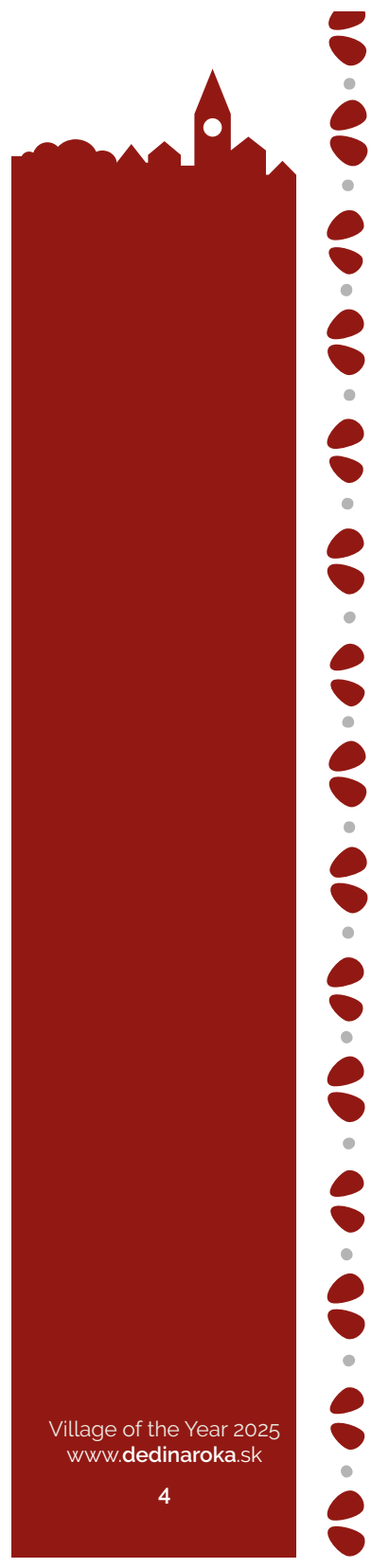
I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to the successful running of this year's edition of the Village of the Year. I thank the competition organisers and partners for their support, trust, and long-term commitment to developing our rural communities. I also thank the members of the National Evaluation Commission for their professional approach and the organising team of the Slovak Environment Agency, who ensure not only the high quality of this competition, but also its tangible impact on our villages and regions.

Finally, I would like to thank all the competing villages for their energy, determination and love for the place where they live. You are proof that the countryside has power, value and a future.

Juraj Moravčík
General Director
Slovak Environment Agency

2025

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk



Evaluation of Competing Villages

The national Village of the Year 2026 competition was open to every village in the Slovak Republic without town status that was able to display outstanding and exemplary activities and initiatives in the field of village renewal and sustainable development of the countryside. The members of the National

Evaluation Commission, which consisted of the competition's organisers and partners, evaluated the competing villages.

National Evaluation Commission in 2025

Marek Kotman

Michaela Auxtová

Roman Lebeda

Eva Klíčová

Oľga Slobodníková

Katarína Košičárová

Zlatica Csontos Šimoňáková

Lucia Thumová

Slávka Lenčešová

Silvia Martišová

Lucia Bistárová

Mária Behanovská

Zoltán Balko

Marianna Bebčáková

Petra Tóth

Slovak Environment Agency

Slovak Environment Agency

Slovak Environment Agency

Slovak Environment Agency

Slovak Environment Agency

Slovak Environment Agency

Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia

COOP Jednota Slovensko, Consumer Cooperative

National Cultural Centre

Rural Parliament of Slovakia

Association for Garden Design and Landscaping

Mayoress of Korňa, Village of the Year 2023

Competition Ambassador

The evaluation was conducted in two stages. Between spring and summer, the evaluation commission visited all competing villages and, based on the information in their applications as well as their on-site presentations, formulated its evaluation. The following aspects were evaluated: the inventiveness of the village, the form of presentation chosen, what did the village present to the commission and whether local associations, initiatives, members of the municipal council and entrepreneurs were engaged – reflecting how they cooperate and the direction in which the village is developing. After visiting each village and processing the evaluation forms, the final meeting of the National Evaluation Commission took place

at the beginning of September 2025. Based on the information in the applications, on-site visits, group evaluations, presentations and joint proposals put forward by the commission members, the awards in the individual categories were decided and the Laureate was determined.

The evaluation criteria included sustainability, conceptual coherence, self-presentation skills, uniqueness of approaches and the residents' way of thinking, self-governance, and compliance with the evaluation criteria of the European Village Renewal Award.

General evaluation areas:

- tourism in the village
- attractions and specificities
- the village's offer for the visitors
- natural, cultural, and historical conditions
- recreational locations
- educational and hiking trails
- cycling trails
- relaxation sites
- other attractions
- hospitality
- the existence of tourist facilities and their offer
- cooperation with service providers
- making use of the local colour, marketing and promotion
- membership in tourism associations
- access to information and their quality
- cooperation with inhabitants
- living conditions
- local associations, clubs and interest-based activities
- cultural, social and sporting events throughout the year
- education and awareness raising
- social and health care
- communication with people emphasizing marginalised groups
- migration
- using information channels
- residents' engagement in the village activities

Evaluation areas in the Village as a Manager category:

- presence of local businesses
- cooperation between agriculture, forestry and the village
- ecological and rational use and management of local resources in production
- transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, village support for growing crops and fruit, raising livestock, farm-direct sales and crafts
- creating conditions for the improvement of employment rate

- support for local entrepreneurs
- economic innovations

Evaluation areas within the Village as a Painting category:

- the harmonious appearance of the village
- overall and balanced development of the village and its infrastructure
- systematic development of the village in line with its strategic documents
- the appearance and cleanness of the village
- the legibility of the Building Code and its respect for traditional regional architectural elements in new construction, harmony between the old and the new
- extent, manner and nature of building renewal
- creation and use of public spaces, protection of the natural landscape
- biologically and ecologically valuable sites
- creation and protection of landscape features
- water management and retention within the landscape
- anti-flood measures
- measures for reducing the negative impact of climate change and adaptation to it
- support and use of environmentally friendly technologies
- maintenance of public green spaces
- protection of the original gene pool
- environmental education

Evaluation areas within the Village as a Treasury category:

- conservation, protection and care for tangible and intangible cultural heritage (cultural-historical artefacts, historical landscape and settlement structures, traditional folk crafts, ethnographic manifestations, folklore)
- care for traditional folk culture, atmosphere and uniqueness, creativity and local patriotism

Evaluation areas within the Village as a Partner category:

- vision of the village
- establishing partnerships at the local and regional levels



- strategic documents
- methods of establishing partnerships
- future plans and projects
- usage of modern and smart technologies
- village modernisation, applications and websites aimed at strengthening relationships within the community
- projects aimed at achieving energy self-sufficiency
- sponsoring
- the participation of residents and experts in planning processes
- international cooperation
- sharing experience
- projects carried out in partnership

List of the competing villages

Region	District	Village
Bratislava	Pezinok	Budmerice
Trenčín	Trenčín Nové Mesto nad Váhom Prievidza Púchov	Dolná Súča Vaďovce Lehota pod Vtáčnikom Lúky
Trnava	Dunajská Streda Trnava Trnava Trnava	Veľká Paka Dolná Krupá Kátlovce Zavar
Nitra	Nitra Levice Šaľa Komárno Topoľčany	Dolné Obdokovce Kálna nad Hronom Močenok Kravany nad Dunajom Tesáre
Žilina	Liptovský Mikuláš Námestovo Dolný Kubín	Ľubela Zákamenné Malatiná
Banská Bystrica	Brezno Poltár Rimavská Sobota Lučenec	Heľpa Utekáč Kyjatice Divín
Prešov	Stropkov Poprad Stará Ľubovňa	Vladiča Spišská Teplica Čirč
Košice	Gelnica Spišská Nová Ves Trebišov Košice-okolie	Kluknava Matejovce nad Hornádom Veľký Kamenec Haniska

Map of Winning Villages



Village of the Year 2025

Budmerice
(District Pezinok)

Village as a Manager

Utekáč
(District Poltár)

„Awarded for the active pursuit and use of project funding and the continuous improvement of residents' quality of life.“

Village as a Painting

Dolná Krupá
(District Trnava)

„Awarded for the continuous maintenance of a harmonious village appearance through the renewal of buildings and public spaces and the creation of small architectural features.“

Village as a Treasury

Kyjatice
(District Rimavská Sobota)

„Awarded for a sensitive and respectful approach to conserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage and its message for future generations.“

Village as a Partner

Čirč
(District Stará Ľubovňa)

„Awarded for the long-term development of international, regional and local partnerships with emphasis on cooperation among all groups of residents.“

Special Award of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Vladiča
(District Stropkov)

„Awarded for harmony with nature and responsible tourism development respecting the natural and cultural heritage of the village.“

Special Award of the Slovak Environment Agency

Kravany nad Dunajom
(District Komárno)

„Awarded for unique environmental education.“

Special Award of the National Evaluation Commission

Ľubela
(District Liptovský Mikuláš)

„Awarded for a strong and cohesive community.“

Special Award of the National Evaluation Commission

Matejovce nad Hornádom
(District Spišská Nová Ves)

„Awarded for an extraordinary approach shown by the village council.“

Special Award of the Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia

Spišská Teplica
(District Poprad)

2025

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www.dedinaroka.sk



Region
Bratislava

District
Pezinok

Population
2 495

Area
30,08 km²

Website
www.budmerice.sk

Mayor
Jozef Savkuliak

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk

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Budmerice

The Village People Sing About

Upon hearing the word Budmerice, many people instantly recall the legendary melody of the *Girl of Budmerice* by Karol Duchoň. Yet this village, located close to the capital, hides a rich history dating back to 1296.

The House of Pálffy left the most significant imprint on the village. Count János Pálffy, a lover of nature and hunting, had a hunting manor with a pheasantry built here at the end of the 19th century. The *Budmerice Manor House* was built combining multiple architectural styles and its façade inspired by the Renaissance châteaux of the Loire Valley in France. This national cultural monument, located in a tranquil English garden, has a fairytale façade with turrets, dormer windows and a monumental staircase. Above it sit two coats of arms — those of János Pálffy and his wife — along with the date 1889.

Besides the manor, the village's landmarks include the *Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross*. This originally Gothic temple was designed as a single-nave space with a semicircular presbytery. The interior is vaulted with the so-called Bohemian cap vaults, with the vault in the nave resting on recessed pillars. The architectural composition of the church is complemented by a sacristy on the south side and a polygonal tower topped with a polygonal cupola.

Its rich history and traditions are also showcased in the *Budmerice Room* ethnographic exhibition. Visitors can observe the most beautiful part of traditional village living: the front room furnished in period style and the kitchen with a built-in stove, both as used by locals in the 19th century. The exhibition displays authentic folk costumes, artisan embroidery, ceramics and various tools used for textile work and agriculture. These items, along with a series of wood carvings, bear witness to the skills and aesthetic sensibility of our ancestors.

However, Budmerice offers more than an insight into history – there are also various opportunities

for active relaxation in nature. Animal lovers and families with children should not miss the local *Budmerice Farm*, which continues to grow and is becoming an increasingly important part of village life. The farm has two sites open to children and the general public — one near the Lindava Guesthouse, located next to the kindergarten, and one near the environmental centre and day care centre by the *Budmerice Manor House*. Both offer unique experiences and educational opportunities.

The modern *Vodáreň Environmental Centre* offers educational and recreational opportunities as well as inspiration. Besides organising expert lectures and workshops, it also offers experiential outdoor learning, contact with nature and a hands-on opportunity to try out the principles of a sustainable way of life that respects nature and the landscape.

After a day of discovering monuments and learning new things, the *Budmerice Ponds* offer the perfect place to unwind. The site is sought out not only by fishermen, but also by hikers and cyclists. The ponds are surrounded by pleasant hiking trails, which allow visitors to observe water birds and enjoy the tranquil countryside. In winter, fishermen are replaced by ice skaters, while the asphalt-covered dam also attracts roller skaters in summer.

The village truly offers diverse recreational opportunities alongside education and a chance to explore local history. Budmerice is an ideal destination for everyone seeking a balance between physical activity, relaxation in nature, and discovering the area's rich heritage.



Village of the Year 2025

Village of the Year 2025
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Region
Žilina

District
Námestovo

Population
5 701

Area
42,90 km²

Website
www.zakamenne.sk

Mayor
Peter Klimčík

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk

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Zákamenné

A Symbiosis of History and Modernity

Zákamenné is a village in the Orava region where unique Goral traditions have been preserved to this day. With a population of more than 5,600 inhabitants, it is the most populous village in Orava.

Like all the other villages in Upper Orava, Zákamenné was founded by the Orava nobility. In 1615, both local hereditary mayors and six shepherd settlers were granted the right to establish a settlement named Nová Kamenská by Count György Thurzó, in accordance with the Kopanica Law. A kopanica is a type of scattered settlement consisting of solitary hillside farms. In the past, Zákamenné was a renowned centre of agriculture (pasturing and sheep farming), crafts (raft making, cloth weaving, blacksmithing, and shingle making) and trade (markets and fairs).

The locals belong to the ethnographic group of Gorals, who have historically inhabited the borderlands between Slovakia, Czechia and Poland. They have an authentic dialect, unique customs, traditions, folk costumes and musical traditions, which make the village interesting for both domestic and foreign visitors. The rich history of the village can still be felt in its traditions, architecture and everyday life. While staying true to its roots, Zákamenné keeps up with the times. Today, Zákamenné is a compact village, meaning that houses are built together along streets. Residents have access to the full range of public services, making for a high quality of life.

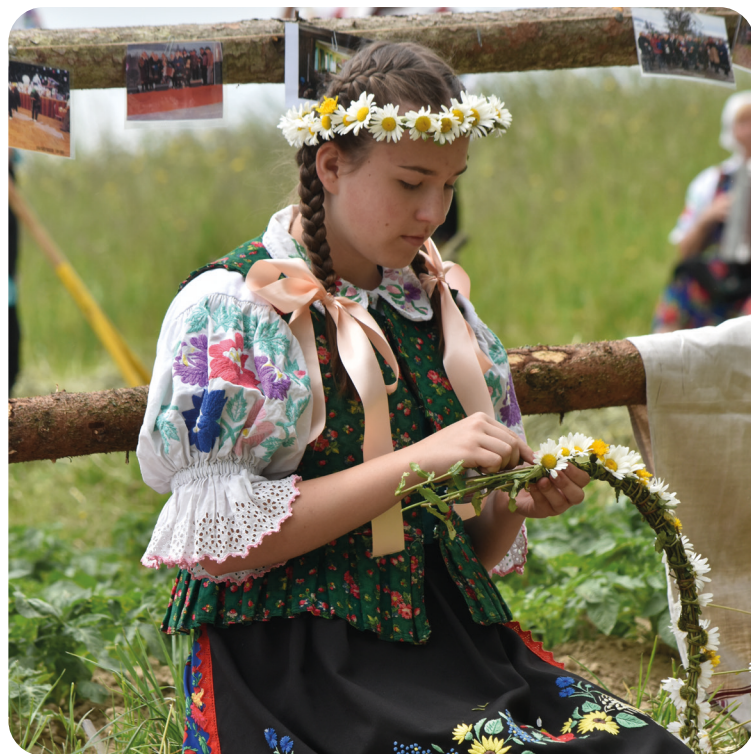
Throughout the year, there are numerous interesting things to discover: a 15-metre-tall lookout tower on Spikový vrch offering magnificent panoramic views, a renovated calvary hosting church events and the *Fairytale World* with its amphitheatre and carved wooden sculptures. Cycling trails offering unforgettable experiences in nature are very popular. Well-developed visitor services make Zákamenné well worth a visit to discover its cultural, historical, and natural treasures. One such example is the *Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary*, built in the Romanesque

Revival style. In 1862, a calvary was built nearby. It consists of fourteen Stations of the Cross, along with a central chapel with a horseshoe-shaped layout. *St. Joseph's Church* was built at the end of the 20th century and features modern architectural elements.

The local authorities engage in regional, national and cross-border cooperation. The village continues to develop through the implementation of various projects that improve the living standards of its residents.

Several associations participate in the organisation of cultural, social and sporting events. The most notable events for residents and visitors include several folklore festivals, an organised hike across Zákamenský grúň hill, Easter activities at the social services centre, a night-time calvary pilgrimage, blood donation events on the St. Florian's and St. Catherine's days, the *Bee Kingdom*, a natural material wreath market and the Christmas market.

Zákamenné has a one-of-a-kind atmosphere, shaped by its rich history, deep religiosity, living traditions and a blend of original and contemporary architecture, cultural and natural treasures.



2nd Place

Village of the Year 2025
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Region
Košice

District
Košice

Population
1 572

Area
17,29 km²

Website
www.haniska.sk

Mayor
Miloš Barcal

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk

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Haniska

A Place Where the Past Shapes the Future

Haniska is located near Košice in the south-east of Slovakia. It consists of three parts: the central village, Grajciar — a settlement in the southern part of the village's cadastral area and Jakubov Dvor — a cottage area near the Haniska forest, popular mainly with nature lovers and those seeking relaxation.

As the locals say, Haniska is a place where the past shapes the future. Upon entering, one follows the clues of its rich history, which lead from the noble interior of the Baroque church, through the mysterious family crypt of the House of Zichy, to the revived walls of an old carriage house.

The Baroque *Church of St. John of Nepomuk* is one of the greatest local treasures. Its ceiling is decorated with a figural painting from 1923, depicting a heavenly scene above the heads of the faithful. The visitor's eye is naturally drawn to the Neo-Renaissance main altar from 1934, featuring a picture of the Virgin Mary, and the side altars in the Louis XVI style from 1838 to 1866. Another valuable period piece within the church is the Rococo baptismal font from the first half of the 18th century.

The church also provides access to the family crypt of the House of Zichy – one of the most influential aristocratic families of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which owned extensive lands in Haniska, including the manor house and surrounding fields. A particularly important member of this family was Countess Jacqueline Zichy, the only daughter and heiress of Emanuel Péchy and Zenaide Mesko, who had owned Haniska since the first half of the 18th century. Despite losing her sight at a young age, Countess Jacqueline always prioritised family, the poor, the sick and children. She supported a social institute, which she often visited to help the poor and distribute bread. In 1878, the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross monastery was established and has been in operation ever since. The monastery operated a girls' school and children's shelter, in which 38 orphans were brought up, educated and ultimately found husbands.

Countess Jacqueline Zichy represents a particularly important chapter of local history, one that left an indelible mark on the village. Today, the Kastély Gróf Zichy guesthouse commemorates the House of Zichy. Although the name evokes the family manor, the guesthouse and restaurant are located in a sensitively renovated building that had previously served as the carriage house of Count Rudolf Zichy. The carriage house restoration aimed to give the building a new lease of life, preserve the memory of this renowned aristocratic family and promote the development of rural tourism in the region. The guesthouse has become the centre of social life in the village, allowing visitors to become part of a story that has been unfolding here for centuries.

This is how Haniska displays its living history and builds on it to continue developing. It is also a modern living space that caters to all generations. High quality sporting facilities and children's playgrounds provide active recreation and support community building. This balance between respect for the heritage of their ancestors and the pursuit of contemporary comfort makes Haniska a wonderful place to call home – one that its residents are satisfied with and rightfully proud of.



3rd Place

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk



Region
Banská Bystrica

District
Poltár

Population
838

Area
26,88 km²

Website
www.obecutekac.sk

Mayor
Miroslav Barutiak

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk

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Utekáč

Heaven Above, Me in the Valley and Glassworks in the Background

Utekáč is located in the southern part of Central Slovakia, 40 km from Lučenec. Historically it was part of the Gemer region, specifically Malohont. From an administrative point of view, Utekáč comprises nine scattered settlements preserved to this day (clusters of farmsteads Bánik, Cisársko, Dlhá Lúka, Ďurkovka, Grôň, Jaseninka, Krahulčovo, Lichý Potok and Nad Rimava) and village districts with compact settlement: Utekáč-Drahová, Utekáč-Havrilovo and Utekáč-Salajka. The Rimavica river flows through the cadastral area.

The name of the village district Salajka is probably derived from the Slovak word for potash (potassium carbonate), which was essential for glass manufacturing in the 18th and 19th centuries. Potash production was typical of mountainous areas in Slovakia.

The Utekáč glassworks were most probably founded in 1824 by Count Antal Forgách. Glassmaking masters and experts from industrial centres in Germany (Bavaria), Belgium, France and Czechia travelled to Utekáč. The sparsely inhabited territory of Utekáč was gradually populated by both local and foreign workers who found employment in the glassworks. Glass was manufactured using local resources, mainly quartz, timber from the local forests and water from the Rimavica river. A later owner of the glassworks, Štefan Kuchynka, founded a factory elementary school with a single class of 30 to 40 pupils in 1859. He also introduced his own currency called vexle, which his workers used exclusively for shopping in his stores.

The Clara Glassworks manufactured utilitarian and lighting glass along with cylinders for paraffin lamps and since 1917 light bulbs as well. In 1961, the factory started making thermos flasks and exported them to Finland, Norway, Sweden, Yugoslavia, Cuba and elsewhere. The glassworks held a patent for measuring and testing the thermal insulation of the thermos flask, which represented quite an advanced approach to

research and development. Glass products from Utekáč were awarded at three world fairs: first place in Paris (1900), a gold medal in St. Louis (1904) and another gold medal in Milan (1906) for decorated utilitarian glass.

For two centuries, the glassworks brought prosperity to Utekáč. From the 1960s through the 1980s, between 700 and 800 local residents and workers from the surrounding villages and broader region were employed there. However, in 1998, glass manufacturing ceased for good.

The village's glassmaking history is kept alive by a preserved 40-metre-tall chimney from 1787, which nowadays serves as a tourist attraction and a climbing wall. Other points of interest for visitors include the *Moose Park Utekáč-Drahová*, Scandinavian-style apartment buildings, the *Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows* (1939) in Utekáč-Havrilov and the chapels of St. Wendelin and St. Anthony of Padua in Utekáč.

Today, Utekáč is a village that combines an extraordinary history of glassworks with the beauty of nature and offers hiking, cycling and mushroom hunting. While valuing its own history, this place looks for new ways to improve the residents' quality of life and attract visitors to its unique environment. Therefore, it was chosen by the creators of *Promise, I'll Be Fine* (2024), a film based on a true story featuring young locals from Utekáč.



Village as a Manager

Village of the Year 2025
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Region
Banská Bystrica

District
Rimavská Sobota

Population
69

Area
6,15 km²

Mayor
Slavomír Kujan

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk

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Kyjatice

A Place Where the Journey through Time Begins

Kyjatice is a small but historically significant village in southern Central Slovakia, located 10 km from Hnúšťa. It holds a unique cultural and historical heritage of European importance.

Local history dates back to the Late Bronze Age – an entire archaeological culture, *the Kyjatice Culture*, was named after this settlement. The Kyjatice Culture developed from the Pilyň Culture by absorbing significant influences from the surrounding regions. Its defining features included fortified settlements, bronze processing, cremation burials in urns and the ritual use of caves. Today, the archaeological open-air museum located above the village brings these ancient Kyjatice Culture practices to life through reconstructed cremation graves – a silent testament to our ancestors' profound spirituality.

The respect for history and tradition lives on in this village – in fact, it has taken on a new, tangible dimension through the wooden *Kyjatice Toys*. These iconic objects are not only a demonstration of craft skills but also authentic works of art, which owe their one-of-a-kind character to circular decorations created with compasses and natural staining. Although this unique art form nearly died out after World War II, a local master artisan, Ladislav Hedvigi, successfully revived this 150-year-old heritage. The toys are typically decorated with carved ornaments.

Today they represent the very best of Slovak folk culture at both national and international levels. The exceptional quality of this artisanship is confirmed by the prestigious GEMER-MALOHONT brand, which the Kyjatice Toys bear. They also represented Slovakia at Expo 2020 in Dubai, increasing the international visibility and prestige of this cultural heritage.

Kyjatice's rich mosaic is complemented by a major architectural monument – a Gothic Evangelical church dating from the turn of the 14th century. Located on a hill above the village, it serves as a key landmark on the *Gothic Route* hiking trail, which connects the most significant sacred monuments

of the region. This Romanesque-Gothic single-nave church with a quadrangular presbytery was originally fortified; a tower and sacristy were added later. Inside, it houses valuable 15th-century wall paintings depicting Biblical scenes, as well as a precious wooden beam ceiling with Renaissance floral ornaments dating from 1637. Visitors can feel the touch of ancient times and experience the unique spirit of the place. In cooperation with its partners, the village organises evening and extended tours of the Gothic church as part of the *Open Gothic Route* series of events.

The national and international importance of these monuments is confirmed by the fact that in 1993, both the burial site and the church were listed as national cultural monuments. The exceptional significance of Kyjatice was underlined in 2022, when the local medieval frescoes – as part of the twelve *Gothic Route* churches – were awarded the prestigious *European Heritage Label*.

Other attractions are the walnut orchards near the archaeological park. There are currently more than ten thousand trees covering an area of over 80 hectares, providing employment for many residents.

Kyjatice represents a unique combination of precious historical and cultural heritage and a thriving present.



Village as a Treasury

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk



Region
Trnava

District
Trnava

Population
2 478

Area
24,63 km²

Website
www.dolnakrupa.sk

Mayor
Marek Dekan

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk

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Dolná Krupá

A Village of Music, Roses, Honey and Mead

Dolná Krupá lies in the Trnavská pahorkatina upland in Western Slovakia, 14 km from the regional centre of Trnava. The village is surrounded by agricultural land, meadows, smaller woodlands and unpaved roads.

The first written record of Dolná Krupá dates to 1113, making it one of the oldest settlements in the region. From the 16th century, Dolná Krupá was owned by the House of Brunszvik, which significantly shaped its development. After acquiring the estate, Count Antal I Brunszvik built here his representative residence and established a modern economic and cultural centre of the region. Around the manor house, a vast English-style park took shape, featuring romantic lakes, little islands, pavilions and rare tree species such as giant sequoia. The park is considered one of the most valuable historical parks in Slovakia and is well worth a visit.

It is said that Countess Josephine Brunszvik was a pupil and close companion of Ludwig van Beethoven, who visited Dolná Krupá repeatedly between 1800 and 1806 and is believed to have composed the *Moonlight Sonata* here. Near the manor house stands the *Ludwig van Beethoven Memorial*, also known as Beethoven's House, which houses a museum of music. A panel exhibition informs the visitors of remarkable facts not only about this extraordinary composer, but also about musical instruments, artefacts and the life of the Brunszvik and Chotek families.

Another distinctive feature of Dolná Krupá is the *Rosarium of Marie Henriette Chotek*, which has gained recognition well beyond the borders of the region. Founded by Countess Marie Henriette Chotek, it already counted some five thousand roses by 1926, making it one of the largest rose gardens in Europe in terms of the number of varieties. Each variety is labelled with a plaque and information panels cover the history of rose cultivation, as well as the importance of bees and honey. These educational elements are part of what is sometimes called the "living encyclopaedia of roses." The "Rose Countess" also

inspired the names of the local restaurant Mária Henrieta and the Rose Countess Salon. Just a few metres from her original garden, more than 2,500 roses are in bloom – one of which bears the Countess's name: *Rosengräfin Marie Henriette*. The current rose garden is located near the manor house, within the *Medolandia* premises and is wheelchair accessible.

The local honey and mead enjoy an excellent reputation, valued for their significance in health, nutrition, ecology, culture and the local economy. Honey – the food of the gods – symbolises prosperity, health, and hospitality across many cultures. Mead production naturally supports local beekeepers, which in turn benefits the environment. As bees pollinate plants, biodiversity increases and the ecological balance of the countryside is preserved.

Dolná Krupá is a picture of tranquil rural life where history meets the present and nature meets people. The harmony between tradition and modern ways of life creates a cosy atmosphere that is felt throughout the village. Mutual support, shared celebrations and living traditions strengthen intergenerational bonds and make Dolná Krupá a place where people feel at home.



Village as a Painting

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk



Region
Prešov

District
Stará Ľubovňa

Population
1 455

Area
20,19 km²

Website
www.circ.sk

Mayor
Michal Didík

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk

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Čirč

Where Even Stones Dance

The Rusyn village of Čirč is located in the northeast of Slovakia, on the border with Poland, at the northwestern foothills of the Čergov mountain range, making it the gateway of this area for tourists.

The first written record of the village dates back to 1330. In the 16th century, the village was almost abandoned, but Rusyn settlers from the east eventually arrived and moved into the vacant houses. In the official lexicon of settlements in the Kingdom of Hungary of 1773, the village is recorded as exclusively Rusyn.

To this day, Čirč stands as a living testament to Rusyn pride and profound faith. It is also an important pilgrimage site of the Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia, owing to a legend connected to the village. In 1898, a mysterious old man appeared at Vyšné Uhliská, a location above the village. His appearance is recorded even in the local parish chronicle: *"An old man suddenly appeared to two girls from Čirč and asked them whether they wanted many people to come there on pilgrimage. When the girls agreed, the man thrust his stick into the ground and a spring of water with healing powers rose up in that very place. The old man asked for a chapel to be built there."*

First, a small shed covered with wooden shingles was erected on this spot. In 1925, however, a masonry chapel dedicated to the Dormition of the Holy Mother of God was built. To this day, a pilgrimage feast takes there place each year between August and September.

Čirč is also known for its lively activity. It is said that even the "stones in the brook sing in Čirč," and the local music scene confirms it. The village is the birthplace and home of several popular music bands enjoyed across Slovakia and abroad – among them Rolland z Čirča (Rollandáci 3jo), Rolls z Čirča, Čirčanský Hovosy, DJ DZURO, Select, Juno, Medium, and Extrém. The Čirčanský Hovosy band – in which even the Mayor performs – competed in the national round of the *Zem*

spieva folklore ensemble competition, with the aim of showcasing Rusyn culture and the life of minorities. Every summer, the village holds a two-day festival *Čirčanske lito* for the fans of Rusyn, Goral and Slovak music.

For those who crave physical activity, Čirč is an ideal starting point for a hike to Minčol, the highest mountain of the Čergov range. It offers views stretching from the High Tatras to the Pieniny range. From the edge of the village, a six-kilometre cycling trail leads through the foothills of the Čergov mountains and past Minčol to the village of Potašňa. In winter, this trail is used for cross-country skiing.

Čirč is a village where the majestic silence of the mountains vividly contrasts with the spirited rhythms of Rusyn songs – where modern life is interwoven with the traditions of its ancestors. Whether you hike to the top of Minčol for its endless views, climb the pilgrimage hill in search of spiritual peace, or visit the village for its music and warm hospitality, you will leave feeling that you have found a corner of the world where people still live fully and honestly.



Village as a Partner

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk



Region
Prešov

District
Stropkov

Population
62

Area
27 km²

Website
www.vladiča.estranky.sk

Mayor
Ján Čurpek

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk

22

Vladiča

They Say It Is a Village at the End of the World

Vladiča is located in the Low Beskids in Eastern Slovakia, 16 km from the district centre of Stropkov. To the north, the cadastral area of Vladiča borders Poland.

The first written record of Vladiča dates to 1340, referring to it as Waddisko, later Wladicza. Today's Vladiča was established in 1964 by merging the settlements of Veľká Driečna, Malá Driečna, Nižná Vladiča, Vyšná Vladiča and Suchá. The locals still refer to these parts by their original names.

Vladiča is surrounded by both steep and gently rolling wooded slopes, flowering meadows and protected areas, including Driečna and the upper section of the Chotčianka stream. The Javorový potok stream flows through Suchá, while the Chotčianka stream flows through Driečna. In the past, the Chotčianka stream served as the natural border between the Šariš and Zemplin counties. Distinctive natural features include not only the dense forests but also the Javorová dolina valley, natural springs, the Vladiča waterfall, the Carpathian brook lamprey fish inhabiting the Chotčianka stream, a protected 320-year-old lime tree, a protected bird area and the Nistor's Well from 1888 within the village. Water from the *Prameň pod Sašom* spring is of exceptional drinking quality, as tested and confirmed by the regional public health authority. Not only Vladiča residents, but also people from surrounding villages and towns come to fill their bottles.

Some buildings in Vladiča have changed their original function to recreational and cultural use – for example, the former municipal office was converted into the *Village Museum Driečna*. It exhibits chronologically arranged historical items, photographs, books and artefacts that accompanied the local people from the cradle to the grave. Another municipal building was converted into a tourist accommodation facility. Near the facility is a small water reservoir Hučok, which offers swimming and rowing, as well as an area with a gazebo where various cultural and social events, pilgrimage feasts and midsummer

bonfires take place. The New Year's Eve celebration is also held here. The place is popular not only among Slovak tourists, but also among foreign visitors, mainly from Poland, Czechia and Germany.

The *Tajomné Karpaty* equine tourism centre is a symbol of Carpathian tranquillity and power. The horse farm in Suchá offers an opportunity to ride Hutsul horses and explore the surroundings on horseback – and the view from horseback is truly unique. *Vladičský raj*, which literally translates as "Vladiča Paradise", refers to an area with more than 100 kilometres of marked trails – hiking, cycling and horse riding. The cross-border cycling trail Driečna – Pulawy, including its supporting infrastructure, connects Slovakia with Poland. In Driečna, there is an eponymous guesthouse offering accommodation, catering and other visitor services. Vladiča is part of the Green Beskids Microregion.

The area is exceptionally rich in religious heritage, as evidenced by its uniquely carved wooden Greek Catholic crosses and five Greek Catholic churches, three of which are listed as national cultural monuments: *St. Nicholas Church*, the *Church of the Ascension* and *St. Basil the Great Church*. They form part of the *Route of Carpathian Sanctuaries*, which comprises sacred monuments in 28 villages in Slovakia and Poland. This religious heritage completes the unique character of Vladiča. Here you can hear silence and see darkness, walk the paths of your ancestors, follow the old trade route to Čeremcha and the old postal route to Habura or hike to Pastovňa hill (678 metres above sea level). Vladiča is a village where you can forget your troubles, find peace and tranquillity, enjoy nights free from light pollution, rediscover its uniqueness and authenticity, and recharge your energy. All of this awaits you in a village at the end of the world that will welcome you warmly.



Special Award of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk



Region
Žilina

District
Liptovský Mikuláš

Population
1 204

Area
17.46 km²

Website
www.lubelna.sk

Mayor
Erik Gemzický

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk

24

Ľubelňa

Traditional, Modern, Ours!

The first written record of Ľubelňa dates to 1278. The village is located in the southern part of the Liptovská kotlina basin, at the foothills of the Low Tatras, 15 kilometres west of the district centre of Liptovský Mikuláš. Given its strategic position, Ľubelňa is an ideal starting point for mountain enthusiasts.

Ľubelňa makes the most of its tranquil environment by promoting gentler forms of tourism, such as cycling and light hiking in the surrounding hills. Every year, the village organises a traditional Christmas hike to the nearby Viackov hill, which has been growing in popularity.

However, what truly makes this place unique, are its people and strong sense of community. *"In some places, they have a beautiful castle, a waterfall, or a well-known lake while the others have all the amenities and a close-knit community that shapes the character of the village."* This is the case of Ľubelňa.

The local social and cultural life, built on the strong foundation of intergenerational cooperation, is thriving. It is the combination of the energy of the Ľubelňa Youth Board and the experience of the Pensioners' Association that creates the unique atmosphere of village events, naturally bringing together all generations of residents.

The main pillar of local culture is the amateur *Ľubelňa Theatre of K. O. Urban*, with a proud tradition of over a hundred years. It staged its first play in the 1922–1923 season. According to historical records, it was directed by a local teacher. Since then, the theatre has been performing without interruption. Over the course of its century-long existence, the troupe has performed 110 plays and its stage has welcomed almost 300 amateur actors under 23 directors. The 100th anniversary was celebrated at the *ĽubelňaFest* theatre festival, a traditional showcase of various theatre genres attended by amateur actors from across the country.

Besides the amateur theatre, the local social events include the *Ľubelňa Cup* and *Ľubelňský Pilus* football tournaments, the *Ľubelňa Run*, the Christmas market, the village ball, the burial of the double bass and a carnival parade – all of which are a major draw for visitors from all over Slovakia. These events not only enhance the village's appeal but also strengthen the local community.

As local residents point out, the village is both traditional and modern, serving as a natural gateway to the Low Tatras. With respect for its history, the village preserves and develops its cultural heritage, offering visitors ideal conditions not only for hiking and quality relaxation, but also for a rich cultural and social life. It is a place where the tranquil natural beauty of Liptov meets the warmth and close-knit spirit of a community that is always happy to welcome you.



Special Award of the National Evaluation Commission

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk



Region
Košice

District
Spišská Nová Ves

Population
568

Area
3,62 km²

Website
www.matejovcenad-hornadom.sk

Mayor
Ivana Hrebenárová

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk

26

Matejovce nad Hornádom

There's Always Something Going on Here

The village is located in the Spiš region, in the southern part of the Hornádska kotlina basin, on the right bank of the river Hornád. Matejovce nad Hornádom is surrounded by forests, meadows and valleys. Several springs can be found in the Pod Bučom area. The Lánik stream flows through the village, forming a natural axis that divides it into two nearly equal parts. The first written mention of the village dates back to 1320, under the name Villa Mathei – Mathew's village. Legend has it that the village's current name originates from a tale in which a shepherd named Mathew used to tend his sheep here – hence the name that roughly translates to "Mathew's sheep."

On some houses, visitors can still see preserved architectural features of traditional dwellings, such as hipped and half-hipped roofs and wooden farm buildings, which contribute to the village's distinctive character. On the other hand, there are renovated houses as well as newly built two-storey houses and bungalows. The *Mother Teresa Charitas House* has passed its final inspection and has become a home for 40 seniors. Charitas is adjacent to the village's landmark – the early Gothic *Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria*, featuring a rare oak organ with pure tin pipes, constructed without the use of nails. Notable features include a Baroque altar with a painting of St. Catherine of Alexandria from 1750 and a wooden coffered ceiling featuring a painting of Jesus with a lost sheep. Next to the church stands a historic wooden bell tower with its bells named *Catherine* (1921) and *Mother of God* (1923).

Among the attractions of Matejovce nad Hornádom is *Angelika* – a hand-operated fire pump from 1885, the only one of its kind in Slovakia that is still in working order. All of its components are original. The local volunteer fire brigade also displays it abroad, achieving impressive results in competitions.

A major asset of Matejovce nad Hornádom is the network of marked cycling and hiking trails passing through the village, with their intersection

located right in its centre. They lead to natural and cultural-historical sites not only in Matejovce nad Hornádom but also in the surrounding villages. In the wooden gazebo at the Kamienčie rest area, visitors can sample sheep's cheese and "žinčica" – sheep's milk from a local farm. During the summer months, visitors have access to a grill, a fire pit and wooden benches with a table. Among the tourist attractions is the geomorphologically significant natural formation known as *Šiklavá skala* rock, which forms a beautiful icefall on the river Hornád during winter. It is located in close proximity to the village. Also noteworthy are three well-maintained wayside crosses that are over 100 years old.

Local residents preserve traditional crafts such as blacksmithing, basket weaving, confectionery, woodcarving, folk costume sewing, herbalism, and beekeeping. Every year, the *Matejovce Summer Festival* and the *Macjofské šmaky* delicacies festival are held here, showcasing traditional foods, songs and crafts. Other events that bring the local community together include the *Fašengy v Macjofcoch*, *St. Florian's Day*, the *Šiklavá skala Run* and the *St. Nicholas and the Christmas Village*. Both locals and visitors are drawn to hiking trips up the surrounding hills, which offer views of the High Tatras, Spiš Castle and Mariánska hora hill. Every year, residents actively participate in the *Let's Clean Slovakia* initiative and in spring and autumn they organise the *Clean Village* event, during which they beautify public spaces. Matejovce nad Hornádom is where natural beauty meets rich history and a close-knit community.



Special Award of the National Evaluation Commission

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk



Region
Nitra

District
Komárno

Population
690

Area
15.9 km²

Website
www.kravany.com

Mayor
Gabriel Duka

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk

28

Kravany nad Dunajom

A Hidden Paradise in the South of Slovakia

Kravany nad Dunajom, located in southern Slovakia right on the border with Hungary, is not an ordinary village. For centuries, it was owned by the noble Tardos family, later by the Karvai family and other prominent landowners, which is why it proudly bears the title "village of manors" today. It combines the elegance of aristocratic history with the wild beauty of the Danube's natural landscape, offering a truly unique travel experience. What makes this village truly special is its close connection to the Danube. If you want to experience the river first-hand, you can rent a boat or let yourself be carried along by the waves in a truly unique vessel – a so called "double-bass boat." Thanks to their stability, these traditional vessels are exceptionally safe, even for families with children. This boat also serves as a ferry for pedestrians and cyclists to the neighbouring Hungarian village of Lábatlan. For those who love longer routes and traditions, the village also organises annual water-based events – such as a group pilgrimage by water to Esztergom or an adventurous rafting trip all the way past Budapest to the village of Leányfalu. An experience shows you the Danube in its most beautiful, untamed form.

The local promenade along the river – the *Danube Promenade* – is also among the most beautiful in the entire region. It is an ideal place for walking and cycling, as the popular international EuroVelo 6 cycling route, connecting the Atlantic Ocean with the Black Sea, passes through the village. A walk or bike ride along the Danube embankment reveals other treasures – historical ones. The Kosztics family manor house, which belonged to the Hrosso family from 1935 onward, catches the eye. In its immediate vicinity stands a statue of St. John of Nepomuk – the patron saint of bridges and protector against floods.

If you would like to see Kravany nad Dunajom and the Danube region from a bird's-eye view, you can climb the local observation tower. This unique, 17-metre-tall wooden structure on the Danube riverbank offers a breath-taking view of

the surrounding fields and forests, the Danube meanders, Hungary and the Hungarian karst mountain range Gerecse. It is a perfect photo point for every traveller. At an elevation of 108 metres above sea level, it is one of the lowest situated lookout towers.

However, Kravany nad Dunajom attracts not only history and sport enthusiasts, but also wine connoisseurs. The high number of sunny days per year and a favourable microclimate make this place ideal for growing grapevines. The local vineyard spreads across a sunny slope, where perfect conditions and careful tending allow grapes of extraordinary quality to grow. Local winemakers lovingly follow ancestral traditions and their wine cellars house liquid treasures flavoured with the southern sun. These wines are made according to the principles of natural winemaking and authentically reflect the terroir and grape variety. A glass of honest local wine enjoyed as the sun sets over the Danube is the best way to end a visit.

This village will charm you with its simple, natural beauty. If you crave the perfect combination of water, cycling, panoramic views and peaceful moments in the Danube countryside, Kravany nad Dunajom will not disappoint.



Special Award of the Slovak Environment Agency

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk



Region
Prešovský

District
Poprad

Population
2 285

Area
31,05 km²

Website
www.obecspiss-kateplica.sk

Mayor
Radoslav Šeliga

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk

30

Spišská Teplica

Water That Never Freezes, Life That Thrives

Spišská Teplica lies at the southern edge of the Popradská kotlina basin, in the tranquil embrace of nature. The Teplica stream flows through it and – according to both local residents and historical records – never freezes even in the harshest winters. The name of the village derives from the name of the stream, meaning “warm.” The cadastral area is home to multiple drinking water springs, the Spišská Teplica wetlands, forests and Natura 2000 habitats. The terrain is relatively flat.

The first written record of Spišská Teplica dates to 1280, where it is referred to as “Toplica”, though there is evidence of Palaeolithic settlement. In the Middle Ages, the Cistercian abbey in Spišský Štiavnik exerted significant economic and spiritual influence over Spišská Teplica. The Cistercian legacy is commemorated today by a calvary located in a quiet grove above the village, a popular spot for walks and contemplation. At its entrance stands the *Bench with the Most Beautiful View*, offering visitors a unique panorama of the High Tatras. *Spišská Teplica and the Cistercians* is a book exploring the historical significance of the Cistercians across Europe and in this region in particular, as well as their legacy for the present and future. The calvary, the book, the local promenade and other outcomes all stem from the Slovak-Polish cross-border Interreg project *Cistercians under the Tatras – Shared Roots and a Shared Future of Szaflary and Spišská Teplica*. Part of Spišská Teplica's historical heritage was a paper mill dating back to 1613, founded by Samuel Spillenbergh of Levoča, which shaped life in the village for more than two centuries.

The *Teplica Promenade* is a revitalised park created using natural materials, featuring black granite plaques engraved with information about the village, mounted on wooden slatted walls. Residents and visitors alike can enjoy new benches, bike racks, a water feature consisting of three small fountains and lighting; the paving is made of eco-friendly, water-permeable materials. Lawns, areas planted with a meadow mix and trees enhance the promenade's aesthetic. The

village's landmark, the *Church of the Holy Trinity* from 1838, houses a rare early Gothic statue of the Madonna of unknown provenance, dating from approximately the first half of the 14th century. Also noteworthy is a 17th-century woodcarving depicting the Last Supper. The baptismal font, dating from 1896, is made of red marble and is still in use today. The *Chapel of the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary*, the chapel in Predné diely and wayside crosses further enrich the village's spiritual character.

In the centre of Spišská Teplica, between the church and the post office, stands the *Museum of the Village*, where visitors can explore the village's cultural and historical heritage. The museum hosts creative workshops, lectures, exhibitions, discussions, seminars and features artistic depictions – rendered in a variety of techniques – of the most significant events in the village's history and the Cistercian legacy. The petroglyphs depicting historical events on the museum's façade are a unique artistic feature of the museum.

The village has a well-developed infrastructure: an elementary school, a kindergarten, a community centre, a library, sports facilities, a cultural centre, a fire station, restaurants and accommodation. Local businesses provide their products and services not only to local residents but also to the wider surrounding area.

The *Teplica Fair* is an unforgettable experience – a showcase of traditions, crafts, and local creativity. A cycle path runs through the village, ideal for discovering the beauty of this unique place. Spišská Teplica is not only a place with a rich history, but also a vibrant, modern village that preserves its identity, fosters community life and looks to the future. Spišská Teplica is bustling with activity.



Special Award of the Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk

European Village Renewal Award

The European Village Renewal Award has been presented by the European Working Group for Rural Development and Village Renewal (ARGE) since 1990. Its primary aim is to identify significant and exemplary processes in rural development and village renewal and to recognise them through selected projects. In doing so, it considers the initial conditions, the economic and socio-cultural context and the specific standards and characteristics of the country in question. The most important criterion is that projects and processes align with the Concept for the Sustainable Development of European Villages and Communities of the European Working Community for Rural Development and Village Renewal, contribute to strengthening the long-term viability of rural areas and raise their standard of living.

The competition primarily recognises municipalities that have risen to meet current challenges through innovative projects focused on sustainability and comprehensive development. They involve all segments of the population in local affairs, thereby gaining new perspectives and a wider range of ideas. They emphasise collaboration and therefore actively utilise local networks as well as regional partnerships. A key evaluation criterion is the municipality's ability to leverage its potential and respond flexibly to the challenges and opportunities arising throughout the renewal process.

Awards:

- **European Village Renewal Award** – winner
- **Gold Tier** – awarded to competitors who tackle the current challenges of their region through sustainable, innovative and forward-looking projects, who have initiated comprehensive, high-quality development processes
- **Silver Tier** – awarded to competitors with notable achievements across multiple areas of community development, the majority of which have been evaluated positively
- **Bronze Tier** – awarded to competitors with notable achievements in individual areas of community development
- **Special Awards** – granted for exceptional, pioneering projects in specific thematic areas or for projects of a methodological nature
- **Honourable Mention** – awarded to competitors

who have not received one of the main awards in recognition of their participation and effort

Conditions of Participation

Each region may nominate only one village, rural community (consisting of one or more rural settlements, villages, hamlets or cadastral units) or inter-municipal association (consisting of two or more rural communities), if the total population does not exceed 20,000.

The primary right to nominate competitors lies with the authorities responsible for village renewal and rural development in the respective countries and regions. Non-governmental organisations and other bodies may also submit nominations.

Methods and Strategies:

- Residents' own initiatives and cooperation
- Interaction between residents, politicians and village administration
- Cooperation at municipal and regional levels
- Public-private partnerships and collaboration
- Expert involvement in conceptualisation, consultancy, planning and process guidance
- Coherence and integrity

Thematic Areas and Goals:

- **Ecology** – responsible use of resources in line with the circular economy, use of renewable raw materials, production of renewable energy, environmental protection, promotion of biodiversity, climate protection and adaptation to climate change
- **Economy** – strengthening employment opportunities that benefit the region, as well as climate-resilient organic farming and forestry, enhancement of the cultural landscape and promotion of regional value chains
- **Society** – creating modern social institutions, promoting education and lifelong learning, inclusion, as well as healthcare; enhancing the public good and ensuring the participation of all generations, genders, nationalities and minorities in economic, social and cultural life
- **Ensuring sustainable and long-term availability of public services** – in local utilities, mobility and

communications infrastructure, leveraging the opportunities offered by digitalisation

- **Preservation, renovation and sustainable revitalisation** – of existing buildings as well as new construction – with a particular emphasis on quality, resource conservation and the architectural traditions typical of the region; preservation, modern development and creation of the cultural landscape, as well as open, green and public spaces
- **Support** – for artistic engagement, sports activities and high-quality recreational activities; the preservation, maintenance and further development of cultural heritage



www.landentwicklung.org

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk

Villages Awarded in Previous Editions

of the Village of the Year Competition

2023

1st place Korňa (District Čadca)

Village as a Manager

Veľké Ripňany (District Topoľčany)

Village as a Partner

Spišské Tomášovce (District Spišská Nová Ves)

Village as a Painting

Rakovo (District Martin)

Village as a Treasury

Čičmany (District Žilina)

Award of the General Partner – COOP Jednota Slovensko, Consumer Cooperative

Bzince pod Javorinou (District Nové Mesto nad Váhom)

Award of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Necpaly (District Martin)

Special Award of the National Evaluation Commission

Benkovce (District Vranov nad Topľou)

2021

1st place Kláštor pod Znievom (District Martin)

2nd place Kocurany (District Prievidza)

3rd place Sedliská (District Vranov nad Topľou)

Village as a Manager

Lom nad Rimavicou (District Brezno)

Village as a Painting

Blatnica (District Martin)

Village as a Treasury

Šumiac (District Brezno)

Beckov (District Nové Mesto nad Váhom)

Village as a Community

Lúčka (District Svidník)

Village as a Partner

Dlhé Klčovo (District Vranov nad Topľov)

Village as a Host

Pukanec (District Levice)

Village as a Garden

Vinosady (District Pezinok)

Award of the General Partner – COOP Jednota Slovensko, Consumer Cooperative

Priepasné (District Myjava)

Award of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Štiavnické Bane (District Banská Štiavnica)

Special Award

Buzica (District Košice-okolie)

2019

1st place Papradno (District Považská Bystrica)

2nd place Svätý Anton (District Banská Štiavnica)

3rd place Raslavice (District Bardejov)

Village as a Manager

Lúky (District Púchov)

Village as a Painting

Domaňovce (District Levoča)

Village as a Treasury

Beluj (District Banská Štiavnica)

Krivany (District Sabinov)

Village as a Community

Bolešov (District Ilava)

Village as a Partner

Tvrdošovce (District Nové Zámky)

Village as a Garden

Tvrdošovce (District Nové Zámky)

Award of the General Partner – COOP Jednota Slovensko, Consumer Cooperative

Pobedim (District Nové Mesto nad Váhom)

Special Award

Jesenské (District Levice)

2017

1st place Oravská Polhora (District Námestovo)

2nd place Zemné (District Nové Zámky)

3rd place Blatnica (District Martin)

Village as a Manager

Spišské Tomášovce (District Spišská Nová Ves)

Village as a Painting

Miklušovce (District Prešov)

Village as a Treasury

Hronsek (District Banská Bystrica)

Pohorelá (District Brezno)

Village as a Community

Nižná Voľa (District Bardejov)

Village as a Partner

Čirč (District Stará Ľubovňa)

Nižný Hrušov (District Vranov nad Topľou)

Village as a Host

Vinné (District Michalovce)

Special Award

Horný Tisovník (District Detva)

Award of the General Partner – COOP Jednota Slovensko, Consumer Cooperative

Bátovce (District Levice)

Public Internet Vote

Čirč (District Stará Ľubovňa)

2015

1st place Spišský Hrhov (District Levoča)

2nd place Bošáca (District Nové Mesto nad Váhom)

3rd place Kapušany (District Prešov)

Village as a Manager

Muránska Dlhá Lúka (District Revúca)

Village as a Treasury

Klátova Nová Ves (District Partizánske)

Lúčky (District Ružomberok)

Village as a Community

Dúbrava (District Levoča)

Village as a Partner

Tuchyňa (District Ilava)

Village as a Host

Vyhne (District Žiar nad Hronom)

Special Award

Píla (District Pezinok)

Public Internet Vote

Tuchyňa (District Ilava)

2013

1st place Malé Dvorníky (District Dunajská Streda)

2nd place Špania Dolina (District Banská Bystrica)

3rd place Pruské (District Ilava)

Village as a Manager

Jablonka (District Myjava)

Village as a Painting

Badán (District Banská Štiavnica)

Village as a Treasury

Sebechleby (District Krupina)

Village as a Community

Pavlovce nad Uhom (District Michalovce)

Village as a Partner

Šarovce (District Levice)

Village as a Host

Blatnica (District Martin)

Village as a Garden

Bošáca (District Nové Mesto nad Váhom)

Special Award

Kechnec (District Košice-okolie)

Public Internet Vote

Dubník (District Nové Zámky)

Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk

2011

1st place Oravská Lesná (District Námestovo)

2nd place Pruské (District Ilava)

3rd place Hervartov (District Bardejov)

Village as a Manager

Cigeľ (District Prievidza)

Village as a Treasury

Heľpa (District Brezno)

Village as a Community

Bajany (District Michalovce)

Miklušovce (District Prešov)

Village as a Partner

Jasenica (District Považská Bystrica)

Village as a Garden

Horný Hričov (District Žilina)

Public Internet Vote

Heľpa (District Brezno)

2009

1st place Dobrá Niva (District Zvolen)

2nd place Prenčöv (District Banská Štiavnica)

3rd place Mošovce (District Turčianske Teplice)

Village as a Manager

Trenčianska Turná (District Trenčín)

Village as a Treasury

Malá Trňa (District Trebišov)

Village as a Community

Slovenská Ľupča (District Banská Bystrica)

Village as a Partner

Malé Dvorníky (District Dunajská Streda)

Award for Care

of Green Spaces and the Environment

Hontianske Moravce (District Krupina)

Korytárky (District Detva)

Special Award

Pruské (District Ilava)

Public Internet Vote

Okoličná na Ostrove (District Komárno)

Special Award of the Slovak Tourist Board

Mošovce (District Turčianske Teplice)

2007

1st place Liptovská Teplička (District Poprad)

2nd place Očová (District Zvolen)

3rd place Pruské (District Ilava)

Village as a Manager

Štrba (District Poprad)

Village as a Treasury

Raslavice (District Bardejov)

Uhrovec (District Bánovce nad Bebravou)

Village as a Community

Medzibrod (District Banská Bystrica)

Moravany nad Váhom (District Piešťany)

Village as a Partner

Uhrovec (District Bánovce nad Bebravou)

Village as a Host

Štrba (District Poprad)

Award for Care

of Green Spaces and the Environment

Semerovo (District Nové Zámky)

Special Award

Spišský Hrhov (District Levoča)

Public Internet Vote

Medzibrod (District Banská Bystrica)

2005

1st place Vlachovo (District Rožňava)

2nd place Čierny Balog (District Brezno)

3rd place Semerovo (District Nové Zámky)

Village as a Manager

Pruské (District Ilava)

Village as a Painting

Čečejevce (District Košice-okolie)

Village as a Community

Pribeľce (District Veľký Krtíš)

Village as a Partner

Poproč (District Košice-okolie)

Village as a Host

Slovenský Grob (District Pezinok)

**Award for Care
of Green Spaces and the Environment**

Suchá nad Parnou (District Trnava)

Special Award

Žalobín (District Vranov nad Topľou)

2003

Winner

Hrušov (District Veľký Krtíš)

Village as a Manager

Ostratice (District Partizánske)

Village as a Painting

Nižná Boca (District Liptovský Mikuláš)

Village as a Treasury

Liptovské Sliače (District Ružomberok)

Village as a Community

Malý Kamenec (District Trebišov)

Village as a Partner

Dvorianky (District Trebišov)

Environmental Care Award

Turčianska Štiavnička (District Martin)

Human Potential Development Award

Lúčka (District Rožňava)

Cultural Traditions Development Award

Rejdová (District Rožňava)

2001

First edition of the Village of the Year

Winner

Soblahov (District Trenčín)

Human Potential Development Award

Brdárka (District Rožňava)

Cultural Traditions Development Award

Bukovce (District Stropkov)

Human Potential Development Award

Semerovo (District Nové Zámky)

Cultural Traditions Development Award

Slovenský Grob (District Pezinok)

Environmental Care Award

Soblahov (District Trenčín)

Organiser:



General Partner:



Main Media
Partner:



Media Partners:



Competition
Ambassador:



Village of the Year 2025
www.dedinaroka.sk

Village of the Year

2025

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