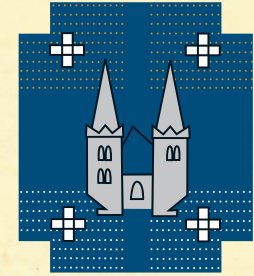


SPIŠ JERUSALEM

CALVARIO JERUSALEM





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In the *Spišská Kapitula (Spiš Canonry)* and in the area called Pažica the professionals have discovered a unique concept of the territory that reminds of ancient Jerusalem. Original hypothesis claimed by landscape experts on the existence of “Spišský Jeruzalem” was confirmed either by historians. In the times when pilgrimage to the Holy Land was problematic due to the war with the Turks, this complex should have enabled believers the purest experience of Calvary. There is no other analogy of such symbolic complex in Slovakia. The Košice Self - governing Region in cooperation with the Prešov Self - governing Region, Spiš Bishopric and the town of Spišské Podhradie take part in actions in order to access the unique „Spišský Jeruzalem“ to the public. This project is part of the Terra Incognita Program that is prepared by The Košice Self - governing Region as part of the European Capital of Culture - Košice 2013 Program.

The beginning of the activities associated with *Spišský Jeruzalem (Spiš Jerusalem)* was initiated by a unique discovery in 2002, when the landscape expert Doc. Ing. Peter Jančura Phd. discovered a symbolic Calvary frame on *Spišská Pažica (Spiš Pažica)*. Urban – architecture study of religious countryside for the Košice Self-governing Region was developed by the ARLAND Company (www.arland.sk).

Symbolic places of “*Spišský Jeruzalem*” (*Spiš Jerusalem*) in *Spišská Kapitula (Spiš Canonry)*, locality of Pažica and Sivá Brada are located in the UNESCO world cultural heritage site. This historic pilgrimage place, in the background of which the *Spišský hrad (Spiš Castle)* perks, is situated along a former important medieval road „Via magna“ in the present on the tourist route of the Gothic Road. The area of the „*Spišský Jeruzalem*“ begins at *Katedrála sv. Martina (the St. Martin Cathedral)* in the Spišská Kapitula (Spiš Canonry) and finishes at the *St. Cross Chapel on the hill of Sivá Brada*. The discovery

of the consciously shaped religious symbolic landscape probably the oldest (the construction is dated back to 1666) Calvary in Slovakia in the area of *Pažica* enriched the central *Spiš* area that is famous for its gorgeous cultural and natural heritage. Chapels' arrangement ranks it to the type of Calvario Jerusalem with marked sites associated with the events of the last two days of Jesus Christ's life and death in Jerusalem.

Juraj (George) Barsony the *Spiš* provost (1663-1675), later bishop of Eger and the members of the Society of Jesus – the Jesuits who worked there from the early 17th century to 1773, played a vital role in the chapels' system development in *Pažica* area. They probably were inspired by the construction of the *Kalwaria Zebrzydowska* in Poland that was built by analogy with the whereabouts of Jesus in the last days of his life in Jerusalem. In 1647 the Jesuits established a school in the *Spišská Kapitula* (*Spiš Canonry*), lead moral and philosophic discourses in the Slovak language, played theatre plays and sacraments. Sacraments (religious plays) lasted even several days performing the part of the Gospels describing the Last Supper, capture, trial of Christ, his death and burial. Sacraments were played before Easter and during the Holy week.

Pažica's oldest monument is the archaeological locality where there are located the foundations of the former *St. Martin (Benedictine?) Monastery* dated back to 11th century. The monastery played an important role in evangelization, education and culture development of the north-eastern Slovakia. In the project it presents the house of high priest *Annas*.

In the project the *St. Martin Cathedral* in the *Spišská Kapitula* (*Spiš Canonry*) represents the Eucharist place – the place of the Last Supper of Christ. One part of the Cathedral is dated back to the 13th century. In 1462-1478 the west Romanesque part and the eastern part – the nave were reconstructed in Gothic style. Later funerary chapel in the Gothic style, was built by *Štefan Zápoľský* (1493-1499), then the lord of the *Spišský hrad* (*Spiš castle*).

Bishops residence in the *Spišská Kapitula* (*Spiš Canonry*) represents the house of the High Priest *Caiaphas* – the meeting place of the Great Sanhedrin. The ground floor of the Eastern wing of the building dates back 13th century. Over centuries it was reconstructed several times. When the *Spišská Kapitula* (*Spiš Canonry*) became the Bishop residence it was rebuilt in the Baroque style (1777-1780) into its present appearance.

St. Rozalia Chapel in *Pažica* built in 1669 represents *Herod's palace*. *St. Rozalia* is the patroness of plague and cholera. The Chapel was visited by pilgrims and processions.

St. Francis Xavier Chapel in *Pažica* built in 1669 represents in the project the *Fortress Antonia* – the seat of *Pilate*. The Chapel was visited by numerous pilgrims with a plea for healing.





On the top of *Siva Brada* hill according to a legend there had been a wooden cross since ancient times. At the same place in 1675 there was built **St. Cross Chapel**. There were held large processions with the participation of provosts, the Collegiate Canonry, the aristocracy from neighbourhood and worshippers from afar. It represents **Golgotha** - Christ's crucifixion place.

Small Chapels - **God tortures** are located on the northern and southern edge of *Pažica*. Currently, there are seven of them. They are placed on rocky ridges, back turned to Calvary with niches directed to the road. Paintings showing the life of Jesus Christ were placed in these Chapels. In the project they indicate the imaginary **walls of Jerusalem**.

Another important finding is some documents on **ponds and a park southeast of the village of Jablonov** behind the *Vavrinec* spring, which indicates the **garden of Gethsemane**. For a great pity this part disappeared. However, the stream of *Vavrinec* has not changed, and evokes the brook Kidron flowing through the valley along the old City walls of old Jerusalem.

The distance between chapels is the same as it was between the places in the time of last days of Christ's life. Almost in 1:1 size. General configuration of the terrain, travertine rocks, chapels, roadside altars and prevailing black pines are the descent scope of the "*Spišský Jeruzalem*", evoking the nature of Palestine and Israel.

In the case of "*Spišský Jeruzalem*" the topography will be up-to-date, if you turn the medieval map of Jerusalem 90° counter clockwise and compare it with the map of the "*Spišský Jeruzalem*".

Christians for centuries went to Jerusalem, to the Holy Sepulchre in order to walk the same path as Christ walked. During the wars with Turkey (from the 11th cent.) the pilgrimage was impossible. Crusader armies brought information and descriptions of Jerusalem. It is supposed to be the basis of the Calvarias creation. Believers who wanted to think of the suffering of Jesus Christ went to Calvary. For the same reason they went to the "*Spišský Jeruzalem*" too.

Current "*Spišský Jeruzalem*" is not just a beautiful place worth photographing, hiking walks, exploring the protected area or history, but it is also a place for contemplation and meditation. Also today's tourists, a passer-by or a pilgrim experiences a touch of the prayer space, feel the genius loci „*Spišský Jeruzalem*".

Long tour

Route 1 – Last Supper, institution of the Eucharist (St. Martin's Cathedral) – way to the brook Kidron - Jesus prays on the Mount of Olives in Gethsemane (Jablonov – Rybníky site).

Route 2 – Gethsemane – Jesus' capture (Jablonov - Rybníky site) – Jesus being taken to the house of high priest Annas (archaeological location – Benedictine Monastery) – Peter denies Jesus.

Route 3 – Jesus opposite the High Priest Caiaphas and facing the Sanhedrin (Bishop's Palace) – Jesus facing Pilate (St. Francis Xavier Chapel – Fortress Antonia)

Route 4 – Pilate (St. Francis Xavier Chapel) sends Jesus to Herod (St. Rozalia Chapel) – Jesus opposite Herod.

Route 5 – Jesus taken from Herod's Palace (St. Rozalia Chapel) back to Pretoria – Jesus again in front of Pilate (St. Francis Xavier Chapel) – Jesus' Condemnation.

Route 6 – Calvary – from Pilate (St. Francis Xavier Chapel) to Golgotha (St. Cross Chapel), Jesus carries his cross, crucifixion, Jesus dying on the cross, Jesus' burial

Short tour

Calvary – from Pilate (St. Francis Xavier Chapel) to Golgotha (St. Cross Chapel), Jesus carries his cross, crucifixion, Jesus dying on the cross, Jesus' burial

Documents:

Urban – architecture study of religious countryside of Spišský Jeruzalem (ARLAND Ltd – May 2011)

Mgr. Vladimír Olejník: set of chapels and Calvary at Spišská Kapitula (Spiš Canonry) in the UNESCO world heritage site (archive Research 2011).

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Jablonov, Rybníky



St. Cross Chapel



St. Francis Xavier Chapel



St. Rozalia Chapel

Benedictine Monastery



St. Martin's Cathedral
Spišská Kapitula

Bishop's Palace

CAPTION

Long tour

- Route 1
- Route 2
- Route 3
- Route 4
- Route 5
- Route 6

Short route

— Jerusalem City Walls



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