SLOVAK FAIRS AND MARKETS

Autumn is an integral part of the annual fairs in many Slovak towns and villages. The popular cultural and social event respects the tradition of handicrafts, offers a rich folklore program and attracts visitors to traditional fairies.

The history of the oldest fairs in Slovakia dates back to the 13th century, when they were allowed to be organized only by privileged cities. Ordinary fairs were actually markets where everyone could sell or buy everything they needed to live. People could buy all kinds of goods, leather boots, hens or other animals, dried herbs, ceramics or sweet gingerbread hearts. The main objective was to sell or exchange goods, domestic animals or agricultural crops. Later, this tradition was linked to a specific date that had multiple functions. In addition to trading, people enjoyed music and dance entertainment, puppet theatres, competitions and other attractions. The tradition was to buy "fair", when the young men bought gingerbreads, scarves or painted saucers for their chosen ones. Farmers and craftsmen from other regions also came to the big annual fairs. Visitors could buy various things from tinkers, potters, shoemakers, or people who made gingerbread.

At present, Slovak fairs enjoy the same popularity and attendance. Tradition fair is held in Nová Baňa every year during last weekend in September. The historical atmosphere is enhanced by stalls with traditional products made of shale, straw or wood, there are stalls with good food, drinks and various sweets. Performances of folklore ensembles and musicians are very popular. Our school prepares the typical Slovak food – salty pancakes filled with meat stuffing, roasted fish and roasted meat. Our students and their teachers prepared delicious food in the school canteen and sell it in the stall at the market.