

# National traditions

Slovakia

# Bee-keeping and honey-picking

- Honey - the favourite sweetener of the Slavs and mead was mentioned in the first written documents about the Slavs.
- Honey-picking from wild bees on the territory of Slovakia is historically proved from 5th century
- Bee-keeping developed from honey-picking. It meant replacing tree trunks with colonies of bees closer to people's dwellings
- Traditional Slovak mead can be tasted or bought at every historical fair





# Lace-making

- Lace - the typical adornment of clothes, accessories, handkerchiefs and other decoration objects
- Bobbin-lace-making for sale spread on the Slovak territory in the second half of the 16th century
- From 17th century lace-making developed especially in the mining regions as an important supplementary occupation
- Today one can find lace-making in Špania Dolina where laces can even be bought.





# Embroidery

- The first embroidery guilds were founded in the 15th century
- The development of folk embroidery culminates in the second half of the 19th and early 20 century
- The Slovak folk embroidery is characterized by richness of colour and techniques, designs and ornamental compositions
- Embroidery - the dominant decorative element on folk costumes and one of the signs of regional differentiation





# Mountain sheep farming

- Mountain sheep farming was introduced in our area with Valachian settlers coming primarily to central Slovakia in the 15th century
- Sheep farming, i. e. breeding sheep for wool, milk and milk products such as cheese, bryndza and žinčica, developed in those areas.
- Sheep farm workers could be commonly recognised by wide multi-buckle belts, embellished bags and other items of everyday use.
- Other typical products included musical instruments such as pipes, bagpipes and, of course, the fujara that has been entered in the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- Bryndzové halušky - Slovak national meal, bryndza (unsalted sheep cheese first let to mature, then salted and rolled into lumps





# Wool processing

- The basic materials of the Slovak textil production were until recently linen, hemp and wool.
- In Slovakia, the craft of weaving has ancient history.
- Handmade fabrics were an integral part of clothing and home furnishings
- Colour and model combinations, various materials characterized different regions of Slovakia.



# Pottery

- Ceramics making from baked clay belong to the oldest occupations in Slovakia and for archaeologists the fragments of ceramics are a lead to dating particular cultures.
- Potters worked especially in winter and sold their goods at markets and fairs (haban culture).
- Gradually, centres of ceramics making developed from folk pottery centres like Modra (Majolica), Pozdišovce.
- Many of them carry on with the tradition even today.
- In Modra tourists can visit a factory producing Majolica and they can try and make their own pieces.





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# Processing of metal

- Tinkering was a specific Slovak craft and Slovak tinkers, who made their living by mending the kitchen ware, tinkering, making and selling products from tinplate and wires, travelled all over Europe and Russia.
- The origins of this occupation, which involved a lot of travelling, date from 18th and 19th centuries.

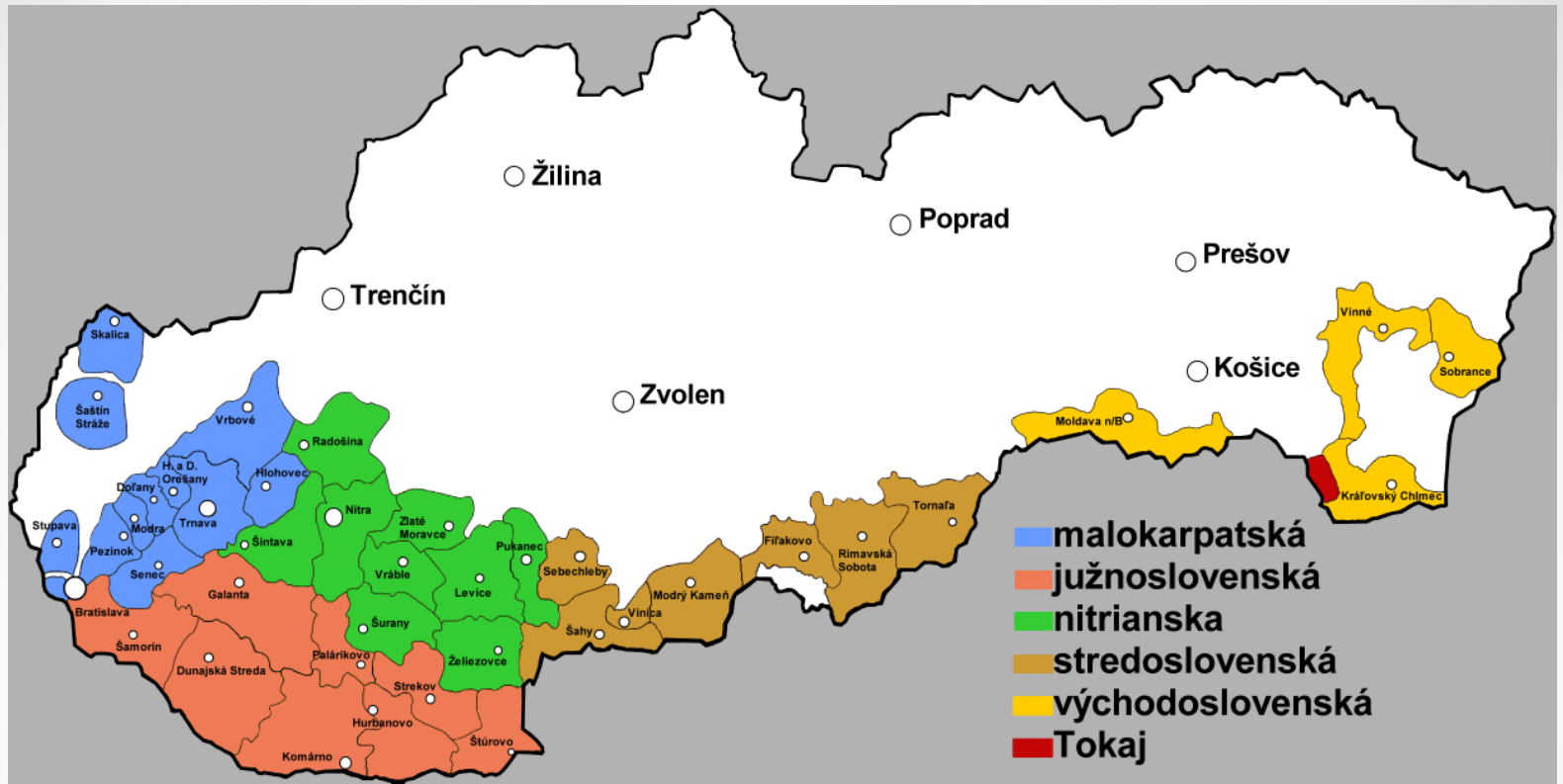


# Wine-growing

- The first vineyards on the territory of Slovakia were founded by the Romans and the unique archaeological findings of the wine-grower's knives date from 7th century.
- Various customs are connected to the wine-growing tradition; e.g. decorating the statue of St. Urban, the patron saint of wine-growers.
- Gradually wine-growing became more important and wine became an important commercial and export article.

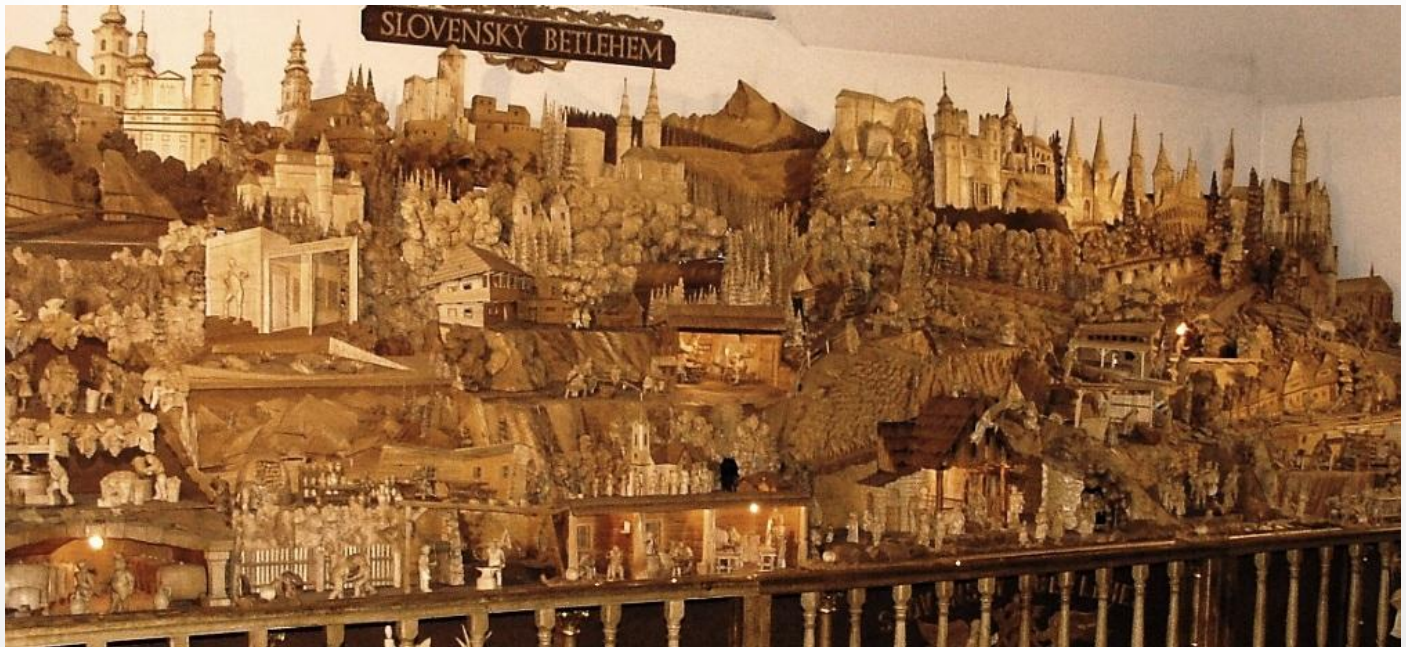






# Wood carving

- The wood carving craft became one of the most exquisite crafts in Slovakia.
- Shepherds decorated their sticks and tools and carved special jugs called črpák, miners made various wooden figures, millers decorated their mill equipment and bee-keepers were known for their figure-shaped beehives.
- New craft – carving of Christmas cribs – has found its way in Slovakia.
- The beautiful and various products of wood-carving can be seen at folk and historical markets and are counted among popular Slovak souvenirs.



# Basketry

- Wicker was the most common material used in basketry in the past as well.
- Straw was the second most widely used material.
- Basket weaving from straw was spread on the whole territory of Slovakia.



# 12 Things You Can Only Ever Buy in Slovakia

- Traditional folk embroidered clothing
- Decorated wooden crosses
- Slovak wine
- Honey products
- Slivovica
- Valaška, an ornamental shepherd's axe used for ceremonies
- Bryndza cheese
- A shot glass to wear around your neck
- Corn husk dolls
- Herbal teas
- Tatratea
- Horalky





# Customs in Slovakia

- Burning of Morena (two weeks before Easter)



- Christmas (24th - 26th December)





# Customs in Slovakia

- Easter whipping or bathing (March or April)



- Epiphany (6th January)

# Customs in Slovakia

- Lucia (13th December)



- Midsummer Night's Bonfires (23rd – 24th June night)

# Customs in Slovakia

- Putting up of the maypoles (1st May)



- St. Nicholas' Day (6th December)

# Resources

- <http://slovakia.travel/en/things-to-see-and-do/traditions-and-gastronomy/handicrafts>
- <http://www.welcometobratislava.eu/uluv-galleries-and-shop/>
- <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/slovakia/articles/12-souvenirs-you-can-only-buy-in-slovakia/>
- <http://www.slovakiasite.com/folklore.php>
- <https://www.slovakia.com/folklore/>
- <http://slovakia.travel/en/things-to-see-and-do/traditions-and-gastronomy/traditions>

