

Most of the burgher houses in the square have medieval cores. As the requirements of the townspeople increased, these houses were rebuilt and modified on several occasions. One original medieval stone building with a unique appearance, situation and history is the Executioner's House (Katov dom) and its upper floor external passage way. It stands on a slope above the town, on the approach road to the castle.

In the 17th century, Trenčín became one of the centres of the recatholicization movement in the north-western region of the Hungarian Kingdom. As part of this movement, the Jesuit Order built an extensive complex on the town square in the period 1653–1657; the largest historic site in the town, it is dominated by the twin-steeple Church and Monastery of St Francis Xavier (including a school). The complex was gradually extended and major construction work was last carried out on it at the beginning of the 20th century.

The statue of the Holy Trinity, known as the "Plague Column", stands in the centre of Mierové námestie (Peace square); it was erected in 1712 by Count Nicolaus Illeshazy to commemorate the end of a plague epidemic. The town palace with arcaded courtyard, originally belonging to the Illeshazy family, is situated in the north-eastern part of Mierové námestie, next to where the Upper Gate once stood; in 1764 it was converted for use as the County House (Župný dom) and is now the main building of Trenčín Museum. At the start of the 20th century, the Art Nouveau four-storey Tatra Hotel was built below the castle rock. In 1913, the large Jewish community built an imposing synagogue on Stúrové námestie square, on the site of some older buildings, in a historicising style that combines Byzantine and Oriental elements.



The town's two landmarks:
Castle and Parish Church of the Birth of the Virgin Mary

Coin details

Denomination: **20 euro**

Material: **Ag 925/1000**
Cu 75/1000

Weight: **33,63 g**

Diameter: **40 mm**

Edge: relief inscription:

"NAJKRAJŠIE HISTORICKÉ MESTÁ" ("Most beautiful historical towns"), preceded by a dividing mark in the form of a stylised key

Mintage: limited to a maximum of **20,000 pieces**

Designers: obverse side – **Karol Ličko**, reverse side – **Miroslav Rónai**

Engraver: **Dalibor Schmidt**

Producer: **Kremnica Mint**

The obverse side of the coin depicts Trenčín Castle along with a fragment of the Roman inscription written on the castle rock and an outline of the ramparts. In the lower part of the coin is the national emblem of the Slovak Republic, positioned below the year "2012" and above the country designation "SLOVENSKO". On the right edge are the stylised letters "KL", the initials of the obverse side's designer Karol Ličko.

On the reverse side there is a design of the Trenčín Historical Preservation Area as viewed from above, showing major architectural landmarks such as the castle and triangular square. Along the left-hand edge are the words "PAMIATKOVÁ REZERVÁCIA" ("Historical Preservation Area") and along the right-hand edge is the name "TRENČÍN". The denomination "20 EURO" appears in the lower-left part of the coin. Also in the lower part are the mintmark of Kremnica Mint and the stylised letters "MR", the initials of the reverse side's designer Miroslav Rónai.



Published by: © Národná banka Slovenska, February 2012

Photo: Štefan Kačena, Bedrich Schreiber

Cover photo: Trenčín Castle

<http://www.nbs.sk/en/banknotes-and-coins/euro-coins/collector-coins>



Historical
Preservation Area of
TRENČÍN
Silver Collector Coin



The town of Trenčín, by virtue of its strategic location, was destined to play a significant role in Slovak history. Growing up at a crossroads of trading routes, Trenčín became prosperous and its inhabitants acquired increasing wealth and power. The castle walls remain intact to this day, and the churches, palatial residences and burgher houses also provide a reminder of the town's former glory. The compact historic centre of Trenčín is well preserved and it was declared a Historical Preservation Area in 1987.

The most outstanding feature of Trenčín's unique skyline is the castle and its extensive grounds. It stands on a rock that bears a Roman inscription written in AD 179, which commemorates victory over the Germanic Quadi tribes and makes reference to wintering in Laugaricio (the Roman name for Trenčín). Based on this evidence, Trenčín can be included among the European town and cities that trace their origins back to antiquity.

Archaeological finds have proved that the castle rock site was settled at least as far back as 2,000 BC. Some time later, Slav tribes took advantage of its natural shelter; the remnants of their settlement include the foundations of a prince's chapel and of a four-apse rotunda built in the 11th century. The original royal border castle, guarding a key crossing over the Váh River, came under the ownership of the Csaky family towards the end of the 13th century. The most

prominent member of this family, Matthias Csaky, enlarged the castle and made it the centre of his extensive dominion. He also gave his name to the castle tower – Mathias's Tower – one of the town's most striking landmarks. Adjoining the tower are three palatial residences built in the 15th and 16th centuries for, respectively, Sigmund of Luxembourg, Louis the Great, and Jadwiga of Teschen, the wife of Stephen Zapolsky. The castle was gradually extended and modified and now stands as one of the largest in Slovakia. In 1790, the castle was badly damaged by a fire and remained in a state of disrepair until the second half of the 20th century. The condition of the castle today is testament to the conservation and restoration work that has been carried out for more than half a century. Today the castle is used by Trenčín Museum for exhibition purposes.



The settlement grew up by the river crossing below the castle, next to the trade route that follows the flow of the river. After being granted town privileges in the 14th century, Trenčín was able to hold markets in its large triangular market square. In 1412, the Hungarian king Sigmund of Luxembourg granted Trenčín the status of free royal town, including the right to store goods, to exercise judicial power, and to build fortifications. As a result, Trenčín became one of the most important towns in the Hungarian Kingdom. Fortifications were built up around the town during the 15th century and they were connected to the outer walls of

the castle ramparts. The entrances to the town were guarded by two town gates, including the Lower Gate (Dolná brána), which was built in 1543 and is now one of town's major landmarks. Also dating from this period are the Parish Steps (Farské schody), which go from the square to the town's second landmark – the fortified Gothic Parish Church of the Birth of the Virgin Mary. Not far from this church is a Gothic chapel with St Michael's charnel house. The chapel is (after the castle) the best-preserved medieval building in the town and it is joined to the town fortifications.



Church and Monastery of St Francis Xavier (1653-1657)



Plague Column (1712)



Lower Gate (1543)



Jewish Synagogue (1913)