

An aerial view of Stará Ľubovňa castle, a large stone fortress with a prominent tower, situated on a hillside. The sun is setting behind the castle, casting a warm glow over the scene. The surrounding landscape is lush green with dense forests and rolling hills.

Stará Ľubovňa castle



The beginning of the castle

- The Stará Ľubovňa castle was built in the 13th century by the Hungarian king Andrew III. on a limestone hill (711 m a.s.l.) above a small town Stará Ľubovňa (previously named Libenow), which was first mentioned in 1292. The first written mention of the castle goes back to the year 1311.
- The castle was built to expand the influence of Hungary (instead of Poland) in the region of Spiš and to protect trade routes to Poland.

History 14-15th century

- In the years 1308 - 1312 the castle belonged to the family of Omodej, and since 1315 to the Drugeth.
- From 1342 until the end of the 14th century the castle was administered by royal castellans. In 1412, together with the 13 Spiš towns and manor Ľubovňa and Podolíneč castle got into the Polish part. The Ľubovňa Castle was the seat of the mayors of the backed up towns.





History 15-16th century

- In 1432 and 1451 it was damaged during the Hussite wars, in 1553 it almost got destroyed by a large fire.
- After a fire, the Polish sovereign Sigismund II. Augustus ordered the castle be renovated.

History 17th century

- From 1655 until 1661 Polish crown jewels were hidden in the castle during Sweden – Polish war.
- In 1656 the castle was visited by Polish king Jan II. Sobieski.
- In December 1683 was castle visited by Polish king Jan III. Sobieski, who returned after the defeat of the Ottomans in Vienna.



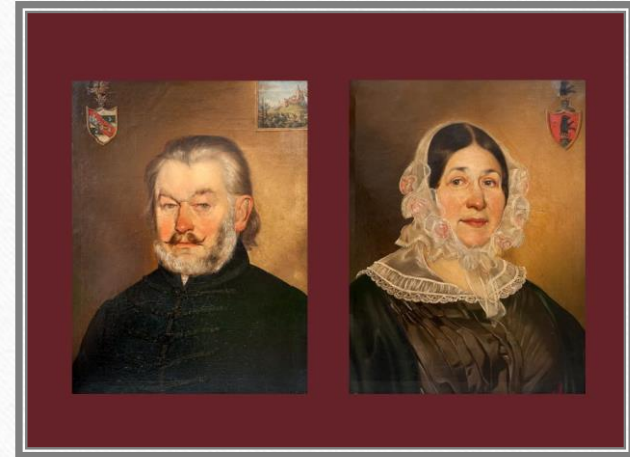
18th century



- The most famous prisoner of the castle was Móríc Beňovský, later called King of Madagascar, who was imprisoned in the castle in 1768.
- In the 1772 impawned towns were returned back to Hungarians and Hungarian monarch, Maria Theresa, abolished Spiš pledge of 1412. The castle was used as barracks later as storage until 1819.

19-20th century

- After the state sold the castle to the Hungarian nobleman G. F. Raisz, it fell into the hands of the Raisz family and was owned until 1880.
- Two years later it belonged to the Polish noble family of Zamoyski until 1945. Thanks to them the chapel was reconstructed in 1930. The castle was also used as a school.
- In 1945 the state took ownership of the castle. In 1966 a museum was established and built thanks to Andrej Čepiššák. From 1971 to 1989, archaeological research took place.
- At present the castle is still being repaired.



Reconstructions and changes



- Change of the position of the castle in 1412 has caused serious intervention to its architecture. In the 1553, the castle was stricken by huge fire. It's reconstruction began in 1555 under the mayor Ján Boner, until 1557. It was enriched with Renaissance elements. The castle was extensively renovated and expanded, paying great attention to the anti-Turkish Renaissance fortress. Anton Italicus built the newest and the most modern western bastion in that time.
- In the years 1620-1647 happened baroque reconstruction of castle and in 1647 was built a new entrance gate, eastern bastion, early-baroque palace and a chapel and a third courtyard. A great reconstruction of the castle was in the charge of Viennese architect Pochsberger
- Wife of Albert III. Maria Josephine ordered the reconstruction of the castle. The castle was reconstructed in 1746 – 1760. This reconstruction was in charge of Italian architect Francesco Placidi.



Today's appearance of the castle.

Several reconstructions gave the castle its today's appearance.

Today's appearance of the castle.

- In the area of the castle grows a large linden tree with a trunk circumference of 450 cm, a height of 25 m and an estimated age of 350 - 400 years.
- Around the access road to the castle grows a group of protected trees - Pagaštanová alley, which consists of 23 trees of horse-chestnut trees with an average trunk circumference of 198 cm.
- From 30.07. to 30.09.2005, replicas of Polish coronation jewels were exhibited in the castle, which were kept here from 1655 to 1661 during the Swedish-Polish War.





Museum

- The Ľubovňa museum was founded in 1956 year.
- It is the most visited museum in Slovak republic.
- The museum is made up of the Ľubovňa castle was built after 1292. Since May 2013 castle has been open to the blind and deaf people.

Depository in the castle

- The Ľubovňa Museum Castle manages an extensive collection of folk clothing of the regions of Spiš, Šariš and Zámagurie.
- The collection also contains a number of rare liturgical and burgher clothes and footwear
- Thousands of the historical and cultural relics can be seen in a depository of art objects and collections of archeological objects.



The exterior of the Lubovňa Castle



- The oldest part of the castle is a circular tower with massive supporting pillars and an Gothic palace both standing at the highest point of a reef. They form the upper castle with a courtyard, and the youngest palace (situated east). There are also remained parts of the Renaissance attic, the Renaissance lining windows, and cornice on the Gothic palace.
- Another palace was later added to the second courtyard on the east side. The Baroque palace and a chapel were built on the west side in 1962. The third courtyard protected the entrance to the area with a gate from 1664. This gate had a drawbridge.

The interior of the Stará Ľubovňa Castle

- In the preserved part of the castle there is a museum, which includes: historical exposition, exposition of period furniture and cold weapons and exposition acquainting visitors with the life and pedigree of the last owners of the castle - the Zamoy family.
- There is also an exhibition room in the castle, where there are exhibitions every season.
- Barrel and Prussian vaults have been preserved in some rooms, and a torture chamber has been preserved underground.
- Among the preserved parts of the castle is the castle chapel.





People of the castle

- **Ondrej III.** - Hungarian King, who built the castle - the turn of the 13th and 14th century
- **Karol Róbert** - Hungarian King who occupied the castle by army in 1312
- **Drugeths** - Ľubovňa castle owned by the family Drugeth (1323-1342).
- **Sebastian Lubomirski** - in 1591 became mayor of the backup part of the Spiš. After his death next four generations of this family worked as mayors.
- **Jan III. Sobieski** - Polish king - castle visited , when he returned after the defeat of the Ottomans in Vienna (1683).
- **Móric Beňovský** - the most famous prisoner of the castle, who was in jail in 1768.
- **Mária Terézia** - (1772) Hungarian monarch, abolished Spiš backup of 1412.



Maria Theresa



Móríc Beňovský

People of the castle

- **Raisz family** - (1825-1880) castle owned by Raisz family.
- **Zamoyski family** - (1882-1945) the castle bought by Andrej Zamoyski and Zamoyski family owned it until 1945.
- **Andrej Čepiššák** - (1996) thanks to him, a museum was established in the castle.
- **María Carolina de Bourbon - Two Sicilies** and **Isabella Alfonsa de Bourbon** - the princesses from Spain and Italy married the owners of the Ľubovňa castle and lived there.