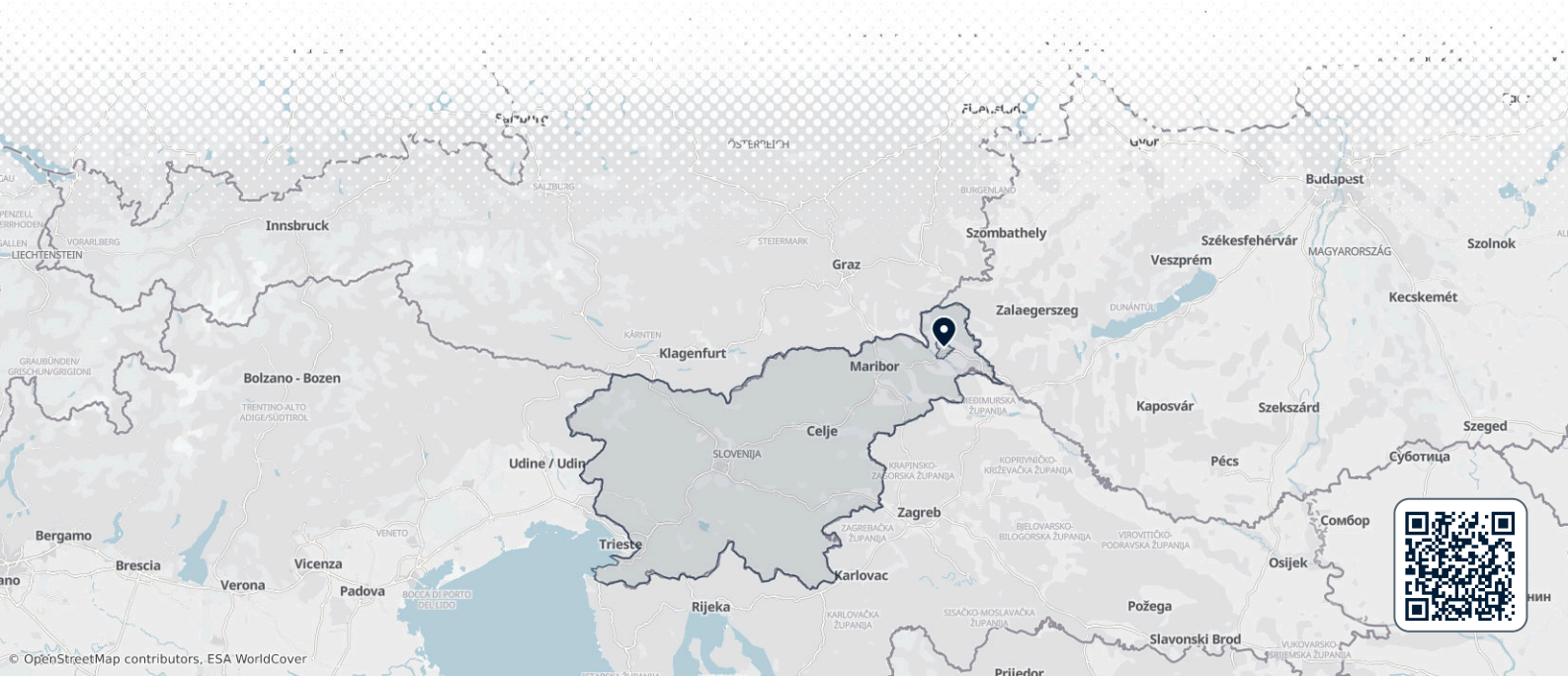


Murska Sobota

Prekmurje · Slovenia

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Murska Sobota is the main town of Prekmurje, the flat farming region in the far north-east of Slovenia. It is a small, green and quiet town, and it works best as a base for exploring the plain, the Mura river and the hills of Goričko. For centuries the town belonged to Hungary, and this past still shows in its Baroque castle, its large Lutheran church and its food.

The centre is compact, with a big castle park, a pedestrian main street and a few landmarks that you can see in half a day. Most visitors combine one or two nights here with the thermal spas of Moravske Toplice, cycling on flat country roads and long meals in village inns. Do not expect crowds or famous sights. The town suits travellers who like slow trips, local food and easy access to Austria and Hungary.

When to visit

Late spring and September are the best times to visit, with warm days that are good for cycling and walking. July and August are hot, with afternoon storms on some days. Winter is cold and grey, with frost on most nights and some snow.

In December, the town centre hosts **Festive December** (Praznični december), a month-long programme of festive events in the streets and squares.

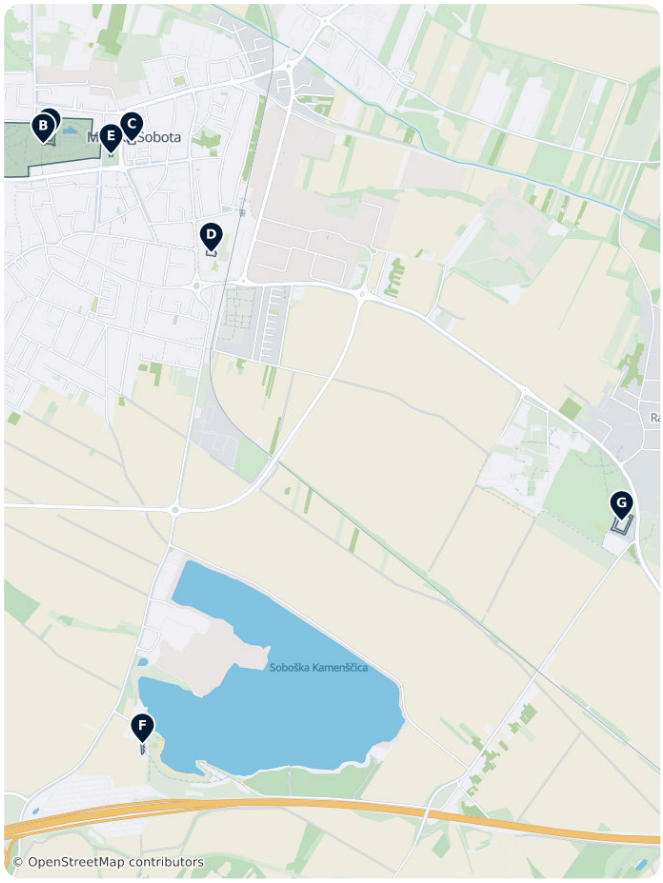
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 11° Feels like -1°	-3° / -11°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 14° Feels like 2°	-2° / -11°	Dry air
March	Good Good for cycling	11° / 19° Feels like 7°	1° / -5°	Dry air
April	Great Great for cycling	16° / 23° Feels like 13°	5° / -1°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 28°	10° / 5°	14 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 34°	15° / 9°	13 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	29° / 36°	17° / 12°	13 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	29° / 36°	17° / 12°	12 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 30°	12° / 6°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Great Great for cycling	17° / 24°	7° / 0°	Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for cycling	10° / 18° Feels like 6°	2° / -4°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 11° Feels like 0°	-2° / -10°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: May, June, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

The main sights are in and around the castle park, all within a 10-minute walk of each other. Allow half a day, plus extra time for the lake and Rakičan.



- A Murska Sobota Castle is the town's main landmark. The Szapáry family remodelled it in Baroque style, and it has corner towers and an arcaded courtyard. Today it holds the Pomurje Museum, the best place to learn about the history and folk life of the region.
- B City Park surrounds the castle and is one of the oldest parks in Slovenia, with oaks more than 200 years old, a small lake and a playground. An avenue lined with monuments leads from the castle to the Lutheran church.
- C Evangelical Church is a neo-Gothic church from 1909–1910 and one of the largest Lutheran churches in Slovenia. It shows how strong the Protestant tradition is in this region.
- D Murska Sobota Cathedral is a Neo-Romanesque church from 1912 with Art Nouveau details. It has been the seat of a Catholic diocese since 2006, and its organ is among the largest in Slovenia.
- E Victory Monument stands on the main square, Trg zmage. This white marble memorial to Red Army and Yugoslav soldiers was unveiled in 1945. It survived the end of communism, when many similar monuments elsewhere were removed.
- F Expano Pavilion is the Slovenian pavilion from EXPO 2015 in Milan, moved to Lake Sobota on the southern edge of town. Its interactive exhibition, with a 3D film and a virtual balloon flight, is a fun introduction to the region. It is closed on Mondays.
- G Rakičan Manor, on the south-eastern edge of town, is a former Batthyány family manor with four wings around a courtyard. It is surrounded by an English-style park with a nature trail.

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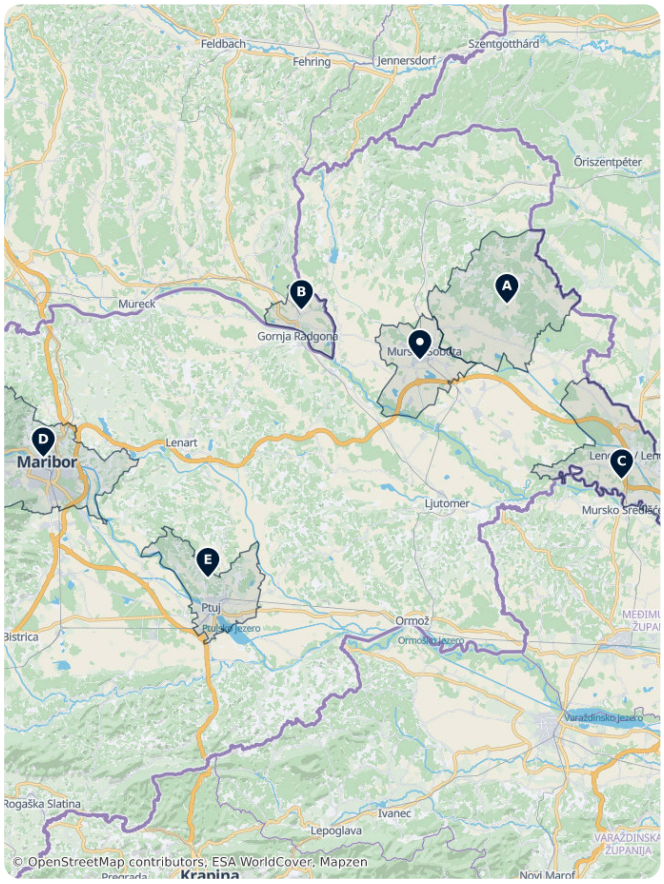
What to experience

Life in Murska Sobota is slow and outdoors. A few things worth doing:

- **Take a summer break at Lake Sobota**: the lake next to Expano is used for swimming, paddleboarding, windsurfing and fishing in summer.
- **Float on the Mura**: at the Island of Love near Ižakovci, you can watch a floating mill turn in the current, and in the warmer months join a short raft trip on the river.
- **Cycle to the villages**: on flat roads across the plain you pass fields, small churches and white storks nesting on chimneys from spring to late summer.
- **Bathe in black thermal water**: the spas of Moravske Toplice, 10 minutes away, use dark mineral water from deep underground. An evening soak is an easy end to a day of cycling.

Day trips

Murska Sobota sits close to the Austrian and Hungarian borders, and most of Prekmurje is within half an hour. A car makes day trips much easier. Times are by car.



- A Moravske Toplice — about 10 minutes. A spa village with large thermal pools fed by dark, very warm mineral water.
- Plečnik's Church of the Ascension in Bogojina — about 15 minutes. A village church rebuilt by architect *Jože Plečnik*, with a ceiling decorated with local pottery.
- B Bad Radkersburg — about 20 minutes, in Austria. A small walled old town on the Mura with a thermal spa.
- Grad Castle — about 25 minutes north. One of the largest castles in Slovenia, in the green hills of the Goričko Nature Park.
- C Lendava — about 25 minutes. A bilingual Slovenian-Hungarian town with a castle, a former synagogue and a viewing tower above the vineyards.
- D Maribor — about 40 minutes by motorway. Slovenia's second city, on the Drava river.
- E Ptuj — about 45 minutes. Slovenia's oldest recorded town, with a castle above the Drava and a famous carnival.

Where to explore

Murska Sobota is the centre of Prekmurje, so the region's guide is the best place for a wider overview of the area.

- Moravske Toplice is the closest spa resort and an easy alternative base, a few kilometres to the north-east.
- Lendava is the region's second town, in the south-east near the Hungarian and Croatian borders.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest airport is Graz in Austria, about 100 km and roughly 1 hour by car. Zagreb Airport is about 1 hour 45 minutes away and Ljubljana Airport just over 2 hours. Public transport from the airports is slow and needs several changes, so most visitors rent a car.
- **By train**: Trains run from Ljubljana and Maribor, but services are few and slow. The trip from Ljubljana takes about 3 hours or more, and some connections need a change. Check the current timetable before you travel. The station is a short walk east of the centre. Slovenian Railways
- **By bus**: Buses from Ljubljana and Maribor are often faster than the train. The bus from Ljubljana takes roughly 2.5 to 3 hours, and from Maribor about 1 hour.
- **By car**: The A5 motorway passes just south of town. Murska Sobota is about 180 km and 2 hours from Ljubljana, and 55 km from Maribor. Motorways in Slovenia need an e-vignette.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The centre is small and flat, and all the main sights are within walking distance. Lake Sobota and Expano are about 3 km south of the centre, a walk of 35 to 40 minutes.
- **Cycling**: The land is completely flat, and cycling is the best way to reach Rakičan, the lake and nearby villages. Longer routes follow the Mura river.
- **Buses**: Regional buses connect the town with villages and spa resorts, but services are sparse in the evenings and at weekends. A car is more practical for the wider region.
- **Tourist information**: The office on Slovenska ulica and the Expano centre give maps and advice. Visit Murska Sobota

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The centre is small and flat, and the castle, park and churches are a few minutes apart on foot.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The town and the surrounding plain are completely flat, and quiet country roads lead to Rakičan, Lake Sobota and nearby villages.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the town itself, which is small and walkable. For the spas, the Mura and the villages of Prekmurje, a car is the most practical choice, because buses are infrequent.
- **Parking**: Parking is easy compared with larger Slovenian cities. There are car parks around the centre; check the signs for paid zones.
- **Rural roads**: Expect tractors and cyclists on narrow country roads, especially in summer and during the harvest.

Food & drink

Murska Sobota is a good place to try Prekmurje cooking, which is closer to Hungarian food than to the rest of Slovenia. Look for **prekmurska gibanica**, a rich layered cake with poppy seeds, cottage cheese, walnuts and apples. Savoury dishes include bograč, a spicy meat stew, and dödöli, potato dumplings with onions. Pumpkin seed oil is used on salads, and local white wines come from the hills of Goričko and Lendava.

In town, restaurants and cafés cluster along the pedestrian Slovenska ulica and around the central market. For more traditional food, drive out to the village inns and tourist farms (turistične kmetije) in the surrounding countryside.

What to eat & drink

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Potica · potica
A rolled nut cake, traditionally served at holidays.

Kremna rezina · kremna rezina
A vanilla and whipped-cream custard slice, associated with Bled.

DRINKS

Slovenian wine
Wine from the Vipava Valley, Štajerska, and Primorska regions.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Štruklji · štruklji
Rolled dumplings, sweet or savory, boiled or baked.

Kranjska klobasa · kranjska klobasa
A protected (PGI) pork sausage, usually boiled and served with mustard and horseradish.

Jota · jota
A hearty stew of beans, sauerkraut or turnip, and smoked meat.

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Safety & health

Murska Sobota is a very safe town, and crime against visitors is rare. Normal care with valuables is enough.

The main risks are outdoors. Ticks live in the forests and meadows, including the river forests along the Mura, so check yourself after walks. Summer days can be hot, so carry water when cycling across the open plain.

History

Murska Sobota was first recorded in 1297, and for most of its history it was a market town in the Kingdom of Hungary. The Batthyány family rebuilt the local fortress in the 17th century. In 1687 the

estate passed to the Szapáry family, who gave Murska Sobota Castle its Baroque look and kept it for about 250 years. The town council bought the castle in 1934.

At the end of the First World War, in 1919, the short-lived Republic of Prekmurje was declared in the town. Later that year the region joined the new Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. Hungary occupied the town again from 1941. In 1944 the Jewish community was deported to Auschwitz, and its synagogue was demolished in 1954. Soviet troops arrived in 1945, and the Victory Monument on the main square was unveiled that August.

The town's mixed religious past is still visible in the centre. The Evangelical Church serves one of Slovenia's largest Lutheran communities, and the Murska Sobota Cathedral became the seat of a new Catholic diocese in 2006. In 2010, Slovenia's first Holocaust memorial was unveiled at the railway station.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Slovenia at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



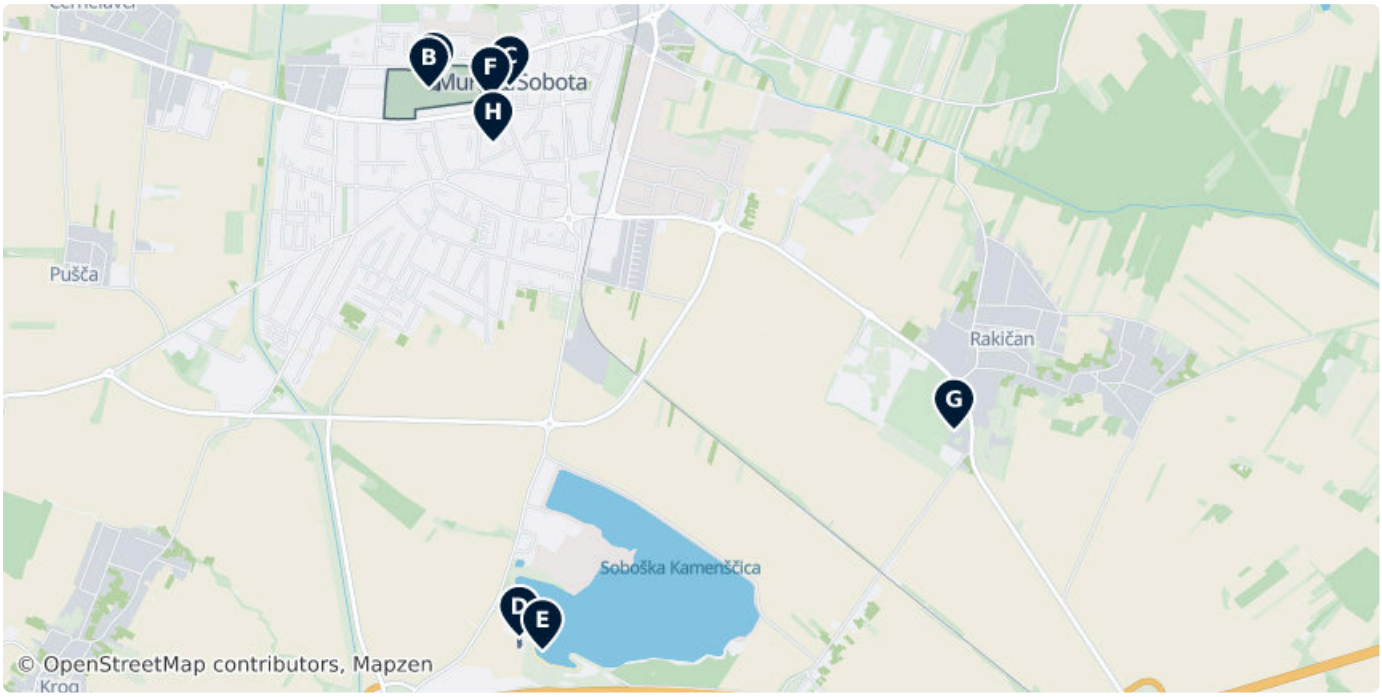
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Slovenian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Murska Sobota Essentials

Murska Sobota serves as the cultural center of Slovenia's Prekmurje region. The city features a notable Renaissance castle housing the Pomurje Museum, surrounded by a 19-hectare English-style park with centuries-old trees. Modern landmarks include the Expano interactive pavilion at Sobota Lake, which showcases regional heritage through multimedia. The architectural landscape is defined by the Neo-Gothic Lutheran church, the historic Victory Square monument, and the nearby Rakičan Mansion, a 17th-century estate known for its equestrian center.





A Grad Murska Sobota / Pokrajinski muzej

Renaissance castle housing the Pomurje Museum, which features permanent exhibitions on regional archaeology, history, and ethnography.

1 Trubarjev drevored, Murska Sobota 9000, Slovenia (46.66243, 16.16053)

pomurski-muzej.si, +386 (0)2 527 1706



B Mestni park

A 19-hectare English-style landscape park surrounding the city castle, featuring 200-year-old oak and ash trees.

1 Trubarjev drevored, Murska Sobota 9000, Slovenia (46.66220, 16.16019)



C Evangeličanska cerkev

Neo-Gothic Lutheran church built between 1907 and 1910, characterized by its red brick facade and tall central spire.

9000 Murska Sobota, Slovenia (46.66228, 16.16540)

evangelicanska-cerkev.si, +386 2 522 13 04

D Expano Paviljon

An interactive exhibition pavilion using virtual reality and multimedia to showcase the geography, history, and culture of the Pomurje region.

(Unnamed Road), 9000, Slovenia (46.63794, 16.16602)

Mo–Su	10:00–17:00

facebook.com/expano/, 08 201 53 70

E Soboško Jezero

An artificial lake on the outskirts of the city offering facilities for swimming, windsurfing, and stand-up paddling.

(46.63736, 16.16751)

F Victory Square

Central square featuring a monumental memorial dedicated to the Red Army and Yugoslav partisans who liberated the city in 1945.

23 Slovenska ulica, Murska Sobota 9000, Slovenia (46.66178, 16.16417)

visitmurskasobota.si/znamenitost/trg-zmage/

G Raziskovalno Izobraževalno Središče Dvorec Rakičan

A 17th-century mansion housing a research center, featuring a surrounding park and an equestrian club offering riding activities.

Rakičan 9000, Slovenia (46.64710, 16.19403)

ris-dr.si

H Galerija Murska Sobota

Regional art gallery established in 1965, focusing on contemporary art and hosting the Pan-Slovenian Biennial of Small Sculpture.

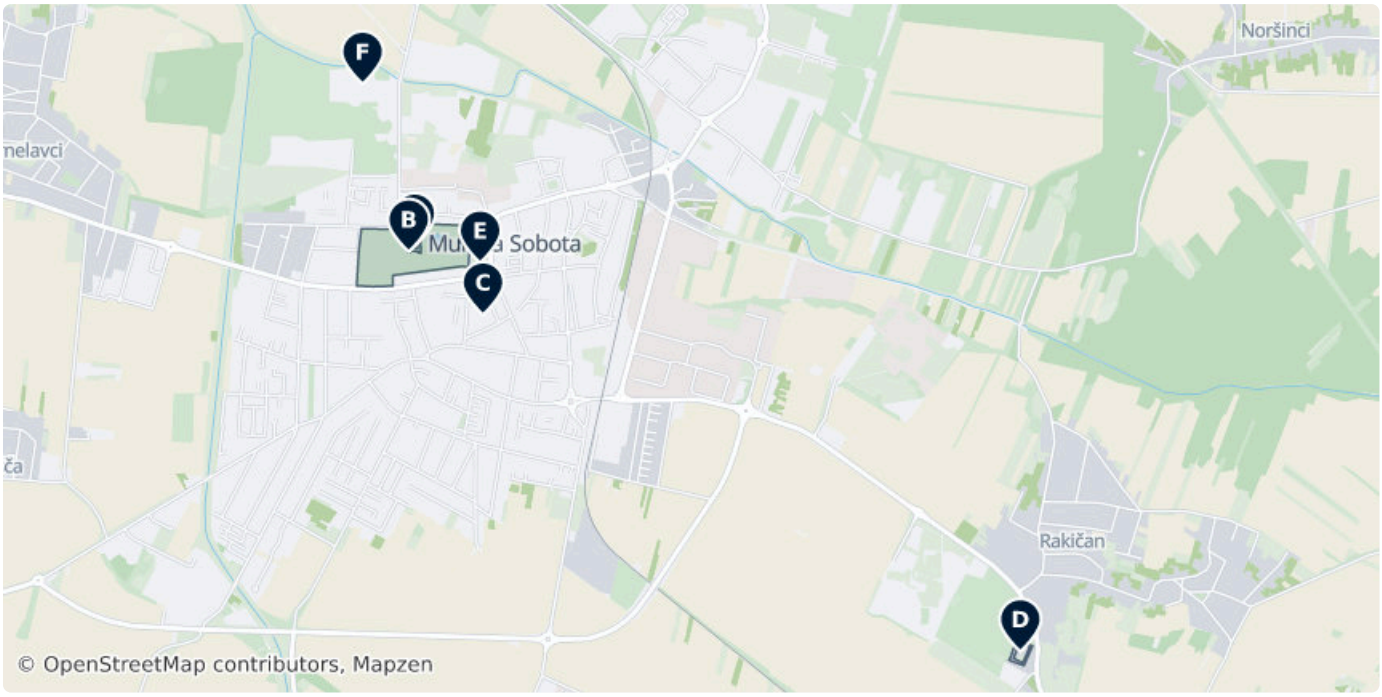
(46.65980, 16.16433)

Mo	09:00–12:00
Tu–Fr	08:00–17:00
Sa	09:00–12:00

galerija-ms.si

Murska Sobota Highlights

Explore the cultural landmarks of Prekmurje's capital, centered around the 16th-century Renaissance castle and its expansive landscape park. The city's history is preserved within the Regional Museum and commemorated at Victory Square's monumental war memorial. Beyond the center, the 17th-century Rakičan Manor offers a glimpse into noble life, while the Murska Sobota Gallery focuses on contemporary sculpture and regional art exhibitions.





A Grad Murska Sobota / Pokrajinski muzej

This Renaissance castle houses the Murska Sobota Regional Museum, featuring permanent exhibitions on the history, ethnology, and art of the Prekmurje region from prehistoric times to the present day.

1 Trubarjev drevored, Murska Sobota 9000, Slovenia
(46.66243, 16.16053)

pomurski-muzej.si, +386 (0)2 527 1706



B Mestni park

A 9.5-hectare English-style landscape park surrounding the Murska Sobota Castle, featuring century-old oak, ash, and hornbeam trees alongside organized walking paths.

1 Trubarjev drevored, Murska Sobota 9000, Slovenia
(46.66220, 16.16019)

C Galerija Murska Sobota

Established in 1965, this contemporary art gallery hosts the International Triennial of Small Sculpture and showcases significant works by regional and national Slovenian artists.

(46.65980, 16.16433)

Mo	09:00–12:00
Tu–Fr	08:00–17:00
Sa	09:00–12:00

galerija-ms.si



D Dvorec Rakičan

A 17th-century manor house located in a surrounding park, formerly owned by the Batthyány family. The site currently serves as an educational center and features an equestrian club.

Lendavska ulica, 9103 Rakičan, Slovenia
(46.64694, 16.19423)

E Victory Square

A central town square and park featuring the Monument to the Liberators, a massive granite memorial dedicated to the Red Army and Yugoslav partisans erected in 1945.

23 Slovenska ulica, Murska Sobota 9000, Slovenia
(46.66178, 16.16417)

visitmurskasobota.si/znamenitost/trg-zmage/

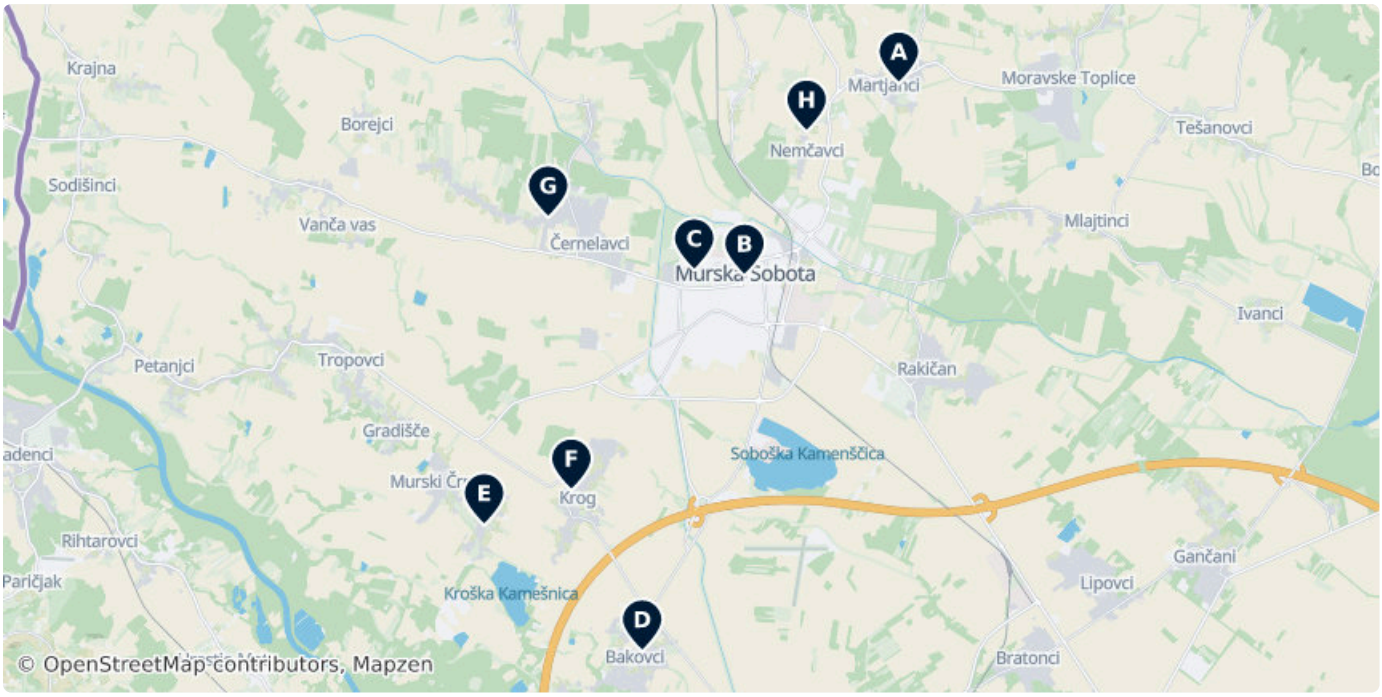
F Fazanerija City Stadium

Fazanerija City Stadium is a multi-use stadium in Murska Sobota, Slovenia.

Murska Sobota 9000, Slovenia (46.66861, 16.15763)

Religious Landmarks

Murska Sobota's religious landscape reflects the diverse spiritual history of the Prekmurje region. This collection features significant architectural landmarks, including the Neo-Gothic Lutheran Church and the historic St. Martin's Church in Martjanci, known for its 14th-century frescoes. The list spans various denominations, showcasing Catholic parish churches, local village chapels, and modern Pentecostal architecture, highlighting the coexistence of different Christian traditions in this northeastern Slovenian hub.

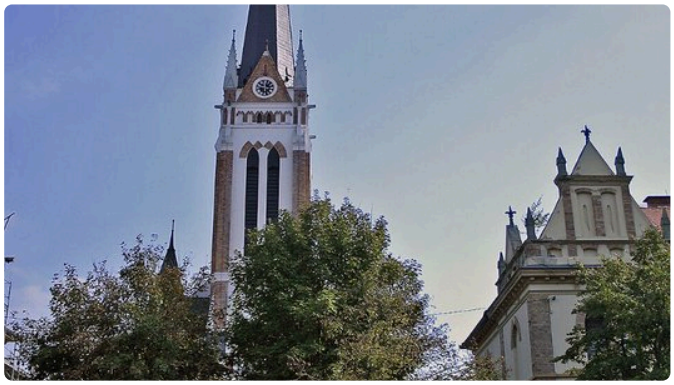


A Cerkev sv. Martina

Gothic church dating back to 1392, featuring significant 14th-century frescoes by the medieval painter Johannes Aquila, who also included a self-portrait in the sanctuary.

65 Martjanci, Martjanci 9221, Slovenia (46.68517, 16.19223)

martjanci.zupnija.info



B Evangeličanska cerkev

A Neo-Gothic Lutheran church completed in 1910 according to plans by architect Ernő Ludvig. It stands as a prominent landmark of the Protestant faith in the region.

9000 Murska Sobota, Slovenia (46.66228, 16.16540)

evangelicanska-cerkev.si, +386 2 522 13 04

C Binkoštna cerkev Murska Sobota

Modern place of worship serving the Pentecostal community in Murska Sobota.

(46.66292, 16.15666)

bcms.si

D Župnjiska cerkev sv. Ane

Roman Catholic parish church located in the village of Bakovci, dedicated to St. Anne.

27 Partizanska ulica, Bakovci 9000, Slovenia (46.61749, 16.14761)

E Kapela Svetega Duha / Vaška kapela

Traditional village chapel in Satahovci dedicated to the Holy Spirit.

35 Satahovci, Satahovci 9000, Slovenia (46.63254, 16.12017)

F St. Florian's Church

Catholic church in the settlement of Rakičan, dedicated to Saint Florian, the patron saint of firefighters.

10 Trubarjeva ulica, Krog 9000, Slovenia (46.63666, 16.13533)

sv-nikolaj.org/obseg/

G Bell tower

Historic free-standing bell tower serving the local community.

31 Veščica, Veščica 9000, Slovenia (46.66922, 16.13129)

H Kapela

Village chapel located in the settlement of Nemčavci.

28 Nemčavci, Nemčavci 9000, Slovenia (46.67946, 16.17619)

DATA SOURCES

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