

# BROOKLYN\_BORN

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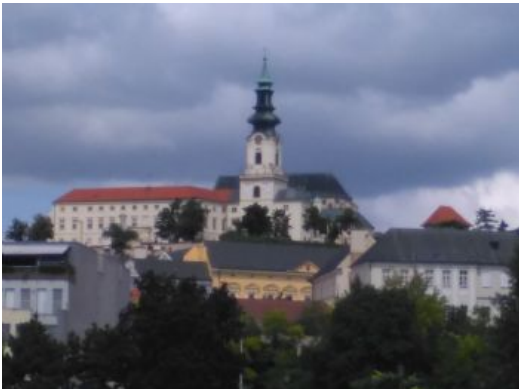
## Exploring the "Big Little Country" - Slovakia

Thursday, August 18, 2016

That slogan of the Slovak tourist bureau refers to the variety of geographic landscapes, and historic locations and ethnic traditions within this small country.

Our course in Slovak Language and Culture includes 4 separate 3 day excursions from which we choose one. Joe and I have traveled around the country on our own many times and toured 13 castles. So we chose the excursion which included the northernmost region and castle that we were never able to reach on our own.

First stop was the city Nitra, best known for its Cathedral and fortress up on the hill



although it does have its own legends

Think King Arthur and the Sword in the Stone

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Next stop was the village of Brhlovce and its cliff houses. I've been to Mesa Verde in the USA and the ancient dwellings of native Americans. However these dwellings are still being put to use.



Once inside you wouldn't know that you are standing inside a cliff.



Most of the village has regular houses.



Our final stop on day 1 was a village high up in the mountains originally settled by German and Slovak miners.

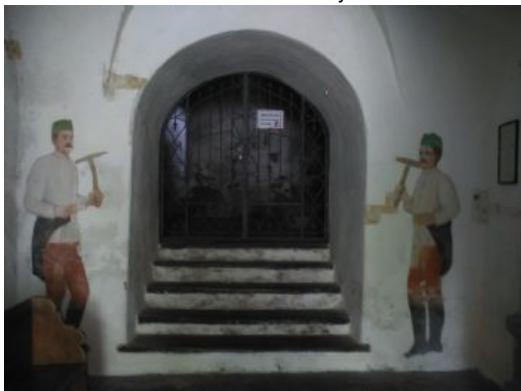
The church had masses in both languages to accommodate them



We climbed the 106 steps to see it.



The entrance memorialized its history.



The view from the top



It was after 7 when we boarded the bus for the trip down the mountain to our hotel.

On the narrow road we encountered a car in hurry. Our driver swerved to avoid a collision, hit an obstacle and we blew a tire.

The next hour was spent by the side of the road while our poor driver changed the tire.





We had a most cheerful group.

The French lady played her flute. A girl from Finland taught others how to juggle and the Asian contingent did some Tai Chi. I'm not kidding.

We got to our hotel around 10, but they kept the kitchen open, so we didn't starve.

Now it's back to class for me. More tomorrow.

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**1STBUCKETITEM**



What a lovely excursion - better yet because of your resourceful traveling companions!  
1748 days ago



**DR1939**



I always tell my husband that if nothing goes wrong then we have no good stories to tell. Glad the day was good and the road incident went well.  
1754 days ago



**MCJULIEO**



What a fantastic, though unexpected, international adventure!  
1755 days ago



**PHEBESS**



I'm sure the tire accident was scary, but I love the way your group handled it!!! True travellers!!!  
And you're exploring such a gorgeous and interesting part of the world!!!  
1755 days ago



**GINIEMIE**



Yipes that is plain scary. I've been on some of those curvy mountain roads. Glad you had a good driver and a cheerful group. The kitchen was good too, making sure you were fed before they closed it. Tai Chi on the side of the road? Cool!  
The sites, the village, the church all so amazing.



1756 days ago



**SWEDE\_SU**



beautiful photos - thanks for sharing!  
1756 days ago



**MARYJEANSL**

What a lovely, lovely village and cathedral! I do so envy you...well, maybe not the flat tire and late return to the hotel, but everything else. ;-)

1756 days ago



**PEGGYO**

sounds like a fun time

1756 days ago



**DOVESEYES**

Thankyou so much I would not have seen such a beautiful place without your blog :)

1756 days ago



**CD4114015**

GORGEOUS area/pictures! It just amazes me the glorious places you go and share with us!

**THANK YOU!**

1756 days ago



**ONEKIDSMOM**

What a lovely side trip. And you certainly got your "steps" in, with all that climbing!

1756 days ago



**LIVEDAILY**

Both of my grandfathers were coal miners in Pennsylvania. I remember going to Mass with my grandmother, and the entire Mass and hymns was done in Polish. The Russian church was farther down the main street. Beautiful photos!

1756 days ago



**SMILINGEYES2**

What an adventure. Found your groups creative use of time during the tire issue to be insightful--it is the journey and not destination where we find our joy.

1756 days ago



**SYLPHINPROGRESS**

The two photos of the village streets and their small houses brought to mind Prague's Golden Lane -- probably because Jeopardy had a question on Kafka a few days ago!

1756 days ago



**PHOENIX1949**



1756 days ago



**PRNCSCUP1-2FULL**

What an amazing tire blowout!! As you already know... I am envious! Envious, but so happy to experience your trip vicariously! Both of my great-grandfathers immigrated to the US and were miners. So was my grandfather for a good part of his life. Your adventures always bring back family memories! Whoops, sorry! 3 of my great-fathers, not 2!

1757 days ago



**WATERMELLEN**

What an interesting part of your journey: and what an interesting and resourceful group of people you're travelling with!!

1757 days ago



**DRAPOSA-H**

Beautiful!

1757 days ago



**ROSSYFLOSSY**

Thank you sooooo much for sharing. Looks amazing!

1757 days ago



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