Banska Bystrica

History

Banska Bystrica is situated in a picturesque basin which is wasked by the river Hron and surrounded by the Low Tatras, Great Fatras and Kremnice Mountains. The division of the teritory and configuration of the ground Banska Bystrica caused its irregular-shaped position. The oldest historical statements are dated from the 13th century, when in its surroundigs the mining of precious ore had been started. In the year 1255 it was granted large privileges and became a town, which grew quickly parallel with the growing of its mining activity. Eloquent testimony about the prosperity and the development of material and spiritual culture of Banska Bystrica in the 15th and 16th century are given by a number of building monuments. The moust precious of its are in the historical core i.e. on the square and in the main streets.

There are passage or hall-line bourgeois houses on the gotic fundaments with large-scale disposition. They belong to the most precious renaissance buildings of Slovakia. Therefore the historical core of Banska Bystrica represents a town reservation and the castle areal has been declared a national monument object. The rich patricians built showy houses in Gothic and Renaissance style. Some of them, e.g. the house of Thurzo (for more information click by mouse on the picture)