



# A SHORT GUIDE

**FOR FOREIGN VISITING STAFF**

**AT THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY**

**IN RUŽOMBEROK**

**ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME**

Dear visitor,

welcome to the Catholic University in Ružomberok (CU). We hope that your stay in Ružomberok will be enjoyable and fruitful.

This guide is addressed to academic and administrative staff who visits CU within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme. We hope that the guide will provide you with all the necessary information concerning your visit including travel arrangements, accommodation, organizing your academic programme, etc.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time! We are looking forward to meeting you in Ružomberok!

**:: Foreign Relations Office CU ::**

Hrabovská cesta 1 A (Building of the University library)

034 01 Ružomberok

SLOVAKIA

Room 1.05 (first-floor)

[www.ku.sk/en/](http://www.ku.sk/en/)

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**Please, contact our Erasmus Coordinator to help you with:**

- Travel arrangements (information about connections, local public transport, etc.)
- Assistance with accommodation (information about hotels, booking a room, etc.)
- Issuing necessary documents (e.g. Letter of invitation, Letter of confirmation)
- Providing information about practical aspects (health insurance, etc.)
- Approving academic programme (date of your visit, topics and numbers of lectures/classes)

## ***The Catholic University in Ružomberok***

The Catholic University in Ružomberok is the only Catholic university in Slovakia. It was established in 2000 on the foundation of the preceding Pedagogical Institute of St. Andrew (1995) and Catechetical-Pedagogical Faculty of St. Andrew, being firstly a part of the University of Trnava (1996) and later a part of the University of Žilina (1997). In 2002 it obtained a public university statute.

The university educates learned and virtuous experts who respect human dignity and have a sense of the Christian way of life. It develops knowledge, research, and at the same time it contributes to the dialogue among religions and cultures; between faith and science. It encourages complex personality improvement of students in the spirit of Christian principles.

At present, the university consists of 4 faculties. In the academic year 2014/2015 around 5,900 students studied at the university, being educated in the areas of human sciences, pedagogical and social studies, and also in the areas of art, economics, management, law, physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics and informatics.

As a relatively young institution, the Catholic University is still growing and developing. The biggest project running at the moment is building a new modern university library which would meet the highest requirements of students, professors and researchers.

### **Faculties of the Catholic University in Ružomberok:**

Faculty of Arts and Letters	<a href="http://www.ff.ku.sk">www.ff.ku.sk</a>
Faculty of Education	<a href="http://www.pf.ku.sk">www.pf.ku.sk</a>
Faculty of Theology	<a href="http://www.tf.ku.sk">www.tf.ku.sk</a>
Faculty of Health	<a href="http://www.fz.ku.sk">www.fz.ku.sk</a>

<http://www.ku.sk/>

## *The City of Ružomberok*

Ružomberok is an administrative centre of Lower Liptov. The town is situated on the confluence of rivers Váh and Revúca in the western part of Liptovská fold on the landmark of Slovak mountain ranges – Veľká Fatra, Chočské hills and Nízke Tatry.

The first written reference about Ružomberok comes from 1233 AD. According to the legend after arriving here German colonists found a hill covered with rose-bush. Because of the unheard-of phenomenon they named their new home Rosenberg (Rosehill). In the course of seven centuries the town developed into a natural trade-market-craft centre, especially thanks to the important crossroads (important European trade roads went through it) which it is situated on. Strong agricultural and craft tradition at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century pushed Ružomberok to become the most important Slovak industrial town with several big factories, mills and plants (paper, wood pulp and textile industry, woodworking, brickworks, cheese factories, etc.). Before the World War I. Ružomberok was the biggest town of Slovakia in terms of Slovak inhabitants and industry.

The basis for the development of trade and industry was also quality school system. Many important schools gradually emerged in the area of town, the first of which is claimed to be the so-called Evangelical Latin Nobleman School that, according to some sources, originated as early as 1567. From the last third of the 19<sup>th</sup> century almost to the half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Ružomberok was an important centre of the Slovak national revival. The main philosophical and political streams of that time emerged and found support in the town which significantly influenced Slovak politics. In 2000 Catholic University in Ružomberok was established and began a new chapter in the history of the town in terms of education and school system.

At present, with population a little over 31,000 Ružomberok is a regional centre of tourism mainly due to its location with woods and mountains all around. Especially in winter, many foreign tourists find their way to Ski Park Ružomberok, a well-know skiing resort with the longest piste in Slovakia (3900 m).

<http://www.ruzomberok.eu/>

## Arrival

There are several options for travelling to Ružomberok (train, bus, plane):

### By plane:

- to: **Vienna-Schwechat International Airport**

(direct lines from the airport to Bratislava Main Bus Station – Mlynské Nivy)

- to: **Bratislava Airport (BTS)**

- to: **Košice International Airport**

- to: **Poprad-Tatry International Airport**

(take a train or bus to Ružomberok)

### By train:

- from: **Bratislava Main Station** – fast trains (direction Košice)

- from: **Košice Railway Station** – fast trains (direction Bratislava, Prague)

- from: **Poprad-Tatry Railway Station** – fast trains (direction Bratislava, Prague)

### By bus:

- from: **Bratislava Main Bus Station - Mlynské Nivy** (direction Ružomberok, Liptovský Mikuláš, Tatranská Lomnica, Poprad, Prešov, Košice, Bardejov)

- from: **Košice Bus Station** (direction Ružomberok, Námestovo, Žilina, Zvolen, Trnava, Bratislava)

### ::in Ružomberok::

From *Ružomberok Railway Station* to the *Catholic University* (Hrabovská cesta 1, 034 01 Ružomberok) you can go on foot (cca 30 min), pick up a taxi either from a taxi rank or by calling a taxi service (taxi fare approximately 2 - 4 € within the city) or use public bus transport (MAD; tickets available on the bus; you can use a bus No. **1**, **3** or **4** direction *Katolícka univerzita, Klačno*; an adult ticket price = "celý lístok" is 0,60 €).

More information you can find here: [www.cp.sk](http://www.cp.sk)

## **Accommodation**

The Foreign Relations and Mobilities Office of the Catholic University in Ružomberok is ready to help you find an appropriate accommodation in Ružomberok.

## **Health Service**

We strongly advise you to bring a health insurance policy with you (e.g. European Health Card or any other insurance; please make sure that it covers possible medical expenses in Slovakia). In Ružomberok there is an ambulance service with an emergency room in the Central Military Hospital Ružomberok “*Ústredná Vojenská nemocnica*” that works 24/7.

In case of emergency call **112**.

[www.uvn.sk](http://www.uvn.sk)

## **Money**

The official currency in the Slovak Republic is the **Euro (€)** and usually it is not possible to pay for services in other currencies. You can change your money at an exchange office called “*Zmenáreň*” which is more advantageous than doing so in a bank as they will charge commission. In most shops you can pay by credit card, however, it is not common to pay this way in restaurants, post offices or local transport.

## **Restaurants, clubs, disco, cinema**

Many of the city's pubs, cafés and restaurants are situated in the centre of Ružomberok. For dining out you can choose from various kinds of restaurants, different in the quality of the service, price, size or location. Daily Menu (“*Denné menu*”), usually served in most restaurants from 11 am to 2 pm consisting of two courses, starts at the price of 2,75 €.

The most favourite restaurants are:

*Pizzeria da Andrea*

*Koloseum*

*Hotel Kultúra Restaurant*

*Efect Café*

*Blesk Restaurant*

*Ačko Restaurant*

You can find current information about discos, concerts, cinema and other cultural events in the city on the following websites:

<http://www.ruzomberok.eu/inhabitant/events/>

<http://www.ruzomberok.eu/obcan/Kalendar-akcii/Kino-Kultura/>

### **Shopping**

Besides various little shops in the centre of the town you can also choose from several supermarkets (Tesco, Hypernova, Billa, Kaufland, Lidl) or department stores at Stop Shop area on Bystrická Road (“Bystrická cesta”).

### **Some places to visit**

Information about Ružomberok and its surroundings can be found at

#### **Ružomberok Tourist Information Centre**

##### **Contact:**

Informačné centrum Ružomberok

A. Bernoláka 1

034 01 Ružomberok

Phone: +421 44 432 10 96

E-mail: [info@ruzomberok.eu](mailto:info@ruzomberok.eu)

Link: <http://www.liptov.travel/v/323-information-centre-in-ruzomberok.en.html>

#### **Vlkolíneč**

The exposition of the original living and the folk architecture is placed in The Peasant's House of Vlkolíneč. Because of its unique landscape, natural, urbanistic and architectural values it was included into the world cultural heritage of UNESCO.

[www.vlkolinec.sk](http://www.vlkolinec.sk)

#### **Likava Castle**

The biggest castle of Liptov was built in 1315 when Liptov made a part of the big Zvolen district that was administered from Pustý hrad by Zvolen. The castle during its history was owned by the Hunyady family, later by Ján, the non-marital son of the king Matej Korvín, in

the 16<sup>th</sup> century the owners were the Krušič family and in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Illesházy family.

At the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the castle was the place of fights between the Rákóczi and the emperor's armies during the uprisings of the estates. From the 1707 the castle is in ruins. Since 1980 the archaeological research and the conservation works are being carried out. There is a hiking trail from Ružomberok to the castle.

For more info about different castles in Slovakia, please see: [www.zamky.sk](http://www.zamky.sk)

### **The Liptov Museum**

The Liptov Museum in Ružomberok emerged as an institution of Liptovská muzeálna spoločnosť (The Liptov Museum Society) in 1912. From its beginning the „Liptov Village“ exposition depicts the occupation and the way of life of the Liptov villages, inhabitants. The occupation of the inhabitants is documented by the selection of the agricultural working tools, the Alpine dairy farming and shepherd's tools. The collection of the Liptov and central Slovakia „črpák“ (a folk wooden cup) types and the collection of bells. The collection of the folk clothing from the villages of the Revúcka dolina (The Revúca Valley) and from Sliache is accompanied by the collection of the brass folk jewellery. The exposition of the history of the paper production in Slovakia gives a clear overview the paper production from the first paper manufacture up to the present machine production. The collection of watermarks is especially interesting. There is an exposition about the life and work of Andrej Hlinka dedicated personality of the Slovak history. Among the showpieces are personal items from his estate. The exposition of the sacral art presents sacral sculptures of Liptov first paper manufacture up to the present machine production and etc.

For opening time and more information see: [www.liptovskemuzeum.sk](http://www.liptovskemuzeum.sk)

### **The Gallery of Ľudovít Fulla**

In Ružomberok you can find an exhibit of the Slovak National Gallery which presents the paintings, graphics, tapestry and commercial art works of Ľudovít Fulla, one of the founders of the modern Slovak painting. The master's studio and study is open to the public. The Gallery was opened in 1969. It is situated nearby the Liptovské múzeum.

Opening times: Tuesday – Sunday, 9.00 am – 16.30 pm

## **The Caves**

The beauty of the underground world of the caves traditionally lures thousands of the domestic and foreign visitors every year. The unique shapes of the stalactite decoration of various colours and fragile beauty as well as the huge stalactite or ice objects document the gigantic might of nature. There are over 4,000 caves known in Slovakia, 12 of them are open to the public. In our area of Liptov three caves are open. Liptov abounds in the beauty of the underground caves and the region is often called Liptovský kras (The Liptov Karst). There is Demänovský kras (The Demänová Karst) situated on the north side of the Low Tatras in Demänovská dolina (The Demänová Valley) which is dominated by the Demänová cave system which stretches to about 25 km. There are two caves open to the public in the Demänová Valley. The Demänová Cave of Freedom is one of the most beautiful caves open to the public in Europe. There are also abysses and other karst formations as well as the great number of public caves in Liptov Karst which are not open to the public. The deepest Slovak cave, the Starý hrad (The Old Castle, the depth of 432 m), also known Liskovská jaskyňa (The Lisková Cave), is where the bones of 48 people were found that bore the evidence of ancient cannibalistic habits and should be remembered when visiting Liptov too..!

More info about caves in Slovakia: [www.ssj.sk](http://www.ssj.sk)

## **Bešeňová, Thermal spa**

The modern thermal baths Besenova that offer their services all year long are situated about 12 km from the town.

[www.besenovanet.sk](http://www.besenovanet.sk)

## **Skipark, Malino Brdo**

The centre SKIPARK Ružomberok is situated on the hillsides of Veľká Fatra above the town Ružomberok, in the altitude of 545 to 1209 metres. The distance from the centre of town is 2 km. The gate of the centre is Hrabovo, where the cableway to Malinô Brdo leads from. The town Ružomberok forms a centre of the region of Lower Liptov, attractive for tourists.

[www.skipark.sk](http://www.skipark.sk)

## USEFUL LINKS

<http://www.ruzomberok.eu/>

<http://www.ku.sk/>

<http://www.uvn.sk/>

<http://www.liptov.sk/>

<http://www.slovensko.com/>

<http://www.slovakia.org/>

<http://www.ssj.sk/>

<http://www.zamky.sk/>

<http://www.besenovanet.sk/>

<http://www.skipark.sk/>

<http://www.vlkolinec.sk/>

<http://www.tatralandia.sk/>

<http://www.dobryfilm.sk/>

<http://www.cestaunesco.sk/>

<http://ubytovanie.ruzomberok.eu/>

<http://www.ruzomberok.eu/inhabitant/events/>

<http://www.ruzomberok.eu/obcan/Kalendar-akcii/>

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**All Emergency Calls: 112**

Police 158

Ambulance 155

Fire Brigade 150

Town Police 159

**Enjoy your stay here!**