



Prekmurje

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Why Go?

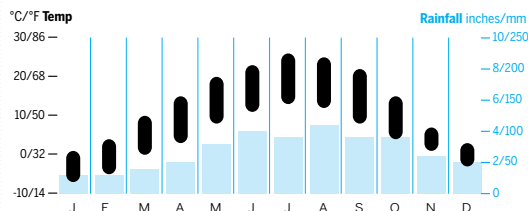
Prekmurje is Slovenia's forgotten corner – mostly a broad, farmed plain 'beyond the Mura River' (as its name suggests). Relatively isolated until the 1920s, Prekmurje has preserved its traditional music, folklore, architecture and a distinct local dialect.

Until the end of WWI, most of Prekmurje belonged to the Austro-Hungarian crown and it still has a small Magyar minority. In many ways Prekmurje looks and feels more like Hungary than Slovenia, with its white storks, large thatched farmhouses, substantial Roma population, and the occasional Hungarian-style *golaž* (goulash) cooked with paprika.

For visitors, the province is a springboard into Austria or Hungary, and a place to relax and enjoy taking the waters at the thermal spas, and indulge in the rich local pastry *gibanica*.

When to Go

Murska Sobota



Mar/Apr Watch for the arrival of white storks, returning from their migration to nest.

Apr–May Late spring is the best time for enjoying Prekmurje countryside.

Sep–Oct Harvest time for the best produce from this rich agricultural area.

Murska Sobota & Around

202 / POP 11,614 / ELEV 189M

Slovenia's northernmost city, Murska Sobota sits on a plain flatter than a *palačinka*, the pancake filled with jam or nuts and topped with chocolate that is so popular here. The city itself has little to recommend it except for its odd architectural mix of neoclassical, Secessionist and 'socialist baroque' buildings. But the surrounding countryside, pottery villages and thermal

spas make it a good springboard for the entire region.

History

The town of Murska Sobota was once little more than a Hungarian market town until the opening of the railway in 1907, which linked Murska Sobota with Šalovci in Hungary proper. With the formation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes in 1918 and the transfer of territory, Murska Sobota found itself more or less in the centre of Prekmurje and development really took off.



Prekmurje Highlights

- 1 Satisfy that sweet tooth with a helping of calorific *prekmurska gibanica*, pastry with poppy seeds, walnuts, fruit, cheese and cream
- 2 Take the waters at the **spa resort** (p200) at Radenci
- 3 Visit Prekmurje's last remaining **floating mill** (p200) on the Mura River at Ižakovci, near Verzej
- 4 Admire the wonderful 14th-century frescoes at the

Church of St Martin (p199) in Martjanci

- 5 Marvel at the arrival of the **storks** (p199), those big white birds with long skinny legs responsible for the population explosion