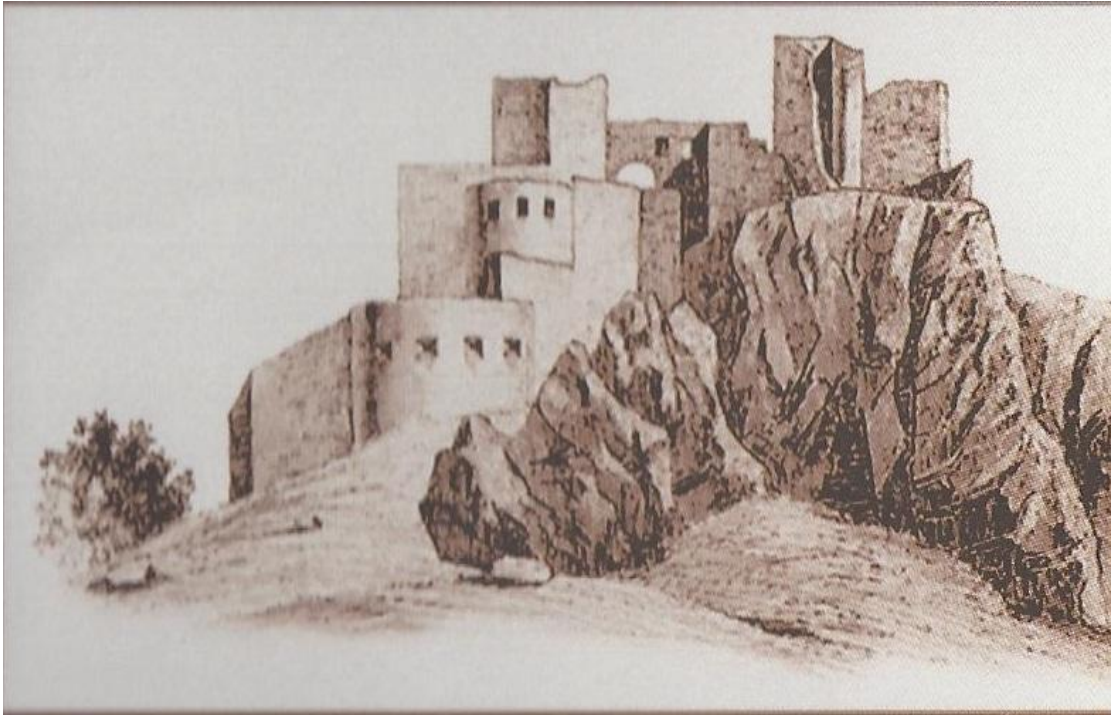


Michal Šimkovic

PLAVECKY CASTLE



A brief guide to the castle ruins

While walking the roads winding beneath the foothills of the Little Carpathians, perhaps we don't even realize that from the hilltops, there are numerous castle ruins looking down upon us. Of some, only barely visible rubble remains, for others, you have to know their precise location to spot the crumbling walls of former strongholds through the thick forest. The Plavecký castle is different, though. Its white walls and towers shine on the background of the dark woods and standing there, on the rocky hilltop rising from the massif into the valley, no one can overlook it.

For centuries, it has stood in its place and dominated the vast area of the Záhorie lowland, which made it become an inseparable part of the Little Carpathian mountain range silhouette. Thanks to its location, the well-preserved ruin is not only a sought out tourist lookout into the surrounding area but for a more sensitive observer, it is first and foremost an open book to the history of the castle and its gradual changes, having taken place throughout its almost five hundred year long history of existence.



Picture. 1

The Plavecký castle in a painting from the end of the 19th century.



Picture. 2

The Plavecký castle in a photograph from the beginning of the 20th century.

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History

The history of the Plavecký castle begins sometime in the mid 13th century. We learn about the details of its origin from a document from 1291, which talks about events almost half a century old. According to this document, Detrich (Detreth), the son of the Bratislava reeve Kunt received the barren and uninhabited area of Kuchyňa from king Belo IV, which was home to the church of st. Nicolaus. Detrich played an important role in populating the area and built a castle here and called it by his own name. Detrich's castle enters history in a more significant manner in 1273, in connection with a battle between Hungarian and Czech military troops in the field directly beneath it.

In the beginning of the 14th century, it apparently became part of the property dominion of "the Lord of the Vah river and the Tatra mountains", of Máté Csák of Trescén. After his death, the castle passed to the king and almost until the end of the 14th century, it has been administered by the royal burgraves. In 1398, it was acquired by the favorite of the ruler Sigismund of Luxembourg, by duke Stibor of Stiboricz.



Stibor of Stiboricz (idealized likeness)

He made the castle and estate a part of his extensive property, taking up almost all of western Slovakia. After the demise of the Stibor lineage, the fort was acquired by other important royalty of western Slovakia – the counts of st. Jur and Pezinok. Their title to the fort was in 1441 approved by Queen Elizabeth, when count George left the castle to his wife. After the death of the last of the lineage of the counts of Jur and Pezinok, the castle returned to the crown again, wherefrom it went to Gáspár Serédy .



Gáspár Serédy

Shortly after that, he released the castle into loan-ownership of Kristof Salm and from there to the Fugger family.



Jakub Fugger

Ferdinand I. paid to retrieve the castle from the loan ownership and as a gift for his services, he gave the castle to Melichar Balaso. With the Balaso lineage gone, Peter Bakič became the new owner, and later became the romantic hero of the story about the abduction of Zuzana Révaiová of the Holíč castle. According to the novel of Ján Čajak, the lovers found their safe haven to be the Plavecký castle. The final part of the existence of the castle dates back to 1641, when the whole estate was acquired by paladin Pavol Pálffy. During the uprising of František II. Rákoczi, in 1706, the castle was the object of battles, which led to it being damaged. This last battle apparently sealed its fate. Its owners lost interest in any repairs and left the castle to decay.



Lemichar Balaša

Name

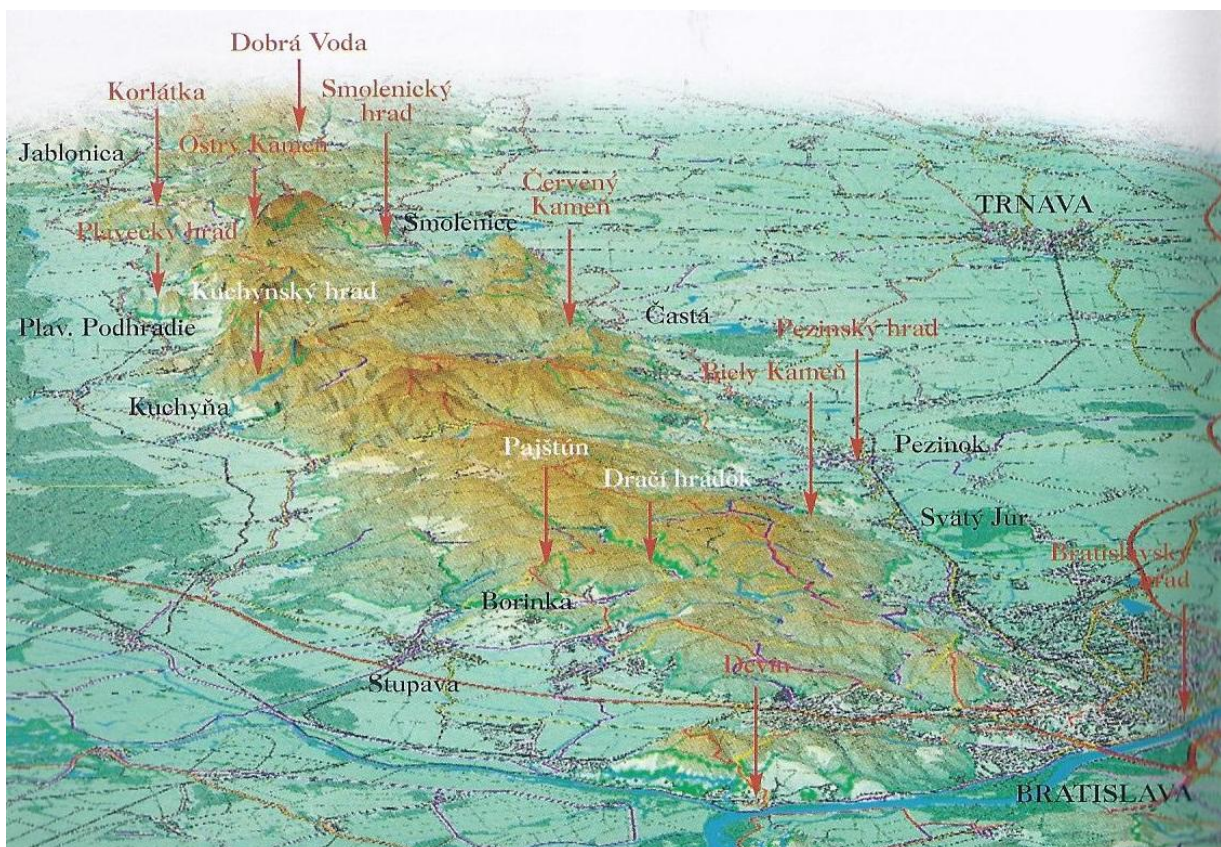
In historical sources, the castle can be found mentioned under two names. In the oldest mentions, it is called by the name of its founder Detrich – Detrich's Rock. This denomination survived until today in the Hungarian name of the castle (Detrekö vár). The origin of the original Slovak name is entirely different; historians see it in the name of the Cuman tribe, originating from the steppe of eastern Russia. Cumans fled from the approaching Tatars to Hungary, where the then ruler Belo IV. hired them as the guards of the western border. Allegedly, the local people called the foreign warriors „Plavci“ (pales) due to their bright hair color and so the castle Detrich's Rock became Plavecký castle in the Slovak language, as a remembrance of the foreign guards of the frontier. The adjective derived from the name of the castle (Plavecký) came to be used in the names of the surrounding villages belonging to the castle estate.

Strategic Position

The position of the ruin on the foreland of the Little Carpathians, looking out on the Záhorie valley speaks volumes about the original function of the Plavecký castle. The Little Carpathians and the area of Záhorie in the foreground have been the frontier area of the Hungarian kingdom ever since the early Middle Ages, which, due to the complicated relationships with its western neighbors, had to be extensively fortified. In the early stages of the kingdom, protection of the border was largely provided by entanglements blocking the passage through the mountain ridge and by tribes of border guards, who were the only inhabitants of settlements in this otherwise barren area of the Záhorie valley.

From the 13th century, a gradual population of the flatland under the mountain began and the protection of the kingdom was taken over by solid stone castles, build on the ridge of the Little Carpathians. During the 13th and 14 century, throughout a span of about 100 kilometers of the mountain, from the Danube to the Váh area, about 15 castles had sprung into existence. This firm chain, fittingly called the “Maginot line” of the middle ages by the Moravian researcher M. Plaček, was completed by a chain of smaller guard castles and by lower castles in Holíč, Skalica and Šaštín.

Together with them, a strong defense line was made up by the castles Pajštún, the castle near Kuchyňa, Plavecký castle, Korlátka, Branč and Čachtice. These castles stood on the outer hill parts of the Little Carpathians from which they controlled the space in the foreground and access to the hill passes. Further points of support were the castles in Bratislava, Devín, Dračí Hrádok castle in Borinka, Biely Kameň in St. Jur, Ostrý Kameň and Dobrá Voda, which blocked the passage of important roads though mountains. The network of strategic guard points was completed by the castles Pezinok, Červený Kameň and Smolenice, built on the inner side of the Little Carpathians.



Constructional Transformations

The current form and extent of the Plavecký castle was not created at once; it is the result of a gradual development through almost five centuries of its existence and three centuries of its decay. Its appearance was formed by the ever-changing requirements of its proprietors as to accommodation and advances in military technology.

The original establishers of the castle, the Detrichs, who build the castle in the 13th century (ground plan – I) can be attributed with the construction of the castle with battlement (14, 16), surrounding the edge of the rocky hilltop and the rectangular guard tower (23) on the top of the rock. This simple form of the original fort was probably completed by a housing building at the north-western corner the appearance of which we do not know today, as its remains have been covered by newer constructions. Later, perhaps in the beginning of the 14 century, the most vulnerable eastern face of the castle was strengthened and it received a dominating feature in form of a rectangular housing tower (19). To it, new fortification was attached, extending the castle area (15) with a gate at the eastern side the tower protected (ground plan – II).

Later in the 14th century and during the reign of the Stibor family and their heirs, the counts of st. Jur and Pezinok, the original castle grew substantially. Better fortification of the castle was achieved by an extensive castle outwork (ground plan – III), placed along the southern and western foothill of the castle rock (5, 6, 9), which also provided sufficient space for agricultural buildings necessary for life of the fortified castle. In the upper castle, the confined housing space of the towers was increased by a four-story palace (22) on the best-protected edge of the rock (ground plan – IV).

The extensive area of fortification of the outwork was, by the end of the Middle Ages, increased even more by moving the southern wall (ground plan – V). In its south-eastern corner, apparently an entry gate was created. Today, only the portal remains, which allows access to the corner cannon turret. The newly-constructed fortification (10) contained battlements with shooting positions in the crenels.

In the middle of the 16th century, in connection with the growing threat of Turkish invasions, it became necessary to strengthen the fortification, which led to the construction of a new horse shoe shaped turret with chambered cannon shooting positions in the corner of the upper castle (18)



and to the construction of a turret protecting the south-western corner of the upper castle (12, ground plan – VI). The turret surpassing in height the walls of the older castle outwork provided protection for the saddlebag and its access route as well as for the opposing slope, where an attacker could take a good attack position. However, it blocked the original access to the upper castle, which was thereafter moved to the western turret (13).



Southern castle outwork court, with entry gate in the background

Perhaps at the same time, a small turret was built at the lower castle (17), using hand-held weapons to protect the castle outwork. The constructors of the cannon turret could have been the Fuggers, sometime in the 16th century. This assumption is based mainly on the fact that the chamber shooting positions of the turret with ventilation are a simplified version of the advanced fortification of the Fugger seat at Červený Kameň.

In the course of the 16th century, gradual improvement of the fortification took place, including an expansion of the housing and agricultural premises. Thus, the large transversal fortification wall with gate was created (8), which divided the originally single space of the castle outwork into two separate parts, as well as a large housing building (7), used by the inhabitants of the lower castle (Ground plan – VII).

The final construction modifications made by the Pálffy family at the upper castle took predominantly the form of finishing buildings along the whole length of the western wall (21) and extending the housing tower (19). At the lower castle, they modernized the fortification by extending the walls and placing new walkways with shooting positions. The most recent modifications include the construction of another cannon turret (11, Ground Plan – VIII). It as well as its older turret apparently blocked the original gate and forced the castle entrance to be relocated. The newly-erected entrance was moved to the south-western part of the area. It was protected by a tower gate (4), later supplemented by an extended ante-gate with turret (1, 2, 3, ground plan – IX).

The Fate of the Castle in Modern History

The downfall of the castle began gradually at the beginning of the 18th century. The center of the estate of the then owners, the Pálffy family, was at that time the castle Červený Kameň. The Pálffys

built a more comfortable and well accessible mansion for the protection of the Plaveč estate in Plavecké Podhradie, The castle, damaged by battles, remained deserted and gradually, time took its toll on it. In the course of the years, first, the roofs decayed and later, the walls of the castle buildings began to give way.

At the end of the 19th century, the ruin was in a rather good state, only the inner walls of the castle and agricultural buildings, as well as parts of the tower at the top of the rock were destroyed. This state is well documented by drawings and photographs from the period from the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century.

Sadly, the approaching century brought about great losses. First, almost all of the southern housing tower collapsed and at the end of the 20th century, a similar fate struck the tower on the top of the rock, when almost all of its western wall collapsed. The gradually continuing process of destruction is today seen in the critical damage of the castle gate and the remains of the corner of the eastern tower, the last remaining wall of the castle palace.

After years of decay and lack of interest, however, the castle finally became the focus of activities aimed at its preservation. In terms of the project Disenchanted Castles, implemented via the Foundation fund of Západoslovenská energetika and the Pontis Foundation, the 91st scout troop from Bratislava took the ruin under its patronage and so far, removed surface vegetation and restored paths in the area. Removing bushes that endanger the brickwork is the first and most important step on the long road to its preservation. The works implemented give hope that it will be possible to prepare ground perhaps even acquire funding for further necessary steps. This is the only way to prevent the characteristic skyline of the picturesque ruin from disappearing from the Carpathian ridge forever.



The 91st scout troop and employees of Orange Slovakia working together

Tour

Entering the Castle

Ascending the final part of the access path, we are presented with a gradually appearing wall of the outer fortification (10) with narrow shooting positions, widening to the outside, used for hand-held firing arms and on the right side, we see the corner cannon turret (11). Directly above the path, the turret cranks sharply. Under this corner, the first entry gate used to stand (1). Today, the only remaining part is a wall segment to the right of the path. On it, the remains of the beam structure may still be seen that support the walling, as well as other elements, apparently used to house the moving wooden latch securing the castle gate. On the left side, we can see the remainder of the semi

circular turret with shooting positions (2), along which we enter the area of the ante-gate (3), enclosed between the tall wall of the outer castle fortification and the shorter turret with three shooting positions pointing to the slope below the gate.

The ante-gate leads to the three-story entry gate tower (4), which originally had a guard station above the gateway as well as a further defense story with a shooting position. On the internal walls of the tower gate, even today, the remains of the beam ceiling can be seen, and on the right (eastern) wall of the second story, we can see plaster with the imprint of a former furnace heating the guard station (Picture 1).

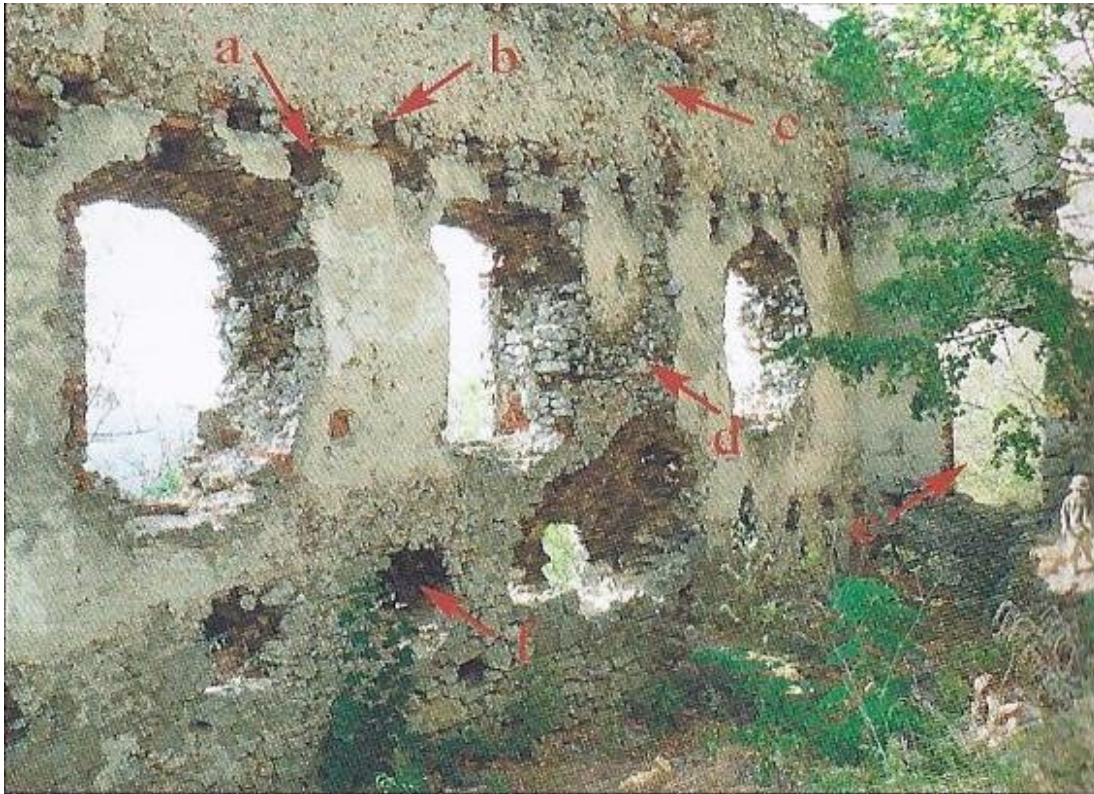


Picture 1 - room above the gateway of the entry gate tower, a – remains of the beam ceiling of the 2nd story, b – beam supporting the walling, c – furnace, d – seats remaining after beams of the original 1st story ceiling.

Western Outwork (A)

After passing through the gate, we arrive in the extensive space of the western castle outwork yard. The path leads through the center of the yard, along the remains of a housing building to the left (7). Its lower story is almost completely caved in today and above ground level, only the line of the beam ceiling can be seen.

The preserved part of the second story was originally divided by a partition into two rooms, lighted by large windows and heated with furnaces. Behind the remains of one of the chimneys, there is an older window that was walled in. There are other signs of construction modifications, like the addition of the third story with small ventilation openings. In the shorter northern wall, we can find the entrance to the dormer toilet called a *prevét* (Picture 2).



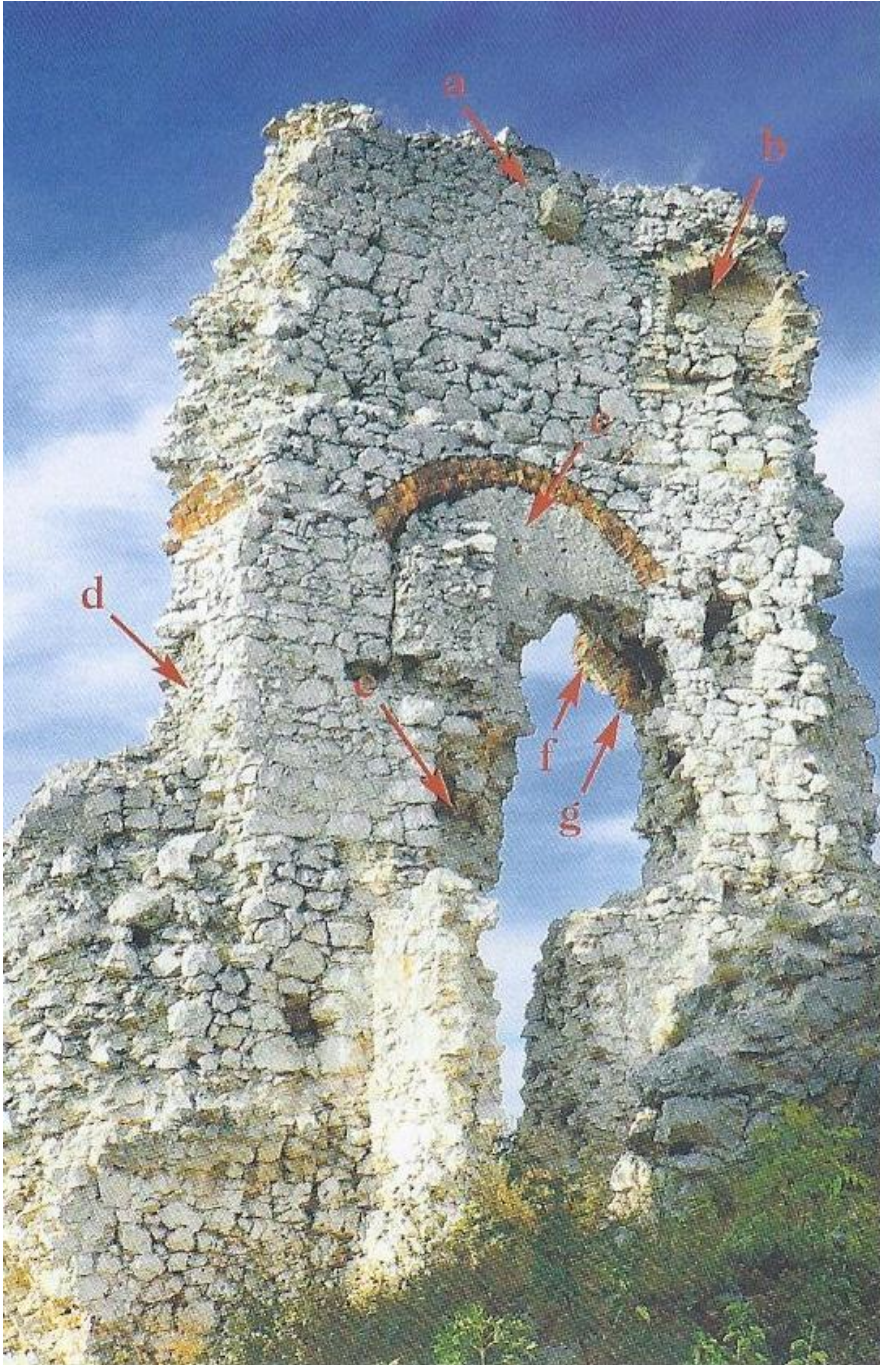
Picture 2 - the interior of the housing building of the western castle outwork, a – ceiling of the 2nd story, b – structure of the 3rd story ceiling, c – walled-in window, d – remains of a partition, e – prevét entry, f – remains of the 1st story beam ceiling

Behind the building, the yard is lined by the remains of a turret on the left side (5) with a uniquely preserved shooting position. At the end of the yard, we can enter a rocky plain, where the wall of the originally enclosed the area of the castle outwork. To the right side above us, the best preserved wall of the castle palace stands (22), containing the remains of a gothic window, later walled in and used for the construction of a prevét (Picture 3).



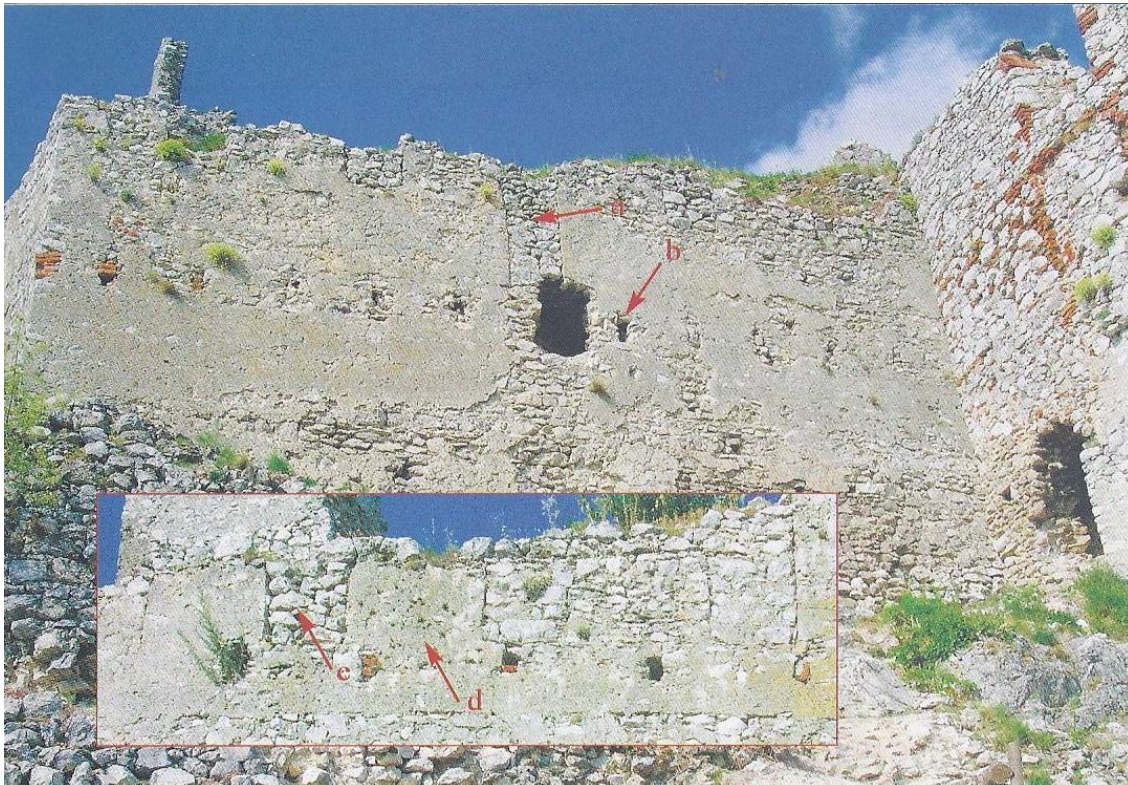
Picture 3 -Northern wall of the castle palace, a – remains of the prevét, b – remains of the palace gothic window, c – crenel of the walled in battlement of the original wall

In this spot, the path ends so we return to the castle gate. On the way, on the left side, we can see the mighty walls of the upper castle, interrupted by a large turret. Here, the gate to the upper castle is situated (13), to which a wooden ramp or staircase leads, embedded onto two brick pillars leaning against the rock.



Picture 4 – interior of the castle palace, a – the construction of the beam ceiling, b – alcove, c – walled in gothic window, d – remains of the window, e – side seat in the window alcove, f – prevét remains, g – fallen apart prevét entry

To continue with our tour of the castle, we take the path in between the entry gate and the continuing walls of the upper castle (16). On their back side, we can easily find the walled in crenels of the original structure (Picture 5).



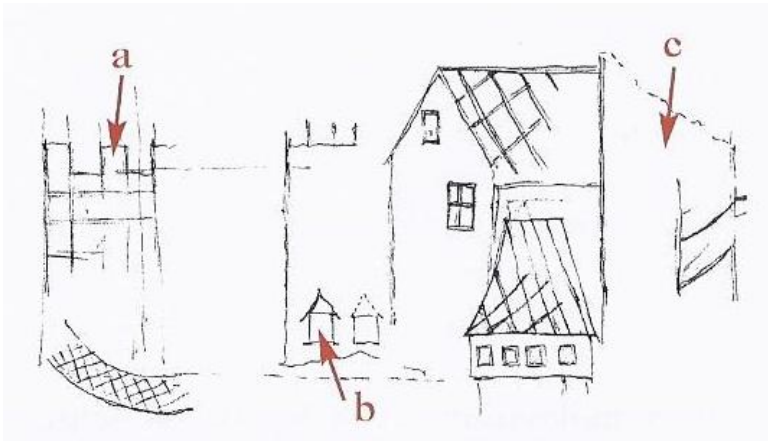
*Picture 5 - Southern wall of the upper castle with original battlement, a – entry to the walkway, b – seats of beams of the extended wooden walkway, c – battlement crenel, d – battlement crenellation
Red framed section – western wall battlement.*

So we arrive at the massive transversal wall (8), separating the yard of the southern outwork. The wall contained a wooden gate with a wooden frame, secured by wooden latches on the inside, of which the seats still remain visible.

Southern castle outwork (B)

We are entering the yard of the southern outwork through the gate; to the right, the yard is lined by a well preserved wall (10). On the inside, it contained an extended wooden walkway providing access to the shooting positions on the wall crown. Along the fortification, we cross the yard to the eastern wall (9), standing in its original height, protected by two defense lines of shooting positions. Two shooting positions of the lower line would guard the area directly in front of the wall and the third, pointing to the side, defended the place where the corner turret connected to the wall (11).

The upper defense line, originally accessed by a wooden walkway is densely populated by simple narrow shooting positions for hand-held arms. In the corner of the yard, we find the entry to the corner turret (11) and above it, the barely visible remains of a drawing of the castle, engraved into the plaster.



Sketch of the drawing carved into the plaster above the entry to the corner turret, a – battlement, b – bay window, c – presumed tower

The defense turret is equipped with shooting positions on two levels. The lower chamber shooting positions for cannons provided their firepower to cover the access road to the castle, the smaller shooting positions on the upper level were built for lighter arms. After returning to the yard, we can see that the turret entry is embedded into an older portal, possibly the remains of a gate from the middle ages.

In the yard, we can also see an interesting view of the southern face of the upper castle. It is dominated by a massive horse shoe shaped cannon turret (18), protruding into the yard of the castle outwork.

The cannon shooting positions with a straight stone cap widening outwards are placed approximately half way up on the turret and aim at the saddleback to the south of the castle, where possible danger of attack lurked. Above the left (south western) shooting position, we can see an opening in the wall, used to ventilate the smoke created by cannon fire. Above it, we see two additional lines of cannon shooting positions; the lower ones have been walled in, though (Picture 6).



Picture 6 - cannon turret of the upper castle, a – shooting position, b – walled in shooting position, c – ventilation channel, d – cannon shooting position, e – opening left behind after wooden scaffolding, f – chamber shooting position for cannon, g – shooting position opening, h – ventilation channel

From the left, the turret is connected to the face wall of the upper castle (15), which contains remnants of the walled in crenels of the battlement (Picture 5).

From the yard, we ascend along a restored stairway passing through the remains of the defense wall supporting the fortification of the face of the upper castle (12) and enter the interior of the cannon turret (18). As opposed to the rounded external shell, the interior space is pentagonal. After entering the turret, on the right side, we see a shooting position with a chamber for the cannon, above which is a ventilation channel evacuating the firing smoke outside of the turret (Picture 6).

Just above the ground level, two more walled in shooting positions can be seen, equipped with ventilation channels. The ceiling above the story rests on massive beams, of which only the seats remain in the wall. Above them, the wall becomes significantly thinner and makes up the upper defense level.

A narrow passage leading from the turret upwards is the route of the original access to the upper castle gate. A more observant visitor thinking themselves to be a real connoisseur of castle ruins can find the remains of walled in crenels of the Middle Ages battlement in the left hand side wall. Originally, the castle defenders used it to protect the narrow space in front of the gate of the upper castle.

Upper Castle (C)

Upon entering the upper castle on the right side, there is a short round turret protruding from the walling (17), the shooting positions of which protected the area of the eastern side of the castle. An important part of the yard is the remains of a massive housing tower (19), preserved up to the five original stories. The lower part of the tower is currently almost completely filled with the caved in walls, but in the higher up parts, we can still see the remains of windows of the housing rooms looking out to the west, onto the Záhorská valley. The northern façade of the tower contains artifacts of beams that remain from the staircase support or the walkway leading to the high up entry (Picture 7).



Picture 7 – housing tower and a part of the walls of the upper castle, a – seat of the bearing beam to support the wooden walkway for entering the tower, b – wall extension, c – walled in battlement crenels of the southern wall.

It is possible to descend the tower into the cellar with partially preserved arches (20), which is situated in the narrow space between the tower and the southern wall (15). We continue with our tour via a narrow passage between the tower and the western wall (16), where just above ground level, we can see the walled in original battlement crenels (Picture 7).

The passage further leads through the yard along a gap in the wall, entering the upper castle (13). On the right, we see rockwork with the slender remains of a tower (23), situated on the highest spot of the castle rock. Below it are the remains of a construction, from which apparently a stairway led to the tower (24). The edge of the rock is lined by the walls of the upper castle (14).

Opposite the tower to the left of the path stand the remains of the large housing building (21), which originally stretched along the entire side of the yard, from the palace up to the tower.

The path passes directly through its interior and today, hardly anyone will notice that they are walking on the arches of the caved in lower story. The second story contained brick arches and in its interior in the north, there was a hall with windows facing west. The central part of the wall contains a walled in alcove and beside it, the remains of a furnace and chimney. The building had three stories and according to the ventilation windows apparent in the wall, we can assume that the third story was hardly lighted (Picture 8).



Picture 8 – housing building of the upper castle, a – walled in alcove, b – furnace with chimney, c – remains of arches of the 2nd story, d – windows of the 2nd story, e – windows of the 3rd story

From the housing building, we enter the area of the castle palace (22) where just after entering, we can see the remains of high quality poured concrete floor in the dust. The palace was the home to the castle owner and their representative rooms and that is why it was, rather logically, built in the best protected spot of the castle – in the northern edge of the rock, providing a marvelous lookout onto the country. Even today, its entire northern wall stands here, still reaching its original height of four stories. The arched lower story is almost completely filled with rubble. The three-room second story was equally arched. The interior of the third story was probably one large hall, open towards the north by means of large gothic windows. From the western window (left), we can only see the side part, with the remains of the alcove; the neighboring window though is completely preserved, including the seat on the left side.

The window was later walled in, during more recent modifications, which resulted in it becoming a prevét. The palace was concluded by a fourth housing story, of which an alcove and a stone profile console that bore the ceiling (Pic. 4) remain in the wall. From the palace, the path then diverges and rises to the peak of a rocky range – the highest accessible point of the castle. Going up to the top of the rock, we pass along almost invisible remains of a wall with a circular ground plan (25). This is probably the remains of a cistern collecting water from the tower roof.

On the top of the rock, there stand the remains of the castle watch tower (23), which, due to its position, undoubtedly provided a perfect view of the surrounding area. Today, only a part of the corner with a single window remains from the four-story structure, once 12 meters high; the other walls crumbled down the steep slope. At this point, the tour ends.

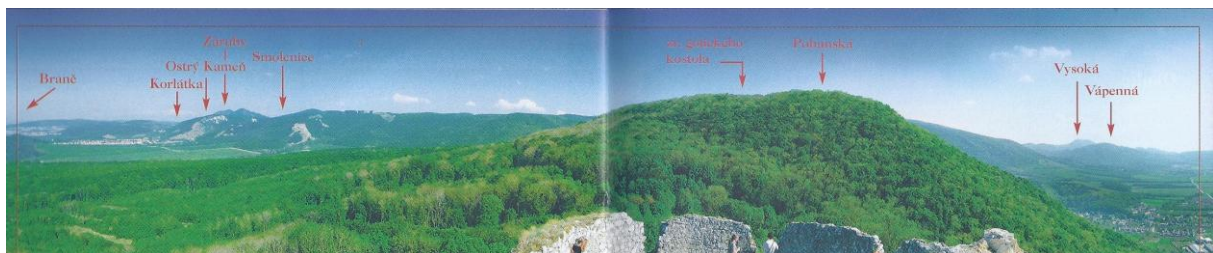
View

The perfect view of the landscape that the visitors of the upper castle are met with, besides the natural beauty, shows us the manner of protection of the borderland during the Middle-Ages, based on a mutual visual contact of these guard castles.

Looking out from the Plaveč castle towards the north-east in good weather, out in the distance, we can see the city of Senica and behind it, the silhouette of the castle Branč, standing on a lonely conical hilltop. To its right, we can see the rotating sails of a wind power plant standing on a hill, behind which the ruins of the castle Korlátka stand. In the past, however, the tower of the Korlátka castle rose high above the ridge and made direct communication with the Plaveč castle possible.

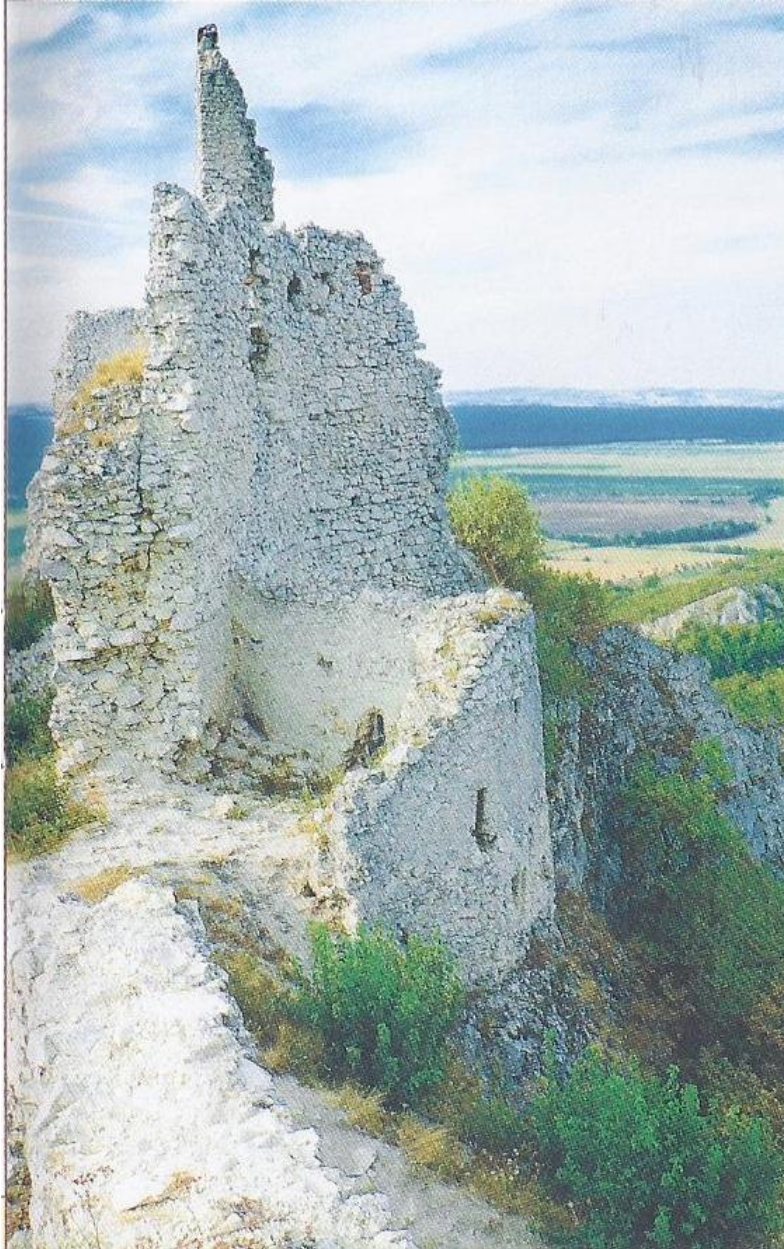
Further to the right, we can see the Záruby massif, the highest peak of the Small Carpathians. On its slope, just above the horizon, stand the ruins of Ostrý Kameň. Despite the castle hiding behind a hill, for the purposes of communication with Plaveč castle, there was a communication outpost constructed on the ridge of Záruby. The peak nearest to Plaveč castle is Pohanská. Its flat top is home to an extensive Celtic hill fort.

To the right of Pohanská, out in the distance, the Small Carpathian range continues with the pronounced peaks Vápenná and Vysoká. On the western, north-western, northern and north-eastern side, below the castle, the Záhorská lowland spreads, which in 1273 was the stage of the battle between Hungarian and Czech armies.



Location and Access

The castle stands above the village of Plavecké Podhradie, situated some 20 kilometers to the east of Malacky, directly on main road 501 Lozorno – Jablonica. The ascend to the castle from the village takes about 30 minutes. Access is provided by a tourist path marked blue, winding through the forest of the Pohanská hillside towards the saddle to the south of the castle. From there, the ascend continues to the Amon meadow, around the former Pálffy hunting lodge Monrepos and further to Klokoč hill, where a sign points directly to the castle. The tourist path marked blue leads further to the foothill of Pohanská, from where you can climb up to the top of the hill and its hill fort. In the saddle, to the left of the path, we can see the remains of a rectangular structure, apparently part of the castle structures.



Eastern wall of the upper castle with turret

Surrounding Area

Directly opposite the castle, there is a hill with the remains of a Latenian hill fort called "Pohanská". The beginning of the settlements on the hill date back to the late Bronze Age, the peak of its existence is represented by a Celtic hill fort from the 2nd century BC. At that time, a massive wall fort was created, the remains of which still surround the upper part of the hill.

The southern hillsides of Pohanská, just above the village, the remains of a church from the middle ages are hidden at the edge of the forest. The outside walls of the naves remain from the structure, with remnants of the baroque portal and most of the gothic Presbyterium.

In the area around the castle is the National Natural Reserve Pohanská, spreading along the hillsides of the castle hill, Pohanská and Skalka. It is rich in diverse plant life (allium flavum, allium ursinum,

pulsatilla grandis) and wildlife (Saker Falcon, Common Kestrel, Eagle Owl, Anguis Fragilis, Aesculapian snake and several kinds of lizards).

The northern part of the castle hill hides the entry to the Plavecká cave. Its history dates back to 1790, when it was discovered by an unknown shepherd, later in 1815, its first map was created and in 1885, its description. It was the first publicly accessible cave that the tenants of the Pállfy estate also used for storage. The cave is several hundred meters long. Currently, 717 meters are mapped and it is presumed that it is 850 meters long in total. Prior to the First World War, it was made accessible by order of count Pállfy but today, it is closed to the public. It is a significant biotope for numerous colonies of bats.



Castle Outwork with entry tower gate in the background

Pillars of the access bridge to the upper castle

*Cannon turret of the castle outwork,
looking from the upper castle*

Legenda

- I polovica 13. stor.
- II asi 1. polovica 14. stor.
- III 14. stor. (šrafované - pravdep.)
- IV 15. stor.
- V 2. polovica 15. stor.
- VI polovica 16. stor.
- VII 2. pol. 16. až zač. 17. stor.
- VIII 17. storočie
- IX 17. storočie
- X 17. storočie
- prehliadková trasa

- 1. brána do predbránia
- 2. bašta predbránia
- 3. predbránie
- 4. vežová hradná brána
- 5., 6. hradby západného predhradia
- 7. obytná budova
- 8. brána do južného predhradia
- 9., 10. hradby južného predhradia
- 11. juhovýchodná delová bašta predhradia
- 12. parkánová hradba horného hradu
- 13. vstupná brána do horného hradu
- 14., 15., 16. hradby horného hradu
- 17. východná bašta horného hradu
- 18. delová bašta horného hradu
- 19. obytná veža
- 20. hospodárska budova
- 21. obytná budova
- 22. hradný palác
- 23. veža
- 24. prístavba k veži
- 25. cisterna



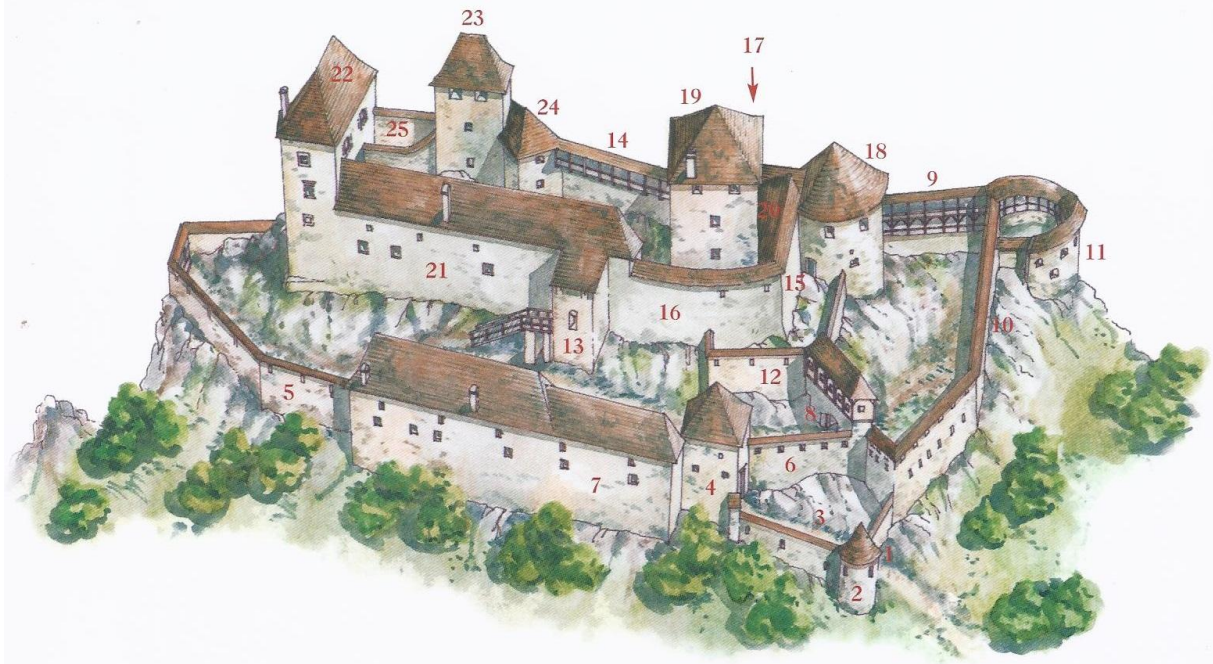
Legend

I	mid 13 th century
II	approx. 1 st half of the 14 century
III	14 th century (hatched – presumed)
IV	15 th century
V	second half of the 15 th century
VI	mid 16 th century
VII	second half of the 16 th century until early 17 th century
VIII	17 th century
IX	17 th century
X	17 th century

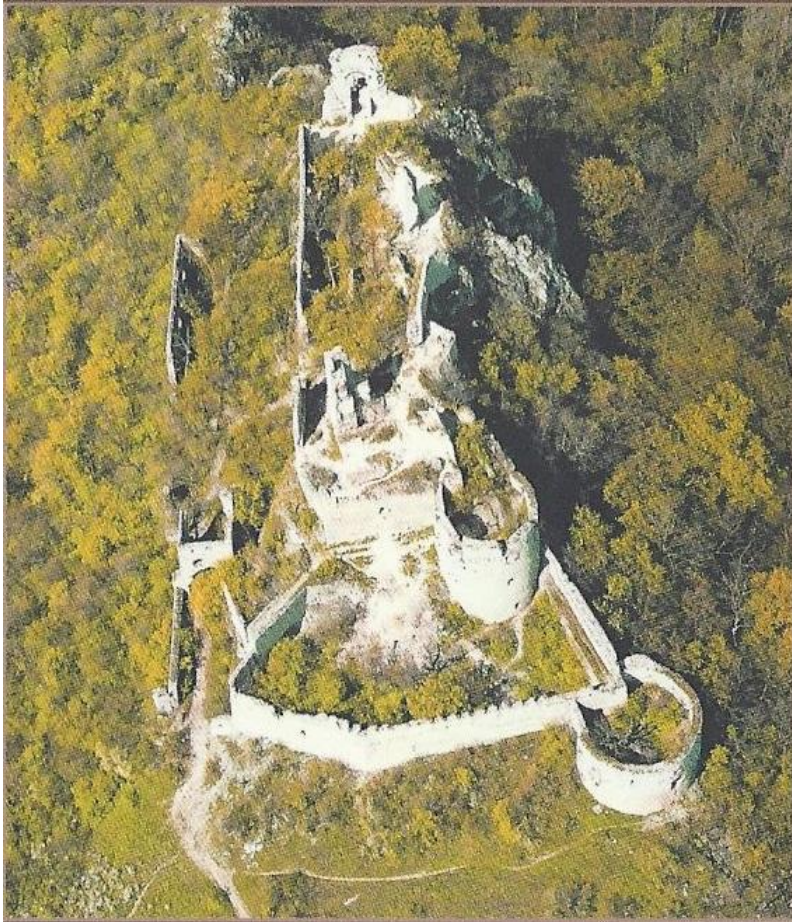
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tour route

1. Ante-gate gate
2. Ante-gate turret
3. Ante-gate
4. Castle tower gate
- 5., 6. Western castle outwork walls
7. Housing building
8. Gate to the southern castle outwork
- 9., 10. Southern castle outwork walls
11. South eastern castle outwork cannon turret
12. Defensive wall of the upper castle
13. Upper castle entry gate
- 14., 15., 16. Upper castle walls
17. Upper castle eastern turret
18. Upper castle cannon turret
19. Housing tower
20. Agricultural structure
21. Housing building
22. Castle palace
23. Tower
24. Tower extension
25. Cistern



When castles lost their masters, they also lost their protectors and investors. Ruins – memories of the building craftsmanship of our ancestors – often disappear in thick forests and, stone after stone, they fall down into river valleys, as if they were cursed. Ruins of castles of the Middle Ages are our cultural heritage. Even though these massive stone structures have long lost their purpose and glory, they still can attract masses of visitors and admirers. They mostly play a central part in the history of the area they stand in and still dominate the land. That is why castles will always remain symbols of Slovak regions.



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