

Orava castle

First historical mentions about Orava Castle are dated in 1267. Building of the castle was motivated mainly by the need for protection for the important long distance merchants' route leading to Poland, and by the need of an administrative centre for the region. Of considerable importance was also protection of the nearby state borders. The mining magnate Thurzo family, who took charge in the mid 16th century, were responsible for a great deal of rebuilding work, although its present form was not finalised until 1611. It burned down again in 1800, after which the Pálffys occupied the castle. Many scenes of the 1922 film *Nosferatu* were filmed here. After World War II, the castle became a national monument.

Bojnický zámok castle

The first written records of its existence come from 1113. It is rumoured that King Matej Korvin himself took pleasure in visiting Bojnice and would sit under the lime tree opposite the fortress's entrance, which was named the King Matej Lime tree. Thanks to count Palffy the extensive neo-gothic renovation was carried out during the years 1889 to 1910 and changed the fortress into an enchanting castle according to French Gothic castles of the Loire valley. After World War II there was situated a museum. Every year (in May) in the castle is organized the International Festival of Ghosts and Spirits.

Spišský hrad castle

It is one of the largest medieval castle in the Central Europe. The main body of the castle was surrounded by a stone fortification in the first half of the 13th century. This enabled the castle to resist the raids of the Tatars in 1241. The Spis castle is belonged to many owners. In 1464 it was property of the Zapolsky family, in the first part of the 16th century of the Thurzo family and the last proprietor after 1636 was the Csaky family until 1945. During a fire in 1780 the castle suffered extensive damage and was not reconstructed afterwards. From 1970 in the castle imposing jobs of restoration are carried out. In 1993 the Spis castle together with the surroundings (Spisske Podhradie, Spisska Kapitula, the church in Zehra) was enlisted into UNESCO World Heritage List.