

The Garden at the Capuchin Monastery

Current name of the site: Capuchin Monastery Garden / Church of St. Stephen the King with Capuchin Monastery

Category: garden

Type: historic

Location: Župné námestie 10, 811 03 Bratislava – Old Town

Current owner/administrator: Order of Friars Minor Capuchin

The Capuchin Monastery and St. Stephen's Church are among **the most significant monastic complexes in historic Bratislava**. Monastery gardens have existed in the city since the Middle Ages and were among the oldest examples of landscaped gardens. The Capuchins, the youngest branch of the Franciscans, arrived in Bratislava in 1676 and, between 1708 and 1717, built a monastery, a church, and an extensive walled garden complex.

The church was built in a simple style typical of the austere mendicant order—as a single-nave space with a dark wooden interior. Due to problems with waterlogged ground, part of it had to be rebuilt as early as the 1730s. In front of the church stands a plague column dedicated to the Virgin Mary from 1723, commemorating the great plague epidemic that claimed the lives of thousands of the town's inhabitants.

The **monastery** also included extensive kitchen and **ornamental gardens** with fruit trees, vegetable beds, and a courtyard in the center of the complex. Of particular interest are the irregular shape of the garden along Kapucínska Street and the preserved sundial on the church wall. Following the dissolution of religious orders in 1950 and the subsequent construction of the SNP Bridge and Staromestská Street, a large part of the monastery complex and gardens was destroyed. To this day, the cloistered courtyard and part of the original garden have been preserved, serving as a reminder of the former appearance of the extensive **Capuchin complex**.