



VÍKEND
OTVORENÝCH
PARKOV A ZÁHRAD



Národný
Trust

Summer Reading Room at The Red Crayfish

Current name of the site: Summer Reading Room at The Red Crayfish

Category: garden

Type: historic

Location: located in the Bratislava Old Town district at 26 Michalská Street

Current owner/manager: Bratislava City Library

The Summer Reading Room at The Red Crayfish is located in the former defensive moat of **Bratislava's medieval city fortifications**, where remnants of the walls are still visible today. The city fortifications were constructed beginning in the early 14th century and consisted of high stone walls, bastions, gates, and a moat. Bratislava had a strategic location at the crossroads of trade routes and at the entrance to the Carpathian Basin, which is why the fortifications were of exceptional importance to the city.

The most significant preserved part of the fortifications is **Michalská Gate**, the only city gate that has survived to this day. In front of it, a stone bridge with statues of St. Michael the Archangel and St. John of Nepomuk was built in the 18th century. The Powder Bastion, where gunpowder and weapons were stored, was also part of the defensive system. After losing its military significance in the 18th century, the castle walls were gradually demolished. The moat itself was later used for public and social purposes—it housed a shooting range, and theater performances and summer festivals were held there. In 1961, part of the area was converted into a summer reading room.

Entrance to the grounds leads through the former **Pharmacy at The Red Crayfish**, one of the oldest civilian pharmacies in the city, which today serves as part of the **Bratislava City Museum**. The summer reading room is now a peaceful green oasis in the city center, where visitors can read books and magazines or attend cultural events. The garden also features historic statues, the Vase drinking fountain, and other artistic elements from the 18th century. **The reading room is open to the general public free of charge**, and its services can be used even without registering at the library. Opening hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Please check the opening hours before the season begins!)