

Nicholas Cemetery

Current name of the site: Mikulášsky Cemetery

Category: cemetery

Type: historic

Location: Žižkova 30, 811 02 Bratislava

Current owner/administrator: owner: City of Bratislava; administrator: Marianum – Bratislava City Funeral Services

St. Nicholas Cemetery was established in the 1780s along with other Bratislava cemeteries located outside the city's historic center. It was intended primarily for the residents of **Podhradie**, and burials took place here from 1784 until 1957. It is located on the northern slope below Somársky Hill, above Žižkova Street. It was named after St. Nicholas, the patron saint of sailors and boatmen, which also reflects the nature of those buried there—many of them were connected to the Danube and river transport. The symbols of anchors on the tombstones often recall their profession or connection to the water.

The cemetery is divided by a main tree-lined avenue, at the end of which stands the former morgue and the caretaker's house. At the entrance is a pseudo-Gothic portal with a statue of a mourning angel from the mid-19th century. The complex also includes the Neo-Romanesque **Chapel of St. Nicholas** from the second half of the 19th century, which is now in a state of disrepair.

The most valuable tombstones date primarily from the second half of the 19th century and the early 20th century. Typical examples include obelisks, richly decorated aedicules, and Art Nouveau stelae featuring weeping figures and floral motifs. Metal fences, crosses, and decorative details have also been preserved. Notable monuments include the Neo-Gothic mausoleum of the **Kittler family** and the mausoleum of the Linzboth family, associated with shipping between Bratislava and Linz.

The cemetery is also associated with a legend about the burial of the renowned sculptor **Franz Xaver Messerschmidt**, creator of the famous character heads, although his grave has not survived. The grave of **Viktória Schmidtová**, whom legends describe as the most beautiful woman in the history of Bratislava, is also located here.