

HOW TO GET THE CHURCH

You can go on foot, by car or by bus to Basilica of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary (Basilica minor) at the Maria's Hill (760,5 m). Besides the main church on the hill there is also a Greek catholic chapel, Pilgrimage and spiritual retreat house and rest zone with the Stations of the Cross. In the south-west from the basilica there is an outdoor altar, in the north-east there is a chapel of Virgin Mary with a spring and in front of the west entrance into the basilica there is a statue of John of Nepomuk.

During the main pilgrimage that takes place annually at the first weekend in July, you can go there only on foot or by shuttle bus service, which is aimed mainly at older and handicapped because of the capacity reasons.

There are five chapels along the pilgrimage route, as well as a lime tree alley that has been named John Paul II. Alley after the Holy Father on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of papal visit. The chapels commemorate people and events from the life of Virgin Mary (St. Anne, Annunciation, Virgin Mary with Child, Pieta, Immaculate Conception). The side walk is asphaltic, the way is quite steep. The distance from the town centre to the basilica is approximately 2 km (40 to 60 minutes according to the fitness).

For the buses and cars there is a narrow asphalt route. The distance from the town centre to the basilica is approximately 6,5 km.

OPENING HOURS AND ENTRANCE FEE

There is no entrance fee or traditional opening hours (the church is open all day from spring to autumn, if not, there are nuns able to open it for you). If you would like to have a mass with the local priest, you should contact the Roman Catholic Parish Office in Levoča rkc@levoca.sk as there could be some fee.

PILGRIMAGE

The main pilgrimage takes place annually at the first weekend in July by the occasion of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary (2.7.), which is the basilica devoted to.

Since spring to autumn the Roman Catholic Parish Office (www.rkc.levoca.sk) organises here the pilgrimages for the seniors, families, youth, soldiers, scouts, students of theology, handicapped people and pilgrims' groups of parishes from the Slovakia as well as from abroad.

You can find more about these pilgrimages on Parish Office rkc@levoca.sk or contact the nuns in the Pilgrimage and spiritual retreat house at the Maria's Hill marianskahore@levoca.sk.

CHURCH SERVICES

During the whole year at the Maria's Hill there are held masses every first Saturday a month. These are so-called Fatima's Saturday (The First Saturdays Devotion) and the masses start usually at 9.30 am (<http://rkc.levoca.sk/bohosluzby.html>)

In the winter there are not church services held at the Maria's Hill.

Masses on Sunday starts with the second Easter Sunday and are held until the last Sunday in October, they usually start at 14:30. In that period there are held also the masses during the main saints-day and the celebrations of Virgin Mary. Dates of the masses are stated here: <http://rkc.levoca.sk/bohosluzby.html> .

If the group of the pilgrims would like to have a mass in this church with the their own priest, it is necessary to book the date in advance with nuns in the Pilgrimage and spiritual retreat house at the Maria's Hill marianskahora@levoca.sk or rkc@levoca.sk

If the group of the pilgrims would like to have a mass in this church with the local priest (only available in Slovak language), it is necessary to book the date in advance with the Roman Catholic Parish Office in Levoča (rkc@levoca.sk)