

## HERITAGE TRAIL

### “The Land of Roots – Stories of Nature, Craft, and Time”

#### Introduction

In the heart of Slovakia’s Hont region, where rolling vineyards meet ancient landscapes, lies a path that connects three remarkable places – Olej Hont, the Ginkgo Tree of **Súdovce** and Vinica Jerusalem. Each stop tells a unique story, but together, they form a journey through history, craftsmanship, and the quiet power of nature.

Here, you will step into the world of Olej Hont, where the tradition of cold-pressed oils keeps alive the connection between land and table. You will stand beneath the oldest ginkgo tree in Slovakia, a 260-year-old survivor, rooted in the past but stretching toward the future. And finally, you will walk the vine-clad slopes of Jerusalem, where history whispers through **Bratráci** legends and the soil nurtures grapes that have grown for generations.

This is more than a trail. It is an invitation to slow down, to listen, to taste, and to feel the deep heritage of Hont.

#### What you’ll discover

- **Olej Hont** – A small but exceptional oil press in Súdovce, where Viera Šimčíková and Matthias Dirk Roesch revive the ancient craft of cold-pressing oils. Every bottle tells the story of local farmers, sustainable food, and pure, unfiltered flavors. Visitors can watch the process firsthand, taste artisanal oils, and experience the care that goes into every drop.
- **The Ginkgo Tree of Súdovce** – Standing for over 260 years, this living relic of the past was once part of a majestic noble estate. Though the manor has faded, the ginkgo remains – a silent witness to centuries of change. As one of the oldest trees of its kind in Slovakia, it symbolizes resilience, longevity, and nature’s quiet wisdom.
- **Vinica Jerusalem** – A vineyard with a name that holds centuries of meaning, where nature and legend intertwine. Some say Bratráci exiles named it their Promised Land, while others trace its origins to a lost grape variety, Jerusalem, cultivated here over 150 years ago. Today, it remains a place for reflection, renewal, and deep connection to the land.

## Heritage stories

### Story 1 “From Seeds to Gold – The Artisanal Oils of Olej Hont”



In the rolling hills of Slovakia’s Hont region, nestled in the village of **Súdovce**, a small oil press is keeping an ancient craft alive. Olej Hont transforms locally sourced seeds into pure, cold-pressed oils, preserving the rich flavors and nutrients that nature intended.

Since 2013, **Viera Šimčíková** and Matthias Dirk Roesch have dedicated themselves to reviving traditional oil pressing. Using pumpkin, sunflower, rapeseed, poppy, and other locally grown seeds, they create

unfiltered, nutrient-rich oils – bottled gold straight from the land.

Step inside their workshop to witness the pressing process, learn the secrets of seed selection, and taste handcrafted oils, mustards, and seed cakes. This is craftsmanship at its finest, blending Slovak heritage, sustainability, and culinary excellence.

Olej Hont is more than an oil press – it’s a testament to slow food, sustainability, and the power of tradition. Each bottle supports local farmers, healthy eating, and a commitment to quality over mass production.

Take “The Land of Roots” Heritage Trail and visit Olej Hont to taste history in every drop. Contact Lisov Museum for more details.

## Story 2 “The Timeless Guardian of Súdovce – The Story of the Ginkgo Tree”



Hidden in the quiet village of **Súdovce**, where history whispers through its vineyards and old churches, stands a living relic from another time – the oldest ginkgo tree in Slovakia. Planted over 260 years ago, this tree has silently witnessed generations come and go, surviving centuries of change.

Though locals often overlook it, travelers who stumble upon this rare tree are captivated by its presence. Some even

take fallen leaves as a keepsake, knowing that ginkgo has long been revered for its medicinal properties, aiding circulation and longevity.

The ginkgo tree of **Súdovce** is more than a botanical wonder – it is a symbol of endurance, history, and hidden beauty. In a world that constantly changes, this tree remains, a guardian of time.

Step into the past, where noble gardens flourished, and discover a tree that has outlived empires and endured the test of time.

Your journey awaits. Would you walk beneath its ancient branches and feel the weight of centuries in its golden leaves? Take “The Land of Roots” heritage trail and visit the Ginkgo Tree of Súdovce. Contact Lisov Museum for more details.

## Story 3 “Vinica Jerusalem – A Vineyard Beyond Words”



Tucked into the rolling hills of Hont, where vineyards have stretched toward the sky for generations, lies a place with a name that carries centuries of meaning – Jerusalem. Or is it Jeruzalem?

Maps from 1871 and 1935 offer different spellings, reflecting the shifting history of this land of crossroads. But beyond words, beyond letters, this place is a

feeling – a sanctuary, a view into eternity, a moment of peace amidst the vines.

Legends whisper that **Bratříci** warriors fleeing their homeland found refuge here, calling it their Promised Land. Others say the name comes from an ancient grape variety, Jerusalem, once grown on these slopes over 150 years ago. Today, the vines have changed, but the spirit of the land remains the same – a place where those who stop to look truly see, and those who listen truly hear.

At Vinica Jerusalem, the horizon stretches beyond **Hontianske Moravce**, past the winding **Ipeľ River**, to the **Borzsony Mountains** in Hungary. Here, wine is more than a drink – it is a story of resilience, tradition, and human connection.

Vinica Jerusalem is a place of renewal and belonging, created for those who need a moment to breathe, to reconnect with nature, with each other, and with themselves.

Your Journey Awaits. Will you step into this land, feel its presence, and let its story become part of your own? Take “The Land of Roots” Heritage Trail and visit Vinica Jerusalem. Contact Lisov Museum for more details.

## Why this trail matters

This trail is not about rushing – it is about immersion. It is a journey through taste, time, and tradition.

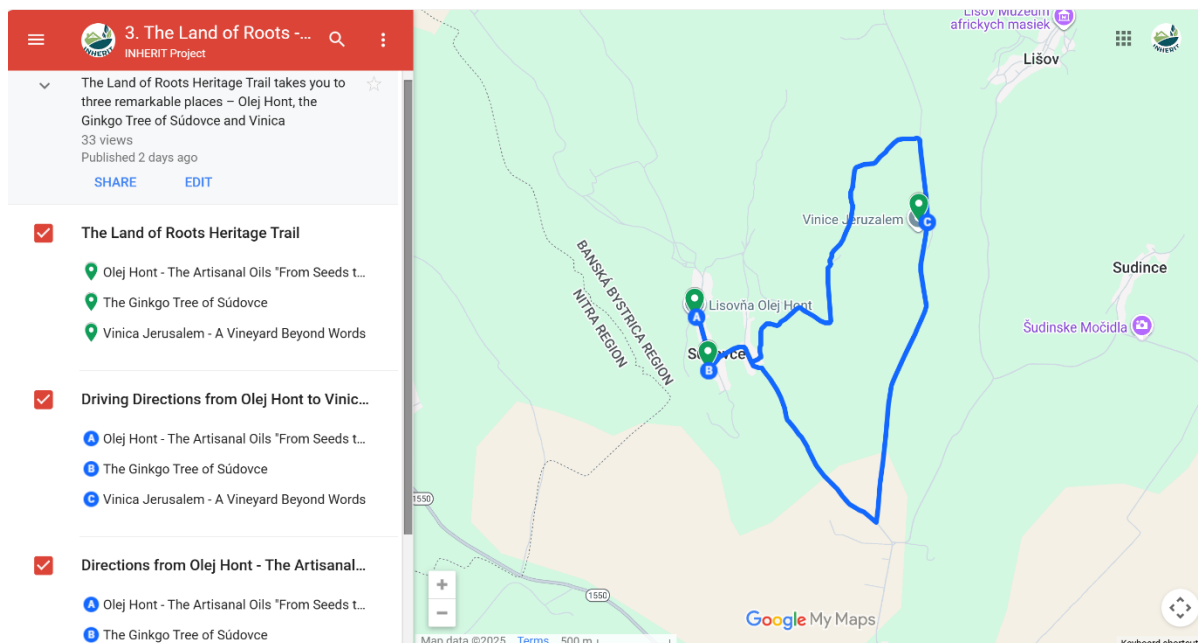
- At Olej Hont, you experience the power of craft, where the simple act of pressing oil becomes a tribute to Slovak farmers and sustainable food.
- At the Ginkgo Tree, you stand beneath time itself, where a tree has endured revolutions, wars, and the changing world, yet continues to thrive.
- At Vinica Jerusalem, you feel the soul of the land, where centuries-old vines still root themselves in legend.

Each stop invites you to pause, to observe, and to reconnect – not just with history, but with yourself.

## Trail map

The Land of Roots Heritage Trail takes you to three remarkable places – Olej Hont, the Ginkgo Tree of Súdovce and Vinica Jerusalem.





### Link to the map:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/2/edit?mid=1n4HdvKIUu7dMiZ0J9bhaVcKGIEYXWuQ&usp=sharing>

Stop 1	<b>Olej Hont</b> <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/f43aqGd4kuiPV25a9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/f43aqGd4kuiPV25a9</a> GPS: 48.2111, 18.83382
Stop 2	<b>The Ginkgo Tree of Súďovce</b> <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/dvMg8BvHvrhZGdTB8">https://maps.app.goo.gl/dvMg8BvHvrhZGdTB8</a> GPS: 48.20796, 18.83505
Stop 3	<b>Vinica Jerusalem</b> <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/b3ffgog8B2bYUYVz9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/b3ffgog8B2bYUYVz9</a> GPS: 48.21681, 18.8542

### Trail details

- Length (km): 4.5 km
- How it could be undertaken: walking, cycling, or driving
- Starting point: Olej Hont <https://maps.app.goo.gl/f43aqGd4kuiPV25a9>

- **Duration:**
  - If you undertake the quests at the heritage sites, you will need about 3 hours to complete the trail
  - If you don't, visiting the sites will take you about 1.5-2 hours.
- **Special notes** (clothes, equipment, weather, etc.):
  - Notebook or phone for notes
  - Comfortable walking shoes
  - Water bottle
  - Best Season: accessible year-round
- **Safety guidelines:**
  - Be respectful of machinery and the production space
  - Do not touch equipment without guidance from staff
  - Follow hygiene rules during tastings
- **Guiding:**
  - This trail can be undertaken by travelers on their own
  - Guiding is not offered
- **Contacts for more details:**

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<https://lisovmuzeum.sk/>  
 Lisov 15 96271 Lisov  
 +421 902 324 577

## Quests / Chances to be creative

### Quest 1 “Liquid Gold – The Olej Hont Challenge”

#### Quest Overview

- **Theme & Heritage Focus:** Traditional cold-pressed oil production, sustainability, and local agriculture
- **Duration:** 45-60 minutes
- **Difficulty Level:** Moderate (interactive tasks included)
- **Location:** Olej Hont, Súdovce  
 (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/f43aqGd4kuiPV25a9>)
- **Best Season:** Spring to autumn (April – October), but accessible year-round



### Mission

You are a food explorer, tasked with uncovering the secrets of traditional oil pressing at Olej Hont. Your challenge is to discover how oils are crafted from seed to bottle, compare different varieties, and learn why cold-pressing preserves the purest flavors and nutrients.

### Challenge

To complete this quest, you must explore the process of oil-making through three tasks:

- The Seed's Journey – Identify the key local seeds used at Olej Hont (pumpkin, sunflower, rapeseed, poppy) and learn why they are chosen.
- Pressing the Gold – Observe the cold-pressing process and discover why this method preserves the best qualities of the oil.
- Tasting & Aroma – Compare two different oils and describe their taste, texture, and aroma. What makes each unique?

### Starting Point

Entrance of Olej Hont.

### Area Description

Small-scale oil press workshop with a focus on sustainability and traditional production.

### Success Criteria

Answer all three challenge questions and discuss your findings with a member of the Olej Hont team.

## Quest 2 “The Timekeeper – The Ginkgo Challenge”

### Quest Overview

- Theme & Heritage Focus: Natural history, botany, and the legacy of an ancient tree
- Duration: 30-45 minutes
- Difficulty Level: Easy (walking and observation required)
- Location: Ginkgo Tree of Súdovce  
(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZyctnL8tNw7BkLV57>)
- Best Season: Spring to autumn (April – October)



### Mission

You are a nature historian, investigating the ancient 260-year-old Ginkgo tree in Súdovce. Your task is to uncover its history, medicinal properties, and resilience over centuries.

### Challenge

Your goal is to complete three tasks that highlight the importance of this ancient tree:

- The Time Capsule – Estimate the tree’s age based on its historical significance in Súdovce. What major historical events has it lived through?
- The Healing Tree – Research or ask a local about the medicinal uses of ginkgo leaves. Why has this tree been valued in traditional medicine?
- The Survivor – Learn about the resilience of ginkgo trees and how one even survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. What makes this species unique?

### Starting Point

Near the Ginkgo Tree in Súdovce.

### Area Description

A historic tree once part of a noble estate, now standing as a natural monument of time and endurance.

### Success Criteria

Document answers to all three tasks and reflect on the tree’s significance in both history and nature.

## Quest 3 “The Spirit of the Land – The Jerusalem Vineyard Challenge”

### Quest Overview

- Theme & Heritage Focus: Viticulture, landscape history, and the cultural significance of the Jerusalem Vineyard
- Duration: 45-60 minutes
- Difficulty Level: Moderate (walking involved)
- Location: Vinica Jerusalem  
(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/b3ffgog8B2bYUYVz9>)
- Best Season: Spring to autumn (April – October)



### Mission

You are a vineyard explorer, tracing the origins of the Jerusalem Vineyard and its connection to history, faith, and viticulture. Your task is to unravel the story behind its name, understand its unique grape varieties, and immerse yourself in the natural beauty of the region.

### Challenge

To complete the quest, you must explore the historical and viticultural significance of the Jerusalem Vineyard through three key tasks.



- The Name's Secret – Investigate the origins of the vineyard's name. Was it named after the Bratríci movement, an ancient grape variety, or something else?
- The Taste of Tradition – Learn about the grape varieties grown here. What makes them unique, and how have they adapted to the region?
- A View Through Time – Stand on the vineyard slopes and observe the landscape. What historical landmarks can you see from here, and how does the location connect to its past?

### **Starting Point**

Entrance to Vinica Jerusalem.

### **Area Description**

A vineyard with deep historical significance, offering views of Hontianske Moravce, the Ipeľ River, and even into Hungary.

### **Success Criteria**

Answer all three challenge questions and reflect on what makes this vineyard a special place in the landscape of Hont.

### **Disclaimer:**

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