

The old town centre has preserved its original medieval appearance. Today this is mainly the place of pubs, restaurants and other service activities. There are two business centres in Dravograd: the Traberg Centre with a hotel, which is located just outside the town centre, and the Meža Centre with administrative offices, the bus station and the railway station, situated by the bridge over the Drava. The town hall was used as Gestapo headquarters during WWII. In the basement of the building there is a smaller museum collection. The cultural pulse of the historical town centre is enhanced by art exhibitions and concerts in the Roman Church of St Vitus – one of few churches with the bell tower facing east. The formation of Dravograd is in close connection with this church.

The Old Town Centre



THE OLD CASTLE
RUINS

THE CHURCH OF
ST. VITUS

MUSEUM - GESTAPO
PRISON



In the middle of the 12th century Ortolf of Trušnje had a castle built on the hill on the left bank of the Drava. Below the castle a settlement was formed, mentioned as the market town Dravograd (Traberch) with two courts, the proprietorial church of St Vitus, a bridge and a tollhouse, which was needed due to the closeness of the national border. After the extinction of the Trušnje lords in 1261 the owners and the tenants of the Dravograd estate often changed. Among the owners of Dravograd were also the Counts of Celje and the Habsburg Dynasty. In the Middle Ages Dravograd was one of the most important market towns of the Drava Valley. Inside the town walls there were about 70 houses with 450 habitants, many among which were craftsmen and salesmen. The castle, where 21 cannons were placed for the defence of Dravograd, was left to dilapidation in 1846 by its last owner. The Koroška railway was built in 1863 in the Drava Valley, but due to high prices of such transport it did not manage to replace the rafting on the Drava, which was first mentioned already in the 13th century. In the middle of the 19th century there were a ferrous metal foundry and a glass factory operating by the Drava just outside Dravograd, and some decades later a lubricant factory on the Drava's right bank, where they started to refine crude oil after WWI. After the break up of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy, the combats for the northern border and the failure of the Carinthian plebiscite, the Municipality of Dravograd became part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. In April 1937 even the headquarters of the Dravograd 'srez' were transferred to Dravograd. At Slovenia's declaration of independence in 1991 there were combats with the mobile troops of the Yugoslav army in Dravograd. Today Dravograd is one of twelve municipalities of the Koroška region.