



SLOVAKIA

NEAR AND FULL OF SURPRISES

TRAVEL TO
SLOVAKIA
GOOD IDEA

www.slovakia.travel



visitbratislava.com

COME AND EXPLORE THIS DANUBE COUNTRY'S SECRETS



Navigate your way to the very heart of Europe and explore this captivating Carpathian area – where your travels will be full of excitement, new experiences, and unique surprises.

Slovakia is known as the heart of Central Europe: a reference to its geography and the warm welcome you'll receive as you explore our villages and cities, lowlands and mountain peaks, mighty rivers, and inspiring lakes.

And before we unfold maps, select highlights, and sketch a great itinerary around this beautiful country, let's get a little context. Strategically placed, Slovakia has long been a key transnational trading route – its influence over millennia is reflected in our DNA and aristocratic heritage. This city witnessed Habsburg marriages as far back as 500 years ago – and eighteen Hungarian kings and queens were crowned at gothic St. Martin's Cathedral over 267 years, including Queen Maria Theresa. The capital city Bratislava is connected with Vienna to the west and Budapest to the south-east by the Danube – the mighty river that has inspired painters, poets, and composers. The river's left bank is the furthest east that the Roman Empire conquered.

Bratislava is the most popular gateway to Slovakia, from which the country reveals itself through age-old traditions and dialects united by the Slovak language (also known as Slavic Esperanto). The land rises from southern lowlands to awe-inspiring 2,000-metre peaks in the north, with over two million hectares of forests abundant with fauna, flora, and freshwater. The country has over 180 castles, ruins, and UNESCO listed monuments.

Seek out the High Tatras mountains for challenges and wonders, numerous thermal springs for relaxation and recovery, and wild escapes under the clearest night skies in the north-east's primordial forests. Whether you're inspired to discover new paths yourself or prefer an organised itinerary, you'll love exploring this country.

Let's discover Slovakia.

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IN EVERY BREATH

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NATURAL

ENERGY IN EVERY BREATH

All across our incredible country, you can find everything from stunning mountain ranges to awe-inspiring cave systems. We invite you to come, explore and discover.



9 NATIONAL PARKS



15,000 KM OF WELL-MARKED
HIKING/RUNNING TRAILS



SKI SLOPES FOR ALL LEVELS:
BEGINNER TO EXPERT



6 UNESCO-LISTED
CAVES



50 CYCLE HIGHWAYS,
HUNDREDS OF CYCLE PATHS,
3 EUROVELO ROUTES



MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS

PERFECT FOR SUMMER FUN...

There's no better place to escape high-season heat than at altitude – and in spectacular Slovakia you're truly spoilt for choice. From shaded strolls in picturesque foothills and lush green valleys to challenging hikes in mountain ranges, our scenery will surprise and inspire. Come to our beautiful National Parks and enter a world of diverse fauna, flora, and stunning landscapes. And with numerous well-marked cycle paths, this is also

the perfect place to saddle up and head off for a two-wheeled adventure of your very own. Wonder at the majesty of native deer, forage for forest raspberries and aromatic mushrooms, savour pure mountain springs, and be wowed by stunning panoramic views. Get away from it all and find yourself with summer in the Slovak mountains.



Cycling map of Slovakia
cykloportal.sk

...AND WINTER THRILLS

Come the colder months, snow transforms Slovakia's alpine landscapes into a winter wonderland. Make the most of the winter season with fun snow activities! Slovakia has earned an excellent reputation as a hot destination for cool winter sports. Here skiing and snowboarding is all about spectacular landscapes and scenery, excellently prepared all-ability slopes, and warm hospitality after a great day in the mountain air. And off piste, there are plenty of ski-touring, cross-country skiing, and even sledding opportunities to explore. The ski resorts – such as Jasná, Tatranská Lomnica, and Donovaly – are top-level and very welcoming, comfortable, and convenient. And thrill seekers love climbing Slovak Paradise's deep-frozen waterfalls armed with crampons and courage!



I like it here. Your mountains are great for real mountaineering... and the world should know about them.

Reinhold Messner, speaking about the High Tatras

► Čierne sedlo, High Tatras
📷 filmmaker Rasto Hatiar @rastohatiar





You never said to the mountain hut keeper: Look at this weather. Only the load, the here and now, and freedom

Sloboda pod nákladom/documentary
directed by Pavol Barabáš

CRYSTAL-CLEAR MOUNTAIN LAKES

These high-altitude glacial wonders are set among an enchanting alpine landscape of rugged peaks, pine forests, and stunning views. The High and Low Tatras mountains have over 100 such lakes – which really are the perfect picture-postcard selfie opportunity. Some lakes are pretty isolated and necessitate some committed hiking – but you'll be well rewarded with idyllic isolation, whilst others – such as Štrbské pleso – are easily accessible and great for a stroll or even boating.



📷 SLOVAKIA TRAVEL

SAFE SANCTUARY

you can 100% count on these mountain huts – you'll be welcomed with a friendly smile, hot soup, and chilled beer. Found dotted along hiking trails, here you can wait for drier weather, sleep, and warm up. They are ideal milestones along your route, and as you approach perhaps you'll be overtaken by a famous chamois or energetic mountain porter with a heavy load towering high above his head. The High Tatras has 13 alpine huts, while Slovakia has 220 cosy shelters (hiking.sk) and growing.



Staying in a remote shelter brings you down to ground. You appreciate how little you really need.

Jakub Ptačin,
Hikemates portal/Slovak Hiking Club

ADDED ADRENALINE

Concentrate on every step as your pulse races ever faster – and only look down if you dare! Fissures in massive rocks, risers and chains in canyons, high altitude steel ropes and ladders, waterfalls, and an 80-metre suspension bridge above Skalka ravine. The ferratas are a great challenge and wonderful hike in Slovakia with stunning views of the Tatras, Fatra, and Liptov region – and a special highlight are alpine routes for both experienced and leisure hikers. What Bachledova dolina valley lacks in heart-racing adrenaline it more than makes up for with beautiful views of the Pieniny and Belianske Tatras from a year-round 600-metre suspended treetop walk to a stunning observation tower.



WILD AT HEART

Seeking stunning views and moments to capture for a lifetime? Then make Slovakia your next ‘must-see’ destination.

A nation nestled in the heart of Europe, Slovakia is home to snow-capped mountains, sweeping vistas, lush native forests, glassy lakes, picturesque rivers, and geothermal spa areas. Wilderness areas to explore and inspire. Thanks to its unique features and unspoilt nature, this spectacular scenery has been the backdrop to numerous major motion pictures and wildlife documentaries. Much of our wilderness is accessible through National Parks, with breathtaking sights on walking trails and tracks that range from a short hike through to multi-day

adventures. The scenic highlights even extend after dark, as Slovakia’s inky skies in the north-east have been recognised as having some of the best stargazing opportunities in the world. Small yet perfectly formed – our compact size means you can experience our wide range of picturesque landscapes in a short time. So within just a few hours’ drive you can go from alpine surrounds to fragrant pine forest, or from winding river meanders to rocky peaks. The perfect holiday destination for the wild at heart.



A DELIVERY JOB

LIKE NO OTHER

High altitude DELIVERIES 100 kg backpacks, long distances, rocky terrain, and steep ascents. In all weathers. That's the life of unique alpine porters who you'll meet on our highest mountains and embody strength, dedication and humility. Mountain huts in the High and Low Tatras and Large Fatra depend on these porters, and Slovakia is the last place in Europe where this historic practice has survived for over 900 years.

Porters work the mountains daily, performing their environmentally-friendly duties, often seasonally accompanied by younger guys who want to test their strength of muscle and mind in the most extreme environment – the liberating freedom of overcoming oneself and gaining a unique life experience.



You never said to the mountain hut keeper: Look at the weather. Only the load, the here and now, and freedom.

Freedom under Load, documentary
directed by Pavol Barabáš

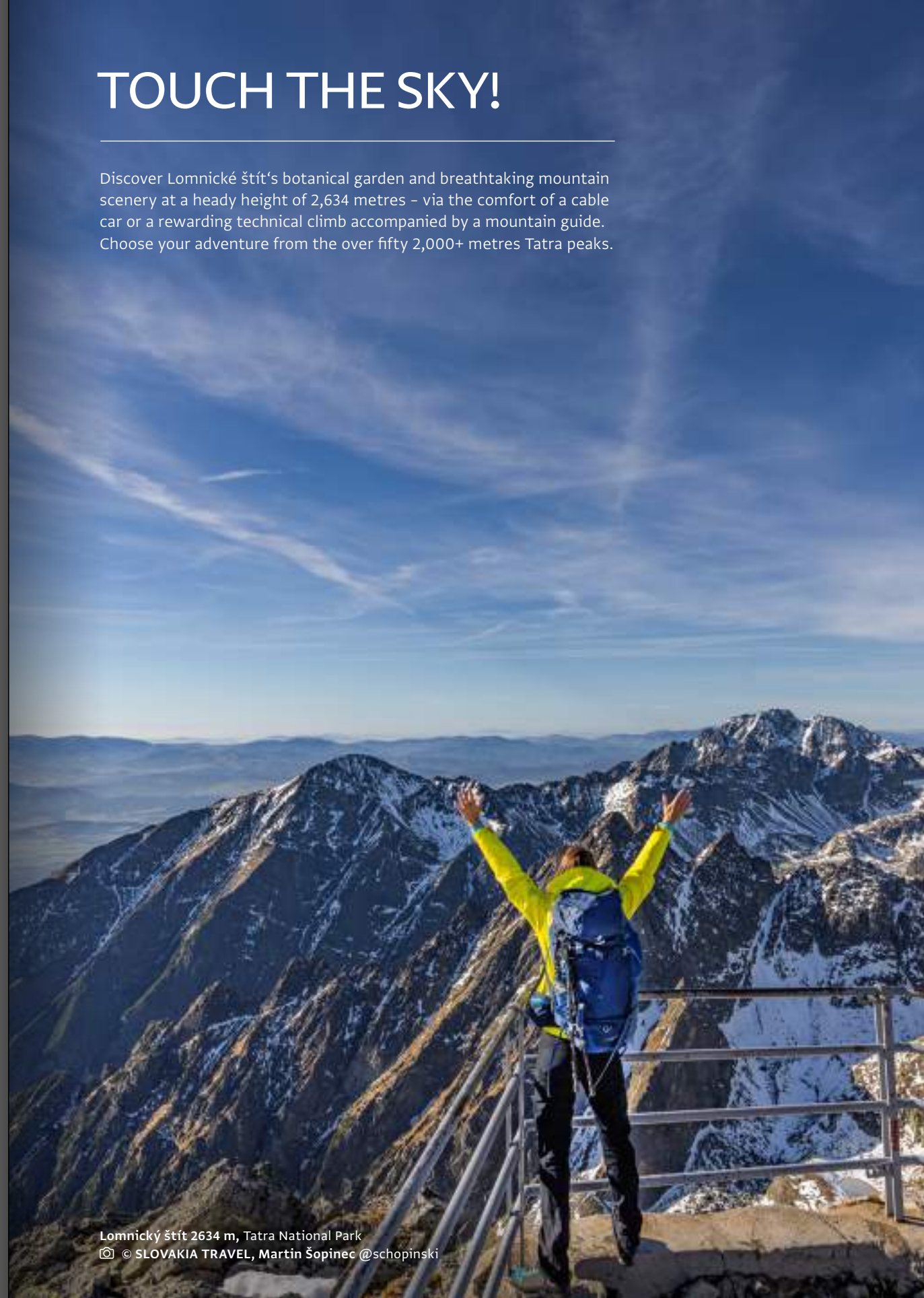
The High Tatras' remote mountain chalets are testimony to the porters' hard work carrying up all the building materials themselves. And they continue to relentlessly deliver the chalets' daily needs. Slovak porters have rightly earned their status in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Slovakia. They're dedicated to their task, but some help is always welcome: so, if in the Tatras you see logs or lemonade ready to be hauled up, you can lend a hand. And then for a few hours you can count yourself amongst the elite of Slovak mountain porters, and make a generous contribution to keeping others warm and fed at altitude.



📍 OOCR Región Vysoké Tatry,
Martin Maličský

TOUCH THE SKY!

Discover Lomnické štít's botanical garden and breathtaking mountain scenery at a heady height of 2,634 metres – via the comfort of a cable car or a rewarding technical climb accompanied by a mountain guide. Choose your adventure from the over fifty 2,000+ metres Tatra peaks.



Lomnický štít 2634 m, Tatra National Park
📍 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL, Martin Šopinec @schopinski




GOING UNDERGROUND



WATERPROOFS? TORCH? LET'S GO CAVING!

When you've been fallen in love with Slovakia's natural beauties above ground, just wait what you'll find below your feet! Our incredible hidden world of geological adventure includes magical and mysterious rock formations, fantastic stalactites and stalagmites, 500-metre deep cracks and cavities, and crystal-clear ice-cold lakes. An eery cavernous place with the subterranean silence punctuated only by the flutter of bats, the distant echo of waterfalls, the flow of unseen rivers, and the metronomic dripping of water from above. Come down to Slovakia's amazing underground world – 45 (of over 7,500) caves can be explored, of which 18 are guided tours. Welcome to spectacular Slovak-style speleo-trekking!

 **speleologist Pavol Staník,**
Slovak Caves Administration

OUR PICK OF UNESCO-LISTED CAVES:

World-famous Dobšinská Ice Cave is the largest such cave in Slovakia and features ice halls, corridors, domes, ice formations and glaciers – perfect for cool selfies! Domica Cave features a boat ride along its subterranean river when water levels allow – the perfect place to take pictures of the stunning array of colourful stalactites and stalagmites. And unmissable Krásňohorská Cave is a record holder – with its 34-metre stalagmite officially the world's longest!



Slovak Caves Administration
ssj.sk/en

ENJOY BENEFICIAL WATERS

Soak in naturally-heated thermal pools surrounded by soaring mountains, pine-fresh forests, and crystal-clear lakes. Or treat yourself to beneficial therapeutic treatments at relaxing health spas. Come to Slovakia and be perfectly pampered.

- 🌿 20 SPA TOWNS AND NUMEROUS WELLNESS RETREATS
- 🌿 1,943 THERMAL AND MINERAL WATERS
- 🌿 MEDICAL CARE, REHABILITATION AND PREVENTION
- 🌿 STATE-OF-THE-ART TREATMENTS, SUCH AS CLIMATOTHERAPY
- 🌿 MOUNTAIN AIR AND PINE FORESTS

HOT POOLS & HEALTH SPAS

Looking for an intimate secluded forested sauna with castle views, or all-inclusive packages at the latest resorts with state-of-the-art procedures and treatments? In Slovakia you'll find it all, from the strictly medicinal to the purely pleasurable. With so many spa towns – including those with secession splendour and majestic mountain views – and wellness stays available, you're never far away from opportunities to indulge yourself in our warm healing waters.



Rajecké Teplice

SLOVAK SPAS ARE AMONG THE MOST ADVANCED IN EUROPE

with a century of tradition and the latest know-how. Formerly the reserve of royalty, nobility and socialites in the 19th and early 20th centuries, now

you too can follow in their well-bathed footsteps and enjoy Slovakia's very best spas and wellness centres. Both historic and contemporary spa towns have a high level of medical care, rehabilitation and prevention – they're the perfect place to relax, rejuvenate, and enjoy some quality 'you time.'



Trencianske Teplice Spa



PERFECTLY PAMPERED

Trencianske Teplice is the ideal place to treat yourself to Dead Sea-style therapeutic treatments and a luxurious Moorish-style Hammam. Enterprising Countess Ifigénia saw the potential of Slovak healing springs in cutting the spa's ribbon in 1886. And in the 1930s the centre got even bigger and even more unique when Jewish architect Artúr Szalatnai-Slatinský extended the complex with a Sina pool and hot medicinal bath as a compelling contrast to the austere original building.



Slovak spas
ask.sk

MEDICINAL MUDDS

Legend has it that a peacock with a broken leg was seen limping into a muddy puddle, and for that same leg to have healed soon after. And so was borne Piešťany spa – with people from near and far flocking to take advantage of the local water’s amazing healing effects.



CELEBRITY SPA TOWN

Piešťany spa island’s healing springs and muds are among the best in Europe – with notable visitors including none other than Emperor Ferdinand and Franz Liszt who sought a cure for their rheumatism, as well as Beethoven and Alfonz Mucha. Check out Mucha’s stunning four-metre art nouveau in the Thermia Palace hotel’s restaurant – a painting gifted as thanks for his daughter’s recovery.

📍 Slovenské liečebné kúpele Piešťany, a. s.

DESIGNED FOR LIFE

Contemporary architects reflect today’s needs for the well-being of mind and body – where structures aim to please the eye and calm the nerves. In Spišské Hrhov you’ll discover an exclusive secluded sauna set on a wooded hillside, and Spišské Bystré is the place to head for cute Scandinavian huts and sauna stays far from the crowds. Actually Slovakia’s very first sauna dates back to 1919, and can still be enjoyed in the Kráľová hoľa mountain’s picturesque Šumiacka dolina valley.



Forest sauna in Spišský Hrhov, Spiš region
📍 Lukáš Procházka @lukasprophoto



HEALTHY HOT SPRINGS

Welcome to Vyšné Ružbachy's 14 mineral springs – the spa centre's thermal crater is a balmy year-round 25°C, and there's a picturesque mineral water waterfall. Following procedures that benefit the heart, nerves, and hormones, head to Veľký Meder (near the Hungarian border) to sweat it out at Slovakia's hottest thermal spring (92°C) set amongst an attractive forest area.



📷 Javor Photography @javor.divotvor

INTO THIN AIR

At 2,043 metres, Ďumbier's clear mountain climate will regenerate and refresh your body and mind. The Low Tatras' highest peak is certainly no walk in the park – it's a challenging technical undertaking that demands some degree of experience, so a knowledgeable guide can be handy. Prefer lower climes rather than high climbs? Then an invigorating snowy stroll around your accommodation's picturesque landscape will also enliven you with crisp alpine air.

HEALING TOUCH

Since 1928, the High Tatras' Smokovec has provided climatotherapy – the benefits of fresh air and sunlight – to treat respiratory tract ailments, adopting a natural rather than pharmaceutical approach. Nový Smokovec's modern spa procedures are constantly evolving to meet clients' changing needs, for example by providing post-Covid rehabilitation and treatment.

BRATISLAVA

– A VIBRANT AND COLOURFUL CITY

Bratislava – picturesquely placed between river and hills, a cosmopolitan historical city with a vibrant cultural scene. The perfect place for a weekend get-away or the ideal starting point for your adventure around Slovakia.

- 📍 A CITY THAT BORDERS TWO COUNTRIES
- 📍 OLD TOWN'S HISTORIC COBBLED LANES
- 📍 ARCHITECTURAL GEMS AND STYLISH RESTAURANTS
- 📍 SOCIALIST TIMES RELIVED IN A CONCRETE JUNGLE
- 📍 DANUBE WALKS AND PARK STROLLS



Meditation artwork by Irish artist FinDac, created at the Bratislava Street Art Festival 2020.

© SLOVAKIA TRAVEL
Martin Šopinec @schopinski



LOVE BRATISLAVA

Nestled between the legendary Danube and the lushly wooded Carpathian foothills, Bratislava has been growing for over a millennia as a thriving melting point of cultures, languages, and commerce. Bratislava Castle – standing tall and watchful over the historic city below – is the city’s landmark and main photo opportunity: with stunning views of the town and Danube from the castle’s ramparts. Leisurely wander the Old Town’s cobbled streets and atmospheric alleys, towering spires and hidden gardens, winding stone steps, and Baroque buildings.

Choose from a wide selection of restaurants, cafes, and bars, and leisurely watch city life pass by. Ascend SNP Bridge (New Bridge) – a glorious technicolour city viewpoint that is known as the ‘UFO’ thanks to its rather intergalactic look. Walk around Bratislava to discover its distant and not-so-distant history – an impressive blend of classic, socialist and contemporary architecture, as well as important Jewish heritage and monuments. A capital city that is forever evolving and always stylish.



visitbratislava.com

CONCRETE JUNGLE MEETS PRETTY PARK

Petržalka – which faces the Old Town across the Danube – is the Bratislava district where the socialist town planners housed the ’70s and ’80s population-boom. This resulted in Central Europe’s largest housing estate: pre-fabricated high-rise blocks with around 100,000 residents – a sight which is both awe-inspiring and incredible. Eighteenth century Janko Kráľ Park is Central Europe’s oldest public green space, and the perfect place to relax on hot summer days –just a short stroll from the Old Town across either New or Old Bridge.

FABULOUS PHARMACY

Bratislava's Old Town is lined with gorgeous Austro-Hungarian monarchy era palaces, and one particularly – and spectacularly – stands out as you wander the city's cobbled lanes.

The Salvátor pharmacy on Panská Street dates to 1904 – this iconic Neo-Renaissance building has a distinctive stone statue of Christ the Redeemer by Alojz Rigele on the façade, and its rare marble-adorned 1727 Jesuit Baroque wooden furnishings are in the process of restoration. The pharmacy has the evocative nostalgia of long-gone times: when gentlemen in tailcoats and ladies in ruffled skirts were served in German or Hungarian by a wise moustached pharmacist who mixed his mysterious potions and concoctions.



Bratislava Tourist Board
visitbratislava.com

© SLOVAKIA TRAVEL
📸 Martin Šopinec @schopinski





FOLLOW IN REGAL FOOTSTEPS!

Slovakia has a long and noble heritage – a historical legacy to be explored on your travels through the country. Regal and religion intertwine – and here you'll be spoilt for choice.

- 🏰 180 CHARMING CASTLES AND RUSTIC RUINS
- 🏰 SACRAL AND GOTHIC BUILDINGS
- 🏰 BURGHER HOUSES
- 🏰 JEWISH HERITAGE AND SITES
- 🏰 THEMED PILGRIMAGE ROUTES

AGE-OLD REGAL RETREAT



UNESCO-listed and former impregnable base of royal power, you'll absolutely adore Spiš Castle's stunning scale, sensational hilltop setting, and amazing views. Summertime includes medieval martial arts and falconry shows, and kids will love the spooky torture chamber! Spiš is an excellent example of how castle architecture developed

in Slovakia over eight centuries. Spišské Podhradie's Gothic-Renaissance burgher houses and remarkable sacral buildings are also UNESCO-listed – its 'Slovak Vatican' system of chapels and church buildings replicates the Jerusalem Calvary, leading to the Cathedral of St. Martin in the Spišská kapitula.

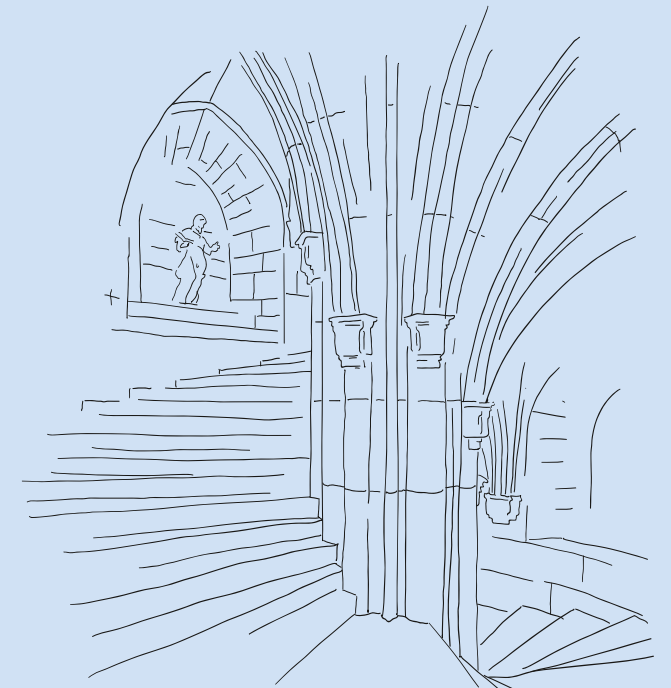


FAIRY-TALE LOVE

Bojnice Castle has the archetypal fairy-tale look – designed with true Gaillic flair to reflect owner Ján Pálffy's love for a French countess. As well as this romantic folly, he also amassed amazing artworks: an entrance hall with gilded angel ceiling, Ottoman Empire oriental salon, and Pillar Hall with Carrara marble statues. And pride of place goes to the chapel's medieval altar by Florentine painter Nardo di Cione, as well as the natural travertine cave with two concealed underground lakes. Admire this splendid castle in all its gorgeous glory, and then relax at the town's healing thermal water spas.



Inspired by Amboise Castle in France, Count Pálffy planned a 137-step tower



GOTHIC GRANDEUR & ROYAL SPA



UNESCO-listed Bardejov – in the north-east of the country – is a small yet exceptionally complete and well-preserved example of a fortified medieval town, which typifies the urbanisation in this region.



Its remarkable features include Hrubá bastion, and a small Jewish suburbium around a fine 19th century synagogue. The cobble-stoned square – featuring a 500-year-old Town Hall – is picturesquely lined with Renaissance and Gothic period burgher houses, and the medieval Basilica

of St. Egidio has a tower with views over the fortification system and Europe’s oldest spa park. Bardejov was also Queen Sissi’s go-to place for healing, which has strongly influenced the spa’s regal atmosphere since imperial times.



UNESCO-listed Lipizzaner horses at Topolčianky National Stud.

The National Stud Farm Topolčianky’s 550-horse royal herd is set amongst the castle’s attractive English manor park. The Lipizzaner is so highly valued that the breed is on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Topolčianky Castle also provides tours of impressive historic porcelain.



documentary filmmaker and publicist Martin Kleibl



CURIOSITIES & CHARMS

They travelled half the world and filled Betliar manor house with tasteful, luxurious, exotic and often curious souvenirs. The enlightened Andrassy family was among the aristocratic elite of 19th century Europe. Known throughout the Kingdom of Hungary as great collectors of art and antiques, their former manor house near Rožňava is a treasure trove of Slovak history. There’s also a beautiful English park with picturesque lake, Masonic and Chinese pavilions, Japanese bridge, and romantic Hermes well. The park’s centrepiece is a splendid Roman aqueduct-style 10-metre waterfall.

GOLD RUSH

Slovakia was at the centre of European gold and silver mining – especially Banská Štiavnica.



Slovakia was at the centre of European gold and silver mining – especially Banská Štiavnica. This very popular UNESCO-listed town has outstanding palace architecture, cobbled streets, pleasant squares, and guided tours of old mines – the perfect adventure for visitors of all ages. Explore the beautiful grounds of its grandiose



UNESCO-listed falconry performances.

With around 300 falconers, Slovakia is a world leader and pioneer in educating breeders and training the birds.

📍 Trenčín Museum in Trenčín
@hradtrenčin





Basilica of St. James in Levoča
@jano.stovka.mqep @janostovka

HAVE FAITH

Walking picturesque trails leads to encounters with art history, ancient villages, and natural wonders.



📍 Greek Catholic Church of St. Mikuláš in Bodružal

Take our Gothic Route to explore churches, castles and galleries around the Spiš and Gemer regions. Or the St. Jacob's Pilgrimage Route starting from Košice's stunning St. Elizabeth Cathedral. Explore awe-inspiring UNESCO-listed wooden churches, and discover Jewish cultural heritage on a route lined with historical synagogues, cemeteries, and architecture. Well-marked and easy to follow,

these trails are the perfect for everyone – not only the those with faith – to worship the landscape and find internal space. Discover Slovakia's hidden secrets and sanctuaries of peace and tranquillity amidst beautiful scenery and spiritual theological sites such as historical wooden churches, Levoca's wooden altar (1517), and numerous UNESCO sites.



St. Jacob's Route in Slovakia
caminodesantiago.sk/en



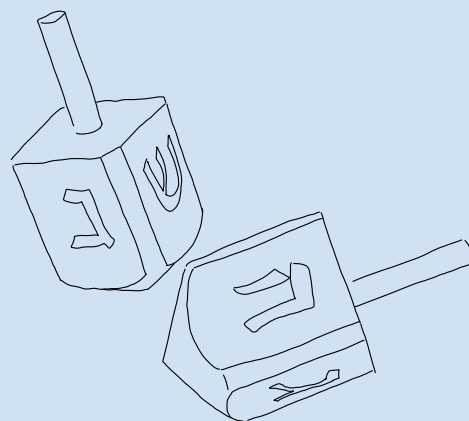
Gothic Route Association
gotickacesta.sk/en



Synagogue in Prešov 📷 jano stovka mqp @janostovka



The Slovak National Museum – Museum of Jewish Culture at the Orthodox Synagogue in Prešov (1898) – features a unique collection of Judaica items (from the first Jewish museum in Slovakia dating to 1928) with Moorish decor.



SHALOM, SLOVAKIA



Judaism has a strong history and cultural heritage in Slovakia – thriving Jewish communities started settling here from the 11th century. Follow the educational Slovak Route of Jewish Cultural Heritage that takes in Bardejov's UNESCO-listed Jewish Suburbia, numerous historical synagogues, and hundreds of atmospheric Jewish cemeteries.



Pamätník Chatama Sofera na nábreží Dunaja v Bratislave – najvýznamnejšie pútnické miesto v Európe
📷 Rudolf Klein, Budapešť

Led by Rabbi Moses Schreiber – known as Chatam Sofer (1762 – 1839) – Bratislava became the centre of Hungarian Jewish teaching for 33 years. Located at the riverside site of a 17th century Jewish cemetery near Bratislava Castle, his tomb is an internationally-renowned pilgrimage site.

MANY UNIQUE SYNAGOGUES

Bratislava used to have a sizeable Jewish community, but now only synagogue remains in use. Designed by renowned modernist Artúr Szalatnai-Slatinský, you'll first be impressed by its seven-pillar colonnade and 1920s Cubist interior, before learning about its religious significance at the Jewish Community Museum.

Slovakia has numerous synagogues dotted around towns and villages – and many have been imaginatively repurposed as galleries, cafes, and cultural centres, whilst others await renovation. Discover the late 19th century synagogue in Trnava, beautiful Trenčín synagogue (1913), the Neologic Art Nouveau synagogue in Lučenec (1925), and Žilina's stunning modernist interwar synagogue. And you can delve deeper at Bratislava's Museum of Jewish Culture.



Interactive map of synagogues in Slovakia
synagogyslovenska.sk



Jewish heritage in Slovakia
slovak-jewish-heritage.org



SNM – Museum of Jewish Culture
snm.sk



TRADITIONAL

TASTES & TRADES

Regional delicacies and folk work

- ⌘ IMPRESSIVE ARTS, CRAFTS, AND INDIGO PRINTS
- ⌘ BEAUTIFUL FOLK VILLAGES & ARCHITECTURE
- ⌘ LOCAL CUISINE AND WINE ROUTES
- ⌘ UNESCO SITES SUCH AS VLKOLINEC

SLOVAK CRAFT



Traditional designs embraced regional, local and even personal specifics. From a woman's clothes you could tell whether she was single and where she lived – and this through intricate patterns, designs, and colours that evolved over centuries.

Katarína Nádaská, Slovak ethnographer



Slovak folk majolica Modra
© SLOVAKIA TRAVEL | Martin Šopinec @schopinski

Perfect presents for yourself and gifts for loved ones...in Slovakia you'll be spoilt for choice from a wide range of quality craftwork made from traditional materials such as wood, metal, and cotton. Fine details, subtle styles, and high-quality workmanship unite centuries old folk culture with contemporary designs. Check out craft workshops, art studios, craft fairs, village markets, and the official Centre of Folk Art Production (ÚĽUV) in Bratislava and the High Tatras. Historic craftwork and know-how that informs, inspires and invigorates our creatives in new and exciting ways.

◀ Design inspired by folk clothing
from Polomka village – Horehronie region
© Ľubomír Sabo and Zuzana Sénášiová
art painting: Sarah I. Avni
@party21art #party21art



**Centre of Folk
Art Production**
uluv.sk/en



**SNM – Museum of Slovak
Ceramic Sculpture Modra**
snm.sk

CHISEL CULTURE

Wood carving has a long tradition and proud place in Slovak folk art. Everything from modest village cottages to grand city abodes and even mighty castles has intricate carved decorations – adorning gates, gables, porches, and windows. Slovakia also has outstanding example of nativity

scene carvings, none more so than master craftsman Jozef Pekara's creation in Rajecká Lesná. Starting in 1980, he chipped away for another 15 years to produce a stunning Bethlehem sculpture that is 8.5 meters long and includes about 300 fixed and moveable figures.



📷 Michal Husár from the new generation of Slovak carvers @huso_chainsawcarving

FINEST FOLK ARCHITECTURE

ČIČMANY

This medieval village – between the Strážovské vrchy hills and the Small Fatra – is world famous for its striking and distinctive geometric signs and symbols that adorn its architecture and folk clothing. Walk the village's picturesque streets and wonder at the intricate and precise artwork on the traditional timber cottages, mysterious and magical decorations that could be considered the beginning of street art. In fact the design's enduring popularity and distinctive visual identity is proven by the Čičmany-look adorning fashion items and even Slovak national teams.



The ornamental design is widely believed to have a symbolic and magical basis: nature, flora, fauna, and people once felt truly at one in the cosmic world.

Olga Danglova, from Decor Symbol
(Slovakian and European decorative tradition)



Čičmany
📷 Viktor Belicak, @travelbedeker



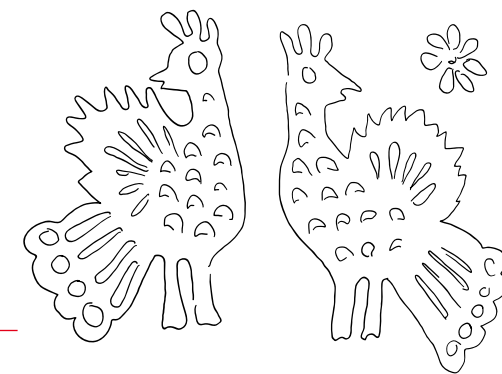
VLKOLÍNEC

Up in the misty hills, a vintage village untouched by time. A UNESCO-listed must see, this picturesque hillside settlement is famous for its perfectly preserved wooden folk architecture without any modern buildings at all. Walk its picture-postcard pretty lanes of colourful cottages with intricate wood carvings and lovingly preserved original features. Set amongst the rolling countryside and farmland of the Liptov region, with great views towards the Velka Fatra mountains, this area is synonymous with traditional Slovak values and lifestyle.



INDIGO

PRINTING



Fashions change, but style endures. Our UNESCO-list Indigo-style prints have been a constant for centuries – Slovak villages and towns far and wide had indigo workshops to print clothes and interior textiles.



Peter Trnka



Peter Trnka is a fifth-generation indigo printer.
 documentary and publicist **Martin Kleibl**

Considered the king of blues, indigo is extensively used in fabric dyeing for its rich and intense colour. And recent years have seen renewed interest in this craft – with a new generation of creatives rejuvenating indigo dyeing techniques. It's a fascinating traditional process, which can be viewed at workshops such as Peter Trnka's near Bratislava. The perfect place to pick up distinctive Slovak blue-white souvenirs.





Life is short,
so drink great wine.

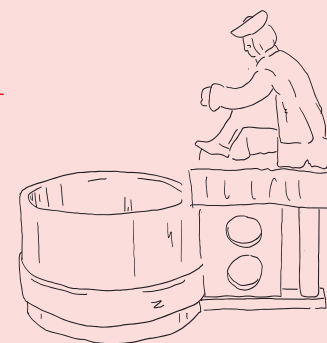
Modra's Fedor Malík represents a dynamic
generation of contemporary winemakers
📷 OOCR Small Carpathians, Marek Dvořák
@marekdvorakphoto

EXCELLENT WINES AND FABULOUS FOODS

Central Europe's northernmost vineyards, complemented by goose feasts, craft beers, mountain hut cheeses, and unique dough. Our farmers emphasize locality and regionality, and increasingly support free-range farming and permaculture. In terms of local specialities, central and eastern Slovakia is famous for bryndza (sheep cheese) dumplings and bacon pies, while in the west roasted goose with potato pancakes, sweet cabbage, and new wine is a popular autumn treat. The Záhorie region is rightly proud of its sauerkraut and trdelník (sweet pastry). Local delicacies to truly savour.

CULINARY CULTURE

Every country has a national dish, and in Slovakia the clear favourite is bryndzové halušky – potato dumplings with sheep cheese and topped with crispy bacon. Traditionally served in a locally-carved wooden bowl and eaten with a wooden spoon (a throwback to the dish's rural farming heritage), it's habitually accompanied by a glass of sour milk – but nowadays beer or wine is more popular. Be sure to give true Slovak food a try.



SWEET LIFE

Trdelník – hollow rolls of fermented dough – have been popular since the 19th century. This traditional delicacy is pretty flexible, so the typical coating of crushed nuts, cinnamon, poppy seeds, or cocoa powder can be substituted with various regional variations such as ice cream and fresh fruit. A real treat for the sweet toothed.

ART

IN BALANCE

All the world is a stage – and Slovakia's cultural range is wide and diverse: from high-brow to high volume, and from historical theatres to open-air festivals.

- 🕒 SLOVAK NATIONAL GALLERY'S STUNNING COLLECTION
- 🕒 FOLLOW IN WARHOL'S FOOTSTEPS
- 🕒 POHODA AND VIVA MUSICA! MUSIC FESTIVALS
- 🕒 VÝCHODNÁ: BEST OF SLOVAK FOLKLORE
- 🕒 FUJARA NATIONAL INSTRUMENT



📷 Tomáš Hulík @tomhulik

CAPTIVATING CULTURE

The Austro-Hungarian duo of Fellner & Helmer were the architectural pioneers in the late nineteenth century. And among their impressive 45 theatres across Europe is Bratislava's Slovak National Theatre – a beautiful building that had regular performances of theatre, ballet, and opera. Built to accommodate larger audiences, the new Slovak National Theatre has a Post-modern design and fine views of the Danube – its repertoire includes all the performing arts.



Slovak National Theatre
snd.sk/en



▲ SNG – Strážky Mansion | 📷 Viktor Szemző, SNG

FROM BARON TO EN PLEIN AIR

The Slovak National Gallery's Strážky Mansion has a wonderful selection of impressionist art by Ladislav Mednyánszky, 17th-19th century Spiš region portraits, and historical books. This beautiful Renaissance building is complemented by an extensive English park with 19th century sculptures – the perfect place to contemplate great art.



📷 Martin Deko, SNG

DISCOVER ART WITH US

The Slovak National Gallery features Picasso, Warhol, and Hungarian impressionists such as Ladislav Mednyánszky and László Paál. The SNG showcases outstanding art at historic buildings throughout the country. Bratislava city centre's renovated SNG with unique neo-modernist 'bridge' is a great new place to spend time by the Danube. The gallery's collection includes 80,000 items that can be browsed at webumenia.sk.



Slovak National Gallery
sng.sk/en



📷 jano stovka mqep @janostovka

FROM VARCHOLA TO WARHOL

From Central Europe to The Factory. Andy Warhol's journey towards becoming a leading figure in the 1960's Pop Art scene started in a somewhat surprising place. His parents were Ruthenians (a Slavic national minority in Slovakia) who had lived in Miková village in north-eastern Slovakia. So nearby Medzilaborce seized the opportunity to host this museum – the only one dedicated to Warhol in Europe - that honours this key figure in art history. As well as admiring the 200 original artworks, you'll also see how the Varcholas - embroiderer Julia and worker Andrej – had lived before emigrating to the USA in the early 20th century...and paving the creative way for Varchol to become Warhol.



Kunsthalle Košice
 Installation: Filthy Luker, Pedro Estrellas – Octopus (White Night 2019)
 📷 Tomáš Kuša @tomas_kusa

FESTIVAL FUN

Pohoda is regarded as one of Europe’s best 12 music festivals, and rightly so: this three-day celebration of music annually attracts leading international musicians and crowds in excess of 30,000. Recent headliners have included The Prodigy, Björk, Kraftwerk, and Nick Cave.



Pohoda 2019, Lola Marsh band
© Ctibor Bachratý

MOONLIT CLASSICS

Bratislava’s cultural summer includes Viva Musica!, which takes music out of stuffy concert halls and instead brings it to city centres, parks, and riversides for the public to enjoy. Why is Viva Musica! Slovakia’s best summer classical music festival? Because it showcases the best classical music by leading local and international musicians. And you can join them.



📷 Zdenko Hanout @hanoutphoto

SUMMER OF COMEDY

Live humour has long thrived on the cobbled squares and streets of Kremnica - making this golden town as famous for laughs as for its historical mint. Traditionally held on the last August weekend, visitors will be richly entertained by Kremnické Gagý’s programme of Slovak and international comedians. Standout highlights include the Alley of Famous Noses, the Kitsch Museum, and even the elusive Golden Duck and Barmy Goose. This popular European Festival of Humour and Satire is a multi-genre and multicultural event that is sure to put a smile on your face.



📷 Michal Svítok @michalsvitok

WHERE THE WIND BLOWS

The fujara – a UNESCO-listed three-hole wooden wind instrument from Slovakia – has become the folk instrument of choice for musicians seeking a truly distinctive sound.

Typically measuring from 160 to 200 cm and made from elder wood, the longer the fujara the deeper the contrabass tones. Originally carved and played by Central Slovakian shepherds for recreation and communication - with simple monotones developing into full melodies with verses - this native flute has progressed from fields to folk festivals, and from Slovakia to the international stage. Such is its prized and iconic status, that the fujara is the gift our president presents to dignitaries.



PHENOMENAL FOLKLORE!

Welcome to the Východná International Folklore Festival – an unmissable celebration of Slovakian folklore traditions. Come for the uplifting music, wooden instruments, dance classes, singing, and craftwork - all with stunning views of the Low Tatras mountains. The real jewel in the crown and wonderful photo opportunity are the performers' traditional clothes and colourful embroidery.



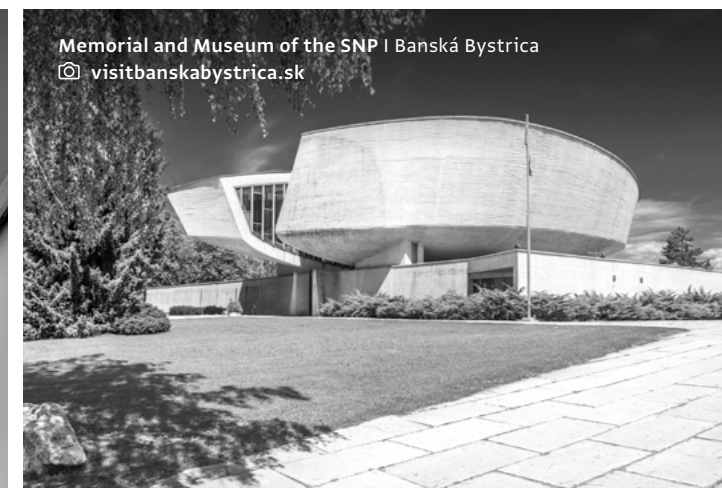
SNP (New) Bridge | Bratislava
 📷 Matej Kotula @matejkotula



Družba UK | Bratislava
 📷 Štefan Cipár @beautifulbratislava



STV | Bratislava
 📷 Štefan Cipár @beautifulbratislava



Memorial and Museum of the SNP | Banská Bystrica
 📷 visitbanskabystrica.sk



📍 Reservoir | Trnava

#noteverythingisblackandwhite

When pubs and residential areas were given cosmic names, and an alien object "landed" in Bratislava. During the period when bricks were replaced by concrete and iron, unreliable fluorescent tubes lit residential stairways, and in the solidarity spirit of socialism the whole city rapidly grew.



**Register of Modern
Architecture of the
Slovak Republic**
register-architektury.sk/en

Architects of that era worked under the supervision of the Soviet Union, and adorned buildings with sgraffito decor. The play of lights, stained glass, design furniture – all interiors and exteriors reflect perfect aesthetics, and constructions' high technical and cultural level.

In the 1960s, architects developed a freer modern style unshackled from the constraints of socialism. These designs included a structurally unique building in Central Europe (SNP Memorial), the first panoramic cinema in Slovakia (Panorex), and a suspension bridge

(SNP Bridge) with an elegant UFO-shaped lookout restaurant, which was named the Slovak building of the 20th century.

City architecture, and industrial urban research attract the thrilling discovery of neglected and repurposed, destroyed and restored gems of socialist architecture. Explore reliefs, ornaments, mosaics, and pure geometry on an atypical exploration in the footsteps of socialism – a pure adrenalin rush. Never has brutalism been so beautiful.



SLOVAKIA

Coordinates: 49.00° N, 119.00° E

Official name: Slovak Republic

Population: 5.5 million residents

Area: 49,035 km²

Capital city: Bratislava

Official language: Slovak

Member State of the European Union since 2004

Currency: euro

Middle of Slovakia:

Ľubietovský Vepor-Hrb (~5–10 km),
48°43'50.64'N 19°27'26.94'E

Middle of Europe:

Church of St. Ján in Kremnické Bane (~5–10 km),
48°44'36.65'N 18°54'53.58'E

FOUR BIGGEST RELIEFS IN THE COUNTRY:

⊗ **Highest point:** 2,654.4 m a. s. l.

Gerlachovský štít – Tatras region

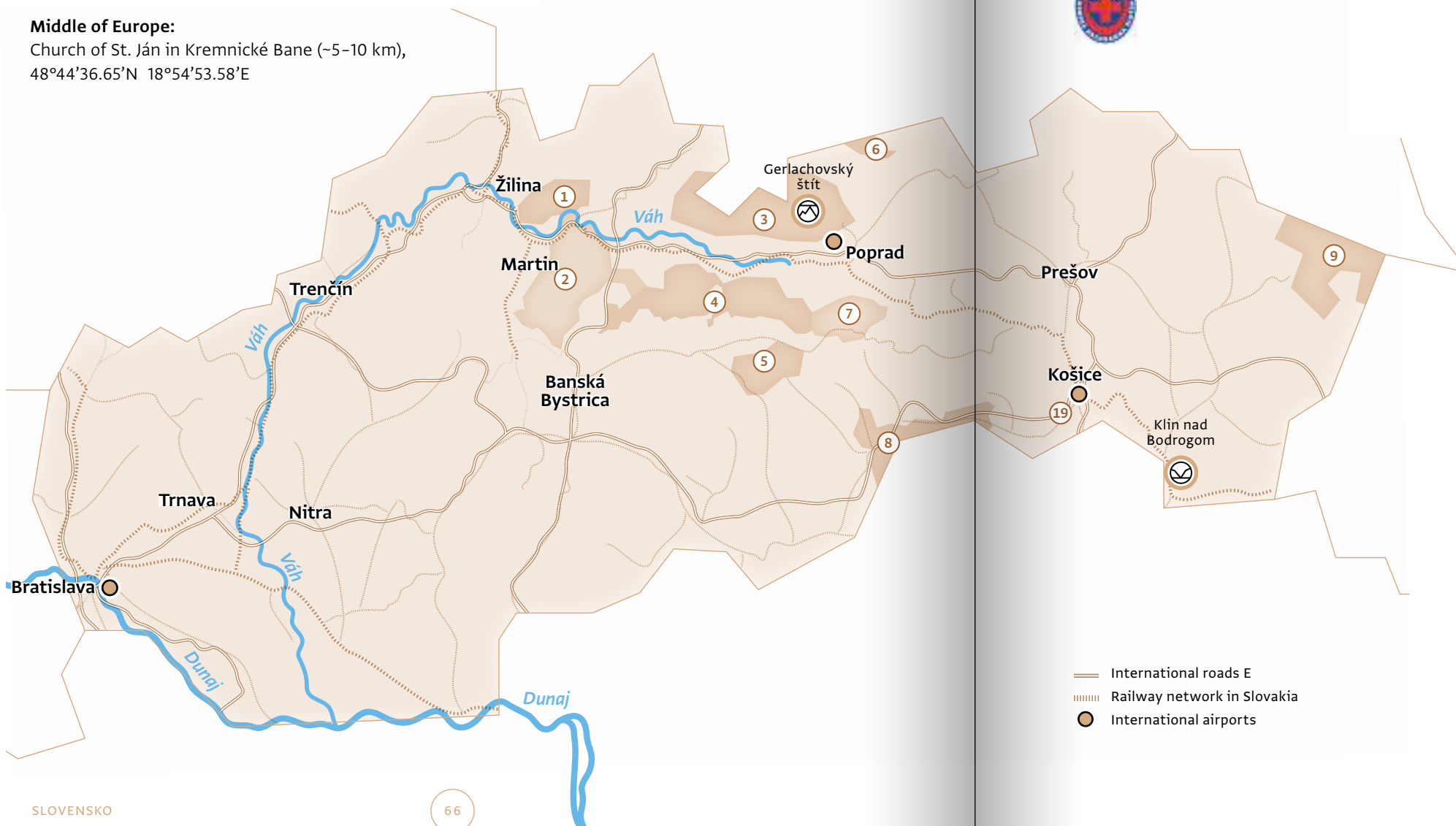
⊗ **Lowest point:** 94 m a. s. l.

near the village of Klin nad Bodrogom
– Zemplín region

Longest river: Váh (403 km)

Biggest river: Dunaj/Danube

(Slovak Republic's section – 172 km)



NATIONAL PARKS OF SLOVAKIA

① **Malá Fatra National Park**
(NPMF) * 1988 226.30 km²

④ **Low Tatras National Park**
(NAPANT) * 1978 728 km²

⑦ **Slovak Paradise National Park**
(NPSR) 1988 197.63 km²

② **Veľká Fatra National Park**
(NPVF) * 2002 403.71 km²

⑤ **Muránska planina National Park**
(NPMP) * 1997 203.18 km²

⑧ **Slovak Karst National Park**
(NPSK) * 2002 346.11 km²

③ **Tatra National Park**
(TANAP) * 1949 738 km²

⑥ **Pieniny National Park**
(PIENAP) * 1967 37.5 km²

⑨ **Poloniny National Park**
(NPP) * 1997 298.05 km²



Mountain Rescue Service
hzs.sk



TRAVEL OPTIONS TO SLOVAKIA

AIR TRAVEL



M. R. Štefánik Airport | Bratislava
www.bts.aero/en



Košice International Airport
www.airportkosice.sk/en



Poprad-Tatry Airport
www.airport-poprad.sk

TRAIN TRAVEL



Slovak Rail (ZSSK)
www.zssk.sk/en



Train travel planning
www.cp.hnonline.sk

ARRIVAL BY BUS OR CAR



Online bus timetables
www.cp.hnonline.sk



Highway sticker information
www.eznamka.sk/en

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE IN SLOVAKIA

UNESCO WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Historic Town of Banská Štiavnica and the Technical Monuments in its Vicinity
- Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments
- Vlkolínec
- Bardejov Town Conservation Reserve
- Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Danube Limes (Western Segment)
Roman military camps (manor houses) Gerulata in Rusovce and Iža
- Wooden Churches of the Slovak part of the Carpathian Mountain Area
 - Hervartov, Roman Catholic Church of St. Francis of Assisi
 - Tvrdošín, Roman Catholic Church of All Saints
 - Kežmarok, Evangelical Articular Church of the Holy Trinity
 - Leštiny, Evangelical wooden articular church
 - Hronsek, Evangelical wooden articular church
 - Bodružal, Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas
 - Ladomirová, Greek Catholic Church of St. Michael the Archangel
 - Ruská Bystrá, Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas the Bishop

UNESCO WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE

- Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst:
Domica, Gombasecká cave, Jasovská cave, Ochtinská aragonite cave, Dobšinská ice cave, Krásnohorská cave
- Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe:
forests Havešová, Vihorlat, Rožok, Udava and Stužica – Bukovské vrchy hills

UNESCO REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

- Fujara and its music
- Music of Terchová
- Bagpipe culture
- Puppetry in Slovakia and Czech Republic
- Multipart singing of Horehronie
- Blaudruck/Modrotisk/Kékkfestés/Modrotlač, resist block printing and indigo dyeing in Europe
- Drotárstvo, wire craft and art
- Falconry, a living human heritage
- Lipizzan horse breeding traditions



Official UNESCO website in Slovakia
www.unesco.sk/en



World Heritage in Slovakia



SLOVAKIA

Near and full of surprises

TRAVEL TO SLOVAKIA
GOOD IDEA

www.slovakia.travel

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COVER

Enrico discovers Slovakia through a lens in Sedlo pod Ostrvou in the High Tatras
Enrico Baroni
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PRINT

A DANUBE COUNTRY UNDER A MOUNTAIN ARC

We invite you to travel our beautiful country.
And be amazed by the diverse landscape.
From southern lowlands to northern highlands.
Fresh water, raging rivers, and tranquil lakes.
Lush forests with beautiful flora and stunning fauna.
180 castles, ruins, and UNESCO-listed attractions.
Picturesque villages and vibrant cities.
Enjoy wine in vineyards and feel fine at spas.
Diverse culture and delicious cuisine.
New sights, tastes, and sensations.

SLOVAKIA
Arrive curious, leave inspired



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