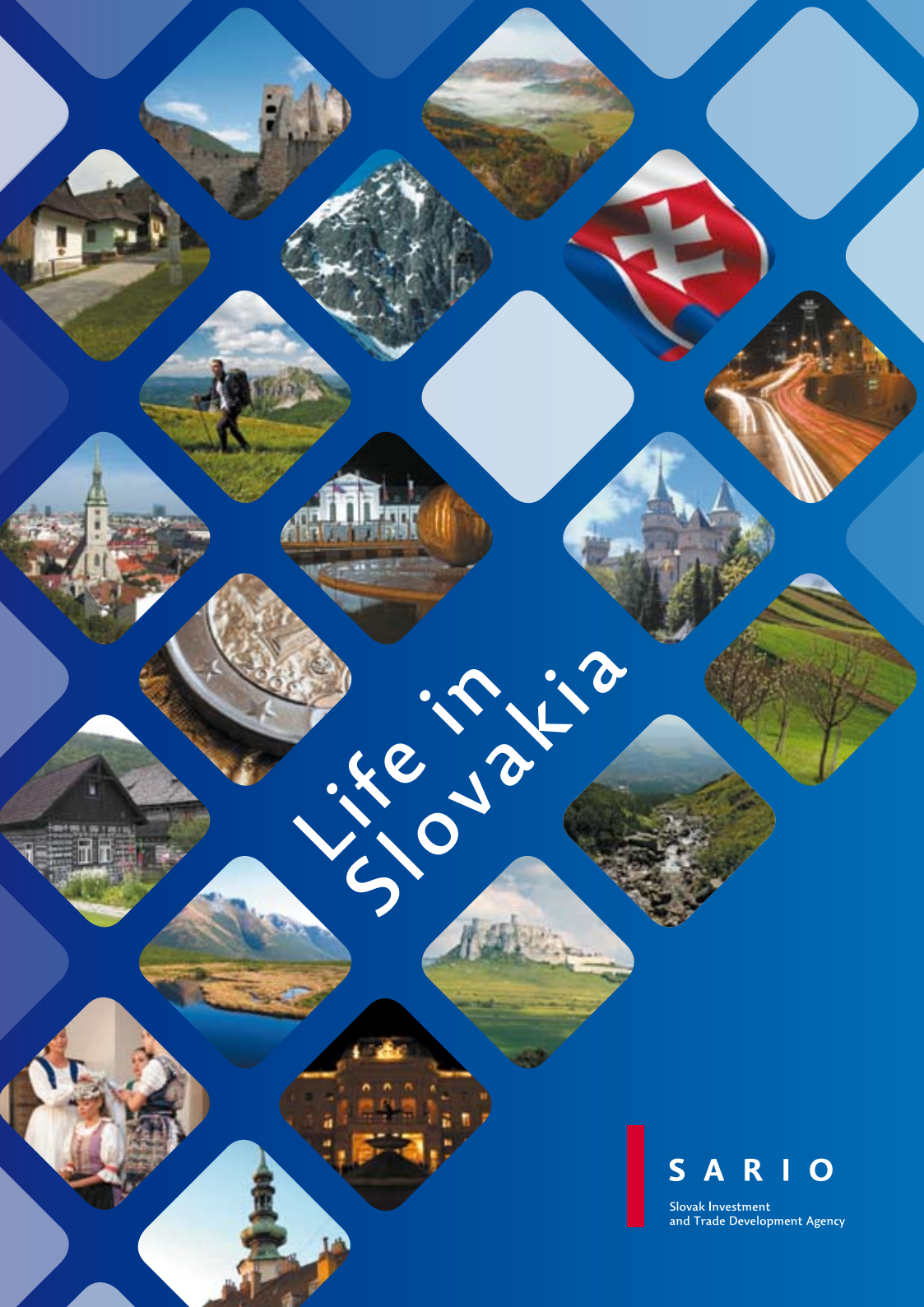


Life in Slovakia

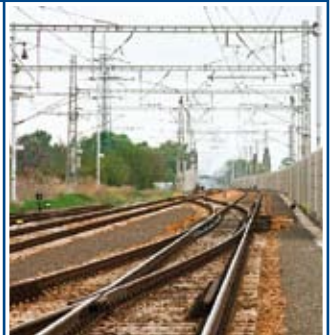


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Slovak Investment
and Trade Development Agency



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Life in Slovakia

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guide



S A R I O

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Quick reference

Business hours

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Banks | from 8:00 - 9:00 until 17:00 - 18:00 Monday – Friday from 9:00 until 21:00 Monday – Sunday, bank offices in shopping centre |
| Post offices | from 7:00 - 8:00 until 16:00 - 20:00 Monday – Friday, in towns from 7:30 - 8:00 until 14:30 - 15:00 Monday – Friday, in villages |
| Public offices | from 8:00 until 15:00 (excl. lunch break: 12:00 - 13:00) Monday – Friday <i>Usually one day in a week offices are open until 17:30.</i> |
| Shops | from 9:00 until 18:00 Monday – Sunday from 9:00 until 12:00 Saturday |
| Food supermarkets | from 7:00 until 20:00 - 22:00 Monday – Saturday from 8:00 until 17:00 - 21:00 Sunday <i>Some supermarkets are open 24 hours daily.</i> |
| Shopping centres | from 9:00 until 21:00 Monday – Sunday |

Telephone Codes

From abroad

Slovakia: 00421 x xxxx xxxx

+421 x xxxx xxxx (+ stands for 00)

+421 (0) x xxxx xxxx (0 in brackets means that if you are calling from abroad, you do not dial 0, if you are calling from within Slovakia, you do not have to dial the country code 00421, but you have to dial 0)

Inter-city calls within Slovakia

Each city has its own area code, which is composed of 2 or 3 digits.

For example:

Bratislava: 02 xxxx xxxx

Košice: 055 xxx xxxx

Mobile network

Numbers starting with 09 xx xxx xxx (or 00421 9 xx xxx xxx when calling from abroad).

0800 and 0850 calls

Calling numbers starting with 0800 is for free.

Calling numbers starting with 0850 is for the price of inter-city calling.

Useful phone numbers

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 112 <i>emergency call</i> | 112 is a single and universal emergency call number, which functions in all member states of the European Union, incl. Slovakia. This number joins together emergency services – the fire brigade, ambulance, police and other emergency services in Slovakia, such as the railway police, mountain rescue, etc. |
| 150 | fire brigade |
| 155 | ambulance |
| 158 | police |
| 159 | city police |
| 0850 11 13 13 | a lifesaving call service prior to the arrival of an ambulance |

Power Network

230 V/50 Hz, two-pole socket with safety pin



Holidays

| National holidays | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 January | <i>Deň vzniku Slovenskej republiky</i> (Day of the Establishment of the Slovak Republic) |
| 5 July | <i>Sviatok sv. Cyrila a Metoda</i> (St. Cyril and Methodius' Day) |
| 29 August | <i>Výročie Slovenského národného povstania</i> (Slovak National Uprising Anniversary) |
| 1 September | <i>Deň ústavy Slovenskej republiky</i> (Slovak Constitution Day) |
| 17 November | <i>Deň boja za slobodu a demokraciu</i> (Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day) |
| Public holidays | |
| 6 January | <i>Zjavenie Pána/ Traja králi</i> (Epiphany/ The Three Magi) |
| March/April (exact date varies) | <i>Veľký piatok</i> (Good Friday) |
| March/April (exact date varies) | <i>Veľkonočný pondelok</i> (Easter Monday) |
| 1 May | <i>Sviatok práce</i> (Labour Day) |
| 8 May | <i>Deň víťazstva nad fašizmom</i> (Day of Victory Over Fascism) |
| 15 September | <i>Sedembolestná Panna Mária</i> (Lady of Sorrows Day / Blessed Virgin Mary) |
| 1 November | <i>Sviatok všetkých svätých</i> (All Saints' Day) |
| 24 December | <i>Štedrý večer</i> (Christmas Eve) |
| 25 December | <i>Prvý sviatok vianočný</i> (Christmas Day) |
| 26 December | <i>Druhý sviatok vianočný</i> (St. Stephen's Day) |

Metric system

| Metric system | |
|---------------|---|
| Temperature | °C – Celsius degrees |
| Distance | mm - millimetre cm - centimetre (1 cm = 10 mm) m - metre (1 m = 100 cm) km - kilometre (1 km = 1000 m) |
| Weight | g - gramme dg - decagramme (1 dg = 10 g) kg - kilogramme (1 kg = 1000 g) t - tonne (1 t = 1000 kg) |
| Volume | ml - millilitre dl - decilitre (1 dl = 100 ml) l - litre (1 l = 10 dl) |
| Area | mm ² - quadrate millimetre cm ² - quadrate centimetre (1 cm ² = 100mm ²) m ² - quadrate metre (1 m ² = 10,000cm ²) a - are (1 a = 100 m ²) ha - hectare (1 ha = 10,000 m ²) km ² - quadrate kilometre (1 km ² = 1,000,000m ²) |

Key Slovak Phrases

| Key slovak phrases | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Hello | Ahoj |
| Goodbye | Ahoj Dovidenia (more polite) |
| Excuse me | Pardon Prepáčte S dovolením |
| Please | Prosím |
| Thank you | Ďakujem |
| How much? | Koľko? |
| How much is it? | Koľko to stojí? |
| Sorry | Prepáčte |
| Yes | áno |
| No | nie |
| My name is | Volám sa Moje meno je |
| Where is? | Kde je? |
| Help! | Pomoc! |
| I don't know | Neviem |
| Nice to meet you | Teší ma |
| What is this? | Čo je to? |
| Do you speak English? | Hovoríte po anglicky? |
| I don't speak Slovak. | Nehovorím po slovensky. |

Abbreviations

| Metric system | |
|---------------|--|
| EEA | European Economic Area (EU + EFTA) |
| EFTA | European Free Trade Association |
| EU | European Union |
| STK | Technical Control Station |
| ZSSK | Železničná spoločnosť Slovensko (Railway Company Slovakia) |

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1

Welcome to Slovakia



- 1.1 Slovakia at a glance
- 1.2 Images of Slovakia
- 1.3 Slovak customs, etiquette and manners
- 1.4 Useful links



| | |
|---------------|---|
| Official name | Slovenská republika – Slovak Republic |
| Location | Central Europe (17° - 22° E, 47° - 49° N) |
| Neighbours | Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Ukraine |
| Time zone | GMT + 1 hour, summer time (last Sunday in March – last Sunday in Oct): GMT + 2 hours |
| Capital | Bratislava |
| Regions | Bratislava, Trnava, Trenčín, Nitra, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov, Košice |
| Area | 49,035 km ² |



| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Population | 5.4 million |
| Density of population | 110 (per km ²) |
| Official currency | Euro, since 1 January 2009 (€) |
| Official language | Slovak |
| Ethnic groups | Slovak (85.8%) Hungarian (9.7%) – southern Slovakia, Hungarian may also be used in official communication Roma (1.7%) Ruthenian or Ukrainian (1%) – eastern Slovakia other (1.8%) |
| Religion | Roman Catholicism (68.9%, however church attendance is much lower), people without confession (13%), Lutheranism (6.93%), Greek Catholicism (4.1%), Calvinism (2.0%), other and non-registered churches (1.1%), Eastern Orthodox (0.9%), Jewry (< 0.1%) |
| Government | Parliamentary democracy republic |
| Member of | EU, Euro Area, Schengen Area, OECD, NATO, UN, WTO, OBSE etc. |
| Internet TLD | .sk or .eu (common for all countries in the EU) |



1.1 Slovakia at a glance

History

The Slavic tribes settled in the territory of Slovakia in the 5th and 6th century. In 623, the first empire was established in the territory and called Samova ríša (Samo's Empire) after its founder, the Frankish merchant Samo, who unified the Slavic tribes. After his death, the empire fell apart.

Another significant empire founded on our territory was Veľká Morava (Great Moravia), which was established in 833 by Prince Mojmír. The upswing of Veľká Morava came with the arrival of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 863, during the reign of Rastislav. Cyril and Methodius spread Christianity and learning in the old-Slavonic language that people understood. Rastislav's successor was his nephew Svätopluk. After Svätopluk's death, the empire gradually fell apart at the beginning of the 10th century.

Afterwards, the territory of today's Slovakia became part of Uhorsko (the Hungarian Empire) and stayed that way until 1918 (the end of the First World War). The "golden era" of Uhorsko's development was the 14th and the 15th century: gold and silver were mined in Slovakia's territory, handcraft production was advanced and cities were developed. The most important cities at that time were Bratislava, Trnava, Košice, Bardejov, Banská Štiavnica, Banská Bystrica and Kremnica. The 14th century was also a period of advancement of general education. The first university established in our territory was the Academia Istropolitana in 1465.

From the 16th century until the end of the First World War (1918), almost the whole of today's Slovak territory, then still a part of Uhorsko, was under the rule of the Habsburg Monarchy. The capital of Uhorsko was Prešporok (the former name of Bratislava).

The 16th and the 17th century were the bloodiest in Slovak history. The territory and the population were permanently endangered by Turkish attacks. These attacks only finished in 1683, when the Turks were finally defeated.

The 18th century is characterised by the Enlightenment movement. In this era, Uhorsko had its first queen – Maria Theresa. During her reign, Slovakia was still the economic and cultural centre of Uhorsko.

In the 18th century, a movement called the National Revival (Národné obrodenie) began to spread in Slovakia. This was an attempt to form a modern Slovak nation and ideology. The most famous and important national revivalists were Anton Bernolák and Ľudovít Štúr. In 1787, A. Bernolák codified the first literary Slovak language, based on the western Slovak dialect. In 1843, Ľ. Štúr codified the literary Slovak language on the basis of the central Slovak dialect. Štúr's literary language has been used with few alterations until today.

*Image:
Open-air museum
in Stará Ľubovňa*

Source:
www.
historika.sk,
2009; www.
wikipedia.org,
2009

The years 1848-1849 were revolutionary years in Europe, with revolution occurring in Uhorsko as well. In 1848, the first Slovak National Council (Slovenská národná rada) was established. Efforts to have the Slovaks acknowledged as an independent nation began.

In 1867, Uhorsko was split into two states: Rakúsko (Austria) and Uhorsko (Hungary) and became Rakúsko-Uhorsko (Austro-Hungary). The states were connected by the monarch, minister of foreign affairs, war and finances. Slovakia wanted to become an independent part of the Austrian Monarchy, but this did not happen. They stayed part of Uhorsko and the era of Hungarization of the Slovak population (1867-1918) began.

After the First World War, in 1918, when Rakúsko-Uhorsko was one of the defeated countries, Slovakia decided to join with Bohemia and Moravia and create Czechoslovakia.

Nearly twenty years later, the rising power of Hitler in Germany was dangerous for Czechoslovakia. Hitler wanted the border zones of the Czechlands and Moravia; his reasoning was protection of Germans living there. His request was discussed at the Munich Conference in 1938, where the participants were Germany, Italy, Great Britain and France. The countries agreed to fulfil Hitler's request and the conference is known as the "Munich dictate".

In 1939, the first Slovak Republic was established. It was under the control of Nazi Germany and was forced to be its ally. In 1944, the Slovak National Uprising (Slovenské národné povstanie) broke out against the Nazis but was repressed. Afterwards, the German army was pushed away from Slovak territory from the east by the advancing Russian army.

After the end of the Second World War (1945), Czechoslovakia was formed again. It came under the influence of the Soviet Union and a communist regime was established.

Communist rule ended in 1989 following the peaceful Velvet Revolution (nežná revolúcia).

In 1993, Czechoslovakia split again and for the last time: on 1 January 1993, two successor states were peacefully established: the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic. The countries have very good relations.

In 2004, on 1 May, Slovakia became a member of the European Union. On 1 January 2009, Slovakia also became part of the Euro Area – as the first country in its region.

Geography

The middle and the north of the country are mountainous. Across most of the northern half of the country stretch Karpaty (the Carpathian Mountains). The best known and most beautiful Slovak mountains are Tatry (the Tatras), which consist of Vysoké Tatry (the High Tatras) and Nízke Tatry (the Low Tatras). They are popular skiing destinations and home of many scenic lakes and valleys. Both Tatran ranges are also national parks. Vysoké Tatry (the High Tatras) contain the highest point in Slovakia, Gerlachovský štít (Gerlach Peak) - 2,655 metres above sea level and the country's highly symbolic mountain Kriváň. Other well-known mountain ranges are Veľká Fatra (the Big Fatra) and Malá Fatra (the Little Fatra).

The lowlands, which are important agricultural areas, are typical for the south and the east of Slovakia. Among the biggest lowlands are Podunajská nížina (Danube Lowland), Záhorská nížina (Lowland of Zahorie) and Východoslovenská nížina (Eastern-Slovak Lowland).

Source:
www.
wikipedia.
org, 2009;
www.slovakia.
travel.sk,
2009

The most important rivers in Slovakia are Dunaj (the Danube), which connects the capital city Bratislava with two capital cities of the neighbouring countries - Vienna and Budapest, then the River Váh, Hron and Nitra. The River Bodrog is the lowest point in Slovakia (95 metres).

The cities in Slovakia are not very big. The biggest city in Slovakia is its capital Bratislava, which is situated in the west of the country, has half a million inhabitants. The second biggest city is Košice in the east of the country. Other big towns are Prešov, Nitra, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Trnava, Martin and Trenčín.

Weather

The climate is continental with four distinct seasons: winter, spring, summer and autumn. Winters (December – February) are cold and bring snow. The average temperature in January is from -3 °C to +2 °C. Springs (March - May) are warm and very enjoyable. Summers (June – August) tend to be hot and humid. The average temperature in July is from 17 °C to 26 °C. Autumns (September – November) are bleak and rainy.

Politics

Slovakia is a parliamentary democratic republic with a multi-party system. Political power is divided horizontally (branches of power) and vertically (decentralization). Vertically, the power is distributed among supranational, national, regional, and municipal levels.

The supranational power is mainly in the hands of the European Union. Some policies, such as agricultural policy, belong to exclusive competences of the EU. Other policies, such as foreign and defence policy, are shared between the EU and its member states. Other policies, such as tax policy, are only in the hands of each member state. The EU is also in charge of monetary policy for the member states which have entered the Euro Area. Slovakia adopted the euro on 1 January 2009.

On the national level, the power is horizontally divided into executive power, which is shared by the President and the Government of the Slovak Republic, legislative power, which is in the hands of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, and judicial power, which is borne by courts. Even though the President has some executive power, his role is mostly representative. The main body of the Executive in Slovakia is the Government. It is made up of the Prime Minister, his or her Deputies, and Government Ministers. The Prime Minister is usually the leader of the most influential (as far as number of seats in the parliament are concerned) political party within a coalition that is formed after parliamentary elections. Thus, parties in the Parliament are divided into "coalition parties" and "opposition parties".

The unicameral National Council of the Slovak Republic (Národná rada Slovenskej republiky) is Slovakia's highest legislative body. 150 members of the parliament are elected for a four-year term on the basis of a system of proportional representation.

Courts in Slovakia are divided into the Constitutional Court of Slovak Republic and other courts. The Constitutional Court deals mainly with constitutional issues. Other courts deal with standard issues. The highest degree of appeal is the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic.

Slovak territory is divided into eight self-governing regions: Bratislava, Trnava, Trenčín, Nitra, Žilina, Banská-Bystrica, Prešov and Košice. Each region has its own chairman, a so-called župan, and a regional parliament. A self-governing region has executive and legislative competence on certain issues. This also applies for municipalities.

Self-governing regions



1.2 Images of Slovakia

State emblem

The state emblem is made up of a silver double-cross standing on a blue triple hill. The triple hill symbolizes the three Carpathian mountain ranges: the Tatra, the Fatra and the Matra.

The double-cross represents the Christian traditions of Slovakia and tradition of Saint Cyril and Methodius, who brought Christianity to Slovakia.



Slovak flag

The Slovak flag, in common with other Slavic nations, uses the white, blue and red colours. On the left part of the flag is the state emblem.



National anthem

The lyrics of the national anthem are based on a song Nad Tatrou sa blýska (There is Lightning Above the Tatras) written by the famous Slovak writer Janko Matuška in 1844. The first verses of the song constitute the anthem. The music is based on a Slovak folk song, Kopala studienku (She was digging a well). The patriotic lyrics speak of lightning above the Tatra Mountains and urge the Slovak nation to wake up..

Nad Tatrou sa blýska,
hromy divo bijú.
Zastavme ich bratia,
veď sa ony stratia,
Slováci ožijú.

To Slovensko naše
posiaľ tvrdo spalo.
Ale blesky hromu
vzbudzujú ho k tomu,
aby sa prebralo.

There is lightning above the Tatras ,
thunderbolts are striking wildly.
Let's stop them brothers,
they will get lost,
Slovaks will revive again.

Our Slovakia has been
in a deep sleep until now.
However, the bolts of thunder
urge the country
to wake up.



Photo: R. Buga

1

Slovakia is mostly famous for its

Natural beauty

Vysoké Tatry (The High Tatras)

Vysoké Tatry (the High Tatras) are situated in the northern part of Slovakia on the border with Poland. They are one of the highest European mountain ranges situated north of the Alps and home to a unique area of fauna and flora. In 1949 Vysoké Tatry (the High Tatras) were declared to be the first national park in Slovakia – Tatranský národný park – TANAP (The Tatra National Park). In 1993 they were declared by UNESCO to be the Tatras Biospheric Reservation.

Other national parks are Nízke Tatry (the Low Tatras), Malá Fatra (the Little Fatra), Veľká Fatra (the Big Fatra), Poloniny, Slovenský raj (the Slovak Paradise), Muránska planina (the Muranska Plain), Pieniny and Slovenský kras (the Slovak Karst).

Caves

Caves are unique natural phenomena that attract the attention of both experts and the general public. They represent an invitation on a journey of beauty and knowledge.

Images:

1. The High Tatras

2. Harmanecská Cave

3. Spa in Vyšné Ružbachy

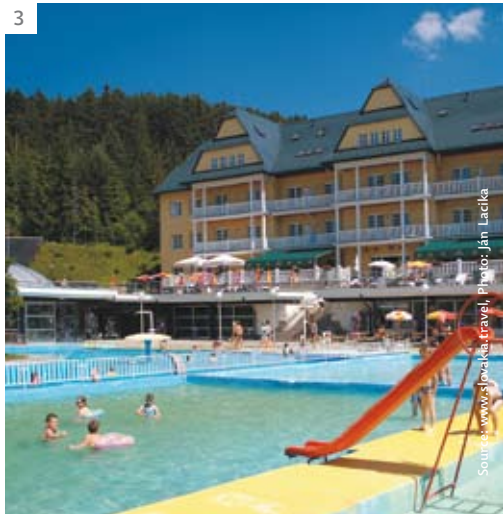
4. Bryndzové halušky

5. Bojnice Castle

2



3



Source: www.slovakia.travel, Photo: Ján Lacička

Many Slovak caves are well known in Europe and the whole world. There are 13 publicly accessible caves in Slovakia, with 6 of them on UNESCO's World Heritage List. The most famous is Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa (Dobšinska Ice Cave), which is one of the largest ice caves in Europe.

Thermal spas

Many thermal spas in Slovakia are famous around the world for their curative effects. Their offer of health restoration, recreational or wellness treatment is really wide. The most famous are the thermal spas in Piešťany, Bardejov and Dudince.

Folklore

Fujara

Fujara (shepherd's pipe) is an original and unique Slovak woodwind instrument. It was used by shepherds when they were shepherding their sheep as well as at various ceremonial and tragical events.

Handcrafts

Slovaks have a long tradition of manufacturing handcraft products. Among traditional handcrafts in Slovakia are wood-carving, pottery, ceramics, manufacturing of wire and leather products, weaving, blacksmithing, needlework, and baking of ginger bread.

Traditional music, dancing and clothing

Every area, town, and village in Slovakia has its own character and its own traditional clothing, music, and dancing. Slovak folklore music and dancing is world famous and admired. Many Slovak folklore songs are rhythmical and cheerful, some are also sad. They are mostly about love for the homeland, work and relationships. There are many folklore festivals which take place in Slovakia. The biggest ones take place in Východná, Myjava, Terchová and Detva.



4

Bryndzové halušky

Bryndzové halušky is a traditional, original, and unique Slovak dish. It consists of potato dumplings and a special kind of sheep cheese called bryndza. It is usually served with fried bacon strips on the top.

Castles

History is best preserved in Slovakia in its towns by historical buildings and other monuments and best represented by many Slovak castles. The most famous castle is Spišský hrad (Spis Castle) in eastern Slovakia, which is the largest medieval castle complex in Central Europe. The castle is also placed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Other well-known castles are Bratislava Castle, Trenčin Castle, Orava Castle and Bojnice Chateau.



5

1.3 Slovak customs, etiquette and manners

General customs, etiquette and manners

Meeting and introducing

When meeting or being introduced, acquaintances shake hands. Close friends or family members usually kiss once on the cheek or both cheeks and hug slightly. When being introduced to a stranger it is polite to shake hands, in a more informal atmosphere also to give a peck (fleeting kiss) on the cheeks. Kissing in both cases is not common when two men meet or are introduced.

Visiting

When entering a Slovak house, the residents take off their shoes and put on slippers in the entrance hall. Guests should do the same. They are offered some house slippers by the residents. In many households, it is considered indecorous if you move in the house space in the shoes you wear outside.

To offer guests something to drink, usually also some liquor, or to eat is considered a demonstration of hospitality and respect. Although it is polite to accept, it is not considered impolite to politely refuse such an offer.

Please note that it is also considered polite to take something with you as a small gift when you go for a visit for the first time, especially if you go for dinner. We recommend a bottle of wine, box of chocolates, or flowers for women.

Gifts

Gifts are usually expected at somebody's birthday party or on some other special occasion. For a gift, it is appropriate to buy something you consider suitable for the person. The most common gifts are: a box of chocolates, wine or liquor, and flowers for women. Money is given as a gift usually only at weddings. It is polite to open the gift either in front of the guests or in private. Most commonly, Slovaks open gifts in front of the guests so that everyone can see and appreciate the gift. There is no specific rule for gifts giving at business meetings. It is not necessary to bring a gift, but it is not inappropriate to do it either.

Formal and informal relations

In formal level relations and meetings, people address each other using Mr/Mrs (pán/pani) and surname. In the Slovak language, the formal second person plural (vykanie) is used as a form of the verb. The informal tykanie (to be on the first names terms), is usual in families and among friends, as well as close colleagues. This also applies for correspondence.

| Formal greetings | Informal greetings |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Dobré ráno</i> (Good morning) | <i>Čau</i> (Hi) |
| <i>Dobrý deň</i> (Good afternoon) | <i>Ahoj</i> (Hello) |
| <i>Dobrý večer</i> (Good evening) | <i>Maj sa</i> (See you) |
| <i>Dovidenia</i> (Good-bye) | |

Giving precedence

It is polite to give precedence to older people, pregnant women and women with children. For example, if you are travelling by bus and you are sitting and there is no free seat left and an older person boards the bus, it is considered polite to stand up and let the older person to take your seat. The same applies to pregnant women, women with children, and also in other "sitting situations".

Dress code

Business dress code is required in business meetings. It means a formal dress or suit for women and a suit for men. In informal meetings, the style of dress depends on everyone's own preference and usually is more casual. Some companies require a business dress code while others do not.

Names and addresses

Names in Slovakia are written in the following order: Christian (first) name, middle name (if it was given), and surname. Women almost always have a different surname than men. The suffix "ová" is added to the man's name, or "y" in man's name is changed to "a". For example: man's name is Ján Kováč, but a woman is called Jana Kováčová; the man's name is Peter Čierny, but the woman is Petra Čierna.

Addresses in Slovakia are written in the following order: street, number of the street, city, ZIP code, country.

National sports

Ice hockey and football are considered to be the national sports. One great success of Slovakia was winning the World Ice Hockey Championships in 2002.

Dining habits and manners

Eating customs

In Slovakia, it is usual to eat three times a day: breakfast (7:00 – 10:00), lunch (11:00 – 14:00) and dinner (17:00 – 20:00). Breakfast generally consists of bread with butter or cheese and vegetables or cornflakes with fruits. Lunch is a warm meal which consists of soup and a main course, sometimes also a dessert. Lunch in Slovakia is the main course of the day. Dinner may also consist of a warm meal (without soup) or it is a cold dinner and people eat similar things to what they have for breakfast.

When lunch or dinner consists of more dishes, they are served separately (not all at the same time).

In Slovakia, people usually talk while they are eating. However, it is considered impolite to talk with an open mouth, smack one's lips together, or burp.

Eating and drinking out

When Slovaks go out eating or drinking and they get the bill, usually everyone pays for his/her consumption. However, it is not unusual that friends invite their friends for a drink. At business lunches or dinners, the party that initiated the meeting usually offers to pay for the party that accepted the invitation, but it should not be considered a rule.

When you finish your food, you should put your fork and knife close to each other in a horizontal position on the plate. Having the fork and knife in this position signals a waiter/waitress that you have finished your food and he/she can take it away. If the fork and the knife are far from each other and/or crossed, it suggests that you have not finished your food yet.

Tipping

Tipping is not obligatory in Slovakia; however it is welcomed by service workers. It shows that you are satisfied with the service. Tip does not represent a percentage of the paid amount, but the guest rounds up the amount he/she is supposed to pay. Tip is given to waiters, taxi drivers, hairdressers and other employees in services.

Equality of sexes

Status

Men and women have the same rights and the same status in Slovakia. It is not surprising when a woman holds an executive position or when men and women shake hands.

Gentleman's behaviour

There is a certain type of behaviour which is considered to be gentlemanly, for example opening a door for a woman, paying for a woman's drink or meal if you have invited her, helping a woman with shopping, letting a woman sit when there is only one seat left, etc.

Possible cultural differences

Eye contact

In Slovakia, it is normal to make direct eye contact when you are talking to someone. Direct eye contact is also recommended when giving a presentation or a lecture or talking to a group.

Gestures

Nodding your head either means that you understand or that you agree. A shaking head means not agreeing.

Waving your palm out means the same as saying "Goodbye". Waving towards you usually means "Come here".

Impolite and polite in Slovakia

Some things that might be considered polite in other cultures are considered impolite in Slovakia, among which we can include smacking one's lips, burping, spitting and farting. Arriving late, pointing at somebody with your finger, speaking very loudly in public places and not replying to greetings are also considered impolite.

On the other hand, some things that might be considered impolite in other cultures are not considered to be so in Slovakia. For example, in some cultures it is impolite to show your teeth when you laugh. In Slovakia, no type of laughter is considered impolite. However, if you yawn, sneeze or cough, you should cover your mouth.

1.4 Useful links

| | |
|--|--|
| Government | www.vlada.sk |
| President | www.prezident.sk |
| Parliament | www.nrsr.sk |
| European Union | www.europa.eu |
| Courts | www.justice.gov.sk/h.aspx?pg=lb2&uc=ps/adsuc |
| Directory of various organizations, firms and institutions (from the Slovak Spectator) can be found at | www.greenpages.spectator.sk |



2

Visiting, settling in and leaving Slovakia



- 2.1 Visa-free regime and obtaining a visa before entry
- 2.2 Arriving in Slovakia
- 2.3 Customs clearance process
- 2.4 Settling in Slovakia
- 2.5 Foreign diplomatic missions in and for Slovakia
- 2.6 Leaving Slovakia
- 2.7 Useful links

2.1 Visa-free regime and obtaining a visa before entry

A visa is required for all foreigners except:

- a) EU citizens;
- b) citizens of Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Brunei, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Chile, Croatia, Israel, Japan, Canada, Republic of Korea, Costa Rica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, El Salvador, Switzerland, Uruguay, USA, and Venezuela for visits of up to 90 days;
- c) citizens of Monaco and New Zealand for visits of up to 3 months;
- d) citizens of San Marino and the Vatican for visits of up to 30 days.

The Slovak ministries responsible for visas and the entry of foreigners to Slovakia are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior.

| Institution | Web | Contact | Address | Office hours |
|---|--|---|--|--------------------------|
| Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic | www.minv.sk | Tel.: +421 (0)2 5094 1111 (operator) E-mail: tokmv@minv.sk | Pribinova 2 812 72 Bratislava | 08:00 – 15:30 Mo - Fr |
| Office of Border and Foreign Police of the Ministry of the Interior | www.minv.sk/?uhcp | Tel.: +421 (0) 9610 50701 (operator and general information) E-mail: uhcp@minv.sk | Vajnorská 25 812 72 Bratislava | 08:00 – 15:30 Mo - Fr |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic | www.foreign.gov.sk | Tel.: +421 (0)2 5978 5978 (The Centre of Help and Service to Citizens, please wait for English) +421 (0)2 5978 1111 (operator) E-mail: info@mzv.sk | Hlboká cesta 2 833 36 Bratislava | 08:00 – 15:30 Mo - Fr |
| Consular Section of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic | www.foreign.gov.sk | Tel.: +421 (0)2 5978 3923 +421 (0)2 5978 3932 +421 (0)2 5978 3930 +421 (0)2 5978 3936 E-mail: konz@mzv.sk | Hlboká cesta 2 833 36 Bratislava | 08:00 – 15:30 Mo - Fr |

Types of visa

There are two types of visa: Schengen visa and national visa.

Schengen visa

Source:
Regulation (EC)
No 810/2009 of
the European
Parliament and
of the Council
of 13 July 2009
establishing a
Community Code
on Visas (Visa
Code).

Schengen visa is an authorisation issued by an EU member state with a view to:

- (a) transit through or an intended stay in the territory of the EU member states of a duration of no more than three months in any six-month period from the date of first entry in the territory of the EU member states;
- (b) transit through the international transit areas of airports of the EU member states.

It may be issued for one, two or multiple entries. The period of validity shall not exceed five years. In the case of transit, the length of the authorised stay shall correspond to the time necessary for the purpose of the transit. The period of validity of the visa includes an additional "period of grace" of 15 days. However, member states may decide not to grant such a period of grace.

There are 3 types of Schengen visa:

- uniform visa;
Visa valid for the entire territory of the EU member states.
- visa with limited territorial validity;
Visa valid for the territory of one or more EU member states but not all member states.
- airport transit visa
Visa valid for passing through the international transit areas of airports situated on the territory of the EU member states. Nationals from following countries are required to hold it: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia and Sri Lanka.

Procedure

Application

A foreigner submits a visa application on an official application form at a representative authority (an embassy or a consulate) of the Slovak Republic abroad. Applications should be lodged no more than three months before the start of the intended visit. Holders of a multiple-entry visa may lodge the application before the expiry of the visa valid for a period of at least six months. Please note that application shall be decided within 15 calendar days of the date it was lodged. Therefore, it is necessary to lodge the application at least 15 calendar days before the start of the intended visit. Please note that the period of the decision may be extended up to a maximum of 30 or 60 calendar days in individual cases.

Applicants may be required to obtain an appointment for the lodging of an application. The appointment should, as a rule, take place within a period of two weeks from the date when the appointment was requested. In justified cases of urgency, the consulate may allow applicants to lodge their applications either without appointment, or an appointment should be given immediately.

Applicants should appear in person when lodging an application. This requirement may be waived by the representative authority if the applicant is known to it for his/her integrity and reliability.

When lodging the application, the applicant should:

- present an application form
- present a travel document (a passport)

A valid travel document should satisfy following criteria:

- its validity should extend at least three months after the intended date of departure from the territory of the member states or, in the case of several visits, after the last intended date of departure from the territory of the member states. However, in a justified case of emergency, this obligation may be waived;
 - it should contain at least two blank pages;
 - it should have been issued within the previous 10 years.
- present his/her current photograph
The photograph of him/her should be scanned or taken at the time of application.



Customs
Douane

- allow the collection of his/her fingerprints

This does not apply to:

- children under the age of 12;
- persons for whom fingerprinting is physically impossible. If the fingerprinting of fewer than 10 fingers is possible, the maximum number of fingerprints should be taken. However, should the impossibility be temporary, the applicant shall be required to give the fingerprints at the following application;
- heads of state or government and members of a national government with accompanying spouses, and the members of their official delegation when they are invited by member states' governments or by international organisations for an official purpose;
- sovereigns and other senior members of a royal family, when they are invited by member states' governments or by international organisations for an official purpose.

- provide supporting documents

When applying for a uniform visa, the applicant should present:

- documents indicating the purpose of the journey;
- documents in relation to accommodation, or proof of sufficient means to cover his/her accommodation;
- documents indicating that the applicant possesses sufficient means of subsistence both for the duration of the intended stay and for the return to his/her country of origin or residence, or for the transit to a third country into which he/she is certain to be admitted, or that he/she is in a position to acquire such means lawfully;
- information enabling an assessment of the applicant's intention to leave the territory of the member states before the expiry of the visa applied for.

When applying for an airport transit visa, the applicant should present:

- documents in relation to the onward journey to the final destination after the intended airport transit;
- information enabling an assessment of the applicant's intention not to enter the territory of the member states.

- provide a proof of possession of adequate and valid travel medical insurance, which is valid throughout the territory of the member states and covers the entire period of the person's intended stay or transit. The minimum coverage shall be € 30,000.
- pay the visa fee of € 60 (the amount is regularly revised in order to reflect administrative costs). Children in the age of 6 to 12 years pay the visa fee of € 35. Children younger than 6 years do not pay the visa fee.

In individual cases, the amount of the visa fee to be charged may be waived or reduced when to do so serves to promote cultural or sporting interests as well as interests in the field of foreign policy, development policy and other areas of vital public interest or for humanitarian reasons.

Extension

The period of validity and/or the duration of stay of an issued visa should be extended free of charge if the competent authority of a member state considers that a visa holder has provided proof of force majeure or humanitarian reasons preventing him/her from leaving the territory of the member states before the expiry of the period of validity of or the duration of stay authorised by the visa.

The period of validity and/or the duration of stay of an issued visa may be extended if the visa holder provides proof of serious personal reasons justifying the extension of the period of validity or the duration of stay. A fee for such an extension is € 30.

In both cases, a foreigner has to apply for the extension of his/her visa at the respective unit of the Border and Foreign Police of the Ministry of the Interior according to his/her residence in Slovakia. The police decide very quickly in such cases, if possible within 24 hours of receiving the application.

Unless otherwise decided by the authority extending the visa, the territorial validity of the extended visa shall remain the same as that of the original visa. The authority competent to extend the visa is that of the member state on whose territory the third-country national is present at the moment of applying for an extension. Extension of visa takes the form of a visa sticker.

Annulment and revocation

A visa shall be annulled if it becomes evident that the conditions for issuing it were not met at the time when it was issued, in particular if there are serious grounds for believing that the visa was fraudulently obtained. A visa shall be revoked where it becomes evident that the conditions for issuing it are no longer met.

A visa shall, in principle, be annulled or revoked by the competent authorities of the

member state which issued it. A visa may be annulled or revoked by the competent authorities of another member state, in which case the authorities of the member state that issued the visa shall be informed of such annulment.

A visa may be revoked also at the request of the visa holder. The competent authorities of the member state that issued the visa shall be informed of such revocation.

A decision on annulment or revocation of a visa and the reasons on which it is based shall be notified to the applicant by means of the standard form.

A visa holder whose visa has been annulled or revoked has the right to appeal, unless the visa was revoked at his/her request. Appeals should be conducted against the member state that has taken the decision on the annulment or revocation and in accordance with the national law of that member state. Member states should provide applicants with information regarding the procedure to be followed in the event of an appeal.

National visa

National visa may be issued to a foreigner along with the residence permit or in connection with Slovakia's commitments under international treaties or if it is for the benefit of the Slovak Republic. The national visa is valid only for the territory of the Slovak Republic; however it entitles its holder to transit through one or more Schengen member states when travelling to Slovakia. No return transit is allowed. The foreigner is required to have a Schengen visa for a return trip, if he/she decides to leave the Schengen Area outside the Slovak Republic.

The national visa is granted for the stay which is longer than three months.

Procedure

A foreigner lodges a visa application on an official application form at a representative authority (an embassy or a consulate) of the Slovak Republic abroad. He/she applies for a national visa. Please note that it takes up to 30 days for the representative authority to make a decision regarding visa issuance, therefore it is necessary to lodge the application at least 30 days before the intended visit.

With the application form the applicant should:

- present his/her travel document - a passport;
Its validity should extend at least three months after the end date of visa validity.
- provide his/her current colour photo with parameters of 3 cm x 3.5 cm;
- provide documents confirming purpose of his/her visit, necessary finances for visit and travel and confirmation of health insurance;
- pay the visa fee of
 - € 9.50 in the case that visa is issued to a foreigner along with a residence permit in the Slovak Republic
 - € 33 in the case that visa is issued in connection with the performance of Slovakia's commitments under international treaties or for the benefit of the Slovak Republic
 - € 99.50 in all other cases

The fee is reduced to € 35 for nationals of third countries which have signed a Visa Facilitation Agreement with the EU: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Ukraine.

If requested, the applicant also shall attend a personal interview. The representative authority decides about issuing of the visa within 30 days of the submission of the application.

In the case that the visa is granted, the printed visa sticker shall be affixed to the travel document. There is no legal entitlement to a visa. In the case the visa is refused, the reasons on which it is based are not notified to the applicant and he/she does not have the right to appeal.

Annulment

A visa may be annulled, if the representative authority or police unit find out information which would be a reason for not issuing the visa or if the foreigner is administratively deported.

Slovak authorities abroad

A list of the Slovak authorities abroad can be found at the web page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, www.foreign.gov.sk, in its English version. Click on the tab "Web for Honorary Consulates" and then on "Contacts".

Documents

Most of the necessary documents in various languages (incl. English and German) can be downloaded from the web page of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic. The web page is currently only in Slovak. You can find the documents via this link:

www.minv.sk/?dokumenty-na-stiahnutie-1.

Source:
Zákon č.
463/2006 Z.z. o
pobyte cudzincov
(Act 463/2006
on Stay of
Foreigners),
Ministry of
Foreign Affairs
of the Slovak
Republic, www.mzv.sk, 2010.

Please note that every foreigner outside of the EEA is obliged to be registered at the respective police station within three days of his/her arrival and a foreigner from the EEA within ten days. If he/she is staying at a hotel or other official place, a hotel or this place has to register him/her. If a foreigner is staying at a private address, he/she has to do it himself/herself.

HLÁSENIE POBYTU / TO REPORT THE RESIDENCE

Pobyt od / Residence from : do / until :

Source:
Ministry of
the Interior
of the Slovak
Republic,
www.minv.sk,
2009

1. Meno / Name:

2. Priezvisko / Surname:

3. Dátum a miesto narodenia (štát) /
Date and place of birth (country):

4. Štátna príslušnosť /
Nationality:

5. Účel pobytu /
Purpose of stay:

6. Číslo cestovného dokladu /
Passport number:

7. Číslo víza /
Visa Number

8. Mená a priezviská spolucestujúcich detí /
Names and Surnames of fellow traveller children:

1.
2.
3.
4.

Som si vedomý a súhlasím s nasledujúcim: všetky osobné údaje týkajúce sa mojej osoby, ktoré sú uvedené v tomto formulári, budú poskytnuté príslušným úradom Slovenskej republiky a spracované týmito úradmi, pre účely hlásenia pobytu. Tieto údaje môžu byť vložené do alebo uložené v databázach dostupných príslušným úradom Slovenskej republiky, ak medzinárodná zmluva, ktorou je Slovenská republika viazaná, neustanovuje inak.

I am aware of and consent to the following: any personal data concerning me which appear on this form will be supplied to the relevant authorities of the Slovak Republic and processed by those authorities, if necessary, for the purposes to report the residence. Such data may be input into, and stored in databases accessible to the relevant authorities of the Slovak Republic, unless an international treaty binding for the Slovak Republic stipulates otherwise.

.....
Podpis cudzinca/ Signature of alien



2.2 Arriving in Slovakia

Slovakia is a member of the Schengen Area. There usually is no border control within the Schengen Area countries; however, there is a border control on borders of the Schengen Area with non-Schengen area countries. This also means that there is a border control at the airport for flights which are from non-Schengen Area countries.

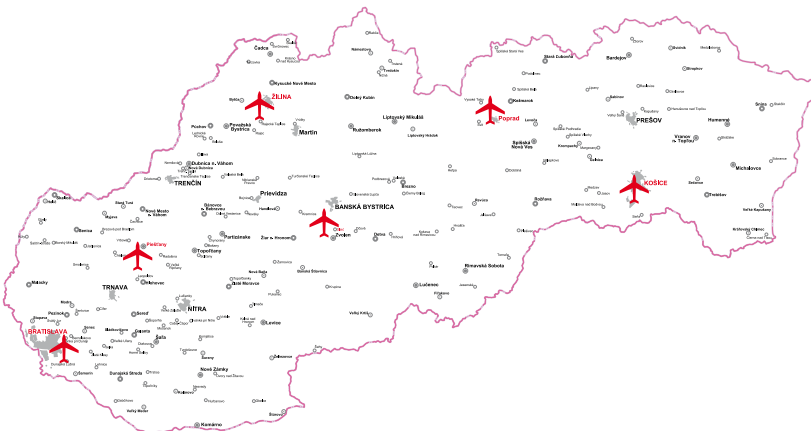
The Schengen Convention has been implemented in the following EU member states: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Slovakia, Slovenia and the following non-EU member states: Iceland, Norway.

Image:
Devin Castle

By air

There are six airports in Slovakia:

- Bratislava - www.letiskobratislava.sk
- Žilina - www.letisko.sk
- Poprad - www.airport-poprad.sk
- Piešťany - www.airport-piestany.sk
- Sliač - www.airportsliac.sk
- Košice - www.airportkosice.sk



There are regular European flights scheduled to Bratislava, Poprad and Košice. There are European charter flights to Piešťany Airport scheduled for tourists and patients who want to visit the spa in the town.

For your journey you may also use one of the airports abroad, which are close to Slovakia:

- **Vienna International Airport** www.viennaairport.com
(60 km from Bratislava)

Vienna International Airport in Austria, which is one of the biggest European airports, is a gateway to most of the countries worldwide. It is very easy to get from this airport to Bratislava: by taxi (€ 40 – € 80), by regular bus connections (€ 6 – € 9) or by car. Taxis and buses stop directly at the airport. Please note that if you decide to drive to Bratislava and use an Austrian highway, you need to buy an Austrian highway sticker (€ 7.90 for 10 days; € 22.90 for 2 months in 2010).

| Company offering journeys to/from Vienna International Airport – Bratislava | Web | Contact | Price |
|---|--|--|--|
| Blaguss | www.blaguss.sk | Tel.: +421 (0)2 54 41 02 66 (information and sale of tickets) +421 (0)2 43 63 72 57 (information) +421 (0)2 43 63 72 58 (information) E-mail: office@blaguss.sk | € 6 for journey |
| Eurolines Slovakia | www.slovaklines.sk | Tel.: +421 18 211 (from abroad) 18 211 (within Slovakia) E-mail: info@slovaklines.sk | € 7.70 for journey + € 1.00 for 1 piece of baggage |

- **Budapest Airport** www.bud.hu
(180 km from Bratislava)

Budapest Airport in Hungary is a gateway to most European as well as some international destinations. You can get to Bratislava by train (€ 13.80 – € 21.00, depending on the route), by bus (€ 5 – € 15 depending on the company), or by car. If you decide to use a train or a bus, you must get from the airport to the train station or bus station. Please note that if you decide drive the Hungarian highway, you need to buy a Hungarian highway sticker (HUF 1,170 / € 4.50 for 4 days; HUF 2,550 / € 10 for 10 days; HUF 4,200 / € 15.50 for 1 month in 2010).

- **Airport Prague** www.prg.aero
(351 km from Bratislava)

Prague Airport in the Czech Republic is a gateway to most European as well as some international destinations. You can get to Bratislava by train (€ 24.20), by bus (€ 12 – € 20, depending on the company), or by car. If you decide to use train or bus, you must get from the airport to the train station or bus station. Please note that if you decide to drive a Czech highway, you need to buy a Czech highway sticker (CZK 250 / € 10 for 10 days; CZK 350 / € 14 for 1 month in 2010).

Arrival procedure and border control at the airport

Passenger travelling from a Schengen member state will not pass through any passport control unless he/she is continuing his/her journey to a non-Schengen member state. If a passenger has arrived from a non-Schengen member state, he/she has to proceed through passport control. Afterwards, the passenger proceeds to luggage pick up. By checking the display boards for his/her flight number and flight departure airport the passenger will find out the conveyor belt with his/her luggage .

Any passenger travelling within the European Union proceeds to the exit. If a passenger is travelling from a non-EU member state, he/she will have to pass through customs control. There is a special line for passengers who have nothing to declare and a special line for passengers who have goods to declare. After passing the customs control, the passenger may proceed to the exit.

Flight regulations of European Union flights

Prohibited items

Certain items capable of causing injury are prohibited on board of the aircraft as a part of hand luggage. These include firearms and their imitations (e.g. toy guns), pointed or edged weapons and sharp objects, blunt objects (e.g. baseball and softball bats, golf clubs, hockey-sticks), explosives and flammable substances, chemical and toxic substances. Under certain circumstances, it is possible to place some of these items to passenger's checked baggage.

Prohibited items most often found in passengers' hand luggage and taken away from them are: manicure sets containing sharp and pointed objects, pocket-knives, screwdrivers, cutlery (knives and forks), Swiss army knives (part of which are sharp and pointed objects), razor-blades and trimmers, iron cast, and other metal items of different shape and size (wrenches, hammers, nails).

There are also certain items that are excluded from air transport and which must not be placed in the checked baggage of the passenger, e.g. explosives; gases; inflammable liquids, substances, and materials; organic peroxides; toxic or infectious substances; radioactive materials; etching substances; parts of vehicles fuel systems which contain fuel.

Regulations for liquids

Any liquids, creams, pastes, gels, aerosols, foods etc. must not exceed the maximum amount of 100 ml per package and must be transported together in a clear plastic zip-top bag with a volume of 1 litre. Plastic bag must be closed and removed from hand luggage to be presented separately at the security control for screening.

Only one plastic bag which must not exceed a volume of 1 litre is permitted per passenger and ticket. The plastic bag serves as a measuring unit and can be opened by the security control.

Any medications, baby food and special nutrition (medical dietary food) that are needed on board during the flight can be transported outside of a plastic bag. Passengers must hold a medical certificate or a prescription made in their name for any drugs or dietary products.

Items purchased within the transit area at the respective EU airport (after boarding card control) and other EU airports or on board of EU airlines are exempted from quantitative restrictions. They are packed into special bags and sealed. They must not be opened during the entire journey. A clearly visible sales receipt must additionally indicate the location and time of the purchase.

Passengers are requested to prepare the packaging of liquids according to regulations at home before going to the airport in order to keep any delays to a minimum.

Source:
Airport Bratislava, www.letiskobratislava.sk, 2009; Vienna International Airport, www.viennaairport.com, 2009

By train

Many of Europe's regular train routes pass through Slovakia or very near to Slovakia. It is especially easy to travel from neighbouring countries. Please remember to buy your ticket well in advance to avoid long queues at ticket counters. At the moment it is possible only to buy an international ticket in person at a train station. Železničná spoločnosť Slovensko – ZSSK (Railway Company Slovakia) is currently working on an online international ticket purchase service.

| | Web | Contact | Headquarters |
|------|--|---|--|
| ZSSK | www.zsr.sk www.slovakrail.sk | Tel.: +421 18 188 (from abroad) 18 188 (within Slovakia) E-mail: info@slovakrail.sk | Rožňavská 1 832 72 Bratislava Slovakia |



By bus

Most countries in Europe are connected to Slovak destinations by a regular, usually direct service. Several bus companies offer international bus transportation to Slovakia. It is always possible to buy a ticket in person in advance at the company's offices in Slovakia. In this case, you can also book a ticket by telephone and within a certain period of time (usually 24 – 48 hours) you have to come to the office to pay for it and pick it up. The companies below usually have partners abroad who sell their tickets. To find out in which countries or cities, please contact the respective company. If there are any tickets left, you can also buy them directly from the driver. Eurolines and Student Agency also offer the option to buy tickets online.

| Company offering international routes | Web | Contact |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| Eurolines | www.slovaklines.sk | Tel.: +421 18 211 (from abroad) 18 211 (within Slovakia) E-mail: info@slovaklines.sk |
| Student Agency | www.studentagency.cz | Tel.: +421 (0)2 20 50 20 50 <i>after you hear the operator speaking, press 1 for the bus tickets</i> E-mail: bratislava@studentagency.sk |
| Turancar | www.turancar.sk | Tel.: +421 (0)37 655 00 11 +421 (0)37 655 00 12 +421 (0)37 655 56 66 E-mail: turancar@turancar.sk |

By boat

River cruises from Vienna and Budapest to Bratislava are regularly arranged from the second half of March until the second half of December.

By car

It is very easy to come to Slovakia by car. Europe is connected by the network of highways and good quality roads, which also lead to Slovakia. In some countries (e. g. Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary) as well as in Slovakia it is necessary to buy a highway sticker in order to drive their highways. The stickers can be bought at gas stations. Some countries use highway toll system while in others is, using highways free of charge.

| Country | Year/EUR | Months (validity) | Days (validity) |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Slovakia | € 36.50 | € 9.90 (1 month) | € 4.90 (7 days) |
| Austria | € 76.20 | € 22.90 (2 months) | € 7.90 (10 days) |
| Czech Republic | CZK 1,200 / € 47 | CZK 350 / € 14.00 (1 month) | CZK 250 / € 10 (10 days) |
| Hungary | HUF 37,200 / € 139 | HUF 4,200 / € 16.00 (1 month) | HUF 1,170 / € 4.50 (4 days) HUF 2,550 / € 10 (10 days) |

Cost of highway sticker in 2010

Border crossing points

Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Poland

Border checks on the borders of the Slovak Republic with the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary and Poland have been closed because of the countries' membership in the Schengen Area. When travelling from or to these countries from Slovakia, you can cross the border wherever it is possible.

Ukraine

Ubl'a (Slovak Republic) - Malyj Bereznyj (Ukraine)

Region: Prešov, County town: Snina

Category - citizens from all countries of the world
- passenger and commercial traffic up to 3.5 tons
- open 24 hours daily

Vyšné Nemecké (Slovak Republic) - Užhorod (Ukraine)

Region: Košice, County town: Sobrance

Category - citizens from all countries of the world
- passenger and commercial traffic without any restrictions
- open 24 hours daily

Distance

from Bratislava to

Source:
maps.google.com, 2010

| | | | |
|----------|----------|------------|----------|
| Vienna | 79 km | Paris | 1,321 km |
| Budapest | 200 km | Rome | 1,202 km |
| Prague | 331 km | Milan | 933 km |
| Brno | 131 km | Madrid | 2,504 km |
| Warsaw | 636 km | Barcelona | 1,895 km |
| Brussels | 1,191 km | London | 1,557 km |
| Berlin | 680 km | Amsterdam | 1,235 km |
| Munich | 520 km | Copenhagen | 1,110 km |

Image:
Bratislava



2.3 Customs clearance process

In the European Union, there is a customs union. It is a single trading area where all goods circulate freely whether made within the EU or imported from outside. There are no internal border controls or customs duties at internal borders and there is a uniform system for taxing imports. Customs officers are only at the EU's external borders. When you import products from outside the EU, you pay the duty on the product when it first enters the EU. After that there is nothing more to pay and there are no more checks.

For more detailed information about customs and tariffs, please see www.europa.eu, go to European Commission, then Taxation and Customs Union, then Databases and then TARIC or click on this link:

www.ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/dds/tarhome_en.htm

On the web page of the Taxation and Customs Union you will find other useful information about customs.

2.4 Settling in Slovakia

A citizen from an EEA member state

A citizen of the European Economic Area has to notify the respective section of the Border and Foreign Police Department according to the area of his/her residence about his/her stay in Slovakia within ten days of his/her arrival. He/she must carry a valid travel document i.e. passport or ID card.

He/she can register with the Border and Foreign Police Department and obtain a certificate of residence. The fee for such a certificate is € 4.50. The certificate of residence has a limited validity and when it is renewed, the foreigner has to pay a fee of € 4.50 again. The certificate of residence is very useful, for example when communicating with institutions.

Detailed information on settling in Slovakia and other rules for foreigners can be found in the Act 463/2006 on Stay of Foreigners (Zákon č. 463/2006 Z.z. o pobyte cudzincov).



The headquarters of the Border and Foreign Police Section

| City | Address | Contact |
|------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Bratislava | Vajnorská 25 812 72 Bratislava | Tel.: +421 (0) 9610 50701 E-mail: uhcp@minv.sk |

Sections according to the place of residence

| City | Address | Telephone number |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Bratislava | Hrobákova 44, Bratislava | Tel.: +421 (0) 9610 36855 |
| Trnava | Športová 10, Trnava | Tel.: +421 (0) 96110 6161 |
| Dunajská Streda | Múzejná 231/6, Dunajská Streda | Tel.: +421 (0) 96111 3200 |
| Nitra | Osvaldova 1, Nitra | Tel.: +421 (0) 96130 3230 |
| Nové Zámky | Bitúnkova 8, Nové Zámky | Tel.: +421 (0) 96133 3208 |
| Skalica | Štúrova 1, Skalica | Tel.: +421 (0) 96115 3987 |
| Trenčín | Inovecká 5, Trenčín | Tel.: +421 (0) 96120 3200 |
| Banská Bystrica | Štefánikovo nábrežie 7, Banská Bystrica | Tel.: +421 (0) 96160 3203 |
| Púchov | Trenčianska 1320/9, Púchov | Tel.: +421 (0) 96128 3230 |
| Žilina | Bánovská cesta 8111/1, Žilina | Tel.: +421 (0) 96144 3205 Tel.: +421 (0) 96140 3217 |
| Ružomberok | Nám. A. Hlinku 54, Ružomberok | Tel.: +421 (0) 96148 3205 |
| Poprad | Alžbetína 5, Poprad | Tel.: +421 (0) 96189 3205 |
| Prievidza | Hviezdoslavova 3, Prievidza | Tel.: +421 (0) 96127 3208 |
| Košice | Trieda SNP 35, Košice | Tel.: +421 (0) 9619 31208 |
| Prešov | Ľubochnianska 2, Prešov | Tel.: +421 (0) 96180 3205 |
| Michalovce | Štúrova 1, Michalovce | Tel.: +421 (0) 96172 3220 |
| Rimavská Sobota | Stavbárov 1, Rimavská Sobota | Tel.: +421 (0) 96168 3212 |
| Veľký Krtíš | Banická 6, Veľký Krtíš | Tel.: +421 (0) 96169 3205 |
| Rožňava | Janka Kráľa 1, Rožňava | Tel.: +421 (0) 96173 3200 |
| Stropkov | Šarišská 148/171, Stropkov | Tel.: +421 (0) 96180 6381 |

A citizen of a third country (other than an EEA member state)

A citizen of a third country (other than an EEA member state) has to apply for a residence permit. He/she may apply for a temporary residence permit or permanent residence permit.

Temporary residence permit

A temporary residence permit (for up to 2 years) is given for a specific purpose and thus is bounded with this purpose. The most significant purposes in the case of foreigners are the following:

- **Business**

The residence of foreign investors is considered temporary for the purpose of business activities (in the case of owners and executives of the companies).

- **Employment**

The residence of foreign investors is considered temporary for the purpose of employment (in the case of employees).

- **Joining a family member**

The residence of relatives (husbands, wives, and children) is closely connected to the residence of investors. They may request temporary residence for the purpose of joining a family member.

A foreigner should always file an application for a temporary residence permit in person abroad, either at the representative authority (the embassy or a consulate) accredited for the country in which his/her travel document was issued or at the representative authority accredited for the country of his/her domicile. If such a representative authority does not exist, the foreigner may request the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic to determine the competent representative authority.

A foreigner may also file the application directly at the Border and Foreign Police Department in Slovakia, at its respective section according to his/her place of residence, if:

- he/she does not need a visa for entry to Slovakia;
- he/she represents a foreign investor in Slovakia and is a citizen of a member state of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD);
- he/she works for a foreign investor in Slovakia and is a citizen of a member state of the OECD.

Also a spouse or a child of the foreigners in question younger than 18 years may file an application at the respective section of the Border and Foreign Police Department.

In the case of a relative who is not able to file an application for a temporary residence permit for the purpose of joining a family member because of indisposition, a foreigner with whom he/she applies for joining a family member may file the application on their behalf.

A foreigner may begin performing his/her activities (business, employment) only after he/she is granted a residence permit. The only exception is following: A foreigner does not need a temporary residence permit for employment purposes within 90 days of entry into Slovakia if:

- he/she works for a significant foreign investor in Slovakia;
- he/she was sent to work in Slovakia by employer with the headquarters in other EU member state;
- he/she is employed in international public transportation and he/she was sent to work in Slovakia by his/her international employer;
- he/she is working for the employer who has headquarters or affiliated branch outside of Slovakia and he/she was sent by his/her employer to work in Slovakia on the basis of agreement with legal or personal entity.

However, such foreigner still needs to have a work permit. He/she can begin work immediately after entering Slovakia.

Slovak authorities abroad.

A list of authorities can be found at the web page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, www.foreign.gov.sk in its English version. Click on the tab "Web for Honorary Consulates" and then continue to "Contacts".



Permanent residence permit

In case the residence of the foreigner in Slovakia is significant in terms of economic importance (e. g. the foreigner is an important foreign investor), he/she may request a permanent residence permit in the interest of the Slovak Republic. He/she may file an application at the representative authority (the embassy or a consulate) or at the Border and Foreign Police Department. He/she may file an application in person or through his/her authorized representative.

A foreigner may also request a permanent residence permit if he/she is married to a Slovak citizen. Dependent relatives in direct line of a Slovak citizen and children of a foreigner with a permanent residence permit are also eligible to receive a permanent residence permit. They must file the application in person.

Conditions and procedure

Each foreigner must fulfil general legal conditions for receiving a residence permit. The primary condition is that the foreigner has a valid travel document (passport) which he/she submits together with the application. If he/she does not submit a travel document, the police or the representative authority will not accept his/her application for a residence permit. He/she should submit his/her application on an official application form and attach two current photos measuring 3 x 3.5 cm and a fee stamp for the stated purpose of residence (available at a post office). Further, he/she must also attach to the application documents (not older than 90 days) confirming:

- the purpose of residence:
 - If the purpose of the residence is business, the document confirming this is the licence for entrepreneurship.
 - If the purpose of the residence is employment, the work permit issued by an appropriate Office of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family is considered to be such a document.
 - If the purpose of the residence is joining a family member, the foreigner has to submit a document issued by the Registry

- integrity:

The foreigner has to prove his/her integrity with:

- a copy of an entry from the Criminal Register of the Slovak Republic;
- a copy of an entry from the Criminal Register of the country of his/her citizenship;
- a copy of an entry from the Criminal Register of the country of his/her domicile during the last three years.

A foreigner younger than 14 years does not have to submit a document proving his/her integrity.

- necessary finances for stay:

The financial security of residence has to be proved by the foreigner with a certificate issued by the employer about the salary he/she is earning, in the case of entrepreneurs with a copy of a personal bank account, or a certificate issued by the company confirming that the foreigner will have financial security in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

- accommodation during the stay:

The foreigner proves this with a rental contract or certificate issued by the accommodation facility stating provision of accommodation.

- health insurance coverage during his/her residence in the territory of Slovakia
- that he/she does not suffer from any disease endangering public health – *a medical check-up needs to be done in the Slovak Republic*
- the police may also require an affidavit from the foreigner stating that he/she will not be a burden for the social security system of Slovakia

If the foreigner is legally in the territory of Slovakia at the time of the decision on his/her application for resident permit, he/she has to submit a document confirming health insurance coverage during his/her residence in the territory of Slovakia and a document confirming that he/she does not suffer from any disease endangering public health within 30 days of applying for a residence permit. If he/she is out of the territory of Slovakia at the time of the decision on the application, he/she has to submit the above-mentioned documents within 30 days of entry into the territory of Slovakia. If the foreigner does not submit the above-mentioned documents, the police will terminate his/her residence permit.

The medical check-up

A medical check-up to determine that the foreigner does not suffer from any disease endangering public health can be done either in Bratislava, Martin or Košice, at their hospitals' departments of foreign illnesses. You can choose where you would like to be examined. Please note that you have to make an appointment for the examination and take your passport and respective amount of money to the examination. Try

to make an appointment as soon as possible so that you make sure they have a free slot and you can manage the deadline. Results are usually delivered within 10 – 14 days. It is also possible to deliver results earlier, though there is an extra charge. The examination will cost you € 113.80 – € 249 depending on where you have the examination done and which country you are from.

The list of departments of foreign illness

| City | Address | Contact | Cost |
|------------|---|--|--|
| Bratislava | Poliklinika cudzokrajných chorôb Zama s.r.o. (Clinic of Foreign Illnesses Zama s.r.o.) Americké námestie 3 Bratislava | +421 (0)2 52962732 +421 (0)2 52925688 | € 163 Foreigners from Europe € 244 Foreigners from outside Europe |
| Martin | Fakultná nemocnica (Faculty hospital) Oddelenie cudzokrajných chorôb (Department of Foreign Illnesses) Kollárova 2 Martin | +421(0)43 420 3522 | € 113.80 Foreigner from all countries |
| Košice | Fakultná nemocnica L. Pasteura (Faculty Hospital of L. Pasteur) Stredisko pre cudzokrajné choroby a cestovnú medicínu (Centre for Foreign Illnesses and Travel Medicine) Rastislavova 43 Košice | +421 (0)55 615 2204 occh@fnlp.sk | app. € 249 Exact price depends on the country of origin |

Decision

The police have to decide on the complete application within 90 days of its delivery. In especially complicated cases the period may be prolonged by up to 90 days. The foreigners themselves may shorten the period for the decision of the police by attaching all documents required by the Acts when filing the application.

If the police decide to grant a residence permit to the foreigner, it has to issue him/her a certificate of residence within 60 days of the decision. A certificate of residence for a temporary stay is issued as a sticker which is stuck to the foreigner's passport. A certificate of residence for a permanent stay is issued as a foreigner's ID.

All the documents have to be officially translated into the Slovak language.

Work permit

Before arriving in the territory of the Slovak Republic, a foreigner who is from a non-EU member state has to apply in writing to the appropriate Office of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family for a work permit, either by himself/herself or through the future employer or through the legal person or natural person to whom he/she should be posted to perform work. A foreigner from an EU member state does not need a work permit. The appropriate Office of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family issuing the work permit is the office of territorial competence at the work location of the foreigner.

The application for issuing a work permit has to be accompanied by the employer's promissory statement to employ the foreigner.

The appropriate Office of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family may grant the foreigner a work permit, providing that the vacancy could not be filled by a job seeker in the register of job seekers. In issuing the work permit the Office shall consider the labour market situation. *There is no legal claim to the issuance of a work permit.*

A work permit is also required for a foreigner

- a) employed by an employer whose domicile or site of organisational unit with labour law personality is outside of the territory of the Slovak Republic and posted by that employer to perform work in the territory of the Slovak Republic, based on a contract concluded with a legal person or with a natural person;
- b) who is going to be employed in a border area of the Slovak Republic, who would return at least once a week to the state of his/her permanent residence neighbouring the Slovak Republic; a border area of the Slovak Republic is defined as the territory of a district neighbouring the state borders.

Issuance of a work permit is not required for a foreigner who is a partner of a business company, or the authorized body of a business company, or a member of the authorized body of a business company performing the activity on behalf of the business company in the territory of the Slovak Republic, or who was assigned to perform activities in the territory of the Slovak Republic within the framework of services of an employer whose domicile is in another EU member state.

Validity of the work permit shall expire upon lapse of the period of issuance, upon termination of the employment before lapse of the period of validity of the work permit, upon lapse of validity of the residence permit issued to the foreigner, or upon expiry of the residence permit for other reasons, etc.

The appropriate Office of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family issues the work permit with a **two-year validity** at most; with six-month validity in any one calendar year at most in the case of seasonal work, in which case a period of at least six months shall separate two individual employments in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Translation of
the application
form for the
residence
permit.

APPLICATION NUMBER

STAY PERMITTED UNTIL

** Application for the temporary
residence permit
** Application for (first)
permanent residence permit
** Application for tolerated
residence permit



HAND SIGNATURE

PHOTOGRAPH

3 × 3,5 cm

*

1. SURNAME

2. TITLE

3. FIRST NAME

4. MAIDEN NAME

5. PRIOR SURNAMES

6. DAY, MONTH AND YEAR OF BIRTH

7. PLACE OF BIRTH

8. COUNTRY OF BIRTH

9. CITIZENSHIP

10. NATIONALITY

11. MARITAL STATUS

12. TRAVEL ID (NO.)

13. DATE OF ISSUE

14. VALID UNTIL

15. ISSUED BY

16. PURPOSE OF STAY

17. HIGHEST ATTAINED EDUCATION

18. PROFESSION

19. EMPLOYMENT BEFORE ENTRY IN SLOVAKIA – NAME OF COMPANY, ORGANIZATION

20. EMPLOYMENT AFTER ENTRY IN SLOVAKIA, FUNCTION – ADDRESS OF COMPANY, ORGANIZATION, SCHOOL

21. PERMANENT RESIDENCE ABROAD

22. COUNTRY

23. LAST RESIDENCE

24. RESIDENCE IN SLOVAKIA, PROVIDER OF ACCOMMODATION

25. PREVIOUS TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN SLOVAKIA (from – till, place of stay)

* The information must be filled in on a typewriter or in block letters and in Slovak

** Cross out incorrect information

T MV SR 11-057

ČÍSLO ŽIADOSTI

POBYT POVOLENÝ DO:

**** Žiadosť o udelenie povolenia na prechodný pobyt**
**** Žiadosť o udelenie (prvého) povolenia na trvalý pobyt**
**** Žiadosť o udelenie povolenia na tolerovaný pobyt**



VLASTNORUČNÝ PODPIS

FOTOGRAFIA
3 × 3,5 cm

The application form for the residence permit.

The application form for the temporary residence permit and the permanent residence permit is the same. The applicant chooses from the options and decides whether to apply for the temporary or permanent residence permit.

*
1. PRIEZVISKO 2. TITUL

3. MENO

4. RODNÉ PRIEZVISKO

5. PREDCHÁDZAJÚCE PRIEZVISKÁ

6. DEŇ, MESIAC A ROK NARODENIA 7. MIESTO NARODENIA

8. ŠTÁT NARODENIA 9. ŠTÁTNA PRÍSLUŠNOSŤ 10. NÁRODNOSŤ

11. RODINNÝ STAV 12. CESTOVNÝ DOKLAD 13. DÁTUM VYDANIA

14. PLATNÝ DO 15. VYDAL 16. ÚČEL POBYTU

17. NAJVVŠIE DOSIAHNUTÉ V ZDELANIE 18. POVOLANIE

19. ZAMESTNANIE PRED PRÍCHODOM DO SR – NÁZOV PODNIKU, ÚRADU

20. ZAMESTNANIE PO PRÍCHODE DO SR , FUNKCIA – ADRESA PODNIKU, ÚRADU, ŠKOLY

21. MIESTO TRVALÉHO BYDLISKA V CUDZINE 22. ŠTÁT

23. POSLEDNÉ BYDLISKO

24. BYDLISKO V SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKE, UBYTOVATEĽ

25. PREDCHÁDZAJÚCI PRECHODNÝ ALEBO TRVALÝ POBYT V SR (od-do, miesto pobytu)

* Údaje na žiadosti musia byť vyplnené písacím strojom alebo paličkovým písmom v slovenskom jazyku.
**Nehodiace sa prečiarknite.
T MV SR 11-057

The employer is obliged to inform the Office in writing about the commencement and termination of the employment of an EU citizen and his/her family members and about the commencement and termination of the employment of the foreigner who is not required to submit a work permit within seven working days of the commencement and termination of employment. The employer is obliged to inform the Office in writing within seven days, of the fact that the foreigner who had been granted a work permit either did not commence the employment or his/her employment finished before the expiration of the employment period specified in the work permit. Furthermore, the employer is obliged to inform the police about the termination of the employment of the foreigner from a third country (other than EEA member state).

| Institution | Web | Contact | Address | Office hours |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family | www.employment.gov.sk | Tel: +421 2 2046 0000 (operator) +421 2 2046 1815 (providing information to citizens) E-mail: okv@employment.gov.sk | Špitálska 4-6 Bratislava 816 43 | 9.00 – 13.00 |
| Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family | www.upsvar.sk (only in Slovak) | Tel: +421 2 2046 0000 (operator) +421 2 2046 1815 (providing information to citizens) E-mail: okv@employment.gov.sk | Špitálska 8 Bratislava 816 43 | 9.00 – 13.00 |



Length of the residence permit and its renewal

The **temporary residence permit** may be granted for up to two years and is bounded with one purpose. The temporary residence permit is always granted up to the time for which the purpose of its request is given. For example, if a foreigner receives a work permit for one year, he/she also receives a temporary residence permit for one year.

If the foreigner decides to do an activity other than the activity he/she has received the residence permit for, he/she needs to submit a new application for a residence permit or leave the territory of Slovakia.

The police grant the permit to relatives for the same period for which the foreigner whom they follow to the territory of Slovakia has been granted the residence permit.

If a foreigner has been granted a permanent residence permit in some of the member states of the EEA, he/she can be granted a temporary residence permit in Slovakia for up to five years. The foreigner has to prove permanent residence with a certificate of residence issued by another EEA member state in which the expression a *person with EEA permanent residence* in the appropriate language version must be stated.

The police may renew the residence permit for up to three years if the supposed length of residence of a foreigner will be at least three years. The foreigner submits the application for the renewal of the temporary residence permit personally at a police station, at the latest 60 days before the termination of his/her residence permit. There is an application fee that is payable through fee stamps (available at a post office). The police have to decide at least seven days before the termination of the foreigner's residence permit.

If the continuous residence of a foreigner in Slovakia has lasted for at least five years and

he/she has a temporary residence permit for the purpose of business or employment or joining a family member, he/she may apply for the permanent residence permit, for a so-called *other permanent residence permit*.

If a foreigner applies for the **permanent residence permit**, the police firstly issues the so-called *first permit* (after fulfilment of legal conditions), which grants the residence permit for five years. After granting the residence permit, the police inform the representative authority (the embassy or the consulate) in which the foreigner filled in the application that the residence permit has been granted. The representative authority issues a visa free of charge that entitles the foreigner to enter the Slovak Republic and collect the documents of the residence permit at the police station. Within three working days of entry into the territory of Slovakia, the foreigner is obliged to present himself/herself at the respective section of the Border and Foreign Police Department, according to his/her place of residence. If the foreigner is legally in the territory of Slovakia at the time of the residence permit being granted, he/she has to collect the Certificate of Residence at the police station.

The police may, upon request, issue *another permanent residence permit* to the foreigner who has the first permanent residence permit and who has the residence permit for the purpose of employment or entrepreneurship or who is a relative of the foreigner. All above-mentioned foreigners must have a previous stay lasting continuously for at least five years before the submission of the application.

The police may also, upon request, issue another permanent residence permit to the foreigner who has a temporary residence permit for the purpose of business or employment or joining a family member if his/her continuous stay in Slovakia has lasted for at least five years.

The application form for the renewal of the temporary residence permit or another permanent residence permit or the registration form of a citizen of the European Economic Area

All types of above-mentioned foreigners have the same application form. You have to choose which type of application you are submitting.

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------|
| ČÍSLO ŽIADOSTI | ČÍSLO DOKLADU O POBYTE | PLATNÝ DO |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------|

** Žiadosť o obnovenie povolenia na prechodný pobyt
** Žiadosť o ďalšie povolenie na trvalý pobyt
** Žiadosť o registráciu povolenia občana Európskeho hospodárskeho priestoru (prvého/ďalšieho)
** Prihlásenie Slováka žijúceho v zahraničí
** Žiadosť o vydanie dokladu

VLASTNORUČNÝ PODPIS



FOTOGRAFIA

3 x 3,5 cm

*
1. PRIEZVISKO _____ 2. TITUL _____

3. MENO _____

4. RODNÉ PRIEZVISKO _____

5. PREDCHÁDZAJÚCE PRIEZVISKÁ _____

6. DEŇ, MESIAC A ROK NARODENIA _____ 7. RODNÉ ČÍSLO _____ 8. MIESTO NARODENIA _____

9. ŠTÁT NARODENIA _____ 10. ŠTÁTNA PRÍSLUŠNOSŤ _____ 11. ÚČEL POBYTU _____

12. NÁRODNOSŤ _____ 13. RODINNÝ STAV _____ 14. NAJVYŠŠIE DOSIAHNUTÉ VZDELANIE _____

15. CESTOVNÝ DOKLAD _____ 16. DÁTUM VYDANIA _____ 17. PLATNÝ DO _____ 18. VYDAL _____

19. MIESTO TRVALÉHO BYDLISKA V CUDZINE _____ 19. ŠTÁT _____

20. BYDLISKO V SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKE, UBYTOVATEĽ _____

ŽIADOSŤ PRIJAL
A PODEĽA DOKLADOV
OVERIL:

DŇA:

SPRÁVNY POPLATOK V SUME

PEČIATKA A PODPIS
PRIJÍMAJÚCEHO ORGÁNU:

* Údaje na žiadosti musia byť vyplnené písacím strojom alebo paličkovým písmom v slovenskom jazyku.

**Nehodiace sa prečiarknite.

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| APPLICATION NUMBER | NO. OF RESIDENCE DOCUMENT | VALID UNTIL |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|

Translation of the application form for the renewal of the temporary residence permit or another permanent residence permit or the registration form of a citizen of the European Economic Area.

** Application for renewal of temporary residence
 ** Application for another permanent residence permit
 ** Application for registration of a citizen of the EEC (first/another)
 ** Registration of a Slovak living abroad
 ** Application for document issuance



HAND SIGNATURE

PHOTOGRAPH

3 × 3,5 cm

*

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. SURNAME | 2. TITLE |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

1. SURNAME

4. MAIDEN NAME

5. PRIOR SURNAMES

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 6. DAY, MONTH AND YEAR OF BIRTH | 7. PERSONAL ID | 8. PLACE OF BIRTH |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9. COUNTRY OF BIRTH | 10. CITIZENSHIP | 11. PURPOSE OF STAY |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 12. NATIONALITY | 13. MARITAL STATUS | 14. HIGHEST ATTAINED EDUCATION |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 15. TRAVEL ID (NO.) | 16. DATE OF ISSUE | 17. VALID UNTIL | 18. ISSUED BY |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 19. PERMANENT RESIDENCE ABROAD | 20. COUNTRY |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

20. RESIDENCE IN SLOVAKIA, PROVIDER OF ACCOMMODATION

APPLICATION RECEIVED AND CONFIRMED BY:

DATE:

ADMINISTRATIVE FEE COST

STAMP AND SIGNATURE OF RECEIVING AUTHORITY

* The information must be filled in on a typewriter or in block letters and in Slovak

** Cross out incorrect information

Fees

There are several fees that are associated with the relocation and/or immigration process and that have to be paid in the form of a fee stamp to the Slovak authorities upon the submission of an application. They are listed in the table shown below.

Source:
Unified
automated
system
of legal
information
– JASPI, <http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk/>, 2009

| Temporary residence permit for the purpose of | |
|---|----------|
| Business | € 232.00 |
| Employment | € 165.50 |
| Joining a family member | €132.50 |
| Temporary residence permit renewal for the purpose of | |
| Business | € 132.50 |
| Employment | € 99.50 |
| Joining a family member | € 66.00 |
| Permanent residence permit | |
| Permanent residence permit | € 165.50 |

After the residence permit is granted or renewed, the police issue a certificate of residence to the foreigner for which he/she pays € 4.50. The certificate of residence has a limited validity and when it is renewed, the foreigner has to pay a fee stamp of € 4.50 again.

There are **further costs** associated with the immigration process; these include translation fees, notary fees, fees paid to the institutions as well as the fee for a required medical check-up.

Examples of additional fees

Source:
relocation
s. r. o., www.relo.sk,
2009; SARIO
research,
2009

| Type | Fee |
|---|---------------------|
| Translation (one page) | € 20.00 - 80.00* |
| Signature verification | € 3.00 |
| Foreign language copy verification (one page) | € 7.00 |
| Slovak language copy verification (one page) | € 3.00 |
| Slovak Criminal Record official fee | € 3.32 |
| Slovak Business Register excerpt | € 6.64 |
| Slovak Cadastre excerpt | € 3.32 |
| Medical check-up (depending on case) | € 113.18 – € 249.00 |

*price per page depends on the language, speed of translation and pages to translate

Please note that in Slovakia there are several relocation companies that are able to assist you with your relocation. These companies charge for their services.

Duties of foreigners

A foreigner must enter the territory of Slovakia within 180 days of being granted the residence permit, otherwise his/her residence permit is terminated and he/she has to file a new application for the residence permit. Within three working days after his/her entry into Slovakia, the foreigner is obliged to present himself/herself at the appropriate police section.

The foreigner must report all changes related to his/her residence to the police section within three days of the date when the change arose.

One important duty of the foreigner is to inform the police in writing if he/she is staying out of the territory of Slovakia for more than 180 days. The duty to inform the police that the purpose for which the residence permit was granted has expired is also one of the most important ones.

The police may impose a fine of up to € 1,659.50 on the foreigner for breach of his/her duties.

2.5 Foreign diplomatic missions in and for Slovakia

If you need help or assistance from your home country, you can turn to the diplomatic mission of your home country in the Slovak Republic. Most diplomatic missions of the foreign countries are located in Bratislava. Some countries do not have a diplomatic mission located in Slovakia, but in one of the neighbouring countries.

You can find the **complete list of the foreign diplomatic missions** in the Slovak Republic or neighbouring countries on the web page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, www.foreign.gov.sk, in its English version, in the section *List of Diplomatic Corps*.

2.6 Leaving Slovakia

Transportation

By air

The recommended time for arriving at the airport in order to manage check-in, security clearance and other airport procedures on time is two hours before European Union flights and three hours before international flights.

Flight regulations of European Union flights

For flights regulations of European Union flights see subchapter 2.2 Arriving in Slovakia - By Air. The same rules apply.

By train

Many of Europe's regular train routes pass through Slovakia or very near to Slovakia. It is especially simple to travel to neighbouring countries. Please remember to buy your ticket well in advance, because there might be long queues at ticket counters. At the moment, it is possible only to buy an international ticket in person at a train station. Železničná spoločnosť Slovensko – ZSSK (Railway Company Slovakia) is currently working on an international ticket purchase online facility.

| | Web | Contact | Headquarters |
|------|--|---|----------------------------------|
| ZSSK | www.slovakrail.sk www.zssk.sk | Tel.: 18 188 (within Slovakia) +421 18 188 (from abroad) E-mail: info@slovakrail.sk | Rožňavská 1 832 72 Bratislava |

By bus

Most countries in Europe are connected to Slovak destinations by a regular service, usually direct. There are several bus companies that offer international bus transportation from Slovakia. It is always possible to buy a ticket personally in advance at the company's offices. In this case, you can also reserve a ticket by telephone and within a certain period of time (usually 24 – 48 hours) you have to come to the office to pay for the ticket and pick it up. If there are any tickets left, you can also buy them directly from the driver. Eurolines and Student Agency also offer the possibility to buy tickets online.

| Company offering international routes | Web | Contact |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Eurolines | www.slovaklines.sk | Tel.: 18 211 (within Slovakia) +421 18 211 (from abroad) E-mail: info@slovaklines.sk |
| Student Agency | www.studentagency.cz | Tel.: +421 (0)2 20 50 20 50 after you hear the operator speaking, press 1 for the bus tickets E-mail: bratislava@studentagency.sk |
| Turancar | www.turancar.sk | Tel.: +421 (0)37 655 00 11 +421 (0)37 655 00 12 +421 (0)37 655 56 66 E-mail: turancar@turancar.sk |

By boat

River cruises from Bratislava to Vienna and to Budapest are regularly arranged from the second half of March until the second half of December.

By car

It is very easy to leave Slovakia by car. Europe is connected by highways and good quality roads. For more information please see subchapter 2.2 Arriving in Slovakia - By Car.

Duties and procedure

Visiting Slovakia

If a foreigner has been granted the visa for visiting Slovakia, he/she has to leave the territory of Slovakia on the last day of its validity. There is no special procedure a foreigner has to undergo when leaving the territory of Slovakia.

Residence in Slovakia

If a foreigner has been granted temporary residence, he/she has to leave the territory of Slovakia on the last day of its validity if he/she did not apply for its prolongation and is a citizen of the country whose citizens need a visa for entry into Slovakia. If the foreigner has applied for renewal of the residence permit, his/her residence permit is considered valid up to the decision on the re-application. If he/she is a citizen of a country whose citizens do not need a visa for entry into Slovakia, after the expiration of the residence permit he/she may stay in the territory of Slovakia for the period defined by the agreement for the visa-free regime.

The police may impose a fine of up to € 1,659.50 on the foreigner for breach of these regulations.

There is no special procedure a foreigner has to undergo when leaving the territory of Slovakia.

2.7 Useful links

| | |
|--|--|
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic | www.foreign.gov.sk |
| Consular Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic | www.foreign.gov.sk |
| Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic | www.minv.sk |
| Office of Border and Foreign Police of the Ministry of the Interior | www.minv.sk/?uhcp |
| Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family | www.employment.gov.sk |
| Web page for immigrants | www.migration.sk |
| Migration Information Centre | www.mic.iom.sk |

Image:
The Gabčíkovo
Dam



3

Living comfortably
in Slovakia



3.1 Accommodation and housing

Residence in Slovakia

Directory of real estate agencies: director.spectator.sk/catg_real.html

Foreigners may buy property in Slovakia. Thus, if you decide to settle in the country, you may both rent or buy a house or a flat. Please note that if you own property, you have to pay a yearly property tax.

Apartments are offered for rent or sale either directly by their owners or by real estate agencies. If you decide to buy or rent an apartment through a real estate agency, the fees for its services are the following: purchase of an apartment – 3% of the apartment's price; rent of an apartment – the price of 1 or 2 months' rent.

When buying a property, the buyer becomes the legal owner on registering the property with the Cadastral Real Estate Register. It is advisable to consult a lawyer or use the services of a real estate agency. You should avoid any unnecessary risks if you do so. In accordance with the requirement of the Civil Code, any contract concerning the transfer of real estate (i.e. the sale or purchase of property) must be in writing. A lease contract does not have to be in writing, however we strongly recommend you to have it in this form.

The costs

The costs of buying or renting a place to live in are primarily influenced by two factors: the location and the age of the apartment. There is a price gap when buying or renting an apartment in different regions, larger towns and villages as well as in the city centre or suburbs. The most expensive city is Bratislava.

Buying a 2 or 3-bedroom apartment

(Price/€/m²)

| | Bratislava | | Trnava | Nitra | Trenčín | Žilina | Banská Bystrica | Košice | Prešov |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | centre | suburb | | | | | | | |
| new building | 2,400 - 4,500 | 1,700 - 3,300 | 1,000 - 1,600 | 1,200 - 1,500 | 1,000 - 1,500 | 900 - 1,600 | 1,200 - 1,900 | 1,300 - 1,900 | 1,000 - 1,400 |
| old building | 2,000 - 3,000 | 1,100 - 2,700 | 800 - 1,300 | 700 - 1,300 | 800 - 1,400 | 700 - 1,500 | 800 - 1,700 | 900 - 1,900 | 700 - 1,300 |

Note: new building – less than five years old; old building – more than five years old

Renting a 2 or 3-bedroom apartment

(Price/€/month)

| | Bratislava | | Trnava | Nitra | Trenčín | Žilina | Banská Bystrica | Košice | Prešov |
|--|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| | centre | other parts | | | | | | | |
| | 1,000 - 3,000 | 500 - 1,300 | 300 - 1,200 | 270 - 800 | 330 - 850 | 280 - 1,000 | 300 - 1,100 | 330 - 1,300 | 300 - 600 |

Source: www.reality.sk, 2009

Please note that there are various fixed and variable costs associated with housing, i.e. payments for heating, electricity, water, sewage, property insurance, waste removal, and also possible membership fees for housing cooperatives or housing administration companies. When you rent an apartment, these prices might be already included in your rent payment.



Making things happen in a new country means more than just moving your furniture and belongings.

Since 2004 relocation s.r.o. helped more than 200 families and individuals to find home and start their life in Slovakia.

We will be looking forward to helping you make Slovakia your new home.

Destination services support

- Property search – market screening, accompanied visits, lease negotiation
- Move In Assistance – assisted property handover, settling-in support
- Spouse and Family Support – orientation, free time activities, health care

Immigration support

- Legalizing your stay – visas, work and residence permits

www.relo.sk

**relocation**
EXPATRIATE SERVICES SLOVAKIA

Housing standards in Slovakia

Each country has different standards when it comes to understanding terms such as fully furnished, unfurnished and semi-furnished properties. The following standards are put together according to our experience. However, there are no common rules and each landlord is free to interpret the terms individually.

Unfurnished properties should always have the following:

- all fixed appliances such as lights, handles, etc.;
- a kitchen unit with full equipment such as stove, exhaust hood and fridge.

Furnished properties should always have the following:

- all electronic appliances (usually there is no dryer);

- all furniture;
- a fully equipped kitchen including cutlery, plates, etc.;
- all necessary accessories such as ironing board, mop, iron, bedding and bed linen, etc.

Semi-furnished properties vary a lot in standard. Generally they are equipped as unfurnished properties and there are normally just a few pieces of essential furniture such as beds, sofa, dining table, etc.

It is usually possible to at least discuss your ideas about furniture and appliances with your landlord. Please note that if you need additional furniture, you have to usually buy it yourself. Also, landlords are generally not used to removing furniture from properties as it is difficult (however, not impossible) to store it.

Source:
Relocation,
www.relo.sk,
2009

• BRAMAC •

THINK ROOF, SAY BRAMAC.

Your dealer:

Coleman **si**
roofing systems

www.coleman.sk

Kamenná 21
010 01 **Žilina**
mobil: +421 910 994 580
tel: +421 41 50 077 50

Bojnická 20
831 04 **Bratislava**
mobil: +421 911 462 041
tel: +421 2 49 110 421

Short-term stay

For a short-term stay it is possible to rent a room in a hotel. Reservations can be made by phone, e-mail or online. In a hotel you pay per night. Usually you may check in in the afternoon and you have to check out before noon. In some hotels, the price per night is only the price for accommodation. In others, the breakfast and/or parking are included. Some hotels also include access to their facilities, such as fitness centre, swimming pool, sauna and sports facilities. You are advised to ask specifically what is included in the price when you book a room. Please note that you will also be required to pay the city tax for accommodation, which usually varies within the price range of € 0.40 to € 1.65 per night.

There are many hotels in Slovak towns of various standards. The price per night depends mainly on the hotel's standard rated by the number of stars.

| N. of stars | Average price/ one night/ single room |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| * | € 10 - 30 |
| ** | € 25 - 50 |
| *** | € 45 - 80 |
| **** | € 80 - 170 |
| ***** | € 150 - 280 |

You can find a list of hotels in Slovakia with their ratings on the webpage www.hotel.sk or www.greenpages.spectator.sk.



A touch of Crowne Plaza Bratislava

Comfortable accommodation, fine international cuisine, biggest meeting and conference facilities, all supported by the friendly, professional staff – no other hotel can touch us!

Crowne Plaza Bratislava, Hložďovo námestie 2, 816 25 Bratislava, Slovakia
Phone: +421 2 5934 8111, Fax: +421 2 5934 8998 (9)
e-mail: cp.bratislava@ihg.com, www.crowne-plaza.sk



THE PLAZA TO MEET

3.2 Transportation and driving

Public transportation

Inter-city

The most frequent means of inter-city public transportation are buses and trains. Slovakia has a very good network of bus and train connections. Both buses and trains operate according to regular schedules, which are relatively frequent. There are also regular flight connections between Bratislava and Košice. Although there are also river cruises, they are not really a means of transport but more a leisure-time activity.

Bus transportation

There are several bus companies operating in Slovakia. They offer many destinations within Slovakia, the specific list of destination depending on the company. Express inter-city connections are offered as well as connections through villages.

It is possible to buy a ticket directly from the driver when you get on the bus. You choose any seat that is unoccupied or was not booked. For shorter destinations, it is also possible to stand in the bus if there are no more free seats.

You can also buy a ticket at the ticket counter either shortly before your trip or in advance. When buying a ticket for longer distances, you can reserve a seat.

Depending on the company, it is also possible to buy the ticket online. You book the ticket online, pay for the ticket online (usually via credit card) and then get your electronic ticket in your e-mail account, which you have to print out and show to the driver.

Depending on the company, it is also possible to reserve a ticket via the Internet or telephone in your name and then pay for it at their office when you pick it up or pay for it from your bank account and then just pick it up at the office. If you do not buy your ticket from the driver, you have to show your ticket to him/her when you enter the bus.

The costs

The costs of the ticket vary from company to company and depend on travel distance, but they are usually similar. Following are examples of the average price of a ticket with the travel distance:

| Route | Distance | Ticket in EUR in 2010 |
|------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Bratislava – Trnava | 52 km | 2.50 |
| Bratislava – Trenčín | 126 km | 6.00 |
| Bratislava – Banská Bystrica | 208 km | 9.95 |
| Bratislava – Žilina | 198 km | 9.95 |
| Bratislava – Košice | 460 km | 19.00 |

Baggage

Some companies charge an extra fee for the baggage that has to go into the trunk of the bus. The fee is per item of baggage and is usually € 0.50 – 1.00. There is no extra fee for hand baggage.

Train transportation

Cities in Slovakia are well connected by the train network. There are direct and indirect connections (you have to change trains) to every city/large town, as well as to many villages.

There is only one company which provides personal railway transportation: Železničná spoločnosť Slovensko – ZSSK (Railway Company Slovakia).

| | Web | Contact | Headquarters |
|------|--|---|--|
| ZSSK | www.slovakrail.sk www.zssk.sk | Tel.: 18 188 (within Slovakia) +421 18 188 (from abroad) E-mail: info@slovakrail.sk | Rožňavská 1 832 72 Bratislava Slovakia |



You can purchase your ticket at the ticket counter. There is a train ticket counter in every city, town, and every bigger village. It is also possible to purchase a ticket in the train, though you have to pay an extra fee for that. You have to approach the steward to buy a ticket. If there is no ticket counter at the train station, it is also possible to buy a ticket in the train from the steward without paying a higher fee. You can also purchase a train ticket online. If you choose this option, you have to do it at least 12 hours before the departure of your train. Then you have to print out the train ticket, which you will be sent by e-mail.

In every train, there is a steward who is responsible for answering questions and checking tickets. If you travel without a ticket and did not approach a steward to ask to buy a ticket, you may have to pay a fine for travelling without a ticket and either have to buy a ticket with a surcharge or get off the train at the nearest station.

Please note that bigger cities, such as Bratislava or Košice, have more than one train station. You have to buy a train ticket to the specific train station.

There are six types of trains in Slovakia: **osobný vlak** (OS – ordinary passenger train), **zrýchlený vlak** (ZR – speeded train), **rýchlik** (R – fast train), **expresný vlak** (Ex - express train), **vlak inter-city** (IC – InterCity train) and **vlak euro-city** (EC – EuroCity train). The ordinary passenger train is the slowest train and stops in every train station on its way, while the speeded train leaves out some villages. Fast and express trains stop only in the train stations of certain towns. The IC train and EC train are the fastest trains and stop only in larger towns.

In the fast and express trains it is possible to reserve a seat. In IC and EC trains it is obligatory.

Fast, express, IC and EC trains have two classes – 2nd class and 1st class. Tickets for the 1st class are a little bit more expensive. The advantage is that the 1st class is more comfortable and in IC and EC trains it is possible to plug your appliances into an electric socket.

The costs

The cost of the ticket depends mainly on the distance of your journey and also on the type of the train you are travelling in. Please note that it is necessary to buy a special ticket for IC and EC trains because these tickets are slightly more expensive.

Following are prices of tickets for some chosen routes:

Costs for travel in EUR

| Route | Distance | Tickets on very fast trains (R) Time of the journey | | Tickets on IC train (IC) Time of the journey | |
|--|-------------------|--|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| | | 2 nd class ticket | 1 st class ticket | 2 nd class ticket | 1 st class ticket |
| Bratislava – Trnava | 52 km | € 2.18 | € 3.27 | € 3.50 | € 4.59 |
| | | 30 min | | 27 min | |
| Bratislava – Trenčín | 126 km | € 5.96 | € 8.94 | € 7.28 | € 10.26 |
| | | 1h, 30 min | | 1h, 14 min | |
| Bratislava - Banská Bystrica | 208 km | € 7.36 | € 11.05 | - | - |
| | | 3h, 21 min | | - | |
| Bratislava – Žilina | 198 km | € 8.90 | € 13.35 | € 10.22 | € 14.67 |
| | | 2h, 40 min | | 2h, 11 min | |
| Bratislava - Košice | 460 km | € 17.18 | € 25.77 | € 18.50 | € 27.09 |
| | | 5h, 57 min | | 4h, 58 min | |
| All routes | | <i>Children pay 50% of the price of the ticket.</i> | | | |
| Other costs | | | | | |
| Seat reservation | € 0.66 or € 2.45* | | | | |
| Fee for purchasing ticket in the train | € 1.33 | | | | |

*The fee for the seat reservation in fast and express trains is always € 0.66. In the case of IC and EC trains, the fee is € 0.66 on "weak travel days" and € 2.45 on "strong travel days". "Strong travel days" are days when many passengers travel in a specific direction, for example Friday in the direction Bratislava to Košice and Sunday in the direction Košice to Bratislava.

Please note that there is also a possibility to buy weekly and monthly train tickets. Their prices are very favourable especially when you travel several days a week.

Discount cards and special tickets

ZSSK also offers its customers discount cards and special tickets that you can buy and then use to get discount on your journey. Examples of discount cards and special tickets:

Klasik Railplus

The fee for this discount card is € 33.16 and its validity is one year.

The advantages include:

- 25% discount on train tickets in all trains (1st and 2nd class);
- 25% discount on international train tickets;
- discount on other products in international transportation;
- discount with ZSSK's partners.

Maxi Klasik

Maxi Klasik is a special ticket you can buy either for half a year or a whole year and it can be transferable or non-transferable. After the purchase of this ticket you can travel during the time of its validity freely on any train in Slovakia. Please note that you still have to purchase seat reservations and a bed (if you decide to go by night train).

The other advantages include 25% discount on international train tickets (only in the case of non-transferable Maxi Klasik) and discount with ZSSK's partners.

| Transferability | Validity | 2 nd class | 1 st class |
|------------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| non-transferable | 1 year | 829.52 | 929.10 |
| non-transferable | 1/2 year | 563.96 | 630.35 |
| transferable | 1 year | 929.10 | 1028.68 |
| transferable | 1/2 year | 630.35 | 696.74 |

Maxi Klasik - fees

Source:
Železničná
spoločnosť
Slovensko,
www.
slovakrail.sk,
2010

Baggage

There is no extra fee for the baggage in the train. You can take as much baggage as you like. The storage space for the baggage is usually the shelf above the seats.

Air transportation

There are regular flights between Bratislava and Košice offered by the company, Danube Wings. The price per flight is € 33 – € 88. For the timetable and more detailed information please click on www.danubewings.com.

All around Europe on Wheels of EUROLINES

Frequent travellers may now be persuaded into travelling by bus. This form of transportation includes a large variety of advantages. Moreover, travelling by bus is usually two-thirds cheaper than a flight trip and allows closer experience and fuller enjoyment of the countryside, bringing plenty of new pleasures in travelling.



Slovakia is now connected with other European countries, including 500 European cities, not only through the capital of Bratislava as EUROLINES services are now also directly available from cities such as Košice, Prešov, Poprad, Žilina, Zvolen, Trenčín, Nitra, as well as from other destinations in Slovakia. All EUROLINES coaches basically feature modernity, comfort, air conditioning and reclining seats. If you decide to travel abroad by bus, you will undergo certain check-in procedures similar to those at airports, except for heavy security inspections. Passengers may take any amount of liquids aboard a coach and luggage is handled by the driver. And what is also important, the check-in closes only 10 minutes prior to departure.

Last but not least, the conveniences also include no need for airport-to-city transfers as EUROLINES coaches always take you from one point in the city centre to the other which is invaluable especially for city break trips. En-route refreshment stops just increase the travel comfort for passengers thus easily enjoying the surrounding landscape, reading a book, listening to music, or just relaxing.

The Slovak road transport network is operated by several bus and coach carriers. Travellers are advised to choose a reliable and credible operator that carefully services its vehicle fleet, never compromises on safety, constantly follows all trends in road transport and applies them in daily practice, thus being always ready to respond to the market needs with plenty of new offers and improvements. And so does the company of Slovak Lines, the only Slovak member of the EUROLINES Organisation associating European coach operators that is not even oblivious of young people and actually of all that go with times. That is why the website www.slovaklines.sk also allows passengers, for instance, to purchase travel tickets on-line.

Travelling by bus is simply popular even nowadays. Particularly if it provides a high level of comfort and safety. And even more particularly if you can avoid long queues and save plenty of time when purchasing travel tickets.



Between Bratislava and Vienna by Bus

Two capital cities of the neighbouring states, some 60 kilometres far-away from each other, as well as two significant European airports are connected by Slovak Lines on its bus line services. These services are popularly used by passengers who need a reliable transport connection to the airport or from the airport.



This bus line route, very traditionally but considering the needs of modern times, offers nineteen daily departures in either direction. It is thus rather simple to take a bus at the time which meets requirements of a passenger. All buses are air-conditioned, comfortable and safe, being operated by the most experienced drivers. When departing from Bratislava in morning hours, passengers are also offered the latest daily newspapers available free of charge from the bus driver. Moreover, buses on these services directly arrive at and depart from airport hall gates so that passengers do not need to worry about carrying their heavy luggages for longer distances like they would do when using their own car while also paying high parking fees at the airports.

There are several options how to purchase a travel ticket. One of the fastest and most comfortable ways is to purchase a ticket on-line directly on the internet. The website www.slovaklines.sk offers quick search for available connections, easy step-by-step purchase and safe payment methods by credit/debit card or through internet banking services

provided by banks such as Slovenská sporiteľňa, Tatra Banka and VUB. For internet purchases Slovak Lines also offers a bonus system of discounts to all registered users. For those who still prefer the conventional sale of tickets, travel tickets are also available at the ticket offices at the bus station Mlynské Nivy, at the reservation centre located in the arrival hall of the Vienna airport, or within the network of authorised agents all around Slovakia. Tickets purchased directly from the bus driver are only available in case of free seats on the bus.

If you have purchased an OPEN return ticket and already know your exact return date and time, it is recommended to book a return journey for a specific date and time at one of the sales/reservation points. Return ticket bookings are also available on-line on www.slovaklines.sk. A seat on the service is thus guaranteed. Passengers do not need worry even if their flight is delayed. A ticket purchased and booked for a specific departure time is still valid and can be used for any next Slovak Lines service on the same day and route.

Regular passengers using the Slovak Lines services on the route Bratislava - Vienna may choose from a variety of great discounts like 10-journeys tickets or weekly tickets.

As a reputable carrier, Slovak Lines operates several other services on regional, domestic and international routes, as well as charter and other contractual transportation services. The company regularly prepares special offers for passengers. Any further details are available on www.slovaklines.sk or at the Slovak Lines Information Centre on the telephone number (+421) 8 211.

Within cities and towns

Cities in Slovakia have efficient systems of public transportation, which consist mainly of buses. Some cities also have trams and trolley-buses.

Public transportation:
www.imhd.sk

The system of tickets for public transportation is different in each city. In some cities, there are time-limited tickets for rides (for example 15 and 60 minutes), in others only journey tickets (one ticket for one ride). In some cities, it is only possible to buy a ticket in advance in stalls, some shops and ticket-machines. Then you have to validate the ticket in a validating machine on the bus. Passengers might be randomly checked by ticket inspectors. If you do not have a valid ticket, you will have to pay a fine. In some cities, you buy a ticket directly from the driver or buy a chip card in advance with which you pay for the ticket. In some cities, it is also possible to buy prepaid cards, usually for a month, three months or one year, which makes the transportation very cost-effective.



| Cities + selected type of ticket | Price/EUR | Discount price/EUR (mainly for children and students) |
|--|-----------|---|
| Bratislava | | |
| 15 minutes, without the option of changing line | 0.50 | 0.25 |
| 60 minutes, with the option of changing line | 0.70 | 0.35 |
| 70 minutes (sms ticket) | 0.80 | - |
| 24 hours | 3.50 | - |
| 48 hours | 6.50 | - |
| 72 hours | 8.00 | - |
| 7 days | 12.00 | - |
| 1-month ticket | 19.92 | 9.96 |
| 3-month ticket | 52.45 | 26.22 |
| 1-year ticket | 199.16 | 99.58 |
| Trenčín | | |
| 1-ride ticket | 0.50 | 0.35 |
| 1-ride ticket when paying with a chip card | 0.39 | 0.25 |
| 1-month ticket | 20.00 | 15.00 |
| 3-month ticket | 55.00 | 40.00 |
| Banská Bystrica | | |
| 1-ride ticket | 0.60 | 0.43 |
| 1-ride ticket when paying with a chip card | 0.43 | 0.20 |
| 1-month ticket | 16.60 | 8.30 |
| Košice | | |
| 1-ride ticket, 4 stops, without the option of changing line | 0.40 | 0.20 |
| 1-ride ticket when paying with a chip card, 4 stops, without the option of changing line | 0.37 | 0.17 |
| 30 minutes | 0.55 | 0.25 |
| 60 minutes | 0.65 | 0.30 |
| 24 hours | 2.95 | 1.45 |
| 7 days | 9.25 | 4.65 |
| 30 days | 18.25 | 9.10 |
| 90 days | 48.10 | 24.05 |
| 180 days | 89.60 | - |

Source:
www.imhd.sk,
2010

Taxi

In every town there is at least one taxi service, bigger towns having more than one. You can find a list of taxi companies in Slovakia on this link: www.najditaxi.sk (the web page is only in Slovak) or at: directory.spectator.sk/catg_taxi_sk.html.

When travelling by taxi, you always pay an initial fee, which is a fixed amount you pay just for entering the taxi. Then you pay according to the number of kilometres the taxi takes you. Various companies have various initial fees and prices per kilometre:

*In Bratislava, when you call a taxi by phone you pay a lower price per kilometre than when you catch a taxi in the city (with the same company).

| City | initial fee/EUR | price/EUR/km | call price/EUR/km* |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Bratislava | 1.00 – 1.66 | 0.76 – 1.16 | 0.40 - 1.19 |
| Other cities | 0.33 – 1.00 | 0.66 – 1.16 | - |

Please note that most companies have a minimum fare, which is approx. € 3.

Please note that every taxi has a taxameter, which counts the price of your ride. Always ask a taxi driver to have the taxameter switched on and always ask for a receipt. Otherwise, you might pay much more than you are supposed to.

Driving

Driving licences

The minimum driving age in Slovakia is 18 years. Thus, if you are not 18 years old, you cannot drive in Slovakia even if you have a driving licence valid in your home country.

Except for driving licences issued in Slovakia, you may also drive using a valid:

- driving licence issued by a member state of the the European Economic Area (countries of the European Union and EFTA). These are valid without any restrictions.
- driving licence issued by a signatory of the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic (Geneva, 1949) or the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic (Vienna, 1968).
- international driving licence issued according to the Geneva or Vienna Convention on Road Traffic. The international driving licence issued according to the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic is valid for up to one year from its issuance and international driving licence issued according to the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic is valid for up to three years from its issuance.

The important condition for the validity of latter two types of driving licences is that the driver is not a holder of temporary or permanent residence permit in Slovakia. If he/she is, these types of driving licences are valid only for 185 days from the approval of the temporary or permanent residence permit. After this time, the driver is obliged to exchange his/her driving licence for a Slovak one within the next 60 days.

Exchanging driving licences

Only a driving licence issued by a member state of the European Economic Area (countries of the European Union and EFTA) or by a signatory state of the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic (Geneva, 1949) and Vienna Convention on Road Traffic (Vienna, 1968) can be exchanged for

a Slovak one. This can be done only if the holder of such a licence has been registered in Slovakia (EEA citizens) or has either a temporary or permanent residence permit in Slovakia. The possibility of exchanging a driving licence issued by any other state than those above mentioned needs to be checked with the police authorities.

EEA nationals

EEA driving licences are accepted in the whole of EEA, including Slovakia. Citizens from the EEA can exchange their driving licences 185 days after obtaining a temporary or a permanent residence permit but do not have to.

Non-EEA national

The process of exchanging a driving licence depends on whether your country is a signatory of the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic or Vienna Convention on Road Traffic, or whether Slovakia has some special agreement with your country. The procedures differ from country to country. You have to call the police and ask about particular conditions for your country.

If the licence has not been issued in accordance with the conventions or other agreements, it is not possible to exchange it and you will have to take lessons at a Slovak driving school and pass the Slovak driving test to obtain a Slovak driving licence. You can take lessons in a foreign language if you find a driving school which provides it. However, you have to take the Slovak driving test in Slovak or Hungarian (the language of a national minority in Slovakia).

Citizens of non-EEA countries are obliged to apply for an exchange of driving licences within 60 days of the 185-day period following receipt of a Slovak temporary or permanent residence permit. After this period, it is impossible to exchange driving licences. The only exception to this rule would be if you could prove that you were not able to exchange your driving licence before this deadline.

The conditions and the process

You have to exchange your driving licence at the police station according to your residence. The relevant police department for this is the Department of Documents (Oddelenie dokladov).

To exchange your driver's licence you need:

- a valid ID card;
- confirmation of registration in the case of EEA citizens or confirmation of residence permit in the case of non-EEA citizens;
- a completed application form (you can fill it in on the spot);
- an official translation of your driving licence into Slovak;
- a photograph of your face and your signature taken by the police;
- € 6.50 fee stamp (available at a post office).

Together with your application for a Slovak driving licence, you have to leave your previous licence at the police station. This one will be returned to the country where it was issued and will be destroyed. According to Slovak law, you cannot be a holder of more than one valid driving licence at one time.

The validity of a Slovak driving licence is unlimited.

Returning to your country

If you are leaving Slovakia and want to obtain your national driving licence again, you should go through the same procedure as in Slovakia in your country (i.e. apply for a new licence in your country and leave the Slovak one there. This will be returned to Slovakia and destroyed, and a new national licence will be issued).

Source:
Relocation ,
www.relo.sk,
2009;
SARIO
research,
2009

Driving rules

The driving rules in Slovakia can be found in the Act 8/2009 on Road Traffic (Zákon č. 8/2009 Z.z. o cestnej premávke).

Vehicles drive on the right-hand side of the road.

Headlights

Your headlights must be on at all times all year round.

Speed limits

In towns and villages, the speed limit is 50 km/h. Outside of towns and villages, the speed limit is 90 km/h. On highways and motorways, the speed limit is 130 km/h for vehicles up to 3.5 t. If such a vehicle has a trailer weighing over 750 kg, the speed limit on highway and motorway is 90 km/h. The minimum speed on highways and motorways is 80 km/h. On highways in towns, the speed limit is 90 km/h for all types of vehicles, while the minimum speed is 65 km/h.

Please note that these speed limits may be lowered or increased with road signs.

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Speed limits in the Slovak Republic

| | SK | | Motorcycle | Car | Truck | Bus |
|----------------------|-------------|--|------------|-----|-------|-----|
| Town/Village | | | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Outside Town/Village | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Highway | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Motorway | | | 130 | 130 | 90 | 100 |
| Highway with car | | | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Motorway with car | | | 130 | 130 | 90 | 100 |

Source: www.benzin.sk, 2010

Obligatory car equipment

The obligatory car equipment includes:

- safety reflex clothing – a reflex vest or a reflex jacket or other reflex clothing. It must not be confused with reflex clothing of the armed forces and it has to be within the reach of the driver. There has to be at least one piece of reflex clothing in the car. If a driver has to stop at the side of the road and get out of the car, he/she has to wear reflex clothing, as do all other people that also get out of the car. Thus, the number of pieces of reflex clothing in the car has to be at least equal to the number of people who get out of the car during the stop.
- spare safety catch - if it is used in the electric construction, a minimum of one of each type
- spare light bulbs for headlights and lights - a minimum of one of each type + equipment necessary for change of light bulbs
- tow-rope or rail
- accident triangle – must be used in the event of an accident or a broken-down car, must be placed at least 50 metres behind the car if you are not on a highway or motorway and at least 100 metres behind if you are on a highway or motorway
- spare tyre + lifting device + screw wrench for changing the wheel (this is not obligatory if a car has tyres with technology that enables you to go driving after a burst tyre or if the car contains equipment enabling you to repair the tyre without having to change it)
- a first aid kit

A first aid kit has to include:

- Sterile gauze swab 7.5 cm x 7.5 cm of 5 pcs. – 2 pcs.
- Antiseptic solution spray in original package (40 ml – 50 ml) - 1 pc.
- Resuscitation shield - 1pc.
- Isothermic polyester foil 220 cm x 140 cm or 200 cm x 150 cm – 1 pc.
- Triangular bandage material - 2 pcs.
- Disposable rubber gloves – 1 pair
- PVC mouth cover 20 cm x 20 cm, thickness min. 0.12 mm – 1 pc.
- Smooth plaster min. 1.25 cm x 2 m - 1 pc.
- Heavy sterile bandage n. 4 – 3 pcs.
- Sterile conforming bandage 10 cm x 5 m – 1 pc.
- Sterile conforming bandage 6 cm x 5 m – 1 pc.
- Elastic bandage min. 6 cm x 5 m – 1 pc.
- Plaster with pad 8 cm x 4 cm – 10 pc.
- Non-rusting scissors - 1 pc.
- Safety pins – 4 pc. (recommended)

A fire extinguisher is recommended as well, though is not obligatory.

You should always have these documents with you:

- personal ID
- driving licence
- Vehicle Registration Certificate (osvedčenie o evidencii vozidla)
- Certificate of Car Insurance
- Certificate of Roadworthiness Test and Emission Control Inspection Certificate

Police checks

Police might stop you for a random check. They usually check your driving licence, the documents of the car and occasionally do alcohol tests. Occasionally they also check the technical condition of the car and whether you have all obligatory car equipment.

Tyres

“Winter” tyres must be fitted once there is a full coat of snow, ice or frost on the road. Trucks and buses must have “winter” tyres from 15 November till 31 March at all times regardless of the weather.

Lights

On many crossroads in towns, there is a lights system for both vehicles and pedestrians.

There are three-light traffic lights for vehicles:

Red light – If the red light is on, you have to stop the vehicle. You cannot move in any direction until the green light is on.

Orange light – If only the orange light is on, you have to slow down your vehicle and stop because the red light is coming up. If both the red and orange lights are on, it means that the green light is coming up and you should get ready to move forwards.

Green light – The green light means that you can go.

Some traffic lights in Slovakia feature an arrow indicating that the lights are related to a specific direction only. For instance, if a red straight arrow is illuminated simultaneously with a green right-turn arrow, you may turn right. Should you wish to go straight ahead, you have to stop and wait for a green straight arrow.



There is a two-light system for pedestrians:

Red light – The pedestrians may not cross.

Green light – The pedestrians may cross. If both you (as the driver) and pedestrians have a green light (on some crossroads when you are turning right), you have to let them pass.

Railway crossings

When you are about to cross a railway crossing, you have to drive very carefully and make sure that you can cross. If there is no safety equipment (lights or lights + railway gate), you have to drive at a maximum speed of 30 km/h when you are within 50 metres of the railway crossing. If there is safety equipment and a white light is blinking, you can drive at a maximum of 50 km/h when you are within 50 metres of the railway crossing.

You may not enter the railway crossing if there is a red light blinking, if you hear the sound of a klaxon or bell, if the railway gate is closing or opening, if you see or hear a train coming, if there is a railway employee indicating that cars should stop, or if the situation on the railway crossing does not allow you to cross the railway crossing.

Vehicles with priority right of way

The vehicles that you can meet on the road most often with priority right of way are the following: vehicles of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, the Police Force, the Fire Fighting and Rescuing Corps including ambulances and vehicles of the Mountain Rescue Service, vehicles of the National Council, government and presidential vehicles. All the above-mentioned vehicles have priority right of way if they are being used to fulfil their official function. In this case, they use visual and, if necessary, audible warning signals as well. If such a vehicle is on the road, you have to move your car out of their way and let them pass. If parliament, government, or presidential vehicles are travelling in convoy, you must not join this convoy.

Such vehicles are also allowed to go through a red light.

Public transport vehicles - trams, trolleys and buses do also have priority.

Seatbelts and children's carseats

Seatbelts must be worn by all passengers (including backseat passengers) sitting in places equipped with a seatbelt. This obligation is waived for children of less than 150 cm in height who, on the other hand, have to sit in a child's carseat (there are 5 weight categories of child carseats up to 36 kg).

Activities forbidden while driving

Use of a mobile phone (except for a mobile phone equipped with a hands free accessory), eating, or performing any activity not connected with driving is forbidden.

Alcohol

There is zero alcohol tolerance in Slovakia. If you have alcohol in your blood and drive, it is a breach of law and if caught, you are liable to be banned from driving for some time.

Accident

An accident is an occurrence in traffic in which:

- a person is injured or dies;
- road or other public equipment is damaged;
- dangerous substances escape;
- damage is caused to the vehicle of more than € 3,990;
- a driver is under the influence of alcohol;
- participants are not able to agree on who caused the accident.

A driver who is involved in an accident must:

- stop his/her vehicle;
- not use alcohol or drugs;
- place an accident triangle behind his/her car, at least 50 metres behind the car if not on a highway or motorway and at least 100 metres if on a highway or motorway.

A person involved in an accident must:

- inform the police about the accident;
- provide first aid to the injured person(s) and call an ambulance;
- take all measures necessary to save the person(s) or property that is endangered by the accident;
- stay at the place of the accident until the police arrive;
- refrain from any activity which would disadvantage an examination of the accident, mainly by moving any of the vehicles involved. If it is necessary in order to free or give treatment to an injured person or to enable traffic to continue, the participant may move the vehicles. However, he/she is obliged to mark the position of the vehicles, injured or death persons after the accident, the entire situation, and vehicles' tracks.
- take necessary measures so that the safety of the traffic is not endangered;
- prove his/her identity when requested by other participants of the accident;
- cooperate with police during investigation of the accident.

Cyclists

Cyclists have to ride on special paths for cyclists. If there is no such path, they may also ride on roads and pavements. When riding on the roads, they have to ride in single file on the right side of the road by the kerb. When riding on pavements, they must not endanger pedestrians.

Cyclists must wear a safety helmet when riding outside towns. Children under 15 years of age must wear a helmet at all times.

There is zero alcohol tolerance for cyclists.

Pedestrians on the road

Pedestrians walking on the road must walk along the edge in single or double file and must not endanger themselves or drivers. During times of poor visibility, they must wear an easily visible safety element.

Pedestrian crossings

If there are no lights at a crossroads, pedestrians may go from one side of the road to another preferably using a pedestrian crossing, underpass or upper bridge. If a pedestrian is standing on a pavement waiting to cross the road, the driver may stop his/her car and let him/her. However, if the pedestrian has already stepped on to the crossing, the driver has to stop his/her car and let him/her cross. If there are two lanes on the road and the driver in one lane has stopped to let the pedestrian cross the road, the driver in the second lane is obliged to stop as well. Also the driver from the opposite lane is obliged to stop the vehicle.

Use of highways and motorway

Only vehicles with a maximum speed of at least 80 km/h may use the highways outside the town. For using certain sections of highways and motorways, you have to buy a sticker. Detailed information about the stickers is included in the chapter below.

Fines

If you break the law and get a fine, you have the opportunity to pay it in cash immediately. If you do not have enough cash with you, your driving licence will be withheld. It will be returned to you after you pay the fine. You will get a document valid for 15 days that entitles you to drive.

The following are examples of fines:

- Refusal of alcohol test: € 300 – € 1,300 + prohibition of driving for 1 – 5 years.
- Driving with alcohol in blood: € 200 – € 1,000 + prohibition of driving for up to 5 years.
- Causing an accident or speeding: € 150 – € 800 + prohibition of driving for up to 3 years.

Safety

Do not leave any valuables or briefcases lying around in your car at any time. It is always useful to have your car secured with an immobilizer, gear lock, alarm or Lo-Jack tracer.

Emergency

In the case of problems with your car, you can call the emergency numbers of the Automobile Club of Slovakia (NAMK) - 18 123 or 18 154.

Parking

You can park your car in parking lots, indoor car parks or underground garages. Most car parks and underground garages are charged. The average fee is € 1.00 – € 2.00/hour. Many parking lots in the city centres are also charged during working days, usually from 8:00 – 16:00. You have to purchase parking tickets, one hour costing € 0.70. If you are interested in long-term parking, you can also rent a parking place.

Parking on some sections of the pavement is also possible in Slovakia. However, you have to leave at least 1.2 metres of the pa-

vement free for pedestrians. Parking on the grass and in places where a particular road sign is, is forbidden.

If you park in a place where parking is forbidden or if you do not leave at least 1.2 m of the pavement free for pedestrians in the case of parking on the pavement, your car might be towed away or police will put a clamp on your wheel. In both cases, you will have to pay a fine; in the case of your car being towed away, you will also have to pay a charge for the towing service.

Fueling

There are many petrol stations in Slovakia, many of which are open 24 hours daily. Petrol stations can be found both in towns and by roads. The prices of fuels are slightly different depending on the company and they might be changed on a daily basis. The average price of fuel in 2009 was:

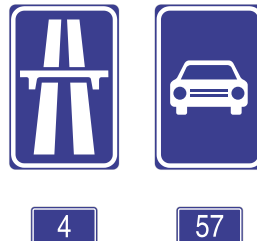
| Fuel | Average price |
|------------------|---------------|
| 95-octane petrol | € 1.01 |
| 98-octane petrol | € 1.14 |
| diesel | € 1.11 |

Source: Relocation, www.relo.sk, 2009; SARIO research, 2009

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, www.statistics.sk, 2009

Highway and motorway stickers

In Slovakia many sections of highways and some sections of motorways and 1st class roads are charged. If the section of the road is charged, it is marked with the following road signs:



Source: National Highway Company, www.ndsas.sk, 2010



You can find the actual map of charged road network on the web page of Národná diaľničná spoločnosť (National Highway Company) – www.ndsas.sk

Costs

In case of vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes, the fee for using paid sections of roads is paid in the form of stickers, which are valid for one year, one month or one week. The stickers can be purchased at petrol stations and post offices. For vehicles over 3.5 tonnes, highway tolls have to be paid.

| Validity | | Cost |
|-----------------|---|---------|
| 1-year sticker | 13 months from 1 January of respective year (in 2010: 1 Jan 2010 – 31 Jan 2011) | € 36.50 |
| 1-month sticker | 30 days from its first day of validity (incl. this day), which has to be marked on the sticker (in 2010 for example: 10 June 2010 – 9 July 2010 or 4 Aug 2010 – 2 Sept 2010) | € 9.90 |
| 1-week sticker | 7 days from its first day of validity (incl. this day), which has to be marked on the sticker (in 2010 for example: 10 June 2010 – 16 June 2010 or 4 Aug 2010 – 10 Aug 2010) | € 4.90 |

The prices and validity of the sticker for vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes including a trailed vehicle

How to use the sticker

The sticker consists of the sticker itself and a control coupon. The sticker has to be stuck on the inner side of the windshield of your car in the top right corner. On the control coupon, you have to write the registration number of your car. If one of the two above-mentioned conditions is not fulfilled, the sticker is not valid. The procedure is as follows:



- Tear away the control coupon (Part 1) and keep it. You must not throw it away. On the control coupon you have to write the registration number of the vehicle. Otherwise the sticker is not valid. If you are stopped by the police and they request the control coupon, you have to show it.
- Take the sticker from its cover (Part 2) and stick it on the inner side of the windshield of your car in the top right corner. A sticker which is not stuck in this place is not valid.

Source:
National
Highway
Company,
www.ndsas.sk,
2009

- In the case of a 1-month and 1-week sticker, the seller has to mark the first day of its validity according to the request of the buyer. An unmarked sticker is not valid.
- Please note that one purchased sticker can be stuck in only one car and cannot be transferred from one car to another.

Sanctions

If a driver on the specified sections of motorways, highways or 1st class roads is caught without a valid sticker attached to the vehicle, a penalty may be imposed upon him/her amounting to 10 times the price of a yearly sticker.



Registering a car

Conditions

You can register your car in Slovakia only after you get a residence permit.

Your car can be registered in Slovakia if it has a *Certificate of Conformity (COC)*, which is provided by the seller of the car (from the manufacturer of the car) and confirms that the car fulfils the minimum technical standards for its import into the territory of the European Union.

If the car does not have a COC, it still can be imported and registered if it fulfils the minimum technical standards set by the European Union. In this case you have to find out whether it does. You can find information about the minimum technical standards on the web page of the European Union, [www.europa.eu](http://europa.eu) under "Technical harmonisation for motor vehicles". The link is: http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/internal_market/single_market_for_goods/motor_vehicles/motor_vehicles_technical_harmonisation/index_en.htm.

Homologization

If the car does not have a COC and you think that it fulfils the minimum technical standards of the EU, the car has to undergo the approval process - homologization (homologizácia) in Slovakia or in any other member state of the EU. The approval process is done by private companies. Homologization consists of four parts: homologization of emissions, homologization of brakes, homologization of noise, and homologization of electromagnetic compatibility. The documents you will need to bring with you to the homologization centre are your ID and the Vehicle Registration Certificate from your car. A document with the specification of your engine might also be useful while some centres also require proof of the car's purchase.

There are two homologization centres in Slovakia: in Zvolen and in Dubnica. Both do only homologization of some parts of the car. For the homologization of a whole car (or of other parts) you need to go abroad.

| Company and its address | Web | Contact | Homologization of | Price* |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ZV-TEST, s.r.o. Buzulucká 3 960 01 Zvolen | www.zvtest.sk | Tel.: +421 (0)45 532 0802 +421 (0)45 540 1269 E-mail: zvtest@zvtest.sk | brakes noise | € 300 € 240 |
| EVPU a.s. Trenčianska 19 018 51 Nová Dubnica | www.evpu.sk | Tel.: +421 (0)42 44 09 111 E-mail: marketing@evpu.sk web formular | electromagnetic compatibility | depends on certain case |

Homologization centres in Slovakia

*The price is only orientational. The exact price depends on the specific vehicle.



Homologization centres abroad

| Company and its address | Web | Contact | Homologization of | Price* |
|---|----------------|---|-------------------|---------|
| TÜV Austria Automotive gmbh Deutschstraße 10, 1230 Vienna Austria | www.tuev.at | Tel: +43 1 610 91 0 E-mail: automotive@tuv.at | whole car | € 1,150 |
| TÜV SÜD Czech s.r.o. Novodvorská 994/138 142 21 Praha 4 Czech Republic | www.tuv-sud.cz | Tel: +420 239 046 800 E-mail: info@tuv-sud.cz | whole car | € 1,000 |
| JÁFI-AUTÓKUT Kft./Ltd. XI. Csóka str. 7-13. 1115 Budapest Hungary | www.autokut.hu | Tel.: +36 1 203 7638 +36 1 203 7635 E-mail: admin@jafi-autokut.hu | whole car | n/a |

*The price is only orientational. The exact price depends on the specific vehicle.

Please note that you should book a date for the homologization at least one week in advance (in Austria two weeks), however, depending on a level of busyness, you may be able to get an appointment sooner or you may have to wait for longer. Homologization of the whole car can be done in one to four days; however the exact length depends on the specific case.

If the technicians confirm that the car fulfils the minimum technical criteria of the EU, they will give you a Certificate of Conformity and you can register the car in Slovakia. This certificate needs to be officially translated into Slovak. The only exception to this is when the homologization process is done in the Czech Republic – in this case the certificate does not need to be translated.

Homologization in any homologization centre within the EU is valid in the whole of the EU.

If your car does not fulfil the minimum technical standards of the EU, it is impossible to register it in Slovakia.

Necessary documents

For registering your car in Slovakia you will need the following documents:

- Vehicle Registration Certificate (osvedčenie o evidencii) - a document with technical information about the car.
- Certificate of Deregistration – it proves that the car was removed from the records in the country of origin or that it was bought to be exported: it is either a separate document or a record in the Vehicle Registration Certificate.

The car needs to be deregistered in the country of current registration before it can be registered in Slovakia.

- Ownership evidence– it has to be the original invoice or the purchase contract.
- Slovak residence permit or EU ID card.
- Certificate of Conformity - COC – a document that the car was made for the EU market, usually issued by the seller in the export country.
- Car insurance contract in the name of the new owner.
- Confirmation of Technical Control from the Technical Control Station (STK) – if the car is older than 4 years. If the car has been checked in your home country and the certificate is still valid, this needs to be translated into Slovak. If it did not undergo the control or the certificate is not valid anymore, you have to undergo the control in Slovakia. New cars and cars up to 4 years old do not need this confirmation.

Please, bear in mind that you need to have all the documents translated into Slovak and that local authorities require either originals of your supporting documents or their notarized copies.

Procedure

1. Deregistration of the car in your home country

You have to deregister your car in your home country. You should get the Certificate of Deregistration and temporary car plates. The validity of the temporary car plates depends on your home country and can range from 2 weeks to 3 months. Find out this information before you start the whole process.

2. District Office for Road Transport and Land Communication – application and cheque

You have to go to the District Office for Road Transport and Land Communication (according to your residence), where you should pick up an application for the car's registration and a cheque for the recycling organization in the amount of € 66.39. You have to pay the fee stamp for the application in the amount of € 66 if the car comes from the EEA or € 331.50 if the car comes from outside of the EEA (administrative fee) + € 4.50 (fee for the issuance of a new Vehicle Registration Certificate). The fee stamp has to be purchased in advance at a post office. At the post office you also pay the cheque for the recycling organization. Keep the receipt for your records.



| City/town | Address | Contact | Office hours |
|----------------------|--|---|---|
| Banská Bystrica | Skuteckého 19 Banská Bystrica 97401 | Tel: +421 (0) 48/ 414 5116 riaditel_bb@bb.kud.gov.sk www.bb.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 15:00 We: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 16:30 Fr: 8:00 - 12:00 |
| Bardejov | Dlhý rad 16 Bardejov 08501 | Tel: +421 (0) 54/ 488 5575 oudbj@po.kud.gov.sk www.po.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00, 13:00 - 14:30 We: 7:30 - 12:00, 13:00 - 15:00 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Bratislava | Pri starej pracháni 14 Bratislava 83104 | Tel: +421 (0) 2/ 5020 0101 matej.biskupic@ba.kud.gov.sk www.ba.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 16:00 We: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 17:00 Fr: 8:00 - 12:00 |
| Brezno | Nám. M. R. Štefánika 40 Brezno 97701 | Tel: +421 (0) 48/ 611 5691 riaditel_br@bb.kud.gov.sk www.bb.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 15:00 We: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 16:30 Fr: 8:00 - 12:00 |
| Čadca | 17. novembra č. 2711 Čadca 02201 | Tel: +421 (0) 41/ 433 4714 obudca@za.kud.gov.sk www.za.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 11:00, 13:00 - 15:00 We: 8:00 - 11:00, 13:00 - 16:00 Fr: 8:00 - 13:00 |
| Dolný Kubín | Nám. slobody 1 Dolný Kubín 02601 | Tel: +421 (0) 43/ 530 9392 obuddk@za.kud.gov.sk www.za.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 11:00, 13:00 - 15:00 We: 8:00 - 11:00, 13:00 - 16:00 Fr: 8:00 - 13:00 |
| Dunajská Streda | Trhovisko 235/7 Dunajská Streda 92901 | Tel: +421 (0) 31/ 551 1400 ingrid.bulkova@tt.kud.gov.sk www.tt.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 15:00 We: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 16:00 Fr: 8:00 - 11:30, 12:00 - 13:00 |
| Galanta | Mierové nám. 1 Galanta 92426 | Tel: +421 (0) 31/ 780 4004 maria.kulcarova@tt.kud.gov.sk www.tt.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 15:00 We: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 16:00 Fr: 8:00 - 11:30, 12:00 - 13:00 |
| Humenné | Kukoreliho 1 Humenné 06601 | Tel: +421 (0) 57/ 775 2778 oudhe@po.kud.gov.sk www.po.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00, 13:00 - 14:30 We: 7:30 - 12:00, 13:00 - 15:00 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Kežmarok | Mučeníkov 4 Kežmarok 06001 | Tel: +421 (0) 52/ 468 5651, 468 5652 oudkk@po.kud.gov.sk www.po.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00, 13:00 - 14:30 We: 7:30 - 12:00, 13:00 - 15:00 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Komárno | Senný trh 4 Komárno 94536 | Tel: +421 (0) 35/ 770 1672 jan.adamik@nr.kud.gov.sk www.nr.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 7:00 - 12:00, 12:30 - 15:00 We: 7:00 - 12:00, 12:30 - 16:00 Fr: 7:00 - 12:00, 12:30 - 14:00 |
| Košice | Hroncova 13 Košice - Sever 04278 | Tel: +421 (0) 55/ 600 4106 oudke@ke.kud.gov.sk www.ke.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 11:00, 13:30 - 15:00 We: 8:00 - 11:00, 13:30 - 16:00 Fr: 8:00 - 13:00 |
| Košice – okolie | Hroncova 13 Košice - Sever 04161 | Tel: +421 (0) 55/ 6004168, 169, 165, 166 oudks@ke.kud.gov.sk www.ke.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 14:00 We: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 15:00 Fr: 8:00 - 13:00 |
| Levice | Ľ. Štúra 53 Levice 93401 | Tel: +421 (0) 36/ 634 5706, 635 1336 alozj.palaj@nr.kud.gov.sk www.nr.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 7:30 - 11:30, 12:30 - 15:30 We: 7:30 - 11:30, 12:30 - 16:30 Fr: 7:30 - 11:30, 12:30 - 14:30 |
| Liptovský Mikuláš | Nám. osloboditeľov 1 Liptovský Mikuláš 03141 | Tel: +421 (0) 44/ 552 2113, 552 2695 obudlm@za.kud.gov.sk www.za.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 11:00, 13:00 - 15:00 We: 8:00 - 11:00, 13:00 - 16:00 Fr: 8:00 - 13:00 |
| Lučenec | Nám. republiky 26 Lučenec 98401 | Tel: +421 (0) 47/ 433 0335 riaditel_lc@bb.kud.gov.sk www.bb.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 15:00 We: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 16:30 Fr: 8:00 - 12:00 |

| City/town | Address | Contact | Office hours |
|----------------------|--|--|---|
| Malacky | Záhorácka 2942/60A Malacky 90101 | Tel: +421 (0) 34/ 774 3056 daniel.tesak@ba.kud.gov.sk www.ba.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 16:00 We: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 17:00 Fr: 8:00 - 12:00 |
| Martin | Nám. S. H. Vajanského 1 Martin 03601 | Tel: +421 (0) 43/ 413 4428 obudmt@za.kud.gov.sk www.za.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 11:00, 13:00 - 15:00 We: 8:00 - 11:00, 13:00 - 16:00 Fr: 8:00 - 13:00 |
| Michalovce | Nám. slobody 1 Michalovce 07601 | Tel: +421 (0) 56/ 643 2767 oudmi@ke.kud.gov.sk www.ke.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 12:00, 12:30 - 15:00 We: 8:00 - 12:00, 12:30 - 16:00 Fr: 8:00 - 11:30, 12:00 - 13:00 |
| Nitra | Štefánikova trieda 88 Nitra 94901 | Tel: +421 (0) 37/ 651 3832 miroslav.martinec@nr.kud.gov.sk www.nr.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 7:00 - 12:00, 12:30 - 15:00 We: 7:00 - 12:00, 12:30 - 16:00 Fr: 7:00 - 12:00, 12:30 - 14:00 |
| Nové Mesto nad Váhom | Hviezdoslavova 36 Nové Mesto nad Váhom 91541 | Tel: +421 (0) 32/ 771 2791 doprava.nm@tn.kud.gov.sk www.tn.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 11:30, 12:30 - 14:00 We: 8:00 - 11:30, 12:30 - 16:00 Fr: 8:00 - 11:30, 12:30 - 13:00 |
| Nové Zámky | Podzámska 25 Nové Zámky 94061 | Tel: +421 (0) 35/ 642 0421, 642 3163 igor.bartovic@nr.kud.gov.sk www.nr.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 7:00 - 12:00, 12:30 - 15:00 We: 7:00 - 12:00, 12:30 - 16:00 Fr: 7:00 - 12:00, 12:30 - 14:00 |
| Pezinok | Radničné nám. 1 Pezinok 90201 | Tel: +421 (0) 33/ 641 2224 vladimir.zisek@ba.kud.gov.sk www.ba.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 16:00 We: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 17:00 Fr: 8:00 - 12:00 |
| Piešťany | Krajinská cesta 5053/13 Piešťany 92101 | Tel: +421 (0) 33/ 733 0460 peter.benak@tt.kud.gov.sk www.tt.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 15:00 We: 8:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 16:00 Fr: 8:00 - 11:30, 12:00 - 13:00 |
| Poprad | Partizánska 690/87 Poprad 05801 | Tel: +421 (0) 52/ 789 6861 oudpp@po.kud.gov.sk www.po.kud.gov.sk | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00, 13:00 - 14:30 We: 7:30 - 12:00, 13:00 - 15:00 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |

Please note that you can spare yourself a visit to the District Office for Road Transport and Land Communication if you download the necessary forms online. You can download the **application form** from the Slovak version of the web page of the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications: www.telecom.gov.sk, in the section Štátny dopravný úrad (State Transport Office), in its section Schvaľovanie vozidiel (Approving Vehicles). Please note that the application form is only in Slovak.

The information about **payment to the recycling organization** can be found on its webpage - www.recfond.sk, also available only in Slovak, in the section Individuálny dovoz vozidiel (Individual Import of Vehicles).

3. Control of originality

Your car has to undergo the so-called control of originality. You should make an appointment at the station that provides this activity. The workers of the station will check if the parts of the car are compatible with what is written in your Vehicle Registration Certificate. This takes approx. 45 minutes. You should submit originals and copies of the following documents: the Vehicle Registration Certificate + its official translation, COC + its official translation, Certification of Deregistration + its official translation, your ID. The workers will keep only copies, which they are usually able to make themselves, however you are recommended to make at least two copies of each document yourself. You will be given a Control of Originality Certificate. The average price of this service is € 133. The price depends mainly on the car's cylinder capacity.

The list of the control of originality stations can be found here: www.ko.sk.

4. Technical control (STK)

A car has to have a technical and emissions control done if it is more than 4 years old. If the car has already had a control done in your home country and the control is still valid, this needs to be translated into Slovak. If it has not or it is not valid anymore, it has to undergo such a control in Slovakia.

The control is carried out at private authorized places called Stanica technickej kontroly – STK (Technical Control Station). It is advisable to make an appointment. At STK you should have all necessary documents from your car with you: the Vehicle Registration Certificate + its official translation, COC + its original translation, Certification of Deregistration + its official translation, your EU ID or passport. It is advisable to have at least two copies of each document with you.

If the car passes the tests, you will be immediately issued a document called Certificate of Roadworthiness Test and Emission Control Inspection Certificate confirming that the car is in good condition.

The average price of the STK is € 50.

5. District office for road transport and land communication

Afterwards you should go to the District Office for Road Transport and Land Communication where you submit the following documents:

- the completed Application for the Car's Registration with fee stamps
- Invoice or Purchase Contract - verified copy with official translation into Slovak
- COC - verified copy with official translation into Slovak
- Vehicle Registration Certificate - verified copy with official translation into Slovak
- Certificate of Deregistration - verified copy with official translation into Slovak
- the Residence Permit + passport or the EU ID – a copy
- receipt for the cheque paid to the recycling organization – original (make a copy of it to keep)
- the Control of Originality certificate – original (make a copy of it to keep)
- Certificate of Roadworthiness Test and Emission Control Inspection Certificate – original (make a copy of it to keep)
- Control of Originality Certificate – original (make a copy of it to keep)

Afterwards, usually within one week, the Office issues the Slovak Vehicle Registration Certificate.

6. Certificate of acceptance and basic technical description

After the Slovak Vehicle Registration Certificate is issued, you will also receive a Certificate of Acceptance (2 copies – one for you and one to be submitted at the Police Office) and a Basic Technical Description of the Vehicle.

The District Office will also return to you the original of the Protocol about Control of Originality, copies of Certificate of Roadworthiness Test and Emission Control Inspection Certificate and a copy of your invoice/purchase contract.

7. Insurance contract

Liability Insurance Policy, which covers damage caused by a driver to a vehicle of another driver, is compulsory for all vehicles registered in Slovakia. Therefore, in case of an accident, the damage made to a vehicle whose driver did not cause the accident is covered by liability Insurance of the driver who caused the accident.

For more detailed information about car insurance, see the section below – Car Insurance.

8. Police registration – Transportation Inspectorate

One of the last steps is visiting the licencing authority in Slovakia called Dopravný

inšpektorát (the Transportation Inspectorate) according to your residence, where your car will be registered and stamp will be entered into your Vehicle Registration Certificate. You will also be given new valid licence plates.

The documents you will need are as follows:

- filled in application, which can be found on the spot
- a fee stamp worth € 66 for the car registration and new licence plates. Fee stamps can be bought at a post office. In Bratislava and in the future possibly also at other locations of the Transportation Inspectorate, you will be able to pay for the fee stamps via a special machine, which accepts both banknotes and coins and returns the change.
- an invoice or purchase contract – an original or verified copy with official translation into Slovak
- Control of Originality Certificate - original
- Certificate of Roadworthiness Test and Emission Control Inspection Certificate – a copy
- your residence permit or EU ID – a copy
- Slovak Vehicle Registration Certificate - original
- Liability Insurance Contract – a copy



| City | Address | Contact (if available) | Office hours |
|-----------------|--|--|---|
| Bratislava | KDI PZ Bratislava Kopčianská 84, 851 01 Bratislava | | Mo – Tue: 7:30 - 12:00 12:45 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Thu – Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Pezinok | OR PZ Bratislava - okolie Šenkvičná 14, 902 01 Pezinok | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Senec | OR PZ Bratislava - okolie Hollého 8, 903 01 Senec | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Malacky | OR PZ Bratislava - okolie Zámocká 5, 901 01 Malacky | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Trnava | Starohájka 3, 917 01 Trnava | +421(0) 96110 3543 +421(0) 96110 3544 | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Piešťany | Krajinská č. 5, 921 01 Piešťany | +421(0) 96114 3550 | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Hlohovec | Jarmočná 3, 920 01 Hlohovec | +421(0) 96113 3583 +421(0) 96113 3584 | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Dunajská Streda | Muzejná č. 231/6, 929 01 Dunajská Streda | +421(0) 96111 3531 +421(0) 96111 3532 +421(0) 96111 3533 | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Galanta | Hlavná ulica 13, 924 52 Galanta | +421(0) 96112 3540 +421(0) 96112 3541 +421(0) 96112 3542 | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Senica | budova OR PZ, Moyzesova 1, 905 01 Senica | +421(0) 96115 3531 +421(0) 96115 3532 | Mo – Tue: 7:30 - 12:00 12:45 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Thu – Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |

| City | Address | Contact (if available) | Office hours |
|----------------|--|--|--|
| Skalica | OO PZ Skalica, Strážnická 1677/4, 909 01 Skalica | +421(0) 96115 3875 | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Nové Mesto n/V | Hviezdoslavova 2254/36, 915 01 Nové Mesto n/V | +421(0) 96124 3550 | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Dubnica n/V | Jesenského 294, 018 41 Dubnica n/V | +421(0) 96122 3550 | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Bánovce n/B | J. Matušku 19, 957 01 Bánovce n/B | +421(0) 96121 3550 | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Myjava | Trokanova 3, 907 01 Myjava | +421(0) 96123 11 +421(0) 96123 13 | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Prievidza | M. Mišíka 11, 971 66 Prievidza | +421(0) 96127 1111 | Mo – Tue: 7:30 - 12:00 12:45 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Thu – Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Partizánske | Februárová 7, 812 25 Partizánske | +421(0) 96125 3550 | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| P.Bystrica | Kukučínova 186, 017 01 P.Bystrica | +421(0) 96126 3550 +421(0) 96126 3541 | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Púchov | Svätoplukova 8, 020 01 Púchov | +421(0) 96128 3540 | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Nitra | ODI OR PZ Nitra, Nábřežie Mládeže 1 | | Mo: 8:00 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Tue: 8:00 - 12:00 Wed: 8:00 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 8:00 - 12:00 |

| City | Address | Contact (if available) | Office hours |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| Zlaté Moravce | DI Zlaté Moravce, Sládkovičova 8 | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Komárno | ODI OR PZ Komárno, Záhradnícka 6 | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Levice | ODI OR PZ Levice, L. Štúra 51 | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Nové Zámky | ODI OR PZ Nitra, Nábřežie Bratov Baldigáriovcov 7, Nové Zámky | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Šaľa | ODI Šaľa, Hlavná 2 | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Topoľčany | ODI OR PZ Topoľčany, Nám. Ľudovíta Štúra 1738 | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Čadca | OR PZ Čadca Palárikova 977/25 | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Dolný Kubín | OR PZ Dolný Kubín Bysterecká 2067/5 | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Liptovský Mikuláš | OR PZ v Liptovskom Mikuláši ul. Školská č. 122/2 | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Martin | Novomestského č.34 | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Tue: 7:30 - 12:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |

| City | Address | Contact (if available) | Office hours |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------|--|
| Ružomberok | OR PZ Ružomberok nám. Slobody č.1 | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Tue: 7:30 - 12:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Žilina | OR PZ v Žiline ul. Veľká Okružná č. 31 | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Tue: 7:30 - 12:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Thu - Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Banská Bystrica | OR PZ Banská Bystrica Okružná 19, 974 04 Banská Bystrica | | Mo – Tue: 7:30 - 15:30 Wed: 7:30 - 17:30 Fri: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Brezno | OR PZ Brezno Mostárenska č. 13 977 01 Brezno | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:30 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Lučenec | OR PZ Lučenec Ul. Dr. Vodú č. 1 984 01 | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:30 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Rimavská Sobota | OR PZ v Rimavskej Sobote Ul. P. Hostinského č. 2 | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Tue: 7:30 - 12:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Revúca | OR PZ v Revúcej Ul. Priemyselna č. 9 | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Zvolen | ODI OR PZ Zvolen, oddelenie bezpečnosti cestnej premávky a dopravných evidencií ul. Bystrický rad č. 25 960 01 Zvolen | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Detva | vyšunuté pracovisko Záhradná č. 854/15 962 12 Detva | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Krupina | vyšunuté pracovisko Kalinčiakova č. 881/47 963 01 Krupina | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |

| City | Address | Contact (if available) | Office hours |
|------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| Žiar nad Hronom | OR PZ Žiar nad Hronom Oddelenie dokladov Chrásteka 123 965 01 Žiar nad Hronom | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:30 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Žarnovica | Obvodný úrad Žarnovica Oddelenie dokladov Žiar nad Hronom, vysunuté pracovisko Žarnovica Ul. Bystrická 53, 966 81 Žarnovica | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:30 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Banská Štiavnica | Obvodný úrad Banská Štiavnica Oddelenie dokladov Žiar nad Hronom, vysunuté pracovisko Banská Štiavnica Ul. Križovatka č. 4, 969 01 Banská Štiavnica | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:30 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Prešov | OR PZ Prešov Vajanského 32 080 01 Prešov | | Mo - Tue: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Sabinov | vysunuté pracovisko Sabinov Námestie slobody 85 083 01 Sabinov | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Poprad | OR PZ Poprad Alžbetina 714 058 01 Poprad | | Mo - Tue: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Kežmarok | Nižna brána 6 060 01 Kežmarok | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Levoča | Rozvoj 31 054 01 Levoča | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Humenné | OR PZ Humenné Nemocničná 1 066 01 Humenné | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Medzilaborce | OO PZ Medzilaborce Ševčenkova 46 068 01 Medzilaborce | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |

| City | Address | Contact (if available) | Office hours |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------|--|
| Snina | OO PZ Snina Študentská13 067 01 Snina | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Bardejov | OR PZ Bardejov Partizánska 32 085 01 Bardejov | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Tue: 7:30 - 12:30 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Vranov nad Topľou | OR PZ Vranov nad Topľou Námestie Slobody 5/137 093 01 Vranov nad Topľou | | Mo: 7:30 - 15:00 Tue: 7:30 - 12:00 Wed: 7:30 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Svidník | OR PZ Svidník Soviet. hrdinov č. 200/35 089 01 Svidník | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Stropkov | Pracovisko Stropkov Šarišská č. 171 091 01 Stropkov | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Stará Ľubovňa | OR PZ Stará Ľubovňa Okružná č. 25 064 01 St. Ľubovňa | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Košice | Komenského 52, Košice | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Košice - okolie | Tr. SNP 35, Košice | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Michalovce | Hollého 46, 071 01 Michalovce | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Sobrance | Kpt. Nálepku 11, 073 01 Sobrance | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |

| City | Address | Contact (if available) | Office hours |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| Spišská Nová Ves | Elektrárenská 1, 052 80 Spišská Nová Ves | +421(0) 96174 3540 +421(0) 96174 3541 +421(0) 96174 3542 | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Gelnica | Hlavná 1, 056 01 Gelnica | +421(0) 96174 3900 | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Trebišov | M. R. Štefánika 2319/180, Trebišov | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |
| Rožňava | Janka Kráľa 1, Rožňava | | Mo: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 15:00 Wed: 7:30 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:30 Fr: 7:30 - 12:00 |

9. STK

After the car has Slovak licence plates, it needs to be taken to the STK again. You have to inform the STK about the licence number and show the Vehicle Registration Certificate. The STK will issue a sticker for you that will be stuck on the windscreen of your car stating that the car has passed the STK control. This takes approx. 20 minutes and usually you do not have to make an appointment. This service is free of charge.



Car insurance

Liability Insurance, which covers damage caused by a driver to a vehicle of another driver, is compulsory for all vehicles registered in Slovakia.

The insurance contract is renewed yearly. The *insurance costs* depend on:

- engine capacity - the bigger the capacity, the higher the insurance cost;
- engine performance - the bigger the performance, the higher the insurance cost;
- length of time without any accident - the longer the period, the lower the insurance cost;
- year of driver's birth - the older the driver, the lower the insurance cost;
- year of driving licence issuance - the longer the driver has had a driving licence, the lower the insurance cost is;
- year of manufacture - the price depends on the specific car model;
- weight of a car - the price depends on the specific car model;
- the length of the insurance with the respective insurance company – the longer the period, the lower the insurance cost.

The example of yearly cost

(conditions: driver – 34 years old, he/she has owned a driving licence for 14 years, new car – bought in the same year as the year of the first insurance with the respective company)

| Car model | Year/EUR |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Škoda Fabia 1,2 HTP | 83 – 216 |
| Kia Cee'd 1,6 | 145 – 306 |
| Audi A4 1,8 TFSI | 172 – 385 |
| Mercedes E 220 CDI | 185 – 437 |

If you want to, you can also purchase Collision Insurance. This will cover damage to your own car if you cause an accident.

The insurance contract is renewed yearly. The *insurance costs* depend on:

- car sales price - the higher the price, the higher the insurance cost;
- driver's deductible (0 – 30%) in case of accident - the lower the deductible of the driver, the higher the insurance cost;
- what the insurance covers
 - accident + loss caused by natural forces or
 - accident + loss caused by natural forces + theft of the car (more expensive);
- the purpose the vehicle is used for (private car, taxi or rental etc.);
- the year of the car's manufacture - the price depends on the specific car model;
- year of driver's birth - the older the driver, the lower the insurance cost;
- presence of anti-theft devices in the car (alarm, immobilizer, mechanical lock, satellite search system, etc.) – the more anti-theft devices, the lower the insurance cost;
- the length of the insurance with the respective insurance company – the longer the period, the lower the insurance cost.

An example of yearly cost

(conditions: 10% contribution from the driver, insured against accident + loss caused by natural forces + theft of the car, private usage of the vehicle, new car, driver – 34 years old, anti-theft devices – alarm, immobilizer, mechanical lock, first insurance policy with the respective company)

| Car model | EUR/year |
|---------------------|------------|
| Škoda Fabia 1,2 HTP | 137 - 236 |
| Kia Cee'd 1,6 | 192 - 374 |
| Audi A4 1,8 TFSI | 414 - 1298 |
| Mercedes E 220 CDI | 628 - 1970 |

You can open an insurance policy with any insurance company in Slovakia.

| Name | Web page | Call Centre contact |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Allianz - Slovenská poisťovňa, a.s. | www.allianzsp.sk | Tel.: 0800 122 222 (within Slovakia) +421 2 5963 2111 (from abroad) E-mail: allianzsp@allianzsp.sk |
| Axa Slovenská republika | www.axa-sk.com | Tel.: 0850 11 11 22 (within Slovakia) +421 2 2929 2929 (from abroad) E-mail: info.zp@axa-sk.com (life insurance) info.np@axa-sk.com (other insurance) |
| ČSOB Poisťovňa, a.s. | www.csobpoistovna.sk | Tel.: 0850 111 303 (within Slovakia) +421 2 433 301 48 (from abroad) E-mail: infolinka@csobpoistovna.sk |
| Generali Poisťovňa, a.s. | www.gsl.sk | Tel.: 0850 111 116 (within Slovakia) +421 2 5827 6666 (from abroad) E-mail: gls@gls.sk |
| Groupama poisťovňa, a.s. | www.groupama.sk | Tel.: 0850 211411 (within Slovakia) +421 2 5249 5249 (from abroad) E-mail: poistna.udalost@groupama.sk |
| Komunálna poisťovňa | www.kpas.sk | Tel.: 0850 111 850 (within Slovakia) +421 2 4821 0511 (from abroad) E-mail: gr@kpas.sk |
| Kooperativa poisťovňa, a.s. | www.koop.sk | Tel.: 0800 120 000 (within Slovakia) +421 2 5729 9333 (from abroad) E-mail: info@koop.sk |
| QBE poisťovňa, a.s. | www.qbeurope.com/slovakia | Tel.: +421 55 6826 222 (within Slovakia and from abroad) E-mail: info@sk.qbe.com |
| Uniq a poisťovňa, a.s. | www.uniq.sk | Tel.: 0850 111 400 (within Slovakia) +421 2 444 56 860 (from abroad) E-mail: poistovna@uniq.sk |
| Wüstenrot poisťovňa, a. s. | www.wuestenrot.sk | Tel.: +421 (0)2 5788 9900 (within Slovakia and from abroad) E-mail: info@wuestenrot.sk |

Car rental

In Slovakia, there are various companies that provide car rental. Basic conditions for car rental are that the driver has a valid driving licence and that he/she pays for the rental of the car in advance. The driver also has to pay a deposit for the car. The exact cost of the deposit is based on the class of the rented car and varies from company to company. To rent a car, a foreigner needs his/her passport or ID card (if the foreigner comes from an EEA member state) and necessary finances. Some companies also require the copy of an entry record from the Criminal Register.

Companies usually require payment to be made by credit card. The credit card should belong to the driver of the car. It is also possible that if the owner of the credit card and the driver are not the same person, payment with the respective credit card can be made if the card owner is present. In some companies it is also possible to pay in cash.

Some companies also have restrictions regarding the age of the driver or the length of time he/she has had a driving licence, or for both of these conditions. For example, a company may stipulate that a driver has to be at least 21 years old and hold a driving licence for at least two years.

Car Rental:
www.director.spectator.sk/catg_car.html

| Class of car | price/day * | deposit |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| low | € 14-40 | € 150 - 670 |
| middle | € 23-85 | |
| high | € 53-160 | |

Costs

Source:
SARIO
research,
2009

*Prices also vary according to the number of days you intend to borrow a car for: the higher the number of days, the cheaper the price per day is.

Avis Rent a Car

- ✓ largest fleet of 250 vehicles for rent in Slovakia, average 6 months old
- ✓ locations in Slovakia: Bratislava, Galanta, Košice, Partizánske, Poprad,
- ✓ choice of 16 car groups always at disposal (Škoda, VW, Opel, Saab, Audi, Porsche, Peugeot)
- ✓ you can pick up and hand over car where convenient for you
- ✓ one-way rentals in the Slovakia and abroad



Avis Van Rental

- ✓ save your investments and increase productivity of your company
- ✓ get rid of excessive paperwork
- ✓ we value your time (fast car check out)
- ✓ replacement vehicle when needed
- ✓ 3 hours rental starting from 33 EUR including VAT

Avis Prestige

With Avis prestige you can make dream come true with Avis selection of luxury cars Audi and Porsche.

Avis Chauffeur

- ✓ Avis offers you Chauffeur drive services for comfortable travelling
- ✓ No limit on destinations
- ✓ Choose any car from our fleet
- ✓ Individual pricing for best reflection of customer needs

AVIS

We try
harder.

3.3 Communication and postal service

Calling to Slovakia

The international calling code of Slovakia is 00421.

Inter-city calls within Slovakia

Please note that each city has its own area code, which is composed of 2 or 3 digits. For example:

Bratislava: 02 xxxx xxxx

Košice: 055 xxx xxxx

Mobile network

Numbers starting with 09 xx xxx xxx (or 00421 9 xx xxx xxx when calling from abroad)

Telecommunications

You can use the service of landline operators, mobile operators, or both. Most households in Slovakia have landlines and most people in Slovakia also use mobile phones.

Communication providers have several calling plans with various monthly fees.

Signing contracts

To have a land network or non pre-paid mobile network installed, you will need your passport. You also might be requested to bring your residence permit and tenancy agreement. Contracts can only be signed

personally. Please note that it may take up to one month to get a landline, Internet, or cable TV connection installed. A mobile phone connection is provided immediately upon purchase.

Termination of contracts

If you decide to commit yourself, you can terminate the contract only after the period of commitment has expired. If you decide to do it before the contract expiration date, you will have to pay for the months left or pay a charge (fine). The fine varies from company to company.

If the period of commitment has already expired, the contract usually continues until you decide to terminate it. Please note that there is usually a 1-month termination period starting from the first day of the next month after the month in which you terminated your contract. There is also usually a 1-month termination period if you are not bound by a contract.

It is possible to terminate the contract in person at each branch of the respective company. It is also possible to do it in writing, by sending a letter with a request to terminate the respective service. The date from which the termination period officially begins, in this case, is the date when the company receives the letter.



Land network operators

There are several land network operators that offer several calling plans and you can choose the one which suits you the best. The price per minute of calling depends on what calling plan you have and the length of commitment period of the plan. It may also depend on where you are calling (city, inter-city or international), when you are calling (day-time, night-time, weekends or holidays), and on the network of the telecommunication operator you are calling (the same as your operator, a different land network operator, mobile network operator).

You can also decide if you would like to have a calling plan with a commitment period (usually 12 months, 18 months or 24 months) or one without. The longer the commitment period, the cheaper your calling plan and the fee for installation.

You pay for the telephone service monthly – you get an invoice into your mailbox or e-mail box (you choose in what form you would like to receive it), which you pay either at a post office, by bank cash transfer or through a direct debit from your bank account.

| Name | Web page | Call Centre |
|----------|--|---|
| Orange | www.orange.sk | Tel: +421 (0)905 905 905 +421 (0)2 5851 2345 E-mail: info@orange.sk |
| Slovanet | www.slovanet.sk | Tel.: 0800 608 600 (within Slovakia) +421 2 208 28 111 (from abroad) E-mail: info@slovanet.sk |
| T-Com | www.t-com.sk | Tel: 0800 123 456 (within Slovakia) +421 249 666 777 (from abroad) E-mail: via web form |
| UPC | www.upc.sk | Tel.: +421 2 594 22 222 E-mail: post@upc.sk |

List of land network operators



| Prices are excl. 19% VAT, without bounding | | Home Extra | Home Maxi | Home Mini |
|--|--|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Installation fee/EUR | | 39.46 | | |
| Monthly fee/ EUR | | 19.72 | 12.99 | 6.68 |
| Free minutes | | 0 | 60 | 30 |
| Calls within a city in Slovakia/ EUR | High traffic | Free | 0.075 | 0.150 |
| | Low traffic | | Free | 0.095 |
| | Weekend traffic | | Free | 0.079 |
| Inter-city calls in Slovakia/EUR | High traffic | Free | 0.154 | 0.324 |
| | Low traffic | | Free | 0.150 |
| | Weekend traffic | | Free | 0.119 |
| Calls to Slovak mobile networks/ EUR | High traffic | 0.273 | 0.273 | 0.510 |
| | Low traffic | 0.194 | 0.194 | 0.296 |
| | Weekend traffic | | | |
| International calls/ EUR - land network | Zone 0 and 1 | 0.154 | | |
| | Zone 2 | 0.391 | | |
| | Zone 3 | 0.786 | | |
| | Zone 4 | 2.366 | | |
| International calls / EUR - mobile network | Selected countries of zones 0, 1 and 2 | 0.470 | | |

Zone 0 – Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Germany and Austria
 Zone 1 – Belgium, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Ireland, Norway, Russia, USA, Spain, Italy, Sweden, UK, etc.
 Zone 2 – Argentina, Australia, China, Israel, Japan, Hong Kong, Croatia, Mexico, New Zealand, etc.
 Zone 3 – Bolivia, Brazil, Egypt, Haiti, India, Pakistan, etc.
 Zone 4 – Ethiopia, Iraq, Cuba, Nepal, etc.

In towns, it is also possible to use public phone cells, which accept coins or phone cards. The cards can be purchased at the post offices or newspaper stands.

Mobile network operators

There are three mobile network operators in Slovakia: Orange, T-Mobile, and Telefonica O2 Slovakia. They all offer calling plans with various prices, number of minutes, or text messages. There are many calling plans you can choose from, depending on your needs – whether you need to call often, whether you write text messages often, whether you also need the Internet on your mobile phone, etc. You can either opt for a calling plan with a 24 months' contract or one with no annual contract at all. The longer the period of commitment is, the cheaper your calling plan, and also the fee for installing the connection is. Moreover mobile network operators offer mobile telephones for purchase. If you want to buy one for a discount price, you have to commit yourself to the company for certain period of time, usually 24 months. The price of the phone then depends on your calling plan – the more expensive the calling plan, the cheaper the mobile phone.

Each month, you get an invoice either in your mailbox or e-mail box (you have the option to choose), which you should then pay in the shop, at the post office, by bank cash transfer, or through a direct debit. You can also decide to purchase pre-paid cards. In this case you buy a pre-paid card

and you call and send text messages up to the amount your pre-paid card is for. The price per minute is usually more expensive if you decide to use pre-paid cards. On the other hand, in this case you do not need to show any proof of your residence or fulfil any other requirements.

| Name | Web page | Call Centre |
|---------------|-----------------|---|
| Orange | www.orange.sk | Tel: +421 (0)905 905 905 +421 (0)2 5851 2345 E-mail: info@orange.sk |
| Telefonica O2 | www.sk.o2.com | Tel.: 0800 02 02 02 (within Slovakia) +421 (0)949 949 949 (within Slovakia and from abroad) E-mail: via web form |
| T-Mobile | www.t-mobile.sk | Tel.: +421 (0)903 903 903 E-mail: via web form |

List of mobile network operators

| | Tariff Fair | Tariff 10 EUR | 55 More | Relax 200 | 3G Tariff 250 |
|--|-------------|---|--|-----------|---|
| Installation fee/ Fee for new SIM card/ EUR | 3.49 | 11.00 | 9.92 | 9.92 | 11.00 |
| Monthly fee/ EUR | 0.00 | 10.00 | 15.76 | 39.46 | 55.00 |
| Free minutes | - | - | 55 | 200 | 250 |
| Free text messages | - | - | 20 | 0 | 100 (only to the respective network) |
| Price per minute after using up free minutes/ EUR | 0.13 | 0.20 (first deducted from the initial monthly fee of EUR 10) | Calls to the respective network: 0.315 (working days 8:00 – 18:00) 0.100 (working days 18:00 – 8:00) 0.040 (weekends and holidays) Calls to other networks: 0.395 (working days 7:00 – 19:00) 0.199 (working days 19:00 – 7:00) 0.199 (weekends and holidays) | 0.232 | Call to the respective network and land network: 0.1593 (working days 8:00 – 18:00) 0.0797 (working days 18:00 – 8:00) 0.0797 (weekends and holidays) Calls to other mobile networks: 0.3552 (working days 8:00 – 18:00) 0.1593 (working days 18:00 – 8:00) 0.1593 (weekends and holidays) |
| Price per text message after using up free text messages/ EUR | 0.06 | 0.09 (first deducted from the initial monthly fee of EUR 10) | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.0797 (in the respective network) 0.0996 (in other networks) |
| Free Internet | - | - | - | - | 2000 MB |
| Relax calls | - | - | 110 (free minutes at the weekend, after using up initial 55 free minutes, only to the respective network) | 0 | 500 (free minutes in the working days between 22:00 and 7:00, at the weekends, and holidays, after using up initial 250 free minutes) |

Examples of calling plans

Source:
SARIO
research, 2010

* The prices are only for calls and text messages within the Slovak Republic.

Internet

The Internet is well spread across Slovakia, with several national and regional Internet providers, from which you can purchase the service. They offer Internet packages either with unlimited Internet access or with limited Internet access, usually limited by the number of downloaded megabytes. In each case, you pay a monthly fee which depends mainly on the speed of the connection that you want and it may also depend on the period of your contract with a particular company. If you have unlimited Internet access, you only pay fee for this service. The average price for unlimited Internet access is € 10 – € 40 (speed 2 MB/s – 70 MB/s) per month. In the case of limited access, you have a predetermined number of megabytes that you can download. If you download more, you have to pay for each additional megabyte. The prices for limited access are comparable with the prices for unlimited access; therefore it is advisable to purchase an Internet service with unlimited access.

As with the telephone, you pay monthly for the invoices which can be paid either through your bank account or at the post office. Some companies offer the option to pay for the service for half a year or a year in advance, and a price discount is usually being offered for this kind of payment.

List of the national companies providing an Internet service in Slovakia

| Name | Web | Call Centre |
|--------------|--|---|
| Digi TV | www.digi-tv.sk | Tel: 0850 211 112 (within Slovakia) +421 2 48 48 44 11 E-mail: info@digi-tv.sk |
| GTS Slovakia | www.nextra.sk | Tel: +421 2 322 322 32 E-mail: hotline@gts.sk |
| Orange | www.orange.sk | Tel: +421 (0)905 905 905 +421 2 5851 2345 E-mail: info@orange.sk |
| Slovanet | www.slovanet.sk | Tel.: 0800 608 600 (within Slovakia) +421 2 208 28 111 E-mail: info@slovanet.sk |
| T-Com | www.t-com.sk | Tel: 0800 123 456 (within Slovakia) +421 249 666 777 (from abroad) E-mail: via web form |
| T-mobile | www.t-mobile.sk | Tel: +421 (0)903 903 903 E-mail: via web form |
| UPC | www.upc.sk | Tel.: +421 2 594 22 222 E-mail: post@upc.sk |

Cable and Satellite Television

You can watch over 80 television channels, if you decide to purchase cable or satellite television. Cable and satellite television companies offer various packages of various prices, numbers of channels and thematic contents. Some companies also offer single-theme packages, for example news packages, sports packages, film packages, etc. This means that you can only purchase a package according to your choice but cannot choose the TV channels yourself. The more television channels the package has and the more varied they are, the more expensive the package is.

The television stations offered in the packages are mostly European but there are also some international channels on offer. The thematic contents of the TV channels are: general; films; documentary; sports; for children; music.



List of the national companies providing cable TV in Slovakia

| Name | Web | Call Centre |
|--------|---------------|---|
| Orange | www.orange.sk | Tel: +421 (0)905 905 905 +421 (0)2 5851 2345 E-mail: info@orange.sk |
| T-Com | www.t-com.sk | Tel: 0800 123 456 (within Slovakia) +421 249 666 777 (from abroad) E-mail: via web form |
| UPC | www.upc.sk | Tel: +421 (0)2 594 22 222 E-mail: post@upc.sk |

Examples of cable television packages

| | Entry | Basic | Exclusive |
|--------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|
| Monthly Fee/ EUR | 12 | 20 | 44 |
| No. of TV channels | 14 | more than 50 | more than 80 |

List of the national companies providing satellite TV in Slovakia

| Name | Web | Call Centre |
|---------|----------------|--|
| Digi TV | www.digi-tv.sk | Tel: 0850 211 112 (within Slovakia) +421 2 48 48 44 11 (from abroad) E-mail: info@digi-tv.sk |
| Skylink | www.skylink.sk | Tel: +421 (0)2 4922 0354 E-mail: skylink@skylink.sk |
| UPC | www.upc.sk | Tel.: +421 (0)2 594 22 222 E-mail: post@upc.sk |

Examples of satellite television packages

| | Basic | HBO Pak | HBO Max Pak |
|--|-------|---------|-------------|
| Monthly Fee/ EUR (when signing up for one year) | 9.60 | 7.90 | 10.20 |
| No. of TV channels | 57 | 3 | 4 |

* HBO Pak (only TV channels HBO, HBO 2, HBO Comedy)
HBO Max Pak (only TV channels HBO, HBO 2, HBO Comedy, Cinemax)



Image:
The Kamzík TV Tower,
Bratislava

Postal Service

The main and the biggest provider of a postal service in Slovakia is Slovenská Pošta (the Slovak Post), which is a state-owned company. There are also several private companies providing postal services in Slovakia, such as UPS, TNT Express and Ten Express.

Slovenská Pošta (the Slovak Post)

You can find offices of the Slovenská Pošta in each city and in some villages. Sometimes, usually in small villages, the post office is at the municipal office or in shops. The opening hours vary from place to place, but they are generally as follows:

Towns: 8:00 – 18:00 Monday – Friday
(Some post offices open at 7:00, some close earlier than 18:00, 16:00 – 17:30, some close later, 18:30 - 20:00.)

Villages: 8:00 – 14:30 Monday – Friday
(Some post offices open at 7:30, some close at 15:00.)

Slovenská Pošta provides delivery of letters and packages within Slovakia and internationally. There are two classes of both letters and packages. The difference between them is in the price and time of delivery. In Slovakia, a first-class letter is delivered the day after it is sent, while a second-class letter is delivered within two days of being sent. A first-class package is delivered within two days of being sent while a second-class package is delivered within three days of being sent. Letters to Europe and beyond, which are sent first-class, are delivered in fewer days than second-class letters. The exact number of days depends on the specific location.

It is possible to send an unregistered letter, a registered letter, and a registered letter to

be specially delivered in person to the addressee. It is also possible to insure letters up to € 30, € 250, and € 500 if the delivery is within Slovakia and up to € 100, € 500 and € 1000 if the delivery is outside of Slovakia. Packages are always registered and there is also an option to insure them: up to € 30, € 250, and € 500 if the delivery is within Slovakia and up to € 100, € 500 and € 1000 if the delivery is outside of Slovakia.

You may send a letter or a package at each post office. It is also possible to send a letter via mailboxes located for this purpose in public places. In this case, you have to first buy a postage stamp of the right value at a post office or kiosk.

Receiving letters and packages

Unregistered letters are simply placed in your mailbox. Registered letters and packages must be brought to your household and someone from your household has to sign for its receipt. If nobody is at home when the postman/postwoman delivers, he/she will leave a note in your mailbox about the delivery. This usually says that you have 18 days in which someone from your household has to go to the post office in your district to pick it up. If this period is shorter, the exact date is then written on the note. If nobody picks up the delivery by that time, it is returned to the sender.

It is also possible to authorize someone to pick up the deliveries from the post office for you. To use this option, you first have to fill in a form at the post office to authorize the person.

Costs

The cost of a letter or a package depends mainly on its class, type, weight, and whether it is being sent abroad, and if so, to which country.

| Web | Contact | Headquarters |
|---|--|---|
| Slovenská pošta www.posta.sk | Tel.: 0800 122 413 (within Slovakia) +421 (0)48 437 87 77 (from abroad) E-mail: zakaznickyservis@slposta.sk | Partizánska cesta 9 975 99 Banská Bystrica |

Example of prices

| | Unregistered/ EUR | | Registered/ EUR | | Insured up to € 30/ EUR | | Insured up to € 250 / EUR |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| | 1 st class | 2 nd class | 1 st class | 2 nd class | 1 st class | 2 nd class | 1 st class only |
| 50 g | 0.60 | 0.40 | 1.20 | 1.00 | 1.40 | 1.20 | 1.70 |
| 100 g | 0.70 | 0.50 | 1.30 | 1.10 | 1.50 | 1.30 | 1.80 |
| 500 g | 0.80 | 0.60 | 1.40 | 1.20 | 1.60 | 1.40 | 1.90 |

Letters
- Slovakia

| | Unregistered/ EUR | | Registered/ EUR | | Insured up to € 100 / EUR | | Insured up to € 500 / EUR |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| | 1 st class | 2 nd class | 1 st class | 2 nd class | 1 st class | 2 nd class | 1 st class only |
| Europe | | | | | | | |
| 50 g | 1.00 | 0.90 | 2.30 | 2.20 | 2.80 | 2.70 | 4.80 |
| 100 g | 1.60 | 1.40 | 2.90 | 2.70 | 3.40 | 3.20 | 5.40 |
| 500 g | 4.20 | 2.80 | 5.50 | 4.10 | 6.00 | 4.60 | 8.00 |
| Other world countries | | | | | | | |
| 50 g | 1.20 | 1.00 | 2.50 | 2.30 | 3.00 | 2.80 | 5.00 |
| 100 g | 2.00 | 1.80 | 3.30 | 3.10 | 3.80 | 3.60 | 5.80 |
| 500 g | 6.00 | 5.00 | 7.30 | 6.30 | 7.80 | 6.80 | 9.80 |

Letters
- international

| | Registered/ EUR | | Insured up to € 30 / EUR | | Insured up to € 250 / EUR |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| | 1 st class | 2 nd class | 1 st class | 2 nd class | 1 st class only |
| 2 kg | 2.80 | 2.20 | 2.10 | 1.90 | 2.40 |
| 5 kg | 3.20 | 2.50 | 3.10 | 2.50 | 3.40 |
| 10 kg | 4.00 | 3.00 | 3.50 | 2.80 | 3.80 |

Packages -
Slovakia

| | Registered/ EUR | | Insured up to € 100 | | Insured up to € 500 / EUR |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| | 1 st class | 2 nd class | 1 st class | 2 nd class | 1 st class only |
| Europe | | | | | |
| 1 kg | 17.00 | 16.00 | 17.50 | 16.50 | 19.50 |
| 3 kg | 21.50 | 20.50 | 22.00 | 21.00 | 24.00 |
| 5 kg | 26.00 | 25.00 | 26.50 | 25.50 | 28.50 |
| Other world countries | | | | | |
| 1 kg | 17.50 | 16.50 | 18.00 | 17.00 | 20.00 |
| 3 kg | 31.00 | 25.50 | 31.50 | 26.00 | 33.50 |
| 5 kg | 45.00 | 35.50 | 45.50 | 36.00 | 47.50 |

Packages -
international

Paying invoices

It is also possible to pay invoices at Slovenská Pošta through cheques. If you receive your invoice with an attached cheque, you may opt for cheque-payment at the nearest post-office. Generally, you have to pay your cheque using cash, however, there are post-offices that accept debit or credit cards.

The cheque contains due amount, payee and payer's details (name and surname, address, and payee's bank account number). The standard cheque is composed of a part that is kept by the post office and of one or two coupons that the payer keeps as a receipt of payment.

A cheque with one coupon

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| POŠTOVÝ PEŇAŽNÝ POUKAZ U PODACI LÍSTOK € Piaťte iba na pošte POD. ČÍS. | | | OKR. PEČ. POD. ČÍS. | | | POŠTOVÝ PEŇAŽNÝ POUKAZ U R SUMA EUR cent K. SL. K. PROD. PREDČÍSLE ÚČTU ČÍSLO ÚČTU KOD BANKY KONŠT. SYMBOĽ VARIABILNÝ SYMBOĽ | | |
| PODACIE ZNAKY KOD SLUŽBY SAZBA KOD PRIOD. | | | PODACIE ZNAKY SUMA SLOVOM EUR cent | | | | | |
| SUMA EUR cent ČÍSLO ÚČTU KOD BANKY VARIABILNÝ SYMBOĽ ŠPECIFICKÝ SYMBOĽ ADRESAT | | | ADRESAT K. SPRAC. REFERENČNÉ ČÍSLO ŠPECIFICKÝ SYMBOĽ SPRÁVA PRE ADRESÁTA | | | MENO ODOBIELATEĽ (VYPLŇTE PALČÍKOVÝM PÍSMOM) PŘEZVÍSKO ULICA/OBEC ČÍSLO PSC DODÁVACIA POŠTA | | |
| ODOBIELATEĽ | | | CITACIA ZÓNA - NEVPIŠTE ŽADNE ÚDAJE! | | | | | |

Coupon

Part kept by the Post Office

A cheque with two coupons

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| POŠTOVÝ PEŇAŽNÝ POUKAZ U PODACI LÍSTOK € Piaťte iba na pošte POD. ČÍS. | | | POŠTOVÝ PEŇAŽNÝ POUKAZ U PODACI LÍSTOK € Piaťte iba na pošte POD. ČÍS. | | | POŠTOVÝ PEŇAŽNÝ POUKAZ U R SUMA EUR cent K. SL. K. PROD. PREDČÍSLE ÚČTU ČÍSLO ÚČTU KOD BANKY KONŠT. SYMBOĽ VARIABILNÝ SYMBOĽ | | |
| PODACIE ZNAKY KOD SLUŽBY SAZBA KOD PRIOD. | | | PODACIE ZNAKY KOD SLUŽBY SAZBA KOD PRIOD. | | | PODACIE ZNAKY SUMA SLOVOM EUR cent | | |
| SUMA EUR cent ČÍSLO ÚČTU KOD BANKY VARIABILNÝ SYMBOĽ ŠPECIFICKÝ SYMBOĽ ADRESAT | | | SUMA EUR cent ČÍSLO ÚČTU KOD BANKY VARIABILNÝ SYMBOĽ ŠPECIFICKÝ SYMBOĽ ADRESAT | | | ADRESAT K. SPRAC. REFERENČNÉ ČÍSLO ŠPECIFICKÝ SYMBOĽ SPRÁVA PRE ADRESÁTA | | |
| ODOBIELATEĽ | | | ODOBIELATEĽ | | | CITACIA ZÓNA - NEVPIŠTE ŽADNE ÚDAJE! | | |

Coupon

Coupon

Part kept by the Post Office

You have to fill in the part kept by the post office as well as the coupon(s). When you pay, the post office keeps its part and stamps the coupon(s), which you keep as a receipt of payment.

3.4 Education

General information

The Slovak education system consists of three main educational levels:

- primary (elementary)
- secondary (secondary)
- tertiary (university) education.

Before starting school, children may attend pre-school.

Schools in Slovakia are:

- public
- private
- church

You may choose a school for your child from any of these categories. The teaching language at public schools is Slovak, as it is at private and church schools. There are also some bilingual public, private, and church schools where the teaching languages are both Slovak and a foreign language (usually English), as well as private international schools where the teaching language is only a foreign language (mainly English, but also sometimes German or French or other language).

Elementary education

Children in Slovakia begin to attend school when they are 6 years old. Elementary education lasts nine years and is compulsory for Slovak citizens. It is divided into two levels: the first level of elementary education comprises grades 1 – 4, the second level, grades 5 – 9.

School usually begins, when a child is 6 years old. Children generally finish their elementary education at the age of 15. In the first level of education children gain basic knowledge.

Secondary education

There are three kinds of secondary education:

- **general secondary education**
 - it lasts 4 years
 - students study at a gymnázium (grammar school), where they get general education and are prepared for further university study
- **vocational secondary education**
 - it is divided into:
 - lower - lasting 2 years,
 - middle - lasting 3-4 years
 - full - lasting 4-5 years
 - students study a certain profession
- **artistic secondary education**
 - it lasts 6 years
 - students study at conservatories
 - students study arts

Students finish their general secondary education, full professional secondary education, and artistic secondary education with matura (school leaving exam). To pass the school leaving exam is the condition for acceptance to any university. Students of lower and middle secondary education finish their studies with a certificate.

Higher professional education

Higher professional education is considered higher than secondary education but is not an equivalent to tertiary education. Students get a higher qualification enabling them to do a specific profession.

University education

In Slovakia, there is a credit system of education, which is compatible with the tertiary education system in the European Union. For each subject a student gets a certain number of credits. To obtain certain degree, the student must obtain the minimum required total sum of credits for obtaining specific degree. The sum of credits for one academic year is 60.

University education offers three different degrees:

- **Bachelor's degree** - lasting 3 years (180 credits) – 4 years (240 credits)
- **Master's degree** - lasting 2 more years (120 credits) – 3 years (180 credits)
- **PhD degree** - lasting 3 years (180 credits) – 4 years (240 credits) for full-time study and 5 years for part-time study (the number of credits is the same as for full-time study of the same programme)

There are 20 public, 3 state, and 10 private universities in Slovakia, which teach students in technical, scientific, economic, social, law, pedagogical, health, artistic, and other disciplines. It is possible to study at university as a full-time or part-time student.

Entry requirements, costs and schedule

Elementary schools

Registration to an elementary school takes place during the period from 15 January to 15 February, the school year beginning in September of the very same year (however, it is the next school year). You have a free choice of school for your child. If the school is in the district you live in, it has to accept your child. A school outside of your district has the option of accepting him/her or not (it usually depends on the number of pupils it has already accepted).

Elementary education at public schools is free of charge for Slovak citizens as well as for children of foreigners who have a permanent or temporary residence permit in Slovakia. If you wish to register your child at a Slovak public school or private school, where lessons are taught in Slovak, your child has to be able to speak and understand the language. This will be tested through a language test.

If you wish to register your child at an elementary school, you will need a copy of his/her birth certificate officially translated into Slovak language, his/her residence permit as well as your residence permit and passport. Some schools also require a medical confirmation of the child's good health.

If the child has already attended an elementary school(s) abroad and you wish to register him/her for a higher grade, you will also need confirmation from the previous school(s) about his/her attendance as well as his/her school reports. These documents need to be officially translated into Slovak. Your child will then undergo an examination in which his/her knowledge will be tested and he/she will be placed at a level of education appropriate to his/her results.

Secondary schools

Secondary education at public schools is also free of charge for Slovak citizens as well as for children of foreigners who have a permanent or temporary residence permit in Slovakia. You can decide what type of secondary education your child should receive. If you wish to register your child at a Slovak public school or private school where lessons are taught in Slovak, your child has to be able to speak and understand the language. This will be tested through a language test.

You have a free choice of school. However, secondary education (general secondary education, full vocational secondary education, artistic secondary education) schools usually have entrance examinations with the criteria for entry being the results from primary education as well as results from these exams. The exams for the school year that begins in September take place in May of the same year (however, the previous school year) and the deadline for applying for them is in April. The results are known within three days of the examination. It is possible to apply to several schools but a student may register at one school only (if the student is accepted by more than one school). The registration date is determined by the schools and it is usually in June or in August.

To apply to a secondary school, the prospective student needs to fill out the application form and also attach the following documents to it: his/her previous school's report in Slovak or officially translated into Slovak, his/her birth certificate officially translated into Slovak language and his/her passport and residence permit as well as your residence permit and passport.

If the child has already attended a secondary school(s) abroad and you wish to register him/her for a higher grade, you will also need confirmation from the previous school(s) about his/her attendance and his/her school reports. These documents need to be officially translated into Slovak. Your child will then take an examination in which his/her knowledge will be tested and he/she will then be placed at the level of education appropriate to his/her results.

Universities

One full tertiary education at public universities is free for Slovak citizens, which means one Bachelor's degree, one Master's degree, and one PhD degree. It is possible to study as either a full-time or a part-time student.

A prospective student can apply for any university and any programme he/she likes and also he/she may apply to more than one university. The deadline for applications is usually the end of February. You have to pay for each application, the fee being from € 15 to € 30 (depending on the respective university). The prospective student has to attach his/her previous school reports to the application or write down his/her grades in the application form and have it confirmed by the secondary school. Most universities hold entrance examinations, which take place in June. The results of the entrance examinations are also published in June.

The registration to university takes place in September. It is possible to register at more than one university or at more than one faculty (two study programmes) at a university, but only one study programme is free of charge in Slovakia.

Schedule and subjects

Elementary and secondary schools

The exact start of the classes depends on the school. The first class usually starts between 7:30 and 8:00. On average, in the first grade of education, pupils have four lessons a day. In higher grades, they have five to seven lessons a day. One lesson at Slovak schools lasts 45 minutes. Between lessons there is a 5 or 10-minute break. During lunch time there is a longer, usually 30-minute break. This means that lessons in the first grade finish at around 11:30 – 12:00, and in higher grades between 13:00 and 14:30.

After the classes are finished, schools provide the service of *družina* (after-school programme). Your child can stay in the school with other children, the group of children being taken care of by a pedagogical employee. This service usually works until 16:00 – 17:00.

Schools and centres of free time for children also offer after-school activities. For a fee of € 20 - € 36 for a whole year (on average, depending mainly on the chosen activity), your child can attend sports, artistic, educational, or IT after-school activities.

Most subjects in Slovak schools are compulsory, school curriculum being unified on a national level for all students of the same type of school. Nevertheless, there is a chance to modify your list of subjects in higher grades by choosing several elective subjects as well as choosing to do (or not to do) some of the after-school activities.

Universities

One lecture or seminar at Slovak university usually lasts 90 minutes. Between the lectures or seminars there is at least a 10-minute break.

For full-time students, lectures and seminars take place from Monday to Friday. The beginning of the first class of the day is at 7:30, the end of the last one at 20:00. The exact number of classes during the day, their start, end, and their schedule depend mainly on your school and your subject of study.

For part-time students, lectures and seminars usually take place on Friday evening and on Saturdays. Some faculties also have lectures and seminars on Thursday evenings.

Most subjects in Slovak universities are compulsory, some are compulsory electives (you get a list of subjects from which you must choose) and some are electives (you can choose any subject that you like).



International schools and pre-school facilities

There are several schooling options available for the children of expatriates living in Slovakia. International schools and pre-school facilities (nursery, kindergarten, preparation year for school) are mainly concentrated in Bratislava. The yearly fees are from € 3,700 to € 8,000 for pre-school facilities and from € 3,700 to € 13,000 for schools. The yearly fee depends on the respective school and on the level of education.

| Name | Type | Language of teaching |
|--|---|---|
| Brilliant Stars Intl. Kindergarten | Kindergarten (age 2 – 6 years old) | English |
| Unity House International Montessori Kindergarten | Kindergarten (age 2 – 6 years old) | English |
| Wonderland | Nursery school (age 18 months - 2 years old) Kindergarten (age 2 – 6 years old) Pre-school (age 5 – 6 years old) Elementary school - 1 st grade currently open - 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th grade will be opened by 2010/2011 (age 6 – 10 years old) - 5 th - 9 th grade will be opened in the future | English German (only nursery school and kindergarten) |
| British International School Bratislava | Infant school - nursery and reception (age 2.5 – 5 years old) - Year 1 and 2 (age 5 – 7 years old) Primary school - Year 3 to 6 (age 7 – 11 years old) Senior school - Year 7 to 9 (age 11 – 14 years old) - Year 10 and 11 (age 14 – 16 years old) - Year 12 and 13 (age 16 – 18 years old) | English |
| Forel International School | Kindergarten (age 3 – 5 years old) Preparatory grade (age 5 – 6 years old) Elementary school - 4 grades (age 6 – 10 years old) Gymnasium (Grammar school) - 8 grades (age 10 – 18 years old) | English |
| | Preparatory year (age 5 – 6 years old) Elementary school - 4 grades (age 6 – 10 years old) | |
| Galileo School | Kindergarten (age 2 – 6 years old) Elementary school - 9 grades (age 6 – 15 years old) | English |
| | Kindergarten (age 2 – 6 years old) Elementary school - 5 grades (age 6 – 11 years old) | |

| Address | | Contact | Web |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----|
| Vavilovova 18 Bratislava | Tel.: +421 (0)2 6241 4292 Mobile: +421 (0)910 975104 E-mail: office@brilliantstars.sk | www.brilliantstars.sk | |
| Vlárska 25 Bratislava | Mobile: +421 (0)911 809 193 E-mail: info@unity-house.sk | www.unity-house.sk | |
| Bazovského 2 Bratislava | Mobile: +421 (0)903 828 530 +421 (0)948 828 530 +421 (0)903 729 024 E-mail: wonderland@wonderland.sk sona@wonderland.sk sona.halaszova@wonderland.sk | www.wonderland.sk | |
| Peknikova 6 Bratislava | Tel.: +421 (0)2 6930 7081 Mobile: +421 (0)918 710 719 E-mail: info@bisb.sk office@bisb.sk | www.bisb.sk | |
| Kremelská 2 Bratislava | Tel.: +421 (0)2 65 45 91 26 E-mail: office@forel.sk | www.forel.sk | |
| Mozartova 10 Trnava | Mobile: 00421 (0)918 847 119 E-mail: forel@forel.sk | | |
| Dudvážska 6 Bratislava | Tel: +421 (0)2 45981928 Mobile: +421 (0)905 351 775 +421 (0)905 712 546 +421 (0)905 448 072 E-mail: info@galileoschool.sk | www.galileoschool.sk | |
| Turgenevova 38 Košice | Mobile: +421 (0)917 616 652 +421 (0)905 712 546 +421 (0)905 448 072 E-mail: info@galileoschool.sk | | |

Source:
SARIO
research, 2009;
respective web
pages of the
international
schools and
pre-school
facilities, 2009

| Name | Type | Language of teaching |
|--|---|----------------------|
| QSI International School | Preparatory grade - 3 grades (age 2 – 5 years old) Elementary school - 6 grades (age 6 – 11 years old) Middle school - 2 grades (age 12 – 13 years old) High school - 4 grades (age 14 – 18 years old) | English |
| | Preparatory grade (age 3 – 4 years old) Elementary school - 9 grades (age 5 – 15 years old) Secondary school - 4 grades (age 15 – 19 years old) | |
| Deutsch-Slowakische Begegnungsschule (Deutsche schule) | Kindergarten (age 3 – 5 years old) Preparatory grade (age 5 – 6 years old) Elementary school - 4 grades (age 6 – 10 years old) Gymnasium - 1 grade (age 11 – 13 years old) | German |
| French School of Bratislava | Kindergarten (age* 3 – 5 years old) Elementary school - 9 grades (age* 6 – 14 years old) *age given at time when entering this level of education | French |

You also have the option of looking for the right school for your child in Vienna, Austria's capital, which is only a one-hour drive from Bratislava.

Admission

The admission procedure is similar at all schools. You can register your child at the respective school anytime during the current school year as well as a year in advance. Each school has its own deadlines; some schools also offer the possibility to apply during the running school year.

First of all you should contact the school and arrange an appointment with the Admissions Officer. If you decide to register your child with the school, you should fill in the application form. Upon receipt of the application form, you should pay a non-refundable registration fee. During the

registration, you will arrange with the school settlement of the school fees and also possible instalments details. The school fees have to be paid in advance and they are usually paid for a 3-month period, half-year period, or whole year period. Some schools also allow 1-month instalments. During the registration, you should provide the following documents: a copy of your child's birth certificate, your residence permit and passport, and a medical confirmation of the child's health. If applicable, you should also provide the school with the previous school reports of your child.

| Address | Contact | Web |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Karloveska 64 Bratislava | Tel.: +421 (0)2 6542 2844 E-mail: office2@svk.qsi.org | www.qsi.org |
| Nam.L.Novomeskeho 2 Košice | Tel.: +421 (0)55 6250040 E-mail: kosice@qsi.org | |
| Palisády 51 Bratislava | Tel.: +421 (0)2 5463 0267 (schol) +421 (0)2 5463 0269 (kindergarten) E-mail: info@deutscheschule.sk sekretariat@deutscheschule.sk | www.deutscheschule.sk |
| Cádova 23 831 01 Bratislava | Tel: +421 (0)905 944 663 E-mail: direction.efba@gmail.com | www.ecolefrancaise.sk |

Language courses

Language schools

Especially in larger towns, there are language schools which offer language courses in various languages. The most popular are English, German, Spanish, French, Italian, Russian, and Slovak for foreigners.

A lesson usually lasts two teaching hours (2 x 45 minutes). However, there are also longer lessons, for example 3 x or 4 x 45 minutes. There are usually two lessons weekly, though the course may be less or more intensive. The length of one course is usually three months and its price is calculated as the price per one lesson multiplied by the number of lessons in the course. The price per lesson depends mainly on the language school's prestige and the number of students in the class. The average price varies from € 5 to € 8 for a 90-minute lesson.

A list of language schools can be found in the Directory of the Slovak Spectator – www.greenpages.spectator.sk

Private lessons

Alternative to the language school is to find a private language teacher. They are usually students or teachers of the respective language and teach private lessons to earn some extra money. The average price per one teaching lesson (usually 60 minutes) is from € 7 to € 10. Please note that the price is determined by the private teacher himself/herself, thus the higher price does not necessarily have to mean higher quality.

You will find a private language teacher through an advertisement – in newspapers, online, at universities, and public notice boards. You can also post an advertisement yourself that you are looking for a language teacher.

3.5 Health care and health insurance

Health insurance

Public health insurance

In Slovakia, there is a system of health insurance and public health care provision. This means that everyone has a right to be insured and everyone has to be insured. This is also true for foreigners living in Slovakia who:

1. are working in Slovakia
2. are entrepreneurs in Slovakia
3. have permanent residence in Slovakia

There is one state-owned health insurance institution in Slovakia:

| Name | Web page | Call Centre contact |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Všeobecná zdravotná poisťovňa | www.vszp.sk | Tel.: 0850 003 003 (within Slovakia) +421 2 2081 7003 (from abroad) E-mail: infolinka@vszp.sk |

There are two private health insurance institutions in Slovakia:

| Name | Web page | Call Centre contact |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Dôvera zdravotná poisťovňa | www.dovera.sk | Tel.: 0800 150 150 (within Slovakia) +421 3777 22278 (from abroad) E-mail: info@dovera.sk |
| Union poisťovňa | www.union.sk | Tel.: 0850 111 211 (within Slovakia) +421 2 2081 1811 (from abroad) E-mail: union.direct@union.sk |

Obtaining health insurance

Foreigner working or doing business in Slovakia

Process

You are free to choose your health insurance institution.

Source: Eures, europa.eu.int/eures, 2009

You are required to register with your local health insurance institution within eight days of the start of your employment. You can fill out an application form either in person or send it by mail (in this case the date of postage is the date of your application). The following documents are also required for signing a health insurance contract: a copy of your permanent residence permit or foreigner's ID card and a copy of your employment contract or trade licence. If you have been assigned a personal identification number, this is also required.

At the end of your employment or self-employment in Slovakia, you are also required to terminate your registration within eight days. This registration or deregistration is also required if you are not a holder of a permanent resident status in Slovakia but are working for an employer with a registered office in Slovakia.

All employees must be insured with a health insurance institution, which then issues them with a registration number and a health insurance policy (HIP) card for use on every visit to or by a doctor. The health insurance institution is required to deliver the HIP card within seven days of receiving an application for the card.

Your health insurance organisation is obliged to cover the cost of emergency medical treatment in other EU member states. Bear in mind that medical care costs differ from country to country.

Contributions

- If you work in Slovakia, your employer has to pay health care contributions for you. The health care contributions are linked to your salary. In Slovakia, an employer pays for his/her employee social contributions of 35.2% (on top of the salary), of which 10% is for health insurance. Additionally, an employee pays for himself/herself social contributions of 14% from his/her salary, of which 4% is for health insurance.
- If you are self-employed, you pay your own contributions. To put it simply, you pay 14% of your salary. Firstly you pay something like a prepayment, which was a minimum of € 41.37 (equal to 14% of minimum salary of € 295.50 per month in 2009) and a maximum of € 280.86 (equal to 14% of the maximum limit of € 2006.86 per month in 2009) in 2009. Then you have to make an annual account and if the health insurance institution finds out that you have paid more than you should have done, you will be refunded the difference. If you have paid less, however, you will have to pay the difference.
- If you are an employer yourself, you have to pay health care contributions both for your employees and yourself. Simply said, you combine the above-mentioned methods of payment.

There is a limit placed on the maximum salary from which health care contributions are deducted, which was € 2006.17 per month in 2009. This means that anything earned above this amount is not subject to social contributions.

E 106 Form – only for citizens of EU member states

If you are insured with a Slovak health insurance organisation because your employment is in Slovakia, but you live in another member state (normally a neighbouring country) and regularly return to Slovakia at least once a week, you should ask your Slovak health insurance organisation for E 106 form. You should take this form to the local health insurance organisation in your place of residence for registration. On the basis of this E 106 form, you are then entitled to have your medical costs in your place of residence covered by the Slovak health insurance organisation, as are your dependants. As a cross-border worker you are, of course, also entitled to full medical care in Slovakia. If you work in another member state and return regularly at least once a week to Slovakia, you should contact the health insurance organisation in the country where you are employed and ask for E 106 form. Take this form to a Slovak health insurance organisation and register as soon as possible. On the basis of this form, the health insurance organisation will issue you with an HIP card with an EU symbol which will entitle you to obtain full medical care in Slovakia. Medical care costs are covered by the health insurance organisation in the country where you are insured as an employee. If your dependants live in Slovakia, submit a marriage certificate and birth certificates with the E 106 form for your dependants to be registered together with you.

This regulation is valid only for foreigners who are citizens of EU member states.

Source: Eures,
[europa.eu.int/
eures](http://europa.eu.int/eures), 2009

Non-working permanent resident in Slovakia

Process

Foreigners who are not working in Slovakia but have a permanent residence permit in Slovakia are also entitled to public health insurance. You are free to choose your health insurance institution.

You are required to register with your local health insurance institution within eight days of receiving your residence permit. You can fill out the application form either in person or send it by mail (in this case the date of postage is the date of your application). The following documents are also required for signing a health insurance contract: a copy of a permanent residence permit or foreigner's ID card and a copy of a foreigner's registration at the police department. If you have been assigned a personal identification number, this is also required.

You will be issued a registration number and a health insurance policy (HIP) card for use on every visit to or by a doctor. The health insurance institution is required to deliver the HIP card within seven days of the day of receiving an application for the card.

Your health insurance organisation is obliged to cover the cost of emergency medical treatment in other EU member states. Bear in mind that medical care costs vary from country to country.

Contributions

Health insurance contributions of foreigners with permanent residence in Slovakia but not working here are either paid by the state or by the foreigners themselves.

- **When the state pays the contributions:**

Health insurance contributions for children aged up to 18 and university students of up to 26 years old are paid for by the state. The state also pays the contributions for involuntarily unemployed persons (persons who are registered with the Slovak Labour Office and are actively searching for work).

- **When you have to pay contributions yourself:**

Voluntarily unemployed persons (persons who are not registered with the Slovak Labour Office and are not actively searching for work) have to pay the health insurance contributions monthly themselves. The amount of the contribution depends on the minimum salary in Slovakia and in 2009 was € 26.76 monthly.

Commercial health insurance

A foreigner without a permanent residence permit who is not working or doing business in Slovakia will be unable to get public health insurance. In this case, one option is to obtain appropriate insurance in his/her home country to cover any medical expenses during his/her stay in Slovakia. The other possibility is to obtain commercial health insurance in Slovakia.

Please note that you have to submit a document confirming your health insurance coverage during your stay in Slovakia within 30 days of receiving a temporary residence permit or entering Slovakia (see subchapter 2.4 Settling in Slovakia - A citizen from the third country - other than an EEA member state - Conditions and procedure).



Commercial health insurance in Slovakia

At present, commercial health insurance is offered only by one insurance company in Slovakia – Union poisťovňa. Commercial health insurance from Union poisťovňa covers:

- ambulatory health care;
- a general practitioner for children, teenagers and adults;
- a gynaecologist and other specialists;
- hospital health care;
- doctor's first aid and emergency health treatment;
- costs of prescription drugs and medical aids;
- special care for pregnant women and newborn children;
- urgent dental care (please note that it does not cover any other dental care);
- preventive health checks and rehabilitation programmes (to the same extent as Slovak citizens covered by public health care insurance).

Union covers health care expenses up to € 33,200 per insurance period.

| | Web | Contact | Headquarters |
|-----------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Union poisťovňa | www.union.sk | Tel.: 0850 111 211 (within Slovakia) +421 (0)2 081 1811 (from abroad) +421 (0)911 329 589 (direct to the section of commercial health insurance) + 421 (0)903 416 938 (direct to the section of commercial health insurance) E-mail: union.direct@union.sk | Bajkalská 29/A 813 60 Bratislava |

Process

If you are interested in commercial health insurance, contact the health insurance company. They will send you a questionnaire which you then have to fill out, sign, and return to them – either in person or by mail. In both cases, you have to provide the company with a copy of your passport. Parents fill out and sign the questionnaire for their children. In the questionnaire, you have to inform the company about the purpose of your (or your child's) stay and your (or your child's) state of health. At this point, the questionnaire does not commit you in any way and filling it out is free of charge. However, please note that you have to fill it out correctly and completely, because the length of the process of insuring yourself (or your child) depends on how well the questionnaire is completed. Also, if you decide to accept the insurance offer, the questionnaire becomes a part of the insurance contract.

After the company gets your completed questionnaire back, they send you their insurance quote. The quote depends on the purpose of your stay, on your state of health, on your age and on the length of your insurance. If you accept the quote you have to pay the respective amount for the whole length of your insurance coverage to the insurance company. Your questionnaire, which was not committing until now, is committing from this moment – it will be a part of your insurance contract. Therefore, all the data in it has to be correct.

You have to pay the full amount for the insurance period at once and in advance. After the company gets the money, they will issue you a signed contract and a Certificate of Confirmation of Health Insurance necessary for the police.

The length of this process is very short and depends largely on you – how well and completely you fill out the questionnaire. If there are no problems with the questionnaire, the whole process may take only one day.

If you decide to renew your contract, you can do so any time you want.

If a person decides to terminate his/her contract, the company does not give him/her the money for the unused period of insurance back unless:

- he/she enters the public health care insurance system in Slovakia;
- he/she dies.

In both of these cases the person gets the aliquot amount back.

Please note that the insurance company does not have an obligation to insure you.

Contributions

The costs have to be paid all at one time and in advance for the whole period of your insurance.

The cost of the insurance depends on:

- the purpose of the stay (joining family member, working mission, tourism);
- state of health (the worse a person's state of health, the more expensive the insurance);
- age (the older the person, the more expensive the insurance).

Please note that if you decide to insure yourself for a longer period, the price of the insurance per day is cheaper after 364 days of insurance (the 365th day of insurance will be cheaper than the 364th day).

| Health condition | Purpose of residence | Age | Cost / Year |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------|-------------|
| healthy | joining family member | 0 - 15 | € 333 |
| healthy | joining family member | 15 - 30 | € 470 |
| healthy | joining family member | 30 - 45 | € 616 |
| healthy | working mission | 30 - 45 | € 653 |
| healthy | joining family member | 45 - 60 | € 704 |

Example of costs

*Source:
Union
poistovnía,
www.union.sk,
2009*

The conditions are specific for each case, especially for people who are not in good health. Special conditions also apply for pregnant women. For detailed information please contact the company.

Costs

Health care contributions cover the major part of health care costs. However, for some medical services you have to pay partial or full costs. This depends on compensation from your health insurance institution. The same is true for medication. For specific details you have to contact your health care insurance institution.

Providers

Health care services are provided by public (state and regional) and private health care providers. The main difference between the two is in the cost: for example, you do not pay for a visit to a doctor unless it is a visit to an emergency unit, which costs € 2, but you usually have to pay for a visit to a private doctor (€ 10 on average). The difference is usually in the quality of service, e.g. the length of the waiting period in the waiting-room, language knowledge, etc.

General practitioners and specialists

Primary (general) health care and initial examinations are provided by general practitioners for all adults or children. If you need to be examined by a specialist, you first need to go for an examination to the general practitioner, who then provides you with a referral to a specialist for further examination or treatment. A referral is not necessary if you visit a specialist within 24 hours of being injured or if your condition has seriously changed. You also do not need a referral for a visit to a stomatologist, optician or gynaecologist.

Free choice of provider

You have a free choice of health care provider (doctor). However, please note that the provider should have an agreement with your insurance company. You can ask your insurance institution to provide you with the list of providers who have signed an agreement with that insurance institution. If you are insured commercially (you do not belong to the public health care insurance system), the insurance company will give you a list of doctors you can choose from automatically based on your contract. Providers also usually display the list of the insurance companies with whom they have an agreement. If the provider does not have an agreement with your insurance institution, the insurance institution does not have to contribute to the treatment. If you would like to undergo treatment at a provider who does not have an agreement with your insurance institution and would like the institution to contribute to the treatment, you have to send a request to the insurance institution in advance. They will inform you about whether they will contribute and if so, to what amount.

Please note that although you have a free choice of provider, only the provider in whose district you live has an obligation to accept you. Providers usually refuse new patients only if they are at full capacity. If you register with a health care provider and decide to change him/her, you can do so only after a minimum of six months.

The list of medical facilities

The list of providers can be found on the web page Zoznam zdravotníckych zariadení (the List of Health Facilities) - www.zzz.sk, where you can also find out whether the provider speaks a foreign language. Please note that this web page is currently available only in Slovak.

Working hours

Doctors have usually four hours a day designated for their patients- in the time period from 8:00 to 18:00, the exact hours varying from doctor to doctor. Public doctors do not order patients to come at a specific time, patients have to come and wait in the waiting room for their turn, however, an acute condition is always given precedence. For an extra fee of € 5 – € 7 on average, it is possible to make an appointment at a specific time or outside of standard working hours.

In the case of an emergency outside a doctor's working hours, there are emergency medical services and special emergency dental services in each large town. If your general practitioner is already closed and an emergency medical service is not yet open, you can be admitted for treatment at the Admissions Unit of any hospital. The fee for using this emergency service is € 2.

A list of the emergency medical services can be found on www.zzz.sk or you can ask about it at the offices of self-governing regions.

In larger towns there are hospitals. In smaller towns and tourist areas there are outpatient clinics. A list of these can be found at www.zzz.sk or at www.zcentrum.sk

Medicine

Medicine, either on prescription or without, can be obtained in pharmacies. With health insurance, some prescribed medicine is free of charge while other medicine must be paid for. If you take out prescribed medicine, you have to pay a fee of € 0.17 for each prescription.

Pharmacies are usually open from 7:00 – 8:00 to 17:00 – 18:00 on working days. At weekends and during holidays there are designated pharmacies which are open and provide emergency services. There are also emergency pharmacies. You can find their list in each pharmacy.



3.6 Finances and insurance

Banks

Commercial banks in Slovakia are private and mostly owned by foreign bank groups. They offer a wide range of services for individuals, for example maintenance of bank accounts (the most common types are current accounts, term deposits, and savings accounts), bank transfers, Internet banking, loans, mortgages, currency exchange, credit and debit cards, financial consulting, etc. In Slovakia the following bank groups all offer services to individual customers:

In Slovakia the following bank groups all offer services to individual customers:

| Name | Web page | Call Centre contact |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Česko-slovenská obchodná banka (ČSOB) | www.csob.sk | Tel.: 0850 111 777 (within Slovakia) +421 2 5966 8844 (from abroad) E-mail: info@csob.sk |
| Dexia | www.dexia.sk | Tel.: +421 (0) 41 511 11 01 +421 (0) 41 511 11 202 E-mail: info@dexia.sk |
| mBank | www.mbank.sk | Tel.: 0850 60 60 50 (within Slovakia) +421 232 101 080 (from abroad) E-mail: kontakt@mBank.sk |
| OTP Banka | www.otpbank.sk | Tel.: 0850 111 222 (within Slovakia) +421 2 5720 5080 (from abroad) E-mail: direct@otpbank.sk |
| Poštová banka | www.pabk.sk | Tel.: 0850 111 666 (within Slovakia) +421 2 5960 3111 (from abroad) E-mail: info@pabk.sk |
| Privatbanka | www.privatbanka.sk | Tel.: +421 (0) 2 5920 6620 (within Slovakia and from abroad) +421 (0) 2 5920 621 (within Slovakia and from abroad) E-mail: privatbanka@privatbanka.sk |
| Tatra banka | www.tatrabanka.sk | Tel.: + 421 (0) 2 5919 1000 (within Slovakia and from abroad) + 421 (0) 2 6866 1000 (within Slovakia and from abroad) E-mail: via web form |
| UniCredit Bank Slovakia | www.unicreditbank.sk | Tel.: 0800 180 180 (within Slovakia) +421 44 547 6870 (from abroad) E-mail: via web form |
| Volksbank Slovensko | www.volksbank.sk | Tel.: 0850 123 123 (within Slovakia) +421 2 5965 1600 (from abroad) +421 2 5965 1444 (from abroad) E-mail: callcentrum@volksbank.sk |
| Všeobecná úverová banka | www.vub.sk | Tel.: 0850 123 000 (within Slovakia) +421 484 141 212 (from abroad) E-mail: kontakt@vub.sk |

Opening hours:

9:00 – 17:00 Monday – Friday (Some banks open at 8:00, some banks close at 18:00.)

9:00 – 21:00 Monday – Sunday (Only bank branches in shopping centres.)

TALKING TO THE LEADER IN THE CORPORATE FINANCE



Miroslav Štokendl, member of the Management Board of UniCredit Bank manages the Corporate Division as well. He has experience of many years in this area. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics of the Slovak Technical University. He is intensively engaged in the banking business since 1992.

UniCredit Bank is one of the leaders in this segment in the Slovak banking market. In today's interview, we will reveal a bit of back-stage of financing international companies – global, multinationals, mid corporates, development companies, companies in the agribusiness sector, or in the financial sector.

Mr. Štokendl, what do you regard as a competitive advantage of UniCredit Bank in the corporate finance area?

The fact that the strongest banking group in the Central and Eastern Europe is backing us is significant. Together with the banks in 20 countries, we are bringing better conditions for doing business, particularly more advantageous payments and mutual handing over of know – how. Thanks to the presence of the Group in several countries, we are able to offer our customers products and services tailor-made to the local needs of the corporate customers, but at the same time, we are offering integrated solutions within the Group. **The principal objective of the so-called Global Transaction Banking** is the creation of the common product line in all banks of the UniCredit Group.

We are unifying all processes and ensuring their greater transparency, which leads to the permanent increase in efficiency. This standardization of processes makes a smooth information and knowledge flow in the Group, distribution of global products in the regions possible and improves communication in the network. Concurrently, we are building a relationship-based banking, based on the personal counseling, consultations, and individual solutions. In-

ternational Desk represents a special service for international companies ensuring business support for the customers e.g. in English, Italian, or German.

Which industries will UniCredit Bank focus its lending activities on?

Power engineering and transport infrastructure and car industry are some of the industries with the strongest credit exposure of UniCredit Bank, namely particularly thanks to making use of the special know-how in the area of structured finance. It is financing of projects based on their future cash flow. Professional approach and experience in financing of projects in the most prospective areas – infrastructure, power engineering, tourism, real estate, extraction and processing of mineral resources, etc. are our advantages. To get a picture, the offer includes operating and investment loans as part of the project (structured) finance structure, project finance, financing of acquisitions, municipal credits, special programs of financing small and middle enterprises, syndicated or club loans, loans from the support programs of EIB, EBRD, SZRB etc.

The bank maintains its leading position on the market also in the area of financing the real estate construction, where it focuses predominantly on cooperation with development companies in financing of housing construction. We are also partners of modern farmers; we have products for modern production in agriculture and food industry. We aim to support prospering AGRI business, efficient management, and a modern company. We have special products for this area available, namely special financing of operating needs making use of direct payments, special financing of the Rural Development Program 2007 – 2013, using of company shopping cards to finance inputs, financing of plant goods by means of warehouse warrants and merchandise pledge documents.

Let's talk about financial market products or investments in securities.

Certainly, we provide for the arrangement of deals and for business information from the interbank market for the bank's internal environment and for the bank's customers. Through Treasury Sales, our customers may deal in the financial market products – of money, foreign exchange, and capital markets.

In relation to investments in securities, we provide comprehensive and specialized services related to taking care of investments in securities owned by the investor. Another dimension is represented by taking care of the customer's need for information in relation to securities in their portfolio.

Bank accounts

The most common type of account you can open is a current account. Various banks offer several "packages" of current bank account. These packages differ in cost and services. What do these accounts have in common is that you can deposit and withdraw finances from them continuously, without any time constraints. To open a current account you will need an identification document, most often a passport. Some banks require two identification documents; one of which has to be a passport. To open a bank account, you generally do not need to make an appointment. In each branch of a bank, there should always be a person who speaks English.

The package of any current bank account usually provides the following:

- cashless domestic and foreign payments;
- online banking and telephone banking;
- use of payment card(s);
- optional overdraft;
- bank account status overview and movements on the bank account, charged interest and fees by:
 - an account statement, delivered as indicated by you (usually by e-mail or mail);
 - telephone call following the given password;
 - online banking, telephone banking and GSM banking.



| | Gold Package | Silver Package | Smart Package |
|--|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Opening and maintenance | € 8.60 monthly | € 4.61 monthly | € 1.96 monthly |
| Progressive interest | yes | yes | yes |
| Statements sent by post monthly | monthly | monthly | quarterly |
| Administration of standing orders and collections (instruction, change, cancellation) | yes | yes | by electronic banking services |
| Automatic transfers 'Sweep' | yes | - | - |
| Cashless transactions - standing orders and direct debits | yes | yes | 3x free |
| Electronic banking services (opening and maintenance) | Online Banking, GSM Banking | Online Banking or GSM Banking | Online Banking |
| Telephone service | yes | yes | yes |
| Debit card | MasterCard Gold or MasterCard Standard or Maestro | MasterCard Standard or Maestro | MasterCard Standard with 50% discount or Maestro |
| Debit card - yearly fee | 100% discount | 50% discount | 50% discount |
| XtraCard - yearly fee | VISA Classic | VISA Electron with 50% discount | - |
| Opening and administration of permitted overdraft | yes | yes | yes |
| Cashless transactions - Debit - remittance payment order at branch (excluding cross border payments) | yes | yes | 3 free of charge |
| Cashless transactions - Credit | yes | yes | yes |
| Cash transactions - Debit | yes | 3 free of charge | - |
| Cash transactions - Credit | yes | 3 free of charge | - |
| Debit transactions via electronic media - (excluding cross border payments) | yes | yes | yes |
| Cash withdrawals by the debit card from the bank and the ATMs of the respective bank | yes | yes | 6 free of charge |
| Cash withdrawals by the debit card from the ATMs of other banks in Slovakia | yes | 3 free of charge | - |

Example of price list of current account packages

Source: SARIO research, 2009

Means of payment

In Slovakia, it is possible to pay in cash and in many places also with payment cards. Payment cards available in Slovakia are: MasterCard, Visa, Maestro, American Express, and Diners Club. When paying with a payment card, you are required to supply your pin code and/or signature.

Acceptance of foreign credit and debit cards and traveller's cheques in Slovakia

Credit cards

Major credit cards (American Express, Diners Club, Visa, MasterCard/Eurocard) and debit cards (Visa, MasterCard/Eurocard, Maestro) are accepted.

Traveller's cheques

Thomas Cook, American Express, and Visa traveller's cheques are accepted in most major banks and at bureaux de change.

Food vouchers

In Slovakia, an employer has an obligation to provide their employees with lunch. One of the ways of doing so is to give the employee a food voucher with which he/she can buy this lunch in a restaurant or other place that sells food. Therefore, at many places, incl. supermarkets, it is also possible to pay for food and non-alcoholic beverages with food vouchers.

According to the law, the employer has to pay at least 55% of the price of the voucher, the rest being paid by the employee. Some companies pay more than they are obliged to do by law.

Bills

You will get bills on invoices, which you have to pay before the payment deadline. Generally, invoices are due within 14 days of the invoice date. The most common payment method is either a bank transfer or a cheque.

Taxes

Slovakia has become famous for its flat tax. The current rate of both income and value added tax (VAT) is 19%, nevertheless, there are certain items as pharmaceuticals, specific health products, and books that enjoy lower VAT rate of 10%.

VAT is usually included in the price of the product. If this is not the case, it must be mentioned on the product/in the pricelist.

Insurance

The most common insurance products in Slovakia are life insurance, travel insurance, car insurance, and property (home) insurance. Union insurance company also offers health insurance for foreigners.

Start of the insurance policy and ways of insuring oneself

The most common forms of insuring oneself are in person, by telephone, or online. You only have to complete the application form with your data, incl. name, address in Slovakia, date of birth, and passport number and pay the insurance contribution. Afterwards, the company will send you confirmation of the insurance coverage by mail. You can decide on the date of starting the insurance policy by which time the insurance contribution has to be in the bank account of the company. The insurance period, except for life insurance, travel insurance, and mountain insurance, is usually unlimited.

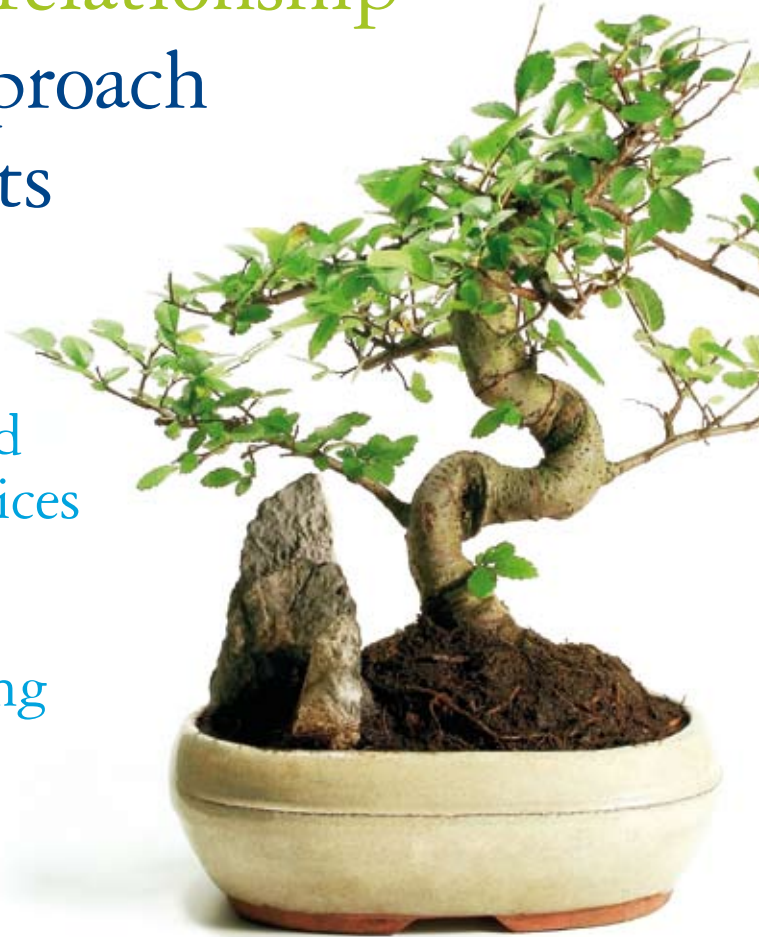
With some specific companies and specific insurance products (travel insurance, mountain insurance), it is also possible to insure yourself by a text message. In the text message, you put your name, the starting and ending date of the period of insurance. The insurance contribution will then be put in your mobile phone invoice. As a confirmation of your insurance, you will then get a text message back with the number of your insurance contract.

Source:
Slovak
Association of
Travel Agents,
www.sacka.sk,
2010, SARIO
research, 2010

Long-term and lasting relationship

Our approach to clients

- audit and risk services
- tax
- consulting
- financial advisory



Deloitte's professionals are unified by a collaborative culture that fosters integrity, outstanding value to markets and clients, commitment to each other, and strength from cultural diversity. They enjoy an environment of continuous learning, challenging experiences, and enriching career opportunities. Deloitte's professionals are dedicated to strengthening corporate responsibility, building public trust, and making a positive impact in their communities.

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Deloitte.

Paying insurance contributions

When insurance is for longer than one year, insurance contributions are mostly paid yearly. Common periods are also half-yearly and quarterly. Some companies also offer the possibility to pay for some insurance products monthly.

When insurance is just for a shorter period of time (travel insurance, mountain insurance), the whole amount has to be paid in one payment before the date of the beginning of the insurance.

The usual form of paying insurance is through bank transfer, bank deposit, or by cheque at a post office.

Finishing/ cancelling an insurance policy

If the insurance is for an unlimited period of time (all insurance products except life insurance, travel, and mountain insurance) and you would like to cancel it, please note that the cancellation period is usually a minimum of six weeks before the anniversary date of the insurance. Thus for example, if your insurance started on 2 August 2009, you have already had it for one year (2 August 2010), it is continuing into 2011 and you do not wish to continue to be insured in 2012, you have to inform the insurance company in writing at least six weeks before 2 August 2011. Please note that the date taken into consideration is usually when the company receives your cancellation, not the date you send it.

Some companies offering insurance products for unlimited periods of time also give you a cancellation period of six weeks before the next insurance contribution.

If the insurance policy is for a limited period of time – a shorter period of time in the case of life insurance and mountain insurance and a limited number of years in the case of life insurance – the end date is written in the contract. There is usually no automatic prolongation of the contract. In the case of life insurance, which is an insurance product over a longer limited period of time, it is also possible to cancel the insurance before the due date written on the contract. A six-month cancellation period applies here.

Description of insurance products

Life insurance

An individual insures himself/herself against death or other events such as a critical or terminal illness. If something like this happens, your costs will be reimbursed as specified in the contract.

This type of insurance also involves investment of the deposited money (investment life insurance) or valorization of the deposited money (capital life insurance). At the end of your investment period, you get back the amount of money specified in your contract.

The specific conditions covered by the insurance are specified in the contract.

Injury insurance

This is insurance against death caused by injury or permanent disability caused by injury. It ensures the upkeep of a person's living standard, in this case for the injured party and his/her family. It provides financial reimbursement or a contribution towards treatment.

The specific conditions covered by the insurance are specified in the contract.

Travel insurance

This is travel insurance either for travel within Slovakia or travel abroad.

When travelling abroad, the customer's insurance includes reimbursement of health costs and ancillary services abroad. It can also include insurance of baggage and insurance of damage liability. It might be focused on a specific list of countries. If a foreigner does not have permanent residence in Slovakia and is travelling to his/her country of residence, this country is excluded from the insurance.

When travelling within Slovakia, it can include insurance of baggage, insurance of damage liability and mountain insurance.

The specific conditions covered by the insurance are specified in the contract.

Mountain insurance

While enjoying your leisure time in Slovak mountains, you may get into a situation when you need emergency assistance from the Mountain Rescue Service. Mountain insurance helps you to cover costs incurred in such an emergency operation, provided that you purchase the insurance before the accident occurs.

The particular conditions covered by the insurance are specified in the contract.

Car insurance

Liability Insurance Policy, which covers you from claims for damage that you caused to a vehicle of another driver, is compulsory for all vehicles registered in Slovakia. If you want to, you can also purchase Collision Insurance. This will cover damage to your car if you cause the accident. The specific conditions covered by the insurance are specified in the contract.

For more information, please see subchapter 3.2 Transportation and Driving - Car Insurance.

Other vehicles insurance

Insurance of other vehicles such as vessels or aeroplanes in the case of natural disaster, theft, or damage caused to the respective vehicle or by the respective vehicle etc.

The specific conditions covered by the insurance are specified in the contract.

Home insurance

Insurance against damage to your property (apartment, house, home appliances, etc.) is so-called Property Damage Liability Insurance.

The specific conditions covered by the insurance are specified in the contract.

Insurance of damage liability

The insured individual insures himself/herself so that in the event of him/her causing damage to somebody's life, health, or property, the insurance company will reimburse this damage – according to the specific conditions specified in the contract.

Health insurance for foreigners

Commercial health insurance for foreigners provides reimbursement of health care costs in Slovakia. This insurance is aimed to the foreigner who does not have an entitlement to public health insurance (is not employed in Slovakia or does not have permanent residence in Slovakia). For more information, please see subchapter 3.5 Health care and health care insurance.

| Name | Web page | Call Centre contact | What they provide |
|--|----------------------|--|--|
| Aegon Životná Poistovňa | www.aegon.sk | Tel.: 0850 123 466 (within Slovakia) +421 2 206 68110 (from abroad) E-mail: aegon@aegon.sk | life insurance |
| Allianz - Slovenská poisťovňa | www.allianzsp.sk | Tel.: 0800 122 222 (within Slovakia) +421 2 5963 2111 (from abroad) E-mail: allianzsp@allianzsp.sk | life insurance, travel insurance, mountain insurance, car insurance, insurance of vessels, home insurance, insurance of damage responsibility |
| Amslico AIG Life Poistovňa | www.amslico.sk | Tel.: +421 (0)2 5936-3111 (within Slovakia and from abroad) E-mail: amslico@amslico.sk | life insurance, injury insurance |
| Axa Slovenská republika | www.axa-sk.com | Tel.: 0850 11 11 22 (within Slovakia) +421 2 2929 2929 (from abroad) E-mail: info.zp@axa-sk.com (life insurance) info.np@axa-sk.com (other insurance) | life insurance, injury insurance, travel insurance, car insurance, home insurance |
| ČSOB Poistovňa | www.csobpoistovna.sk | Tel.: 0850 111 303 (within Slovakia) +421 2 433 301 48 (from abroad) E-mail: infolinka@csobpoistovna.sk | life insurance, travel insurance, car insurance, home insurance |
| Generali Poistovňa | www.gsl.sk | Tel.: 0850 111 116 (within Slovakia) +421 2 5827 6666 (from abroad) E-mail: gls@gls.sk | life insurance, injury insurance, travel insurance, mountain insurance, car insurance, home insurance, dog insurance, complex insurance of property, insurance of damages responsibility |
| Groupama poisťovňa | www.groupama.sk | Tel.: 0850 211411 (within Slovakia) +421 2 5249 5 249 (from abroad) E-mail: poistna.udalost@groupama.sk | life insurance, injury insurance, travel insurance, car insurance, home insurance |
| ING Životná poisťovňa | www.ing.sk | Tel.: 0850 111 464 (within Slovakia) +421 2 598 007 33 (from abroad) E-mail: klient@ing.sk | life insurance |
| Komunálna poisťovňa | www.kpas.sk | Tel.: 0850 111 850 (within Slovakia) +421 2 4821 0511 (from abroad) E-mail: gr@kpas.sk | life insurance, travel insurance, car insurance, home insurance |
| Kontinuita poisťovňa, Vienna Insurance Group | www.kontinuita.sk | Tel.: 0800 11 22 22 (within Slovakia) +421 2 482 105 50 (from abroad) E-mail: info@kontinuita.sk | life insurance, injury insurance |
| Kooperativa poisťovňa | www.koop.sk | Tel.: 0800 120 000 (within Slovakia) +421 2 5729 9333 (from abroad) E-mail: info@koop.sk | life insurance, injury insurance, travel insurance, car insurance, home insurance |
| Poisťovňa Slovenskej sporiteľne | www.pslsp.sk | Tel.: 0850 111 888 (within Slovakia) +421 2 5070 9300 (from abroad) E-mail: pslsp@pslsp.sk | life insurance |

| Name | Web page | Call Centre contact | What they provide |
|---------------------|--|---|---|
| QBE poistovňa | www.qbeurope.com/slovakia | Tel.: +421 55 6826 222 (within Slovakia and from abroad) E-mail: info@sk.qbe.com | injury insurance, travel insurance, car insurance, aeroplane insurance, home insurance, insurance of damages responsibility |
| Union poistovňa | www.union.sk | Tel.: 0850 111 211 (within Slovakia) +421 2 081 1811 (from abroad) E-mail: union.direct@union.sk | life insurance, injury insurance, travel insurance, mountain insurance, home insurance, health insurance for foreigners |
| Uniqa poistovňa | www.uniqa.sk | Tel.: 0850 111 400 (within Slovakia) +421 2 444 56 860 (from abroad) E-mail: poistovna@uniqa.sk | life insurance, injury insurance, travel insurance, car insurance, home insurance, insurance of legal protection |
| Wüstenrot poistovňa | www.wuestenrot.sk | Tel.: +421 (0)2 5788 9900 (within Slovakia and from abroad) E-mail: info@wuestenrot.sk | life insurance, travel insurance, car insurance, home insurance |

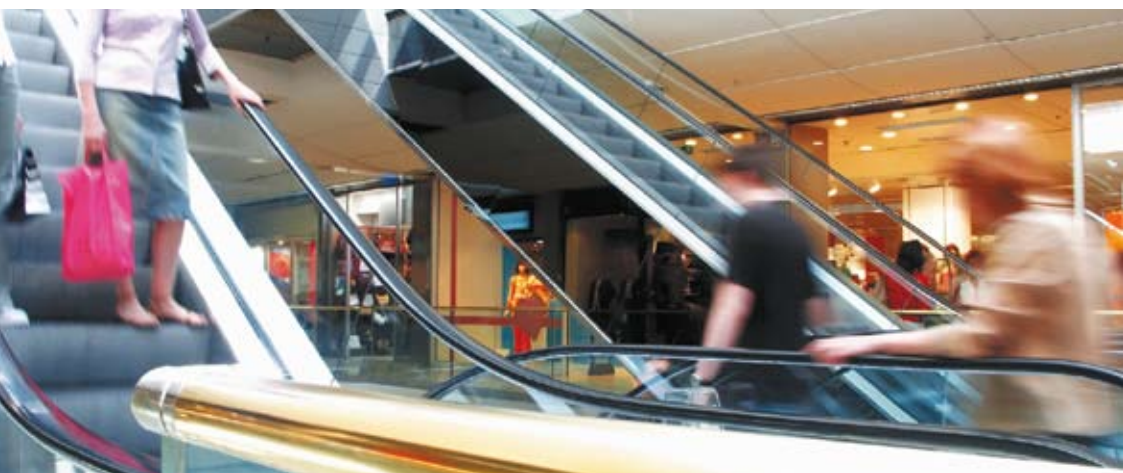
3.7 Shopping

Opening hours

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Shops: | 9:00 – 18:00 9:00 – 12:00 | Monday – Sunday Saturday |
| Food supermarkets: | 7:00 – 20:00 (or 21:00 – 22:00) 8:00 – 17:00 (Some supermarkets are also open later 17:30 – 21:00.) | Monday – Saturday Sunday |

Some supermarkets are open 24 hours daily.

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Shopping centres: | 9:00 – 21:00 | Monday – Sunday |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------|



Food and toiletries shopping

In Slovakia, you can buy groceries in groceries retail chains and in smaller food shops. The following groceries retail chains operate in Slovakia: Albert, Billa, Carrefour, COOP Jednota, Hypernova, Kaufland, Lidl, and Tesco. These retail chains also sell toiletries. There are also some specialized drug stores in Slovakia.

Prices

Source:
Statistical
Office of
the Slovak
Republic,
www.statistics.sk, 2010

| Food | average price/ EUR |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 kg bread | 1.33 |
| 200g butter | 1.01 |
| 1l milk | 0.73 |
| 1 kg pork | 4.00 |
| 1 kg beef | 6.00 |
| 1 kg chicken | 2.50 |
| 0.5l beer | 0.50 |
| 0.75l quality wine | 4.50 |
| 1.5l mineral water | 0.50 |
| 1 kg apples | 1.00 – 1.50 |
| 1 kg oranges | 1.00 – 1.20 |
| 1 kg bananas | 1.00 – 1.40 |
| 1 kg grapes | 1.40 – 2.00 |
| 1 kg tomatoes | 0.80 – 1.50 |
| 1 kg peppers | 0.80 – 1.50 |
| 1 kg carrots | 0.50 |
| 1 kg potatoes | 0.40 |

Source:
SARIO
research, 2010

| Toiletry product | average price/ EUR |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Soap | 0.80 – 1.00 |
| Shampoo | 1.50 – 2.50 |
| Face pads | 1.00 |
| Toothpaste | 1.50 – 4.00 |
| Toothbrush | 1.50 – 4.00 |

3.8 Safety

Slovakia is a relatively safe place, the situation here being similar to most European countries. However, we recommend to pay attention to your personal belongings and valuables as pick-pockets and thefts of unwatched and unlocked property are not unusual.

Useful phone numbers

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 112 <i>emergency call</i> | 112 is a single and universal emergency call number which functions in all member states of the European Union, incl. Slovakia. This number joins together all emergency services – the fire brigade, ambulance, police, and other emergency services in Slovakia, such as the railway police, mountain rescue etc. |
| 150 | fire brigade |
| 155 | ambulance |
| 158 | police |
| 159 | city police |

3.9 Useful links

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Hotels | www.hotel.sk |
| Directory of real estate agencies | http://directory.spectator.sk/catg_real.html |
| Taxi service | http://directory.spectator.sk/catg_taxi_sk.html |
| Public transportation | www.imhd.sk |
| Car rental | http://directory.spectator.sk/catg_car.html |
| Train | www.zsr.sk or www.slovakrail.sk |
| Ministry of Education | www.minedu.sk |
| Ministry of Health Care | www.health.gov.sk |
| List of health facilities | www.zzz.sk |
| List of banks | www.directory.spectator.sk/catg_bank.html |
| Tax administration and information | www.drsrcr.sk |

4

Cultural life and leisure time



4.1 Slovak traditional culture

4.2 Sightseeing in Slovakia

4.3 Social and cultural life

4.4 Leisure, sports and
recreational activities

4.5 Media

4.6 Associations and clubs

4.7 Useful links

4.1 Slovak traditional culture

Slovakia has rich cultural traditions and customs, which have been passed down from generation to generation and are still popular today. Slovak folk songs, music, dances, and customs vary according to the region. Most folk songs are about relationships between people, love, work, natural beauties, and love for the country. Music and dances are rhythmical, full of life and joy.

Slovak folklore is regularly presented at folk festivals in Slovakia and is well known and admired abroad, too. The biggest festivals in Slovakia take place in Východná, Myjava, Terchová, and Detva.

Traditional customs have their roots in the past. They have their connection to religious traditions or a certain season. The following customs are the most popular.

Traditional customs

6th January

Zjavenie Pána/ Traja králi (Epiphany)

Epiphany used to be and still is the end of Christmas time. The customs connected to this day show how the old Slavonic customs, enriched by elements of Roman culture, overlap with Christian traditions.

In many regions of Slovakia, marching of the wisemen (marching with a star) is known and can be found with various modifications. Among the best known is the tradition of boys, dressed in long white shirts with crowns on their heads, going around the houses. They perform the Epiphany play, a paraphrase of the New Testament story, telling how the wisemen came to visit baby Jesus.

Another typical element is the singing of carols when the priest visits houses with a procession and writes the last two figures of the date and the initials of the wisemen - G.M.B. standing for Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar above the door.

January, February, sometimes March

Fašiangy (Carnival)

Carnival is the merriest time of the year, its origins going back to the pre-Christian era. It starts with Epiphany, ends on Ash Wednesday, and comes before the Lenten season. In the past as well as nowadays, it is a time of joy and feasts.

The carnival time reaches its climax in the last week before Lent when masked groups go singing round the village and play various tricks. The symbol of the end of Carnival is the ceremony called "burying of the bass", during which a real funeral is parodied.

During this time, many carnival balls take place symbolising the world of the past when social barriers were temporarily forgotten.

Two weeks before Easter
**Vynášanie Moreny
(Burning of Morena)**

One of the most ancient customs preserved until today is held late in the winter and expresses the desire of people to banish the cold weather and summon the warm rays of the sun. This custom has its roots in the pre-Christian era when people believed that nature was controlled by supernatural forces whose activities could be influenced.

Morena symbolised the winter and so when people wanted the spring to come, they had to kill her, burn her, and then drown her in a stream. She was presented as an effigy made of straw clothed in a woman's dress. Young girls carried her singing towards a stream. When they arrived at the bank, Morena was undressed, set on fire, and thrown into the waters of the stream.

The most frequent date of burning of Morena is so-called Dead Sunday (two weeks before Easter).

March or April
**Veľkonočná šibačka a oblievačka
(Easter whipping and bathing)**

This custom is known in villages as well as in towns and is performed on the last day of Easter, Easter Monday. This day is associated with the custom of whipping girls and women and bathing or sprinkling them with water. The traditional reward boys receive for whipping or bathing is a decorated egg called kraslica, a symbol of new life.

The oldest way of decorating eggs was dyeing them in various herbal dips. Later, various other techniques have been developed such as batik, which is putting wax on the egg with a needle and then dyeing the egg while the waxed places stay uncoloured.

In some regions of Slovakia, the Tuesday after Easter Monday is a day when girls and women can "repay the compliment" and whip and bathe the men.



Source: www.slovakia.travel, 2009. Photo: Ján Špenka



Photo: R. Buga

1 May

Stavanie májov (Raising of maypoles)

The month of May is considered to be a time of love and new life, the May verdure a symbol of energy and growth. In the past, the most important place among plants belonged to the tree which was called the maypole. The maypole was usually put up by a young man for the girl he loved. Mostly tall straight trees served as maypoles, especially firs and pines with their bark peeled off. Their tops were decorated with colourful ribbons. Maypoles were put up at night and on the next Sunday young men went round the houses with maypoles in front of them and collected money for the coming festivity - the May ball.

The custom has been preserved till nowadays, though it is modified a little. Usually only one decorated tree is put up in the middle of a village or in the central square.

Night of 23 – 24 June

Svätojánske ohne (Midsummer Night's Bonfires)

In the summer, many customs concentrated on protection against evil forces that might harm vegetation and livestock. The culmination of this magic time was Midsummer Night (the night from 23 to 24 June) involving customs the origins of which go back to the pre-Christian era. Some forms of these customs, especially making bonfires above villages, have been preserved till nowadays.

Midsummer Day is the longest day of the year. A fire, especially a bonfire, was one of the basic elements of the solstice customs, and adults as well as the young went singing and dancing around it. On this day, people picked medicinal herbs and looked for treasures with the help of the so-called fern flower, which blossomed during Midsummer Night.

Most attention was paid to the fire. One of the traditions was making huge bonfires on a place clearly seen from the village, launching fire wheels, tossing burning torches, singing, dancing and jumping over the bonfire.

1 November

Sviatok všetkých svätých (All Saints' Day)

2 November

Pamiatka zosnulých (All Souls' Day)

These days are dedicated to visiting cemeteries, decorating graves, burning candles, and to memories of dead relatives and friends. Visiting cemeteries on All Saints' Day (1 November) and on All Souls' Day (2 November) is one of the strongest of the annual traditions.

In the 8th century, Pope Gregory IV designated 1 November a holiday of All Saints to commemorate the Christian saints. Gradually, the custom spread and 2 November was made All Souls' Day.

According to older customs, on the night from 1 to 2 November, a part of dinner is left on the table and candles are lit on graves. Laying wreaths and floral decorations are more recent traditions.

6 December

Deň sv. Mikuláša (St. Nicholas' Day)

St. Nicholas' Day is popular especially with children. According to this tradition they clean their shoes, put them on the window-sill in the evening, and the next morning they find a surprise in them in the form of candies or small toys.

St. Nicholas' Day is associated with St. Nicholas, a saint who is known for helping people in various ways, one of which is financial.





13 December

Lucia (Lucia's Day)

Lucia's Day is one of the most magical customs and is one of the "witches' days" preceding Christmas. Lucia (in English Lucy), in contrast with the Christian tradition, has been presented in folk tales as being the greatest of all the witches. People believed that they could see witches on this day. Foretelling of the future and various love wishes were also popular. According to the best-known of them, girls prepared 13 pieces of paper. They wrote different men's names on twelve of them while the thirteenth one was left blank. The pieces of paper were then folded and every day one of them was burnt. The penultimate one was burnt on Christmas Eve in the morning and the last one was opened on the same day in the evening. The name on the last piece of paper was to be the name of her future husband. The girl whose last piece of paper was blank was not going to get married the following year.

Nowadays, the most typical custom associated with this day is the "March of Lucias", i.e. disguised women, in some regions also men. The most frequent clothing of Lucia is a white dress or a white blanket.

24 - 26 December

Vianoce (Christmas)

The time between Christmas and New Year is one of the richest and most interesting as far as customs are concerned. Many of them go back to the pre-Christian era and are connected with celebrations of the winter solstice. The tradition of Christmas, in an altered form, has been preserved through Christmas markets or performances of Christmas customs in open-air museums.

Christmas Eve (24 December) is connected with various activities, special Christmas dishes, customs, and superstitions. The most typical representations of the Christmas are a Christmas tree and a Bethlehem, or Nativity scene. The most important part of Christmas is that it is a family get-together and also a time of giving.

Celebration of Christmas Eve starts with the family dinner, which in Christian families begins with a prayer. The first dish is wafers with honey or small buns called opekance. Then Slovaks continue by eating a special Christmas soup, the most popular of which are a sauerkraut soup called kapustnica or a mushroom soup. The main dish is usually fish with potatoes or potato salad. Dried fruit is also common at the Christmas table. There are also various kinds of cakes. After dinner people go to the Christmas tree and open the presents lying beneath it.

During Christmas time, many carols are sung and nativity plays are performed.

What Slovakia tastes like

Traditional Slovak cuisine dates back to the old Slavic period and was influenced later by Austrian, German, and Hungarian cooking. Slovak food is based on many different kinds of soups, gruels, boiled and stewed vegetables, roast and smoked meats, and dairy products. Potatoes, wheat flour, cow's and sheep's cheese, cabbage, onions, and garlic are the bases of the traditional food in Slovakia. Slovak specialties include both sweet and savoury dishes made with flour, including dumplings.

Popular drinks include beer, wine, juices, soft drinks, and mineral water.

National specialties

- Bryndzové halušky (small potato dumplings with sheep cheese)
- Mutton with sauerkraut, flavoured with prunes, mushrooms, and apples
- Cabbage leaves filled with minced meat, served with a milky sauce
- Šúľance (potato dough turnovers filled with plum jam or poppy seeds)

National drinks

- borovička (made from junipers)
- distillates made of fruit, their name finishing in "ica" such as slivovica (from plums),

čerešňovica (from cherries), hruškovica (from pears), marhuľovica (from apricots)

- medovina (alcoholic drink made from honey)
- Slovak wine (we recommend you to try it)

Wine

There are six viticulture regions in Slovakia. The most exclusive of them all is the region of Tokaj (Tokai Region) along the border with Hungary. The most popular are the vineyards of Malé Karpaty (the Little Carpathians), stretching from the hills of Malé Karpaty (the Little Carpathians) at Rača, which is a part of Bratislava, across Svätý Jur and Pezinok to Modra. In the 18th century, the red Frankovka wine from this region was a favourite of the Empress Maria Theresa.

Wine is celebrated traditionally in the autumn during the wine festival when vine-growers celebrate the end of the harvest. The first product of the season – young wine, but also more ancient gems hidden in individual cellars, may be tasted in November, during the traditional "open-cellar" days. In May, lovers of good wine may enjoy St Urban's Day, the feast of the patron of wine and vine-growers, joined with presentations of wines and regional traditions.

Source:
www.
slovensko.com,
2009

Source:
Top Slovakia,
2008,
www.sacr.sk





4.2 Sightseeing in Slovakia

Slovakia is a country with both a rich cultural heritage and a wealth of natural beauty. It combines glorious history with the pulse of modern life. There are multitude of places you can visit depending on your preference, on whether you would like to go on an active holiday or just enjoy some relaxation time, whether you like water, snow, walking, cycling, mountain hiking, or exploring Slovak history hidden in its castles, museums, and cities.

There are many places worth seeing in Slovakia: naturally beautiful places such as Slovak mountains, national parks, caves, lakes, pieces of history (castles, fortresses and ruins, centres of cities), and unique places which you would not have a chance to see anywhere else. Some of these places are on UNESCO's World Heritage Sites list.

Nature

Mountains and national parks

The highest mountains in Slovakia, **Vysoké Tatry (the High Tatras)** are situated in the

north of the country. In a relatively small area (they are one of the smallest mountain ranges in Europe in terms of area) much unique natural beauty is concentrated.

The relief in their territory has been modelled by glaciers that created glacier valleys with high-mountain lakes left behind after the Ice Age. In Vysoké Tatry, there is the highest concentration of natural lakes in Slovakia, with about a hundred of them. The lake of Veľké Hincovo pleso (Big Hincovo's Mountain Lake) is the biggest and the deepest of them. The best-known is Štrbské pleso (Štrbske Mountain Lake).

The Tatra valleys are also an attraction on account of their cascading waterfalls. The highest is Kmeňov vodopád (Kmeto's Waterfall), which falls 80 metres. One of the most visited is Vodopády Studeného potoka (Waterfalls of the Cold Stream). Other well-known waterfalls are: Obrovský vodopád (Great Waterfall), Malý vodopád (Small Waterfall), Veľký vodopád (Big Waterfall), and Dlhý vodopád (Long Waterfall).

*Images:
Strečno Castle
Source:
www.slovakia.
travel, 2009.
Photo:
Dominik
Bugár*

*The High
Tatras
Source:
www.slovakia.
travel, 2009.
Photo:
Daniel
Hajduch*



Images:

1. National park Nízke Tatry
Photo: R. Buga

2. National park Slovenský raj
Source: www.slovakia.travel, 2009.
Photo: Matej Kohút

3. National park Slovenský kras

The highest peak of Vysoké Tatry is Gerlachovský štít (Gerlachovsky Peak), which is 2,655 metres above sea level. It offers a beautiful panoramic view, but can be accessed only with a mountain guide. The best-known Tatra peak, attracting the largest number of tourists, is Lomnický štít (Lomnický Peak), at 2,634 metres above sea level. You can be taken there by a cable car from Tatranská Lomnica, which has been in operation since 1940.

Another popular destination is Hrebienok, which can be reached by funicular from Starý Smokovec.

Because of its unique fauna and flora, the area of Vysoké Tatry has been declared a national park.

www.tanap.sk

Right under Vysoké Tatry is the national park **Nízke Tatry (the Low Tatras)**. They are the second highest mountain range in Slovakia. The western part of the mountain range is Ďumbierske Tatry (the Dumbierske Tatras), with the tallest peak Ďumbier at 2,043 metres above sea level. The eastern part is called Kráľovoľské Tatry (the Kralovoholske Tatras) and their highest mountain is Kráľova hoľa at 1,946 metres above sea level. Four Slovak rivers spring below this mountain: the River Hron, Váh, Hornád, and Hnilec.

Among the most visited valleys are Jánska dolina (the Janska Valley) and Demänovská dolina (the Demanovska Valley), where there are more than 170 caves and abysses. The most extensive and also most important cave system in Slovakia is the one of Demänovské jaskyne (Demanovska caves). It consists of nine caves with a total length of 30 kilometres. Caves accessible to the public include Demänovská jaskyňa slobody (Demanovska Cave of Freedom) and Demänovská ľadová jaskyňa (Demanovska Ice Cave).

www.napant.sk



The landscape of the national park **Slovenský raj (the Slovak Paradise)**, which is situated in eastern Slovakia, is formed of deep gorges and rocky ravines and narrow canyons, which were formed by wild rivers and streams. One of the most popular ravines is Suchá Belá (Dry Bela), which lies in its northwest part and was formed by a stream of the same name. It is four kilometres long and with the help of cascades and waterfalls the water drops as much as 400 metres. Nature has created a variety of formations here: rock windows, steps, and gigantic cauldrons. The difficult sections, often in close proximity to waterfalls, can be reached with the help of wooden or iron ladders and footbridges. Slovenský raj contains one of the biggest ice caves in Europe, Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa (Dobsinska Ice Cave).

www.slovenskyraj.sk

The national park **Slovenský kras (the Slovak Karst)**, situated in the south of Slovakia on the frontier with Hungary, is the largest karstic area in the Central Europe. It can be entered from the unique canyon Zádielska tiesňava, which is more than two kilometres long and in some places only ten metres wide.

Its area contains 1,110 caves and abysses. One of them, the cave of Domica, has a unique 21-kilometre long system of corridors and underground space adorned with bulky dripstone ornamentation, including the navigable River Styx. Also the caves Ochtinská aragonitová jaskyňa (Ochtinska Aragonit Cave), Gombasecká jaskyňa (Gombasecka Cave), and Krásnohorská jaskyňa (Krasnohorska Cave) are located here.

www.slovensky-kras.eu



2

3





4



5

Images:
4. Pieniny
Mountains
Photo:
R.Buga

5. Veľká Fatra

6. Malá Fatra

In the national park **Pieniny**, situated in eastern Slovakia, there are three very popular localities - the wonderful canyon of the frontier River Dunajec, the almost 300 metres deep narrow canyon of Lesnícky potok (the Woodlanders' Stream), and the rocks of Haligovské skaly (Haligovske Rocks). You can also visit the monastery in the village of Červený Kláštor (Red Monastery), which was founded by the Carthusian order in the 14th century.

The biggest attraction of Pieniny is going down the River Dunajec between the villages of Červený Kláštor and Lesnica on traditional Goral wooden rafts. The river offers fine views of whitish limestone rocks, remarkable cliffs, and narrows. After the trip, visitors can relax by listening to Goral music and tasting their exquisite goulash.

www.pienap.sk

The national park **Veľká Fatra (the Big Fatra)**, situated on the dividing line between central and north-western Slovakia, is mainly attractive for visitors because of its well preserved natural and primeval forests, in which 500 to 600 year-old trees can be found. One unique place in Veľká Fatra is Harmanecká tíšina, where you can find the most extensive natural occurrence of the yew tree in Europe.

Typical for Veľká Fatra are long canyon-shaped valleys, such as Belianska, Jasenská, Gaderská, Blatnická, or Žarnovická. Ľubochnianska dolina (the Ľubochnianska Valley) is, with its length of 25 kilometres, the longest valley in Slovakia.

www.velkafatra.sk

The national park **Malá Fatra (the Little Fatra)** is one of the most valuable mountain ranges of Slovakia in terms of landscape. It spreads out in the north-west of Slovakia and is full of tourists in every season of the year.

The most visited places are the peaks of Veľký Fatranský Kriváň (Big Fatransky Krivan), Veľký Rozsutec (Big Rozsutec), and Klak. There are also many springs and waterfalls, the highest of which is the 38 metre-tall Šútovský vodopád (Sutovsky Waterfall).

The mountain range also includes the valley of Vrátna dolina - one of the most important ski resorts of Slovakia and the typical Slovak village of Terchová, which is the native place of the legendary Slovak national hero, Juraj Jánošík, who was famous for robbing the rich and giving to the poor. There are many legends, novels, poems, and films about him.

www.malafatra.org

Bukovské vrchy (the Bukovske Mountains) are a part of the mountain range of Poloniny, which is situated in north-eastern Slovakia on the borders with Poland and Ukraine. A big part of Bukovské vrchy is formed by the National Park of Poloniny. In its area, there are also several wooden churches. The most interesting are the ones in Topoľa, Uličiské Krivé, Ruský Potok, Kalná Roztoka, and Jalová.

The protected area of **Vihorlat** stretches across the eponymous mountain range in the east of Slovakia. It is now a densely forested mountain massif with the reservoir of Zemplínska šírava in the background.

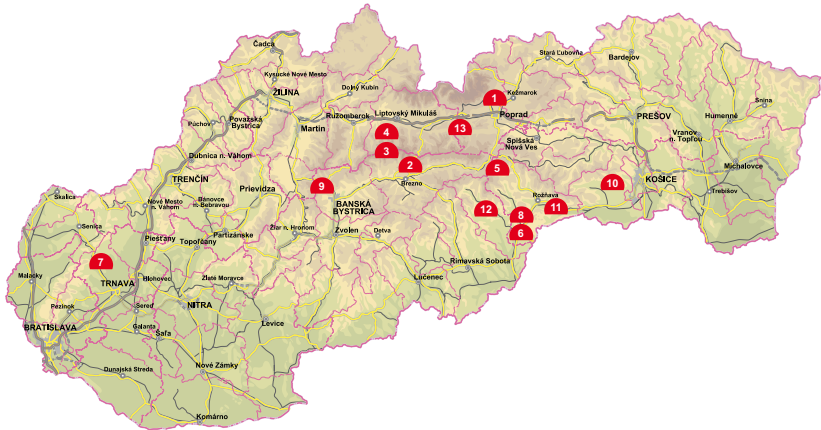


Source:
 The Best of
 Slovakia,
 2008, www.sacr.sk; Top
 Slovakia,
 2008,
www.sacr.sk;
www.slovakia.travel, 2009;
 SARIO
 research,
 2009

Caves

With its length of 1,232 metres and depth of 112 metres, **Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa (Dobšinská Ice Cave)** is one of the largest ice caves in Europe. Except for the Alps, this is the only place in Europe with 110 thousand cubic metres of ice in places thicker than 25 metres.

In total, 44 caves and abysses in Slovakia, which are among the most precious natural objects of the country, have been declared national natural monuments. They are beautiful geomorphological phenomena, composed of sintra, aragonite, or ice. Together with Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa (Dobsinska Ice Cave), there are 13 publicly accessible caves in Slovakia:



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Belianska jaskyňa (Belianska Cave) | 7. Driny |
| 2. Bystrianska jaskyňa (Bystrianska Cave) | 8. Gombasecká jaskyňa (Gombasecka Cave) |
| 3. Demänovská jaskyňa slobody (Demanovská Cave of Freedom) | 9. Harmanecká jaskyňa (Harmanecká Cave) |
| 4. Demänovská ľadová jaskyňa (Demanovská Ice Cave) | 10. Jasovská jaskyňa (Jasovská Cave) |
| 5. Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa (Dobsinska Ice Cave) | 11. Krásnohorská jaskyňa (Krasnohorska Cave) |
| 6. Domatica | 12. Ochtinská aragonitová jaskyňa (Ochotinska Aragonite Cave) |
| | 13. Vážecká jaskyňa (Vážecká Cave) |



Pieces of history

Cities

Each Slovak city and town has its own unique history and atmosphere.

The capital of the Slovak Republic **Bratislava**, also referred to as *Perla na Dunaji* (the Pearl on the Danube), used to be the coronation city of Uhorsko (the Hungarian Empire) and in 1526-1784 also the capital of Uhorsko. It is situated in the south-west of Slovakia and stretches along both banks of the River Dunaj (the Danube). Thanks to its favourable position near the borders with Austria and Hungary, it has always been a commercial centre.

The modern metropolis is open to Europe and the world, a claim proved by its ever-increasing number of foreign visitors. They are attracted by the cosiness of this rather small capital city that nevertheless possesses a throbbing social life and historical charms combined with the most recent trends. Palaces, modern shopping and trade centres, the good work of Slovak cooks and brewers, friendly people, and various international cultural and sports events, exhibitions, and business opportunities are a few of the reasons why it is worth visiting.

One of the city's dominant buildings which can be seen from a distance is Bratislavský hrad (Bratislava Castle). Near the castle, there is situated another of Bratislava's dominant buildings - Dóm sv. Martina (St. Martin's Cathedral). In this cathedral, nineteen Hungarian rulers were crowned with St. Stephen's crown. The most attractive part of Bratislava is Staré mesto (Old Town), where the most historical sights as well as cultural institutions are concentrated, such as Mestská radnica (Town Hall), Primaciálny palác (Primate's Palace), Grassalkovičov palác (Grassalkovich Palace), the latter is currently the residence of the President of the Slovak Republic; Slovenské národné divadlo (the Slovak National Theatre), Slovenská národná galéria (the Slovak National Gallery), and Slovenské národné múzeum (the Slovak National Museum). Of four city gates that were part of the 14th century fortification system, the only one which has survived is Michalská brána (Michael's Gate). The ruins of the fortress at Devín, which is outside of the city centre, are also worth seeing.

www.bratislava.sk

*Images:
7. Harmanec-
ká cave*

8. Bratislava



The oldest free royal borough **Trnava**, also called Slovenský Rím (Slovak Rome) for its great number of churches, was the church capital of Uhorsko for several centuries in the past. The town was also an important centre of commerce.

Among the most unique monuments of Trnava are its town walls. Because of their high level of preservation, they are ranked amongst the most important monuments of their kind in Europe. The dominant feature of the town is the town tower built by Master Jakub in 1574 on gothic foundations with a balcony providing a perfect view of Trnava and its environs. Among the town's most valuable historical monuments is the university church, the first early baroque building of national significance.

www.trnava.sk

The world famous spa town of **Piešťany** is well known for its medicinal geothermal water and sulphuric mud with extraordinary therapeutic effects on inflammatory disorders. The oldest spa building is Napoleon's Bath on Kúpeľný ostrov (Spa Island). When walking on the island, you can also see other historical buildings, as well as art sculptures in Kúpeľný park (Spa Park).

The island is connected to the pedestrian zone in the historic town centre via Kolonádový most (Colonnade Bridge), known also as Promenáďový most (Promenade Bridge), with its statue of a man breaking his crutch - a symbol of the spa from 1894 and a part of the town coat-of-arms nowadays.

Besides health and relaxation, the town also offers its guests a rich cultural life (many cultural events take place here) and plenty of opportunities for sports.

www.piestany.sk



9



10

Trenčín, the centre of the Považie region, stretches below the famous Trenčiansky hrad (Trenčín Castle). It is a town with a rich history and interesting present, including many cultural events.

The Roman military settlement, then called Laugaricio (today Trenčín), was the northernmost point of the Roman legions of Emperor Marcus Aurelius in the area of central Europe. One very famous legacy from this time is the Roman inscription on the steep face of the rock (from 179 AD) of Trenčiansky hrad (Trenčín Castle)

Trenčiansky hrad (Trenčín Castle) built on top of a steep rock is the dominant building of the town and region. Various exhibitions, medieval games and attractive night sightseeing are organised at the castle throughout the year. The castle became popular above all due to its most powerful owner the magnate, Matúš Čák Trenčiansky, also referred to as the "Master of the Váh and the Tatras".

The fortified area called Mariánsky hrad (Mariánsky Castle) or Mariánska hora (Mariánska Mountain) spreads out between the castle and town centre.

The town tower offers a nice view of all the dominant features in the town including the popular fountain, with the statue of a goblin in the square of Štúrovo námestie (Stur's Square), and the synagogue built in an oriental style.

www.trencin.sk

Nitra is a modern town with a varied cultural life and many international exhibitions and fairs. The town is the oldest urban formation in Slovakia, as it has existed since the 870s AD. The Principality of Nitra ruled by Prince Pribina was formed here at the turn of the 8th and 9th centuries. Pribina was the first known ruler of the Slav tribe considered to be the predecessor of Slovaks. Pribina had the first Christian church built in the territory of what is now Slovakia, here in Nitra in 828.

The dominant building of the town is Nitranský hrad (Nitra Castle) with Katedrála sv. Emeráma (Cathedral of St Emeram). Other interesting monuments are Kláštor s Kostolom svätého Petra a Pavla (Monastery with the Church of St. Peter and Paul) and Piaristický kláštor a kostol (Piarist Monastery and Church).

The trip by chair lift to the top of the surrounding Zobor Mountain offers a wonderful view of Nitra and its environs and pleasant walks in the landscape park, which also contains the instructive path of Zobor. The road from Zobor passes through the viticultural part of the town with its little taverns inviting passers-by to taste the exquisite local wine.

www.nitra.sk

Images:
9. Trnava
Source:
www.slovakia.travel, 2009.
Photo:
Ján Lacika

10. Piešťany
Source:
www.slovakia.travel, 2009.
Photo:
Dušan Knap

11. Trenčín

12. Nitra
Source:
www.slovakia.travel, 2009.
Photo:
Dominik Bugár



11



12

Banská Bystrica is the cultural and economic centre of central Slovakia and is one of Slovakia's most important mining towns. Its environs were once rich in ores, thus the main source of income of the medieval town was mining. Also in the past, two important trade routes crossed here. In August 1944, the town became the centre of the Slovak National Uprising (Slovenské národné povstanie). The Monument of the Slovak National Uprising and the open-air museum situated in the park near the town centre commemorate these events.

The pride of the town is its central *Námestie SNP* (Square of the Slovak National Uprising), which was rebuilt into a pedestrian zone with a very special charm and atmosphere. The multicoloured area of the square can be best admired from the slender *Hodinová veža* (Clock Tower), which was built in 1552 as a part of the town prison. The most beautiful building of the southern row of the square is *Thurzov dom* (Thurzo's House). Today it is the seat of the *Stredoslovenské múzeum* (the Museum of Central Slovakia).

Images:
13. Banská
Bystrica

14. Kremnica

15. Banská
Štiavnica

16. Levoča
Photo:
R.Buga

Several old buildings on *Námestie Štefana Moyzesa* (Square of Stefan Moyzes) once formed the town castle. The original appearance of the castle disappeared with the removal of a substantial part of the town walls. Only a quarter of the original

town walls and three bastions of the original four have survived. The dominant architectural feature of the square is now the former barbican with its tower.

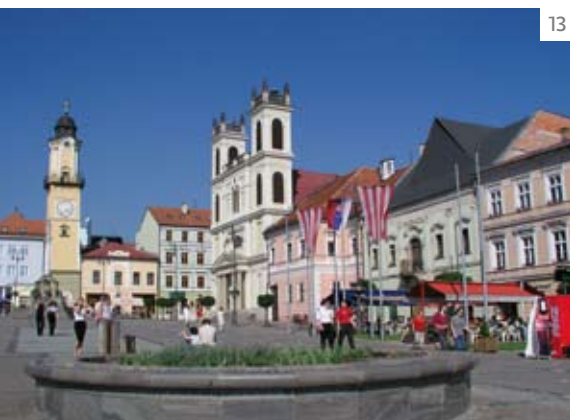
The city also has wonderful natural surroundings offering numerous attractive leisure opportunities.

www.banskabystrica.sk

Kremnica was one of the richest towns of *Uhorsko*. Today it is a centre of tourism and recreation. The settlement obtained privileges of the free royal and mining borough from King Charles Robert in 1328. One special privilege was that of coinage. The mint of Kremnica was founded by mint masters, invited here from *Kutná Hora* in Bohemia by the king of *Uhorsko*. A year after its founding in 1329, the first Old Hungarian groschen coins were struck here.

The mint of Kremnica also produced ducats, which were highly praised for their quality and beauty and were among the most popular coins in Europe. In the 16th century, the craft of medal-making was also introduced here. Commemorative coins, medals, and coins of different countries of the world are still struck in Kremnica today.

www.kremnica.sk



13



14

Banská Štiavnica is a Town Monument Reserve, which demonstrates the mining tradition in Slovakia. The town developed in close contact with mining activities, a fact documented by several preserved mining works right in the town centre. The most important buildings documenting the significance and history of the city, eleven buildings of the former Mining Academy and the renaissance fortress of the Old Castle, have all been declared national cultural monuments.

www.banskastiavnica.sk

Bardejov is considered to be the most gothic town in Slovakia. The most precious medieval building in the town is the monumental Church of St. Egidius, which is part of the country's national heritage. Its eleven gothic winged altars with panel paintings have hardly any parallel in Europe. Equally spectacular is the church's interior. Another precious building is the town hall.

An important part of Bardejov is Bardejovské Kúpele (Bardejov Spa), which is one of the most visited spas of Slovakia. The services there provide their visitors with quality medical treatment as well as relaxation time.

www.e-bardejov.sk

Levoča possesses a great number of architectural monuments linked with the glorious past of the town. The driving force of Levoča's development was trade, which gradually acquired an international dimension. Citizens of Levoča traded with Krakow, the Hanseatic towns, and even with Venice.

The dominant part of the old Levoča is the large rectangular square with the Roman-Catholic church Kostol sv. Jakuba (St. James' Church) from the 14th century. This church is one of the most important sacral buildings in Slovakia. The most significant object in the church is Master Pavol's gothic altar, which is the masterpiece of Master Pavol from Levoča. A carved decoration of the late Gothic is with its height of 18.6 metres the tallest altar of its kind in the world. Its three sculptures showing Our Lady with Child, St. James, and St. John Apostle are also monumental.

Pilgrims' Place

High above Levoča, there is Mariánska hora (Marianska Mountain). Every year at the beginning of July, Levoča becomes the meeting point of the largest pilgrimage in Slovakia. Ten thousands of pilgrims in long queues ascend to the mountain to render their gratitude to the Virgin Mary.

www.levoca.sk
www.chramsvejakuba.sk



15 16



The metropolis of north-western Slovakia, **Žilina**, is situated at the confluence of three rivers: the River Váh, Kysuca, and Rajčianka. One architecturally dominant feature of the town is the baroque Kostol Obrátenia sv. Pavla Apoštola (Church of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle) with two towers and Kláštor kapucínov (Capuchin Monastery) from the mid-18th century. They are situated in the square-shaped Mariánske námestie (Marianske Square) with its typical porticoes. Other monuments in the city centre include Kostol Najsvätejšej Trojice (Church of the Most Holy Trinity), Burianova veža (Burian's Tower), which is one of the oldest renaissance belfries in Slovakia and Kostol sv. Štefana kráľa (Church of St. Stephen the King), which is the oldest preserved architectural monument in the territory of Žilina.

Budatínsky zámok (Budatin Chateau), which has a unique exhibition of tinkers' trade products - the only one of its kind in the world, is the dominant building of the northern periphery of Žilina.

www.zilina.sk

Komárno, one of the oldest towns in Slovakia, is the centre of Podunajsko (Danubialand). It lies on the confluence of the rivers Váh and Dunaj (the Danube). It enjoyed its greatest prosperity in the 15th century, when the rulers and court of Uhorsko frequently stayed here.

Komárňanský hrad (Komarno Castle) was rebuilt into a fortress during the times of Turkish expansion in the middle of the 16th century. In the 19th century, it became a strategic military base for Rakúsko-Uhorsko (Austro-Hungary). Today, the fortification system of Komárno is a national cultural monument.

Komárno is also famous for water sports and its thermal swimming pool, which uses water from two hot springs with a water temperature of 37 degrees Celsius.

www.komarno.sk

Images:

17. Komárno

18. Žilina

Source:
www.slovakia.travel, 2009.

Photo:
Domínik Bugár

19. Košice



17

The small town of **Medzilaborce**, situated in north-eastern Slovakia, is famous mainly for the unique Andy Warhol Museum of Modern Art, which is located here. It is the only institution in Europe dedicated to the works and origin of one of the best-known artists of the second half of the 20th century, Andy Warhol, whose parents come from the nearby village of Miková.

www.medzilaborce-urad.sk

Košice, the second biggest city of Slovakia, is the centre of eastern Slovakia. It has been the most important town of the region for centuries and is a natural centre of trade, culture, and education. Almost all the monuments of Košice are concentrated in the historical core of the city. The spindle-shaped Hlavná ulica (High Street) of Košice is the heart of the city and rightly considered one of the most beautiful streets in Slovakia. It is closed to traffic and lined by numerous wonderful historical buildings. The dominant building of Hlavné námestie (Central Square) and the city is the monumental gothic Dóm sv. Alžbety (Cathedral of St. Elizabeth). This building, rather isolated from the rest of the square, is the largest church of Slovakia and the easternmost situated gothic cathedral of western type in Europe.

www.kosice.sk

Prešov, the metropolis of north-eastern Slovakia, is a town with a mixed Slovak, Polish, Ukrainian, and Ruthenian population. Its historical monuments are concentrated into its historical core stretching around Hlavná ulica (High Street), which widens into a spindle-shaped square. Its dominant building is Kostol sv. Mikuláša (St. Nicholas' Church) from the mid-14th century with a tall tower reconstructed in gothic style. Fire struck the row of houses on Hlavná ulica (High Street) in 1887 and destroyed a large portion of the town. Originally late gothic, renaissance and baroque burgher houses were all reconstructed in the new style, Klobušický palác (Klobusicky Palace) in the southern part of the eastern row being a nice example. The most valuable building of the eastern row of houses is Rákócziho palác (Rakozci Palace). Another valuable structure of the square is the Greek-Catholic Katedrála sv. Jána Krstiteľa (Cathedral of St. John the Baptist) from the 18th century.

www.presov.sk

Source:
*The Towns
and Culture in
Slovakia, 2008,*
www.sacr.sk; *Top
Slovakia, 2008,*
www.sacr.sk;
[www.slovakia.
travel](http://www.slovakia.
travel), 2009;
SARIO research,
2009

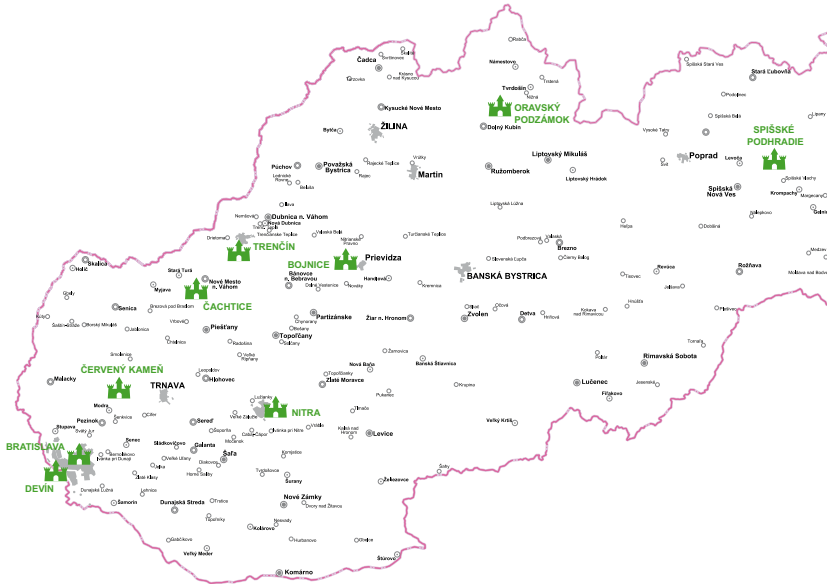


18 19



Castles and chateaus

One of the greatest tourist attractions in Slovakia is its numerous castles built many centuries ago. They served mainly as a protection against the raids of enemies and also as a home for the nobility. Some castles survived destructive attacks and have remained in good condition to this day, or have been partly renovated. Of others, only ruins are preserved. Today, both castles and chateaus are places of historical festivals of old arts and crafts, as well as medieval battles.



The most famous castles and chateaus are in:

Bratislava

Bratislavský hrad (Bratislava Castle) was built at a strategic point overlooking the crossing of the important trade routes, the Amber Road and the Danube Road. The most important times for the castle started in the 13th century. The reconstruction in the 15th century, initiated by the Hungarian king Sigismund, gave the castle the shape we know today.

century to the late 18th century. In the late 18th century, the castle became a representative seat of the ruling dynasty. In 1811, a destructive fire broke out, which was caused by the neglect of the troops that were using it at the time. It stayed in ruins for another century and a half. The complete renovation of the castle came in the second half of the 20th century.

Today, the castle is used as a cultural venue and hosts official events and state visits.

The Crown Tower was home to the Hungarian coronation jewels from the mid 16th

Images:
20. Bratislava
Castle

21. Devín
Castle

22. Red Rock
Castle

Castle **Devín** is a part of the oldest history of Slovakia. It stands on a massive rock hill above the confluence of the rivers Danube and Morava. In this wonderful setting above the bicolour confluence of two rivers, an elegant tower with battlements stands out. This is the so-called Virgin tower. A bridge over a moat and stairs leads up to the top platform with its remnants of a guard tower from the 13th century rebuilt in the 15th century and it offers panoramic view of the surroundings.

Performances of historic fencing are organised during the tourist season. Visitors can also try throwing the javelin or axe or shooting from a bow. Boats leave for Bratislava or Hainburg in Austria from a small port situated below the castle. A short boat trip up the River Morava is also possible.

Pezinok/Častá

The castle of **Červený kameň (Red Rock Castle)** is the most beautiful and best-preserved castle in Malé Karpaty (the Little Carpathians). The history of the castle is connected with the important Hungarian noble family of the Palffys. They gradually altered it into a stately residence with rich stucco ornamentation and frescos in the interior. Nowadays, the castle houses a museum presenting the historical living quarters of the nobility.

Regular fencing festivals and falconers shows, which take visitors back to medieval times, take place at the castle. Because of its unique atmosphere and charm, the castle has also become a venue for shooting various films and fairy tales such as *The Princess Fantagiro*, *The Dragon Heart*, and *Cinka Panna*.



20



21



22

Source:
Castles and
Chateaus in
Slovakia, 2008,
www.sacr.sk; Top
Slovakia, 2008,
www.sacr.sk;
www.slovakia.
travel, 2009

Trenčín

Trenčiansky hrad (Trencin Castle) is an outstanding feature not only of the town of Trenčín but also of the entire region along the middle section of the River Váh. This large construction that was renovated several decades ago towers up on a steep limestone cliff directly above the town. It is a national cultural monument and its history dates back to the Roman Empire: an inscription in the rock below the castle announces the victory of the second legion over German tribes at Laugaricio (today's Trenčín) in 179 AD. In the late 13th century, the castle was owned by the mighty Hungarian nobleman Matúš Čák, who controlled large areas of west and central Slovakia.

The castle square boasts The Love Well, which a young Turkish boy named Omar is said to have dug out with his own hands in order to buy the freedom of his beloved, the slavegirl Fatima.

Nitra

Sitting on the top of a cliff, **Nitriansky hrad (Nitra Castle)** has always had a strategic role as a natural fortress overlooking the River Nitra. Its history goes back to 871, when the castle was one of the official seats of Velko-moravská ríša (the Great Moravian Empire). Between the walls of this castle, the first Christian church in Slovakia and Central Europe was opened in 828. Each of the buildings inside the castle has gone through numerous reconstructions, and the shape we know today dates back to the 17th century, when it was fortified after the wars against Turkey.

The castle consists of four parts: the cathedral, the bishop's palace, the supporting buildings, and a well-preserved external fortification with a single gateway. Deep inside the castle, the remnants of the original fortification from the times of Velká Morava (Great Moravia) 1,200 years ago are accessible to visitors.

Today, the castle is home to the bishopric. It also boasts a diocese museum with some rare written documents showing the earliest history and the beginnings of Christianity in Slovakia and a cathedral jewel treasury.

Oravský podzámok

Oravský hrad (Orava Castle), which is one of the most beautiful castles in Slovakia, dominates the Orava region. Its highest part rises 112 metres above the nearby River Orava. Built at a strategic point on the trade route from Poland to Hungary, in close vicinity to the Tvrdošín customs station, the castle was designated county centre in 1370. The construction spanned from the mid 13th century to the early 17th century, and the castle was built in several stages, with each of the three parts erected on a separate level of the rocky hill. The defensive system was so good that the castle was never captured. Its unparalleled silhouette and internal design draw great numbers of tourists as well as film crews who like to make historical movies around and in the castle. A proper visit of the castle also includes watching some short performances, which make it one of the most attractive in Slovakia. Especially popular are night visits to the castle in the main tourist season, which also include theatre performances.

Bojnice

The fairy-tale **Bojnický zámok (Bojnice Chateau)** is a romantic chateau with features dating back to Gothic and Renaissance times. It is one of the most visited and beautiful castles not only in Slovakia but in the whole of Central Europe.

In medieval times, the former fortified settlement was made into a wooden castle. In the second half of the 17th century, baroque features were added to the construction. Most recently, the neo-gothic reconstruction of 1889-1910 has changed the castle into a fairy-tale chateau. It has a huge park and a nearby forest park with a popular zoological garden.



23

The International Festival of Ghosts and Spooks is held here regularly at the end of April and beginning of May when the chateau becomes the meeting point of ghosts, spooks, witches, and vampires from all over the world.

Images:
23. Orava
Castle
Source:
www.slovakia.travel, 2009.
Photo:
Alexander
Vojček



24

Čachtice

Built in the second half of the 13th century, **Čachtický hrad (Cachtice Castle)** was one of the first places intended to protect the western frontiers of Uhorsko (Hungary). The castle was burnt during the Rebellion of Estates by the soldiers of Francis II Rákóczi and fell into decay. Today, its picturesque ruins offer a nice panoramic view.

24. Bojnice
Chateau

25. Čachtice
Castle

26. Spiš Castle
Photo:
R.Buga

The castle is mostly known for its countess Alžbeta Báthoryová (Elizabeth Bathory), who is known as "the bloody countess", as she allegedly bathed in the blood of young women so that she could stay forever young. Her story has been a subject of numerous literary and theatre works.



25

Spišské podhradie

Spišský hrad (Spis Castle) is the largest medieval castle complex in the Central Europe. Nearby are the little town of Spišské Podhradie (with typical renaissance and baroque burgher houses), the church town of Spišská Kapitula (including several sacral monuments and the impressive two-tower Cathedral of St Martin), and the gothic church of the Holy Spirit in Žehra from the 14th century with frescoes inside from the 14th and 15th centuries. Well-preserved monuments along with the charming natural setting of the travertine territory of the national nature reserve of Dreveník come together to form a unique whole.

www.spisskyhrad.sk



26

Only in Slovakia

Vlkolíneč is a typical Slovak settlement with wooden architecture that can be found in the mountain and foothill regions of the northern part of central Slovakia. From the urbanistic point of view, it is a large village with a single street and two rows of houses with long courtyards arranged on both its sides.

The village is currently a part of the town Ružomberok. The total number of houses in the village is 55. In 18 of them 29 citizens are currently living.

www.vlkolinec.sk

The traditional village of **Čičmany**, surrounded by the Strážovské vrchy (the Strazovské Mountains) and Malá Fatra (the Little Fatra) in the southern part of Rajec dolina (the Rajec Valley), is famous for its original log houses with typical white ornamentation.

www.cicmany.sk

The wooden churches of the Slovak part of Karpaty (the Carpathian Mountains) possess extraordinary worldwide value. The churches include: Roman Catholic churches in Hervartov and Tvrdošín, Evangelical articular churches in Kežmarok, Leštiny, and Hronsek, and churches of the Eastern rite in Bodružal, Ladomirová, and Ruská Bystrá.

Images:
27. Čičmany
Source:
www.slovakia.travel, 2009.
Photo:
Ivan Hlobej

28. Wooden church in Hronsek

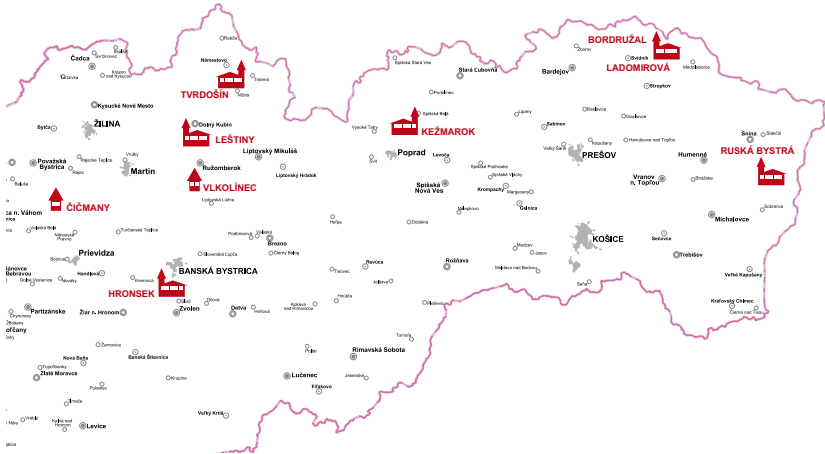
29. Wooden church in Ladomirová

30. Vlkolíneč
Photo:
R. Buga

31. Wooden church in Tvrdošín
Photo:
R. Buga

32. Demenovská Ice Cave

33. Wooden church in Hervartov
Photo:
R. Buga



27 28



29



Places on UNESCO's World Heritage Site list

- Spišský hrad (Spis Castle), (p.169)
- Banská Štiavnica, (p.163)
- Vlkolínec , (p.170)
- Bardejov, (p.163)
- Levoča, (p.163)
- Slovenský kras (the Slovak Karst), (p.155)
- Caves: Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa (Dobsinska Ice Cave), Gombasecká jaskyňa (Gombasecka Cave), Jasovská jaskyňa (Jasovska Cave), Ochtinská aragonitová jaskyňa (Ochtinska Aragonit Cave), Domica, Krásnohorská jaskyňa (Krasnohorska Cave), (p.158)
- Bukovské vrchy (Bukovske Mountains), (p.157)
- Vihorlat, (p.157)
- Wooden churches in Hervartov, Tvrdošín, Kežmarok, Leštiny, Hronsek, Bodružal, Ladomirová, Ruská Bystrá, (p.170)

Proposed to be on UNESCO's list

The Slovak Republic has prepared further nominations for this list and among them is:

- Tatranský národný park (the Tatra National Park) (p.153)
- Národný park Slovenský raj (the National Park of Slovak Paradise) (p.155)
- Národný park Malá Fatra (the National Park of Little Fatra) (p.157)



4.3 Social and cultural life

Many social and cultural events and activities take place in every town and village. People meet in bars, cafés, and other places to talk and enjoy themselves. There are theatres, cinemas (also in shopping centres), galleries, museums, restaurants, and clubs so that you can enjoy yourself in every way you would like. Cities and often also villages regularly organize festivals or other attractive activities for their citizens and visitors.

List of cultural institutions, events and ticket sales spots

| | |
|--|--|
| Slovenské národné divadlo (Slovak National Theatre) | www.snd.sk |
| Slovenská národná galéria (Slovak National Gallery) | www.sng.sk |
| Slovenské národné múzeum (Slovak National Museum) | www.snm.sk |
| Webpage about museums | www.museum.sk |
| Events in cities: web pages of the cities, e.g. | www.bratislava.sk |
| List of upcoming events and ticket sales | www.eventim.sk (online and in their offices) www.ticketportal.sk (online and in their offices) |

4.4 Leisure, sports and recreational activities

Slovakia is an ideal place for active holidays, as it offers many sporting opportunities; spending your leisure time depends on you and your preferences. For those who enjoy hiking, Slovakia offers many natural beauty spots which you just have to discover. If you are a fan of winter sports, you are more than welcome to choose from many Slovak ski-resorts. If you prefer water activities, there is a wide range of options including swimming, boating on a lake or even whitewater rafting. Horseback riding, biking, jogging, rollerblading, playing volleyball, basketball, football, ice-hockey, tennis, squash, and doing exercises in fitness centres are also options for spending your free time in Slovakia.

If you are an adrenalin or adventure seeker, you can go paragliding, hand-gliding, parachuting, or enjoy a view of the country from a balloon.

Slovakia is also a great place for leisurely relaxation. There are many modern aquaparks, healing spa resorts, and golf clubs. Alternatively, you can always just enjoy the calmness of the country's natural beauty by taking leisurely strolls through the countryside. Last, but not least, Slovakia is also an ideal place for shopping. Not only are there many shopping centres where well-known brands are concentrated, but you can also enjoy shopping in the busy shopping streets of Slovakia's town centres.

Source:
Active
Holidays in
Slovakia,
2009, www.sacr.sk; SARIO
research,
2009

Hiking and climbing

Slovakia offers excellent opportunities for both hiking and climbing, ranging from the most demanding to the simplest walks and rocks. The signposting of tourist trails has more than a 130-year-old tradition and is one of the foremost systems of trail signposting in the world. The uniformly signposted trails in Slovakia create one compact network which is more than 14,000 kilometres long.

Just choose the location and discover the beauty of the landscape, which the country offers you anywhere you go: in the west you can take a hike through Malé Karpaty (the Little Carpathians), in the north through Vysoké or Nízke Tatry (the High or the Low Tatras), in the centre of Slovakia you can enjoy Veľká or Malá Fatra (the Big or the Little Fatra), in the south Slovenský kras (the Slovak Karst), and in the east you can visit Slovenský raj (the Slovak Paradise), Pieniny, or Poloniny.

Winter sports

Because of Slovakia's mountainous landscape and its climatic conditions, the country is an ideal place for winter sports such as skiing, snowboarding, sledding, or ski mountaineering. The winter sports season starts towards the end of November and finishes in April.

The first ski resorts were established at the end of the 19th century in Vysoké Tatry (High Tatras). Later, winter sports centres started spreading to the lower mountain ranges. Nowadays, there are almost 100 skiing centres, over 1,000 ski lifts, 36 cableways, and 150 kilometres of tracks with snowmaking facilities. In recent years, many of the centres have been extensively reconstructed and the level of their services improved significantly.

The choice of downhill slopes is wide, from challenging through intermediate to gentle slopes especially suitable for beginners and children. They are all well maintained and many of them also offer attractive evening skiing.

The resorts offer complex services for their visitors and you can buy or hire sports equipment there. In the ski schools, qualified instructors teach skiing and snowboarding to beginners of all ages while the Mountain Rescue Service watches over the safety of the skiers 24 hours a day. There are buffets, restaurants, and attractive bars on the slopes, and good quality hotels, guesthouses, and private chalets look after the visitors' comfort. Mountain resorts usually take the form of modern leisure centres and there is a wide selection of specialised programmes enabling visitors to familiarise themselves with the history of the region, the cultural sights, and the national parks in the surroundings.



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32 km of downhill runs, 8 chairlifts, 19 ski lifts, 2 bobsleighs, cross-country trails, skating rink, evening skiing and many more adrenaline-pumping activities.

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Source: www.slovakia.travel, 2009. Photo: Ján Miškovič

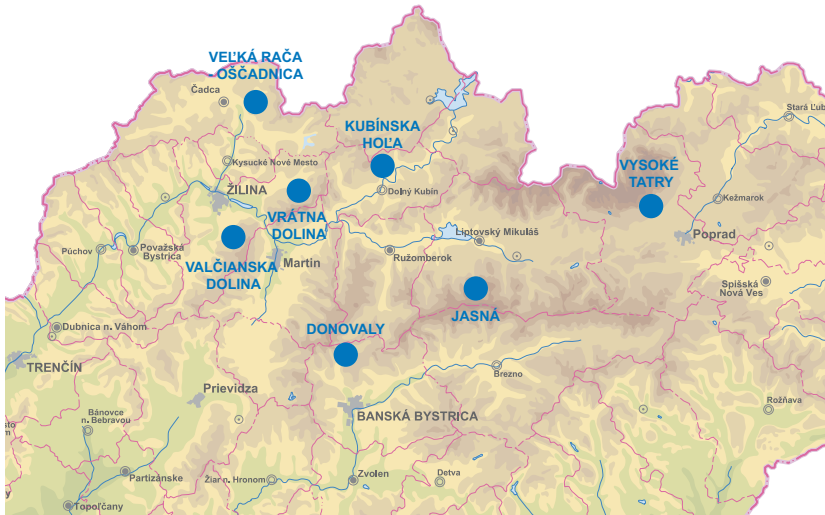


Source: www.slovakia.travel, 2009. Photo: Mikláš Benko

Source:
Ski Centres, 2009,
www.sacr.sk

The most popular ski resorts are:

| | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|--|
| Vysoké Tatry (High Tatras) | www.tatrawestsro.sk www.vt.sk | Orava | www.skikubinskahola.sk |
| Štrbské pleso in High Tatras, Donovaly, and Veľká Rača | www.parksnow.sk | Veľká Fatra (Big Fatra) | www.skipark.sk |
| Nízke Tatry (Low Tatras) | www.jasna.sk | Malá Fatra (Little Fatra) | www.vratna.com www.snowland.sk |



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Summer / water sports

If you would like to experience the adventure of doing water sports or just relax while going down the river and enjoy the beautiful surroundings, there are both wild and calm rivers in Slovakia which you can go down. One of the most spectacular and most visited Slovak rivers is the River Belá, where both beginners and seasoned water fans can enjoy exciting rapids. Less demanding but equally uplifting experiences can be going down the romantic River Váh, which meanders through Veľká Fatra (the Big Fatra) under the castle ruins of Strečno. Other frequently visited rivers are the River Orava and the River Hron. An unforgettable experience is offered floating down the River Dunajec on wooden rafts in the Pieniny National Park.

The Water Sports Centre in the Bratislava suburb of Čunovo is also very popular. It offers training grounds for professional water slalom canoeists and rafters, as well as for amateur sports training.

Source:
Active
Holidays in
Slovakia,
2009,
www.sacr.sk; SARIO
research,
2009

Popular destinations for boating, yachting, and swimming are reservoirs and other water areas, particularly, Slnčné jazerá (the Sunny Lakes) in the west, Liptovská Mara in the north, and Zemplínska šírava in the east. At many water areas additional sport activities are offered, such as toboggans, water skiing, water snowboarding, water cycling, etc. Apart from natural water areas outside, you can also enjoy swimming and sunbathing at one of many outdoor swimming pools, which open when the weather starts being sunny and hot. Before that you can enjoy swimming in one of the country's many indoor swimming pools.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Slnčné jazerá (Sunny Lakes) | www.slnecejazerasenec.sk |
| Zemplínska šírava | www.sirava.sk |
| Liptovská Mara | www.liptovska-mara.sk |
| Water Sports Centre in Čunovo | www.actionland.sk |





Source: www.slovakia.travel, 2009. Photo: Vladimír Rengevič

Horseback riding

A rich tradition of horse breeding can be found in the foothills and mountains of Vysoké and Nízke Tatry (the High and the Low Tatras), Veľká and Malá Fatra (the Big and the Little Fatra), Karpaty (the Carpathian Mountains), Javorníky (the Javorníky Mountains), and in the valleys of Slovenské rudohorie (the Slovak Rudohorie). In the past, horses served humans by working in the fields or in the woods. Today, they are still used for work, but also as an attraction of the countryside. You can order different levels of horseback riding lessons, or if you are experienced, you can enjoy the beauties of the Slovak countryside on horseback.

Cycling

Thanks to its landscape and varied topography, Slovakia is an ideal place for road or mountain cycling. There are more than 6,500 kilometres of cycling routes of varying difficulty. You have a choice of many cycle routes of which many lead along the rivers and connect several regions. Mountain biking is also popular.

Among the most impressive regions for road cyclists are Dunaj (the Danube) and the Váh river region, the Záhorie region, the Prievidza surroundings, the Spiš region, and Slovenský kras (the Slovak Karst). Mountain cycling enthusiasts can ride their bikes through the hills of Malé Karpaty (the Little Carpathians), Vysoké or Nízke Tatry (High or Low Tatras), and other Slovak mountains. You can also choose to explore the natural beauty in the surroundings of Poľana, Poloniny, and the Vihorlat hills.

Many of the cycle routes are thematic. For example, the Icon Route connects the wooden churches of eastern Slovakia while the Slovenský kras (the Slovak Karst) Cycle Route takes the visitor through the beautiful and interesting points of this magnificent national park.

Many of the cycle routes join each other and are interconnected with international cycling routes which connect Slovakia with the neighbouring countries.

Source: *Active Holidays in Slovakia*, 2009, www.sacr.sk; SARIO research, 2009

Adrenalin sports

Source:
Active Holidays
in Slovakia, 2009,
www.sacr.sk;
SARIO research,
2009

If you would like to experience a real adventure and feel the adrenalin in your blood, Slovakia is an ideal place. Whether it is paragliding, hand-gliding, parachuting - Slovakia offers it all. It does not matter whether you are advanced or just a beginner; if the latter, you can do basic training and then just enjoy your ride. Besides, there is no more fascinating way of seeing Slovakia's landscape than from high above. Taster courses and tandem gliding are offered in paragliding centres in the best Slovak localities: in the mountain ranges of Liptov, Kysuce, Orava, Nízke and Vysoké Tatry (the Low and the High Tatras),

Veľká and Malá Fatra (the Big and the Little Fatra). In these locations, you can also try how it feels to free-fall without any support but a rope and do bungee jumping. Enjoying a view of the country from a balloon is also possible.



Source: www.slovakia.travel, 2009. Photo: Roman Millan



Source: www.slovakia.travel, 2009. Photo: Vladimír Veverka



1 2

Spas and aquaparks

Slovakia has rich sources of mineral springs, many with therapeutic properties. The geological structure of the country is both a source of thermal springs used in spa treatment as well as water for swimming pools. Nearly every town or village has its own natural spring. Thermal spas in Slovakia are world famous for their healing effects. The opportunities for health restoration, recreational or wellness treatments they offer are really wide.

The most popular spa resorts are in:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Piešťany | www.kupelepiestany.sk |
| Dudince | www.kupeledudince.sk |
| Kováčová | www.kupelekovacova.sk |
| Trenčianske Teplice | www.kupele-teplice.sk |
| Rajecké Teplice | www.spa.sk |
| Štrbské pleso | www.kupele.strbske-pleso.info |
| Bardejov | www.kupele-bj.sk |

Images:
1. Spa in
Bardejov

2. Spa in
Trenčianske
Teplice
Source:
www.slovakia.travel, 2009.
Photo:
Štefan Kačena

Source: Active Holidays in Slovakia, 2009, www.sacr.sk; Relax in Thermal Water, 2009, www.sacr.sk; SARIO research, 2009

In the past few years, a new phenomenon has appeared alongside the classic spas: leisure centres with swimming pools and water parks called aquaparks. They offer many water attractions such as toboggans and pools with waves. Moreover, their water comes from thermal springs, which means these natural sources of mineral water have found a use not only in the healing process but also in the prevention of diseases. They serve to relieve stress and encourage relaxation and regeneration of new energy.

Popular aquaparks are:

3. Aquapark in Turčianske Teplice

Aquathermal in Senec

www.aquathermal.sk

4. Aquapark Tatralandia in Liptovský Mikuláš
Photo: R. Buga

Tatralandia in Liptovský Mikuláš

www.tatralandia.sk

AquaCity in Poprad

www.aquacity.sk

Meanderpark in Oravice

www.meanderpark.sk

5. AquaCity Poprad

Thermal park in Bešeňová

www.tkb.sk



3



4



5

Golf

The history of golf in Slovakia started before the First World War in Vysoké Tatry (High Tatras) and since then the sport has gained a lot of popularity. Golf centres welcome all enthusiasts of this game demanding precision, skill, and composure. It does not matter whether you are a beginner or an advanced player, modern golf courses will satisfy all your requirements. Furthermore, the beauty of the game is at some centres complemented by the stunning views of the mountain tops or romantic landscapes of baroque chateaus. Some golf centres are located near spas or aquaparks, thus giving you chance to get as much relaxation as you wish.

Popular golf courses are in:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Bernolákovo | www.golf.sk |
| Veľká Lomnica | www.golftatry.sk |
| Tále | www.tale.sk |
| Piešťany | www.spagolf.sk |

Source:
Active
Holidays
in Slovakia,
2009,
www.sacr.sk;
SARIO
research,
2009

Passive sports

Many sport events take place during whole year in Slovakia. You can visit them personally or watch them at home or in pubs. Some important sport events, usually of the Slovak representation teams, are projected live on big screens in the city centres' squares. The most popular sports in Slovakia are football and ice hockey.

Images:
6. Golf area in
Rajec
Photo:
R. Buga

6





GOLFOVÝ REZORT VELKÁ LOMNICA



27 HOLES GOLF COURSE
DRIVING RANGE
3 PAR GOLF ACADEMY
CHIPPING AREA AND PUTTING GREEN
RENT OF GOLF EQUIPMENT, GOLF SHOP
TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS

UNFORGETTABLE STAYS IN THE TATRAS



HOTEL INTERNATIONAL ****
28 STYLISHLY ROOMS AND SUITE
RELAXATION CENTER, MESSAGES
RESTAURANT, LOBBY BAR, INDOOR BAR
CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

4.5 Media

Most Slovak media are aimed at the Slovak public and are therefore written or broadcast in the Slovak language. However, it is possible to get English news as well. It is also possible to watch broadcasting of international television stations, buy international dailies and weeklies, or browse on international web pages.

Television

In Slovakia, there are four big Slovak television stations: the public broadcaster Slovenská televízia (Slovak Television) - STV, the commercial broadcasters Markíza and TV JOJ, and the news channel TA3. All of them broadcast only in Slovak – except Slovenská televízia, which has also some broadcasting in Hungarian and other languages of national minorities living in Slovakia. It is also possible to watch foreign and international TV stations here: Austrian and German TV stations (ORF, Pro7, RTL, etc.), BBC, CNN, and other. Their selection depends on the cable TV package or satellite package you choose. For more information, please see subchapter 3.3 Communication and postal service - Cable and Satellite Television.

Radio

The most popular radio stations are the public broadcasting service of Slovenský rozhlas (Slovak Radio) and commercial radio stations Radio Express, Fun Radio, Radio Okey, Radio Viva. Slovak radio stations broadcast only in Slovak, except for Slovenský rozhlas, which also broadcasts in Hungarian and other languages of national minorities living in Slovakia. Slovenský rozhlas, specifically its station Radio Slovak International, broadcasts in English, German, French, Spanish, and Russian. If you would like to know what's going

on in Slovak politics, the economy, or society, you can tune into this station not only in the whole territory of Slovakia, but also abroad.

Print

The biggest Slovak dailies are SME, Pravda, Hospodárske noviny, and the tabloids Nový čas and Plus jeden deň. The biggest weekly is Plus 7 dní, while the weeklies Trend and Profit focus on the economy. They have news and articles only in Slovak. The Slovak Spectator is the weekly, in which you can find all necessary information about what is going on in the Slovak politics and the economy in English.

Also, both Slovak press agencies, TASR and SITA, offer a service of daily English news. The price for such a service is € 400 monthly in TASR and € 332 in SITA. TASR also offers this service in German.

It is also possible to buy international press and have it prepaid and delivered to your office.

Internet

There are many Internet news pages, however, most of them are only in Slovak. These are mostly Internet web pages of other media (television, radio, print). Some of them are solely online news.

Online news in English can be found on the webpage of The Slovak Spectator – www.slovakspectator.sk.

List of media with news in English

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| The Slovak Spectator | www.slovakspectator.sk |
| Radio Slovak International | www.rsi.sk |
| SITA | www.sita.sk |
| TASR | www.tasr.sk |

4.6 Associations and clubs

While in Slovakia, you may also join one of its international associations and clubs meant for the expatriate community, for example:

International Women's Club of Bratislava (IWCB)

Source:
International
Women's Clubs
of Bratislava,
www.iwc.sk,
2009

The best way to meet other expatriates is to join the Bratislava based IWCB and come for their Tuesday morning coffee that takes place every week from 10:00 to 12:00 at Magda Lena Restaurant at the Hotel Crowne Plaza in Bratislava. Among its other activities are language courses of Slovak and English on Thursdays, fitness and health groups of jazz dance, tennis, golf, yoga, ice skating, and also a photography group, film club, craft club, monthly book club, and choir club. On Fridays, the playgroups (mothers and their children) meet every week in different homes.

| | Web | Contact | Adress |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|
| International Women's club | www.iwc.sk | Tel.: +421 905 38 31 35 E-mail: iwc@iwc.sk | Hotel Crowne Plaza, International Women's club, room 1757 Hodžovo námestie 811 06 Bratislava |

Embassies

Source:
Relocation ,
www.relo.sk,
2009; SARIO
research,
2009

It is always good to be in touch with the embassy of your home country when you are abroad. Sometimes they have special information or events that you might be interested in.

The list of the Diplomatic Corps of all countries in Slovakia can be found on the web page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic – www.mzv.sk, in its English version.

4.7 Useful links

| | |
|--|--|
| Tourist information and general information about Slovakia | www.slovakia.travel |
| Slovak Tourist Board | www.sacr.sk |
| List of Chambers of Commerce | www.directory.spectator.sk/catg_chamb.html |

Chambers of Commerce

The Chambers of Commerce offer to their members business-related services and also social events.

List of Chambers of Commerce:

| Chamber of Commerce | Web page | Contact | Address |
|--|---------------------------|---|---|
| American Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia | www.amcham.sk | Tel: +421 (0)2 5464 0534 E-mail: office@amcham.sk | Hodžovo námestie 2 Hotel Crowne Plaza 811 06 Bratislava |
| Australian – Slovak Chamber of Commerce | www.sachamber.sk | Tel: +421 (0)2 5920 0291 E-mail: sachamber@sachamber.sk | Pribišova 4 841 05 Bratislava |
| Austrian - Slovak Chamber of Commerce | www.sohk.sk | Tel: +421 (0)2 6353-6787 E-mail: sohk@sohk.sk | Kutlíkova 1 814 99 Bratislava |
| British Chamber of Commerce in Slovak Republic | www.britcham.sk | Tel: +421 (0)2 5292-0371 E-mail: director@britcham.sk | Sedlárska 5 811 01 Bratislava |
| Canadian - Slovak Chamber of Commerce | www.cancham.sk | Tel: +421 (0)2 5292-2383 E-mail: cancham@cancham.sk | Obchodná 45 811 06 Bratislava |
| Danish Business Club in the Slovak Republic | www.DanishBusinessClub.sk | Tel: +421 (0)2 5930-0219 E-mail: DanishBusinessClub@gmail.sk | Panská 2 816 06 Bratislava |
| French - Slovak Chamber of Commerce | www.fsok.sk | Tel: +421 (0)2 5910-3411 E-mail: fskomora@nextra.sk | Partizánska 2 811 03 Bratislava |
| German - Slovak Chamber of Industry and Commerce | www.dsihk.sk | Tel: +421 (0)2 2065-5533 E-mail: info@dsihk.sk | Námestie SNP 13 811 06 Bratislava |
| Israeli Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia | www.ilcham.sk | Tel: +421 (0)907 723400 E-mail: eva@ilcham.sk | Vajnorská 49 831 03 Bratislava |
| Italian - Slovak Chamber of Commerce | www.camitslovakia.sk | Tel: +421 (0)2 5910-3700 E-mail: info@camitslovakia.sk | Michalská 7 811 06 Bratislava |
| Russian Chamber of Commerce for the EU | www.ruscham.com | Tel: +421 (0)907 167714 E-mail: mail@ruscham.com | P.O.BOX 38 830 08 Bratislava |
| Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry | www.sopk.sk | Tel: +421 (0)2 5413-1228 E-mail: sopkurad@sopk.sk | Gorkého 9 816 03 Bratislava |
| Slovak Turkish Chamber of Commerce and Industry | www.sktr.sk | Tel: +421 (0)2 5262-1520 E-mail: office@sktr.sk | Nám.SNP 23/28 811 01 Bratislava |
| Swedish Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic | www.sweden.sk | Tel: +421 (0)903 780854 E-mail: swedcham@sweden.sk | Šoltésovej 14 811 08 Bratislava |
| Swiss - Slovak Chamber of Commerce | www.hssr.sk | Tel: +421 (0)2 4363-6617 E-mail: hssr@stonline.sk | Radničné nám. 4 821 05 Bratislava |
| The Netherlands Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic | www.netherlandschamber.sk | Tel: +421 (0)944 308441 E-mail: info@netherlandschamber.sk | Panenská 21 811 04 Bratislava |

Source:
www.directory.spectator.sk/
catg_chamb.html

Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency



The Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO) is a governmental investment and trade promotion agency.

In Slovakia and around the world, SARIO provides a range of services to potential investors and trade partners. Our team of experts is ready to assist you with all the aspects of the investment and trade process.



S A R I O

Slovak Investment
and Trade Development Agency

Mission

The mission of SARIO is to promote the growth of economic development and improve the quality of life in Slovakia. SARIO works toward this goal by promoting the economic environment of Slovakia, attracting foreign direct investment and developing foreign direct investment to the final stage of its realization. Since 2002, when the agency was established, until 2009, SARIO successfully assisted in 346 investment projects with a total value of EUR 7.1 billion which together created 71,142 new jobs.

Vision

SARIO works actively to make the Slovak Republic a country with a well-developed economy and an educated population with a high quality of life. In order to achieve these goals, SARIO utilizes its valuable contacts, both in Slovakia and abroad.

SARIO is a government-funded agency under the management of the Ministry of the Economy of the Slovak Republic. SARIO's primary objective is to improve the standard of living of Slovak citizens by increasing the employment rate and reducing regional disparities.

It achieves these objectives in a variety of ways:

- the agency presents the business environment in Slovakia to the domestic and foreign target groups to increase the awareness of the name "Slovakia" and to create interest in foreign direct investment and trade
- it focuses on maximizing the inflow of foreign direct investment to Slovakia via active and targeted international marketing, and by increasing the knowledge of the investment environment in Slovakia, as well as by supporting creation of industrial parks
- the agency supports foreign trade via match-making for bids and offers generated by the Commercial Representatives Network and by other sources as well as via subcontracting activities

SARIO is an entity which has a high level of credibility internationally and domestically; its officials are regularly invited to attend professional forums where they present and discuss the current issues of the foreign direct investment and foreign trade. SARIO has a network of six regional offices in Slovakia and operates worldwide via 46 commercial representatives of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic.

Key activities:

- creation of a suitable investment and “business-friendly” environment in Slovakia
- assistance with the completion of investment projects of foreign investors and ancillary services
- consultation and solutions for individual state aid to investors; processing applications for state aid
- mapping out and creating databases of available real estate and industrial parks
- assistance and service connected with joint venture creation between Slovak and foreign companies
- assistance to small and medium-sized businesses in their search for export and trade opportunities abroad
- assistance to the municipalities and small and medium-sized business in applying for money from EU structural funds and helping them complete their projects

Awards

The international reputation of SARIO’s services was confirmed by awards for “The Fastest Developing Investment Agency in Europe in 2003” and “The Best European Investment Agency in Hightech 2007 Award” at a world investment conference in the French town of La Baule.

The key activities are divided into three sections:



Foreign Direct Investment Section

The Foreign Direct Investment Section conducts activities to attract foreign direct investment by promoting Slovakia as an ideal business and investment location.

Key activities:

- assistance in implementing investment projects
- analyses of labour market, taxation, legislation, macroeconomics, etc
- advice on issues related to starting a business
- sector and regional analyses
- selection and recommendation of ideal location and suitable real estate
- facilitation of communication with national and local authorities, self-governing bodies
- consultancy in the area of state aid and assistance with applications for investment incentives
- aftercare services for foreign investors already operating in the Slovak Republic
- assistance in finding Slovak partners for joint ventures or suppliers
- services are free of charge

For additional information and insight, please refer to our website www.sario.sk and click on "Invest in Slovakia" for information on company registration, taxation and statutory social security contributions, expatriates and labour related legislation, as well as the investment incentives of the Slovak Government.

Foreign Trade Section

The Foreign Trade Section conducts activities to support export of Slovak goods and to further develop foreign trade of the Slovak Republic.

Key activities:

- assisting Slovak small and medium businesses in their search for export and trade opportunities abroad
- participation in expositions and trade fairs
- organizing trade missions and official trips abroad for business groups that include specific goals and programmes - these are some of the most effective tools for striking up foreign trade relationships
- receiving foreign delegations
- SARIO Information Centre – SIC, on-line database: Project of Slovak exporters and their up-to-date offers – matchmaking services
- Registry Made in Slovakia (Database of the Slovak companies): a comprehensive registry of almost all Slovak companies - any company looking for a partner has a chance to register on the internet portal www.madeinslovakia.net. Here, it will obtain free access to the database of more than 700,000 Slovak companies with options to sort them according to the company registered office, main business subject and value of annual turnover, or its export focus on certain territories. The access to the database Made in Slovakia is provided upon filling in a simple registration form.
- designing educational programmes for start-up exporters
- consulting services at home and abroad

EU Structural Funds Section

The EU Structural Funds Section is in charge of project administration of programmes co-financed by the Slovak Government and the European Commission.

The Section administers The Sectoral Operational Programme - Industry and Services measures: Measure 1.2 - Support for Building and Reconstruction of Infrastructure and Measure 1.5 - Development of Foreign Cooperation and Image of the Slovak Republic:

- supporting public sector's investment in industrial and regional development within the Slovak Republic through the construction and revitalisation of industrial parks and business sites
- developing and expanding trade exchange between the Slovak Republic and the EU member states by assisting Small and Medium Enterprises with their image-building, strengthening thus their presentation on domestic and foreign markets

The Section currently administers new Operational Programme – Competitiveness and Economic Growth and its Sub-Measure 1.1.3 – Support for Participation of Slovak Manufacturers in Fairs, Exhibitions, Trade Missions and Measure 1.2 – Support of Common Services for Entrepreneurs. The Operational Programme is administered under the financial framework of the new programming period 2007-2013.

- assisting Small, Medium, and Big Enterprises of less than 500 employees with their presentation on domestic and foreign markets increasing thus their competitiveness and enabling them to involve in fruitful international cooperation
- supporting public sector's effort to build infrastructure for entrepreneurial activities within the field of industry and services, including construction of new sites and brownfields' revitalisation

Key activities:

- announcing calls to submit projects
- receipt, registration, formal control, and evaluation of applications for contributions
- conclusion of contracts dependent upon contributions with aid recipients/ final recipients
- receipt of applications for payment from final aid recipient(s), securing preliminary and continual financial control of applications for payment, approving applications for payment
- monitoring projects which have been awarded a non-repayable financial contribution
- securing the safekeeping of relevant documentation regarding project realization

Success stories

Thanks to SARIO many strategic investment projects and export activities have been carried out. Among them are:

Foreign Direct Investment Section

PSA Peugeot, KIA Hyundai, Samsung, SONY, Getrag Ford, Dell, T-Systems International, Johnson Controls

Foreign Trade Section

Plastika Nitra, BOST Trenčín, NSG Technology, Mikromat, ŽOS Zvolen, SES Tlamče, SEZ Krompachy, Mondí SCP

EU Structural Funds Section

Industrial park Galanta, Industrial park Devta, Jaklovce – Project Reconstruction of production halls and city infrastructure in the industry zone of Jaklovce, the Industrial park Za traťou – Lipany, and the industry zone of South Lučenec

Exhibitions and fairs: PASTORKALT a.s. Nové Zámky, KONŠTRUKTA - Industry, StrojCAD s.r.o. Michalovce, EKOM spol. s r. o. Piešťany, SHP Harmanec, a.s., SEZ Krompachy a.s. - Krompachy

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Life in Slovakia

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