



Slovakia in Brief

The Slovak Republic was formed on 01 January 1993, following the peaceful division of Czechoslovakia into two independent states. The country has been a member of the European Union since May 2004. Slovakia is particularly attractive to tourists because of its unspoilt and picturesque countryside: the Tatra mountains, the large expanse of forested land (one third of the country is covered in forests) and the abundance of thermal springs. The capital, Bratislava, spreads over both banks of the Danube and has long been a successful commercial centre. Although one of the youngest capitals of the world, this city attracts visitors due to its small size, vibrant cultural life, historic charm and business opportunities.

Bratislava, a city of contrasts, clearly documents Slovakia's turbulent history: the imposing Bratislava Castle on a hill above the Danube, the narrow streets of the Old Town and St. Martin's Cathedral – vestiges of the country's era as a coronation city for Hungarian kings. Conversely, the concrete housing schemes constructed during the Communist era expose a different era.

Slovakia has several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, amongst them the Castle of Spiš and its environs and the historic town of Bardejov. In 2007, the Carpathian primeval beech forests of the Bukovské vrchy and Vihorlatské vrchy mountains in the east of Slovakia were added to the UNESCO natural heritage list.

A wide range of incentive programmes can be arranged by the country's experienced DMCs, e.g. "Communist Bratislava", the "Experience of the Cave of Dead Bats", or listening to the sound of the fujara, a flute used by Slovak shepherds.



UNESCO World Heritage Site: Castle of Spiš ©Slovak Tourist Board

Fact File

Government: parliamentary democracy
Capital: Bratislava
Population: approx. 5.4 million
Area: 49,035km²
Official language: Slovak
Time zone: Central European Time
Telephone: Dial the int. code plus 421 for Slovakia
Electricity: 220 V (A/C), 50 Hz
Currency: 1 Slovak Crown (SKK) = 100 hellers
Entry requirements: EU citizens require only a valid passport. Other nationalities please check latest regulations.

Travel Information

There are international airports in Bratislava, Košice, Piešťany, Sliac, Žilina, and Poprad. Vienna's international airport Schwechat is only 50km away from Bratislava and there are regular bus connections to Bratislava.

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The Courtyard of Euope in Komárno ©Slovak Tourist Board

