



**SLOVAKIA
EXPLORER**



Discover Slovakia

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Discover Slovakia's history, culture and heritage.

Holiday code: DSK

Countries included: Slovakia

Activity level: 1

Themes: Cultural discovery

Tour type: Guided Groups

Minimum age: 16

Duration: 8 days

Available in: Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct

Overview

Discover Slovakia's cultural and historical importance with visits to five UNESCO World Heritage Sites. We'll take you to old mining villages, castles, medieval towns, and perfectly preserved settlements. You'll follow in the footsteps of folklore, including Slovakia's very own Robin Hood, uncovering fascinating tales in a beautiful setting. Enjoy optional walks in spectacular scenery of the High Tatras, Slovakia's oldest national park with breathtaking fauna and flora. Conclude the tour with an authentic wine tasting, accompanied by a local Slovakian wine dresser in one of Slovakia's top wine-making regions, is an excellent end to this discovery tour. Come and discover for yourself!

Over eight days you'll discover:

- **Bratislava** Slovakia's capital.



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- **Banska Stiavnica** UNESCO mining town in spectacular scenery in the heart of Slovakia.
- **Košice** Slovakia's second biggest city and the European city of culture.
- **Spissky Castle** the biggest castle in Central-Eastern Europe.
- **Levoca** a medieval town with the biggest wooden altar in the world.
- **Tatra Mountains** Slovakia's oldest and biggest national park.
- **Terchova** the birthplace of Juraj Janosik, Slovakia's Robin Hood.
- **Vlkolinec** UNESCO mountain village with beautifully decorated log houses.
- **Slovakia's folklore** in the wine region of Skalica in western Slovakia.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Bratislava. Old Town sightseeing.

On day one you will be met by your tour guide who will brief you about the programme about the next seven days. The meeting time is scheduled for 5 pm. Depending on your arrival time, there might be time for a stroll around the old town.

Meals included

None

Accommodation

Bratislava, Hotel Devin (or similar)

Day 2: Explore the highlights of Bratislava, Slovakia's capital.

Bratislava, often called the beauty of the Danube, has a very good strategic location, situated on both banks of the Danube at the foothills of Malé Karpaty (Little Carpathians), near Vienna. With this excellent location, Bratislava was always the centre of busy life.

During the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, Bratislava was in 1536 declared the capital of Hungary. Despite the rich history, Bratislava is one of the youngest capitals of the world. Visitors are attracted by the cosiness of the city and historical monuments.

The dominant feature is Bratislava Castle towering majestically above the Danube. During our guided tour, you will also see Michalska Brána Gate, Primate's Palace and the President's Palace, St Martin's Cathedral, and more.

Meals included

Breakfast

Accommodation

Bratislava, Hotel Devin (or similar)

Day 3: Visit Bojnicky Castle, Slovakia's most romantic castle, then transfer to Banska Stiavnica.

The jewel of town, Bojnice is fairy-tale-like Bojnicky Castle, which belongs to the most visited and most beautiful castles in Central Europe. After a guided tour of the castle, our trip continues toward the ancient town of Banska Stiavnica. It lies in the middle of Stiavnicke Mountains and is included in the UNESCO list.

This former mining town is one of the most beautiful and extremely valuable historical towns in Slovakia.

Meals included

Breakfast

Accommodation

Banska Stiavnica, Hotel Salamander (or similar)

Day 4: Transfer to Kosice, Slovakia's second biggest town and the European city of culture.

This morning we'll travel 3.5 hrs to Kosice located in eastern Slovakia. En route to Kosice, we'll visit the manor house of Betliar. The manor house in Betliar is the only manor house in Slovakia, which has been preserved after 1945 with its original equipment and collections. It was not exposed by the fate of our other aristocratic residences—his facilities were not stolen, he was not rebuilt, and he has been serving museums practically since nationalization. So everything you will see here belonged to members of the Andrassy family, whom we consider to be the most important aristocrats in Europe in the 19th century. After arrival in Kosice, we have a stroll across the old town and Kosice's gardens.

Meals included

Breakfast

Accommodation

Kosice, Hotel Maraton (or similar)

Day 5: Prepare yourself for a day packed with UNESCO sites - the spa town of Bardejov, Spisky Castle, medieval Levoca - and then transfer to Tatra Mountains.

After breakfast, we travel 1 hour north to the spa town of Bardejov. Thanks to its beautifully preserved city centre, this medieval town has been on the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List since 2000.

Our next stop will be the Spisky or Spis Castle. With an area of more than 4 hectares, Spis Castle is one of the largest castle-ruin complexes in Europe. In 1993, it was included on the UNESCO list.

Our adventure then continues in the nearby ancient town of Levoca—once a royal town with massive city walls—which is a cultural and historical treasure with a number of architectural monuments.

The wooden altar in the basilica of St. Jacob is 18.6 m high. It is the highest altar of its kind in the world. Levoca is also one of the biggest and oldest pilgrim sites in Slovakia.

This brilliant day is then concluded with a 25-minute trip to Smokovec, the oldest settlement in the High Tatras mountains, the natural border with Poland, and our home for the next two nights.

Meals included

Breakfast

Accommodation

Smokovec, Hotel Villa Siesta (or similar)

Day 6: A day in the Tatra Mountains.

Today is free for optional activities in the spectacular national park of the High Tatras, the biggest mountains in Eastern Europe, and home to wolves, lynx, brown bears, and seven species of eagle. This

territory is known for its spa settlements and mountain villages with typical small wooden architecture and breathtaking fauna and flora, and it is a paradise for the lovers of nature. For stunning panoramic views, you can take a cable car to Skalnaté Pleso 1754 m; go for a walk to mountain lakes, huts, and waterfalls; or perhaps experience a trip by a mountain tram to Strbské Pleso, Slovakia's highest village. You can also visit the stunning Belianska cave or relax in outdoor thermal pools in the foothills of the Tatras. The choice is wide, and your tour guide will be there to assist you with anything you might need.

Meals included

Breakfast

Accommodation

Smokovec, Hotel Villa Siesta (or similar)

Day 7: Visit the UNESCO mountain village of Vlkolinec, stop in Terchova, then travel to the wine region of Skalica in western Slovakia.

The first stop on our journey from east to west will be the mountain village of Vlkolinec (Wolves' Place). This UNESCO settlement is hidden in the mountains of Veľká Fatra with beautifully preserved coloured log houses is a must when visiting Slovakia.

Our next stop will be the mountain village of Terchova. Terchova, the birthplace of Juraj Janosik, Slovakia's very own Robin Hood, is probably the most famous village in Slovakia. After lunch in this beautiful village, we'll continue to the royal town of Skalica.

In the 17th century, it was one of the most important towns in Slovakia, flourished by wine production, which remains. Here, an authentic wine-tasting with a local wine dresser will be prepared for us.

At a local wine cellar, you'll have the opportunity to taste a number of locally produced Slovakian wines, including the red wine Skalický Rubín (Skalica's Ruby), which refers to its specific colour.

With other locally made specialities, while listening to local music and learning about the rich folklore traditions, this is an excellent ending to a spectacular discovery circular tour across Slovakia.

Meals included

Breakfast, Dinner (buffet)

Accommodation

Skalica, Hotel Sv. Michal (or similar)

Day 8: Transfer to Bratislava, tour ends.

This morning we'll travel 1 hour to Bratislava, where your tour ends.

On request we can arrange onward transfer to Vienna, Budapest, or Prague.

Meals included

Breakfast

Essential Holiday Information

Is this trip right for you?

This well-thought-out trip is a great choice for people who like cultural discovery holidays. This trip is classified as easy with no demanding walks, so it can be managed by people with an average level of fitness.

What's included

- Seven nights in three-star hotels
- Seven breakfasts, one dinner
- All activities as per itinerary
- All transfers to/from activities as per itinerary
- English-speaking local tour guide from start to finish

What's not included

- International flights
- Arrival and departure airport transfers
- Travel insurance
- Any optional activities mentioned in the itinerary

Optional

Single room supplement: 150 EUR

Max group size

Normally 16 max.

Start point

This tour starts in Bratislava.

End point

This tour ends in Bratislava.

Flights and airports

To enhance flexibility our holidays do not include flights. This gives you the freedom to choose a local airport that works for you and shop for the best deal.

List of airports with distances to the first hotel in Bratislava:

Bratislava Airport – 14 km / 20 min

Vienna Airport – 64 km / 45min

Getting there and Airport transfers

Once you have decided which airport works for you best you will need to choose the way how to get to the starting hotel / joining point. There are two options:

Public transport

You can reach Bratislava city by public transport (bus, train). Using the public transport is another way of experiencing your destination, which puts you right in the centre of the action. If you prefer to travel by public transport we can help you find the best option.

Private transfers (door to door service)

Book your private airport transfers directly with us. Our fast, reliable and affordable private transfers are the best way to reach your starting hotel quickly and comfortably. For up-to-date prices of Airport private transfers [click here](#).

Accommodation

During this tour you'll stay in three star hotels.

Extra nights

If you need to arrive or leave on a different date, please contact us and we'd be more than happy to arrange extra pre or post tour accommodation for you.

Packing

We recommend you pack as light as possible, with a suitcase or backpack that are easy to lift and carry. A daypack for activities is also useful. Below you will find a recommended packing list. It is by no means exhaustive, so if you're in any doubt, please contact us.

- T-shirts and shorts
- Long-sleeved tops and trousers
- Jacket/coat/fleece
- Swimwear
- Walking boots
- Strong trainers
- Water bottle
- Small first-aid kit
- Sun cream, sunhat and sunglasses

Ready to go? Book now!

1. Check availability online or contact us by email or phone.
2. Secure your place/s online by clicking the ENQUIRY OR BOOK button or contact us by email/phone. Your place is secured with a 99 EUR deposit per person and can pay by bank transfer.
3. Once the deposit is received a confirmation email will be sent to your email automatically, and your place/s will be officially confirmed.

Need more information?

Have a look at our detailed trip notes or please feel free to [contact us](#) if you have any questions at all.

Our knowledgeable and helpful team is here to help, and we look forward to welcoming you to our spectacular country soon!

Why book with Slovakia Explorer

This holiday is operated by our expert, in-country team at Slovakia Explorer. By booking with us, you'll benefit from our unrivalled local knowledge, and have 24/7 support during your trip.

Our holidays offer unique experiences, which give you an unparalleled insight into Slovakia. During the planning and booking process, we pay attention to every detail of your holiday to ensure your trip is perfect.

Slovakia Explorer offers great value, high quality holidays.