



# SLOVAKIA

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SLOVAKIA  
GOOD IDEA

[www.slovakia.travel](http://www.slovakia.travel)





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# WELCOME TO SLOVAKIA!



Despite its small size, this country in the geographical centre of Europe will surprise you with the diversity of what you can see, come to know, taste and experience here. Wherever you go, you'll have unforgettable experiences nearby.

Slovakia is a Member State of the European Union and belongs to the Schengen Area. The currency of Slovakia is the euro, and you can communicate in English and other world languages almost everywhere you go. In a relatively short time and covering a short distance, you can come to know energetic cities in the lowlands as well as untouched alpine nature surrounded by peaks rising more than 2000 metres above sea level. During a single vacation, you can taste world-reputable wines in historic cellars, play golf on first-class courses and negotiate adrenaline-inducing via ferratas.

Enter into underground caves, all-wooden churches built without use of a single nail or majestic medieval castles, of which there are nearly two hundred in Slovakia. Get to know UNESCO landmarks from the seat of a bicycle. And what about observing the darkest night sky in the country and trekking through primeval forests where bison still roam today?

Slovakia preserves its traditional culture; so, you can become familiar with many things unique in the world – folk costumes and dances, woodwind instruments, maiolica, wire craft and art, high-mountain portering and falconry.

The capital Bratislava spreads out over the banks of the Danube, the longest river in the European Union. It is the only city in the world that lies on the borders of three countries (Austria, Czechia and Hungary). From time immemorial, Bratislava has been considered a historically significant crossroads of trade routes and remains an important transport hub still today. It is located only 45 minutes from Vienna International Airport. This modern metropolis with lots of greenery is the starting point for travelling around Slovakia.

Accept our invitation to discover Slovakia!



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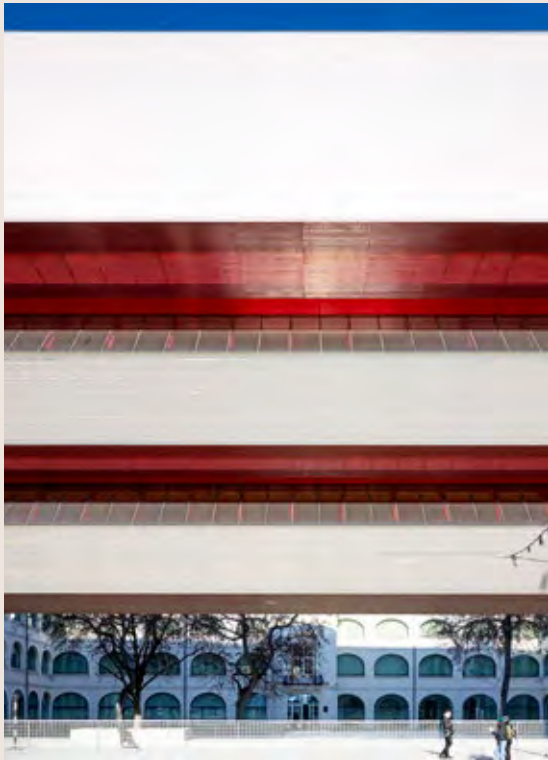


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# SLOVAK NATURE

Slovakia is a paradise for all lovers of tourism, adventurers and adrenaline enthusiasts. It has nine national parks, a million hectares of protected areas, approximately 15,000 km of marked hiking trails and six UNESCO-protected caves. Fifty Slovak peaks reach heights more than 2,000 metres above sea level. In Slovakia, you can still find places where human beings have hardly set foot.



# EXPERIENCES IN EVERY SEASON



The entire territory of Slovakia falls into the temperate climate zone, and the four seasons alternate here. As a result, every season is different, but no less attractive. It is an ideal destination for a variety of outdoor activities.

Get to know Slovakia from the seat of a bicycle on routes passing through medieval cities, UNESCO landmarks, over mountain ridges or along riverbanks. More than 50 official cycling arteries and hundreds of cycling paths cross the country. Moreover, three international European cycle routes, EuroVelo 6, 11 and 13, pass through it. For example, for mountain singlettracks visit the Pieniny region and for bike parks the Liptov region.



**Cycling map of Slovakia**  
cykloportal.sk

The marked hiking trails in Slovak national parks are perfect for a one-day or multi-day expedition. You'll find hiking trails for all age and performance categories. The Malá Fatra mountains, with trails of varying difficulty, is a paradise for hikers. Ridges, narrow canyons with ladders and waterfalls or expansive pastures await you there. The majestic Veľká Fatra mountains will enchant you with their diversity and beauty. You can go birdwatching or observe wild animals on guided walks through nature.







**I like it here. Your mountains are a good place for real alpinism... And the world should know about them.**

Reinhold Messner on the Vysoké Tatry

**SKIING FOR EVERYONE**

With its 5-month winter season, Slovakia is a unique destination for winter sports. It surprises with more than 80 ski resorts with hundreds of kilometres of slopes over more than half of its territory. Ski on first-class slopes in the Vysoké Tatry or in family-oriented resorts near the borders with Poland and Czechia. Be inspired by the most successful Slovak skier of all time, Olympic gold medallist Petra Vlhová, and test out the course designed for Alpine Skiing World Cup races in the Jasná resort in the Nízke Tatry.

**FUN OFF THE SLOPES**

The mecca of ski mountaineering awaits you in the Západné Tatry, as do non-traditional sledding, kilometres of cross-country skiing trails or hiking trails to alpine cottages. Don't miss snow kiting, walking in snowshoes or climbing icefalls in the Tatry or Slovenský Raj. Not only children will enjoy the breathtaking ice dome on Hrebienok and the largest children's fun park at Donovaly. What's more, you have hot thermal baths just a short jump away from the snowy Slovak slopes.







The legendary mountain chalet Chata pri Zelenom plese, also known by the nickname Brnčalka, has been standing on the shore of a high mountain lake for almost 130 years.

SLOVAKIA TRAVEL

# MOUNTAIN LAKES

Mountain lakes set among rugged peaks are evidence of the glacial past of the Vysoké and Nízke Tatry. Altogether there are more than a hundred of them. More demanding hiking trails lead to some mountain lakes. The reward at their end will be the breathtaking scenery of the alpine landscape with almost no traces of civilization. Many mountain lakes are more accessible, however, and you can enjoy the view from the terrace of a mountain chalet or hotel, or on a walk, for example, around Štrbské pleso lake.

Skalka pri Kremnici  
 SLOVAKIA TRAVEL  
 Martin Šopínek @schopinski



An overnight stay in a mountain shelter in the middle of the forest cures a person of being spoiled. There you'll realise how little you really need.

Jakub Ptačin, Hikemates portal of the Slovak Tourists Club

## HOSPITALITY AMIDST THE MOUNTAINS

The goal of your hike in the Vysoké Tatry can be any of the thirteen legendary alpine chalets. They were built at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The oldest of them is Rainerova chata, located on Starolesnianská poľana. It was founded by Juraj Rainer, who was born over 220 years ago. Marked hiking trails will lead you to the chalets, and despite the seasonal closure, which always applies from 1 November to 15 June, all the chalets are accessible even in winter, with the exception of the chalet Chata pod Rysmi. There are also mountain shelters where you can wait out the rain or have refreshments, but especially warm up and sleep when on long hiking trails. According to the portal Hiking.sk, there are approximately 220 mapped shelters in Slovakia, and the number is still rising. In the past, many of them served sheep herders seasonally. Some are modest cabins without a resident cabin manager; others also offer refreshments.

## ADRENALINE VIA FERRATAS

For a truly extraordinary experience, set off over the via ferratas in Slovakia. They include steel ropes and ladders at heights, risers and chains in canyons or overcoming waterfalls and fissures in gigantic crags. On the legendary via ferrata at Skalka, you can even walk along the nearly 80-metre-long suspension bridge over the gorge. Specially secured via ferrata routes have differing levels of difficulty, from very high to easier. Via Ferrata HZS in Martinské hole, accessible from the city of Martin, is a genuine treat. The route through the wild canyon is highly adventurous and full of adrenaline. You can negotiate less demanding via ferrata routes near Bratislava, for example the Via ferrata Zobor on Zobor hill which offers a view over Nitra.





# CALL OF THE WILD

Experience wild, virgin nature in one of the oldest forests in Europe. Dare to climb ladders and chains over deep gorges in Slovenský raj. Head for the Pieniny for a ride on the Dunajec River on traditional wooden rafts and to the Tatry for white water rafting.

The Carpathian beech forests in the Poloniny národný park national park and in the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area in north-eastern Slovakia are a great attraction for all adventurous types. Because of their uniqueness, they are on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Packs of wolves, as well as lynx, bears and Hucul horses roam these thousand-year-old forests. To this day, the last generations of two-metre bison live here in the wild. Four-hundred-year-old fir trees with massive trunks and almost sixty-metre-tall beech trees, considered the tallest in the world, grow in these forests. In the

wilderness of the easternmost part of Slovakia, you move along marked hiking trails. Due to the absence of light pollution, the sky above these locations is also the darkest in the entire country. The Poloniny Dark-Sky Park is considered one of the best places in the world for stargazing. From Nová Sedlica, set off on foot or on a bike to the hill Kremenec, which connects three countries – Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine. The cycling path is lined with noteworthy wooden churches with rare Baroque iconostases. In this distinctive region of the Ruthenians, the locals will introduce you to traditional crafts and customs.



The beauty of Slovakia's wild nature is captured in the documentary film "Wild Slovakia" from the studio of world-renowned British documentary filmmaker Nigel Marven. The award-winning creator has more than 150 documentaries to his credit and worked alongside Sir David Attenborough for 12 years. Slovakia enchanted him, particularly with its fauna.





📍 Dunajec River

## MALÝ DUNAJ

The Malý Dunaj river in the south of Slovakia is home to rare plants and animals. It is also one of the last places in Central Europe where old wheel mills and ingenious buildings on thin wooden legs have been preserved. Thanks to the river's calm surface, rafting on it is suitable for all age groups. You can set off on short 2- to 4-hour raft cruises, full-day adventures with a picnic or multi-day expeditions.

## ORAVA

You can also go rafting on the Orava River. Floating through the beautiful nature of the Orava region is easy, and you'll have a view of the majestic Oravský hrad Castle.

## SLOVENSKÝ RAJ

The national park Slovenský raj (understand "Slovak Paradise") located in the area of Spiš and Upper Gemer regions, has rightfully earned its name. It will enchant you with its waterfalls and gorges, the winding canyon of the Hornád River, the dense green jungle and numerous ladders and chains that you have to climb along some trails. Rising above the scenery is the nearly 150-metre-high rocky wall of the Tomášovský výhľad overlook.

## MURÁNSKA PLANINA

Fall in love with the Muránska planina plain with its clean mountain air, brilliant night sky and freely grazing semi-wild Noriker horses. From March to September, you can watch hundreds of European ground squirrels from close range at Biele vody and even feed them directly from your hand.

## HIGH TATRAS

For rafting, head off to the Belá rieka river in the Vysoké Tatry. The last wild river in Slovakia (and the only wild rafting river) ranks among Europe's unique rivers. A variety of rare plants and animals live in it.

## PIENINY

Come to know the untouched nature of the Pieniny národný park national park in the north of Slovakia near the Polish border by rafting the Dunajec River. A cruise on traditional wooden rafts around rock overhangs and cliffs several tens of metres high is an unforgettable experience. A great many stories and legends are connected to the local natural phenomena.

# EXPERIENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

You can augment your knowledge of Slovakian nature with experiential accommodation. Sleep on top of a peak two-thousand metres high, in a tree or even in a barrel amidst vineyards. Glamping surrounded by unspoiled nature and a sauna on board a plane in the middle of the forest takes an overnight stay to a whole new level.

Glamping is a close connecting of accommodation with nature. You can experience it in luxurious tent cabins by lake Počúvadlo, surrounded by the beautiful nature of the Štiavnické vrchy mountains. In the Tokaj wine-growing region, you can stay in stylish wooden cabins in the shape of barrels right on the grounds of the Tokaj Macík Winery in Malá Trňa. Its wines represent Slovakia in the famous Cité du Vin theme park in Bordeaux, France. The Tokaj Pension Zlatá Putňa in Viničky also offers experiential accommodation in a barrel house.

## TREE HOUSES

Indulge yourself with a stay in a Tokaj treetop houses in Malá Bara all year round and combine unusual accommodation at a height of four metres above the ground with wellness and wine tasting. Enjoy the romance associated with spending the night in cozy wooden treehouses all over Slovakia, for example in Kačín at Železná

studnička, in Svätý Jur, Modra, Trenčianske Teplice, but also in Donovaly or Stara Ľubovňa. Most of the treehouses are without electricity and have an outdoor shower; you will be warmed by a stove and lighted by candles. In the small village of Čavoj, surrounded by the dense forests of the Strážovské vrchy mountains, you can find a unique tree house with a pointed roof, as if cut out of a story about a well-known wizard.

## AN AIRPLANE IN THE FOREST

Undisturbed romance awaits you in Spišské Bystré – on board an airplane in the treetops – located in the middle of unspoiled nature at the border of the Vysoké and Nízke Tatry. The airplane in the forest is equipped not only with comfortable rooms, but also with a Finnish sauna and a whirlpool.



📍 Glamping in a barrel  
📷 KOČR Košice Región Turizmus



# HIGH-MOUNTAIN PORTERS

They use a carrying frame with a load of up to a hundred kilograms on their backs and tirelessly walk up the steep slope. See genuine high-mountain porters only on a hike in the highest Slovak mountains. Slovakia is namely the last place in Europe where this demanding, but very useful and rightly admired profession has been preserved to this day.

Slovak high-mountain porters have remained the only ones of their kind in Europe and have earned status in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Slovakia. The cultural tradition of high-mountain portering in the form of ecological transport of loads is already 900 years old; in Slovakia, the profession of porters appears in written sources from the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Using specially adapted frames, they carry all necessary materials to the alpine chalets, especially in the Vysoké Tatry, at any time of the year and in any weather.

Other professionals in the Slovak alpine mountains are certified mountain guides. In their company you can, for example, climb the highest mountain of the Carpathian arch – Gerlachovský štít peak (2654 m above sea level).



**You never said to the cottager:  
Look what the weather is like.  
Nothing, only the weight of the  
load, the present moment and  
freedom.**

documentary “Freedom Under Load”,  
directed by Pavol Barabáš



📷 OOCR Vysoké Tatry Region,  
Martin Maličský

# ON LOMNICKÝ ŠTÍT PEAK

Lomnický štít peak (2634 m above sea level) is one of almost 30 rocky peaks in the Vysoké Tatry with an elevation of more than 2,000 metres. A cable car will take you to it. You can also set off on an unforgettable, though technically challenging ascent accompanied by a mountain guide. Lomnický štít peak will surprise you with the presence of a botanical garden, an astronomical observatory, a cafe and apartments.



📍 Lomnický štít peak 2634 m a. s. l. | Hight Tatras  
📷 © SLOVAKIA TRAVEL, Martin Šopinec @schopinski





📍 Domica cave  
📷 speleologist Pavol Staník,  
Slovak Caves Administration

# IN THE CAVES



📍 Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa cave  
📷 speleologist Pavol Staník,  
Slovak Caves Administration

There are more than 7,000 caves in Slovakia. Some of them hide natural wonders of worldwide proportions. Of this huge number, 45 caves are freely accessible and 18 can be visited in the form of organised tours. The rarest caves are entered on the UNESCO List of Cultural and Natural Heritage. There are six of them, and all but one – the Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa cave – are part of the Slovenský kras národný park national park or are located in its immediate vicinity. The huge, glaciated halls or the ice “tunnel” of the Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa cave are among the most significant phenomena of this type in the world. The Krásnohorská jaskyňa cave is a record holder thanks to its 34-metre column (understand “stalagnate”), which is officially among the tallest in the world.

Slovakia is also home to the Ochtinská aragonitová jaskyňa cave, one of the few aragonite caves in the whole world that is open to the public. In the Domica jaskyňa cave, located on the border with Hungary, you can ride, on days with sufficient water, in a boat through an underground canyon with meanders on the river Styx between colourful sinter sculptures and cascading lakes. And if you want to experience genuine speleotrekking in a caving suit and with a headlamp on your head, go, for example, to the Jaskyňa mŕtvych netopierov (understand “cave of dead bats”) in the Nízke Tatry.



**Slovak Caves  
Administration**  
ssj.sk/en





# WELLNESS

## IN SLOVAKIA

Nearly 2,000 thermal and mineral waters spring from the depths of the earth in Slovakia, 124 of which are located in protected areas. Among them are 82 springs with natural healing mineral water. You can restore your strength in the healing water of world renowned spas with a long tradition, but also in water parks with multiple attractions or at designer saunas.



The hottest thermal spring in Slovakia has water with a temperature of up to 92 °C. It is the source of the extensive complex of the Thermal Corvinus thermal baths in Veľký Meder, located 15 km from the border with Hungary.



# SPAS

More than twenty Slovak spa towns provide help with a wide range of ailments due to their curative water. They will surprise you with, for example, a steam bath in a cave, a Turkish hammam, a rejuvenating golden cure or unique sulphur mud.



📍 Rajecké Teplice  
📷 SLOVAKIA TRAVEL

The first comprehensive written mention of Slovak spas dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when scholar Juraj Werner described mineral waters and medicinal baths in Kingdom of Hungary.

Slovak spas have been sought after by kings, nobility and important personalities from time immemorial. The owners of spa complexes have been ahead of the curve in the architectural imagination of spa houses since the 18<sup>th</sup> century, inviting renowned doctors to practice in them and investing in research and the most modern spa procedures. Both historical and modern spa

towns in Slovakia today can boast of a high level of medical care, rehabilitation and prevention.

They are an ideal choice not only for people who need to address their health problems, but for everyone who needs to slow down the pace of life and restart body and soul. Slovak spa towns are famed for their healing procedures, peaceful surroundings and fascinating architecture.

Spas in Slovakia  
ask.sk



📍 Trenčianske Teplice spa  
📷 SLOVAKIA TRAVEL



## TRENČIANSKE TEPLICE

The spa at Trenčianske Teplice became celebrated not only for its sulphur thermal springs and healing mud, but also for its hammam in the historical Moorish style. The luxurious resting room was built in 1888 by Countess Iphigenia from the Sina family, and its spaces today are used for relaxation after the most popular procedure – the Sina hot bath. The spa specialises in the treatment and prevention of diseases of the musculoskeletal system, post-operative conditions and injuries, chronic rheumatic diseases with some civilization diseases, occupational diseases, but also in gynaecological and skin diseases, including psoriasis. They can boast of a treatment procedure that is an alternative to a stay by the Dead Sea.



# WORLD RENOWNED PIEŠTANY

The spa island in Piešťany, a town in the western part of Slovakia, is called the cradle of world balneology. The spa is known mainly for its healing mud, taken from the longest river in Slovakia, the Váh. It contains active sulphur and some twenty strains of sulphur bacteria that have not been found anywhere else in the world. In combination with the unique composition of thermal water and specialised procedures, it has a beneficial effect on the musculoskeletal system, nervous system and immunity.



© SLOVAKIA TRAVEL  
📷 Martin Šopinec @schopinski

Legend had it that Piešťany arose thanks to a peacock that was healing its broken leg in a mud puddle. Since it rapidly recovered, people also began to take advantage of the miraculous effects of the local waters. At one time it enchanted Bulgarian Tsar Ferdinand I or the Indian Maharajah. Composer Franz Liszt was treated for rheumatism in Piešťany, and it is said that Beethoven also visited the spa. World-famous painter Alfons Mucha went to Piešťany repeatedly and liked to play golf here. Out of gratitude for the healing of his daughter Jaroslava, he made a four-metre allegorical painting in 1932. It hangs in the restaurant of the Art Nouveau hotel Thermia Palace, which was the first five-star hotel in Slovakia.

# SAUNAS UNDER THE STARS

Wellness and sauna culture has a long tradition in Slovakia. The first sauna on the territory of Czechoslovakia was built in 1919 in Šumiacka dolina valley under Kráľova hoľa. The locals call it “Demova kúpeľka” (understand “Dem’s little bathhouse”). An ever more popular wellness trend at present is designer eco-saunas located in nature. You’ll find them in the midst of the coniferous forests in Iliašovce or in the silence and seclusion under Poľana or in Spišský Hrhov. The atypical building in the form of a crystal, which stands in an old orchard on a hill overlooking Spišský hrad castle, even won a prestigious architecture award in 2020. In the Škandinávské domčeky (understand “Scandinavian cottages”) in Spišské Bystré, you’ll experience a sauna stay with the atmosphere of the Nordic countries. Original wellness also awaits you in Bratislava, Senec, Nitra, Banská Bystrica or Ružomberok and elsewhere in the form of Pixxla self-service container saunas.



Forest sauna in Spišský Hrhov | Spiš region  
📷 Lukáš Procházka @lukasprophoto



## A HEALING BATH UNDER THE OPEN SKY

There are fourteen mineral springs in Vyšné Ružbachy, located in eastern Slovakia. Unique in the spa area is a mineral water waterfall and a thermal crater filled with water at a temperature of 25 °C that never freezes in winter. At this spa, you can undergo procedures with therapeutic effects on cardiological, neurological or hormonal problems. Water from the Kada spring, which wells up in Liptovský Ján near the popular ski resort Jasná, also has healing effects. Its temperature is around 20 °C even in winter. Bathing in this natural “whirlpool” helps with rheumatic and skin diseases, in addition to problems with the musculoskeletal system.



📷 Javor Photography @javor.divotvor

## HARDENING ON ĎUMBIER

Winter alpine tourism in Slovakia can be an unforgettable experience. This is particularly true if you go to Ďumbier (2,043 m above sea level), the highest peak of the Nízke Tatry, wearing only shorts or swimming trunks and accompanied by an experienced instructor, for example Martin Thám.





The cult black-and-white film “Nosferatu – A Symphony of Horror” from 1922, the British series “Dracula” and several other films and fairy tales of Slovak and foreign production were all filmed at Oravský hrad castle, which dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

# HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

As many as 180 medieval castles and 425 manor houses and palaces are located on the relatively small territory of Slovakia, and they attract film crews from all over the world.



# CASTLES AND MANOR HOUSES




## SPIŠSKÝ HRAD CASTLE

The most extensive castle ruin in Central Europe is located in eastern Slovakia. It has been entered on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1993. It spreads over an area of more than four hectares and is more than eight centuries old. The oldest written mention of the castle dates back to 1120. Its sprawling medieval silhouette was chosen as a backdrop, for example, by the makers of the film “The Last Legion” or the award-winning English film “The Lion in Winter” with Anthony Hopkins and Katharine Hepburn from 1968. It astonishes with its size and the period kitchen or the terrifying torture chamber. In the summer, it comes alive with medieval martial arts and

falconry displays. The side of the castle hill is decorated with a huge geoglyph showing the image of a Celtic horse in stone. The work of the Australian sculptor Andrew Rogers has dimensions of 100 × 100 metres. The nearby Spišské Podhradie with its Gothic-Renaissance town houses and remarkable religious buildings is also entered on the UNESCO list. The complex of chapels and church buildings is a copy of the Jerusalem Calvary. It leads up to the hill to the Cathedral of St. Martin in the Spišská Kapitula. The former church town has been nicknamed the Slovak Vatican.



In summer, you can experience unique falconry demonstrations at Slovak castles and manor houses, during which birds of prey will fly right over your head. Nearly 300 falconers are currently operating in Slovakia; thus, the country ranks among the world’s top for falconry. It is also among the leaders in the academic education of breeders and trainers of raptors. Slovak falconers have been included in UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. In the summer, you can see falconry demonstrations at castles in the Spiš and Orava regions, in Trenčín and Stará Ľubovňa, as well as at Červený kameň castle and Bojnický zámok castle.

 **Trenčín Museum in Trenčín**  
[@hradtrencin](#)







📷 SLOVAKIA TRAVEL

## ROMANTIC BOJNICE

Bojnický zámok castle in the spa town near Prievidza in western Slovakia is one of the most beautiful and most visited castles in Slovakia and Central Europe. According to a castle legend, the old medieval castle from the 11<sup>th</sup> century was rebuilt into a fairytale castle by Ján Pálffy, its last aristocratic owner, out of love for a French countess. He was inspired by the beauty of the Gothic castles of the Loire Valley in France. The castle fascinates visitors to this day not only with its silhouette, but also with Pálffy's exquisite taste. The castle interior holds a collection of several thousand art objects, and each room excels with its own style and decoration. You'll enter a hall with the gilded angelic ceiling, an oriental salon as if from the time of the Ottoman Empire, or a hall of columns with sculptures made of Carrara marble. A natural travertine cave with two lakes is hidden in the space beneath the castle.



Count Pálffy himself drew the plans for the construction of the stair tower with 137 steps. He was inspired by the tower of Amboise Castle in France.



The Classicist Topolčianky zámok castle near Zlaté Moravce in western Slovakia has an interesting past and present. It was once the summer residence of the Habsburgs and Czechoslovak President Tomáš G. Masaryk. It houses a two-hundred-year-old library with over 14,000 volumes and one of the largest collections of ancient porcelain in Slovakia. The Národný žrebčín Topolčianky (understand "national stud farm Topolčianky") is located in the grounds of the manor house's English park. The royal herd also includes the Lipizzan horse breed, which is so rare that it was included in the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



📷 documentarian and journalist Martin Kleibl

## THE MANOR HOUSE IN BETLIAR

The Betliar manor house near Rožňava in eastern Slovakia is a treasure of Slovak history. This is because of its owners, the progressive and well-travelled Andrassy family, which ranked among the aristocratic elite of Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was they who built the first golf course in Slovakia; they also brought cricket, horse polo and car racing here. They were also known throughout the Kingdom of Hungary as great collectors of art and antiques. They filled the manor house in Betliar with luxurious, exotic and curious souvenirs. The manor house is surrounded by a two-hundred-year-old English park, which is one of the most important historical gardens in the world. In addition to gigantic trees and rare species of trees and shrubs, it houses Masonic and Chinese pavilions, a Japanese bridge and the Hermes well. In 1823, a waterfall nearly 10 metres high was also built in the park. The statue of Psyche in the fountain is the work of the French sculptor and metal worker Ferdinand Barbedienne. His works are a sought-after item in auction houses.



📷 SLOVAKIA TRAVEL



# MEDIEVAL CITIES



Take a stroll through the most Gothic city in Slovakia, as Austro-Hungarian empress Sissi once did during a three-week spa stay at the nearby Bardejov spa. The spa also boasts the oldest spa park in Europe.



## BARDEJOV

A good start to a tour of this city in the north of Slovakia is a morning coffee in the massive five-story Hrubá bašta (understand “thick bastion”). The original stone-paved Radničné námestie (understand “town hall square”) in the historic centre is lined with town houses straight out of a fairy tale that recall the Gothic and Renaissance periods. The dominant feature on the square is the Basilica of St. Giles with its eleven Gothic winged altars and a lookout tower. It is guarded by an almost two-meter-tall statue of a master

executioner. At the centre of the square is the first Gothic-Renaissance secular building in Slovakia, which has stood there for more than 500 years. Aside from the historical core of Bardejov, the Jewish suburbium here is also included in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List. This is a complex of Jewish historical ritual buildings and it is considered a precious spiritual and material heritage of the once numerous Bardejov Jewish community.



Viktor Belicak @travelbedeker

## BANSKÁ ŠTIAVNICA

During the period of Hungarian Kingdom, the territory of Slovakia was a centre of mining and pan-European gold and silver mining. The town of Banská Štiavnica in central Slovakia is an exceptional location for mining. It is located in the middle of Štiavnické vrchy mountains in the crater of an extinct super volcano, which with a height of 5 km and diameter of 100 km is one of the largest on the planet. Banská Štiavnica has been nicknamed the “silver city” and has an essential place on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List. Its fairy tale atmosphere is stressed by its many palaces and medieval town houses. In 1627 in Banská Štiavnica, gunpowder was used for the first time in history to dig a mine. The first technical university in the world was also founded here, of course, for the field of mining. You can get to know the life of the miners at that time on a tour of the underground mining

tunnels. The mining tajchy (artificial reservoirs) that once supplied the mines with water are a unique technical monument. The Richňavský tajch, built in 1740, was for a long time the largest waterworks in the world. Some of the 24 tajchy around Banská Štiavnica are used as natural swimming pools and ice rinks or for fishing or boating. The Štiavnické vrchy mountains area is a popular destination for hiking and cycling, and in winter for cross-country skiing and skiing.







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

# SACRED LANDMARKS



Slovakia boasts a number of rare sacred landmarks: magnificent Gothic cathedrals and synagogues, and even the tallest wooden Gothic altar in the world. Discover them in an unconventional way on pilgrimage routes across the country.



📍 Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas in Bodružal  
📷 SLOVAKIA TRAVEL

The cultural-thematic Gothic route in the historical regions of the Gemer and Malohont in eastern Slovakia links important sacred buildings with breathtaking fresco paintings under the label of European Cultural Heritage in four different circuits. Familiarise yourself with the sacred architecture in Slovakia on a pilgrimage in the footsteps of St. James. The Slovak part of the Way of St. James (Camino de Santiago) begins at

St. Elisabeth's Cathedral in Košice and continues east – west to Bratislava. The path leads through Levoča, where in the Church of St. James is an almost 20-metre-high late Gothic wooden altar carved by Master Paul from 1517. Also unique in the world are the over 40 wooden churches in central and eastern Slovakia built without the use of a single nail. Eight of them are on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List.



**Way of St. James in Slovakia**  
[caminodesantiago.sk/en](http://caminodesantiago.sk/en)



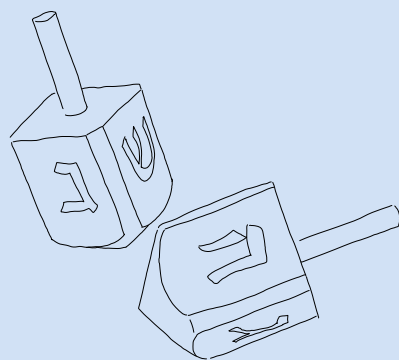
**Gothic Way Association**  
[gotickacesta.sk/en](http://gotickacesta.sk/en)





▲ Interior of the Synagogue in Prešov  
 📍 jano stovka mqep @janostovka

▼ Chatam Sofer Memorial on the Danube embankment in Bratislava – one of the most important Jewish pilgrimage sites in Europe.  
 📍 Rudolf Klein



The historically first ever Museum of Jewish Culture in Slovakia was founded in 1928 in the Orthodox synagogue in Prešov. The synagogue was built in 1898 and its severe neo-Romanesque-Moorish facade hides a richly decorated interior. It is among the most beautiful in Europe. Visitors can see a rare collection of Judaica with pan-European significance in the women's gallery of the synagogue.

# SHALOM, SLOVAKIA



Searching for Jewish culture will lead you to the Slovak route of Jewish cultural heritage or to the Jewish suburb in Bardejov, which is on the UNESCO list. Visit dozens of preserved synagogues, Jewish cemeteries or the most important place of worship of the Jewish community.

Records on the migration of Jews to the territory of what is today Slovakia date back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Many Jewish communities were established here in the Middle Ages, but they experienced the greatest boom in the 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and especially in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Under the leadership of Rabbi Moses Schreiber (in Hebrew Moshe Sofer), known as Chatam Sofer (1762 – 1839), Bratislava became the centre of Hungarian Jewish learning in Europe for 33 years. The tomb of Chatam Sofer, together with the tombstones of other prominent scholars, is a pilgrimage site of international importance for Jews. It is located on the banks of the Danube, on the site of the former Jewish cemetery from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, near the Old Town.

## SLOVAK SYNAGOGUES

Synagogues scattered throughout Slovakia are built in different architectural styles and each has a unique atmosphere. Some have become galleries, cultural centres or cafes. The only preserved synagogue in Bratislava, located on Heydukova ulica, already draws your eye from the outside with its seven-pillared colonnade.

It was designed by the well-known avant-garde interwar architect Artúr Szalatnai-Slatinský and it still fulfils its original purpose. Its Cubist interior, which was typical for Bratislava in the 1920s, can be seen on a tour of the Jewish Community Museum, which is also located there. The Neological Synagogue in Lučenec, built in 1925 in the Art Nouveau style, is one of four identical synagogues in the world. Similar buildings can be found only in Amsterdam, Brussels and Tel Aviv. The synagogue in Trenčín, built in 1913 with Byzantine and Moorish-oriental elements, is also among the most beautiful. The Neological Synagogue in Žilina, built in 1931, is one of the most important monuments of Slovak modernity and interwar synagogue architecture in Europe. The deconsecrated synagogue in Trnava, built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and today home to a cafe, is also worth a visit.

The rich Jewish history and culture in Slovakia is documented by the Museum of Jewish Culture in Bratislava, which is part of the Slovak National Museum.



Interactive map of  
synagogues in Slovakia  
synagogyslovenska.sk



Jewish heritage  
in Slovakia  
slovak-jewish-heritage.org



SNM – Museum of  
Jewish Culture  
snm.sk





# TRADITIONS

## AND CULTURE

Slovaks will win you over with their hospitality, lively traditions,  
natural wines and master craftsmanship.



# SLOVAK MASTERS



Slovak folk maiolica Modra  
© SLOVAKIA TRAVEL | Martin Šopinec @schopincki

Slovak folk crafts have a centuries-old tradition as well as a worldwide reputation. Few places in the world have preserved as many craft techniques and procedures as in Slovakia. Many of them are protected by the UNESCO mark. You can buy an immutable Slovak signature item in the form of a souvenir in the sales galleries of the Centre for Folk Art Production (ÚĽUV) in Bratislava and in the Vysoké Tatry. This national cultural institution operating nationwide has been continuously devoted to the preservation and development of living traditional crafts and folk-art production in Slovakia since 1945. Among the important activities of ÚĽUV is the presentation of traditional crafts to the wider public in the form of the festival Dni majstrov ÚĽUV (understand “ÚĽUV Days of Masters”), which has been organised in Bratislava every year since the 1990s.

## MODRA MAIOLICA

The small wine-growing town of Modra, at the foot of the Malé Karpaty hills near Bratislava, became especially famous for its production of clay jugs, called faience, or maiolica. In 2023, the town became a member of the European Route of Ceramics. The process of creating ceramics follows the centuries-old existence of the pottery craft, and the entire production requires manual work of several days. Visit the Museum of Slovak Ceramic Sculpture, part of the Slovak National Museum, and take a look directly into the workshop of Slovak folk maiolica. There you'll see not only the entire production process, but you can also try spinning the pottery wheel yourself at an experiential workshop combined with a wine tasting. Modra maiolica and maiolica ornamentation are recorded on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity for Slovakia. Modra is part of the European Route of Ceramics.

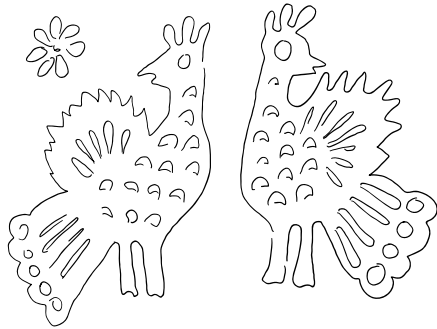


Centre of Folk Art  
Production  
uluv.sk/en



SNM - Museum of Slovak  
Ceramic Sculpture Modra  
snm.sk

# INDIGO CRAFT



Nearly 300 years ago, blue print was worn on clothes not only in townsmen's circles, but also among common people. The timelessness of this unique fabric dyeing technique was ensured by its inclusion in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



Peter Trnka



documentarian and publicist Martin Kleibl

Nearly every Slovak city and town once had its own blue-printing workshop, because not only dresses were made from this special blue fabric, but also all interior textiles. Blueprinting then captured the attention of a new generation of masters in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This craft, which fell into oblivion in Slovakia in the last century, was revived by designers Matej Rabada and Peter Trnka. One works in Orava and the other continues the family tradition as the fifth generation near Bratislava. A visit to their workshop is a creative experience and you'll take home a blue and white souvenir that you made yourself.





## THE WOOD CARVING ART

Throughout Slovakia, one can commonly find cottages, townhouses or castles with carvings on gates, gables, balconies or windows. Wood carving is an important element of Slovak folk-art culture. Initially, only shepherds adorned spoons or containers for cheese with decorative wood carvings, and miners from around Banská Štiavnica carved wooden figures. A special category of wood carving is nativity scenes. The pinnacle of folk wood carving is the nativity scene

by master Jozef Pekara in Rajecká Lesná, which is 8.5 metres long. The artist began making it in 1980 and continued for the next 15 years. There are some 300 figures in it, and about half of them also move. The more than 150-year-old tradition of making wooden toys in the village of Kyjatice in the Malohont region is also unique in Slovakia. Wooden toys from Kyjatice are entered in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Slovakia.



📷 Banská Bystrica Region Tourism

## ČIČMANY

The log cabins in the picturesque village of Čičmany in the Žilina Region are a world rarity due to their painted facades. The decoration of houses with lime coating in the form of ornaments supposedly served originally to protect the wood from adverse weather. The history of the village between Strážovské vrchy mountains and the Malá Fatra dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. In the past, its inhabitants made a living by raising sheep, making bryndza, growing flax, later by glassmaking, etc., but it was the geometric signs and symbols in the form of embroidery on the facades of houses or folk clothing that made them the most famous. Čičmany ornamentation is still a great inspiration for creators of designs.



According to many indications, the roots of ornament can be found in symbolism and magic. Traditional man in the past felt part of the cosmic world together with nature, flora and fauna.

Olga Danglová, from the book “Dekor symbol”  
(decorative tradition in Slovakia  
and the European context)



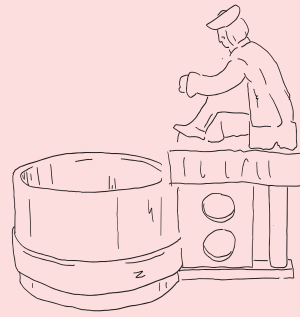
📍 Čičmany

📷 Viktor Belicak, @travelbedeker



# GASTRONOMY

Slovakia will surprise you with its diversity on the plate, too. Each region has its typical specialties, and traditions are intertwined with the newest gastronomic trends. So, during your visit you can taste sheep cheese from the farm, craft beers, as well as partake of fine, five-star dining.



📍 Pivnica u zlatej husi | zlatahus.sk  
📷 Marek Dvořák

Traditional bryndzové halušky (understand “bryndza sheep cheese and dumplings”) leads the way. Together with bryndzové pirohy (understand “pierogis”), they are a specialty especially in central and eastern Slovakia. For western Slovakia, a typical autumn dish is goose or duck baked until golden brown with potato dough lokshe and stewed red cabbage. Each year, gourmets from all over the world travel to the goose feast in Slovenský Grob near Bratislava. Every one of the more than three dozen local restaurants has goose on the menu.

◀ The Záhorie region is proud of sauerkraut and trdelník (understand “chimney cake”) from Skalica, with a two-hundred-year tradition. This hollow cylinder made of sourdough has been produced in our territory since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The original Skalický trdelník is sprinkled exclusively with walnuts.



© SLOVAKIA TRAVEL 📷 Martin Šopinec @schopinski

► You will discover unexpected tastes in the Franz Jozef restaurant in the Hotel Lomnica in the High Tatras.

📍 Hotel Lomnica  
📷 viajur.sk



## SLOVAK FINE DINING

More and more businesses are being opened in Slovakia where top chefs conjure up original delicacies from local and sustainably grown ingredients. Slovak haute cuisine is defined by an unusual combination of ingredients, original food styling and quality service. You'll be served an experiential menu in the ECK restaurant, which has its own vineyards and a view of Devínsky hrad castle. You can also enjoy the culinary art at the restaurant Irin in the historic centre of Bratislava. You'll find five-star quality awarded by the prestigious La Liste at the restaurant Gašperov Mlyn in Batizovce with a view of the peaks of the Tatry.

## THE WORLD ON A PLATE

You can also taste a varied palette of international cuisine in Slovakia. You can choose from a number of establishments of different price and quality categories. Furthermore, food festivals are regularly organised in larger Slovak cities, especially Bratislava and Košice. You can discover locally made products at local markets. Slovakia will also surprise you with its rich coffee culture and quality selection of coffee, particularly in larger cities.



► Delicacies of chef Martin Novák from the Palfy restaurant in Pezinok.

📷 Šimák zámok Pezinok



# SLOVAK WINES

Slovak wines are awarded at international competitions and in the past, they were served at the imperial court in Vienna and even at the wedding of British Queen Elizabeth II.

Slovakia walks hand-in-hand with the latest trends of natural wine production. You can find them in all six wine-growing regions in Slovakia. They represent a return to traditions and quality without manipulating the taste of wine with the use of modern technologies. Because of their exceptionality and quality, Slovak natural wines have also found a place in the world’s best restaurants.

For an exceptional tasting, aptly named Wine Tasting in the Dark, head to the Malokarpatské múzeum museum in Pezinok, near Bratislava. The tasting, held in the modernised cellar premises from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, takes place in absolute darkness.

Up to three of the six wine-growing regions of Slovakia extend into the Nitra region. Wines of exceptional quality are cultivated on the unique volcanic bedrock or in the highest vineyards in Slovakia. Visit picturesque wine villages, for example Čajkov or Pukanec, with the largest wine cellar. Don’t miss the artisanal family winery in the village of Brhllove, which is located in unique rocky dwellings.

You can taste the best Slovak wines in several Slovak manor houses and castles, often converted into hotels with high-quality gastronomy. Experience luxury combined with a fairytale atmosphere at Château Belá in the south of Slovakia. It boasts the “Most Romantic Hotel in Europe” award.

Tokaj, located in the east of Slovakia, is one of the five regions in the world where it is possible to grow grapes for the production of naturally sweet wine with the same name. Voltaire, Cromwell and Napoleon all fell in love with the almost honey-tasting amber liquid.

## NATIONAL WINE SALON

If you want to taste the best wines in Slovakia, head for the National Wine Salon in the beautiful Rococo Apponyi Palace in the historic centre of Bratislava. Since 2006, the cellars of the National Wine Salon have housed one hundred of the best representatives of various types and varieties of wines produced in Slovakia in the respective year.



📍 National Wine Salon  
📷 Salón vín

“ Life is too short to drink bad wine.

Award-winning winemakers from six wine-growing regions in Slovakia adhere to this truth.

Fedor Malík from Modra, from the new generation of winemakers, continues the family winemaking tradition and follows in the footsteps of his father – a master winemaker.

📷 OOCR Malé Karpaty region, Marek Dvořák  
@marekdvorakphoto

In autumn, each of the six wine-growing regions comes to life with traditional grape-picking celebrations – vintage harvests. A tasting of local wines and gastronomy awaits you with a rich accompanying programme. In the largest of them, the Malokarpatský region, a festival in a vineyard called Víno pod hviezdami (understand “wine under the stars”) enjoys popularity. In mid-November, the Deň otvorených pivníc (understand “open cellars day”) is regularly held, when you can visit more than a hundred of the most beautiful cellars of the Malokarpatská vína cesta (understand “Little Carpathians Wine Route”).





# SLOVAK CITIES

Bratislava ranks among the greenest metropolises in the world. The city is a combination of historical palaces from the times of the monarchy, socialist architecture and ultra-modern high-rise buildings. You'll find pleasant cafes and art galleries, but also a lively nightlife. The second largest city is Košice, located in eastern Slovakia. It rightfully bears the title of UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts. You'll have an artistic experience at the indoor swimming pool and the former tobacco factory or in the largest urban monument reserve in Slovakia.





Thanks to its unique position, it became the coronation seat of the Habsburg royal family almost five hundred years ago.



## PETRŽALKÁ AND THE SAD JANKA KRÁĽA

Petržalka is the largest housing estate in Central Europe. It spreads over the right bank of the Danube and has approximately 100,000 inhabitants. The banks of the Danube are connected by the SNP Bridge with the 95-metre-high UFO observation tower. The unusual observation tower resembling a flying saucer was included in the World Federation of Great Towers. Below it is the Sad Janka Kráľa (understand “orchard of Janko Kráľ”), the oldest public park in Central Europe with an area of 42 hectares, which was planted in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



◀▶📷 [visitbratislava.com](https://www.visitbratislava.com)

# BEAUTY ON THE DANUBE

The capital city Bratislava has been growing over both banks of the Danube for 1,100 years. The river road connects it with both Vienna and Budapest. From time immemorial it has been the crossroads of two transcontinental trade routes and for a certain time it was also the capital of several states. It was in the majestic Gothic Dóm sv. Martina (understand “St. Martin’s Cathedral”) that the coronation of powerful queen Maria Theresa of the House of Habsburg officially took place. In 267 years, seventeen more kings and queens of the Kingdom of Hungary were crowned in it. Hungarians and Germans find their roots in the city, and it is also

an important centre of Jewish culture. It began to change dynamically, especially after the fall of the Iron Curtain. You can get to know Bratislava’s city districts by means of well-organised and accessible public transport, but also on a shared electric scooter or bicycle. During a speedboat ride on the Danube, you’ll also find yourself under the impressive ruins of Devínský hrad castle, from which the ancient Romans once controlled the borders of their empire. Bratislava is surrounded by the Malé Karpaty hills and is dotted with many city and forest parks. It provides many opportunities for active leisure time in nature.





# ENERGETIC KOŠICE

The second largest city in Slovakia bears the epithet “Metropolis of the East”. It boasts not only the largest religious building in Slovakia, but also the oldest marathon in Europe, or unmissable street art. It is the largest urban monument reserve in Slovakia and the first Slovak city to join the prestigious UNESCO Creative Cities worldwide club, similarly as Tel Aviv, Linz, Lyon or Toronto.



📍 Hall of Art | Košice | White Night 2014  
Élise Morin Waste Landscape # 4 Kunsthalle  
📷 David Hanks

The gateway to Košice is the Visit Košice Infopoint on Hlavná ulica street. Not far from the centre is the breathtaking St. Elisabeth’s Cathedral from 1508, the largest religious building in Slovakia. It can hold up to 5,000 people and is considered the easternmost Gothic cathedral

in Europe. One of the visual symbols of Košice is the former Neological synagogue, the so-called “Bužňa” with an unmistakable elliptical dome. At present it houses the House of Arts and the Košice State Philharmonic.



📍 Tabačka Kulturfabrik  
📷 visitkosice.org

The streets of Košice stand out with their architectural diversity. The facades of houses with gigantic paintings, so-called murals, are part of the largest Open City Gallery in Slovakia – Open Mural Gallery. Their creators are from more than ten countries of the world.

Košice profiles itself as a city that lives through culture. Head to the Tabačka Kulturfabrik, Kasárne Kulturpark, Cinema Úsmev or Eastern Slovak Gallery. In autumn, the international art project Biela Noc (understand “white night”), when the city lights up in the dark with spectacular light installations, is traditionally organised. Art & Tech Days, a UNESCO-branded festival of media art, technology and digital culture, is also held here. The people of Košice transformed an indoor swimming pool from the 1950s and 1960s into a Kunsthalle, a hall full of art. It is adjacent to the City Park, the famous unique multimedia floating fountain with a unique music and light show. You supposedly will not find anything like it anywhere else in the world.

In the City Park is a reconstructed Art Nouveau National Cultural Monument from 1909; today, it is the dominant feature of the five-star resort Villa Sandy. It bears the name of its maker, important contemporary architect Július Sándy. Experiential gastronomy in the form of four restaurants is also a part of its offer.

The International Peace Marathon in Košice is the oldest race of its kind in Europe. In 2023, it celebrated its 100th edition. Each year on the first Sunday in October it welcomes some of the fastest marathon runners on the planet.



Košice is the starting point for exploring the region. Within reach (within 100 minutes) are 18 sites included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. You can discover wooden churches built without the use of a single nail, an 800-year-old castle and the “Slovak Vatican” or unique natural features, such as Slovenský raj or the Zádielska tiesňava gorge.



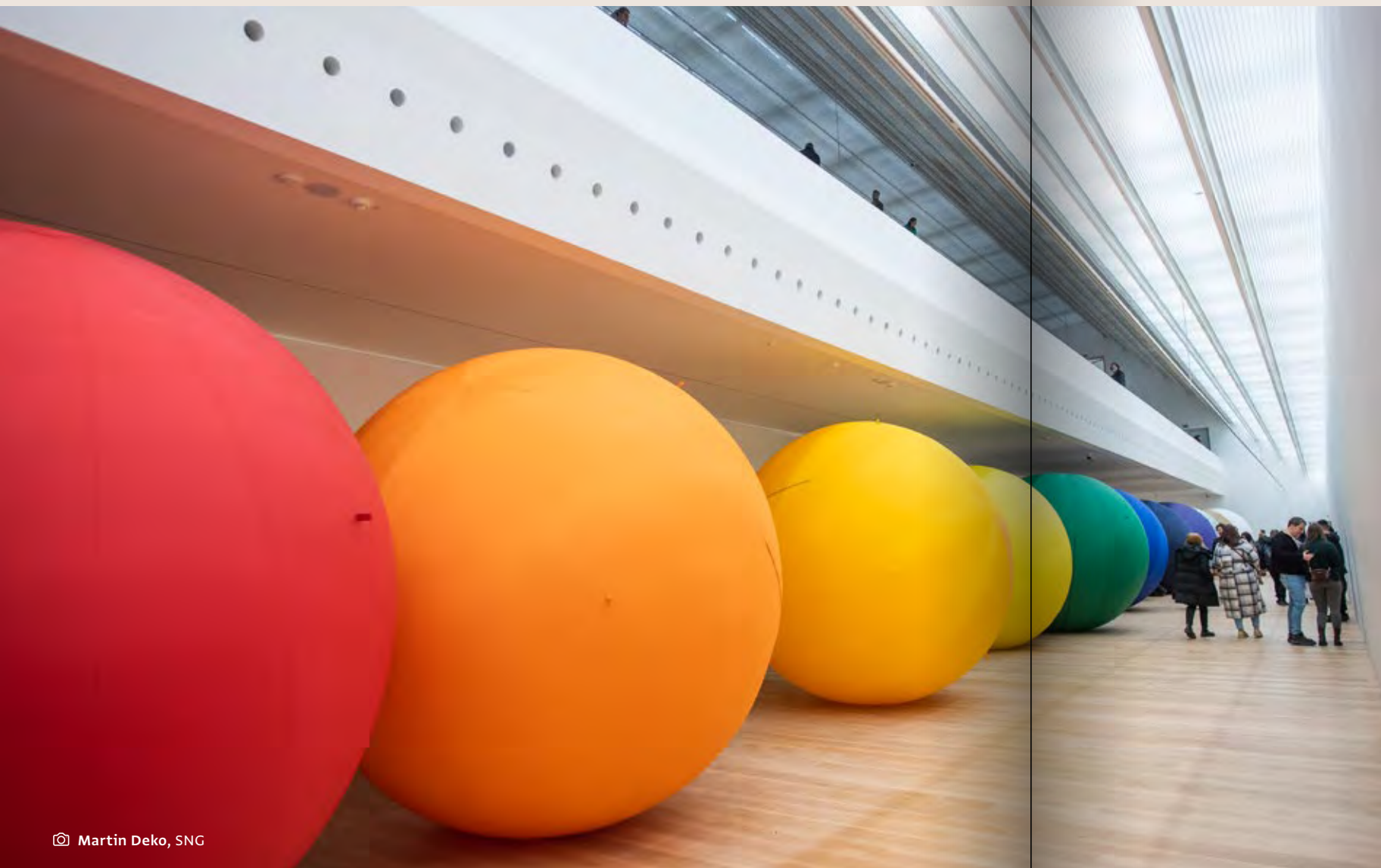


# ART AND ARCHITECTURE

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Exhibitions in Slovak museums take you on an interactive journey to prehistoric times, but also to the times of the Hungarian Kingdom rulers. You'll get to know a library with 15,000 ancient volumes or the house of one of the richest men in the world. You'll look into a bear's den and study Egyptian hieroglyphs. You can admire fine art in synagogues, factories, at the swimming pool or in the open air.





📷 Martin Deko, SNG

## SLOVAK NATIONAL GALLERY

You'll know the reconstructed Slovak National Gallery (SNG) in the centre of Bratislava from afar by the red and white facade of the neo-modernist Baroque Water Barracks Bridge, which was stamped with its original signature by the well-known architect Vladimír Dedek. The SNG holds more than 80,000 objects in its collections, including works by Picasso, Warhol, Dürer and the top artistic expressions of the Hungarian Kingdom Impressionists. SNG collection items are digitalized at [www.webumenia.sk](http://www.webumenia.sk).



📷 jano stovka mqep @janostovka

### MARTIN BENKA MUSEUM, MARTIN

The house of the prominent Slovak painter Martin Benka (1888 – 1971), where he spent the last 12 years of his life, has been transformed into a museum full of his personal objects and works. The artist donated up to 5,200 of his works to the state. Benka's studio, study and bedroom are located in the noteworthy functionalist villa. In addition to his favourite works of art, library and furniture, the exhibition is topped up with a collection of objects related to his interest in music, literature and folk art. Benka's masterpieces are on display in a small gallery, which already during his lifetime served as a picture gallery from 1960 onward. Among them is the work *Krajina z Terchovej* ("Landscape from Terchová"), awarded a silver medal at the exhibition in Paris in 1937.

### STRÁŽKY KAŠTIEĽ MANOR HOUSE

The Renaissance Strážky kaštieľ manor house in the town of Spišská Belá in eastern Slovakia breathes art both inside and outside. It is administered by the Slovak National Gallery and contains notable works of art by the world-famous impressionist Ladislav Mednýánszky. He also lived in the manor house for a while. In addition to the exhibition of portraits from the Spiš region from the 17th – 19th centuries, you can also see a collection of rare historical books. A large English park from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, dotted with many sculptures, is perfect for taking a walk through art.



**Slovak National  
Gallery**  
[sng.sk/en](http://sng.sk/en)



**OPONICE KAŠTIEĽ MANOR HOUSE**

Step into the rare library of the Renaissance manor house in Oponice. In an impressive interior furnished with Imperial Parisian furniture, you'll find more than 15,000 volumes in original editions and 12 languages. Among them are original works of Goethe, Schiller, Galileo Galilei, Newton and Shakespeare. You can also see unique drawings and designs of Bernini's temples, the construction of which was never ratified by the church. The atmosphere of Oponice at one time enchanted American president Theodore Roosevelt or singer Josephine Baker, muse to Hemingway and Picasso. Today, the manor house amidst centuries-old trees functions as a four-star hotel in which you can spend the night.

📍 Apponyi library – Bibliotheca Apponiana  
📷 SLOVAKIA TRAVEL



**HISTORICAL EXHIBITS  
IN BANSKÁ BYSTRICA**

The most beautiful house on the historic square in Banská Bystrica once belonged to the Thurzovsko-Fuggerovská company, whose owner was one of the world's richest men. Today, it is home to the Stredoslovenské múzeum (Central Slovak Museum) with the interactive exhibition Tranzithistory. You can come to know the secret of the skill of our ancestors' hands, the wealth of the region and the story of the house in 11 rooms with more than 2,000 exhibited items. On the building's ground floor, you'll be charmed by the Green Room with late Gothic wall paintings from the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

**MUSEUM OF NATURE  
IN LIPTOVSKÝ MIKULÁŠ**

Learn about Slovak nature in an interactive and experiential way – from ice stalactites underground to the summit of high mountains – on the four floors of the modern Slovak Museum of Nature Conservation and Caving in Liptovský Mikuláš. Thanks to the whistling of a marmot or the howling of a wolf, you'll feel like you're walking through a deep forest. While crawling in the cave, you'll discover fossils, look into a bear's den in the mountain and focus on the surroundings from the lookout.

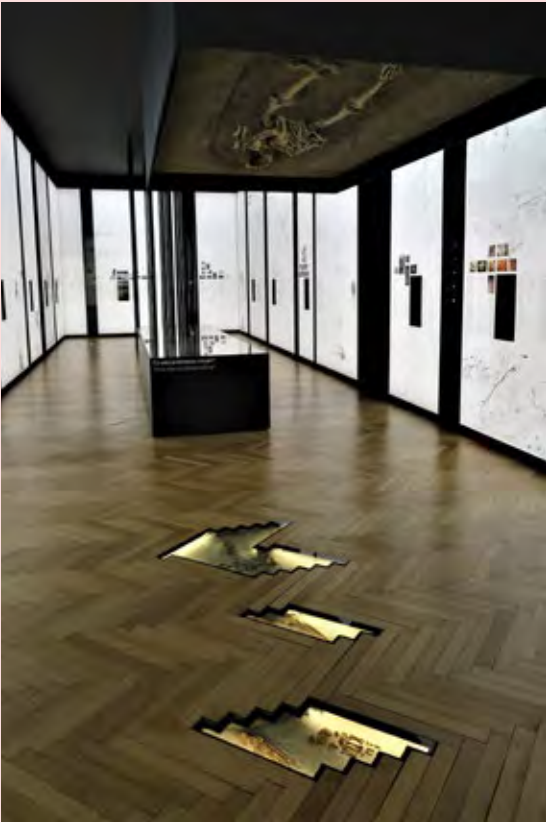


**SOLIVAR IN PREŠOV**

Part of the unique complex of the Solivar Museum in Prešov is an extraction device above an excavated shaft, the so-called gápel, which is the largest and oldest in all of Central Europe. It was built without the use of a single nail in the 17<sup>th</sup> century from Slovak oaks, the tree that had also been used to build ships for Christopher Columbus. It is still functional today. The history of the Solivar saltworks dates back to 1572, when the first mine for rock salt was excavated.

**HUMAN EVOLUTION IN BRATISLAVA**

The anthropological exposition of the Slovak National Museum – Natural History Museum in Bratislava, "Man in Time and Space", will draw you not only into the fascinating story of human evolution but also uncover some of its interesting features and surprise you with interactive installations. It was even included among the projects nominated for the National Design Award in the category Space and for the CE ZA AR 2023 architectural competition in the category Interior.



📷 Slovak National Museum





© Slovak National Theatre

## SLOVAK NATIONAL THEATRE

The Viennese have been coming to Bratislava for the opera since time immemorial. The beautiful historic building of the Slovak National Theatre on Hviezdoslavovo námestie can now only be admired from the outside, but in the new SND building in a postmodern style, you can see classic repertoire such as Carmen, La Traviata, The Nutcracker and Swan Lake, together with contemporary dramatic works of all genres. The building on the Danube embankment has three main performance halls (Opera and Ballet Hall, Drama Hall, Studio).



**Slovak National  
Theatre**  
snd.sk/en

## SLOVAK FOLKLORE

Slovak folklore is conquering stages all over the world. In Slovakia, you can fully enjoy it each year in the first week of July at the International Folklore Festival in Východná. It is the oldest of its kind in Slovakia and has been held since 1953. An integral part of it is a rich programme full of folk music and traditions, a school of dance, music, singing and crafts. Elaborate folk art is found in every detail, including the embroidery on the performers' clothing.



© Matúš Lago, www.nocka.sk



# POHODA FESTIVAL

In summer, Slovakia turns into a huge stage. Music and theatre festivals of various genres and for all age groups are organised in all corners of the country every weekend. The largest multi-genre festival in Slovakia, Pohoda, has been held at the airport near Trenčín since 1997. Pohoda won in the category Best Medium-sized Festival in Europe at the most prestigious European Festival Awards 2023.

Pohoda 2018  
📷 Michal Augustini



## VIVA MUSICA!

An integral part of summer in Bratislava is the exceptional VIVA MUSICA! festival. It was founded in 2005, and since its first year has offered the best of classical music from top artists from all over the world. Exclusive music projects present classical music with the motto “classics differently”. You can look forward to concerts held in non-traditional places and in non-traditional contexts, for example, directly on the Danube embankment with a view of the river.



📷 Zdenko Hanout @hanoutphoto

## KREMNICA GAGS

The medieval town of Kremnica, surrounded by the Kremnické vrchy hills near the geographical centre of Europe, became famous not only for gold and silver mining, but also for having the oldest mint in the world. Kremnica is also known thanks to its multi-genre Kremnické gagy (understand “Kremnica gags”), a European festival of humour and satire. It is considered the oldest festival of professional theatre in Central Europe. The square and streets of the “golden city” have been coming to life on the last weekend of August with the live art of Slovak and foreign theatre companies for more than 40 years now. In the capital of humour, you can also go to the Alley of Famous Noses or the Museum of Kitsch.



📷 Michal Svítok @michalsvitok





# SLOVAKIA

**Coordinates:** 49.00° N, 119.00° E

**Official name:** Slovak Republic

**Population:** 5.5 million residents

**Area:** 49,035 km<sup>2</sup>

**Capital city:** Bratislava

**Official language:** Slovak

**Member State** of the European Union since 2004

**Currency:** euro

**Middle of Slovakia:**

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

**Middle of Europe:**

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

## FOUR BIGGEST RELIEFS IN THE COUNTRY:

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

Gerlachovský štít – Tatras region

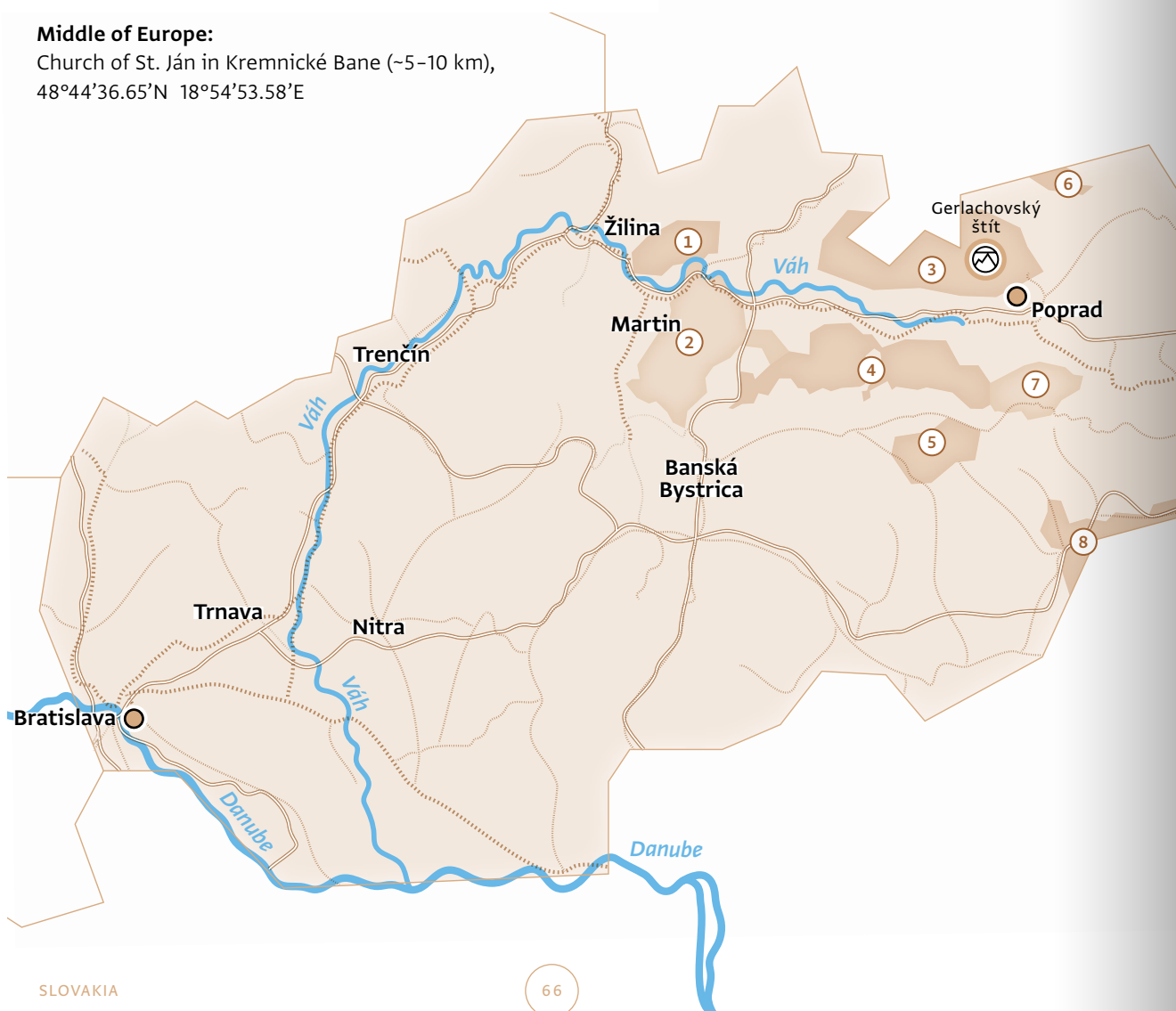
⊗ **Lowest point:** 94 m a. s. l.

near the village of Klin nad Bodrogom  
– Zemplín region

**Longest river:** Váh (403 km)

**Biggest river:** Dunaj/Danube

(Slovak Republic's section – 172 km)



# NATIONAL PARKS OF SLOVAKIA

① **Malá Fatra National Park**  
(NPMF) \* 1988 1226.30 km<sup>2</sup>

④ **Low Tatras National Park**  
(NAPANT) \* 1978 12728 km<sup>2</sup>

⑦ **Slovak Paradise National Park**  
(NPSR) 1988 12197.63 km<sup>2</sup>

② **Veľká Fatra National Park**  
(NPVF) \* 2002 12403.71 km<sup>2</sup>

⑤ **Muránska planina National Park**  
(NPMP) \* 1997 12203.18 km<sup>2</sup>

⑧ **Slovak Karst National Park**  
(NPSK) \* 2002 12346.11 km<sup>2</sup>

③ **Tatra National Park**  
(TANAP) \* 1949 12738 km<sup>2</sup>

⑥ **Pieniny National Park**  
(PIENAP) \* 1967 1237.5 km<sup>2</sup>

⑨ **Poloniny National Park**  
(NPP) \* 1997 12298.05 km<sup>2</sup>



**Mountain Rescue Service**  
hzs.sk



— International roads E  
— Railway network in Slovakia  
● International airports

## TRAVEL OPTIONS TO SLOVAKIA

### AIR TRAVEL



**M. R. Štefánik Airport | Bratislava**  
[www.bts.aero/en](http://www.bts.aero/en)



**Košice International Airport**  
[www.airportkosice.sk/en](http://www.airportkosice.sk/en)



**Poprad-Tatry Airport**  
[www.airport-poprad.sk](http://www.airport-poprad.sk)

### TRAIN TRAVEL



**Slovak Rail (ZSSK)**  
[www.zssk.sk/en](http://www.zssk.sk/en)



**Train travel planning**  
[www.cp.hnonline.sk](http://www.cp.hnonline.sk)

### ARRIVAL BY BUS OR CAR



**Online bus timetables**  
[www.cp.hnonline.sk](http://www.cp.hnonline.sk)



**Highway sticker information**  
[www.eznamka.sk/en](http://www.eznamka.sk/en)



# UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE IN SLOVAKIA

## UNESCO WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE

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



Official UNESCO website in Slovakia  
[www.unesco.sk/en](http://www.unesco.sk/en)

## UNESCO WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE

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

## UNESCO REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

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



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



World Heritage in Slovakia



## SLOVAKIA

Near and full of suprsises

TRAVEL TO SLOVAKIA  
GOOD IDEA

[www.slovakia.travel](http://www.slovakia.travel)

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# DISCOVER SLOVAKIA

Take a cruise along the peaceful arms of the longest river in the European Union. Conquer two-thousand metre peaks and impregnable medieval castles. Immerse yourself in the healing spas and enjoy a sauna under the stars. Taste world-famous wines and play golf. Both UNESCO-protected sites and busy metropolises are awaiting your visit. Cover hundreds of kilometres by bike or on foot on high-altitude hikes. Ski on slopes for all age groups and experience adventure in caves, on via ferratas, icefalls or in the air. Slovakia will surprise you with many experiences.

## Welcome!



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