



>SLOVAKIA<

Slovakia is a small country in the heart of Europe. After a long period of common history shared with Hungary within the Austro–Hungarian Empire, followed by the common state of Czechs and Slovaks – Czechoslovakia, the Slovak Republic became an independent state in January 1993 and joined the European Union in May 2004.

It borders on Austria, the other three Visegrad countries: Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, and the Ukraine.

Except for the sea, one would find almost everything here for travelling, making business and, of course, filmmaking.

Slovakia has a moderate climate with characteristic changes of season. Danubian Lowlands spreading in the south of the country cover 11 % of the territory. They are the driest and warmest areas of Slovakia. Mountains cover the north-western and northern parts of the country, namely, the Carpathian Mountains with the High Tatras as the highest alpine range and Gerlachovský štít [2.655 m] the highest peak. Two of numerous Slovak caves are included in the UNESCO list of the world's cultural and natural heritage.

The Danube is Slovakia's most significant and main navigable river connecting the capital city Bratislava with Vienna and Budapest. The longest river is the Váh with 406 km. The Bodrog river represents also the lowest point of the country.

Slovakia is famous for its wide variety and huge number of castles and chateaus representing different historical periods and styles. The Spiš Castle, one of the largest castle compounds in Europe, also belongs to UNESCO sites. The Bratislava Castle, Devín Castle, Červený kameň Castle, Čachtice ruins, are just a few of Slovakia's popular shooting locations.

Bratislava is the capital of the Slovak Republic and the major city of the country. With its importance, size, history and architecture, it complements the most significant capitals of the region, Prague, Vienna and Budapest.

Alongside a wide range of possibilities, with its rich natural, historical and cultural heritage, Slovakia offers its visitors an especially warm welcome from the locals. They probably won't let you go unless they make you taste their delicious wine, strong liquor or some unique kinds of sheep cheese.



OFFICIAL NAME

>< **SLOVENSKÁ REPUBLIKA [THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC]**

Parliamentary Democracy

Independent state since January 1, 1993 as one of two
succession states of the former Czech and Slovak

Federative Republic

Member of the European Union since May 1, 2004

CAPITAL

Bratislava

AREA

49 034 sq.km

POPULATION

5 389 180 [2005]

POPULATION DENSITY

109.9 per sq.km

LANGUAGE

Official language is Slovak, following languages also are spoken
in the Slovak Republic: Hungarian, Czech, Ukrainian, Romany.

CURRENCY

slovenská koruna / 100 halierov [Slovak crown / 100 hellers], SKK

EXCHANGE RATE

1 EUR = cca. 33.40 SKK

1 USD = cca. 25.10 SKK

VAT RATE

flat rate of 19 %

GDP

1, 636 mil SKK [2006]

TIME ZONE

CET [Central European Time]

DIALING CODE

+421



MAJOR TOWNS

- >> **BRATISLAVA** >> capital city, population: 425 533 [2004]
[distances: Prague >> 324 km, Vienna >> 62 km,
Budapest >> 196 km]
- >> **KOŠICE** >> population 242 066 [2004]
- >> **PREŠOV** >> 91 767 [2004]
- >> **NITRA** >> 85 742 [2004]
- >> **ŽILINA** >> 85 268 [2004]
- >> **BANSKÁ BYSTRICA** >> 81 704 [2004]

CLIMATE

Moderate continental climate, average temperature -2 °C in winter and 21 °C in summer.

LOCATION

Central Europe, geographical center of Europe.

BORDERS

Czech Republic [265 km], Hungary [679 km], Poland [597.5 km],
Austria [127.2 km], Ukraine [98 km]

TERRAIN AND ENVIRONMENT

Relatively large differences in elevation are characteristic of Slovakia. Central and northern Slovakia is more mountainous; the **THE CARPATHIAN BOW** extends across these regions. The south and east of the country lie in the lowlands. The most important river is **THE DANUBE**, which connects the capital **BRATISLAVA** with two European metropolises – **VIENNA** and **BUDAPEST**. Five Slovak locations you can find in the UNESCO World Heritage List: **HISTORIC TOWN OF BANSKÁ ŠTIAVNICA AND THE TECHNICAL MONUMENTS IN ITS VICINITY, SPIŠSKÝ HRAD AND ITS ASSOCIATED CULTURAL MONUMENTS, VLKOLÍNEC, CAVES OF AGGTELEK KARST AND SLOVAK KARST, BARDEJOV TOWN CONSERVATION RESERVE.**

- >> **THE HIGHEST POINT** >> Gerlachovský štít [Vysoké Tatry / High Tatras, 2,655 m above sea level].
- >> **THE LOWEST POINT** >> Bodrog River [94 m above sea level].

SOURCE

Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic www.statistics.sk,
www.slovakia.org, www.nbs.sk.