



Enjoy the memorable scenery and stunning panoramic views of majestic mountains, experience tradition filled quaint towns throughout the countryside where you will meet friendly and kind local people known for their hospitality. Visit an open-air museums of historic Slovak villages, see the architecture, take a look inside of a typical traditional log house and learn and imagine the everyday life of our ancestors. Explore the mountains and countryside, visit local attractions, historic castles, step back in time to a place where horse drawn carriages frequent the streets and musicians perform traditional music at the historic Orava castle – built as an “eagle’s nest” on top of a cliff above the river. Enjoy a hike to a remote sheep farm where you can see how cheese is made the old fashion way or sample traditional local food .

ITINERARY

DAY 1, **Welcome to Bratislava**

Welcome at the airport, transfer to the hotel by personal tour guide who will explain all the details about the trip. Welcome Dinner & overnight stay in Bratislava.

DAY 2, **Bratislava, Beckov**

Breakfast at ~8 am followed by meeting with your tour guide at the hotel and start of the tour of Bratislava – the capital city, visiting attractions such as:

- Primate’s Palace – a marvelous Classicist and largest palace in Bratislava where the Treaty of Pressburg was signed in 1805
 - St. Martin’s Cathedral - one of the largest gothic constructions in Bratislava where the coronations of 19 rulers took place between 1563-1830, including Austro-Hungarian empress Maria Theresa
 - Michael’s gate - the only preserved city gate, ranking among the oldest town buildings
 - historical narrow streets, squares, Slovak National Theatre and of course the historic Bratislava castle.
- During the tour we will stop for a lunch in the city centre.

Transfer to Sulov, about 1,5 hr drive from Strecno will be the next stop where we will take a tour of Sulov Rocks, the most interesting part of a much larger mountain range called Strážovské vrchy (Strážov, 1213m), which are bounded by the southern part of the Lesser Fatra mountains (Lúčanská Mala Fatra) on the east and the Váh River on the west and north. The most interesting part of the Sulov Rocks forms the northwest and north rim of the little basin in which the village of Súľov sits. Thanks to the nature of the local calcareous rocks, a fantastic "stone forest" – made up of countless rock pinnacles and needles has developed here. This place lures both the hiker and the climber.

Another attraction in this area is the Sulov castle, originally built early in the 15th century. The ruins of the castle completely merge with Sulov rocks, in fact it was built between the rock formations and functioned as a fort from which a nearby road could be watched and protected.

Later in the afternoon - transfer to Beckov (about 1hr drive); tour of the beautiful Beckov castle. It is 16 kilometers south of Trenčín at the place where the river Váh (the longest river in Slovakia) finishes its journey through the Trenčín's valley and enters the lowlands of Dunaj. The castle lies on a steep 30 meters high rock over the village of Beckov. It is one of the oldest castles of former Hungary and Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Transfer to Gaderska valley, dinner & overnight stay.

DAY 3, **Gaderska valley, Blatnica Castle**

Breakfast at ~8 am followed by a full day of hiking, cycling or rock climbing (optional) in Gader valley, a long valley in the Greater Fatra mountain range in Central Slovakia, accessible from the village of Blatnica.

Next stop will be at Blatnica Castle ruins, located near village of Blatnica. The castle was built in the 13th century to protect a major trade route running from Nitra to the north. Since 1790 the castle has been abandoned. The castle remnants are hidden in a forest with limited views of the Gader Valley, which stretches underneath.

After a day of activities, time to relax at spa & aquapark in Turcianske Teplice.

Lunch, dinner and overnight stay in Gaderska valley

DAY 4, Strecno castle and Stranik hill

Breakfast at ~8 am followed by transfer to the city of Zilina on the other side of Mala Fatra range to start a bicycling tour along the Vah river, stopping for a tour of Strecno castle ruins. The romantic ruins of Strecno Castle tower over the Vah river symbolize the feudal power in Central Povazie. Even though it has been a ruin for three centuries, the architecture that remains documents the development of the medieval fortress from the gothic to the baroque. Although the castle was only established in the middle of the 14th century, the site has been inhabited for much longer – archaeological discoveries show that the castle hill was already inhabited in the early Bronze Age.

Lunch break - traditional barbecue lunch followed by a cycling tour to Stranik hill with a view of Zilina along the way. Stranik hill (769 m) is located in the Kysuce highlands and is one of the most popular spots in Central Europe for hang gliding and paragliding, offering beautiful views of Zilina and nearby villages.

Evening transfer to Terchova (about 30min drive from Zilina), Terchova is a traditional slovak village where Slovak legendary hero Juraj Janosik (Slovak Robin Hood) was born.

Dinner and overnight stay in Terchova

DAY 5, Janosikove diery, Rozsutec

Breakfast at ~8 am followed by a tour of Janosikove diery, located in Rozsutec natural protected area. These passages and canyons consist of three integrated parts - Dolne diery (Lower holes), Nove diery (New holes) and Horne diery (The Upper holes). There are more than twenty waterfalls in Janosikove diery. Bizarre and interesting rock formations provide unique environment for several animal species and plants.

Tour starts in Terchova, continuing through Dolne diery (Lower holes), under Rozsutec mountain and finishing in Stefanova. The whole trip takes approximately 2hrs.

Lunch in Terchova

Transfer to Zuberec. Dinner and overnight stay in Zuberec – Rohace (West Tatras)

DAY 6, Museum of Orava Village, Rohace Mountains (West Tatras), Wellness & aquapark

Breakfast at ~8 a.m, followed by a visit to traditional SKANZEN – Museum of the Orava Village - an open air museum of folk architecture exhibits, intact rural houses brought from all around the region of Orava and re-assembled in Zuberec. The gardens and fields around the houses show various ancient forms of farming and

animal husbandry.

Lunch in traditional Slovak restaurant. Finish the day of activities by relaxing and enjoying thermal wellness aquapark in nearby Oravice.

Dinner & overnight stay in Zuberec

DAY 7- Orava Castle, Liptovska Mara dam

Breakfast at ~8 am followed by a visit to Orava Castle.

OPTIONAL- traditional timber boat ride- 12 eur/person. Lunch in traditional restaurant.

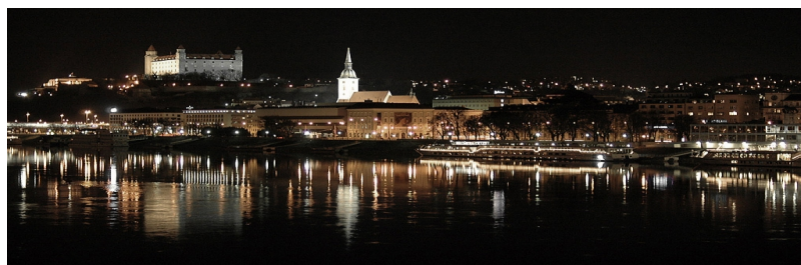
Relax in Liptovsky Trnovec, sightseeing of Liptovska Mara dam and Low Tatras & Chocske vrchy.

Dinner & overnight stay in Liptovsky Trnovec.

Day 8- High Tatras, Demanovska Ice Cave

Breakfast at ~8 am followed by transfer to High Tatras, a dominant mountain range on the border between Slovakia and Poland. The rugged High Tatras with 17 peaks over 2500 meters high are together with the Southern Carpathians the only mountain ranges with an alpine character in the 1200 km length of the Carpathian Mountains.

Most of High Tatras with all of its highest peaks are situated on the Slovak side of the border with Poland. The highest peak is Gerlachovský štít (2,655 m). Many rare and protected animals and plant species are native to the High Tatras which are also home to Eurasian lynx, bears, marten, wolves, fox and others. The area is well known and popular for winter sports. Ski resorts include Štrbské pleso, Starý Smokovec and Tatranská Lomnica in Slovakia, and Zakopane in Poland. The town of Poprad is the gateway to the High Tatras resorts. Planned tour include Starý Smokovec area and a short walk around Štrbské and Popradské pleso (lake).



DURATION: 9 Days / 8 Nights
BEST TIME OF THE YEAR: All year round
PRICE PER PERSON: 890 € twin share
Children up to 30% discount!

Lunch at Štrbské pleso. After lunch - transfer to Demanovska valley (~1hr) followed by a visit of the Demanovska Ice Cave. It was first mentioned in 1299 and remains one of oldest known caves in Europe. It stands out by occurrence of permanent ice fill, bizarre and mighty shapes of underground formations and rare cave fauna.

DAY 9- Good bye Slovakia

After breakfast and check-out, you will have a free time for shopping & spending your last minutes in the beautiful City Centre of Bratislava until your departure and transfer to the airport.

At the conclusion of the tour, transfer to Bratislava

What is included:

1.

- ❑ Your professional guide who will also be your driver, translator & advisor
- ❑ 8 nights in a room with double occupancy
- ❑ 8x breakfast
- ❑ 1x welcome lunch
- ❑ 1 x traditional barbecue lunch
- ❑ All transfers around Slovakia
- ❑ Refreshments
- ❑ Fuel and all parking & highway tolls
- ❑ Map of Bratislava & map of Slovakia, information material (brochures, leaflets)
- ❑ Entrance fees to all museums, spa and other attractions
- ❑ Personal CD-ROM with Photos of your trip

What is not included:

2.

- ❑ Flights to/from Slovakia, insurance – can be arranged
- ❑ Return airport transfers (can be arranged)
- ❑ Lunch, dinner
- ❑ Alcoholic & non-alcoholic drinks
- ❑ Souvenirs, tips
- ❑ Any other trips not


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