

Slovakia is endowed with a diverse natural beauty, ranging from the fertile valleys running towards the foothills of tall rocky mountains to the scenic caves hiding inside them. Our ancestors have left present generations a whole spectrum of monuments ranging from mighty castles and parks in bloom to scientific and cultural artefacts. It is not only the tangible heritage that has been preserved; it is also the customs, the music and the stories that make up our national identity. Some of these gems were recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO and they were inscribed on its World Cultural and Natural Heritage List.

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 your trip. Welcome Dinner & overnight stay in Bratislava.



DAY 2 - Bratislava & Banska Stiavnica

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.

Later in the afternoon we'll depart for the town of Banska Stiavnica (apx. 2.5 hrs drive), to visit this medieval historic mining town, built in 1238 and got a privilege of royal town. This town was designated by UNESCO as the World Heritage site in 1993. We'll visit landmarks such as the Old and New Castles, the Holy Trinity Square, Mining Museum, "Klopacka" tower and other historic sites.

Dinner & overnight stay in Banska Stiavnica.

DAY 3 – Vlkolinec Village, Stara Lubovna, Bardejov

Breakfast and transfer to Vlkolinec Village, an outdoor museum of regional architecture from 16th to 19th century. Village has over 40 historic houses, some of them still occupied. Vlkolinec is designated as a world's heritage site by UNESCO. Lunch and Break in the traditional Slovak restaurant "Salas" (Salas Krajinka). Transfer to Bardejov, stopping in Stara Lubovna, a beautiful historic town dating back to 13th century. It is dominated by its castle on the hill above the town. Another point of interest is *Lubovnansky skanzen* – an open air museum of historic houses showing the traditional architecture of the region.

Transfer, dinner and overnight stay in Bardejov.



DAY 4 - Bardejov, Kosice

Breakfast, followed by a tour of Bardejov, UNESCO's World Heritage Site. One of the main landmarks is the St. Aegidius Cathedral, completed in 15th century. It contains priceless eleven Gothic altars with original panel paintings. The picturesque central square is surrounded by well-preserved Gothic and Renaissance burgher's houses. Other historic landmarks are the town hall - built in 1505, fortification system and town walls dating back to 14th and 15th centuries, small Jewish quarter with 18th century synagogue and more.

Transfer to Kosice - the second largest city in Slovakia, located in eastern part of the country on the river Hornad. Majority of historic landmarks are located around Main Street, one of the most visited is Slovakia's largest church, the 14th century St. Elisabeth Cathedral. Other nearby landmarks are St. Michael Chapel, St. Urban Tower and the neo-baroque State Theater in the center of town.

Dinner & overnight stay in Kosice.



DAY 5 - Slovak Karst, Dobsinska Ice Cave & Ochtinska Aragonite Cave

Breakfast, then transfer to Slovak Karst (*Slovenský kras*) – a mountain range in the Carpathians in southern Slovakia, consisting of a complex and huge karst plains and plateaus. Lunch break in the beautiful surroundings of the Slovak Karst.

Visit to *Dobsinska Ice Cave* and *Ochtinska Aragonite Cave*, both included in the UNESCO World Heritage list. Dobsinska Cave was discovered in 1870, it is apx. 1,480 meters long of which 515 meters are open to public from May to September. Ochtinska Aragonite Cave is a unique aragonite cave, only about 300 meters long but famous for its rare aragonite clusters. At the present time, there are only three aragonite caves in the world. Dinner & overnight stay in a traditional wooden hut, surrounded by beautiful mountain range (Drevenica Sumiac).

DAY 6 - Levoca, Spis Castle

Breakfast and departure for the tour of the town of Levoca, established in the 13th century. Town is located in the historic region of Spis. Many historic landmarks are located within the town's ancient fortified walls. Master Paul's Town square boasts the Old Town Hall, Evangelical Lutheran Church (1837) and the 14th century Roman Catholic Church of St. James, housing a magnificently carved and painted wooden Gothic altar, the largest in Europe.

The Spis Castle is the next stop, it is one of the largest castle sites in Central Europe. The castle is situated above the town of Spišské Podhradie. Spis Castle was built in the 12th century on the site of an earlier castle. It was the political, administrative, economic and cultural center of Szepes (Spis), County of the Kingdom of Hungary. Before 1464, it was owned by the kings of Hungary, afterwards (until 1528) by the Zápolya family, the Thurzo family (1531-1635), the Csáky family (1638-1945), and since 1945 by the state Slovakia.

Lunch in Levoca

Transfer to Bratislava, Dinner & overnight stay in Bratislava.

DAY 7 – 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.



DURATION: 7 Days / 6 Nights
BEST TIME OF THE YEAR: January to December
PRICE PER PERSON: 680 € twin share

Children up to 30% discount!

What is included:

1.

- ❑ Your professional guide who will also be your driver, translator & advisor
- ❑ 6 nights in a room with double occupancy
- ❑ 6x 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 mentioned in this itinerary



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