



SLOVAKIA HERITAGE TOUR 2023





ABOUT THIS SMALL GROUP TOUR

10 DAYS / 1 COUNTRY / 4 UNESCO SIGHTS / LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: EASY

The tour gets people out into the countryside and small towns where they can see how people live today as well as understand what village life was like when their grandparents or great-parents left," said Judy Northup-Bennett who provides general travel advice for people wanting to travel to Slovakia to discover their roots. "The Heritage Tour is more than visits to cathedrals, museums and historic sites in principal cities. The Heritage Tour's goal is to immerse people in Slovak culture with special music, language, and craft programs to rekindle the customs many remember from their childhood."

Northup-Bennett can also connect Slovak-Americans with genealogical researchers who will help them fill out their family trees as well as find and visit relatives who remained in Slovakia. "I've found that the Slovak families in Slovakia are thrilled to meet their Slovak-American cousins whom they've heard about in letter and photos," she explained. Often one of the travelers finds that these long-lost relatives have their childhood school photos that their grandmothers sent decades ago to their sisters and brothers who didn't come to America."

The September Slovakia Heritage Tour is now organized and operated by Peter and Jane Blazicek of Best Slovakia Tours, www.bestsloviatours.com, who partnered with founder Judy Northup-Bennett for 10 years. Judy is available to talk with you about the tour to see if it works for your Slovakia travel plans. She also consults on general Slovakia travel information, and how to trace your roots.



Peter & Jane Blazicek / Best Slovakia Tours – Travel Team

YOUR TOUR ITINERARY

Tour starts in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia

Fly in: Vienna Schwechat airport / Austria (recommended)

Tour ends in Bratislava

Fly out from Vienna Schwechat airport / Austria (recommended)

ROUTE / TOTAL of 1350km / 838miles

Start and end of the tour: Bratislava – the capital of Slovakia



DAY 1, Fri, September 8

Bratislava – Banská Štiavnica – Salamander Festival – Banská Bystrica

Our Slovakia Heritage adventure begins at the Radisson Blu Carlton Hotel (meeting) for our morning drive through the rolling Danube plains to the 14th century mining town of Banská Štiavnica, nestled in a richly-forested valley. We'll join in the fun of the town's age-old Salamander Festival which brings together mining guild members from all over Europe and traditional Slovak folk groups.

In the late afternoon, we'll settle into the Hotel Kuria, in the quaint city of Banská Bystrica. In the evening, we'll gather for our Welcome Dinner (included) which will feature a special fujara performance. A uniquely Slovak shepherd's flute, the fujara has been named to the UNESCO cultural heritage list.

Overnight in Banská Bystrica

DAY 2, Sat, September 9

Špania Dolina – Banská Bystrica – Harvest Market Festival

In the morning, we'll step back in time in the ancient mining and lacemaking village of Špania Dolina, in the hills just outside of Banská Bystrica. We'll walk the village and forested lanes (at your pace) and visit the mining and lacemaking museums. The afternoon will be yours to enjoy the 400-year old Harvest Market Festival which fills the Banská Bystrica's beautiful center square with

booths to browse and performances to watch...both traditional and contemporary. You can also delve into World War II history from a Central European perspective at the Museum of the Slovak National Uprising, shop, or relax.

In the late afternoon we'll gather for a Wine & Cheese reception(included) to go over the tour itinerary, answer questions and practice every day expressions with an introductory Slovak lesson.

Overnight in Banska Bystrica

DAY 3, Sun, September 10

Banská Bystrica – Orava region – Zuberec – High Tatra Mountains

In the morning, we'll travel through the beautiful landscapes of the Mala Fatra Mountains, stopping to visit the dramatic Orava Castle. Orava folk music and dance will entertain us during lunch(included) at a typical Koliba, shepherd's restaurant. In the afternoon, we'll stroll through the 19th century Zuberec museum village to see what village life was like when many of our ancestors left Slovakia. Driving through the picturesque Liptovsky lake region.

We'll arrive at the classic Grand Hotel Smokovec in the heart of the Tatry Mountains to relax and watch the sun set on the mountains.

Overnight in Starý Smokovec, High Tatra Mountains

DAY 4, Mon, September 11

High Tatra Mountains

You can enjoy the beauty of the Tatry Mountains at your own pace. There are several options for a day of out-door, scenic adventure in this dramatic small alpine range or relaxing in the resort towns, including taking a gondola to the top of the range, traveling the light rail train through the resorts, shopping, visiting the excellent Tatra National Park Museum, and taking short or long hikes in the mountains. In the evening, we'll stroll the shore of a glacial lake in Štrbské Pleso and enjoy dinner at a typical mountain chalet restaurant. ***Optional personal family and village visits can be arranged.***

Overnight in Starý Smokovec, High Tatra Mountains

DAY 5, Tue, September 12

Bardejov – Šariš Outdoor Museum and Thermal Spa

We'll travel from the High Tatry Mountains to Bardejov with a surprise stop along the way. After checking into the Hotel Pod Branou in the heart of the city and lunch, we'll explore Bardejov from the classic 19th century spa and Šariš outdoor folk museum to its exquisite medieval center, visiting the Basilica of St. Egidius with its many carved altars, and the Icon Museum if you wish. You can relax in a cafe and take in the atmosphere of the central square before dinner. ***Optional personal family and village visits can be arranged.***

Overnight in Bardejov

DAY 6, Wed, September 13

Šariš Region – Small Village Visit – Medieval Levoča

In the morning, we'll travel through the lovely stream valleys ringed by high pasture fields and farm land of the Šariš region to visit a small village. Later will cross the low scenic hills to the medieval, pilgrimage town of Levoča. After lunch(included) we'll visit the large, exquisitely-carved altar in St. Jacob's Cathedral by 15th century master woodcarver Master Pavol; the museum of his work; and other important Levoča historic sites. In the evening, we'll walk the beautiful central square of Košice before settling into the Hotel Double tree by Hilton, in the heart of the city.

Overnight in Kosice

DAY 7, Thu, September 14

Košice

We'll enjoy morning guided walking tours of Košice's well-preserved historic center. Afternoon free to shop and explore the thriving downtown of Slovakia's second largest city. Since many of our Slovak American ancestors came from Eastern Slovakia, this is a day we help travelers arrange for guides to visit their families or family villages. Optional evening special cultural program.

Optional personal family and village visits can be arranged.

Overnight in Kosice

DAY 8, Fri, September 15

Return to Bratislava – Spiš Castle

Leaving Košice, we'll start the trip back to Bratislava through the rolling hills and valleys of the Spiš region with stops along the way. We'll explore the ruins of the majestic Spiš Castle, one of the largest castle ruins in Europe. On the trip home, we'll have lunch(included) at a Salas, a traditional shepherd's farm.

We'll arrive in Slovakia's capital city on the Danube in time to enjoy the charm of the Old City by night and settle into the old world elegance of the Hotel Radisson Blu Carlton, in the center of the Old City.

Overnight in Bratislava

DAY 9, Sat, September 16

Bratislava – the Beauty on the Danube river

Fall in love with Slovakia's modest but elegant small capital with a morning guided walking tour. We'll also travel by bus for panoramic views of the majestic Danube from medieval Devin Castle where we'll learn about the Soviet-era Iron Curtain. Our last stop will be the Bratislava Castle scenic overview for views of the city and Bratislava's long history. The afternoon will be free time to explore Bratislava's narrow central streets and lovely plazas for shopping or people-watching, and stroll the Danube promenade to watch the ships and barges along this busy waterway.

In the evening there will be opportunity for a musical or opera performance, a chance for a romantic dinner on your own, or a farewell gathering dinner in one of the many outdoor restaurants.

Overnight in Bratislava

DAY 10, Sun, September 17

Farewell to our Slovakia Heritage Tour Travel Friends

At the close of the tour after breakfast, some people will fly out of Vienna, and others will continue to travel on for a few more days to: Vienna, Austria; Krakow, Poland; Prague, Czech Republic; or Budapest, Hungary on an extension tour arranged through Best Slovakia Tours.

Please see details on the Extension Tours page, and contact Judy at 978-544-5144 or slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com to discuss your personal plans.



HIGHLIGHTS OF SLOVAKIA HERITAGE TOUR

4 UNESCO World Heritage sights

- ✓ Admire the charming hilly town of Banska Stiavnica
- ✓ Admire Levoca's highest, wooden wing, gothic altar of the world and Museum of Master Paul
- ✓ Discover the Spiss castle
- ✓ Immerse yourself into Bardejov, the best preserved medieval town
- ✓ Try the healing water in Bardejov SPA and visit the open-air museum
- ✓ Stroll around Bratislava's charming old town, Bratislava and Devin castle
- ✓ Experience the mighty Orava castle with its stories and legends
- ✓ Enjoy the High Tatra National Park
- ✓ Taste all gastronomical delights in traditional Slovak Koliba restaurants
- ✓ Enjoy first class Tour guide and Bus Driver

WHAT IS ALWAYS INCLUDED

Meals: 9x Breakfast, 1x Welcome dinner, 3x lunch, 1x Wine and Cheese

Accommodation: first class 4star carefully selected hotels, VAT tax (value added tax), local city tax

Tour guide: professional, native Slovak tour guide

Transportation: luxury van Mercedes Benz Vclass (1-7 travelers), Mercedes Benz Sprinter (8-18 travelers), Setra 30 or 50 seaters (from our partner bus agency)

Entrances to the top sights:

Old castle Banska Stiavnica

Spania dolina mining museum

Orava castle, Museum of Orava village

Museum in Levoca and Church of St. James

Open air museum Bardejov

Spiss castle

Refreshment on board (sparkling and still mineral water)

Map of Bratislava and Slovakia, information material, brochures

WHAT IS EXCLUDED

Flights to/from Slovakia

Return airport transfers (we can arrange it for the best possible rate)

Meals and drinks (unless stated otherwise)

Medical and Travel insurance, personal expenses, cable car tickets, souvenirs

Gratuities to Guide-driver (optional), any services not listed above as "Included"

ACCOMMODATION FOR CLIENTS

Single room = 1x single bed in a room (or double bed with single use)

Double room = 1x king size bed in a room

Twin room = 2x single beds in a room

All accommodations include breakfast, city tax and VAT (value added tax)

Banska Bystrica

Hotel Kuria, located at the heart of the city, hotel website: [here](#)

Address: Bakossova 4, 974 01 Banska Bystrica, Tel: +421 48 412 32 55

High Tatra mountains, Stary Smokovec

Grand Hotel Stary Smokovec, located under the majesti Tatra peaks, hotel website: [here](#)

Address: Stary Smokovec 38, 062 01 Vysoke Tatry, Tel: +421 52 47 80 000

Bardejov

Hotel pod Branou, great locate at the heart of the town, hotel website: [here](#)

Address: Hviezdoslavova 1, 085 01 Bardejov, Tel: +421 54 472 23 48 or +421 54 488 11 44

Kosice

Hotel Double Tree Hilton, located at the heart of the town, hotel website: [here](#)

Address: Hlavna 1, 040 01 Kosice, Tel: +421 55 3251 100

Bratislava

Hotel Radisson, located in the city centre, hotel website: [here](#)

Address: Hviezdoslavovo nam 3, 81102 Bratislava, Tel: +421 2 5939 0000

TRAVEL DATES & TOUR PRICE 2023

Travel dates: September 8-17, 2023 with guaranteed departure

Price per person sharing double/twin room: \$2,650

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All prices are per person sharing twin/double room

Extra bed possible for a surcharge, single supplement for a surcharge of \$590

METHOD OF PAYMENT

To secure the reservation we require \$500 as an advance payment.

Deposit: \$500 Bank wire transfer to our company's account

Online payment via PayPal (we'll send you a PayPal link to execute the payment). PayPal fee is 5%.

Balance: \$2,150 due to 60 days prior to departure (latest until July 8, 2023) via bank wire, or PayPal with 5% fee, Stripe with 3% fee, Wise transfer

BANK DETAILS

Bank name:	Tatra Banka, a.s. (official website of Tatra Bank: here)
Bank address:	Hodzovo square 3, 850 05 Bratislava, Slovakia
Account name:	Best Slovakia Tours, s.r.o.
Account number (IBAN):	SK1811000000002622862720
SWIFT (BIC) code:	TATRSKBX

Bank charges pays PAYER

CANCELLATION POLICY

25% of the total tour price – if the contract is cancelled more than 35 days before the tour begins

30% of the total tour price – if the contract is cancelled btw 34 - 31 days before the tour begins

50% of the total tour price – if the contract is cancelled btw 30-21 days before the tour begins

80% of the total tour price – if the contract is cancelled btw 20-16 days before the tour begins

100% of the total tour price if the contract is cancelled less than 15 days before the tour begins

[read terms & conditions](#)