



GRAND TOUR OF SLOVAKIA 2023

NEW ITINERARY. PREMIUM LUXURY EXPERIENCE.





ABOUT THIS TRIP

11 DAYS / 1 COUNTRY / 6 UNESCO SIGHTS / LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: EASY

Enjoy the Premium Grand Tour of Slovakia – the luxury way of traveling. Stroll the Old town of our lovely Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. Admire the green and untouched countryside full of national parks. Visit with us all the highlights and discover out-of-the-beaten-tracks, medieval towns with fortification walls, majestic castles and their stories and legends, wooden churches, UNESCO sights, see local craftsmen and learn from them. Enjoy gastronomical delights in Koliba traditional restaurants full of genuine tasty Slovak meals, drinks and desserts. Try excellent Slovak wine.

Let us pamper you, plunge into the wellness sphere and enjoy undisturbed moments. Fall in love with our lovely, peaceful, friendly and yet not crowded Slovakia.



Our top priority is the exclusive customer care. From the very first email, through the entire booking process, during your lovely tour and up to your departure – we will always care about your highest comfort, the attention to details, your safety, your special requests and of course that your tour is enjoyable and memorable.

As it is essential to have a top tour guide while you are enjoying your lovely holiday, our guide-drivers are native Slovaks, highly qualified, licensed experts with vast knowledge of history of Slovakia with excellent English skills, driving skills, strong personal touch with sense of humor. They are friendly and always ready to help you and make your stay a lovely and unique experience.

Our vehicles are new, fully equipped luxury vans Mercedes Benz V class, for up to 7 travelers, they offer the highest possible comfort, you will enjoy our luxury suits on the wheels. For larger groups, our partner agency offers Setra 30 seaters and 50 seaters.



Peter & Jane Blazicek / Best Slovakia Tours – Travel Team

YOUR TOUR ITINERARY

Route: Tour starts in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia

Fly in: Vienna Schwechat airport / Austria (recommended)

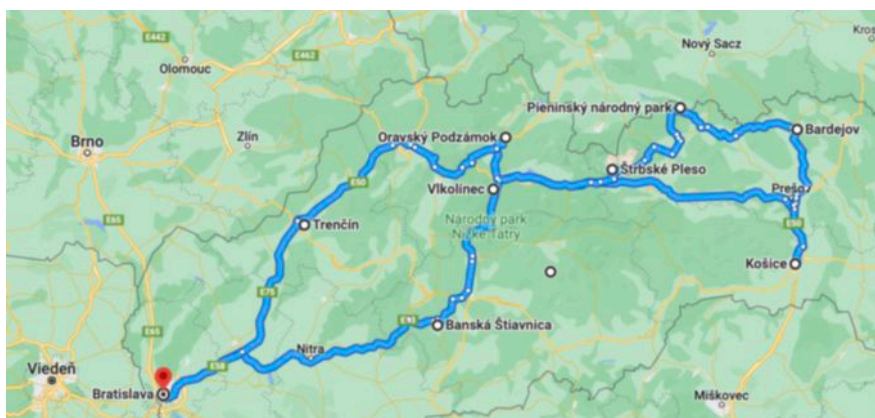
Tour ends in Bratislava

Fly out from Vienna Schwechat airport / Austria (recommended)

(in case you would prefer a different airport (Prague or Budapest), we will drive you comfortably to the airport / destination you request)

ROUTE / TOTAL of 1250km / 776miles

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



DAY 1

WELCOME TO BRATISLAVA – BEAUTY ON THE DANUBE RIVER

Welcome drink and itinerary introduction. Your lovely holiday starts today.

Book with us an airport pick up service from Bratislava, Vienna, Prague, Budapest and get the best possible price, travel in style with the highest comfort.

How do we provide this service? We will wait for you at the airport's arrival hall holding a sign with your name, help you with your luggage, drive you safely and comfortably to Bratislava and help with the check in process. Maximum comfort, mineral water on board and a pleasant drive.

At leisure.

Overnight in Bratislava

DAY 2

BRATISLAVA QUALITY SIGHTSEEING TOUR

We'll drive to Devin Castle, situated at the confluence of the Danube & Morava rivers. Its owners could control the important trade route along the Danube as well as one branch of the Amber Road. After exploring the well-preserved castle ruin and enjoying views of Austria, we'll show you where the "Iron curtain" – the former border between the West and the East used to stand and tell the story of life under communism (1948-89). On the way back to Bratislava's old town, we'll visit Slavin World War 2 memorial and Bratislava Castle, - symbol of the city. Enjoy stunning views of the Danube river and learn more about its rich history.

After lunch break, we'll continue with a charming city walking tour to see the highlights of the Old Town. We start at Hviezdoslav square, a prominent 18th century square surrounded by stunning palaces, the Slovak National Theatre and the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra; visit of the St. Martin's Cathedral - the coronation place of 18 rulers including famous Austria-Hungarian empress Maria Theresa; we stroll on medieval streets such as Panska and Venturska where famous music composers studied or gave concerts, such as W.A.Mozart, F. Liszt, L. Beethoven, and admire the only preserved town entrance – St. Michael's Gate. Walking through the main square, admire a beautiful former Old Town Hall and Maximilian Fountain, the Primate's Palace (outside) - the largest in Bratislava. Enough time free time for taking pictures and enjoying the atmosphere.

Overnight in Bratislava

DAY 3

DISCOVER PICTURESQUE BANSKA STIAVNICA

After 2 hours of scenic drive crossing the rolling Danube plains, we'll enter one of the most beautiful Slovak towns – **Banska Stiavnica**. It is like stepping into past centuries. Get an overview of the rich history of this town connected with the mining of copper, silver and gold. Visit the Old castle – a majestic fortress, 16th century New castle, the heart of the Old town and Holy Trinity square with beautiful sights such as the gothic 15th century St. Catherine church, admire renaissance buildings and the baroque Holy Trinity column.

Tasty lunch break at the restaurant Monarchia (home-made specialties) or enjoy lunch and famous beer at the restaurant ERB (microbrewery and fine dining)

A short stop to see a hidden jewel, the wooden articular church **Hronsek**, listed on UNESCO World Heritage). We continue to **Banska Bystrica** – the 6th largest Slovak city and geographical centre of Slovakia. Before entering Banska Bystrica. A short introduction tour around the main square to see the highlights. There is a saying "while alive in Banska Bystrica, after death in heaven".

Overnight in Banska Bystrica

DAY 4

ADMIRE 3 UNESCO JEWELS - VLKOLINEC, MEDIEVAL LEVOCA & SPISS CASTLE

Visit the Museum of Slovak National Uprising (open-air museum and a permanent exhibition of WW2), then we drive to **Vlkolinec** mountain village (UNESCO) famous for its colourful wooden houses. Go back in time and see how people used to live two centuries ago. Enjoy stunning views.

Lunch break in a charming medieval town **Levoča**. It is undoubtedly cultural and historical jewel among Slovak towns. Enter the Roman-Catholic church of St. James from 14th century with its tallest wooden wing gothic altar in the world, a masterpiece from Master Paul of Levoča.

On our way to **Kosice** we admire the mighty Spiss Castle, built on a dolomite rock, it is one of the largest castle ruins in Central Europe. Stop in Zehra church famous for its fresco Tree of life. Further we visit Spisska Kapitula, also known as "Slovak Vatikan" (outside). Continue to Kosice.

Overnight in Kosice

DAY 5,

EXPERIENCE KOSICE CITY - CULTURAL CAPITAL OF 2013

We'll bring you a rich history of **Kosice** to life on our quality sightseeing walking tour around the spectacular Old Town. Enter St. Elizabeth's Cathedral, considered to be one of the most beautiful gothic structures in the world, admire St. Michael's Chapel, the State Theatre, the St. Urbain's Tower and visit the Lane of Arts and Crafts. Relax in a park with the famous Singing fountain. Enjoy a free afternoon.

Additional trips if you prefer to explore more (please, let us know)

1, Easy walking tour in Zadiel gorge, price: EUR 55 per person

2, Wine tasting in Tokaj wine region, tasty dinner (roasted duck, dumplings, red cabbage) and wine tasting of 10 different wines, price: EUR 85 per person

Overnight in Kosice

DAY 6

KOSICE > HERVARTOV WOODEN CHURCH & BARDEJOV

Time to discover fabulous Saris region, we drive to village **Hervartov** to see a unique wooden Roman-Catholic church of St. Francis of Assisi from the 15th century.

Then, drive to one of the most beautiful medieval towns - **Bardejov**, settled in the 14th century, fortified with stone walls and bastions to repel foreign tribes. Most of the walls and bastions are still standing.

Our exploration we start with Bardejov Spa - trying the healing water. It was a place where prominent European rulers and personalities spent some time, among the most famous belong

the empress Elisabeth, known as Sissi. Try the healing water from eight springs, Main, Medical, Claire, Elisabeth, Napoleon, Francis, Hercules and Alexander. Next to the Spa resort there is the the oldest open-air museum in Slovakia. Let's visit and go back to the life of the 19-20th century of the Slovaks and Rusyns. Walk into the houses of peasants, middle class, mayor's house, then we come back to the Old town for a walking tour.

Quality sightseeing tour in the heart of Bardejov town to see the highlights - Town Hall's square, gothic St. Egidius church, climb the church tower with its fantastic view on former fortification walls around the city.

Overnight in Bardejov

DAY 7, JOURNEY TO PIENINY NATIONAL PARK

Today, we discover the **Pieniny National Park** and do calm-water rafting on wooden boats* It is an incredibly charming, green area, the river Dunajec creates a natural border between Poland and Slovakia. The ride takes 1hour 15min on a calm river. Lunch in the Goral region, trying Goral meals and drinks. Stop in a former Red Monastery where two different types of monks used to live. *) Alternative program is walking up to 3 Crown hill.

Overnight in Strbske Pleso

DAY 8, UNCOVER THE BEAUTY OF OUR HIGH TATRA MOUNTAINS

It's easy to fall in love with High Tatras - mountains with its picturesque valleys, brooks, waterfalls, colorful meadows, tarns with crystal clear water.

We are excited to show you our lovely mountains. First, we'll to drive to **Stary Smokovec** to take a funicular railway (tickets not included) to get to Hrebienok and walk to the waterfalls. An easy, enjoyable walking tour in the nature. Next we travel to **Tatranska Lomnica** (15min by car) to take a cable car (tickets not included) to Skalnate pleso station to see the High Tatra mountains from above. We'll enjoy a little walk at the top with views of the Lomnický peak and the expansive valley plains below.

In case of bad weather or if you do not like cable cars:

- 1, easy walking tour to Popradské pleso lake (on the smooth road, total of 2-3 hours of walking)
- 2, longer hiking tour, total of 6-7 hours (e.g. up to cottage by Green lake or Teryho cottage)
- 3, visit the only accessible cave in High Tatras – Belianska cave (tickets not included)

Overnight in Strbske Pleso

DAY 9

SPECTACULAR ORAVA REGION

We'll discover another wonderful region of Slovakia – the **Orava region**. A visit of open-air Museum of Orava village will give you a picture how people used to live in the past. It is a wonderfully located "skanzen" in the western part of the Tatra mountains.

We'll continue to visit the famous, mighty fortress – the Orava castle, situated high on the rock above the river Orava. It definitely belongs to one of the greatest attractions of northern Slovakia. Get an interesting history overview, myths and legends.

Drive to **Trencin**. Enjoy short walking tour around the recently reconstructed city centre and the Trencin castle situated right above the Old town.

Overnight in Trencin

DAY 10,

FAIRY-TALE CICMANY VILLAGE and BOJNICE CHATEAU

Driving back to Bratislava through scenic countryside with a stop in a fairy-tale **Cicmany village**, famous for wooden houses painted with white ornaments. We continue to **Bojnice** town to admire the most romantic chateau Bojnice, rated in 2017 as one of the 10 most beautiful castles in the world according to the National Geographic magazine. Tour through the fully furnished rooms, the Golden Hall, the Chapel, the Grand Hall, the Blue and Green saloon. Which room is your favorite? Enjoy a relaxing evening in Bratislava.

Overnight in Bratislava

DAY 11

FAREWELL and DEPARTURE

Your memorable holiday comes to an end today. We are ready to arrange for you an airport transfer, a comfortable door-to-door service for discounted rates.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS TOUR

6 UNESCO World Heritage sights

- ✓ Admire the charming hilly town of Banska Stiavnica
- ✓ Enjoy breath-taking views of Vlkolinec village
- ✓ Admire Levoca's highest, wooden wing, gothic altar of the world
- ✓ Discover the Spiss castle, Spiss chapter and Zehra church
- ✓ Immerse yourself into Bardejov, the best preserved medieval town
- ✓ Try the healing water in Bardejov SPA and visit the open-air museum
- ✓ Uncover the Hervartov wooden church
- ✓ Stroll around Bratislava's charming old town
- ✓ Experience the mighty Orava castle with its stories and legends
- ✓ Explore Cicmany fairy-tale village and its painted wooden houses
- ✓ Feel like a count in the most romantic chateau Bojnice
- ✓ Enjoy the High Tatra National Park
- ✓ Taste all gastronomical delights in traditional Slovak Koliba restaurants
- ✓ Enjoy first class Guide-driver services

WHAT IS ALWAYS INCLUDED

Meals: 10x Breakfast, 1x Welcome drink

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

Tour guides: Top Guide-driver

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:

Devin castle
Old castle, New castle Banska Stiavnica
St. James church and museum in Levoca
Spiss castle, Zehra church, Spiss chapter (if available)
Vlkolinec mountain village
Hervartov wooden church
Open air museum Bardejov
Bojnice chateau
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 (ask and get the special rate),
Meals and drinks
Travel insurance, personal expenses, cable car tickets, souvenirs
Gratuities to Guide-driver (optional), any services not listed above as "Included"

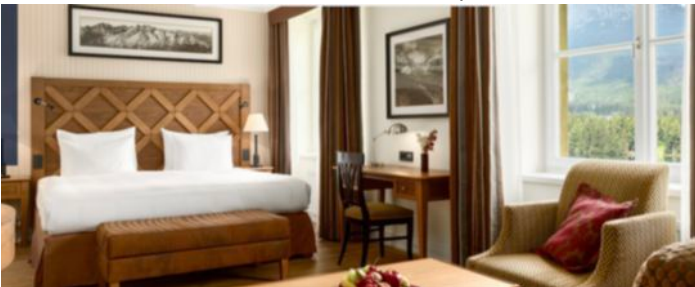
EXPERIENCE MORE

Ask for an upgrade to 5* hotels

BRATISLAVA - enjoy more luxury at the Hotel Marrols



STRBSKE PLESO Grand Hotel Kempinski



AVAILABILITY AND PRICES - TRAVEL SEASON 2023

All season. Our price policy is to offer fair and attractive prices for high quality tours.

Price is per person with minimum of 2 travelers

Group of 2 travelers:	€ 2450.00 per person
Group of 3-4 travelers:	€ 2150.00 per person
Group of 5-6 travelers:	€ 2050.00 per person

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- * During the low season, some tourist attractions might be temporarily closed due to reconstructions or due to bad weather (cable cars), alternative program will be offered
- * All prices are per person sharing twin/double room
- * Extra bed possible for a surcharge, single supplement for a surcharge of €480.00
- * Generally, this tour is available for travelers on wheelchair (and with other physical limitations), however, some sights might not be accessible (castles)



TOUR REVIEWS

Read about us on the world's largest travel site – on Tripadvisor. Best Slovakia Tours is dedicated to the best service quality and this is reflected year after year when TripAdvisor awards us with their Certificate of Excellence.



WE ARE TRUSTED, RELIABLE AND RECOGNIZED



Best Slovakia Tours, s.r.o. – Incoming Travel agency and Tour operator is recommended by TripAdvisor-the world's largest travel site.



Best Slovakia Tours, s.r.o. – Incoming Travel agency and Tour operator is a member of Slovak Association of Travel Agencies and Tour Operators.



Best Slovakia Tours, s.r.o. – Incoming Travel agency and Tour operator is fully insured against insolvency. It is a mandatory insurance for every tour operator in Slovakia.