



SLOVAKIA

Capital: Bratislava

Population: 5.4 million

Currency: Euro (€ or EUR)

Language: Slovak

Time Zone: EST plus 6 hours

Electricity: 230V. 50Hz

Fun Facts



- Slovakia gained independence from Czechoslovakia on January 1, 1993. The same day, it formed its own constitution.
- Approximately 90 percent of the Slovaks have secondary education, which is among the highest rates in the European Union.
- The women of Slovakia—along with Lithuania and Poland—marry the youngest (at around 24 years) in the European Union.

A small Central European country and a new member of the European Union as of May 2004, Slovakia is a treasury of natural beauty and ethnic diversity. It is a land of immense forests, lakes, and rivers at the heartland of the Carpathian mountains.

Its present territory was ruled by the Hungarians for most of its history, though the Slavs settled here in the 8th century. Due to its outstanding location on the Danube, wedged between the Germanic northwest and the Hungarian southeast, the small Slavic nation of 5.4 million entered the 20th century as part of the Hungarian kingdom under the Hapsburgs. It jointly created Czechoslovakia in 1919 and eventually reached full independence in 1993. It is currently enjoying increasing economic progress; winter tourism, dairy production, wood processing, and mining are major activities. The Slovaks—hospitable people very ready to welcome visitors from afar—are true to their unique identity and proud of their traditions.



VISAS AND PASSPORTS

Visas to Slovakia are not required for U.S. citizens. If you hold a passport from another country, please check with your local consulate about requirements for travel to Slovakia. All passengers traveling internationally are required to have a passport. Please carry proper identification (your passport) on you and do not leave it in your suitcase or hotel room. European law requires you to carry your passport with you at all times.



COUNTRY CODES

The country code for Slovakia is 421. When calling to Slovakia from overseas, you dial your international access code (011 from the U.S./Canada) followed by the country code and phone number. Phone numbers in Slovakia are 7-8 digits in length. Dialing from the U.S./Canada: 011+421+XX XXX XXX.



CURRENCY AND BUDGETING

The official currency of Slovakia is the Euro. Euro coins differ according to country, but they can be used in any EU state. Bank notes are of uniform EU design.

1 Euro (€) = 100 Cents (c)

- Banknote denominations: €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200, €500
- Coin denominations: 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, €1, €2

For the most current exchange rates, please go to our Web site at www.globusfamily.com/currency

Credit cards are accepted in Slovakia, and you should have no problems using them in larger shops and restaurants. Visa and MasterCard are most accepted. Smaller shops may ask you to pay in cash or have a minimum amount required to use a credit card.



TO HELP YOU BUDGET

The following budget guidelines are just approximate values or starting values for meals and are per person. Actual prices will vary widely by restaurant and city within a country but below are some averages as provided by our experienced personnel.

The approximate cost of a soft drink/mineral water/coffee is €1.

An average lunch consisting of a salad or sandwich and a soda or water starts at approximately €15.

A steak dinner at a mid-range restaurant with dessert and a non-alcoholic beverage starts at approximately €25.



TIPPING

For restaurant services, 10-15% is a reasonable amount for tipping. Tips are usually left in cash and not added to the credit card payment, given directly to the waiter and not left on the table.

For taxis, round up the fare to the nearest whole Euro.

Tip hotel staff €1 for room service.

A few coins will be needed for public restrooms.



ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

Voltage for outlets is 230V. North American voltage is generally 110V. Therefore, a converter may be necessary for your travels. Adapters will be necessary to adapt your plug into the outlet but may not convert the voltage, so both devices are necessary. Slovakia uses a round, 2-prong plug that looks like:



Type E



TEMPERATURES

Slovakia weather encompasses all four seasons, with warm, wet springs, hot, dry summers, calm and dry falls and cold winters. We recommend layers for hot days and cool nights. To help you plan, below are average low and high temperatures for Bratislava.

Month	Average High °(F)	Average Low °(F)
January	37	26
February	42	28
March	51	35
April	62	42
May	71	50
June	77	57
July	80	60
August	80	59
September	69	51
October	60	42
November	46	35
December	37	28

To convert to Celsius, subtract 32, then multiply by 5 and then divide by 9.

See examples in the Know Before You Go Europe document.



FOOD SPECIALTIES

Meat (especially pork), potatoes, *halušky* (dumplings), thick sauces and cheeses, *oštiepok* (sheep cheese), *kapustnica* (cabbage soup), and desserts, including *žemlovka* (sweet pudding) and *bábovka* (pound cake).



A FEW WORDS OF THE LOCAL LANGUAGE

Hello!: Ahoj/Haló!, **Goodbye**: Zbohom, **Please**: Prosím, **Thank you**: Ďakujem, **Yes**: Ano, **No**: Nie, **1**: Jeden, **2**: Dva, **3**: Tri, **4**: Štyri, **5**: Päť, **6**: Šest, **7**: Sedem, **8**: Osem, **9**: Deväť, **10**: Desäť, **Where is...?**: Kam/kde je...?, **Telephone**: Telefón, **Tea**: Caj, **Coffee**: Káva, **Bottled water**: Balenú vodu, **Cheers!**: Na zdravie!, **Restaurant check/bill**: Účet, **Have a nice day!**: Pekný den!

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