



IAESTE App: Country Information

General information:

- Country: Slovakia, Slovak Republic
- Capital: Bratislava
- Population: 5 450 421
- National language(s): Slovak
- Currency: Euro (EUR)
- Time zone: UTC+1 (CET), in Summer: UTC+2 (CEST)
- Voltage: 230V/50Hz
- Phone country code: +421
- Cities with IAESTE LCs: Bratislava, Žilina, Zvolen, Košice
- Climate: Spring is usually warm, with some rainy days. Summer is hot with up to 30°C in July. Autumn is rainy with few warm days. Winter is cold with temperature around 0°C but can go down to -10°C. It also snows sometimes.

Travel tips:

- Fun facts about the country:
 - Geographical midpoint of Europe – near the village Kremnické bane, right next to the st. John Baptist church.
 - Slovakia has more than 1300 mineral springs.
 - The oldest European marathon is held every year in Košice on the first Sunday in October.
 - Every day in our country has some names assigned. We call it nameday. It's even written in all our calendars!
 - Slovakia was established in 1993 and it's one of the newest countries in the world.
 - The geyser of Herľany is a rarity in Europe as there are only eight geysers like this one in the whole world.
 - You can buy Absinthe in any alcohol shop.
- Cities/towns that you recommend visiting:
 - **Bratislava** – Bratislava is the only capital in the world that borders two independent countries. Bratislava castle or Slovak Radio is are two of many places you should visit there.

- **Košice** – Košice is the second largest city in Slovakia. The city center consists of historic buildings such as the most famous one - St. Elizabeth Cathedral.
- **Bardejov** – The town of Bardejov is a historically and culturally rich town, considered one of the most beautiful Slovak towns. The historical center of Bardejov, together with the complex of buildings forming the Jewish suburb from the beginning of the 18th century, was inscribed on the list in 2000 - the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage.
- **Trenčín** – Trenčín is one of the three oldest Slovak cities. The city includes Trenčín Castle and various other interesting monuments.
- **Prešov** – The city of Prešov is the third largest. In addition to the historic center, the most important salt deposit is the Solivar part with a number of preserved technical monuments related to salt mining. There are several castle ruins around the city.
- **Banská Štiavnica** – Banská Štiavnica, located in central Slovakia, is a city included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The former mining town is one of the most beautiful and historically most interesting towns in Slovakia.
- **Trnava** - The oldest free royal borough TRNAVA was the Church "capital" of the Kingdom of Hungary for several centuries in the past. Only a few towns of central Europe can boast such a large section of town walls. For their high level of preservation, Trnava town walls are unique from the construction point of view and rank among the most significant monuments of the kind in Europe.
- Other places you recommend visiting:
 - **High Tatras** – The High Tatras are the largest mountains in Slovakia. They offer many hiking and biking trails, places for climbing or just relaxing and walking, and during the winter also skiing.
 - The villages of **Vikolínec** and **Čičmany** are about 120 kilometers apart, in these villages we protect the type of settlement and the original wooden buildings, which are a magnet for tourism. Both are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
 - **Spiš Castle** - The ruins of Spiš Castle in eastern Slovakia form one of the largest castle sites in Central Europe. The castle is situated in the region known as Spiš. It was included in the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites in 1993.
 - **Slovak paradise** – Slovak Paradise (Slovenský raj) features lively forests, wide meadows and plateaus, chasms, canyons, gorges, underground caves (as many as 350!) and garrulous waterfalls. This very popular north eastern region is a gem amongst Slovak national parks. There are 300 km of marked trails stretching through this enchanting paradise.
 - **Orava Castle** – Orava Castle is considered to be one of the most beautiful castles in Slovakia. The castle was built in the Kingdom of Hungary in the thirteenth century. Many scenes of the 1922 film Nosferatu were filmed here, the castle representing Count Orlok's Transylvanian castle.
 - **Bojnice Castle** – Bojnice Castle is a medieval castle in Bojnice, Slovakia. It is a Romanesque castle with some original Gothic and Renaissance elements built in the 12th century. Bojnice Castle is one of the most visited castles in Slovakia, receiving hundreds of thousands of visitors every year and also being a popular filming stage for fantasy and fairy-tale movies.
 - **Liptovská Mara** – It is the largest water reservoir in Slovakia. There are a wide range of fishing opportunities on Liptovská Mara, and you can also take a sightseeing boat trip from the port of Liptovský Trnovec. In summer, the dam offers a wide range of water sports such as swimming, boating, surfing, jet skiing and more.

- **Ochtinská Aragonite Cave** represents a unique natural phenomenon drawing attention by the richness and variety of aragonite fill, as well as an interesting evolution and development of cave spaces.
- **Dobšinská ice cave** belongs among the most important ice caves in the world. Since 2000 it is inscribed on the world heritage list.

Airports with budget airlines:

Bratislava airport
Košice airport
Poprad airport

Website(s) with travel connections inside the country:

<https://cp.hnonline.sk/en/vlakbusmhdsk/spojenie/>, <https://www.zssk.sk/en/>

Traditional food and drinks you recommend trying:

- Our national alcoholic drink is called Borovička - it's made out of juniper and you should drink it with beer.
- Our national food is Bryndzové halušky - potato dumplings with sheep cheese and bacon.
- You should also try pirohy or pierogies - also dumplings filled with potatoes, sheep cheese or jam.
- Tatratea is also one of the drink you should definitely try, it's herb-like liquer known in many countries in the world

Tipping in the restaurants: Tipping is common in Slovakia. You should tip around 10% of total bill.

Discounts for transportation: Free trains for EU students with original confirmation of study or Slovak ISIC card. Public transport discount if you have an ISIC card.(Slovak ISIC card can be possibly obtained on University)

What is the common greeting in your country: We shake hands and sometimes kiss on both cheeks (man with woman)

Emergencies - numbers:

Police: 158

Ambulance: 155

Fire brigade: 150

Emergency line: 112

Any other interesting or useful information:

Younger people tend to be better in English than older.



High Tatras – Popradské lake



Slovak folklore – summer event Východná



Bojnice castle



Dobsinska ice cave



Old wooden painted houses - Čičmany



Halušky



High Tatras – view spot by Teryho chalet



IHW 2019 – International Hiking Weekend 2019