

GRAND TOUR OF SLOVAKIA 2020

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 the Beauty of the Danube river – 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, majestic castles, wooden churches, UNESCO sights, see local craftsmen and learn from them. Enjoy gastronomical delights in Koliba restaurants full of traditional 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.

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 Skoda Octavia cars for up to 3 travelers and 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.

Our top priority is the 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.

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)

DAY 1

WELCOME TO BRATISLAVA – BEAUTY ON THE DANUBE RIVER

Welcome to Bratislava. Welcome drink and itinerary introduction.
Your lovely holiday has just started.

Please note, we offer pick up services from the airports in Bratislava, Vienna or Budapest. Please let us know and get the discounted price. 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 check in process. Maximum comfort, mineral water on board and a pleasant drive.

At leisure.

Overnight in Bratislava

DAY 2

BRATISLAVA QUALITY SIGHTSEEING TOUR

Morning

Meeting at 9am at your hotel and drive to Devin castle (15min drive) - 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 admiring the beautiful castle ruin and enjoying views on Austria, we show you where once the "Iron curtain" – the former border between the West and the East used to stand. An overview of the communist history (1948-1989). Devin area is also famous for its current wine. Have you ever tried current wine? Try now, It's a regional specialty. Drive back and visit Slavin (World War2 memorial) and symbol of the city - Bratislava castle – to enjoy stunning views of the Danube river and know more about its rich history.

Afternoon

After lunch break in the Old town (we will recommend you a great restaurant), continue with the quality sightseeing tour to show you the highlights of the Old town.

Walking through the main square (admire a beautiful former town hall), the Primate Palace (outside) - the largest in Bratislava where the Treaty of Pressburg was signed in the Hall of Mirrors. Take pictures of some of our funny statues such as Cumil – the worker. Visit of the St. Martin's Cathedral, the coronation place of 18 rulers including Austria-Hungarian empress Maria Theresa, walking through the only preserved entrance - Michaels gate. Late afternoon at leisure.

You'll get tips which museum, gallery is worth to see, where to enjoy coffee & cake, a glass of excellent Slovak wine, where to buy good quality souvenirs. Your guide is ready to help you.

Evening – We recommend you a cosy place for dinner.

Overnight in Bratislava

Total driving distance: 25km / 15mi, driving time: 40min, walking time: up to 5 hours

DAY 3

BANSKA STIAVNICA – THE SILVER TOWN / UNESCO

Morning

Meeting at 8:30am (check out) and scenic drive northeast. After 2hrs driving we'll be in one of the most beautiful, most romantic and most special town - a picturesque Banska Stiavnica. It is like to step in the past centuries. Get an overview of the rich history of this town connected with the mining of silver, copper and gold. Visit of the Old castle – a majestic fortress, 16th century New castle, the heart of the Old town – the Holy Trinity square with beautiful sights such as the gothic 15th century St. Catherine church, admire Renaissance buildings and the baroque Holy Trinity column.

Afternoon

Lunch break at restaurant Monarchia is about home-made specialties and great atmosphere. Do you like beer?

Then, ERB restaurant will satisfy you with its high-quality microbrewery and a delicious cuisine.

Which of these special beers from Slovak ingredients will be your favorite? Will it be Erb Pale lager 10 or 12, Erb Weizen 12, Erb Dark special 13 with balanced bitter and sweet tastes? Free time for souvenirs, coffee & cake break.

We continue Banska Bystrica – the 6th largest Slovak city and geographical centre of Slovakia. (Before entering Banska Bystrica, a short stop and visit a hidden jewel, a wooden articular church Hronsek, listed on UNESCO World Heritage). Continue to 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".

Evening - At your own. Your guide will help you to find an ideal place for you. A good Slovak restaurant or enjoying beer & specialties in the former castle Barbakan?

Overnight in Banska Bystrica

Total driving distance: 230km / 140mi, driving time: 2hours 45min, walking time: 4-5 hours

DAY 4

VLKOLINEC & LEVOCA & SPISS CASTLE / 3x UNESCO

Morning

Meeting at 9am (check out) and visit of Museum of Slovak National Uprising (the anti-nazi uprising started on August 29, 1944 in Banska Bystrica), then drive to Vlkolinec (UNESCO), a remarkably intact settlement with the traditional features of a central European village. It is the region's most complete group of these kinds of traditional log houses, often found in mountainous areas. Great opportunity to try samples of honey wine (mead), from local wine makers.

Go back in time and see how people used to live two centuries ago.

Visit of a little square, baroque chapel, wooden belfry and folk museum showing all the instruments of daily life and work.

Afternoon

Lunch break in a charming medieval town Levoca. It is undoubtedly cultural and historical jewel among Slovak towns. The highlights of Levoca is the Roman Catholic church of St. Jacob from 14th century with its largest wooden altar in the world, a masterpiece from Master Paul of Levoca. Museum visit & strolling around.

On our way to Kosice we stop and truly enjoy another gem – the Spiss Castle. On a dolomite rock, there is one of the most precious cultural monuments in the Spis region, the Spis castle. It is not just an evidence of architectural development from the 12th to the 18th century, it is also one of the largest castles in the Central Europe. Stop in Zehra church famous for its fresco Tree of life. Further we visit Spisska Kapitula, also known as "Slovak Vatikan" and enter into the Cathedral of St. Martin. Continue to Kosice.

Evening - At your own. Plenty of great restaurants are waiting for you. Your guide will help you to decide the best and book the tables for you.

Overnight in Kosice

Total driving distance: 240km / 150mi, driving time: 2hours 50min, walking time: up to 4 hrs

DAY 5

KOSICE - CULTURAL CAPITAL OF 2013

Morning

Meeting at 9am and quality sightseeing tour around the spectacular, historical Old Town of Kosice. Kosice is the metropolis and the second largest city of Eastern Slovakia, the second largest city. It is an Eastern Slovakia's hub of industry, commerce, science and culture. It is a city with an eventful and illustrious past.

Visit of St. Elizabeth's Cathedral, considered to be one of the most beautiful Gothic structures in the world, St. Michael's Chapel, The State Theatre, St. Urbain's Tower. See Jesuit and Franciscan churches as well as lane of arts and crafts, similar to Golden lane in Prague, but definitely with less tourists, authentic and worth to visit.

Did you know that Kosice is proud to have the oldest coat of arm in Europe? And also the European oldest marathon (International Peace Marathon) takes place every year on the first Sunday in October.

Afternoon – At leisure. We will give you tips which museum is worth to see, where to enjoy a coffee or glass of wine. Do you like hot chocolate or a great ice scream? Everything's here.

Evening - At your own.

Instead of having a free afternoon, if you would like to discover more of the region, it is possible to book optional trips (not included).

1, trip to Zadiel gorge, 30min drive (EUR 45 per person)

2, wine tasting in Tokaj wine region (10 samples of wine) including tasty dinner (roasted duck, dumplings, red cabbage), 1hr drive (EUR 75 per person)

Overnight in Kosice

Walking only, no driving

DAY 6

KOSICE > HERVARTOV WOODEN CHURCH & BARDEJOV

Morning

Meeting at 9am (check out) and drive up to the north. Our first stop is in a little village Hervartov to see a unique wooden Roman-catholic church of St. Francis of Assisi from 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.

Afternoon

Quality sightseeing tour in the heart of Bardejov town – Town Hall's square, gothic St. Egidius church, climb the church tower with its fantastic view on former fortification walls around the city, the Old Town Hall, see the City walls - seven of the original bastions are still standing.

Evening - At your own. We recommend to take an evening stroll around this special town. No crowds, beautifully lid up the main sights and special atmosphere.

Overnight in Bardejov

Total driving distance: 80km / 50mi, driving time: 1hour 15min, walking time: 5-6 hours

DAY 7

PIENINY NATIONAL PARK

Morning

Meeting at 9am (check out) and drive to national park Pieniny for calm-water rafting on wooden logs* 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.

Afternoon

Lunch in a 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.

Evening - At your own.

Overnight in Strbske Pleso or Stary Smokovec or Tatranska Lomnica (3 top holiday resorts)

Total driving distance: 350km / 217mi, driving time: 4hours 45min, walking time: 4-5 hours

DAY 8

UNCOVER THE BEAUTY OF OUR HIGH TATRA MOUNTAINS

Morning

Meeting at 9am. It's easy to fall in love with High Tatra mountains with its picturesque valleys, brooks, waterfalls, colorful meadows, tarns with crystal clear water.

We are very excited to show you our lovely mountains, firstly, drive to Stry Smokovec town to take a funicular railway (tickets not included) to get Hrebienok and walk to the waterfalls. An easy walking tour in the nature.

Afternoon

We move to Tatranska Lomnica town (15min by car) to take a cable car (tickets not included) to Skalnaté pleso station to see the High Tatra mountains from above. We enjoy a little walk around Skalnaté pleso, views of the Lomnický peak and valley views.

Please note, if you would like to go up to the top of Lomnický peak (2nd highest peak in High Tatras), it is necessary an advance booking with a full payment to get the tickets. Please let us know.

Other possibilities what to do today (in case of bad weather or 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)
- 4, museum about the National park of High Tatras (tickets not included)
- 5, Aquapark Poprad – swimming, saunas, SPA treatments (tickets not included)

Evening - At your own

Overnight in Strbské Pleso or Stry Smokovec or Tatranska Lomnica (3 top holiday resorts)
Total driving distance: 50km / 31mi, driving time: 1hour, walking time: 4-6hours

DAY 9

DAY TRIP TO POLAND – ZAKOPANE RESORT – POLISH HIGH TATRAS

Morning

Meet at 9am and see the High Tatras from the other side, from the Polish side. Our travelers love this day trip to Zakopane – famous summer – winter resort where it is possible to enjoy tasty traditional Polish meals, drinks, desserts. Free time on the famous shopping street.

Afternoon – lunch break and trying traditional Polish specialties.

Evening - At your own

However, if you feel like you would prefer to do some activities in Slovakia, your tour guide will be ready and happy to do walking or hiking trips with you.

- 1, visit the Dobsinska Ice cave in Slovak Paradise park (tickets not included)
- 2, visit of Skanzen – an open air museum in Prybilina or Stara Lubovna (get a complete picture of a 19th century way of life, houses, wooden churches)

Overnight in Strbske Pleso or Stary Smokovec or Tatranska Lomnica (3 top holiday resorts)
Total driving distance: 150km / 93mi, driving time: 1hour 30min, walking time: 3hours

DAY 10

CICMANY VILLAGE - BOJNICE CHATEAU > BACK TO BRATISLAVA

Morning

Meeting at 8:30am (check out) and drive back to Bratislava is very scenic, we firstly visit remote Cicmany village famous and unique for wooden houses painted with white ornaments. It is like in a fairy-tale, worth to visit. Afterwards, short drive to see the most romantic chateau Bojnice, according to the National Geographic respected magazine, it was rated in 2017 as one of the 10 most beautiful castles in the world. Tour through the fully furnished rooms, admire the Golden Hall, the chapel, the Grand hall, the blue and green saloon. Which room is your favorite?

Afternoon – lunch break in Bojnice. Comfortable drive to Bratislava.

Evening - Enjoy an evening in Bratislava. What about having a drink on the Danube promenade Eurovea?

Overnight in Bratislava

Total driving distance: 390km / 242mi, driving time: 5hours 15min, walking time: 3hours

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 x UNESCO World Heritage sights

Banska Stiavnica town – absolutely charming hilly town

Vlkolinec mountain village – a unique colorful village

Levoca town – highest wooden wing gothic alter of the world
Spiss castle including Spiss chapter and Zehra church
Bardejov town – best preserved medieval town
Hervartov wooden church

Bratislava – the Beauty on the Danube river (the capital & largest Slovak city)
Bardejov SPA - trying the healing water
Bardejov open-air museum (visit the old wooden church, houses of peasants, mayors)
Cicmany – fairy-tale village full of painted wooden houses with white ornaments
Bojnice chateau – feel as a count in our most romantic chateau
The High Tatra National Parks – national pride with highest peaks
A day trip to our Polish neighbor – Zakopane summer resort
The High Tatra National Parks – national pride with highest peaks

Enjoying gastronomical delights in Koliba restaurants and enjoying Slovak meals, drinks, desserts and of course plum brandy Slivovica or Tatra tea, Watching local craftsmen & artists

WHAT IS ALWAYS INCLUDED

Meals: 10x Breakfast, 1x Welcome drink

Overnights: in first class 4star carefully selected hotels
Including VAT (Value Added Tax)

Tour guides: Bratislava city tour with a local expert, during the whole tour professional and licensed Guide-driver-translator

Transportation: For 1-3 travelers new model 2018, personal car Skoda Octavia Combi, A/C, all safety systems, automatic gearbox, comfortable seats

For 4-7 travelers new model 2019 luxury van Mercedes Benz V-class, fully equipped with adjustable, comfortable leather seats and A/C in all zones, fridge on board

For 8-18 travelers we use from our partner agency Mercedes Benz Sprinter
For 19-30 Setra bus 33 seater, for 30+ our partner agency has a Setra 49 seater

Refreshment on board - mineral water sparkling and still, fuel, parking, motorway fees, map of Bratislava, information material, brochures, photos of Your Holiday

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

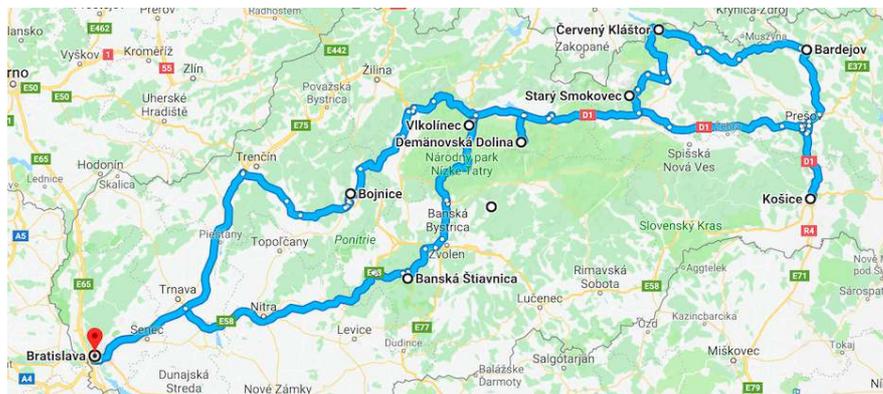
Vlkolinec mountain village
Hervartov wooden church
Open air museum Bardejov
Bojnice chateau
Map of Bratislava and Slovakia, Information material, Brochures

WHAT IS EXCLUDED

Flights to/from Slovakia
Return airport transfers (ask and get the special rate), travel insurance, personal expenses, meals and drinks for clients, cable car tickets, rafting (ticket costs EUR 12pp), souvenirs, gratuities to Guide-driver (optional), anything not mentioned in included

ROUTE / TOTAL of 1350km / 840miles

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



EXPERIENCE MORE

There is already included in the price a high level of services, but we also offer you to customize a tour. Better hotel? Special day trips? Any special services?

On this tour, we offer great 4star first class hotels (wherever it is possible), of course, there is always a possibility to upgrade to the 5star category.

BRATISLAVA - enjoy more luxury at the Hotel Marrols*****



STRBSKE PLESO Grand Hotel Kempinski*****



Tell us your special request and get the best possible price>>
www.bestslowakiatours.com/contact-us/

AVAILABILITY AND PRICES - TRAVEL SEASON 2020

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: € 1499.00 per person
Group of 3-4 travelers: € 1349.00 per person
Group of 5-6 travelers: € 1249.00 per person

Dear traveler, it is also possible to customize this tour (add days, activities, more attractions) and enjoy a full-time private tour with your own guide-driver.

Please let us know.

TOP TRAVEL SEASON APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2020

<u>Tour starts</u>	<u>Tour ends</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Availability</u>
Wed, Apr 8	Sat, Apr 18	€1499	available
Wed, Apr 15	Sat, Apr 25	€1499	available
Wed, Apr 22	Sat, May 2	€1499	available
Wed, Apr 29	Sat, May 9	€1499	available
Wed, May 6	Sat, May 16	€1499	available
Wed, May 13	Sat, May 23	€1499	available
Wed, May 20	Sat, May 30	€1499	available
Wed, May 27	Sat, June 6	€1499	available
Wed, June 3	Sat, June 13	€1499	available

Wed, June 10	Sat, June 20	€1499	available
Wed, June 17	Sat, June 27	€1499	available
Wed, June 24	Sat, July 4	€1499	available
Wed, July 8	Sat, July 18	€1499	available
Wed, July 15	Sat, July 25	€1499	available
Wed, July 22	Sat, Aug 1	€1499	available
Wed, July 29	Sat, Aug 8	€1499	available
Wed, Aug 5	Sat, Aug 15	€1499	available
Wed, Aug 12	Sat, Aug 22	€1499	available
Wed, Aug 19	Sat, Aug 29	€1499	available
Wed, Aug 26	Sat, Sept 5	€1499	available
Wed, Sept 2	Sat, Sept 12	€1599 (selling out fast)	available
Wed, Sept 9	Sat, Sept 19	€1599 (selling out fast)	available
Wed, Sept 16	Sat, Sept 26	€1599 (selling out fast)	available

If you prefer to travel out of the main season, then October is a great choice for you. The weather is still pleasant and you can enjoy the tour without crowds.

AFTER THE TOP TRAVEL SEASON 2020

<u>Tour starts</u>	<u>Tour ends</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Availability</u>
Wed, Oct 7	Sat, Oct 17	€1449	available
Wed, Oct 14	Sat, Oct 24	€1449	available

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- * During the winter season from November to March on request
- * Some tourist attractions might be temporarily closed due to reconstructions or due to bad weather (cable cars), alternative program will be offered
- * Minimum of 2 travelers
- * All prices are per person sharing twin/double room
- * Extra bed possible for a surcharge
- * Single supplement for a surcharge of €380.00

- * Generally, this tour is available for travelers on wheelchair (and with other physical limitations), however, some sights might not be accessible (castles)

[Grand Tour of Slovakia>>](http://www.bestsloviatours.com/tour/grand-slovakia-tour/) www.bestsloviatours.com/tour/grand-slovakia-tour/

Call our Travel Specialist on: +421 918 630 630

Call our Office manager on: +421 905 643 240

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 also proud to have travelers they travel with us again and again (after their superb Slovakia tour with us, they want to discover other central European destinations we offer). They also recommend us to their friends and family.

PRIVATE TOUR SUITS YOU BETTER?

If you would like to have a Grand of Slovakia Tour just for you and your family or friends, we are ready to offer you this tour privately. You will choose the best possible travel dates for you and add places you wish to visit.

Your private Guide-driver will be at your disposal from the first moment until your departure. We only use native Slovak, professional, licensed Guide-drivers, the real travel experts, passionate travelers and great companions.

[Request a Private Tour>>](http://www.bestsloviatours.com/tour/tailor-made-tour/) www.bestsloviatours.com/tour/tailor-made-tour/

NEED A TRAVEL ADVICE FROM LOCALS?

We are happy to answer all your questions and help with precise trip planning. Keep questions coming.

[Contact us>>](http://www.bestsloviatours.com/contact-us/) www.bestsloviatours.com/contact-us/

WE ARE TRUSTED, RELIABLE AND RECOGNIZED



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This is an original, hand-made itinerary based on our 12 years of traveling, discovering and exploring Slovakia. We have carefully selected the worth-to-see sights, out-of-the-beaten-places, traditional Slovak restaurants and international cuisine restaurants, cosy café's and hotels/pensions.

Designed and annually updated by Peter Blazicek, CEO & founder of Best Slovakia Tours - Travel Company, passionate, experienced traveler and tour guide. Expert guide on private tours in Slovakia and Central European countries.

Make a wonderful experience with us.



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