

Slovakia

The country where history meets modern day

Are you organizing a conference or a congress in a nice quiet place or directly in the centre? Are you expecting participant from all over Europe or the world and would you like to offer something centrally located and still not very well known?

Slovakia is the right choice.



Slovakia, a unique country located in the middle of Europe. A perfect destination for meetings, incentives, congresses and events. Modern cities and their surroundings supported by infrastructure, quality and service. Slovakia is the country that is somewhere you have never been before. The countryside is brimming with unspoiled natural beauty. You will come across a multitude of outstanding cultural treasures, and taste delicious Slovak food and drinks which, with the influence of Hungarian, Austrian and Czech regional cuisines, is out of this world.

Top 10 reasons for MICE in Slovakia:

1. Stable and Safe Destination

3. Scenery

– unspoiled nature and a beautiful landscape. Slovakia has 9 national parks, 14 protected landscape areas with more than 40% of their territory forested, 12 underground caves open to the public with magnificent ice or stalactite formations (the remarkable Ochtinská aragonite cave, one of three such caves worldwide)

5. Cities & Towns

– rich history and historical heritage from all periods. Historical cities and towns are spread all over Slovakia. Many of them have precious historical centres, and 18 towns are listed as urban monument reserves. Historical cities and towns are suitable for teambuilding events and incentive tourism.

7. Thermal water & spas

– more than 1 400 mineral and thermal springs, many with healing properties and 22 spa resorts with complete medical care offering treatments based on mineral and thermal waters. Climatic spas in the High Tatra Mountains.

9. Gastronomy, traditions and folklore

- tasty traditional gastronomy and excellent wines. "Bryndza" stands for a traditional Slovak speciality, a soft cheese made from sheep's milk. Within the European Union it can only be produced in Slovakia and is distributed under the name "Slovenská bryndza". Distinctive living folklore and traditions differing according to the regions. Folk art and ancient crafts.

2. Great location and easy to reach

– good travel connections by air, train, road, boat

4. Bratislava

– the city of past and present. Bratislava is the capital city of Slovakia and has in the last few years become one of the fastest growing new congress and conference cities in Europe. Bratislava has an excellent location – close to the borders of Austria, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Very good access from two international airports – Bratislava airport (15 minutes drive) and Vienna airport (35 minutes drive along the motorway).

6. History, Culture & Heritage

– 5 cultural and 2 natural sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List, 1 artefact of intangible cultural heritage – the fujara (a traditional musical instrument), 180 castles and 559 chateaux and manor houses, 10 open-air museums of popular architecture, 45 little wooden churches of 3 types (Gothic, Evangelical and of the East Christian rite), some built without using a single nail), numerous museums, galleries, and technical artefacts

8. Active holidays

– Slovakia has excellent conditions for enjoying active holidays in summer and in winter, e.g. more than 40 well-equipped ski resorts with 7 five-star ski resorts, 12 golf resorts, marked cycling tracks, mountains suitable for hiking, trekking, mountaineering, rivers and lakes suitable for water sports

10. Busy cultural and social life, not limited to the capital city.

You can be pampered at the Slovak spas. You can feel the unforgettable adrenaline buzz in the mountains both in winter and summer. Marvel at the natural and cultural UNESCO world heritage sites; savour every mouthful of the countryside. Get this experience at one of the upcoming events in Košice – European City of Culture 2013.

References:

KOŠICE – CITY OF CULTURE 2013
 2011 ICE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
 NORWEGIAN ROYAL COUPLE VISIT – OCTOBER 2010
 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RDA 2010
 WORLD DOG SHOW – 2009

NATO SUMMIT – 2008, 2010
 THE VISIT OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH – OCTOBER 2008
 BUSH – PUTIN SUMMIT – 2005
 VISITS OF POPE JOHN PAUL II TO SLOVAKIA – 1990, 1995, 2003



EUROPEAN UNION



OPERAČNÝ PROGRAM
 KONKURENCIESCHOPNOSŤ
 A HOSPODÁRSKY RAST

This project is co-financed by ERDF funds.

Bratislava - the Gate to Slovakia

Capital of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava is situated in the triangle of the cities of Prague, Vienna and Budapest, and is accessible by plane, boat, train or car.

Bratislava is the political, economic and cultural centre of the country, the residence of the president, government, parliament, ministries and national government bodies, a university centre, the home of many museums (20), galleries (8), theatres and other institutions. Although Bratislava belongs among some of the youngest cities in Europe, the history of the city dates back to medieval times. In the past, it was the coronation city of the Hungarian kings. The city centre is a place where history breathes from the buildings and the picturesque streets are full of cafes, restaurants and bars where you can enjoy a glass of wine from the hillsides of the Low Carpathians.

Bratislava is a city of culture. In the past Beethoven, Mozart, Haydn, and List played concerts here. Currently, the city is alive with festivals and cultural events. It is a dynamically developing metropolis full of young people inspiring a city with a unique atmosphere.



Bratislava offers:

- Conference and meeting rooms for up to 1000 participants
- Business negotiation facilities
- Investment opportunities
- More than 60000 m² of exhibition space
- Hotel accommodation with more than 11 400 beds in 124 categories of 5 *, 4 *, 3 *, from boutique hotels with 24 rooms up to hotels with 274 rooms
- Hotel chains offering various categories of accommodation and conference rooms for up to 400 participants
- Incentive travel directly in Bratislava and its surroundings



Culture and gastronomy of Bratislava and its surroundings, and proposals for incentive tourism:

- Historical Bratislava
- Opera, classical music and concerts
- Boat trip to Devin Castle
- Jazz evening on the Danube
- Christmas and Easter markets in Bratislava
- White Water Rafting at Čunovo
- Golf and outdoor activities (adrenaline Bratislava – motor sport, paintball, balloon flights, flying a hovercraft, helicopter, etc.)
- Traditional goose dinners in villages close to Bratislava
- The Low Carpathian Wine Road (special event Cellars Open Day in November)
- Red Stone Castle – museum of furniture and a special venue (The most extensive underground facilities in Central Europe – cellars under the castle of Červený Kameň. At present, these spaces organize special events.)
- Traditional hand-made ceramics (Majolika) in Modra



Incentives and special venues

The largest congress facilities are in the capital of Slovakia – Bratislava. However in recent years, new, high-level categories of hotels have also been built outside Bratislava in other regions of Slovakia. For smaller conferences, seminars and workshops the historic spa towns or mountain resorts in beautiful surroundings of the Slovak nature are ideally suited. So why don't you hold an event in:

- Košice and Košice region
- High and Low Tatras



Wellness & Spas

Slovakia, with more than 1200 thermal and mineral springs, can offer a wide range of spas and wellness centres. 23 spa resorts located all over Slovakia offer healing procedures with thermal water, mud, wellness programmes, beautifying as well as weight loss, or active stays. The most important Slovak spas include Piešťany, Turčianske Teplice, Rajecké Teplice, Dudince and Bardejov. In the past, our spas were also visited by several famous people such as Ludwig van Beethoven, the Russian Tsar Alexander, the wife of Napoleon I and Empress Elisabeth of Austria (also called Sissy). You can experience fun, relaxation and recreation in one of the thermal aquaparks which are open all year round.



Outdoor Activities

By making the most of Slovakia's spectacular natural landscape and culture, your events become magical and memorable. Talk to Slovakia's event professionals about how to make the most of your event. You can experience:

- Wooden rafting, rafting
- Walking, Hiking, Trekking
- Skiing, Ski-mountaineering
- Golf, Paragliding, Climbing



The Best of Slovakia



Discover Slovakia. A country with many cultural, historical and technical monuments and natural beauties and attractions:

- The largest medieval castle complex in Central Europe – Spiš Castle (40,000 m²).
- The most extensive underground facilities in Central Europe – the cellars under the Red Stone Castle.
- Late Gothic wing altar with the largest collection of 48 window paintings on its wings in Europe – main altar of St. Elisabeth in St. Elisabeth's Cathedral in Košice.
- The northernmost place in Central Europe that the Roman legions reached – City Laugaricio, today known as Trenčín.
- Top Celtic oppidum in Central Europe – from the second century. BC. Located on the Bratislava Castle Hill and encroaching on the territory of today's Old Town as far as Freedom Square.
- Largest wooden Gothic altar in the world – the main altar by master Pavol in St. James's Church in Levoča.
- Oldest art memory – statue of Venus (made from a mammoth tooth), 22,800 years old.
- The most extensive karst area in Central Europe – Slovak Karst (440 km²).
- The largest ice cave in Slovakia and one of the largest in Europe – the Dobšinská Ice Cave.
- The largest river island in Europe – Rye Island (132,612 ha) lying between the Danube river and its left arm.
- The only aragonite cave in Europe – the Ochtinská Aragonite Cave.
- The highest point in Slovakia – Gerlachovský Peak in the High Tatras, with a height of 2655m above sea level
- The longest Slovak river – River Vah.
- The highest waterfall in Slovakia – Kmeťov waterfall (80m) in the High Tatras. Located in Koprova valley.
- The oldest mining university in Europe – the Mining School in Banská Štiavnica (founded in 1735).
- The oldest university in the territory of Slovakia – Academia Istropolitana in Bratislava (15th century),
- The oldest continuously operating manufacturing factory in Slovakia – the Kremnica mint, founded in 1328. Also belongs among the longest active mints in Europe.
- Museum of Modern Art, Andy Warhol, Medzilaborce – unique in Europe.
- The highest situated apartment in Central Europe – apartment at the top of Lomnický Peak (2634m) in the High Tatras.



Slovak Convention Bureau

The Slovak Convention Bureau is your partner for any and all meetings, incentives, conventions and events that you plan to hold in Slovakia.

The Slovak Convention Bureau was established in October 2010. The main goal of the SCB is to actively promote Slovakia and its congress potential, thus ensuring the growth of events in the specific regions of Slovakia, supporting tourism in the regions and supporting the promotion of individual member subjects.

The Slovak Convention Bureau is a non-profit entity working as an organizational unit of the Slovak Tourist Board. The SCB was established as a public-private partnership to offer a one-stop-shop for advice on bringing events to Slovakia.

We provide the following services:

A wide scale of complex current information and taking over the guarantee for the quality of organization of congress tourism events in a special way Helping you to find the most suitable conference venues and hotel accommodation

Assisting you in the selection of local partners and acting as your first point of contact with Slovak suppliers – conference venues, hotels, destination management companies (DMCs) and incentive agencies

Coordinating site inspection visits that are tailor-made to your requirements

Preparing bid documents for decision makers

Providing promotional materials We are member of the International Congress and Convention Association.

Slovak Convention Bureau

Dr. V. Clementisa 10

821 02 Bratislava

Tel.: +421 2 918 336 213

Fax: +421 2 55 571 654

E-mail: scb@sacr.sk

www.slovakconvention.sk

Slovakia



Area: 49 035 km². **Population:** 5 413 548 as of 31/3/2009

Capital city: Bratislava. **Official language:** Slovak
Currency: EURO (from 1/1/2009). **Location:** Central Europe (17° - 22° E, 47° - 49° N). The central and North of the country is mountainous (Carpathian curve); lowlands (important agricultural areas) are typical of the South and the East. The most important Slovak river, the Danube, connects the capital city of

Bratislava with two capital cities of neighbouring countries – Vienna and Budapest.

Time: Central European time (+ 1 hour from GMT), Summer time/daylight-saving time from March to November is + 2 hours from GMT

Climate: Moderate climatic zone, with changing four seasons, average temperature in winter -2°C (the coldest month is January, the coldest area is the High Tatras), in summer 21°C (the warmest months July and August, the warmest area is the Danubian Lowland). In some mountain ranges the snow remains on average for 130 days per year.

Borders with neighbouring countries: Hungary (679 km), Poland (597.5 km), the Czech Republic (265 km), Austria (127.2 km), Ukraine (98 km)

Administrative divisions: 8 self-governing regions (Bratislava, Trnava, Trenčín, Nitra, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice), 79 districts, 138 towns, 2891 municipalities (including towns)

International country code of the SR: 00421

Important numbers: SOS, emergency calls – 112

Police – 112

Fire and rescue service – 112, 16155

Road accident service – 18124

Road traffic information (Stella centrum) *75

Roadside assistance – 16 154, 18 154, 18 123, 18 124

Rescue number – 0850/111 313 (specialist advice via telephone – how to give first aid and what to do in life-threatening situations)

Getting There

BY PLANE

There are international **airports** in Bratislava, Košice, Piešťany, Sliač, Žilina, and Poprad.

RAILWAY TRANSPORT

The railway network of Slovakia, with a density of 74 km per square kilometre and a length of 3,600 km, connects the majority of Slovak towns.

BUS TRANSPORT

International bus connections between Slovakia and other countries, and inter-city bus transport within Slovakia.

BOAT TRANSPORT

Boat travel is an attractive option for transport to Slovakia. The public port on the Danube in Bratislava offers regular boat services to Vienna, Hainburg, Budapest and other river ports on the Danube. Sightseeing boat tours can also be an interesting part of a holiday, either in Bratislava or at one of several other bodies of water.

Contact

Slovak Tourist Board

Námestie L. Štúra 1

P.O. Box 35

974 05 Banská Bystrica

Slovak Republic

Tel.: +421/48/413 61 46

Fax: +421/48/413 61 49

E-mail: sacr@sacr.sk

Slovak Tourist Board

branch office Bratislava

Dr. V. Clementisa 10

821 02 Bratislava

Slovak Republic

Tel.: +421/2/50 700 801, 821

Fax: +421/2/55 571 654

E-mail: sacrba@sacr.sk