

SURVIVAL KIT FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

Department of Languages / Faculty of Natural Sciences

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ACCOMMODATION

There are several possibilities of finding accommodation for international students.

DORMITORIES

Most higher education institutions offer housing in dormitories though **standards may vary Slovakia wide**. There are usually 2-4 students accommodated in one room, but single bedrooms are also available depending on availability. Rooms are furnished with beds, tables and wardrobes. Bathrooms are usually shared between two rooms, but there is also a common bathroom for the students on the whole floor.

Most dormitories have their own self-serving dining halls or buffets, where meals are available for reduced prices and they are usually open during the whole academic year. Lunches and/ or dinners cost from around € 3.50 to €5.50 with ISIC card. Some dormitories are equipped with their own gyms, fitness centres, etc.

The price per bed varies from dormitory to dormitory, depending on city, location, number of accommodated students, and type of room. Prices start at about € 60 up to € 174 per month up.

Most rooms offer **internet access** (Wi-Fi or LAN).

There are also self-service laundries in dormitories in Slovakia such as:
(Cent, Pramako, Laundromat, Blesk, Flipper Wash).

NOTE: Students who wish to study in the Slovak Republic outside the framework of bilateral agreements or exchange programmes cannot be guaranteed a place in a dormitory due to the limited capacity of each dormitory. If a student is interested in living in a dormitory, he/she should contact the university at least 3 months prior commencing his/her studies or before the start of the respective academic year. Many universities provide information about their dormitories on their websites.

RENTING A FLAT

The easiest way (except for staying in a hotel) is to rent a private apartment. In such cases, it is recommended to sign a lease with the future landlord defining precisely the terms and conditions of the stay in the apartment.

The apartments should be equipped with pots, dishes, linens, etc. Most apartments have washing machines, but automatic dryers are usually not available.

USEFUL LINKS

Long-term accommodation

- Reality.sk – nationwide search database, provides regularly updated rental offers from more than 400 real estate agencies, a list of real estate agencies with contact phone numbers, websites and emails.
- Flatmates.sk – search engines for finding roommates and listing available rooms to rent (in Slovak only).
- Spolubyvanie.sk – private advertising website for accommodation rentals (craigslist style, in Slovak only).
- Nehnutelnosti.sk - property search site, also includes maps and filtering options.

Short-term accommodation

- Reality.sk – a nationwide search database (also in English), regularly updated rental offers by more than 400 real estate agencies, a list of real estate agencies with contact phone numbers, websites and emails.
- Ubytovanievmeste.sk - search database for long-term and short-term accommodation around Slovakia (in Slovak only).
- Booking.com or Airbnb – for temporary accommodation upon arrival while searching for a more permanent accommodation.

You can also find a shared room or flat via social networks or via www.flatmates.sk, www.spolubyvanie.sk – both websites in Slovak only. There are also Facebook groups dedicated to finding flatmates and flats to rent, or Facebook groups for international students and researchers in each city where it is easy to find yourself a flatmate.

Facebook Marketplace and international groups for expats and students are among the most active channels for short- and long-term rental offers. When using these platforms, always verify the legitimacy of listings and never send payments before signing a contract or visiting the property in person.

FACEBOOK groups, where you can find a flat and rent a room:
Bratislava:
www.facebook.com/groups/100684056944091
www.facebook.com/groups/493169417389137
www.facebook.com/groups/BratislavaTOPAPARTMENTSFLATS

General group for advice, help and socialising as a foreigner in Slovakia:
www.facebook.com/groups/expatsinsk/

BANK ACCOUNT AND MOBILE OPERATORS

Several service providers accept only Slovak bank cards/transfers. You are therefore recommended to open a Slovak bank account upon your arrival to Slovakia.

If you are between 15 and 26 you can open a free **student account** which means there are no extra monthly fees for account management.

VÚB (Všeobecná úverová banka)
www.vub.sk

Tatra Banka
www.tatrabanka.sk

Slovenská sporiteľňa
www.slsp.sk

ČSOB (Česko-slovenská obchodná banka)
www.csob.sk

Revolut
www.revolut.com
(online banking, minimal to no fees when travelling internationally, exchanging currencies)

REQUIREMENTS

To open a bank account, you need to provide all the required documents either in English or in Slovak (so that the process does not meet any inconsistencies). Most banks have employees who speak English, but if you do not come across one, you should inquire for one.

Be prepared to provide:

- Passport
- Mobile phone **(Slovak number)**
- E-mail address
- Birth Certificate
- Permanent address (home country)
- Contact address in the Slovak Republic (for credit card delivery by post)
- Proof of studies not older than 30 days
- **Long-term visa or Permanent/Long-term residence permit**

MOBILE OPERATORS

You are highly recommended to have a Slovak mobile phone number. Without Slovak phone number, you will not be able to open a bank account.

Some legitimate mobile phone providers are:
Orange
www.orange.sk

O2 Slovakia
www.o2.sk
O2 Slovakia operates also Radosť and Tesco Mobile brands.

Telekom
www.telekom.sk

4 ka
www.4ka.sk

ELECTRICAL CONVERTORS ADAPTERS



In Slovakia, a 230 V/50 Hz electrical system is used, and appliances are designed for a round pin plug and receptacle (socket) with a male grounding pin.

For safety reasons and to avoid damage to electrical appliances, it is important to bring equipment designed for the above- mentioned frequency and voltage, **use dual voltage equipment** or **voltage converters/transformers**. Moreover, a **plug adapter** will also be needed, if your device is manufactured using other standards. For those bringing US standard equipment, an **earthed (grounded) step-down transformer** is necessary for computers, monitors and printers. Even with the most expensive transformers, one should always monitor the electrical supply.

Voltage converters or transformers come in a few common forms, depending on their purpose, but generally they are boxes or plugs that allow safe use of electrical devices from one country to another with a different voltage. Here's a breakdown:

1. Plug-In Voltage Converters / Step-Up & Step-Down Converters

- Usually, small boxes with a power cord on one side and a socket on the other.
- Often labelled with input voltage (what it takes from the wall) and output voltage (what it provides to the device).
- Many have switches to select 110V → 220V or 220V → 110V.
- Example of usage: running a hair dryer or laptop charger from a different country's outlet.

Appearance: a rectangular or cube-shaped box, sometimes with prongs to plug into the wall and a socket on top or side.

2. Travel Adapter + Converter

- Smaller, portable converters often combine a plug adapter (so one can fit the local socket) with a voltage conversion.
- Usually lightweight, cube-shaped, and may have foldable prongs for travel.

Quick tip:

- Small electronic devices (phones, laptops) often do not need a converter if they are labelled "100–240V." They only need a plug adapter.
- High-power devices (hairdryers, irons, kettles) usually need a proper voltage converter to avoid damage.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

In case of an emergency, **call 112** to reach an ambulance or other emergency services. **112 is the universal European integrated rescue system**, available also in the English language and can be used anywhere in Slovakia.

Other national emergency numbers
150 – fire and rescue services
155 – emergency medical services
158 – police emergency services
116117 – helpline

The 116117 helpline is available to citizens who need advice, guidance, or consultation regarding an emergency health issue. The purpose of this helpline is not to arrange medical services at the patient's address, nor to dispatch a doctor or any type of ambulance to transport a patient for treatment. The role of the operator is to guide the caller toward the appropriate solution for their health concern—for example, advising when to contact a general practitioner, which medications are available at a pharmacy over the counter without a prescription, and other similar medical services.

Emergency medical services in Bratislava
In Slovakia, if your condition is urgent but not life-threatening, you can go to an outpatient urgent clinic during the hours.

URGENT OUTPATIENT CLINICS (POHOTOVOSTNÉ AMBULANCIE)

1. Ambulantná pohotovostná služba (Strečnianska)
Urgent outpatient service for adults (Petržalka)
📍 Strečnianska 13, 851 05 Bratislava – Petržalka

2. Ambulantná pohotovostná služba pre dospelých (Ružinov)
Urgent outpatient service for adults (Ružinov)
📍 Ružinovská 4810/6, 821 01 Bratislava – Ružinov
(Operating hours vary; often afternoons–evenings)

3. Pohotovosť pre dospelých (Šancová)
Urgent outpatient care (Old Town)
📍 Šancová 3150/110, 831 04 Bratislava – Old Town
(Often open in evenings/weekends)

For **serious emergencies** (e.g., chest pain, severe injury, difficulty breathing), call **112** for an ambulance or go directly to a **hospital emergency department**.

Even if outpatient urgent clinics are closed, hospital emergency departments are open 24 hours a day for urgent care (more serious conditions):

HOSPITAL-BASED EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS (URGENT CARE 24/7)

4. University Hospital Bratislava (Old Town)
Emergency care (Urgent Reception)
📍 Mickiewiczova 22, 811 07 Bratislava

5. Hospital Bratislava Ružinov
General hospital with emergency department
📍 Ružinovská 4810/6, 821 01 Bratislava

6. Central Receiving Centre (CRC)
Hospital urgent intake (often linked with children's hospital services)
📍 Limbová 1, 833 40 Bratislava

7. Saints Cyril and Methodius Hospital (Nemocnica Sv. Cyrila a Metoda)
General hospital with emergency care
📍 Antolská 11, 851 07 Bratislava

8. Kramáre Hospital
Hospital with urgent services (children and adults)
📍 Limbová 2645/5, 831 01 Bratislava
(Often referenced as per children's urgent care)

DENTAL EMERGENCY SERVICES
Urgent dental care (not general dental care, but helpful for severe toothache):

9. SK Dental Clinic Bratislava — Dental Emergency
📍 Jarabinková 10, 821 09 Bratislava, +421 911 566 056

10. 24 Dental SK
📍 Bajkalská 9, 831 04 Bratislava (Tri veže), +421 914 700 900

11. City Dental Clinic
📍 Prievozská 14 – Ružinov, Bratislava, +421 918 100 022

For First Aid in the rest of Slovakia see:
www.mic.iom.sk/en/social-issues/health-care/442-doctors-and-medical-facilities-in-slovakia.html#:~:text=You%20can%20find%20a%20list,web%20page%20doctors%20and%20clinics

GROCERY SHOPPING

GROCERY & SUPERMARKET OPTIONS WITHIN NEAR SLÁVIČIE ÚDOLIE & STARÉ GRUNTY

In shops, supermarkets or hypermarkets you can buy all seasonal, regional and worldwide types of vegetables and fruit, meat, dairy products, pastries, bread, packaged, boxed or canned foods, bottled mineral and spring water, sweets, etc.

The following grocery facilities are open daily for the basic grocery needs:

- **BILLA (Staré Grunty 24, inside Galéria Cubicon)** - a classic supermarket chain with fresh produce (fruits, vegetables), dairy, meat, bread/bakery items, packaged foods, drinks, and household goods. BILLA often runs weekly promotions and private-label products offer decent prices.
- **Terno (Staré Grunty 49)** - a smaller local grocery outlet with basic food and drinks Convenient for quick pickups but with more limited selection than BILLA or Lidl.
- **LA BODEGA (Staré Grunty 24)** - a grocery outlet located in **OC Cubicon**. This store focuses on **specialty foods and delicacies** such as Spanish and Mediterranean products: olive oils, olives, cheeses, cured meats (jamón), sauces, preserves, and wines. It is a **smaller gourmet shop** ideal for trying **unique imported products** rather than everyday staples.
- **Lidl (Karloveská 6183)** - a major discount supermarket chain known for good prices on fresh produce, meat, bakery items, and other everyday staples. Lidl regularly offers seasonal promotions and puts a rotating selection of non-food products on promotion (e.g., clothes for men/women/children, seasonal gear, household tools, decor, kitchenware), especially during weekend specials or themed weeks, sometimes at prices better than specialised shops. Generally considered one of the cheapest supermarkets in Bratislava.
- **Mix Markt Bratislava (Obchodná 530)** - specialized Eastern European grocery stores with products from Ukraine, Russia, the Baltics, and other regional foods from other parts of the world (dairy, sausages, breads, sweets). These are especially useful for Ukrainian cuisine or imported staples, but prices may be slightly higher than mainstream supermarkets, depending on products.
- **Coop Jednota Tempo** – a smaller, so- called neighbourhood grocery with basic items, good for quick buys but with limited range. Prices are typically moderate to slightly higher than the discount supermarkets, but the quality is reasonable and the shops are very convenient.
- **Kaufland (Mlynská dolina 7)** - a large hypermarket that many people use for their weekly shopping. It is known for low and competitive prices, like Lidl. The store offers a wide range of products, including fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, bakery items, dairy products, household goods, and sometimes clothing and seasonal items. Kaufland sells both well-known brands and cheaper store-brand products. The stores are spacious with wide aisles, which is convenient for one-stop shopping and buying larger quantities.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO GROCERY STORES

From dorm	Shop	Take (line)	Total time
Družba (Botanická záhrada stop)	**BILLA + La Bodega + Terno (Staré Grunty 24/49)**	Take tram **4** or **9** to La Franconi, change to bus **31** or **39**, and get off at Cintorín Slávičie údolie.	**15 min**
Družba (Botanická záhrada stop)	**Lidl (Karloveská 6183)**	Take tram **4** or **9** from Botanická záhrada to Riviéra.	**5 min**
Družba (Botanická záhrada stop)	**Mix Markt (Obchodná 530)**	Take tram **9** and get off at Poštová.	**10 min**
Družba (Botanická záhrada stop)	**COOP Jednota Tempo (Bajkalská 2/J)**	Take tram **4** or **9** to La Franconi, change to bus **39**, and get off at Bajkalská. Coop Jednota is at OC Tehelko (walking distance from the stop)	**25 min**
Družba (Botanická záhrada stop)	**Kaufland (Mlynská dolina 7)**	Take bus **32** and get off at Habánsky mlyn.	**5 min**
Slávičie údolie/Staré grunty (Cintorín Slávičie údolie stop)	**BILLA + La Bodega + Terno**	Walking distance	**5 min**
Slávičie údolie/Staré grunty (Cintorín Slávičie údolie stop)	**Lidl (Karloveská)**	Take bus **31** or **39** to La Franconi, change to tram **4** or **9**, and get off at Riviéra.	**15 min**
Slávičie údolie/Staré grunty (Cintorín Slávičie údolie stop)	**Mix Markt (Obchodná 530)**	Take bus **31** or **39** to La Franconi, change to tram **9**, and get off at Poštová.	**20 min**
Slávičie údolie/Staré grunty (Cintorín Slávičie údolie stop)	**COOP Jednota Tempo (Bajkalská 2/J)**	Take bus 39 and get off at Bajkalská. Coop Jednota is at OC Tehelko (walking distance from the stop).	**25 min**
Slávičie údolie/Staré grunty (Cintorín Slávičie údolie stop)	**Kaufland (Mlynská dolina 7)**	Take bus **31** or **39** and get off at Zoo. Cross the street, take bus **32** and get off at Habánsky mlyn. Kaufland is across the street.	**10 min**

Notes:

- BILLA + La Bodega + Terno located at Galéria Cubicon area (Staré Grunty 24 / 49)
- Riviéra (Lidl) get off at the tram stop right next to Lidl Karloveská
- OC Tehelko is a shopping complex where COOP Jednota Tempo is located
- Times -means scheduled daytime travel; may vary by traffic and timetable

LEISURE

MEET AND GREET

Klub Machovisko (Na vŕšku 6, Staré mesto)
Klub Machovisko is a safe, welcoming space in Bratislava for young people, offering free psychosocial support, discussions, and creative activities. The club hosts a variety of workshops, events, and board games, giving visitors opportunities to relax, learn, and socialize. Slovak is the main language, but English is often spoken, with Ukrainian and Russian available on Fridays or by request. It's an ideal place to meet other young people, get support, and enjoy fun activities in a friendly environment.

YOUTH HUB (Štefánikova 35)
This is another of the well- known clubs with a friendly space for young people up to around 30 years of age. It is a place to hang out, meet friends, and join in to a variety of activities in a relaxed environment. Visitors can use computers, game consoles, WiFi, a small library, board games, and a projector, or take part in workshops, film screenings, and creative events. Youth Hub is also open to young people who want to organise their own events, as long as there's no entry fee.

TU-BA (Štúrova 4)
TU-BA is an open platform for dialogue on the urban development and future vision of Bratislava founded and curated by the Metropolitan Institute of Bratislava. It is a shared space for city representatives, private and third-sector stakeholders, urban practitioners and the public, to shape Bratislava's evolving identity. The programme includes exhibitions, lectures, discussions, workshops, film screenings and educational events dedicated to architecture and city making.
https://tuba.mib.sk/en

LIBRARIES

Bratislava City Library (Klariská 16)
Bratislava City Library is the main public library network in Bratislava, offering free access to a large collection of books, magazines, and digital resources for all ages—from fiction to scientific literature. In addition to borrowing materials, the library provides study and workspaces, public internet access, cultural events, workshops, and specialised services such as foreign language collections.

The University Library in Bratislava (Ventúrska 11)
The University Library in Bratislava (ULB) offers around 2.5 million publications, including Slovak literature, dissertations, and foreign works in humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, medicine, law, economics, and technology, in multiple languages. Visitors who are not Slovak residents cannot borrow books, but read them on-site as the library provides a quiet, well-equipped space for studying. ULB also offers access to periodicals, electronic documents, and databases such as PROQUEST and the Science Citation Index.

MEDICAL CARE

HEALTH INSURANCE & MEDICAL CARE FOR STUDENTS

All foreign students must have valid health insurance (either public or private) **for the entire duration of their stay in the Slovak Republic**.

Students from EU/EEA Countries and Switzerland
Students from an EU or EEA country (Norway, Iceland, or Liechtenstein) or Switzerland, should bring their **European Health Insurance Card** (EHIC or E111 card). This card is available on demand from the national health insurance provider prior the arrival to Slovakia.
When visiting a doctor or hospital, the EHIC card and a valid ID or passport need to be shown at the reception of the clinic to the staff members. This card is accepted only in the public health care system, not by private doctors or clinics. Most necessary healthcare costs are covered by the EHIC, but for some treatments full payment is charged by the provider. The EHIC covers only urgent and necessary medical care for the duration of the stay. It does not cover planned or non-urgent treatment, nor medical transport back to the home country.

Tip: It is strongly recommended to purchase additional travel or health insurance in the home country to cover any extra medical or transport costs not included in the EHIC.

Students from Non-EU/EEA Countries (Third-Country Nationals)
Non-EU country citizens must have private health insurance that is valid in Slovakia. This insurance can be purchased either in the home country or from a Slovak health insurance company prior the actual arrival date to Slovakia. The proof of valid health insurance is one of the required documents when applying for the temporary residence permit at the Foreign Police.
The health insurance must cover all possible medical situations, including hospital care and emergencies. In case of immediate medical treatment in Slovakia, patients may be asked to pay out of pocket immediately at the clinic. The insurance company will at later date reimburse the costs, in accordance with the health insurance policy terms.

Ukrainian students´ specificities
Ukrainian nationals fall under the “third-country” category (i.e., non-EU/EEA), unless they have a special status (e.g., **temporary protection**). As such, they generally **cannot** automatically access the public Slovak state health insurance system just by virtue of being a student. Cedos+1
Persons with temporary protection are entitled to full healthcare as Slovak citizens (in many cases) or at least necessary care. welcometoslovakia.sk+1

All students must have **insurance** that includes **accident coverage** for any injuries that may occur during study or educational activities, and repatriation **coverage** for all costs related to returning to thehome country in case of serious health problems, urgent medical treatment, hospitalization, or death.

Remember: Medical treatment without being insured is **very expensive**!

Individual (commercial) health insurance can be obtained from:
UNION poisťovňa, a.s.
Headquarters: Bajkalská 29/A, Bratislava 821 08
Web: www.union.sk
www.union.sk/health-insurance-for-foreigners/
E-mail: union@union.sk
Tel: +421 2 2081 1811
Information line: 0850 111 211

AXA assistance
www.axa-assistance.sk/foreigners-health-insurance-sk/

Main general hospitals in Bratislava:
Univerzitná nemocnica Bratislava
Nemocnica Ružinov
Ružinovská cesta 6
826 06 Bratislava

Univerzitná nemocnica Bratislava
Nemocnica ak. L. Dérera
Limbová 5
833 05 Bratislava, Kramáre

Univerzitná nemocnica Bratislava
Nemocnica sv. Cyrila a Metoda
Antolská 11
851 07 Bratislava, Petržalka

Druzba UK Medical Center
The medical center located in the Družba UK complex provides resident students, based on an agreement, with healthcare services from general practitioners and dentists."
More information available at: https://druzba.uniba.sk/ostatne-sluzby/lekari/

To find a health facility – go to Azet web catalogue
www.azet.sk/katalog/zdravotnicke-zariadenia/

To find a doctor, go to:
www.zzz.sk/zariadenia/slovensko/ordinacia
www.e-vuc.sk/bsk/zdravotnictvo/kto-je-moj-lekar-zdravotne-obvody.html

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING OFFICE OF COMENIUS UNIVERSITY

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING OFFICE provides consultations in English, Spanish, German and Russian.
The staff are open to queer/LGBTI+ people, - including transgender people.
This service is available to individual clients as well as couples and groups.

You can book individual psychological counselling via the contact form. Personal data processing details can be found on the website All foreign students must have valid health insurance (either public or private) for the entire duration of their stay in the Slovak Republic.
If your appointment cannot be scheduled immediately or in a short period of time, please do not hesitate to use the crisis intervention network.
Following helplines are available:

- All foreign students must have valid health insurance (either public or private) for the entire duration of their stay in the Slovak Republic.
- All foreign students must have valid health insurance (either public or private) for the entire duration of their stay in the Slovak Republic.

Email Counselling
Psychological counselling via email is also possible. You can write to the team anytime, whether you are feeling down or just need someone to talk to. E-counsellors are professional psychologists who will get back to you as soon as possible. Just click on the following link: Email Counselling.

Where to find us:

CU Mlyny Dormitories
Staré grunty 36
Atrium house R
842 25 Bratislava

The counselling service is located in the "atrium houses" in Mlynská dolina (on the hill above the bus stop) in Unit R. After entering the atrium houses compound, pass the turnstiles and go to the right and up towards the Venza canteen. Unit R is the first atrium house on the left. The counselling service is on the ground floor opposite the entrance. Do not hesitate to knock, you will be met at the agreed time.

CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTRES "KÁČKO"

Crisis intervention centres **"Káčko"** provide everyone with individual professional psychological support, including urgent situations (https://ipcko.sk/kacko/).
Interpreters and Ukrainian psychologists are available.
Booking an appointment in advance via email is highly recommended (see contact details are below).

PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING AT LOOM
Česká 267/2, Bratislava (please request counselling through the Infoline)
+421 903 497 189
LOOM@bratislava.sk

KÁČKO + YOUTH CLUB – MACHOVISKO CLUB
Na vŕšku 6, Bratislava (please request a meeting via email)

- kackoba@ipcko.sk
- www.klubmachovisko.sk

VIDEO COUNSELLING SERVICE
https://www.krizovalinkapomoci.sk/videoporadna/
https://www.krizovalinkapomoci.sk/psychologicka-pomoc/#videoporadenstvo
Monday – Friday 15:00 – 20:00

EMAIL HELPLINE:
ukrajina@ipcko.sk

SIGHTSEEING IN BRATISLAVA

PLACES FOR RELAX

Janko Kráľ Orchard (Viedenská cesta 9, Petržalka)
Sad Janka Kráľa, located on the right bank of the Danube river, is the oldest public park in Central Europe, established between 1774–1776 and redesigned in 1839. Covering 42 hectares, this park serves as a popular spot for relaxation, cultural events, sports, and social activities.
The park features a Gothic tower used as a gazebo, a statue of the famous national writer Janko Kráľ at its centre, and charming fountains, including the notable "Drinking Doves." These days, it regularly hosts cultural and community events.

Medical garden (ul. 29. augusta 12, Staré mesto)
Medical garden is a popular public park in Bratislava, featuring well-maintained lawns, flower beds, and trees creating a pleasant relaxing setting.
During the Cultural Summer festival, various events take place here, including theatre performances, concerts, creative workshops for children, and exercise sessions. Visitors can also enjoy the summer reading room with domestic and international periodicals or visit the teahouse, which hosts tastings, lectures, and chamber music performances.

Horský park
It is located in the Old Town district of the capital city, directly in the middle of a built-up urban area. The park was established in 1868 and was originally known as the Student Forest.
The park includes a memorial to its founder, Mayor Heinrich Justi, a special monument to botanist J. A. Bäumler, a historic forester's house, and a children's playground.

Botanical garden
The Botanical Garden is located in the Bratislava–Karlova Ves district and it is part of Comenius University. Known for its collection of heat-loving plants displayed in greenhouses, this botanical garden maintains and expands collections of living plants and supports scientific activities. In addition to greenhouse exhibitions, it features a wide variety of outdoor plants, and it is a pleasant place to relax.
Free admission for students of our faculty upon showing your ISIC card.

Bratislava Calvary (Na Kalvárii, Staré mesto)
Bratislava Calvary is one of the earliest and most significant calvaries not only in present-day Slovakia but also in the former Kingdom of Hungary. Since its establishment, Calvary Hill has served as a place of prayer, pilgrimages, and stations of the Cross.
The site is currently undergoing partial restoration. Visitors can enjoy a pleasant view of part of Bratislava from the hill. The Calvary can be reached either from Pražská Street below or from the church located at the top of the hill.

The Old Market (The Old Market Hall, Stará tržnica, Námestie SNP 25)
The Old Market offers a variety of fresh artisanal food from local farmers and small producers every Saturday from 09:00 to 15:00. Visitors can also find high-quality foreign delicacies, natural cosmetics, indoor and cut flowers, as well as opportunities to meet the producers of the items on the market, and enjoy a lively, community atmosphere. The Old Market Hall also hosts cultural and seasonal events. One of these events is **Art in the Market Hall** which is a multi-genre festival exhibiting large-scale, immersive works by local and international artists. From March to October, the **Street Food Park** brings food trucks with diverse, high-quality street food to the square in front of the hall, offering a relaxed spot for lunch, snacks, drinks and socializing. During winter, the **Christmas Market in the Old Market Hall** adds an additional festive atmosphere with seasonal treats and gifts to the main Christmas markets at Rybničné square.

Sandberg Hill
Sandberg is a sandstone hill in Devínska Nová Ves, part of the Devínska Kobyla Nature Reserve. It is a rare paleontological site with fossils like shark teeth, sea urchins, and whale bones. Visitors and tourists can also find charming wild orchids and sandstone flowers growing across the hill. From the top, there are splendid views of the Devin Castle, the Little Carpathians, the Morava River, and the Pajštún Castle.
Marked hiking trails from Devínska Nová Ves and Devín lead to Sandberg Hill, with the easiest route via the blue trail. It is a short, easy hike with unique natural scenery —perfect for a quick outdoor break.

Pajštún Castle (Borinka village, cadastral area of Stupava)
Pajštún is a castle ruin located just outside Bratislava, near the village of Borinka, in the cadastral area of Stupava. It was one of the border castles in the Little Carpathians during the Kingdom of Hungary. Its history dates back to the 13th century. The castle was destroyed by the troops of Napoleon Bonaparte.
These days, Pajštún Castle is a popular destination for hikers and climbers, offering several climbing routes of varying difficulty.

MAIN SIGHTS

The Slovak National Gallery (Riečna 1)
The Slovak National Gallery (Riečna 1, Bratislava) is the country's main art institution housed in the historic Esterházy Palace and the Water Barracks (Vodné kasárne). It exhibits Slovak and international art works dating back to medieval periods to contemporary ones. Visitors can explore permanent and temporary exhibitions, enjoy educational workshops and guided tours, and attend cultural events held annually.

Aurelium Science Adventure Centre (Bojnická 3, Matador complex, Nové Mesto)
This science centre brings Ján Amos Comenius's motto ´School as Play´ to life, making learning fun and a hands-on activity. Designed for visitors aged 12 and over, it combines elements of a school, museum and an amusement park to spark curiosity of youngsters into science. Interactive exhibits of human biology, ecology, physics, chemistry, math, mechanics, robotics, and optics are on display at all times and are changed regularly.

SNP Bridge
The SNP Bridge, featuring the UFO lookout tower, is one of Bratislava's most recognizable landmarks. Visitors can take an elevator to the tower's 95meter-high observation deck for panoramic views of the city, the Danube river, and landmarks such as the Bratislava Castle and St. Martin's Cathedral, stretching up to 100 km on clear days. The tower also houses a restaurant with city views, and thrill-seekers can try skywalking and/ or abseiling experiences.

Bratislava Castle (Staré mesto)
Bratislava Castle is a landmark of the Slovakia's capital, situated on a hill above the Danube river. Dating back to the 13th century, it has evolved from a medieval fortress to a baroque residence and has served as a royal residence, including Hungarian kings. At present, the castle is open to public, hosting exhibitions of the Slovak National Museum, showcasing its history, interior rooms, and the Crown Tower with panoramic city views. Throughout the year, the castle also hosts festivals, cultural events, and special exhibitions.

St. Elizabeth's Church (The Blue Church, Bezručova 2, Staré mesto)
The Church of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, known as the Blue Church, is a Roman Catholic church in Bratislava's Old Town. Designed by Budapest architect Ödön Lechner, it features Art Nouveau elements, a single-aisle layout, and an attached cylindrical tower. The exterior, interior, and roof are painted pale blue, with blue majolica decorations and a mosaic of St. Elizabeth on the facade and the main altar. Originally intended as a symbolic mausoleum for Empress Elizabeth (Sissi), the church now functions as an active parish and is also represented in the Mini-Europe park in Brussels.

The Natural History Museum (Vajanského nábrežie 2)
The Natural History Museum in Bratislava is located on the Danube riverbank in the centre of Bratislava and focuses on natural sciences. Its collection includes over 2.4 million items, with permanent exhibitions and temporary displays. The museum features four main permanent exhibitions: The Story of Life on Earth, exhibiting palaeontology and evolution; Biodiversity of Slovakia, presenting local ecosystems; Earth's Biodiversity, highlighting global environments; and Earth Jewels, a mineralogical display with over 1,100 samples from Slovakia and abroad. Together, these exhibitions form a complete experience called The Miracle of Nature. A visit typically takes about 1.5 hours.

Transport Museum (Šancová 1/A, Staré mesto)
The Transport Museum in Bratislava is located on the historic tracks and warehouses of the city's first steam railway station dating back to the mid-19th century. The museum displays the history of road and rail transport in Slovakia through four permanent exhibitions: History of Road Transport, Development of Railway Technology, Milestones of Slovak Motoring in the 20th Century, and Railway Signalling and Communication Systems. Its collection includes notable items such as the oldest steam locomotive, the Ariel three-wheeled car, the Babetta moped, and a model of Slovakia's largest passenger ship. In addition to permanent displays, the museum hosts temporary exhibitions that complement and expand on its main collections.

Devín Castle (Devín)
Devín Castle is one of Bratislava's most iconic landmarks, perched on a cliff overlooking the confluence of the Danube and Morava rivers. With origins dating back to the early Slavic period, it later became a significant Great Moravian fortress and princely stronghold. Visitors can explore the castle ruins, enjoy panoramic views, and see exhibits on its history from the 13th to 20th centuries. The site also hosts seasonal events like historical reenactments and traditional archery or axe-throwing activities.

RECOMMENDED LINKS:

www.visitbratislava.com/things-to-do official tourist site of Bratislava (+region)
www.kamnavylet.sk/en/ planning trips around Slovakia (SK and EN version)
miribord.com/sk planning trips around Slovakia (only SK version)
www.atlasobscura.com/things-to-do/slovakia/places off the beaten path = curious and quirky locations all over the world

SLOVAK CUISINE

TRADITIONAL CUISINE

The main ingredients that have shaped traditional Slovak cuisine are potatoes, sauerkraut, pork, poultry, ´**bryndza**´ (a typical sheep milk cheese prepared in a unique way) and legumes.

´**Kapustnica**´, the Slovak national soup is prepared from sauerkraut (fermented cabbage), which is a hearty fermented cabbage soup combined with smoked pork sausages, or smoked pork, dry mushrooms, and sometimes plums (for added flavour, especially at Christmas time).

Another typical Slovak soup is made of legumes and root vegetables such as carrot and parsley. Sometimes, smoked pork is added for flavour as well.

The most traditional national dish served as a main course is ´**bryndzové halušky**´ (potato gnocchi/dumplings topped with bryndza sheep cheese and fried bacon).
Another traditional dish is ´**strapačky s kapustou**´ (potato gnocchi/dumplings with cabbage and, sometimes, with fried bacon).

Also, as other Slavic nations, one of the most popular dishes in Slovakia is ´**pirohy**´, flour dough dumplings filled with quark, potatoes, sheep cheese, even with sweet fillings, topped with melted butter, caramelised onion or fried bacon and sheep cheese.
As the most common dessert one can always have ´**palacinky**´ - sweet pancakes with various sorts of fruit jams, cottage cheese and raisins, topped with whipped cream and chocolate.
Slovak region Záhorie is so-called the birthplace of an interesting, sweet pastry called ´Skalický trdelník´. It is prepared from a yeast dough wrapped around a cylindrical rod, roasted over an open fire and coated with cinnamon icing sugar, chopped walnuts or almonds. It is often referred to as ´**the chimney cake**´, especially in the Czech Republic.

Cheese and cheese products are other typical Slovak specialties. Besides already mentioned ´**bryndza**´, the most popular are ´**korbáčik**´(sheep's cheese strings interwoven into fine braids), ´**parenica**´ (steamed sheep's cheese strips woven into snaillike curls) and ´**oštiepok**´ (smoked sheep's cheese shaped in wooden moulds).

ALCOHOL, WINE AND BEVERAGES

The most popular wines are those from the Tokaj, the Little Carpathians, Nitra, Topoľčany and Záhorie regions. Wineries in these regions produce a wide variety of excellently tasting wines. Tastings are available on demand.

´**Tokaj**´ wines can be produced on in the Tokaj wine region, which is situated in the southeast of Slovakia. It is the oldest closed production wine region in the world and is part of the UNESCO World Heritage.

´**Burčiak**´- a young wine or partially fermented grape must is available in the first half of September and it is usually the subject of harvest festivals. It is quite sweet and murky though extremely popular with Slovaks.

´**Hubert**´ (well-known Slovak sparkling wine) and ´**Karpatské Brandy Špeciál**´ (Carpathian Brandy Special) are highly rated alcohol beverages.

´**Demänovka**´, ´**Horec**´, and ´**Tatranský čaj**´ from the region of the High Tatras are typical Slovak hard liqueurs (containing up to 40% alcohol).

´**Slivovica**´ (plum brandy) and ´**Borovička**´ (juniper berry brandy, gin) are popular Slovak aperitifs. To the uninitiated, these drinks will appear quite strong (sometimes over 50% of alcohol content).

Slovakia also produces excellent beer. The most popular brands are ´**Zlatý Bažant**´, ´**Urpiner**´, ´**Topvar**´ and ´**Šariš**´, **Čorgoň**´. Microbreweries (craft breweries) are becoming very popular around the country producing world-class quality beer. These microbreweries also offer unique experiences like an enjoyable beer bath.

The spiced mulled wine is very popular in winter months, and it is typically sold on traditional Christmas markets throughout late November to early January (it is available to purchase also in supermarkets).

EATING OUT IN SLOVAKIA

There are many restaurants in Slovakia ranging quite affordable to expensive. For a drink, people usually to go to a pub, where meal menus are on offer as well. Larger towns usually have restaurants with national and international cuisine, the most common being Italian, Asian, Balkan, Czech and Hungarian. Beer and wine (domestic and imported) are good and usually consumed with both lunch and dinner.

Lunch is the main meal of the day, and Slovaks are used to eating out for lunch than for dinner. Most restaurants in city centres have special daily lunch menu offers (denné menu) usually consisting of a bowl of soup and the main course), which are cheaper than other meals served from the menu.

Restaurants are open from Monday to Sunday from morning (usually 9am) till late. Some stores and restaurants are open 24/7 with a ´Nonstop´ sign.

TIPPING

Unless the menu states that service is included, tipping is expected. 5 –10 % is a standard tip in restaurants with a waiter service. Waiters usually give customers the total amount to be paid. The bill can be paid by cash or credit card. In restaurants and bars, it is usual to round up the bill with the tip rounding to 10 %.

More information and lists of catering places that offer daily menus can be found at Menucka.sk (in Slovak only).

For the tips on popular restaurants in various towns, cities and regions visit TripAdvisor. You can also use a variety of dining and restaurant apps (e.g. Zomato, Restaurant Finder or use Google maps restaurant search).

Food delivery is also a standard service in Slovakia, with many delivery providers in every city. Here you can find a handy list:

- Bistro (available in 15 Slovak cities)
- Bolt food (only available as an app)
- Wolt (available only in larger towns and cities)

In addition to traditional food delivery services, a food-saving app called Munch is available in Bratislava, Trnava, and Košice. It allows users to purchase unsold meals from restaurants, bakeries, cafés, and grocery stores at a 50–70% discount, helping to reduce food waste.

More information on Slovak cuisine available at: www.panorama.sk/bonappetit or www.slovakia.travel.

FOOD ALLERGENS

Refer to the list of 14 major allergens commonly used in menus in the EU.

Číslo	Slovensky	English	Українською
1	Obilniny obsahujúce lepok (pšenica, raž, jačmeň, ovos)	Cereals containing gluten (wheat, rye, barley, oats)	Зернові, що містять глютен (пшениця, жито, ячмінь, овес)
2	Kôrovce	Crustaceans	Ракоподібні
3	Vajcia	Eggs	Яйця
4	Ryby	Fish	Риба
5	Arašidy	Peanuts	Арахіс
6	Sója	Soybeans	Соя
7	Mlieko (vrátane laktózy)	Milk (including lactose)	Молоко (включно з лактозою)
8	Orechy (mandle, lieskové, vlašské, kešu, pistácie atď.)	Tree nuts	Горіхи
9	Zeler	Celery	Селера
10	Horčica	Mustard	Гірчиця
11	Sezamové semená	Sesame seeds	Насіння кунжуту
12	Oxid siričitý a siričitany	Sulphur dioxide and sulphites	Діоксид сірки та сульфіти
13	Vlčí bôb (lupina)	Lupin	Люпин
14	Mäkkýše	Molluscs	Молюски

For dishes, only the allergen numbers are often listed, for example:
Vyprážaný syr (1,3,7) → **Fried cheese (1, 3, 7)**
Šalát s krevetami (2,10) → **Shrimp salad (2, 10)**

TRANSPORT

LOCAL TRANSPORT

Municipal public transport system is quite reliable. A network of public transport usually buses and trolleybuses, and a network of trams in Bratislava, covers most of the city. Operating hours are typically from 5:00 to 23:00. After 23:00 there are a few night-bus lines. Every town is responsible for running its own public transport (in Slovak: “mestská hromadná doprava”, abbr. MHD).

Common Features

Public transport is the most widely used means of transport in towns, villages and cities. Schedules can be found at every bus/tram stop and in public transport stands. Tickets are usually sold either on buses or in newsstands, transport ticket machines, some bus stations or public transport kiosks. In principal cities, electronic SMS tickets are also available. Currently, there are also mobile applications (e.g. IDS BK) for purchasing online travel tickets, and purchasing a ticket through the app is usually cheaper than using a ticket machine. The SMS ticket can be bought only from a telephone number assigned by a Slovak mobile operator.
To buy an electronic SMS ticket send an empty SMS message or an SMS with one character to a number you can usually find imprinted somewhere on a bus. In Bratislava it is 1140 (40-minute journey) or 1100 (70-minute journey).

Tickets vary from town to town. There are time-tickets (you can change means of transport within a given period of time, e.g. in Bratislava) or single-use tickets (every time you change means of transport, you have to purchase a new ticket, e.g. Banská Bystrica). In some towns, the fare depends on tariff zones given by the town area. There are usually also tickets valid for several days upon validation after entering the means of transport. Tickets must be also purchased for any large pieces of luggage and accompanying animals.

For those you decide to stay longer in a certain town and know they will be using public transport more often than once per day, it is recommended to buy a travel pass, for example a 30-, 90-, or a yearly 365day pass. To get a pass one needs to provide a current photograph (3 × 3.5 cm), an ID card with a temporary or permanent residency or a passport together with a completed application form or have an online pass purchased through the IDS BK app.
Children, students and pensioners are able to travel with reduced fares.

In 2026 the prices are as follows: 20,25 €, 54,10 € and 131,50 € for 30-, 90-, 365day pass respectively.

USEFUL GLOSSARY

Slovak	**English**
autobus	bus
električka	tram
trolejbus	trolleybus
zastávka	bus /trolleybus/ tram stop
cestovný poriadok	schedule
cestovný lístok	single (one-time) ticket
mesačný lístok/ električenka	monthly travel pass
zastávka na znamenie	request stop

Information on the routes and schedules in Bratislava can be found at Bratislava public transport website (imhd.sk/ba) but also through Google Maps. It is necessary to be familiar with the Slovak names of the bus stops to plan a journey.

Travelling by Train
There are several different types of trains in Slovakia, e.g. IC (InterCity), SC (SuperCity), EC (EuroCity), Ex (Express train), R (Fast train – in Slovak "rýchlik"), RR (Regional fast train - in Slovak: "regionálny rýchlik"), REX (Regional express train- in Slovak "regionálny expres"), and Os (Passanger train – in Slovak "osobný vlak"). There are also two private railroad providers RegioJet and Leo Express.

How to Find a Connection and Buy a Ticket

SLOVAK RAIL
The websites of the Slovak Railways (https://www.zssk.sk/en/) provides information about time schedules, prices, duration of the journey and whether you have to switch trains at any point. An online ticket is available to purchase through this website.
Tickets can be bought also at the train station ticket desks or at some train stations in ticket machines. There is an app IDeme vlakom available for purchasing tickets and searching for connections.
If applicable, the employee at the railway station may ask what type of train you would prefer. To guarantee a seat, it is possible to buy a seat reservation (in Slovak: "miestenka"), as trains may be crowded, especially on Fridays and Sundays when students travel to and from larger cities home. Since 2025 on domestic fast trains, some carriages have compulsory seat reservations. This means you can only embark three carriages (Nos. 3, 4, and 5) with purchased seat reservation. It is prohibited to stand in the corridor. International trains run several times per day from several train stations in the country. Seat reservations are mandatory on these trains.

ONLINE ITINERARY SERVICE

Online itinerary service (https://cp.hnonline.sk/en/vlakbusmhd/spojenie/) or https://www.ubian.sk/ websites provide a complex travel itinerary planner. You can search according to the means of public transport (bus, train, municipal public transport) and also search for optimal combination of them to find the shortest route.

Zero-fare Public Rail Transport Services in Slovakia

Full-time students under 26 years of age with EU/EEA/Switzerland citizenship or residence are entitled to zero-fare public rail transport services. Eligible passengers are required to register at the Slovak Railways ticket desks or via the internet. Upon registration, they will obtain their rail customer cards that will allow them to travel for free.

Students from countries outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland can also get a zero-fare ticket once they have submitted a confirmation of enrolment for the current academic year at an HEI institution in Slovakia together with an official translation to Slovak language and their ID card or passport.

Zero-fare tickets are passenger specific and apply to the trains of all categories operated by the Slovak Railways (apart from InterCity and private trains, e.g. Regiojet. Eligible passengers are required to secure one zero-fare ticket for each journey. For EuroCity/InterCity trains transit there is surcharge of 1 € for a seat reservation. When travelling outside Slovakia, the zero-fare transport is available only to the last train station in the territory of the Slovak Republic before crossing the border.

Detailed information about zero fare travel is available on some websites.

Travelling by Coach

While the trains are more comfortable, coaches are sometimes more direct; they connect most of the towns and villages in Slovakia and are reliable and satisfactory. The first thing is to check out the already mentioned online itinerary service website, where useful information on time schedule, duration of the route, prices, stops, etc. Can be found.

For international bus travel one can buy tickets at the ticket desks or through a travel agency. Eurolines is one of the biggest providers operating international lines together with its domestic branch Slovak Lines.

For international lines operated by Eurolines , it is possible to buy/book a ticket online at their website.

Flixbus is a transport company operating lines to over 2,500 travel destinations in 34 countries internationally within whole Europe.

Student Agency also provides several international and domestic lines with special prices for students (tickets can be bought online).

How to Buy a Ticket

Generally, when travelling by coach within Slovakia, tickets can be bought upon boarding. It is possible to buy a ticket with a seat reservation (in Slovak: “miestenka”) for long distance coaches at the ticket office of any bus station or in some cases online.

TRAVEL WITHIN AND BEYOND SCHENGEN

TRAVEL RULES FOR FOREIGN (NON-EU) STUDENTS IN SLOVAKIA

Temporary residence permit for the purpose of study legally allows anyone to stay and study in Slovakia during the period stated on the residence card.
However, there are some important travel-related rules to keep in mind:

1. Travel within the Schengen Area

- Slovakia is part of the **Schengen Zone**.
- With a valid Slovak residence card, you can **travel to other Schengen countries** (like Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, etc.) **for up to 90 days within any 180-day period** for tourism, conferences, or short visits.
- **You must still live mainly in Slovakia**, as it is the country that issued your residence permit.

2. Travel outside the Schengen Area

- If you travel outside the Schengen Area (for example, to Ukraine, Serbia, or Turkey), you can **re-enter Slovakia** only while your residence card is still valid.
- Make sure your **passport and residence permit** are valid on your return date. If either one expires while you are abroad, you may have troubles re-entering.

3. Reporting changes

- If you leave Slovakia for **more than 180 days**, or if you change your address, school, or study status, you must **notify the Foreign Police** offices within the legal deadline (usually within 5 working days after the change).

Renewal Deadlines (Extending Your Residence Permit)
Your residence permit is **temporary**, meaning it expires after a prior set period (usually **one year**) or for the duration of your study programme.
How renewal works:

- You must **apply for renewal before your current permit expires**.
- The usual deadline is **at least 90 days before the expiry date** of your current residence permit.
- You renew your permit **at the same Foreign Police** officewhere you are registered.
- You will need to show:
  - Proof that you are **still a full-time student** (confirmation from your university).
  - Proof of **accommodation**.
  - Proof of **sufficient financial resources** (bank account details).
  - Valid **health insurance**.

In case you miss the renewal deadline, your permit may expire, and you would have to **leave Slovakia** and start the entire application process again from your home country.