



SLOVAKIA

Geography

Jozef Jurko

Location

Slovakia is an inland country located in central Europe. Slovakia is bordered by Poland to the north, Ukraine to the east, Hungary to the south, Austria to the southwest and the Czech republic to the west.



map of Slovakia

Division of Slovakia

Slovakia is divided into three parts: eastern Slovakia, central Slovakia and western Slovakia. The most developed part is western Slovakia, and the least developed part is eastern Slovakia.



Green colour - western Slovakia
Orange colour - central Slovakia
Blue colour - eastern Slovakia

Cities

The capital of Slovakia is Bratislava, which is located in very western part of Slovakia, near Austria. With its 475 000 citizens, it is also the biggest city in Slovakia. Second and third biggest cities are Košice and Prešov. They lie in eastern Slovakia. Other big cities are Banská Bystrica, Žilina, Nitra, Trnava and Trenčín.



Košice



Bratislava

Industry

The main industry sectors in Slovakia are car manufacturing and electrical engineering. In fact, Slovakia has been the world's largest producer of cars per capita. There are currently four automobile assembly plants: Volkswagen in Bratislava , PSA Peugeot Citroën in Trnava, Kia Motors Žilina Plant and Jaguar



Kia Motors Žilina Plant



Volkswagen in Bratislava

Nature

Slovakia is mostly mountainous country. The highest mountain range, High Tatras, are situated in northern part of Slovakia. They form natural border between Slovakia and Poland. There are a lot of hotels and mountain huts that can be visited. It is a very popular place for hiking and skiing. There are also other mountain ranges that are worth visiting, like Low Tatras.



High Tatras



Low Tatras

National parks

There are nine national parks in Slovakia:

Tatra National park - the biggest

Low Tatras national park

Veľká Fatra national park

Slovak Karst national park

Poloniny National park

Malá Fatra National park

Muránska planina National park

Slovak paradise National park

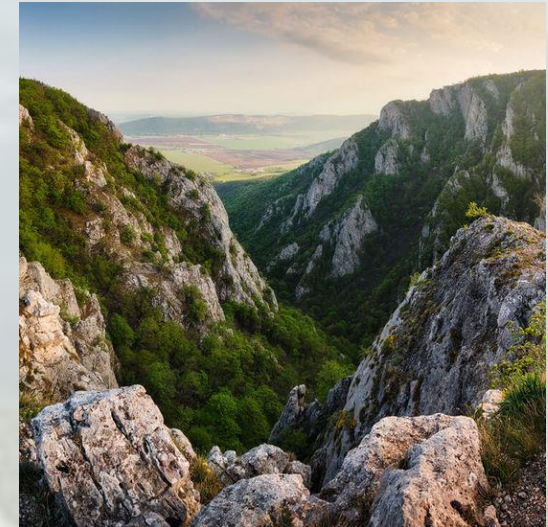
Pieniny National park – a great place to observe night sky



night sky at Pieniny National park



Malá Fatra National park



Slovak Karst national park

Caves

Slavakia has over 7000 caves, but only a few of them are open to the public. Most visited are Dobšiná Ice Cave, Ochtinská Aragonite Cave, with unique aragonite formations and Domica, which continues into Hungary. These caves are included in Unesco world heritage list.



*unique aragonite formations
in Ochtinská Aragonite Cave*



sail on a boat in Domica

Rivers and dams

Slovakia has a lot of rivers. Main river is Danube. It forms a state border with Austria and Hungary. Next important rivers are, Váh, Hron, Ipel' and Morava. Interesting is also Dunajec, where you can sail on rafts. There are also dams in Slovakia, like Liptovská Mara, Orava reservoir or Zemplínska šírava.



Liptovská Mara



sail on rafts on Dunajec

Castles and chateaux

Castles and chateaux are everywhere in Slovakia. There are many various legends and myths related to them. Bojnice castle, Bratislava castle and Spiš castle are very beautiful and popular ones. They are visited by many tourists every year.



Spiš castle



Bojnice castle

A scenic view of a mountain range. The foreground shows a steep, green mountain slope. In the background, there are several layers of mountain ranges, with the distant ones appearing hazy. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

Thank you for paying attention