

# What Bratislava is

→ A metropolitan city with almost a half million population, **capital of the Slovak Republic** since 1993, part of the **European Union** since 2004 and whose official currency is the **euro**;

→ Only capital in the world **located on the border of three countries - Slovakia, Austria and Hungary**, and the closest to another capital - Vienna;

→ Once part of the lands **settled by the ancient Celts (Boii)**, famous for building military camps to guard their territory and for **Biatacs**, the coins they minted. Remains of **Limes Romanus**, in a unique border defence called Gerulata, can be found in the **Rusovce** neighbourhood south of Bratislava.

→ Historically called **Pressburg, Pozsony, Prešporok**, it was the capital of the Kingdom of Hungary from 1536 to 1783;

→ Known for the **"BRATISLAVA PROMENADE"**, streets lined with numerous original cafés and with a special atmosphere;

→ **Coronation town** of the Hungarian kings of the House of Habsburg between the years 1563 - 1830, where 11 kings and 7 royal spouses were crowned in the

St. Martin's Cathedral, among them also **Maria Theresa** in 1741;

→ Its **compact historical centre** still has many architectural signs of its royal past - beautiful mansions and family villas of world-famous artists, architects and inventors such as **Johann Nepomuk Hummel, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Franz Liszt, Ludwig von Beethoven, Bela Bartók, Joseph Haydn, Rudolf von Laban, Franz Xaver Messerschmidt, Arthur Fleischmann, Wolfgang von Kempelen and Johann Andreas Segner**;

→ Remarkable legacies from the **Communist era** in **Petržalka**, Central Europe's largest neighbourhood of housing estates. Historically called Engerau;

→ **Surrounded by vineyards** producing quality wine that can be tasted at stylish wine bars scattered across the city centre and at typical cellars in Rača, Devín and Vajnory neighbourhoods, all of which offer a fantastic culinary experience;

→ An environmentally-friendly **city on the Danube** with unspoilt natural treasures and protected natural habitats of Europe-an significance.

## Tastes of the City

Culinary specialties are an integral part to getting to know the culture. Stylish restaurants, beer halls and local breweries alongside modern bistros offer a wide range of diverse food: Different specialties of old Pressburg (Austro-Hungarian), traditional Slovak cuisine (influenced by rural shepherd culture) as well as high-quality international and vegan gastronomy.



### COFFEE TIPS

Try Bratislava Rolls along with a good cup of coffee at the numerous cafés located in the hidden streets of old Bratislava: **Kaffe Mayer** (kaffeemayer.sk), **F. X. Messerschmidt Café** (messerschmidt.sk) and **Zeppelin Café** (zeppelincafe.sk).



### SWEET TIPS

You may not know that one of the most famous sweet delicacies of Bratislava (old Pressburg) is the **Bratislava Roll**. The original pastry is prepared from yeast dough and filled with walnut or poppy seed filling (muzeumobchoduba.sk).



### TRADITIONAL TIPS

For traditional Slovak or Pressburg cuisine try these restaurants in the city centre: **1. Slovak Pub** (slovakpub.sk), **Zylinder** (zylinder.sk), **Leberfinger** (leberfinger.sk), **Savoy** (savoyrestaurant.sk) or **Bratislava Flagship Restaurant** (bratislavskarestauracia.sk).



### ALTERNATIVE TIPS

Discover local bistros offering deli dishes at **Regal Burger** (regalburger.com), **Orbis Street Food** (orbisfood.sk), **Veg life** (veglife.sk) and **Bistro Soho** (bistrosoho.sk).



## Environmentally Friendly City

Bratislava's clean natural lakes, public parks and gardens are the green lungs of Bratislava. Forests and vineyards reaching almost to its centre are an important part of the city ecosystem.

### PARK TIPS

**Horský Park (Mountain Park)** features a historical gamekeeper's lodge and traditional Pressburg café (horaren.sk), while the **Bratislava Koliba forest park** with the **Kamzík TV Tower** and its revolving restaurant (altitude.sk) offer a view of the whole city.



### GARDEN TIPS

Relax right in the city centre with its plentiful historical gardens and parks, such as **Grassalkovich Palace** (where the President of Slovakia has his office), the **Baroque Garden** and **Medická záhrada (Medicine Garden)** in the Old Town. A favourite spot for Bratislava residents and one of Central Europe's oldest public parks is **Sad Janka Kráľa**, on the right bank of the Danube in Petržalka. Devoted botanists can also visit the **Botanical Garden**.

### SPORT AND ADRENALIN

Bratislava offers many opportunities for active recreation, including jogging and cycling routes. Try a **running tour of the city**, a non-traditional way of seeing its main attractions (gorunningtoursbratislava.com). The south route winding **along the Danube** is very popular among inliners, cyclists and joggers, while those not wishing to hike long distances can take the cable car between **Koliba** and **Železná studienka**.

## Museums and Galleries

Bratislava offers more than 65 specialised museums and galleries ranging from Slovak contemporary art to examples of the city's rich cultural past.

### BRATISLAVA CITY GALLERY (gmb.sk)

Slovakia's second-largest gallery exhibits extensive collections of Slovak and international fine art in two buildings: Mirbach Palace **10** and Pálffy Palace. **11**

### SLOVAK NATIONAL GALLERY (sng.sk)

More than 60,000 pieces of art of national and international origin are included in its collection. The gallery primarily has exhibitions of original art and offers a number of cultural, social and educational programmes for the public. **14**



### BRATISLAVA CITY MUSEUM (muzeum.bratislava.sk)

Exhibitions of local history provide visitors a wide range of information about **Bratislava's past** **4**, its **winemaking** **5** and horological traditions, pharmacies and the life and times of celebrities born in Bratislava like Johann Nepomuk Hummel and Arthur Fleischmann. The Bratislava City Museum operates several national heritage sites such as the **Roman military camp in Gerulata** and the ruins of the **Devín Castle**.

### MUSEUM TIPS

Check out the unique **Museum of Jewish Culture** **6** (snm.sk), **Museum of Trade** **7** (muzeumobchoduba.sk) and **Gas Industry Museum** (spolocne.sk/muzeum).

### NEDBALKA GALLERY (nedbalka.sk)

Permanent exhibitions of original Slovak modern fine art are shown in an incredibly impressive interior reminiscent of the Guggenheim Museum in New York. **12**

### SLOVAK NATIONAL MUSEUM (snm.sk)

Comprises 18 specialised museums located throughout Slovakia. In Bratislava there are museums of **history** **2**, **archaeology** **3**, **natural sciences** **1** and **minority museums (Museum of Carpathian German Culture and Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia)**. **9**

### DANUBIANA MEULENSTEEN ART MUSEUM (danubiana.sk)

Located on a peninsula jutting into the Danube River, Danubiana presents a symbiosis of fine art, modern architecture and natural treasures. **13**

### TIPS FOR CHILDREN

**Bibiana - International House of Art for Children** **15** (bibiana.sk), and the **Museum of Transport** **8** - see the 100-year-old tram that once ran between Bratislava and Vienna (muzeumdopravy.com), the **Waterworks Museum** (vodarenskemuzeum.sk) with a lovely green park for children, or experience the **adventure of BS 4**, a **real military bunker with stylish GAZ 69 military cars** (what-bratislava.sk).



## After the Sun Goes Down

Bratislava is a very popular, sought after destination at night. Enjoy the atmosphere of the city promenade and explore the different music clubs and wine cellars hidden underground.

### WINE TIPS

It makes a difference where a glass of local wine is tasted and the best place to taste it is in an underground wine cellar like the **Slovak National Collection of Wine (Národný salón vín)** (nsvsr.sk), **Wine Bar at the Blue Church (Vinotéka pri Modrom kostolíku)** (monvin.sk) or **In Vino** (invino.sk) on Palisády Street.



### CULTURE TIPS

We recommend you to visit two most prestigious festivals of classical music: **Bratislava Music Festival** (bhsfestival.sk) and the summer **festival viva musica** (vivamusica.sk).

### ALTERNATIV TIPS

For alternative music, the places to be are **Majestic Music Club** (majestic.sk) for concerts, **Babylon** for unplugged music (babylonatelier.sk), the all-purpose building at **Stará Tržnica** (Old Market Hall), the underground scene at **Nu Spirit** (nuspirit.sk), the countercultural **Subclub** (subclub.sk), the multicultural **kc\_dunaj** (kcdunaj.sk).

### PARTY TIPS

Luxury nightclub **The Club**; new **Great club**; **Unique**, a hangout for university students; the cocktail bar at **Rio Grande Restaurant**; **Night Bar & Café**; the exquisite **Masquerade bar** and the three-storey **Channells Club** are the places in Bratislava to go to party.

### MARKET TIPS

Gourmets looking for fresh, sustainable food can come to the farmers' market at **Stará Tržnica** (staratrznica.sk) any Saturday or to an authentic marketplace on **Miletičova Street** (mileticka.sk).



### BEER TIPS

Bratislava's breweries are a separate world with their own unique life and atmosphere. Taste local beers of all kinds such as **Dunajský pivovar**, (dunajskypivovar.sk), **Meštiansky pivovar**, (mestianskypivovar.sk), **Kláštorný pivovar** (klastornypivovar.sk), **Fabrika** (fabrikapub.sk) and **Minipivovar Richtár Jakub** (richtarjakub.sk)



# Bratislava

- Top city attractions
- Culinary tips
- Bratislava at night

Prešporok  
Pressburg  
Pozsony

Bratislava's biggest advantage is its **accessibility**. The vast majority of key attractions in its compact centre are within walking distance of each other, while an **integrated transport system** provides access to locations further away. Tickets can be purchased at dispensers situated at tram/bus stops or from newspaper stands, and are then validated by inserting the ticket in any of the machines inside the tram or bus. Children under 6 years do not have to purchase a ticket and those between 6 - 16 years can purchase discount tickets. (dpb.sk for more information)

**M.R. Štefanik Bratislava Airport (BTS)** is located 15-20 minutes from the centre - take BUS 61 to the airport. (bts.aero) **Vienna International Airport** is situated 40 km away, in Schwechat (VIE), with buses leaving every 30 minutes to 1 hour from Bratislava. (slovaklines.sk, regiojet.sk, flixbus.sk)

Bratislava can be reached by boat directly from harbour at Schwedenplatz and Handelskai in the **city centre of Vienna**. (twincityliner.com, lod.sk)



Published by Bratislava Tourist Board, 2018  
www.visitbratislava.com

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A mobile app provides convenient, user-friendly **taxi** service (hopin.sk).

Convenient **bus and train connections** to many European cities and other regions of Slovakia. (slovakrail.sk, slovaklines.sk, regiojet.sk, flixbus.sk, eurolines.sk)



★ BRATISLAVA CASTLE

Originally a royal residence and today the symbol of Bratislava and the home of the Museum of History, its 47-metre-high crown tower, where the royal coronation jewels were once stored, offers a stunning view of the city.



★ ST. MARTIN'S CATHEDRAL

This 15<sup>th</sup> century Gothic cathedral is the former coronation church and its claim to fame can be seen in a gilded replica of a crown on top of the 85-metre-high cathedral tower, a reminder of when Hunagrian kings were crowned here.



★ OLD TOWN HALL

Originally the seat of the municipal government, since 1868 it has been the home of the Bratislava City Museum, Slovakia's oldest museum. A narrow stairway leads to its 45-metre-high tower, offering a beautiful panoramic view of the Old Town.



★ PRIMATE'S PALACE

It was in this 18<sup>th</sup> century Neo-classical palace where representatives of the French Republic and the Emperor of Austria signed the Peace of Pressburg, following Napoleon's victory at the Battle of Austerlitz. It is currently a gallery housing a unique collection of six English tapestries dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.



★ MICHAEL'S GATE

The only remaining gate from the city's 14<sup>th</sup> century fortifications, the upper terrace of its 51-metre-high tower offers an impressive view of Bratislava Castle and the Old Town. The tower itself houses the Museum of Arms.



★ BLUE CHURCH

The unusual blue colour of the Art Nouveau church of St. Elizabeth, constructed at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, provides a marvellous sight for visitors. The church features detailed façade work with the frequent use of mosaics.



★ DEVÍN

The ruins of the former castle, rising from a high rock above the confluence of the Danube and Morava Rivers, are a major historical and archaeological site. Moreover, it offers charming natural scenery with incredible views.



★ SLAVÍN

The largest military monument in Central Europe, its 52-metre height also makes it one of the city's dominant features. 6,845 Soviet soldiers who died in the liberation of Bratislava during the Second World War are buried here.



★ MATEJ KRÉN PASSAGE

This unique design was installed in the Pálffy Palace (GMB) to evoke an illusion of an endless space made from books. It has been praised by many world experts and a number of visualisations and photographs have been published in major fine arts journals throughout the world.



★ UFO OBSERVATION DECK

Enjoy an extraordinary view of up to 100 km from the observation deck on this 95-metre-high bridge pillar. Combined with a truly outstanding culinary experience at the restaurant here, the UFO observation deck is one of the must-see places in Bratislava.



★ BRATISLAVA STATUES

Encounter Schöne Náci, an iconic elegantly dressed man with a walking stick, curious "Čumil" rubbernecking from a manhole, a relaxed soldier from Napoleon's army leaning over a bench or Hans Christian Andersen surrounded with figures stepping out of his fairy tales who visited Bratislava in 1841.

More information at [visitbratislava.com](http://visitbratislava.com)

Discover the City

Tours are offered in the comfortable historical vehicles **Prešporáčik** and **Blaváčik**. ([tour4u.sk](http://tour4u.sk), [blavacki.sk](http://blavacki.sk))

Themed tours of the city and Bratislava region are offered by the BTB Tourist Information Centre, Kloboučnícka Street 2. A one-hour walking tour starts every day at the TIC with guides speaking Slovak, English or German (sign up 2 hours in advance). **Contacts:** +421 2 5443 4059, +421 905 848 407, [guides@visitbratislava.com](mailto:guides@visitbratislava.com)

**Tourist Information Centre**  
Kloboučnícka 2, Old City, tel: +421 216 186, [touristinfo@visitbratislava.com](mailto:touristinfo@visitbratislava.com)



**BRATISLAVA CARD**

- Free public transport
- Free guided walking tour and Free admission to selected museums
- Discounts up to 50 %
- Purchase the card at Tourist information centres or partners indicated by the card sticker
- Information and online sale at [visitbratislava.com/bc](http://visitbratislava.com/bc)



Experience the City

**CYCLING TIPS**  
Cycling routes labelled "C" are direct connections to **Eurovelo 6** and **13**. Bicycles can be hired for the whole family ([bike-bratislava.sk](http://bike-bratislava.sk), [upcity.sk](http://upcity.sk)). Discover many surprisingly beautiful places **cycling in the forests of the Little Carpathians**.

**TIPS FOR CRUISES**  
Enjoy **crises along the Danube** to Devín Castle and Gabčíkovo Dam, to the Danubiana Gallery and Divoká voda area in Čunovo, eventually use catamaran for trip to **Vienna** ([floratour.sk](http://floratour.sk)). Anyone looking to see untouched nature will enjoy canoe trips on the **Little Danube** ([authenticslovakia.com](http://authenticslovakia.com), [canotrips.sk](http://canotrips.sk)).

**WALKING/HIKING TIPS**  
Walk through the **Devínska Kobyla National Natural Reserve** at the foothills of the Little Carpathian Mountains and visit the **Sandberg Paleontology Centre** with its amazing prehistoric fossils, **Koliba** with its summer bobsleigh route and **Kamzik** with a panoramic view from the revolving restaurant, and in winter take advantage of the opportunities for sledging and skiing ([ekovylety.sk](http://ekovylety.sk)).

**TIPS CAR LOVERS**  
Take a chance to **rent a fully electrical vehicle Volkswagen e-up** and discover hidden places in Bratislava, or rent an **electrical bike, even electrical scooter** for more fun with your family or friends ([upcity.sk](http://upcity.sk)).

**FOR WINE-TASTING TO THE LITTLE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS**  
**The Little Carpathians Wine Route** starts right at the gates of the town, offering tasting and events for wine lovers, filling a specialized calendar all year round. ([mvc.sk](http://mvc.sk)).



**SHOPPING TIPS**  
Bratislava city centre has **three shopping centres - Eurovea** ([eurovea.sk](http://eurovea.sk)), **Aupark** ([aupark.sk](http://aupark.sk)) and **Central** ([central.sk](http://central.sk)) offering anything you need in fashion, jewellery, electronics, home décor, and books as well as furniture.

**TIPS FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**  
**Bratislava Zoo and Dino Park** ([zoobrat-slava.sk](http://zoobrat-slava.sk)), **Stupava Farmhouse** ([biofarma.sk](http://biofarma.sk)), the indoor **Kidshouse** ([kidshouse.sk](http://kidshouse.sk)) and **X-Bionic Sphere** - an all-year sporting and **water complex** ([x-bionicsphere.com](http://x-bionicsphere.com)) located in Šamorín, just 20 kilometres from the city centre.

**RECOMMENDED SIGHTSEEING ROUTES**  
Start - Tourist Information Centre (TIC), Kloboučnícka 2

**Old Town Route** (Use an accredited tourist information centre guide on this route for a more worthwhile tour)

Primate's Palace Old Town Hall Bratislava City Gallery - Mirbach Palace Museum of Trade Michael's Gate Statues Bratislava City Gallery - Pálffy Palace St. Martin's Cathedral Citywalls Slovak National Theatre

**Castle Route (self-guided tour)**

Primate's Palace Michael's Gate Museum of Jewish Culture Bratislava Castle St. Martin's Cathedral Citywalls Slovak National Gallery Slovak National Museum - Exposition of Natural Sciences

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