



WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS IN BRATISLAVA



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Handbook for Incoming Students

Bratislava, January 2017



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1. Welcome Greetings

Dear Incoming Students!

Welcome to the University of Economics in Bratislava, the oldest university in Slovakia focusing on Economics, Business and Management! We are delighted that you'll be joining us and we look forward to meeting you in person.

At the University of Economics in Bratislava we are extremely proud of our international reputation and cooperation. The contractual base currently consists of more than 300 bilateral agreements with university institutions established in over 60 countries of the world on 5 continents. The UEBA achieved excellent results in mobility programs, which was previously awarded by renowned national and international institutions such as the European Commission.



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The University of Economics in Bratislava belong under the Erasmus+ program to the TOP 200 higher education institutions in Europe in terms of the number of outgoing students. Equally gratifying is the high interest from foreign university students, which helps to create stimulating academic environment. You'll also be confronted with different views and intercultural diversity, which will help you better explore the world. I am certain that your time at the University of Economics in Bratislava will be enjoyable and fruitful.

Please familiarize yourself with this Guide, which was design for you by the team of International Relations Office to help you better find your way at the university and in our capital.

With best greetings,

Boris Mattoš

*Vice-Rector for International Relations
University of Economics in Bratislava*



2. Facts about the University of Economics in Bratislava

The University of Economics in Bratislava (UEBA), was established in 1940, it is historically the first Higher Education Institution focusing on Economics, Business and Management studies in Slovakia. It provides a higher education in Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral programmes for full-time and part-time students. In terms of student numbers, the UEBA's share of the Slovak Higher Education market is significant, and it maintains its leading position in the provision of Economics, Business and Management degree programmes. The University of Economics in Bratislava has around 10.000 students and 620 teachers.

On the basis of the comprehensive accreditation of Higher Education Institutions in the Slovak Republic, (2008 - 2009), the University was classified by the Slovak Accreditation Commission as a "university type higher education institution" which is the highest category of higher education institutions in Slovakia.

The University of Economics in Bratislava has established a wide and mutually beneficial network with various institutions from both private and public sectors in Slovakia and abroad. The UEBA has achieved an excellent reputation as a result of the high employability of its graduates. A numbers of university graduates hold leading positions in the Slovak economy and society.



Campus of the University of Economics in Bratislava

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3. Introduction to Bratislava

BRATISLAVA (population app. 450.000), situated in the south-west of Slovakia stretches along both banks of the Danube and in to the foothills of the Little Carpathian Mountain range. Due to its favorable position it was always a commercial center. This strategically important place has often played a big role in the history of central Europe. In the 14th and 15th centuries Bratislava experience a period of rapid development in trade. The opening of the Academia Istropolitana (1467) strengthened the importance of Bratislava as the cultural and educational center of the Kingdom of Hungary. After the Turks penetrated deeper into the Kingdom, Bratislava was established as its Capital and administrative center, the seat of the Hungarian Diet, the coronation town of Hungarian Kings and Queens. Eleven monarchs and eight royal wives were crowned in Bratislava in between 1563 and 1830.

Wars against the Turks, and Rebellions of the estates, interrupted the development of the town in the 16th and 17th centuries. However, in the 18th century, and above all during the reign of **Queen Maria Theresa** the significance of Bratislava increased once more. A great number of wonderful palaces and buildings still survive from that period. The city became the center of culture in the 19th century and the cradle of the **Slovak national emancipation**. The revolutionary events, worker's movement, and the World War I. negatively affected Bratislava which, nevertheless, became the center of the political, economic and cultural life of Slovaks people after 1918.



St. Martin's Cathedral

©Tibor Kosztanko



Despite its exciting history, Bratislava is one of the youngest capitals of the world; its population is also very young. This modern metropolis has opened up to Europe and to the rest of the world, a fact proved by the increasing number of visitors from many different countries. They are attracted by the coziness of this rather small city. Which nevertheless possesses a throbbing social life and historic charms combined with the most recent trends. Palaces, modern shopping and trade centers, the admirable craft of the Slovak chefs and brewers, friendly people and various international cultural and sport events, exhibitions, and business opportunities are all reasons why it is worth visiting
(Summarized from: <http://slovakia.travel/en/bratislava>).

4. How to get to Bratislava

By plane

Bratislava is served by two international airports: The M. R. Štefánik Airport, which is located 9km from the city centre. Or Schwechat Airport (Vienna), just 45 minutes to the Bratislava centre by bus or car.

By train

Bratislava's main railway station is about 10 minutes walk from the city centre. Services from Austria, Germany, Hungary and more, terminate here.

By bus

Bus services from across Europe operate through Bratislava, with many services terminating at Bratislava's Central Bus Station at Mlynské nivy.

Source: <https://reactiveconf.com/venue>

FROM VIENNA AIRPORT TO BRATISLAVA

A convenient and very economical way to reach Bratislava is by bus (Regiojet).

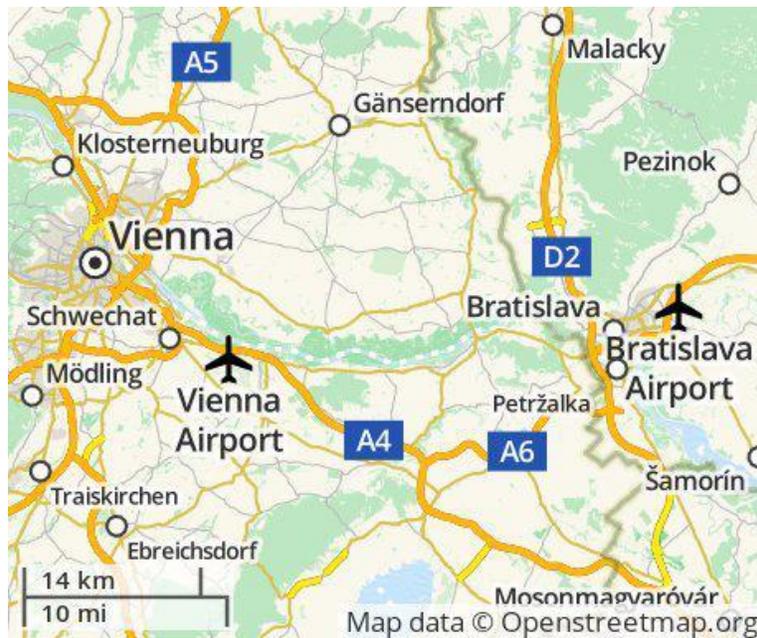
Useful links:

<https://www.regiojet.sk/>

<https://www.studentagency.cz/>

At only 4€ per passenger for one – way trip (if you book online), or otherwise 5€, (luggage included), Regiojet provides transportation seven days a week with multiple schedules per day (for real time schedule, prices and seat availability check the website).

There are also other alternatives such as busses run by Slovak lines and the train service.
http://www.viennaairport.com/en/passengers/arrival__parking/bus_connections
<https://www.slovaklines.sk/main-page.html>.



TRAVELLING FROM VIENNA HAUPTBAHNHOF RAILWAY STATION TO BRATISLAVA HLAVNÁ STANICA RAILWAY STATION

There is a direct connection between both cities. It takes approximately **1 hour** to get from one central station to another. Bratislava's central station is called Bratislava - Hlavná stanica, often shortened to Bratislava- Hl. st., in some occasions. In Vienna you will get to the newly built Wien Hauptbahnhof central station.

New Central Railway Station in Vienna, including the new BahnhofCity mall, was opened on 10 October 2014. Bratislava's central station is still waiting for the reconstruction, so do not get surprised by the extreme difference between both stations.



TICKETS AND PRICES

TICKET	NORMAL TARIFF	REDUCED TARIFF FOR CHILDREN AND DOGS
Return ticket "Vienna Ticket"	13€	6,50€
Return ticket valid for city transport within Vienna "Vienna Ticket + Z 100"	17,50€	8,50€
Ticket valid 1 week	34€	20€
Ticket valid 1 month	103€	65€

(State up to 1 January 2017)

GETTING AROUND BRATISLAVA

By foot

Many of the city's main attractions are in and around the Old Town area and are reachable on foot; however, you will need to use public transport at some stage during your stay.

By tram

Trams run across Bratislava on 13 different lines and are a very popular way of getting around the city.

Source: <https://reactiveconf.com/venue>

By bus

Bratislava's extensive bus network runs on approximately 60 routes each day, with around 18 routes served during the night.



4.1 Visas

Based on the Letter of Acceptance sent by the International Relations Office of the University of Economics in Bratislava, all student arriving from an EU non-member state are obliged to take proper care of his/her visa at the relevant embassy, i.e., before arriving in the Slovak Republic.

Note: Some students have arrived with a visa giving a permit that was only valid for 2 months (rather than 5 or 10 months) which has caused serious complications in prolonging their study-stay.

In order to prevent unnecessary problems, please deal with this situation very carefully.

Even students who don't need visas to enter the Slovak Republic must still register with the Immigration authority (the Aliens Police Department) and apply for a temporary residence permit.

Further information: http://www.mzv.sk/en/consular_info/visa



City view

© Anastasia Shlokova



FOR NON EU CITIZENS

If you are non EU citizen you have to go through 3 steps:

- Register at Foreign Police Office as soon as possible;
- Whole process takes a while; you need to get a residence permit before your visa expires
- You will obtain Resident card;
- You have to deliver Health check results to Foreign Police Office.

Consider that the health check must be done in Slovakia and you will have to pay for it, depending from which country you come from. The prices varies from 180€ to 260€. For all needed documents for health check and permit residence, you can turn to ESN buddy system.

NITRA Nitra hospital	BRATISLAVA Exotic diseases polyclinic - ZAMA s.r.o	BRATISLAVA INOCEM Institute – DR. BAKOŠ
Infekčná klinika Ambulancia pre cudzokrajné choroby Fakultnej nemocnice Nitra Špitálska 6 949 01 Nitra 037/65 45 955	Poliklinika cudzokrajných chorôb ZAMA s.r.o Americké námestie 3 811 08 Bratislava 02/52 92 56 88	Inštitút očkovania a cestovnej medicíny Teslova 33 821 02 Bratislava +421915 889 054 (Dr. Bakoš)
<p>You will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - urine sample - stool sample <p>- up to 180€ (price depends on - the country you are from)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - passport - slovak speaking person <p><i>No eating no drinking before going there.</i></p> <p><i>It takes 10 days to get results.</i></p>		<p>STEPS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call Mediconet on 02/32171211 (Address: Haydukova 14, 81101 Bratislava) you will get blood, urine, stool tests and X-ray of the lung there 2. After the collection of the results (cca 7-10 days) you will be given date at time for your appointment at the institute (Dr. Bakoš) 3. At the time of your appointment your results will be explained and you will receive a certificate for the local authorities 4. The payment of 199 EUR is due after you will receive your certificate



5. Getting to the University of Economics in Bratislava

There are multiple options to get to University of Economics (aka "Ekonomická univerzita") from different parts of Bratislava. To plan your trip, use the website <http://imhd.sk/ba/public-transport>

For example, to travel from Bratislava main bus station (Mlynské Nivy) to the University of Economics, put Mlynské Nivy as the origin and Ekonomická univerzita as destination. You will find something similar to the screenshots below with the appropriate bus line, transfers if any, and different time options.

Journey Planner "Mlynské nivy" » "Ekonomická univerzita"

I travel from

I travel to

I depart I arrive

23.8.2016 TODAY, Tuesday + - at 10:00 + -

Departure	Arrival	Duration*	Connection	Price*
10:04	10:18	14 min	🚶 50 68	0.70 €
10:10	10:20	10 min	78 88	0.70 €
10:14	10:28	14 min	🚶 50 87	0.70 €
10:20	10:32	12 min	🚶 88	0.70 €
10:27	10:42	15 min	🚶 202 🚶 68	0.70 €

When you click further, for example on the journey highlighted in yellow, you will find the trip breakdown of the journey starting with departure from the main bus station at 10:10am.



Connection 23rd Aug 2016 **10:10** - 10:20 (10 min)

Zones: 100, Price: 0.70 €*

78	► Staré Mesto, Nové SND
	10:10 Mlynské nivy zone 100
	1 stop, 2 min zone 100
	10:12 Twin City zone 100
88	► Most SNP cez Petržalku
	10:14 Twin City zone 100
	3 stops, 6 min zone 100
	10:20 Ekonomická univerzita zone 100

This journey example means that to go from the main bus station to the University of Economics in Bratislava, you will first take bus #78 from the main bus station (Mlynske Nivy) to Twin City bus stop; at Twin City you will switch to bus #88 and go all the way to the Ekonomická Univerzita bus stop.

imhd.sk has both a desk top version and an app you can download on your smartphone.

Bus tickets and fares

Tickets are available in the ticket machines at the bus and tram stops, and at some newspaper kiosks. Ticket machines accept coins of value 5 cents to 2€ in value.

Immediately after entering the bus or tram you have to mark your ticket in validation machine - lock automatically 30 seconds after departure from the stop.

Ticket inspectors from the Bratislava Transport Company occasionally spot-check tickets. They enter the bus or tram on a random stop and check all passengers' tickets. A passenger without a valid paper or electronic ticket season pass can be charged a fine comprising the due fare multiplied by 100 (i.e. usually 70€). There have been reports of ticket inspectors inappropriately fining tourists. If you have the correct ticket marked in the validation machine upon entry, refuse to pay any fines on the spot.



You are entitled to give the inspector your personal information (show them your passport) and pay the fine later. Needless to say, actually paying the fine later is an unlikely outcome in the case of foreigners on short stays in Bratislava.

The Bratislava City Card is offered by the official Bratislava Tourist Service and includes free travel on the city's public transport system.

Basic fares

A 15-minute one-journey ticket costs EUR 0.70 (no transfer possible)

A 60-minute transfer ticket costs EUR 0.90

Children up to 6 years of age travel for free.

Children between 6 and 15 years of age ride with a 50% discount.

60-minute transfer ticket is valid for 90 minutes during weekends and holidays.

The ticket duration corresponds to the scheduled trip duration (i.e., in the case of traffic delays, the 15-minute ticket is sufficient for a scheduled 15-minute journey regardless of how long the journey actually takes).



Value fares

A one-day transfer ticket costs €4.50

A two-day transfer ticket costs €8.30

A three-day transfer ticket costs €10

A one-week transfer ticket costs €15

For more details: <http://www.dpb.sk/en/passengers/>





6. Accommodation and information about living costs

The UEBA provides student accommodation in different dormitories depending on which mobility program you come on. Every dorm has its own rules and you should respect them and read them carefully. For every dorm you should fill out the document about your stay. You can search for this form at our website. There is also a possibility that will be not enough available places for all students, so some students will need to find their own private accommodation in the city.

The university's Services Centre provides reservations for approximately 110 beds per semester for foreign students at the EKONÓM Students Home (picture on the left). The number of beds is limited and the number of applicants for accommodation goes up every year. The university is not obliged to guarantee accommodations for all students (only for students arriving on the CEEPUS program and students with visas). Therefore, each student must send the completed accommodation form by e-mail to the Incoming Student Coordinator sufficiently in advance. If student sends a completed form for accommodation after all beds have been taken, they will be informed that there is no possibility to provide accommodation for them. For more information about accommodation you can visit our website: <http://www.euba.sk/students/accommodation>.

Students who come on Erasmus+ program will stay at INCHEBA dormitory (picture on the right). Incheba dormitory is a private residence hall in the wider center of Bratislava and it provides comfortable living, ideal conditions for study and rich sport, cultural and social opportunities with high – quality infrastructure. You can find out more about Incheba on this website: <https://www.studentresidence.sk/>



EKONÓM

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INCHEBA



7. Student ISIC card

As a student at the University of Economics in Bratislava you can purchase an ISIC card, which is an identity document for your studies, or an external student card.

The ISIC card provides:

- access to a computer network
- discounts for rail transport (in Bratislava)
- access to restricted areas (university buildings)
- FAX Copy, Ticket Portal, and University Library access
- cheaper tickets for bus, tram transportation and for traveling
- control and automation of access to food services at university
- access to the academic information system of the university (AIS)
- discounts when visiting cultural institutions (such as museums and galleries ...)



For more information about ISIC discounts visit their website: <http://www.isic.sk/>

The ISIC validity is extended after enrollment in the next academic year with an ISIC extension sticker. The ISIC card is also a membership card CKM SYTS, which provides international identification cards for young people, students and teachers that also provide discounts and benefits in travel, sports, culture, entertainment... CKM SYTS Slovakia ensures the development of the distribution network of licenses and agreements on new discounts and benefit for their card holders.

PhD students receive full – time study ISIC student card visualized agreement with CKM SYST without the discount in transport. Students and doctoral candidates who are in an external study programme receive a card which is not an ISIC card. This external student card is also available for students who are already 26 years old.

Before enrolment you will receive an email from International office where you can order your ISIC card before you come to our University. Students usually apply and order when they are still at home because they can receive the card when they come to the University. Alternatively, students can order their card when they arrive, but it will take some days to process the request.



7.1 Meals at University of Economic in Bratislava

You can purchase meals at three places of university. There is big canteen hall where you can order four different meals a day. Students have ability to choose from the university's cafeterias which can offer you baguettes sandwiches, savoury and sweet pastries, cakes, coffees, warm and cold drinks, fresh juices and snacks.

You can use your ISIC card to buy a meal. The card should be topped up with credit at the university before entering the canteen itself. There is an office where you can top up your card. Before entering the canteen, you can order your lunch online or you can order near the office where you can top up your card for eating. The prices in the canteen are around 2,30€ to 2,50€ with an ISIC card. You can also eat without an ISIC card, but the price of the meal will be higher (around 3€ - 3,80€).

In front of the office for topping up the card, there are two machines where you can order your meal electronically. Unfortunately, it is in Slovak, language so it is better if someone who knows Slovak is with you when you order. Alternatively, you order online, where you have the ability to use an online translator on your own.



University Cantine

© Anastasia Shlokova



Caffeteria Freshlemon

© Edina Ljami



8. Public holidays

National public holidays in Slovakia:

- **1st January** – Day of the Establishment of the Slovak Republic of the Slovak Republic;
- **6th January** – Catholic Epiphany;
- **March/April** – Good Friday, Easter Monday, set according to the Christian Calendar, check the concrete dates of the respective year after arrival;
- **1st May** – Labour Day;
- **8th May** – Day of Victory over Fascism – End of World War II in Europe;
- **5th July** – St. Cyril and St. Methodius Day;
- **29th August** – Slovak National Uprising Anniversary;
- **1st September** – Day of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic;
- **15th September** – Day of the Virgin Mary of the Seven Sorrows;
- **1st November** – All Saints' Day;
- **17th November** – Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day;
- **24th December** – Christmas Eve;
- **25th December** – Christmas Day;
- **26th December** – St. Stephen's Day.

National, public and religious holidays are days off in Slovakia. People usually do not work on these days, banks, post offices, shops, ambulances are closed. Some public transport offers a reduced service (i.e. buses and trains).



9. Join the activities of ESN

What is ESN?

The **ESN EU Bratislava** is a local section of the Erasmus Student Network at the University of Economics in Bratislava. They are student-volunteers wishing to help you and to contribute to your exchange stay in Slovakia.

What are they doing?

Traditionally, the ESN EU Bratislava prepares at the beginning of every semester a **Welcome Weekend** full of activities so you can meet other exchange students at our university and in the city. The programme continues also during the semester: visits of Slovak cities, trips, parties and many others. We also help with the visit of the foreign police and other paper work if needed.



How can I benefit of them?

Besides parties, trips and buddies, they offer to all exchange students the so called "**ESN cards**" providing you reductions in various partners of the ESN Slovakia and ESN International, including reduced fee on different events organised by ESN sections all over the Europe.

What waits for you?

It usually goes better if somebody waits you in your Erasmus destination. Therefore, besides the standard activities, the ESN EU Bratislava offers Slovak students as "**Buddies**" – your mentors who will be there for you when you need it. Every year, up to 60 Slovaks from our university apply to get one or more exchange students and to take care of them. They will help you, show you the city, get you the season pass for the public transportation and give you many other useful tips.



Why the ESN?

The ESNers are open-minded students-volunteers. Majority of them has already participated on an Erasmus exchange abroad and the “spirit of Erasmus” convinced them to stay in touch with the awesome international community that the Erasmus programme creates. Because

#THISisESN



ESN EU team

© Anastasia Shlokova



Erasmus+ Weekend

© Anastasia Shlokova



10. Sport activity

Every year students have ability to participate in sport activities near the university. Students should search for the information about the sports they are interested in. The university only provide some basic information about where you can find the relevant places, as in the following example of sports activities and locations. Every semester student receives an email from the International Relations Office with the schedule of sport activities, where and when they take place, and who is in charge of it.

Most of the sport activities are free of charge. For joining the activities, you have to have a student card or an ISIC card. Before going to some of activities you might have to write an email or call the person who is in charge of that sport and reserve an available time.

AEROBIC - Horský park	FLORBALL - Horský park
STEPAEROBIC - Školička EU	FLORBALL - telocvična Horský park
FITBALLAEROBIC - Školička EU	BODYBUILDING - Horský park
JOGGING - lesopark Petržalka, Školička	BODYBUILDING - Školička
BASKETBALL - Horský park	BADMINTON - Hall STU Petržalka
VOLLEYBALL - Horský park	TENNIS - Hall STU Petržalka
TABLE TENNIS - Horský park	SKATING (roller)- Školička (hrádza, alebo posilňovňa)
FOOTBALL - ihrisko Horský park	SWIMMING - swimming pool Pasienky
HANDBALL - ŠH Mladost', Rožňavská ul.	WATER AEROBICS - swimming pool Pasienky, short pool



Telocvična Horský park
©Anastasia Shlokova



11. Health care for students¹

European Health Insurance Card

EU/EEA/Swiss nationals are entitled to health care under the same conditions as the nationals of the Slovak Republic. For entitlement to medical treatment on the basis of health insurance in another Member State (EU, EEA, Switzerland), an EU/EEA/Swiss national must present a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to the health care provider (EHIC will be issued at your request by a health insurance company to which you pay health insurance premiums). In such case, the treatment of an EU/EEA/Swiss national will be covered by a Slovak health insurance company to the same amount as a Slovak national, provided the relevant physician has concluded a contract with at least one health insurance company.

International Students (Including PhD Students)

International student coming to Slovakia to study within a programme arising from an international treaty (and that treaty is binding for the Slovak Republic) is subject to statutory health insurance, the Slovak Republic being the payer of such insurance. The student shall submit the necessary documents certifying his/her study at a higher education institution in the Slovak Republic, its international status – proved by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. Other international students must be insured privately.

Additional Individual Health Insurance

Foreigners who are not duly insured can take out contractual health insurance on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Health insurance companies in the Slovak Republic: www.vszp.sk, www.dovera.sk (in Slovak only), <http://m.union.sk/information-for-foreigners.html>

Obtaining Health Care

Under the Slovak Constitution every individual – a citizen or a foreigner – staying in Slovakia has the right to be provided with the necessary health care. Everyone has the right to choose his/her own health care provider.

¹ Taken from Bratislava City Guide



Doctors

General practitioners and specialists have their consulting rooms in hospitals or in medical centers. Upon your arrival, you should ask for details of a local doctor, who will be able to provide information on the standards.

Dentists

In every town is either a private or state dental practice (“zubár”, “stomatológ”). Upon arrival, you should ask for details of the chosen dentist. Note that it is usually essential to book an appointment with a dentist in advance.

Hospitals

Every university town has a hospital (“nemocnica”) with an Accident and Emergency department (“pohotovost”) and many specialized clinics.

More information available at:

- Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic: www.health.gov.sk (most of the information in Slovak only);
- List of medical facilities and doctors: www.zzz.sk (in Slovak only).

Emergency

If you need emergency services (“pohotovost”), dial telephone number “112”. Ambulances are well staffed and equipped with life-sustaining apparatus needed to safely transport patients to hospital. Hospitals provide 24 hours’ emergency services. Some emergency health care providers can be found at:

- http://visit.bratislava.sk/en/vismo/dokumenty2.asp?id_org=700014&id=1183&p1=1565 (list of emergency medical care providers in Bratislava)
- www.zzz.sk/?page=pohotovost (list of emergency medical care providers in Slovakia, in Slovak only)

Pharmacies

You can buy medicine in pharmacies (“lekárň”) only; they are located in every town and in some villages (they are marked with a green cross). Every town has to have at least one emergency pharmacy (“pohotovostná lekárň”) open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – for further details consult the information posted on the door of every pharmacy. If you require treatment at night, look for the sign “nočná služba”. Pharmacies sell domestic and foreign medical products. Certain medicines can be obtained only with a prescription from a physician. For a list of pharmacies, please, visit: www.zzz.sk/?page=lekarne (in Slovak only).



12. Restaurants and Cafes

Bratislava offers a variety of nice restaurant and cafe options for locals and visitors. Most of these are located at the touristy old town. There are also other restaurants and cafes at the Aupark shopping center and the Eurovea shopping mall near the Danube shore and the Apollo Bridge.

Here are some of the places to visit:

Flagship - Slovak food served with glamour in a former theatre building.

Mondieu - Jump-start your day with delicious coffee and a dessert...or a salad if you insist.

Prašná Bašta – a traditional Bratislava restaurant in the Old Town's 16th century fortifications.

Bistro Soho - Fresh and modern Asian food + 40 types of beer from all around the world.

Luculus Ice Saloon – the best ice-cream parlour in town according to many locals and tourists.

Slovak Pub - typical Slovak food, ingredients which are produced at its own organic farm, and a cosy interior imitating a wooden cottage.

SkyBar Lemontree - the most beautiful view, Mediterranean cuisine and cocktail bar.



View from SkyBar



TIPS

- there is no clear standard, but in general tipping in Slovakia is cheaper compared to other Western countries;
- round up to the nearest euro, or, depending on the amount of your bill, remember to leave around a 10 % tip;
- if you really didn't like the service, you don't need to leave anything.

If you have a bill of, let's say 8,30€, you are paying with a 10€ note and you want to leave a 0,70€ tip, tell the waiter "nine." She / He will understand that you should get one euro back. Always tell the waiter the final sum you want to leave at the place when paying. And remember not to say "Thank you" if you want some change back – the signal you are sending to the waiter by saying this means that he can keep all of the change.

SMOKING

All restaurants are fully or partially non-smoking. Most cafes and pubs still allow smoking, but cannot serve food due to the anti-smoking law requirements. The number of non-smoking cafes has been growing, mainly in the pedestrian zone of the Old Town. Most tea-houses are strictly non-smoking, and in cake shops and fast-food restaurants smoking is prohibited by law.

Smoking is permitted in most open areas with some exceptions. According to Slovak law, smoking is prohibited on trains (except in designated smoking carriages), all public transport vehicles, at sanitary facilities, schools and universities (including at the University of Economics at Bratislava, except in the designated smoking area outside the buildings), children's playgrounds, offices, theatres, cinemas, shops and galleries.

Smoking is also prohibited at train and bus stations as well as on platforms and at bus stops. The non-smoking signs at the Main Train Station in Bratislava ("Hlavná stanica") are missing or very small, but police are present and often fine smokers. As a lot of people used to smoke at the bus stops, the new law forbids smoking there and to a distance of four meters from the marked area.

13. Tourist attractions in Bratislava

Academy and Botanical Garden

In 1762, the world's first technologically geared higher education institution was founded in Banská Štiavnica. Later on, it was fused with the hitherto independent Institute of forestry and it became Mining Academy and the Academy of forestry. Founding of the academy meant something of a revolution in the history of the town. The presence of students from all over Europe rejuvenated the town, thus attracting innovative technicians and scientists. The academy at first utilized a few older townhouses in the town centre. At the dawn of the 20th century, three monumental Neo-Renaissance premises were built and equipped with modern laboratories. Buildings exhibit strictly symmetric architectural composition with elaborate stucco decoration of facades as well as interiors. Their palace-like generosity, airiness, flare and tasteful decoration harmonically combine expediency with architectural ethos of the day. Nowadays, the premises are used by local high schools. Opening hours for the garden are from 9 – 18 pm.

Bratislava Castle

Dominating the southwest of the Old Town on a hill above the Danube, the castle today is largely a 1950s reconstruction. An 1811 fire left the fortress ruined for more than a century and renovations continue. Most buildings contain administrative offices, but there is a museum of Slovakia through the ages, and lawns and ramparts provide great vantage points for city viewing. A trip to Bratislava isn't complete without making the climb up to the whitewashed castle building. When many people think of Bratislava they think of the castle, and it is the most recognized symbol of the city. From the very center of the Old Town it only takes 10-15 minutes to walk up the hill to the Castle entrance.



Bratislava Castle

© Edina Ljami



Building of the Parliament and the Bratislava Castle ©Boris Mattoš



Devin Castle

Castle enthusiasts will want to put on their backpacks and head out to Devin Castle, which is 9km west of Bratislava. Once the military playground of 9th-century warlord Prince Ratislav, Devin Castle is packed solid with historical intrigue. Bus 29 links Devin with Bratislava's Nový Most bus stop.

Kamzik TV Tower

The Kamzik TV Tower, also known as the Bratislava TV tower, stands nearly 470m above the city and is a great place to check out if you have a few hours.

Old Town

The Old Town is the busiest part of the city and the first (and sometimes only) stop for many tourists. Cobblestones, winding laneways, and historic buildings – these are just some of the things you will notice when you're walking through the Old Town. The area is full of pubs, restaurants, hostels, and hotels.

St Martin's Cathedral

A relatively modest interior belies the elaborate history of St Martin's Cathedral: 11 Austro-Hungarian monarchs (10 kings and one queen, Maria Theresa) were crowned in this large 14th-century church. The busy motorway that almost touches the cathedral follows the moat of the former city walls. Opening hours from Monday to Saturday are 9:00 - 11:30, 13:00 - 17:00, Sunday 13:30 – 16:00.

Slovak National Gallery

A socialist modernist building and an 18th-century palace make interesting co-hosts for the Slovak National Gallery. The nation's eclectic art collection contained here ranges from Gothic to graphic design. The gallery has experimented with free admission in past years, and they are hopeful this will be possible in future. Opening hours from Tuesday to Saturday 10:00 – 18:00 at Sunday the gallery is closed.

Blue Church

Built in 1908 the Church of St Elisabeth (the Blue Church) is an interesting structure to check out while you're wondering around downtown. Only a 5-10-minute walk from the heart of the Old Town, the Blue Church is definitely something you're going to want to check out. Opening hours from Monday to Saturday are 06:30 – 08:00; 17:30 – 19:30, at Sunday are 07:30 – 12:00; 17:30 – 19:30.



Slovak National Museum

The Museum of History forms an important part of the complex of specialized museums of the Slovak National Museum. The Museum of History is responsible for almost 250 000 objects from the field of national history, arts, sculpting, painting, culture, traditional and artistic crafts, numismatics, ethnography, warfare, economy, the history of Slovaks living abroad and cultures outside Europe. Several of the museum’s collections are the largest in Slovakia (numismatics, historical and traditional textile, glass and ceramics, military items, crafts, historical print collections, sacral and folk plastic and fine arts). Over the past years, objects in the collections have been stored in specialized collection depositories according to the type of material. Opening hours from Tuesday to Sunday are 9:00 – 17:00pm.

Slovak National Theatre

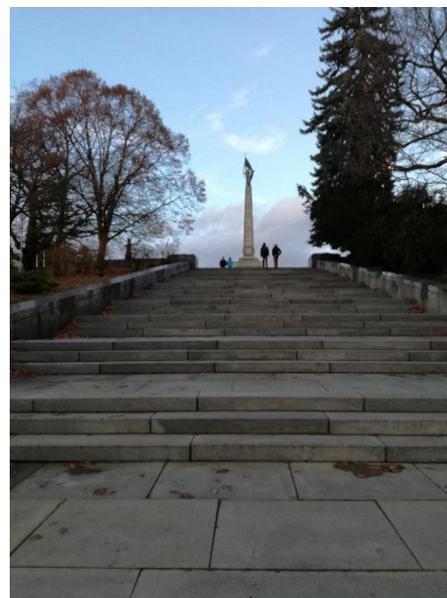
The national theatre company stages quality operas (Slovak and international), ballets and dramas in two venues: the gilt decoration of the landmark historical national theatre building is a show in itself; the modern theatre building has a café and a guaranteed English-speaking reservation line. Opening hours are from 8:00 – 16:00.

Slavín War Memorial

Located high above the city is the Slavín War Memorial. The statue and memorial can be seen from much of the city and surrounding areas and is definitely a cool thing to do in Bratislava.



Slavín War Memorial ©Edina Ljami



Slavín War Memorial ©Edina Ljami



Walking along the Danube River

The Danube River flows peacefully along the edge of downtown Bratislava.

There is a walking and cycling path on both sides on the river. On the Old Town side, the path stretches from beyond the city in both directions.

The way the bridges and parks are set up results in a beautiful walk along the Danube River. Along the way there are many restaurants, two malls, and the Slovak National Theatre.

UFO at the SNP Bridge

The SNP Bridge (colloquially known as the “UFO Bridge” is a local point of Bratislava tourism and was built to connect the core of the city to the suburb of Petržalka. People unfamiliar with the city are typically unaware of the UFO Bridge, but once you see it towering over the Danube you’re unlikely to ever forget it.

This bridge is one of the main sights in Bratislava, it has an interesting construction, connects old and newer parts of town, and has a UFO-style restaurant and observation area.

Colloquially called the UFO (pronounced ew-fo), this bridge is a modernist marvel from 1972 with a cool viewing platform (sky-high admission prices) and, just below, a restaurant (also with out-of-this-world prices). The viewing platform is free if you eat in the restaurant. Opening hours are from 10:00 – 23:00 every day.



“The UFO Bridge”

© Edina Ljami



14. Contacts details

The University of Economics in Bratislava annually welcomes foreign students for one or two semester study stays within the Erasmus+ Programme, the CEEPUS programme, the National Scholarship Programme, the International Visegrad Fund, inter-governmental agreements and framework agreements with foreign universities.

The admission of foreign students for study-stays at the UEBA is handled by Coordinator for Incoming Foreign Students at the International Office, who is responsible for the entire coordination and communication with students starting from the process of their acceptance until their departure from the university.

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9:00 to 11:30 and 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

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Foyer at the 3rd floor

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