



# **SURVIVAL GUIDE**

**Spring course**

**LBG Košice, Slovakia**





## General Information

**Official name:** Slovak Republic (SR)

**State formation date:** 1st January 1993

**Area:** 49 035 km<sup>2</sup>

**Location:** Central Europe

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

**International calls:** +421

**Elevation:** the highest point is Gerlach Peak (2655 m), the lowest point is the Bodrog river (95 m).

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

**Border countries:** Hungary (679 km), Poland (597,5 km), Czech Republic (265 km), Austria (127,2 km), Ukraine (98 km)



**Capital city:** Bratislava

**Population:** 5 389 180

**Official language:** Slovak

**Currency:** from 1.1. 2009 the EURO

# Eastern Slovakia - Košice Region



The region of Košice and its environs is situated in the east of Slovakia. Its core is the L-shaped **Košická kotlina** basin. This fertile and densely populated basin is surrounded by mountain ranges, which offer excellent possibilities of hiking and recreation.

**Population of Košice region:** 770,508

**Area of Košice region:** 6,753 km<sup>2</sup>

Region Košice is situated in the **southeast of Slovakia**. It borders on Hungary and Ukraine in the south and east respectively. The metropolis of the region and the whole eastern Slovakia is the city of **Košice** - the centre of commerce, trades, culture, and education of the whole region. Košice is the second biggest town of Slovakia and as such it contains numerous cultural and historic monuments.

The National Park of Slovak Kras lies in the southern and south-eastern part of Gemer. Its **caves and abysses** are included in the UNESCO monument list. Among the cultural and historic monuments the **castles** (Krásna Hôrka) and **ruins**, several **manors** and many **churches** scattered along the Gemer branch of the **Gothic Route**, dominate.

The historic region of the Lower Zemplín in the eastern part of administrative region Košice is known for the excellent **Tokai wine**. The most visited parts of Lower Zemplín include the environs of **water reservoir Zemplínska šírava**.

# Košice



The second biggest town of Slovakia **KOŠICE** is not only the centre of eastern Slovakia but also the core of the Eastern Carpathians where several ethnicities live.

The city **KOŠICE** (population 235,300) on the Hornád River on the western edge of the Košická kotlina basins has a long and agitated history and its present is also dynamic. It has been the most important town of the region for centuries and a natural centre of trade, culture, and education.

The medieval town of Košice was founded approximately on the half way from the Abbey to the castle. The first written mention of its existence is from 1230. In the first historical documents it was referred to as Villa Cassa, later the in Latin Cassovia, German Kaschau, Hungarian Kassa, and the Slovak Košice.

The town citizens acquired important privileges of the **royal borough** in 1342. The date of 7 May 1369 is especially important for the town because it received, the document of coat of arms signed by the king as the first European town,. Today it is celebrated as the “**Day of Košice**”. In the 15th century Košice with its 7 thousand inhabitants became the **second biggest town** of the Kingdom of Hungary following Buda and Bratislava.

The 20th century has dramatically changed the town of Košice although the motifs were mostly political. The town was included in the new state formations: on the last

day of 1918 it was included in the newly formed Czechoslovak Republic; in 1938 it was annexed by Horthys Hungary for more than six years.

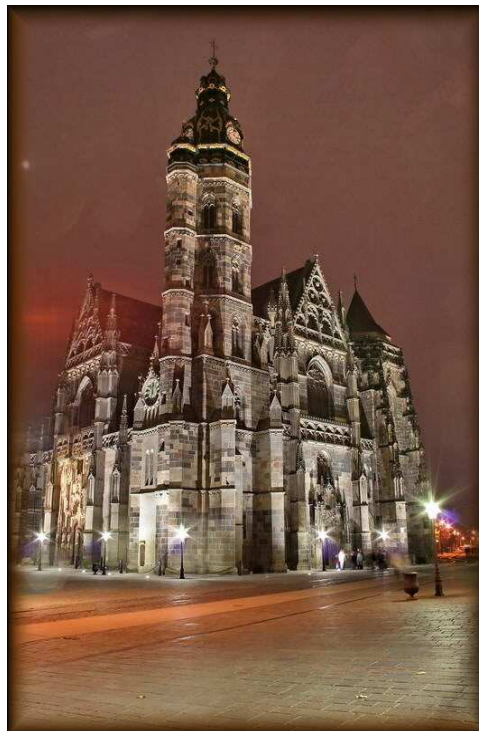
In April 1945 the Czechoslovak Government met for the first time on homeland ground and issued the document known as the **Košice Programme of the Government** treating the after-war arrangement of the free Republic.

However, some other attributes of Košice also changed, particularly its size, ethnic structure and its general appearance. Its population more than doubled after the Second World War. New housing estates were constructed for immigrants from the rural area.

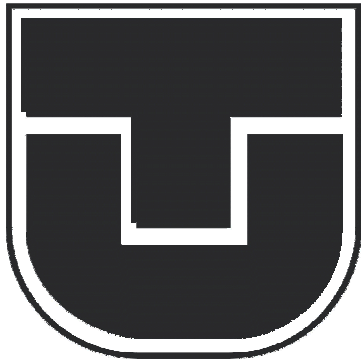
Today the majority of its inhabitants are Slovaks coexisting here with Hungarian, Czech and Roma minorities. The Východoslovenské železiarne (East Slovakian Iron Works, today **U. S. Steel**) became the biggest company not only of Košice but also of the country in general.

Almost all monuments of Košice are concentrated in the **historical core of the town**, size of which makes it the biggest **Town Monument Reserve** of Slovakia. The spindle-shaped **Hlavné námestie square** of Košice is the heart of the town and rightly considered one of the most beautiful squares in Slovakia. It is closed to traffic and skirted by numerous wonderful historical buildings. The most valuable monuments are situated in its centre. The dominant of the square and the town is the monumental

Gothic **Cathedral of St. Elisabeth**. This building, rather isolated from the rest of the square, is the largest church of Slovakia and the easternmost situated Gothic cathedral of western type in Europe.



# Technical University of Košice (TUKE)



The Technical University of Košice was founded in 1952, but its roots must be sought much deeper in the past. As early as 1657 the Universitas Cassoviensis was established in Košice, but technical education in Slovakia was only elevated to higher - education level in 1762, when the Austro-Hungarian monarch Maria Theresa established the Mining Academy in Banská Štiavnica. This provided education and promoted research activity in a group of scientific disciplines ranging from ore mining through to production and processing of metal materials.

Today the TUKE has nine faculties, around 16 000 full-time undergraduate students. Almost 900 teachers work here, and the same number of research and administrative staff.

TUKE caters for a wide range of educational needs not only in the East-Slovak region, but throughout Slovakia and Central Europe, as in many specializations it is the only centre of education and research in this area. TUKE closely co-operates with other universities and with industrial organizations throughout the region and the Slovak Republic.



# What to Bring

- **Valid passport** - please check if you need visa or invitation letter (please let us know in advance). Slovakia is a Member of Schengen Space of EU which is important information in case you need a visa. Visa is your own responsibility, but of course we will help you with invitation letter or any required paperwork embassy will ask for.
- **Travel & health insurance** – if your country is a member of EU you should bring an EU health insurance card (ask your state health insurance company). According to the common rule within EU, if you have such a card, you are entitled to health care in case of emergency under same rules as Slovak citizens are in Slovakia. Be aware that not many situations can be considered as emergency so for your own sake bring also commercial health insurance.
- **Credit/debit card, traveller cheques or/and cash** – cards are accepted in most of shops but charges can occur based on rules of your bank. In pubs and bars is more common to pay by cash.
- **ISIC or Euro 26 or valid student ID**
- **Pocket money** - if you want to buy a beer in the pub or bring a present from Slovakia for your family
- **Soap, towel, toothpaste & brush** – we like clean and beautiful participants also in the end of course
- **Any music instrument** (don't bring piano)
- **Your own prescribed medicaments if you are taking some**
- **Sportswear** – hiking shoes, umbrella or raincoat, jogging clothes, warm clothes
- **Typical food and drinks from your country for “International Evening”** - There is usually limited or no possibility of cooking before international evening.
- **YOU with a big smile on your face**
- **A lot of BEST spirit**
- **Funny, small presents for organisers**



# How to Get Here

There are generally four possibilities how to get to Košice:

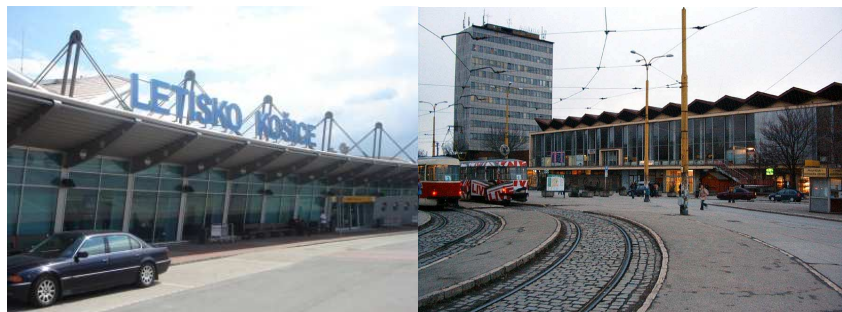
- by train,
- by bus,
- by plane
- by foot

Košice has very good train connection with Budapest. There are direct trains going every day and also you can change train in Miskolc which is less than 100 km from Košice and from there, there are several trains going. There is a direct train from Krakow and Prague. Several trains every day are coming to Košice from Bratislava which has really good connection with Vienna. Travelling by train is not the cheapest option but is it comfortable. Main trains have European standards, you can enjoy the watching nature passing by or you can walk through the train to restaurant part if you are bored of sitting and enjoy a pint of bier there, just do not forget to get off the train in Košice.

There is also pretty good bus connection from Bratislava and Prague. Bus connection with Budapest and Krakow is bad. You can travel also from Vienna and change bus in Bratislava. Generally buses are bit cheaper compare with trains but less comfortable. Nowadays a motorway is being build up in Slovakia and due to building works there are many restrictions on the roads and higher possibility of collisions and jams.

There is an international airport in Košice. There are daily connections from/to Bratislava, Vienna, and Prague. Also there are connections with Manchester and Dublin. Check [www.airportkosice.sk](http://www.airportkosice.sk) for more information. Half of the flights are operated by low-cost airlines. When using Vienna airport you can get from there easily to Bratislava and it is up to you to decide if you will travel to Košice by plane, train or bus. You can also land at Budapest airport and reach Košice by train from Keleti train station.

If you like adventure and BEST course is not enough you can try to get here by foot or use hitch-hiking but let us now in advance that you are planning such a thing and count wisely how many days you will need to get to Košice. You can save some money and have a nice time but also NOT.



# Basic Language Course

Slovak language is a Slavic language. The rules of pronunciation are strict and not changing most of the times. To introduce all of the rules will consume a lot of space and is a bit boring. Better to bring the copy of this survival guide and study in Slovakia with real Slovaks

Hi – Ahoj, Cau

How are you? – Ako sa máš?

I am fine, OK. – Mám sa dobre, OK.

Good morning, afternoon, night – Dobré ráno, deň (day), noc

Good bye – Dovidenia

How much is it? – Koľko to stojí?

It is cheap/expensive. – Je to lacné/drahé

Cheers - Nazdravie

Bier - pivo

Shot - štamperlík

Wine - víno

I like your eyes. – Máš krásne oči.

You have nice ass, tits... – Máš skvelý zadok, kozy ...

Shall we dance? – Smiem prosiť?

I am your little strawberry, taste me/eat me - Som tvoja jahôdka, ochutnaj ma/zjedz ma.

More will be added later based on your own need and preferences. Organisers will be more than glad to translate and teach you.... the spicier, the better 😊

