

Slovakia

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|--|--------------------------|
| Country name | Slovakia |
| State title | Slovak Republic |
| Name of citizen | Slovak |
| Official language | Slovak |
| Country name in official language | Slovensko |
| State title in official language | Slovenská republika |
| Script | Roman |
| ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3) | SK/SVK |
| Capital | Bratislava |
| Population | 5.45million ¹ |

Introduction

Slovakia is at the heart of Europe sharing borders with Czechia, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary and Austria. It gained its independence in 1993 on the division of Czechoslovakia², and joined NATO and the European Union in 2004.

Geographical Names Policy

It is PCGN policy for Slovakia to use authoritative Slovak-language place names. These are written in Roman script, so no romanization is necessary. Diacritical marks and special letters should be reflected as found in these sources.

Slovakia maintains a [geoportal](#) and this is the best available source for Slovak geographical names. In 2010 Slovakia wrote and presented to the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) [Toponymic Guidelines](#) for map and other editors, which outlines details of the use and presentation of Slovak-language geographical names, and confirms that minority language names are not used on official Slovak mapping. The document also includes a useful glossary of generic and frequently occurring terms. The [NGA Geonet Names Server](#) is also a good source for names in Slovakia.

The specific part(s) of Slovakian geographical names have an initial capital letter. Generic terms are not usually capitalised, e.g. Banskobystrický kraj, and PCGN recommends retaining this style.

¹ 2021 census: <https://www.scitanie.sk/zilinsky-kraj-s-najvyssim-podielom-slovenskej-narodnosti>

² Czechoslovakia (CS, CSK) was divided into Czech Republic, which [adopted the short name Czechia in 2016](#) (CZ, CZE), and Slovakia (SK, SVK, 703).

Language and demographics

According to the [2021 census](#), approximately 85% of Slovakia's population recorded Slovak nationality, with about 8% Hungarian, 1.2% Roma³ and smaller numbers of Czech, Russian, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, German and Polish. The census recorded mother tongue language as 82% Slovak, 8.5% Hungarian and 2% Romani.

Script

Slovak has 46 letters (including digraphs) which makes it the longest European alphabet. An inventory of letter-diacritic combinations, with their Unicode encoding, in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script is:

| Upper-case character | Unicode encoding | Lower-case character | Unicode encoding |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Á | 00C1 | á | 00E1 |
| Ä | 00C4 | ä | 00E4 |
| Č | 010C | č | 010D |
| Ď | 010E | ď | 010F |
| Dž | 0044+017E | dž | 0064+017E |
| É | 00C9 | é | 00E9 |
| Í | 00CD | í | 00ED |
| Ľ | 0139 | ľ | 013A |
| Ľ | 013D | ŕ | 013E |
| Ň | 0147 | ň | 0148 |
| Ó | 00D3 | ó | 00F3 |
| Ô | 00D4 | ô | 00F4 |
| Ŕ | 0154 | ŕ | 0155 |
| Š | 0160 | š | 0161 |
| Ť | 0164 | ť | 0165 |
| Ú | 00DA | ú | 00FA |
| Ý | 00DD | ý | 00FD |
| Ž | 017D | ž | 017E |

³ This spelling is used for the ethnic group in the census, the language is termed Romany in ISO 639 (other spellings, including Romani, may also be encountered).

Administrative structure

Slovakia is divided into 8 regions (Slovak: kraj) at first-order administrative level (ADM1). These are sub-divided into 79 districts (Slovak: okres) at second-order level (ADM2). A list and map of both ADM1s and ADM2s is included in Slovakia's [Toponymic Guidelines](#).

| ADM1 (full form and permissible short form⁴) | ISO 3166-2 code | Administrative Centre (PPLA) | Location of centre |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Banskobystrický kraj Banská Bystrica | SK-BC | Banská Bystrica | 48° 44' 22" N 19° 09' 13" E |
| Bratislavský kraj Bratislava | SK-BL | Bratislava | 48° 09' 00" N 17° 07' 00" E |
| Košický kraj Košice | SK-KI | Košice | 48° 42' 50" N 21° 15' 29" E |
| Nitriansky kraj Nitra | SK-NI | Nitra | 48° 18' 33" N 18° 05' 14" E |
| Prešovský kraj Prešov | SK-PV | Prešov | 48° 59' 54" N 21° 14' 02" E |
| Trenčiansky kraj Trenčín | SK-TC | Trenčín | 48° 53' 12" N 18° 02' 53" E |
| Trnavský kraj Trnava | SK-TA | Trnava | 48° 22' 39" N 17° 35' 14" E |
| Žilinský kraj Žilina | SK-ZI | Žilina | 49° 13' 00" N 18° 44' 00" E |

Other Significant Locations

| PCGN Approved Name⁵ | Name in Slovak (and others as appropriate) | Conventional Name (where one exists) | Location | Feature Type |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Carpathian Mountains (and/or one of the 8 language variants along its extent) | Karpaty | Carpathian Mountains | 47° 00' 00" N 25° 30' 00" E | Mountains |
| Danube (and/or one of the 9 language variants as appropriate along its course) | Dunaj | Danube | 45° 20' 00" N 29° 40' 00" E | River |
| Tatra Mountains or High Tatras | Tatry or Vysoké Tatry (Tatry or Tatry Wysokie (pl)) | Tatra Mountains or High Tatras | 49° 10' 00" N 20° 08' 00" E | Mountain range forming border between Slovakia and Poland |

⁴ The short forms are often those used in English-language texts, i.e. Bratislava Region.

⁵ As a general rule, PCGN approved forms are the conventional English names for international features, and Slovak names for features within Slovakia.

| PCGN Approved Name | Name in Slovak (and others as appropriate) | Conventional Name (where one exists) | Location | Feature Type |
|---------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Nízke Tatry | Nízke Tatry | Low Tatras | 48° 57' 00" N 19° 30' 00" E | Mountains |
| Slovak Ore Mountains | Slovenské rudohorie | Slovak Ore Mountains | 48° 45' 00" N 20° 20' 0" E | Mountains |
| Váh | Váh | | 47° 45' 03" N 18° 08' 47" E | River |
| Vyšné Nemecké | Vyšné Nemecké | | 48° 39' 40" N 22° 15' 49" E | Village (at main border crossing with Ukraine) |

Useful references

- Administrative divisions: <http://www.statoids.com>
- BBC Country Profile: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17847682>
- CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/slovakia/>
- [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office \(FCDO\) Travel Advice](#)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO): www.iso.org
- Languages: www.ethnologue.com, www.omniglot.com
- Slovakia Geoportal: <https://zbgis.skgeodesy.sk/mkzbgis/en/zakladna-mapa?pos=48.800000,19.530000,8>
- Slovakia Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors: <http://www.skgeodesy.sk/files/sk/slovensky/ugkk/geodezia-kartografia/standardizacia-geografickeho-nazvoslovia/dokumenty-k-cinnosti/TNdotlaAe.pdf>
- Unicode Consortium: www.unicode.org
- US Board on Geographic Names GEOnet Names Server: <http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/index.html>

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