

You are in Košice, the economic and cultural centre of eastern Slovakia. Košice is the second largest city of a land called the Slovak Republic with its quarter million citizens and over a half million people living in surrounding small villages.

The city has been an important trade intersection since the 14th century. Considering its short distance from the national borders with Hungary (20 km), Ukraine (80 km) and Poland (90km) it could become the centre of a supranational region in the future.

The everyday life of local citizens involves being part of strong IT and food & cuisine economies and industries, together with a large steel mill. Košice is home for three big universities, but also for a European top-level men's ice-hockey team and women's basketball team.

Slovakia the home country of present-day Košice, is a member of NATO, the UN, the OECD, the EU and the Schengen area. The official currency is Euro. There is an ATM on every corner, or a bank, a restaurant, a bookstore or a hotel. These, together with a few several hundred-year-old buildings, mostly churches, form the historical centre. A skilled tourist manages to explore the cathedral, to sit down in the park next to the theatre for a while and grab a sandwich on the way back to the station in no more than six hours. However, this Old Town open-air museum covers just 1% of the city's built-up area.

Košice used to be important historical business crossroad and large number of nationalities found their home here. A powerful middle class embodied a number of Hungarian, Jewish, German, Slovak and Bulgarian citizens' communities. An important factor of town's development and fair competition was the diversity of cultural backgrounds of these various communities. The active use of more than one native language used to be common in such an international and multilingual settlement.

During all of its recorded history, Košice has been, at its best, in the second rate place in the hierarchy of the respective state systems. Being the most important city of Superior Hungary for a long time, Košice stood in the shadow of Pest, later Budapest that represented the social, cultural and educational centre for all Košice families who could pay for their offsprings' studies there.

Czechoslovakia, the first republic that included Košice was formed in 1918. During World War II, Košice was again a part of Hungary. The Red Army's liberation forces were moving along the eastern front and thus, logically and geographically, the first liberated (and for a short while capital) city of Czechoslovakia was Košice. Soon, the government moved back to Prague and Czechoslovakia's state borders moved so that Košice became the closest city to the Soviet Union.

Many of the attributes of Košice that had gradually developed over centuries disappeared within a few years before, during and after World War II. The Munich Agreement was followed by series of events that, "quick as a flash", destroyed the vital atmosphere of the city. Annexation by fascist Hungary, the deportation of Jews, the so-called liberation by the Red Army and the execution of the Beneš Decrees (the evacuation of German and Hungarian citizens) were enough to disintegrate the diverse population. In 1948, at the dawn of the next totalitarian regime, Košice became distinctly disconnected from its previous history.

The inhabitants of Košice reflected on various historical events in second half of twentieth century such as the Communist Party Takeover ("Victorious February" 1948), the "Prague Spring" (1968), or the "Velvet Revolution" (1989).

According to its history, location and size, Košice should already be the metropolis of a multinational region, a city with a hundred and fifty kilometer radius and the circle centre on the altar in St. Elisabeth Cathedral.

Besides establishing a huge steel mill in 1960s on the south outskirts of the city, there are several special moments in the brief history that defines present-day Košice. Since 1924, every year, on the first Sunday of October, the oldest European marathon race is held in the streets of the city. In 2013, Košice was European Capital of Culture and that led to of relocating of the International Art Film Fest into Košice's cinemas and also the title of Unesco City of Media Arts.

Over the year there are numerous cultural events held in Košice, which celebrate the diversity and richness of local communities. Some of the biggest are the annual Days of the City, held in May, which celebrate the award of its coat of arms in 1369. From various food & cuisine & wine events, most recognizable is the Gurman Fest in June and the Soup Festival in October, both celebrating a wide variety of local and international cuisines, because as you know, food equals love. A particular event is Matrioshka, the festival which actively inspires critical dialogue relating to the totalitarian systems. An informal way to reach and step in to local life, and boost your Slovak is to attend the Language café, a regular event-taking place in Tabačka Kulturfabrik.

The Košice City Audit Report, 2018 (elaborated by ETP Slovakia), shows the trend of increasing number of foreigners in the past few years in Košice. In 2014, there were 1.574 third country nationals (TCN refers to everyone who is not a Slovak national neither a national of EU Member State) and 3.781 third country nationals in 2018 (approximately 1.6 % of Košice residents).

As of 30 November 2018, the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of the Police Force of the Slovak Republic had registered 39 persons having been granted asylum and 22 foreigners granted subsidiary protection (i.e. 61 persons granted international protection in Košice).

The data shows that there is a noticeable increase in the number of third country nationals arriving for employment, study or family purposes. Ukraine is strongly ahead when being compared to other countries from where most immigrants come.

*Manual
in Košice
A New Neighbor
How To Become*

Kit

Welcome

Neighbor

New

THE FOREIGN POLICE DEPARTMENT

State organ operating under Ministry of Interior that covers agenda related to foreigners in Slovakia. Foreign nationals are required to report the place of their residence in Slovakia at the Foreign Police Department directly after their arrival to Slovakia. The notification of the authorities has to be done in person.

The Units of Foreign Police of the Police Force
A: Trieda SNP 35, 04001 Košice
T: +421 961 931 208
@: kosice@minv.sk
W: www.minv.sk/?residence-of-an-foreigner

Online booking system (max one month ahead)
www.minv.sk/?ocp-pz-kosice

DISTRICT DIRECTORATE OF POLICE FORCE KOŠICE

In case you need to exchange your non-EU driving licence or need to consult any safety issues.

A: Rampová 7, 04081 Košice
T: +421 961 911 111
W: www.minv.sk/?okresne-riaditelstvo-pz-v-kosiciach

DISTRICT OFFICE KOŠICE

If you as a foreigner intend to conduct a trade, you need to notify the Trade Licencing Department and obtain a Trade Licence from the District Office of Košice.

District Office of Košice - Trade Licencing Department
A: Komenského 52, 04001 Košice
T: +421 55 6001 160
W: www.minv.sk/?zivnostenske-podnikanie

Recognition of leaving certificates and diplomas issued by a secondary school in other member state of EU or in third country is performed at the Department of Education of the District Office of Košice.

District Office of Košice - Department of Education
A: Zádielska 1, 04001 Košice
T: +421 55 7245 442
W: www.minv.sk/?nostrifikacia-dokladov

TAX OFFICE

At a tax office you can sort out matters related to tax payments.

Tax Office Košice
A: Železničná 1, 04090 Košice
T: +421 55 7830 111 or +421 48 4317 222
@: duke-ke.kontakt@financnasprava.sk
W: www.financnasprava.sk/en/homepage

OFFICE OF LABOUR, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND FAMILY

In Labour office you can seek employment consultation, apply for the state social support and education or retraining courses, material need benefits, social services, care allowance or disability benefits.

Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Košice
A: Staničné námestie 9, 04001 Košice
T: +421 55 2442 202 or +421 55 2442 209
@: ke@upsvr.gov.sk
W: www.upsvr.gov.sk/ke

HEALTH INSURANCE

Basic information related health insurance for EU citizens or third country nationals can be found on the web sites of three insurance companies.

Health Insurance Company Dôvera Košice
A: Mojmirova 8, 04001 Košice
T: 0850 850 850
@: info@dovera.sk
W: www.dovera.sk/o-nas/english-info

Health Insurance Company Union Košice
A: Hlavná 117, 04001 Košice
T: 0850 003 333
@: union@union.sk
W: www.union.sk/health-insurance-for-foreigners

Health Insurance Company VŠZP Košice
A: Senný trh 1, 04001 Košice
T: 0850 003 003
@: infolinka@vszp.sk
W: www.vszp.sk/en/how-become-our-insured-person

SOCIAL INSURANCE OFFICE

At the branch of the Košice Social Insurance Office you can arrange pension insurance, sickness insurance, self-employed persons insurance and social security premiums.

Social Insurance Office Košice
A: Festivalové námestie 1, 041 84 Košice
T: +421 906 174 411 or +421 906 171 934
@: kosicemesto@socpoist.sk or
info.english@socpoist.sk
W: www.socpoist.sk/?lang=en

THE CITY MUNICIPALITY OF KOŠICE

Competencies of the local government apply to all inhabitants of Košice, regardless of their nationality or country of origin. It applies to foreigners with permanent or temporary residence in Košice. Various departments of the City Municipality Office provide a number of services for Košice inhabitants.

The City Municipality Office of Košice (Košice City Hall)
A: Trieda SNP 48/A, 04011 Košice
T: +421 55 6419 111
@: kontakt@kosice.sk
W: www.kosice.sk/obcan/kancelaria-prveho-kontaktu-magistrat-mesta-kosice

CITY DISTRICTS OFFICES

Based on their place of permanent residence, all Košice inhabitants belong to a specific office of their district. Municipal offices of individual city districts comprise several departments.

Residence Registration Office - residence registrations, marriage, birth and death certificates, determination of fatherhood, verifying of documents, etc.

Social Department - social assistance and counseling for citizens at risk of social exclusion, lonely seniors, children or other target groups in critical situation, etc.

Education Department (establishes and monitors educational facilities in the territory of the city district, provides consultation on pre-school and primary school education, etc.

W: www.kosice.sk/mesto/mestske-casti

OFFICE OF THE KOŠICE SELF-GOVERNING REGION

Office of the Košice Self-governing Region
A: Námestie Maratónu Mieru 1, 04266 Košice
T: +421 55 7268 115 (for English and German)
@: vuc@vucke.sk

Foreigners coming to Košice interested in long-term stays have different needs. They are dealing with life situations and problems like any regular resident. Communication with offices, housing, employment, education, health and social care and also time for rest and relax.

Their situation is totally different from that of the majority population living in Košice over the long term, who is able to understand the context and local language, to not get lost in the city, to understand the system of institutions and bureaus.

This map should make the integration process of foreign newcomers easier in the first weeks.

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etp.sk
facebook.com/etpslovensko
 vychodnepobrezie.org
facebook.com/vychodnepobrezie



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