

Comparison Between Slovakia and Slovenia

Dr. Girish Joshi

Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology, TNMC & BYL Nair Hospital, Mumbai

Abstract

I have tried to overcome the confusion between the two look alike and sound alike European nations by mentioning about their similarities and differences. Some of the criterias / points considered for the same are Population, Area, Region, Coastline, Electricity, Language Religion, GDP, National sport etc etc. This information certainly will help the tourists to travel to these 2 nations with more comfort.

Keywords: Area, Capitals, Export & Import partners, Military power

1. Introduction:

There are a lot of countries that have almost identical names that adds to confusion to the travelers / tourists especially when they are planning to travel to those places. One of such nations I was able to identify were Slovakia and Slovenia which certainly have similar /overlapping names i.e look alike and sound alike nomenclature. I therefore thought to inform about some important similarities and differences about these 2 European nations whereby the reader is able to understand regards their major features and aspects. This will help to overcome confusion about the 2 states [nations] and will help them to travel comfortably.

1.1 Historical aspect and nomenclature:

Both nations were once part of a larger nation [1] and the people of both the states were of same ethno-linguistic group i.e “Slavs”. Slovenes are the “South” Slavic and Slovaks are the “West” Slavic. The nomenclature of the 2 nations was derived from the people who lived there as “Slovakia” from Slovaks and “Slovenia” from Slovenes.

These two nations however don't border each other and are separated by two non- Slavic speaking countries [Austria and Hungary] [2]

“Czechoslovakia” split into 2 states for social, political and cultural reasons. The main contributing factor was disagreement over privatization of Czechoslovakian factories after the end of communist rule. Earlier from the Austro-Hungarian empire, the “Go Czech movement” as well as the “Slovak Movement” [in Hungary] was started in order to preserve the respective national identity of both the nations. [1], [2]

Since the talks from 1890 till World War 1, the “Czechoslovakian Legion” was formed. Then on 18th October 1918, unified two states Czech and Slovakia were formed with Tomas Masaryk as first President of the Czechoslovakia. Masaryk called for independence of Czechoslovaks and is regarded as founding father of the nation.

On 31st December 1992, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic ceased to exist and was succeeded by the 2 new states: the Czech Republic and Slovakia [Slovenska Republika] [2] . “Velvet Divorce” was the term used regards dissolution of Czechoslovakia and was coined from the fact that the 2 independent

nations formed from split of a single country [constituent states] occurred nearly completely without violence.[i.e peacefully] [3]

In 1991, Slovenia was formed due to split of Yugoslavia. [Yugo → “Jugo” → meaning South and Slavija means land of the Slavs]. In 1918, Yugoslavia was first formed as Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and later in 1928 was renamed as Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Currently recognized as Republic of Slovenia. [1], [2], [3].

1.2 Capitals of the two Nations:

The current capital city of Slovakia is “Bratislava” [2] since 1918. The origin of the word is the feminine form of Bratislav [Slavic origin] means “relative” or “brother” and Slava → “glory” or “fame”. It’s a port city on river the Danube and was capital of Hungary [1541 to 1784] and seat of Hungarian Parliament until 1848.

The capital city of Slovenia is “Ljubljana”.[2] The name means “beloved”, regards its diverse & colorful streets. It is also dubbed as “Dragon city” since the dragon though initially portrayed as a monster gradually transformed into a symbolic protector of the city, embodying power, courage and wisdom and had its origins in the legends of Jason and Argonauts. It is ranked 5th on the list of most beautiful autumn cities in the World.

1.3 Similarities between the 2 nations: Both these countries / Nations have

- A. Unitary parliament,
- B. Similar currency i.e Euro [1 USD = 0.95 Euro] [4] & [3],
- C. Christianity as their official religion,
- D. Literacy rate of 99% population,
- E. Zero Nuclear weapons,
- F. people of both the states have same etholinguistic group → Slavs,
- G. Zero [nil] submarines for both the nations,
- H. Both the nations are members of European union [EU] [1]

1.4 Important differences between the two nations based on various criteria:

Criteria	Slovakia	Slovenia
Nomenclature	Slovenska Republika	Republic of Slovenia [3]
Split from	Czeckoslovakia	Yugoslavia
Region	Eastern European	European [1] [4]
Area	49,035 km ²	20,79,690 km ²
Land covered by Forests	40.2 %	62.3 % [5]
Agricultural land	40.1 %	22.8 % [5]
Total Water Area	930 km ²	122 km ² [5]
Capital city	Bratislava	Ljubljana [3]
Capital area	367.5 km ²	163.8 km ²
Nations Population	54, 32,000	21, 12,000 [4] [2]
Density	110 / km ²	102 / km ² [4]
Capital city population	04, 42, 000	02, 89, 746
Life expectancy	78 years	81.85 years

School life expectancy	years	17 years [5]
World happiness index	6.391	6.63
Coastline	Nil [since landlocked]	47 kms [5]
Oil production	4000 bbl	0 [zero]
Electricity	27.194 GWH	14.82 GWH
Passport Index	185 destinations	181 destinations
GDP	118.43 billion USD	62 billion USD
GDP per capita	21.66 \$	29.46 \$
Official language	Slovak (94. 61 %)	Slovenian (96. 6 %), Italian, Hungarian [3]
Calling code	+ 421	+ 386
Passenger Airports	06	03 [4]
National sport	Ice hockey	Alpine skiing [2]
Internet code	.sk	.si
1.4a Age structure		
0 – 14 years	15.13 %	14.84 %
15 – 64 years	67.82 %	63.93 %
1.4b Gender ratio differences		
Males	48.6 %	48.9 %
Females	51.4 %	51.1 %
Birth rate	9.94 %	9.09 %
Death rate	10.26 %	10.36 % [4]
Health expenditure	6.96 % of GDP	8.52 % of the GDP
Top Exported Products	Cars	Packaged medicaments
Export partners	Germany / Czech / Poland	Germany / Swiss /Italy
Top Imported products	Motor vehicles, parts & Accessories	Packaged medicaments
Import partners	Germany / Czech /Austria	Germany / Swiss / Italy
Lets look also at the military power of the 2 nations.		
1.5 Military Power	Slovakia	v/s Slovenia
Defence budget	2.09 billion \$	581.68 million \$
Active Personnel	13000	7000
Tanks	30	48
Aircrafts	50	37
Fighter aircrafts	10	Zero
Transport aircrafts	07	3
Helicopters	21	12
Naval assets	Zero	2
Self propelled artillery	41	8
Mobile Rocket Projectors	25	5
Armoured fighting Vehicles	7104	7072

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