



# BROOKLYN\_BORN

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## Course Completed!

Sunday, August 25, 2013



The celebration is over!



Now we've left Bratislava and are driving east, all the way to the border with Poland and almost as far as the Ukraine hoping that our knowledge of the Slovak language will be good enough to communicate.

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Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, English is a language choice in schools. Before that, you learned Russian, German or French. However, the average person remembers as much English as we do of our high school Spanish or French. The people in the tourist industry who are paid to take care of you speak excellent English, but that's not how we're traveling. We're staying at hotels and eating in the restaurants patronized by local people on vacation.

One guy at dinner told me that he speaks English like I speak Slovak. His daughter, who works for an International company speaks excellent English because it's required by her job. However, he said that he understood my Slovak very well.

Another guy that we met in a supermarket spoke excellent English because he was an American married to a Slovak woman. He said that she wouldn't let him speak Slovak to their children because his grammar was so bad she didn't want them to pick up any bad habits. The grammar is really complicated, but so far, so good.

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**LEWILL1982**

Way to go, what an accomplishment to learn the language then immerse yourself in the culture to fully understand and appreciate it. Safe travels!

2848 days ago



**BAZOOKABOBCAT**

Awesome adventure!!

2849 days ago



**CD13509833**

Sounds wonderful!!

2849 days ago



**MERRYMARY42**

fantastic, I know it is a learning experience for all of us, Thanks for the blogs

2849 days ago



**MARYJEANSL**

Wow! Congratulations! The time went really fast...it seems like yesterday when you were starting the course. Enjoy your travels - sounds like a lot of fun. :-)

2849 days ago



**LINDAKAY228**

Congratulations and enjoy the next leg of the journey!

2849 days ago





**SUZYSMOBILE**

Congrats! And the celebratory dinner looks great, too!  
2849 days ago



**ONEKIDSMOM**

I'm thrilled for your adventure! This is the way to get the real local flavor. Have fun!  
2849 days ago



**WILSONWR**

From all of your blogs, it sounds like you had a great experience. At least you can speak conversationally now with the locals.  
2849 days ago



**WUMPASTAR**

You look GREAT and really happy! What you guys did was amazing and really inspiring :D  
2850 days ago



**MYSTERYROSE74**



2850 days ago



**NANNABLACK**



2850 days ago



**CD5500762**



2850 days ago



**DR1939**

We have traveled by rail, by car, and on foot in many countries where we do not speak the language. It is definitely an adventure but you make so many friends this way. Several times people have asked us for directions, thinking we were natives. I'm sure it was because we were in non-tourist areas. When we run into trouble we ask a young person. Very often they speak enough English to help us. In busy restaurants people sometimes will ask to share your table. We always say yes. My husband is very friendly and he talks to the serving staff. If they are pleasant and the food is decent we go back to that restaurant.

Have a wonderful drive through Slovenia. I wish you were going over into Poland, the Tatra Mountain area is quite lovely.  
2850 days ago



**MISCHAKEO**

What a fun trip to follow your course Good luck on the language part. Have a great time. You look great and happy in your picture.



2850 days ago



**CD13285479**

What an exciting adventure!  
2850 days ago



**WATERMELLEN**

What a great follow up to the course: total immersion with native speaking people.

I'm sure everyone will be very appreciative of your efforts . . .and surprised at how good you are!  
2850 days ago



**BESSHAILE**

Oh what a wonderful trip! Thanks for sharing.  
2850 days ago



**BOILHAM**

I'm sure your grammar will be overlooked. The natives will just be thrilled to hear you speak even if you're stumbling over their language. So excited for you.  
2850 days ago





**GINIEMIE**

I'm sure you will both do just fine. I've missed you but understand the need to be immersed in the language, slovak that is. I'm proud of you and hubby, and I know you've accomplished something on your bucket list.

Looking forward to hearing about your adventures and seeing some pictures.

Enjoy

Ginie



2850 days ago



**JSTETSER**

I have never been in Russia, but I LOVED my time in Poland. I look forward to reading more of your travels!

Great photos too!

[http://www.sparkpeople.com/mypage\\_public\\_journal\\_individual.asp?blog\\_id=5465431](http://www.sparkpeople.com/mypage_public_journal_individual.asp?blog_id=5465431)

2850 days ago



**SATCHMO99**

So long as you can order beer and wine, you'll get along just fine! Oh, and please, thank you and help go a long way, too.

2850 days ago



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