

Summits & Tarns of Slovakia

Tour Style: European Centre Based

Destination: Slovakia

Trip code: SPLCL

2 & 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Unspoiled and uncrowded, Slovakia boasts some impressive natural landscapes, making it a must-do for lovers of the outdoors. With easy-to-reach walks perfect for all abilities, from the Tatras mountains with their mirror-still tarns backed by impressive peaks, to the scenic Pieniny National Park where you can discover local traditions and ways of life, there's something for everyone. Let us show you the best this region has to offer on our guided walking holiday, where an experienced, knowledgeable local leader will introduce you to three national parks in five days, and will guide you on a variety of walks that showcase the best of this beautiful country.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Half Board, 3 star hotel accommodation
- A full programme of guided walks with two options every walking day
- The services of experienced, knowledgeable local guides
- Return flights from the UK and hotel transfers on 'with flight' holidays
- 7 nights' accommodation in en-suite rooms
- All transport to and from walks
- Packed lunch provided on two days
- Dinner in a traditional local restaurant

- Wooden rafting experience
- Evening Goral picnic dinner

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore three wild and mountainous national parks in five days
- Use electric trains to access the high Tatras region
- Drift on wooden rafts through the longest canyon in middle Europe on the river Dunajec
- Enjoy the hospitality of the Gorals and discover their traditions
- Dine out in a traditional folklore Slovak restaurant with live gypsy music



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Transfer to your accommodation in Novy Smokovec and make yourself comfortable in the family-run Hotel Villa Siesta, situated in the heart of the High Tatras National Park.

Day 2: Tatranska Lomnica, Mountains & Tarns

Explore Tatranska Lomnica to take in mountain views, tarns and traditional villages

Option 1 - Tatranska Lomnica

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 120m (400ft) of ascent. 1020m (3400ft) of descent

In summary: This morning board the electric Tatra train to climb to the cable car station in Tatranska Lomnica. From here you'll ascend by cable car to Skalnate Pleso, a mountain tarn where you can soak up beautiful panoramic views. The tarn is situated under the second highest peak of the High Tatras – Lominicky. There's time for a visit to the Skalnata mountain hut before beginning your descent to the mountain village of

Tatranska Lomnica. Pause here to explore the village and perhaps enjoy a coffee at the oldest hotel, Lomnica.

Option 2 - Tatranska Magistrala

Distance: 11 miles (17.5km)

Total ascent: 1,600 feet (480m)

In summary: Start your adventure by boarding the electric train and cable car to Skalnaté Plešné. Pick up a rugged, marked trail, Tatranska Magistrala, across rocky terrain, which will lead you through the Tatra mountains to reach the summit of Veľká Svistovka (2037m). This is the highest point of the trail. Here, enjoy views of the Belianske Tatras and the valley of the Green Tarn, Zelene Plešné. On reaching the tarn you will find a mountain hut, which is the perfect place to stop for lunch. After your hearty picnic, continue through a forest on a rocky path to Kermarska Bielá Voda, where you will meet your return transport.

Day 3: Low Tatras – Chopok – Dumbier

This morning you'll transfer to Demänovská valley in the Low Tatras, arriving at the upper end of the valley and the famous resort of Jasna, from where today's walk begins.

Option 1 - Chopok

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Total ascent: 1,900 feet (570m)

In summary: You'll climb to the 2nd highest peak of the Low Tatras – Chopok (2,024 m) - on the cable car and can walk to the summit before continuing on the ridge between the two highest peaks of the Low Tatras – Chopok and Dumbier. This trail offers fantastic panoramic views of the High Tatras, Low Tatras, Western Tatras and the Liptovská Mara water dam. Enjoy a ride to the other side of the Chopok peak, Kosodrevina, and back so that you can enjoy great views over the High Tatras and Liptov region. Then take the cable car back to Jasná, where there will be time to discover the biggest tarn of the Low Tatras – Velické tarn, an opportunity not to be missed.

Option 2 - Dumbier

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 1500ft (450m) of ascent 3,100ft (930m) of descent

In summary: Today's walk starts much the same as the easier walk, following the ridge path to the highest peak of the low Tatras Dumbier (2043m). After reaching the peak you'll continue along the Slovak National Uprising's Hero's Trail to the cottage of General Stefanik, where you can take a break for lunch. After lunch continue to the cable car station Kosodrevina, and take the cable car back to Chopok before heading down to Jasna.

Day 4: Stary Smokovec – Huts And Waterfalls

Transfer from the hotel to the oldest settlement of the Tatras – Stary Smokovec. From here you will ride a cog railway to Hrebienok to begin your hike to the waterfalls of Cold Creek Valley. In the evening, you'll dine in a traditional folklore Slovak restaurant, Zbojnická Koliba, where you'll be treated to traditional Slovak dishes while a professional gypsy band performs.

Option 1 - Bilikova Hut

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Total ascent: 1,200 feet (360m)

In summary: On route you'll pass Bilikova Hut before reaching Rainer Hut, where you will stop for a coffee break. Continuing to Zamkovska hut, you'll take an alternative trail back to Hrebienok. Once back in Hrebienok you are free to explore; perhaps visit the renovated former judge towers to see the exhibitions of the Tatra mountain huts or visit "Kvantarium" a brand new project where you can experience impressive multimedia shows. Alternatively take time to relax and enjoy a coffee while taking in the views. When ready, return via the cog railway to Stary Smokovec (or you may prefer to take the short 30 mins walk back down) before returning to the hotel.

Option 2 - Zbojnicka Hut

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Total ascent: 3,000 feet (900m)

In summary: Your walk will follow a similar path to the easier walk only you will continue all the way to Zbojnicka mountain hut, situated in the upper part of the Great Cold Valley below the Zbojnicky crest. After enjoying the views over the majestic peaks, return to Hrebienok and the cog railway back to Stary Smokovec.

Day 5: Free Day

Your stay includes a weekly ticket for the Tatra electric train, which you can use to further explore the High Tatras villages or venture into Poprad with its shops and cafes. Alternatively, visit Spis castle, which is a UNESCO heritage site.

Day 6: Strbske Pleso – Popradske Pleso – Symbolic Cemetery

Start your walk today at the highest point of the High Tatras, Strbske Pleso (1350m), which is well known for its winter sports facilities, beautiful scenery and hiking trails.

Option 1 - Popradske Pleso

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Total ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)

In summary: Let your local guide take you around one of the biggest tarns in the High Tatras before joining one of the most beautiful, easy hiking trails in the High Tatras to Popradske pleso tarn. Here, visit the symbolic cemetery of the victims of the High Tatras, take in the unique views of the surrounding peaks and then continue down to the train station at Popradske pleso.

Option 2 - Popradske Pleso & Ostrva Gap

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Total ascent: 2,500 feet (750m)

In summary: Beginning in Strbske Pleso you will begin the day with a walk to Popradske tarn before continuing on to Ostrva Gap.

Day 7: Pieniny National Park

Today your local leader will show you one of the most beautiful corners of Slovakia, the Zamagurie region and its unique national park Pieniny.

Option 1 - Cerveny Klastor & Dunajec Rafting

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Total ascent: negligible

In summary: Begin your walk at the border bridge between Poland and Slovakia, and continue to the former monastery, Cerveny Klaster, with its museum exhibition showcasing the way of life for two religious orders that resided here in the past. Afterward, drift on wooden rafts down the longest canyon in middle Europe, on the river Dunajec, which forms the natural border between Slovakia and Poland. You'll have time to enjoy the spa town of Szczawnica on the Polish side. If time allows you could potentially take the chairlift to Palencia hill as well to admire the panoramic views over Pieniny and the Tatra mountains. You will complete the days walk at Lesnica, where you'll enjoy a wonderful Goral picnic and experience the hospitality of the mountain folk here.

Option 2 - Trzy Korony, Cerveny Klaster & Dunajec Rafting

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Total ascent: 1,800 feet (540m)

In summary: Walking from the border bridge you will head for the spectacular Trzy Korony Peak, which offers unique views over the national park. Then head for Cerveny Klaster, and board the wooden rafts to explore the canyon, before walking to Lesnica for the Goral picnic.

Day 8: Departure Day

Conclude your holiday and make your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Villa Siesta

The Hotel Villa Siesta is a family-run hotel situated in the heart of the High Tatras national park. The ideal location for exploring the many trails which are easily accessible via train and cable cars.

Accommodation Info

Rooms

The hotel features 24 cosy en-suite rooms/guestrooms, with:

- TV
- Hairdryer
- Telephone
- Minibar
- WiFi internet

Facilities

There is a wellness centre with relaxation room, hydromassage baths and sauna. Massage treatments are also available.

Guests can relax and enjoy a drink by the fireplace or on the terrace.

Free WiFi is available in all areas of the hotel.

Food & Drink

Our holidays in Slovakia are Half Board

Breakfast

Self-service breakfast buffet

Lunch (Payable Locally)

The hotel can provide pre-ordered packed lunches at an additional cost. Alternatively, ingredients for a picnic lunch can be purchased from local shops or it may be possible to eat at cafés or huts on certain days on the walks. Our leaders will advise you of the options.

Evening Meal

A 3-course dinner is served in the restaurant. Vegetarian and special diets are catered for; It is helpful if you can specify these at the time of booking.

On the evening of day 4 we get to visit a traditional Slovak restaurant where we can enjoy traditional Slovak dishes.

On our final evening we get to experience a wonderful Goral picnic, which is a unique opportunity to get a glimpse into the life of the Gorals.

Drinks

The hotel has a well-stocked bar serving local beers, wine and spirits plus tea and coffee.

Your Evenings

The friendly atmosphere of our Guided Walking holidays continues into the evening.

Enjoy a glass of wine or beer while listening to your leaders outlining the next day's walks.

Relax in the hotel bar in order to chat with your fellow guests.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Book your holiday 'with flight' from Heathrow to Krakow airport. For flight times and prices please see the Dates & Prices tab. If you choose this option we automatically include return transfers between the airport and the hotel. The coach transfer takes approximately 1 hour 20 mins to the Hotel Villa Siesta.

Tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flights' allowing you the freedom to book your own flights from your local airport. If you choose this option, we can book you a seat on the HF Holidays' transfer coach from Krakow airport. This is timed to meet the HF Holidays' flight* (provisional flight times can be found on the dates and prices tab or you can call us on 020 8732 1220 for more information). Alternatively, we can arrange a private taxi transfer for you from Krakow, Poprad or Kosice airports. Prices on request. All transfers must be pre-booked. Please call 020 8732 1220 for more details.

* Please note that HF Holidays is not responsible for your onward travel if you fail to meet the transfer coach

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Weather & Seasonality

Slovakia generally has warm, dry summers and fairly cold winters. The weather is best May-September, when the days are warm and the nights are cool, it tends to rain more in Spring than in summer.

Essential Information

Passport Requirements

You may need to renew your British passport if you're travelling from 1 January 2021.

On the day you travel, you'll need your passport to both:

- have at least 6 months left
- be less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left)

Use the [government website](#) to see if your passport is valid for this holiday

EHIC Cards

The UK government has officially launched the Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC), which will replace the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). UK residents can now apply for one of the GHIC cards, which will gradually replace the EHIC cards as they reach their expiry dates. Every family member travelling requires a GHIC. You can make an application for yourself and on behalf of your partner and any dependent children under the age of 16. Both cards will offer equivalent protection for emergency and medically necessary healthcare needs when in the EU on a temporary stay, which includes holiday, study and business travel. Necessary healthcare includes things like

- emergency treatment and visits to A&E
- treatment for long-term or pre-existing medical conditions
- routine medical care for pre-existing conditions that need monitoring
- oxygen and kidney dialysis

The public only need to apply for their free GHIC cards when their current EHIC expires. The process is likely to take two weeks. For more information visit <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>.

The GHIC is not an alternative to travel insurance. We advise all holidaymakers to also invest in travel insurance that covers healthcare, so they are covered for other issues that may arise, as well as cancellations and lost luggage.

Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety and comfort are our priorities, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents.
- Walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares).
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended.
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers.
- Warm hat and gloves.
- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks.
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner.
- Thermos flask for hot drink.
- Water bottle (at least 2 litre).
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar.
- Small torch.
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed).
- Sun hat and sunglasses
- Sun cream.

Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents.
- Insect repellent.
- Camera.
- Gaiters.

Useful Information

The local language is Polish (Slovak for the day in Slovakia).

Tap water is considered safe to drink, but if you prefer, bottled mineral water can be purchased from the hotel or local supermarkets.

If the international number you wish to call starts with a 0, you must drop the starting digit when dialling the number.

To dial a UK number 0044

To dial a Slovak number 00421

Local Currency

The local currency is the Polish Zloty (Euros for the day in Slovakia).

Electricity

230 Volt AC with round two pin plugs; you will need an adaptor for any appliances brought from the UK.

ATM Availability

There are several ATM machines in Nový Smokovec where you can obtain money.

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 5.30pm, Saturday: 9am – 1pm, Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: National Westminster Bank, Account Name: HF Holidays Limited, Account Number: 48904805, Sort Code: 60-00-01, IBAN: GB90NWBK60000148904805

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the [Manage My Booking](#) function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

Your final balance payment is due 6 weeks before departure if you are staying in an HF Holidays UK country house, 8 weeks before departure if you are travelling on one of our holidays in Europe and 10 weeks before departure if you are on a Guided Trail staying in one of our partner hotels or are travelling on a Worldwide holiday. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on [01702 427 236](tel:01702427236) or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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