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# Adventure Hiking in High Tatras

Last updated: 11/07/2024

Centre-based walking in the High Tatras, Slovakia.

**Valid:** Jun - October 2019

**Holiday code:** TTA

**Countries included:** Slovakia

**Activity level:** 3

**Themes:** Walking and Trekking

**Tour type:** Self-Guided

**Minimum age:** 12

**Duration:** 7 days

**Available in:** May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct

## Overview

On this hiking holiday you'll discover the best of the High Tatras – the biggest mountains of Slovakia and a paradise for trekkers and nature lovers.

Over seven days you'll experience:

- **Walking** – on perfectly marked tourist trails.
- **Tatra villages** – Smokovec, Tatranska Lomnica and Strbske Pleso, the most popular spa villages in the High Tatras.
- **Soaring peaks** – climb to stunning viewpoints, such as Velka Svistovka (2,038m) or legendary Lomnický Peak (2,634m).
- **Deep valleys** – discover hidden fauna and flora.
- **Traditional mountain huts** – offering delicious Tatra teas and home-made dishes.
- **Cable car ride** – to Skalnaté Pleso, one of the area's most popular mountain lakes at the foothills of the Lomnický Peak (2,634m).
- **Mountain lakes and waterfalls** – with crystal clean water.
- **Strbske Pleso** – the highest village in Slovakia.



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# Itinerary

## Day 1: Arrival in Smokovec, Slovakia.

Welcome to Smokovec, the heart of the High Tatras. Located in the shadow of Gerlachovsky Peak (2,655m) – the highest peak in Slovakia – Smokovec is considered the centre of the High Tatras. Close to the popular tourist crossroads of Hrebienok, this village is one of the most popular starting points for hiking in the High Tatras.

When you get to the hotel you will be briefed about the week's program and, depending on the time of your arrival, there might be time for a walk in Stry Smokovec – the oldest village in the Tatras.

### Meals included

None

### Accommodation

Hotel Villa Siesta (or similar)

## Day 2: Ride a cable car to Skalnaté Pleso, trek to Velka Svistovka and descend to Zelene Pleso Hut.

After a good breakfast, you'll take a mountain tram to Tatranska Lomnica, followed by a cable car ride to the mountain lake of Skalnaté Pleso (1,751m). This crystal-clear lake is surrounded by forested hills and towering granite peaks, and there's an astronomical and meteorological observatory near the top, which you'll have time to look around.

Velka Svistovka (2,037m) is next on your route, and it's well-known for its high concentration of Tatra chamois. Endemic to the High and Low Tatras, Tatra chamois are a rare subspecies of the chamois. It's thought that there are only about 600 left. They often wander around in this alpine terrain, close to where you will be walking.

The trail is secured by chains on a few of the more difficult sections, but the mountain provides an accessible and gratifying climb. From the summit of Velka Svistovka, make your descent to the Zelene Pleso Hut. Located at the glacier lake of the same name this is an absolutely beautiful spot for lunch.

From Zelene Pleso you continue to Biela Voda from where you take a public bus back to Tatranska Lomnica, which is only about 10 minutes away.

Note: according to the national park's regulations a part of this route is closed until 15 Jun 2020. If you'll be visiting before 15 Jun, this route will be tailored accordingly.

### Meals included

Breakfast

### Accommodation

Hotel Villa Siesta (or similar)

### Meals included

Breakfast

### Accommodation

Hotel Villa Siesta (or similar)

## Day 3: Hiking to waterfalls, Rainerova, Zamkovskeho and Terryho Hut

Embark on an unforgettable journey through the High Tatras today, starting with a hike to the stunning cascade waterfalls of Studeny Potok. Then, we'll traverse the trails to three iconic mountain huts: Rainerova, Zamkovskeho, and Terryho.

Surrounded by panoramic views of jagged peaks and lush valleys, breathe in the crisp mountain air as we explore this pristine wilderness. After a day of adventure, we return to Smokovec in the afternoon to unwind at our hotel, reflecting on the beauty and serenity of the Tatras.

### Meals included

Breakfast

### Accommodation

Hotel Villa Siesta (or similar)

## **Day 4: Hike through the beautiful Studena Dolina Valley to Zbojnicka, or 'Robbers' Hut.**

Today you'll hike through the Studena Dolina Valley. From its narrow beginnings, the valley gradually gets wider, and terraces harbouring mountain lakes tower above. Pause and enjoy the sight of colourful flowers, the scent of pine trees and the sound of rare birds singing in the mountains as you traverse the valley.

The valley leads you up to Zbojnicka, or 'Robbers', Hut, where you can enjoy a traditional lunch of soup and dumplings. Zbojnicka Hut is one of the highest at an altitude of 1,960m and still a popular base for trekkers. Its name harks back to the days when it was a hunters' hut, and poachers used to stalk the valley.

Your hike ends where it started, at Hrebienok. From here, you'll take a funicular and tram back to your hotel and enjoy a well-earned dinner!

### **Meals included**

Breakfast

### **Accommodation**

Hotel Villa Siesta (or similar)

## **Day 5: Walk to Popradske Pleso lake and the symbolic cemetery of victims of the Tatras.**

Today's trek starts with a tram journey through the Tatras' most famous settlements to Strbske Pleso (1,347m), Slovakia's highest village and home to a beautiful glacial lake. The village is one of the most popular destinations in Slovakia as it provides many kilometres of hiking routes and the chance to admire the lake itself.

From here, follow a trail to the crystal-clear mountain lake of Popradske Pleso, one of the biggest in the Tatra range. Enjoy lunch on the terrace of the mountain hotel, and visit the symbolic cemetery which is dedicated to the victims of the Tatra mountains. In the afternoon, descend back to Strbske Pleso and return to Smokovec.

### **Meals included**

Breakfast

### **Accommodation**

Hotel Villa Siesta (or similar)

## **Day 6: Walk through the Mlynicka and Furkotska Valleys to Waterfall Skok.**

Once again, today's trek starts with a tram journey to Strbske Pleso.

From here, you'll follow a trail to Skok waterfall. The hiking trail is waymarked and leads you along a road to the peace and tranquillity of the pine-forested Mlynicka Valley. From here, a stony path squeezes you through hairpin turns to the foot of the waterfall, which drops 25m from the rocky ledge above. It's easy to see why these are among the High Tatras' top ten attractions – the cascading waters are beautiful as they tumble down the mountain into the pools below. This is the perfect place for your picnic lunch, maybe dipping your feet into the refreshing water before returning to Strbske Pleso and then by tram to your hotel in Smokovec.

### **Optional walk:**

Those who want to make this day more challenging can continue through the valleys and pass several smaller glacial lakes; you'll reach Pod Soliskom Hut, one of the newer mountain chalets in the region. From here, you can enjoy far-reaching views of the Tatras.

Remember that this optional route also involves trekking through sections secured with chains, and you'll need a head for heights.

Note: according to the national park's regulations, this optional route is closed until 15 Jun 2020. If you'll be visiting before 15 Jun, this optional route is not possible to do.

### **Meals included**

Breakfast

### **Accommodation**

Hotel Villa Siesta (or similar)

## **Day 7: Your holiday comes to an end**

Your tour ends after breakfast. We wish you a pleasant journey home and we look forward to meeting you again on some of our other walking holidays.

### **Meals included**

Breakfast

## **Essential Holiday Information**

### **What's Included**

Six nights in a three-star hotel  
Six breakfasts  
Mountain trams  
Hiking Maps and detailed route descriptions  
Routes for GPS devices  
Maps of the town  
24/7 local support

### **What's not Included**

Lunches and dinners  
Arrival and departure airport transfers  
Cable cars (approx.. 60 EUR per person)  
Travel insurance  
Flights

### **Joining Arrangements & Transfers**

This holiday starts in Smokovec. We recommend flying to **Krakow Airport** in neighbouring Poland as this is the closest airport with a wide selection of international flights. Other smaller airports include Poprad, Kosice, and Bratislava.

#### **Airport Transfers**

Book your private airport transfer directly with us. Our fast, reliable, and affordable private transfers are the best way to reach your starting hotel quickly and comfortably.

List of airports with distances to the first hotel in Smokovec:

Krakow Airport – 144 km / 2h:30min  
Poprad Airport – 17 km / 20 min  
Kosice Airport – 134 km / 1h:30min  
Bratislava Airport – 329 km / 3h:40min

#### **Public Transport**

You can reach Smokovec by public transport (bus, train). Public transport is another way of experiencing your destination, which puts you right in the centre of the action. We can help you find the best option if you prefer public transport.

### **Meal Plan**

All breakfasts are included.

## Food & Water

### Breakfasts

Each morning the hotel's restaurant provides a delicious buffet breakfast. The standard choice includes several types of bread and rolls, salami, ham, sausages, boiled or scrambled eggs, and cheeses, including traditional Slovak sheep cheese, cakes, fresh fruit, cereals, jam, or even quality Slovak honey directly from a local beekeeper.

The hotel is usually able to cater for clients with different types of diets, including vegetarians or gluten-free diets.

### Lunches

Lunches are not included, you can decide if you'd like to visit a local supermarket and pick up some items for a picnic, or we can ask your hotel to prepare a packed lunch for you, which usually consists of a sandwich or a baguette, fruit and a biscuit. Alternatively, you may treat yourself to lunch in mountain huts that you visit daily. Mountain huts provide basic but delicious traditional warm dishes for a reasonable price. Please note that mountain huts might not fulfil your special dietary requirements, so in this case we'd recommend bringing your packed lunch with you.

### Dinners

You can enjoy your dinners at your hotel's restaurant or try out some of the local traditional restaurants in the town.

### Water

Water is drinkable from the tap on this holiday. Please fill your bottles for your day in the morning. We do not encourage the purchasing of single-use plastic bottles.

### Special Diets

Whilst we can generally cater to vegetarians and gluten-free diets, providing other special diets might be difficult and sometimes impossible. Therefore, you may have to supplement your diet with food and snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements, please get in touch with our sales team, and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice.

Please note that we cannot provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

### Group size

Normally 1 - 8

### Extra Nights

If you need to arrive or leave on a different date, please contact us and we'd be more than happy to arrange extra pre or post tour accommodation for you in many popular destinations including Krakow, Bratislava, Kosice, and Vienna.

### Optional

Hotel Villa Siesta\*\*\* single room supplement: 110 EUR

### Packing

We recommend you pack as light as possible, with a backpack for your main luggage and daypack for each day's trekking. Below you will find a recommended packing list. It is by no means exhaustive, so if you're in any doubt, please contact us. There is no specialist walking or climbing equipment, such as harnesses etc., needed for this trip.

- Walking boots
- Trainers
- Shorts and t-shirts
- Walking trousers and tops
- Fleece or warm jumper
- Waterproofs
- Water bottle

- Small first-aid kit
- Sun cream, sunglasses and sunhat

## Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with Slovakia Explorer that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

## Itinerary disclaimer

Please note, we want to run this trip following the day-to-day itinerary on the trip notes. However, sometimes operational circumstances may sometimes prevent us from doing this. Your tour leader will keep you fully informed of any alternative plans that are necessary on-the-ground. Also, based on feedbacks from past travellers, occasionally our itineraries are amended. Final version of your trip notes will be emailed to you prior to travel.

## Ready to go? Signing up is quick and easy!

1. Check availability online or contact us by email or phone.
2. Secure your place/s online by clicking the BOOK NOW button or contact us by email/phone. Your place is secured with a 99 EUR deposit per person and can pay by bank transfer.
3. Once the deposit is received a confirmation email will be sent to your email automatically, and your place/s will be officially confirmed.

## Need more information?

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions at all. Our knowledgeable and helpful team is here to help, and we look forward to welcoming you to our spectacular country soon!

## Why book with Slovakia Explorer

On this walking holiday you'll experience the best of the High Tatras. Our carefully selected tourist trails will lead you to the most beautiful parts of the Tatras, returning to the same hotel each day. Whether you choose a guided tour or set off without a guide, we will take care of everything and guide you safely with no worries.