



**SLOVAKIA
EXPLORER**



Adventure Hiking in Slovakia in a Weekend

Last updated: 29/09/2024

Adventurous walking through the Slovak Paradise National Park.

Holiday code: TSP

Countries included: Slovakia

Activity level: 3

Themes: Walking and Trekking

Tour type: Guided Groups

Minimum age: 12

Duration: 4 days

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

Overview

Slovak Paradise is home to gorges, canyons and caves, which in turn host cascading waterfalls and flowing rivers. These set the scene for your treks each day. Metal bridges and ladders – sometimes reminiscent of the Italian Via Ferrata – take you across, up and through the different chasms. With its flower-filled meadows, canyons, waterfalls and wildlife-rich landscape, we think Slovak Paradise is one of the most beautiful places on earth. It has some of the best walking for those who want to experience something intrepid and different... Come and find out for yourself:

Over four days you'll experience:

- Mountain walking across ladders and bridges, which adds a unique dimension to the trek.
- River canyons and waterfalls, as well as caves and rock-cut ravines that make this a real adventure.
- The Slovak Paradise, which is home to up to 74 different rare flowers, orchids and lilies per square metre.



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Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Levoca, Slovakia.

Medieval Levoca, a former royal town, is a jewel of the Spis region and one of the most visited towns in Slovakia.

The historic main square is a magnet for tourists from all over the world. Look around and you'll find burgher mansions with gabled roofs, the Gothic Church of St. Jacob, with the biggest wooden altar in the world, and beautifully preserved city walls.

The UNESCO town of Levoca will be your home for the next four nights. Surrounded by three national parks, this is the perfect base for your walking adventure. Dinner on day one is included and will be served in the hotel's restaurant.

Meals included

Dinner

Accommodation

Hotel U Leva (or similar)

Day 2: Walking through the Prielom Hornadu Canyon to the 'Tomasovsky Vyhlad' rock gallery viewpoint.

Slovak Paradise was declared a national park in 1988 and is one of the youngest in Slovakia. It certainly lives up to its name as a paradise for those looking for adventurous walks in a beautiful location. Full of caves, canyons and gorges, the walks here use metal ladders and bridges to cross and climb the gaps.

This morning you transfer 20 min to the heart of Slovak Paradise National Park, where you start your guided walking adventure with a hike through the 13km Prielom Hornádu canyon. A 13km-long section of the river cuts through a gorge, and ladders and bridges take you along and up it. The most visited part is the 'Tomasovsky Vyhlad' rock gallery, where a 200m limestone rock rises up from the Hornád River and provides stunning views of the park. In the late afternoon you return back to your hotel.

Total walking

Distance: 13 km

Total ascent: 1106 m

Total descent: 1076 m

Max elevation: 706 m

Min elevation: 504 m

Meals included

Breakfast, packed lunch

Accommodation

Hotel U Leva (or similar)

Day 3: Trek through the Sucha Bela canyon via the ruins of a Courtesan monastery, 'Klasterisko'.

Today's walk is a fairly adventurous circular route. Starting in a popular tourist centre, Podlesok, you'll go through the most romantic gorge in Slovakia, Suchá Belá – a world of cascades, waterfalls and gorges. Walking through the canyon involves crossing exposed sections of the gorge on ladders, steps, bridges and chains.

The descent back to Podlesok will be on relatively easy terrain on comfortable forest roads and paths, and you will stop at the ruins of a Courtesan monastery, hidden in the heart of the National Park.

Total walking

Distance: 12 km

Total ascent: 555 m

Total descent: 555 m

Max elevation: 951 m

Min elevation: 540 m

Meals included

Breakfast, packed lunch

Accommodation

Hotel U Leva (or similar)

Day 4: 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

Is this trip right for you?

This trip is not for the faint-hearted and you'll need a head for heights. If you love stunning scenery and are happy with something a little more daring, this gets you to some of the best and most hidden areas of the park.

Rated as grade three, this is a demanding trekking trip. The walks will be longer on more difficult trails, which may require surefootedness and a head for heights.

There will also be altitude changes on this trip. As well as stamina and a good level of fitness, ideally you will have had experience of mountain walking or completed some long-distance walks.

What's Included

- Three nights in a three-star family run hotel.
- Three breakfasts, two packed lunches, one dinner
- Maps and detailed route descriptions, routes for GPS devices
- Transfers from/to Levoca on day two and three
- 24/7 local support
- Tour guide (only for guided groups)

What's not Included

- Flights
- Arrival, departure airport transfers
- Entry fees to NP (approx.. 3 EUR)
- Travel insurance

Optional

Single room supplement: 50 EUR

Solo traveller: 110 EUR

Group Size

Normally 16 max.

Start point

This tour starts in Levoca.

End point.

This tour ends in Levoca.

Flights & Airports

To enhance flexibility our holidays do not include flights. This gives you the freedom to choose a local airport that works for you and shop for the best deal.

List of airports with distances to your hotel in Levoca:

- Poprad Airport – 31 km / 20 min
- Kosice Airport – 105 km / 1h:20min
- Krakow Airport – 180 km / 3h
- Bratislava Airport – 370 km / 4h

Getting there & Airport transfers

Once you have decided which airport works for you best you will need to choose the way how to get to the starting hotel / joining point. There are two options:

Public transport

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

Private transfers (door to door service)

Book your private airport transfers directly with us. Our fast, reliable and affordable private transfers are the best way to reach your starting hotel quickly and comfortably. For up-to-date prices of Airport private transfers click here.

End point

This tour ends in Krakow.

Accommodation

During this tour you'll stay in a comfortable three-star family run hotel.

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 and Kosice.

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

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?

Have a look at our detailed trip notes or please feel free to contact us if you have any questions at all. Trip Notes provide detailed information including visa info, how to get to your hotel, what to pack, money matters, climate – pretty much everything you need to know about this tour and more.

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

This walking tour in the Slovak Paradise national park includes two of the very best and most attractive locations for adventurous walking in Europe. Under the guidance of our professional team, whether on a guided or self-guided tour, you'll walk safely through this spectacular place that's unlike anywhere else in Europe.