



**SLOVAKIA
EXPLORER**



High Tatras Winter Adventure

Last updated: 17/05/2023

Multi-activity winter holiday in the Slovakian High Tatras.

Holiday code: AWT

Countries included: Slovakia

Activity level: 3

Themes: Multi Activity, Winter

Tour type: Guided Groups

Minimum age: 16

Duration: 8 days

Available in: Jan, Feb, Mar, Dec

Overview

This action-packed, week-long adventure includes the most popular winter activities in the Tatra Mountains. Based in the picturesque village of Smokovec, in the shadow of Slovakia's highest peak, Gerlachovsky Stit (2654m), you'll head out each day to enjoy the best the mountains have to offer. Over eight days you will experience:

- **Cross country skiing** in Strbske Pleso, Slovakia's highest village.
- **Snowshoeing** - walk on snowshoes along the former smuggler's paths, with beautiful views of the snow-capped peaks of the Belianske Tatras and the Pieniny National Park.
- **Learn the basics of dog sledding** as you glide through the forest.
- **Thermal pools** – swimming in outdoor thermal pools in the foothills of the High Tatras.



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Slovakia Explorer, Skalica, 90865, Slovakia
00421 908 021 469 • www.slovakia-explorer.com • booking@slovakia-explorer.com

- **Experience horse and carriage ride** with a forest picnic.
- **Skiing or snowboarding** on the longest runs in the High Tatras.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Smokovec.

Welcome to Smokovec, Slovakia's ski resort located in the shadow of beautiful snowy mountains. This will be your base for the next seven nights. You will be met by your tour leader at the hotel for an introductory briefing. Depending on your arrival time, the rest of the day is free to explore.

Meals included

Dinner

Accommodation

Hotel Villa Siesta (or similar)

Day 2: Take the Tatra tram to Strbske Pleso, then go on a winter walk to Skok waterfall.

This morning you'll take a ride on the famous Tatra tram to Strbske Pleso – Slovakia's highest village. During this sightseeing tour we will pass through several Tatra spa villages. The guide will tell you a lot about each of them while driving.

After an introductory tour of Štrbské Pleso, we will head to Mlynická dolina. Our goal is the Skok waterfall. Hiking to this waterfall, which is frozen in the winter months, is a good choice for an introductory winter walk and the route can be managed even by less able tourists. Our guide will take you safely up to this 30m. high waterfall. For easier movement in the snow, we use crampons.

We'll keep an eye out for the Tatra chamois in the wilderness and have a picnic directly under the waterfall. Then, following the same route, we will return to Strbske Pleso and take the tram back to our hotel.

Total walking: 10,5km, ascent/descent 430m, time 4.5h.

Meals included

Breakfast, packed lunch

Accommodation

Hotel Villa Siesta (or similar)

Day 3: Dog-sledding and thermal pools.

After breakfast, transfer to Velka Fatra National Park, famous for its dramatic ridges, hillside meadows, distinctive rock formations and caves. High snow-covered meadows offer great conditions for dog-sledding. Professional mushers will teach you the basic principles of handling the dog sled, and then you can have a go yourself. Later today, visit indoor and outdoor thermal pools for a spot of relaxation. You can also enjoy saunas, Jacuzzis and a wellness centre (optional).

Meals included

Breakfast

Accommodation

Hotel Villa Siesta (or similar)

Day 4: A full day of snowshoeing.

This morning we take a private bus to the nearby village of Zdiar. After a quick lesson on how to use snowshoes, we head off, following the modest ridge of Spisska Magura. This relatively easy terrain is the perfect setting to sample snowshoeing, following routes that were used by local smugglers to bring goods from Poland to Slovakia. The views of the Belianske Tatras' white peaks are simply stunning.

Meals included

Breakfast, lunch

Accommodation

Hotel Villa Siesta (or similar)

Day 5: Cable car ride. Horse and sleigh ride with a forest picnic

This morning, take a cable car ride to Hrebienok (1,285m). Here we can admire stunning ice sculptures created by artists from all over the world, before enjoying an easy 20-minute walk to Rainerova chata, the oldest mountain hut in the Tatras.

Zdiar is a typical Goral village, full of traditional wooden houses and barns. You'll learn about the local way-of-life, before a horse and sleigh ride in the forest and unforgettable Slovak-style barbecue on an open fire.

The day ends as any kid (or grown-up kid!) would want it to – zooming down snowy slopes on a sledge!!

Meals included

Breakfast, lunch

Accommodation

Hotel Villa Siesta (or similar)

Day 6: Go skiing or snowboarding in Tatranska Lomnica.

After breakfast head to one of the longest slopes in Tatranska Lomnica to enjoy downhill skiing. Ski from an altitude of 2,196m, down a 6km-long slope to Tatranska Lomnica.

The resort offers slopes for beginners and black runs for experienced skiers. We can organise a ski lesson if you wish – just let us know.

Meals included

Breakfast

Accommodation

Hotel Villa Siesta (or similar)

Day 7: Free day for optional activities: skiing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling,

or visit caves and thermal pools.

Today has been left free for you to spend more time doing your favourite activity, or explore some of Slovakia's varied cultural attractions.

You could return to the slopes to work on your skiing or snowboarding technique, try snow-tubing, ice skating or snowmobiling. Take a cable car ride to Lomnický štít (2634m), visit Belianska cave, or hire crampons and hike to a remote mountain hut. Or why not to try cross country skiing in Strbske Pleso. Your guide will be there to assist with anything you might need.

Meals included

Breakfast

Accommodation

Hotel Villa Siesta (or similar)

Day 8: Tour ends.

Your adventure comes to an end today.

Meals included

Breakfast

Essential Holiday Information

Is this trip right for you?

This well-thought-out trip is a great choice for people who like active holidays or would like to try something new. The snow determines the difficulty of movement in the Tatras, but in general this winter multi-activity trip is designed so that it can be managed by active people with an average level of fitness.

What is Included

- Seven nights in a three-star hotel
- Seven breakfasts, two lunches
- All activities as per itinerary
- All transfers to/from activities as per itinerary
- Ski hire
- English-speaking local tour leader from start to finish

What's not Included

- International flights
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Ski pass (approx.. 30 EUR per person/per day)
- Travel insurance
- Any optional activities mentioned in the itinerary

Supplements

Single room: 90 EUR

Group Size

Normally min 6, max 16.

Please contact us if you'd like to arrange a private group for just you and your friends.

Start Point

This tour starts in Smokovec.

End Point

This tour ends in Smokovec.

Flights and 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 the first hotel in Smokovec:

Poprad Airport – 17 km / 20 min

Kosice Airport – 134 km / 1h:30min

Krakow Airport – 144 km / 2h:30min

Bratislava Airport – 329 km / 3h:40min

Vienna Airport – 394 km / 4h:20min

Budapest Airport – 328 km / 4h:30min

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.

Transport

During this tour all transport will be provided any you will use: minibus and mountain trams.

Accommodation

During this tour you'll stay in a comfortable three-star, family-run hotel in a quiet part of Smokovec within walking distance to restaurants.

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.

Packing

We recommend you pack as light as possible, with a suitcases or backpacks that are easy for parents to lift and carry, because you will be expected to carry your own bag during travelling, taking it to your hotel room etc.

You will also need a day pack/bag to carry water and a camera etc for day trips. Below you will find a recommended packing list. It is by no means exhaustive, so if you're in any doubt, please contact us.

- A thick coat or ski jacket
- Thermals
- Waterproof trousers
- Fleece and warm jumpers
- Gloves, hat and scarf
- Walking boots
- Strong trainers
- Water bottle
- Small first-aid kit
- Sun cream and sunglasses
- Swimwear, beach towels and flip flops for thermal pools

Group Leader

This trip is accompanied by one of our local group leaders. All the organisation, including transfers and activities, is managed by your leader. Our experienced guides are some of the best in the country; they will be there to assist you with anything you might need, giving you advice and organising your activities on a daily basis so you can fully focus on one thing – enjoying the beauty of the High Tatras.

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? Book now!

1. Check availability online or contact us by email or phone.
2. Secure your place/s online by clicking the BOOK NOW button and following the three easy steps or

contact us by email/phone. Your place is secured with a 99 EUR deposit per person, and can pay by bank transfer.

3. A confirmation email will be sent to your email automatically.

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

This holiday is operated by our expert, in-country team at Slovakia Explorer. By booking with us, you'll benefit from our unrivalled local knowledge, and have 24/7 support during your trip.

Our holidays offer unique experiences, which give you an unparalleled insight into Slovakia. During the planning and booking process, we pay attention to every detail of your holiday to ensure your trip is perfect.

Slovakia Explorer offers great value, high quality holidays.