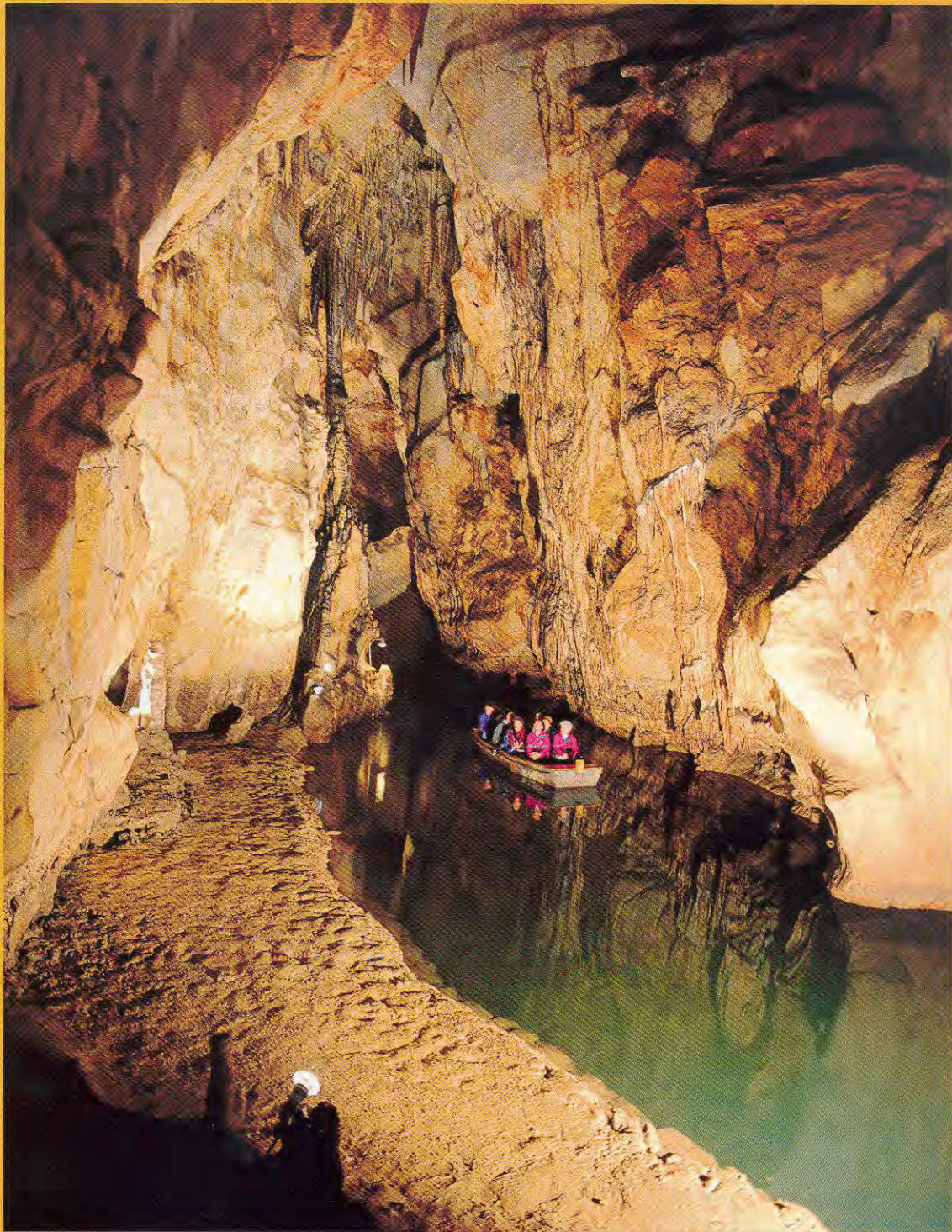


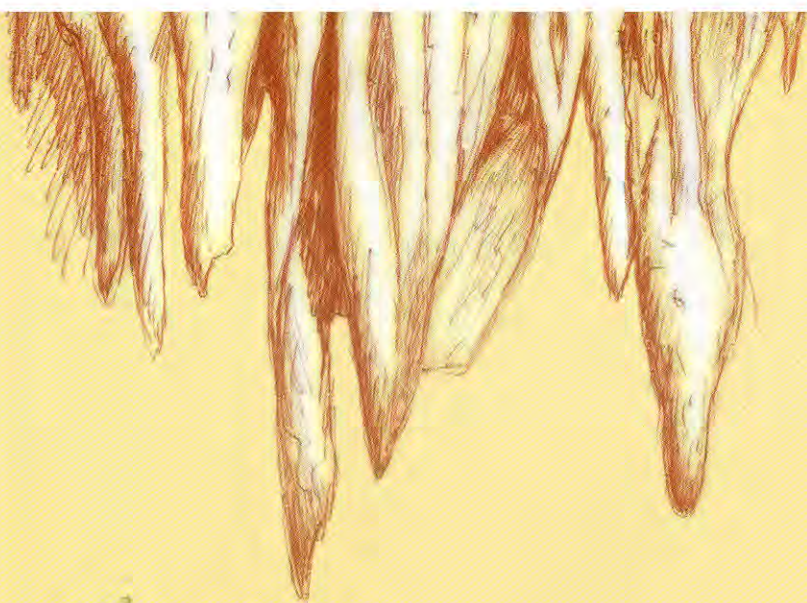
THE CAVES



Slovakia – part of Europe worth seeing




Slovakia



COUNTRY OF THOUSAND CAVES

Majesty of the Slovak nature is emphasised by fact that somewhere under the surface, inside the mountains there is hidden a magic world of unseen beauty, created by nothing else than just an ordinary drop of water ...

Caves, which in the past shared their secrets only with the bravest of all are today open to the public in order to share their beauty with all nature lovers.

Slovakia is literally a country of thousand caves (more than 4450), hidden beneath glorious peaks, discovered during the past centuries and with many of them still to be discovered.

Slovak caves located mainly in limestone formations. Most caves are in Slovenský kras, Nízke Tatry, Spišsko-gemerský kras (Slovenský raj, Muránska planina), in Veľka Fatra, Strážovské vrchy, in Západné, Vysoké and Belianske Tatry. More than 130 caves is in non-limestone geological formations (andesite, whinstone, sandstone and other). There is 40 caves covered by permanent ice. Most important caves have been listed as the national natural treasure (44 caves and precipices) and they belong among the underground jewels of Slovakia. 12 of the caves are open to the public. More of them are known across Europe and the world and they are an interesting invitation to a trip of beauty and discovery. The caves of Slovenský and Aggtelecký kras, including Ochtinská Aragonite Cave, and since year 2000 also Dobšinská Ice Cave are listed on the UNESCO World Natural Heritage list.



- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Belianska Cave | 7 Ochtinská Aragonite Cave |
| 2 Važecká Cave | 8 Gombasecká Cave |
| 3 Demänovská Cave of Liberty | 9 Domica Cave |
| 4 Demänovská Ice Cave | 10 Jasovská Cave |
| 5 Bystrianska Cave | 11 Dobšinská Ice Cave |
| 6 Harmanecká Cave | 12 Driny Cave |





Most...

The longest caves:

- System of Demänovská Caves, Nízke Tatry, 33 km
- Stratenská Cave - Psie diery, Slovenský raj, 21.7 km
- Jaskyňa mŕtvych netopierov (Dead Bat Cave), Nízke Tatry, 17.1 km

The deepest caves:

- Starý hrad (Old Castle), Nízke Tatry, 432 m
- Javorinka, Vysoké Tatry, 360 m
- Skalístý potok, Slovenský kras, 317 m

The biggest underground space:

- Rozprávkový dóm (Fairytale Dome), Stratenská Cave, 79,017 m³

The biggest stalagmite:

- Krásnohorská Cave, Slovenský kras, 32.6 m

The most important cave with aragonite interior:

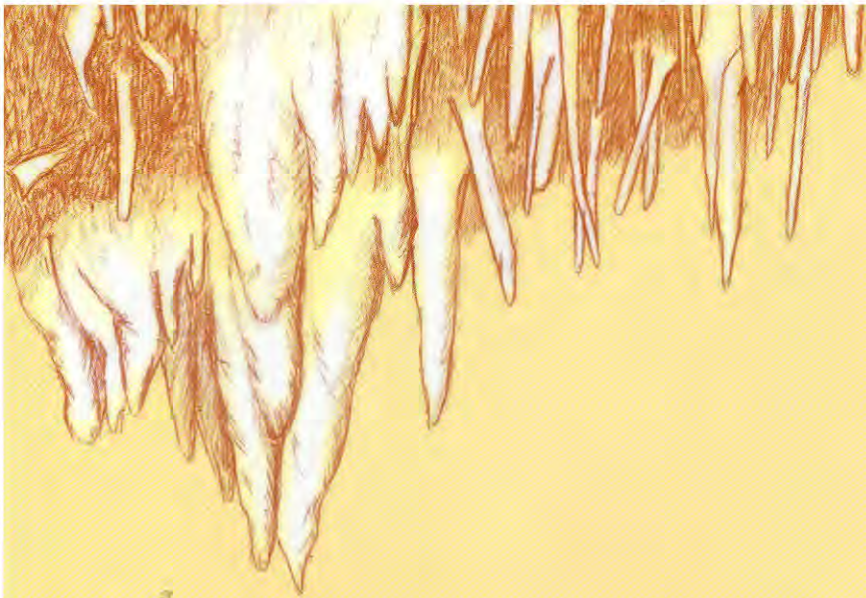
- Ochtinská Aragonite Cave, Revúcka vrchovina

The biggest volume of ice:

- Dobšinská Ice Cave, more than 110,100 m³

The lowest situated ice cave:

- Silická ľadnica (Silická Ice Cave), Slovenský kras, 503 above sea level



BELIANSKA JASKYŇA

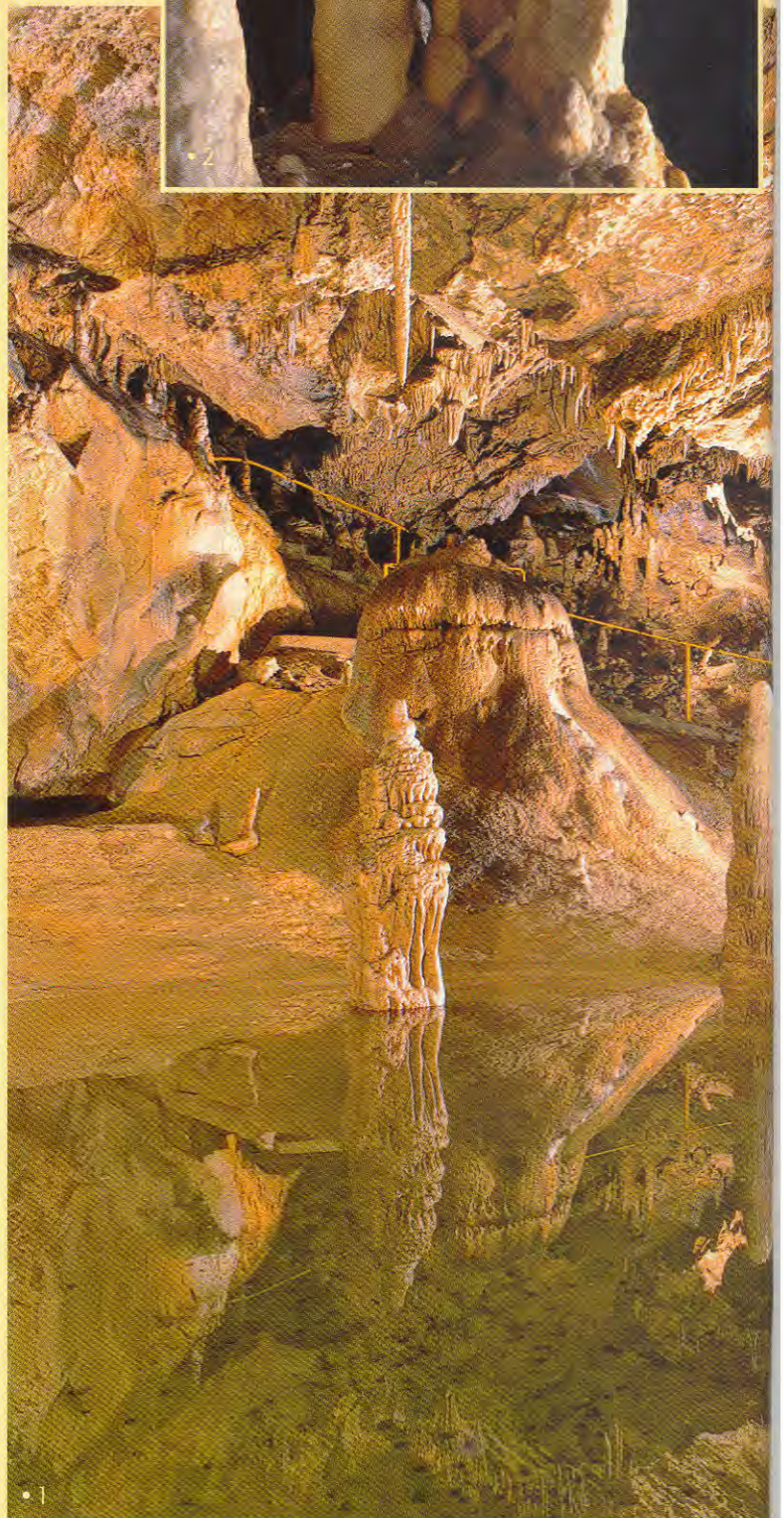
BELIANSKA CAVE

High Tatras are also referred to as the smallest of the major mountain ranges in the world. Their majestic panorama is completed on the east by Belianske Tatry with network of pristine streams, waterfalls with deep green mountain pine and glorious flora. Fairytale scenery is hiding Belianska Cave, which is 3,018 metres long and 160 metres deep. Visitors can see one kilometre of the cave, which is the result of corrosion and slow pressure stream of the water. Ceilings are adorned by massive domes. Interior is centred around sinter waterfalls, pagoda-like stalagmites and other forms. Entrance parts of the cave were known already during the 1st half of 18th century by the gold prospectors, however they were kept secret for many years.

VAŽECKÁ JASKYŇA

VAŽECKÁ CAVE

After coming down from the mountains, under the peaks of the Tatras you can find charming villages. One of them is Važec, typical Slovak village. It is located at the foot of Kriváň, a symbolic mountain and place for excellent tours. In the vicinity of the village you can find Važecká Cave, formed by former subterranean waters of the White Váh river. Entrance to the cave is located at the altitude 784 m. Horizontal length of the cave is 530 m, of which 235 m is accessible to the public. Subterranean space is decorated mainly by stalactites, stalagmites and sinter pools. It is an important discovery site of cave bear bones (*Ursus spelaeus*). The cave is typical for its fine, delicate decoration rich in bizarre shapes.





1. *Belianska Cave*
2. *Važecká Cave*
3. *Belianske Tatry*
4. *Važecká Cave*
5. *Belianska Cave*



DEMÄNOVSKÁ JASKYŇA SLOBODY

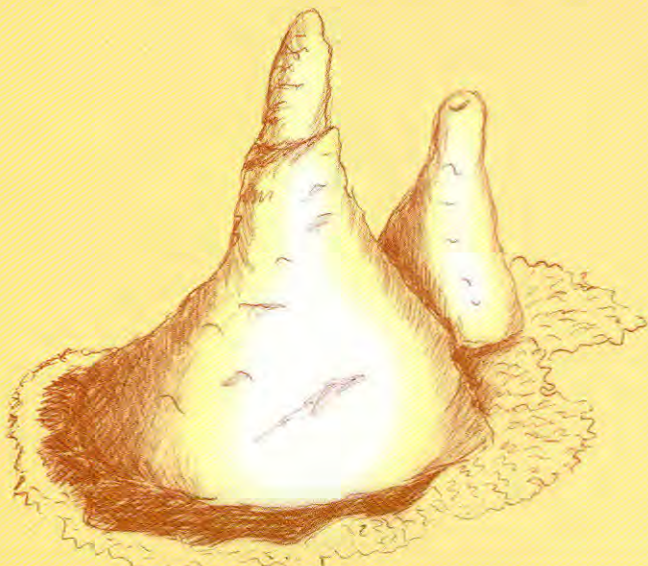
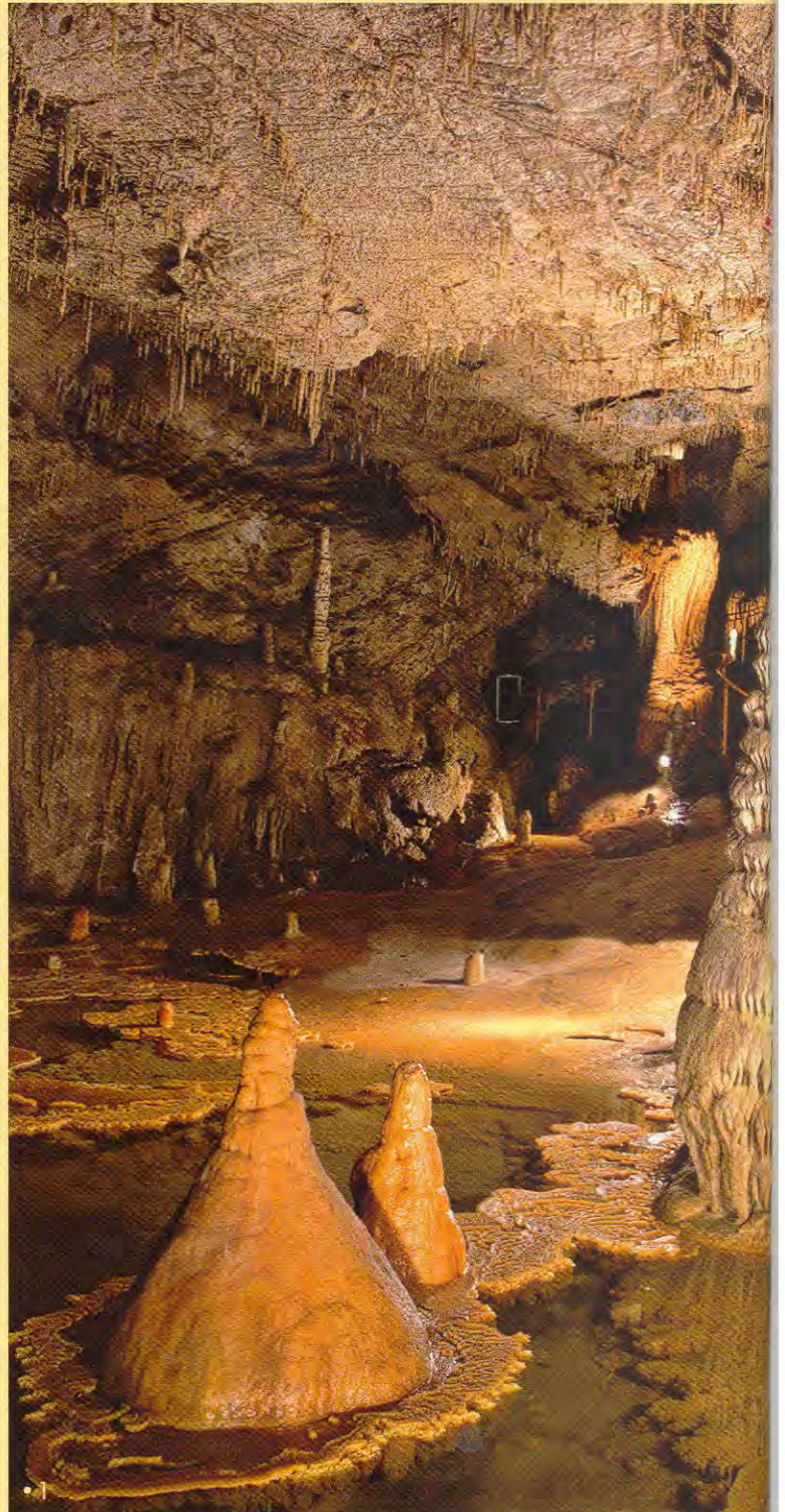
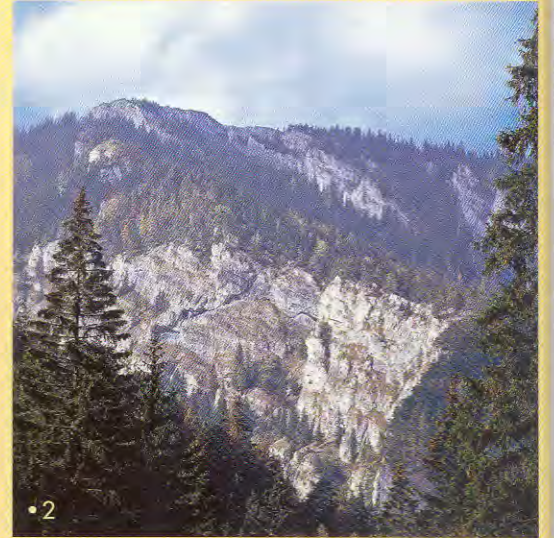
DEMÄNOVSKÁ CAVE OF LIBERTY

National Park Nízke Tatry will impress each visitor with the abundance of beautiful treks with unforgettable vistas from altitude of 2000 metres towards High Tatras to the north and Horehronský region to the south. After the mountain tops it is worth while to climb down also to the underground. Each year thousands of people admire the beauty of ice cave decorations in two of ice caves. River Demänovka, originating at the foot of the Nízke Tatry main range enters the underground through karst area and has created there really marvellous formations. Demänovská Cave of Liberty reaches length 8,126 m with elevation difference 120 m. Among the highlights of the 1,800 metres long walk through the cave there are the unique sinter water lilies and other lake forms (sponge, coral, grape) and eccentric stalactites, massive sinter waterfalls, stalagmites, spherulitic stalactites and many other shapes and forms.

DEMÄNOVSKÁ L'ADOVÁ JASKYŇA

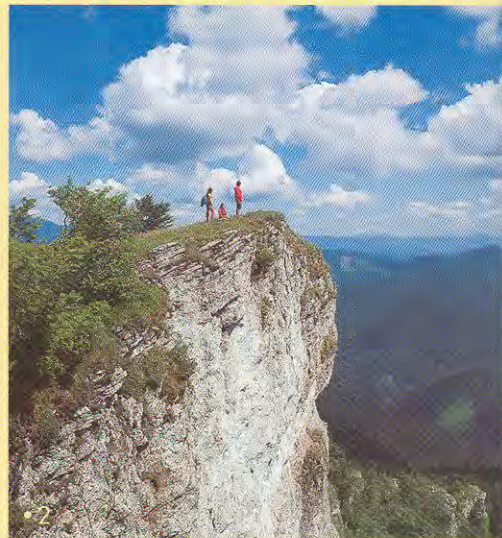
DEMÄNOVSKÁ ICE CAVE

Ice beauty warming the heart – this is the currently 650 metres accessible in Demänovská Ice Cave. Ice interior can be found in the lower parts of the cave which drop from the entrance 40 to 50 metres. Protective clothing is necessary against the chill. Floor ice, ice columns, stalactites, stalagmites have an eerie cold shine. Heavier cold air is gathered in the lower parts of the cave where the permeating rain water freezes. Bones of a cave bear were found here, which the people in the first half of 18th century believed to be the bones of a dragon. Today almost the only inhabitants of the cave are cold-loving bats.





1. *Demänovská Cave of Liberty*
2. *Nízke Tatry*
3. *Demänovská Cave of Liberty*
4. *Demänovská Ice Cave*
5. *Demänovská Cave of Liberty*



BYSTRIANSKA JASKYŇA

BYSTRIANSKA CAVE

Winding corridors, beautiful, curtain-shaped wax-honey decoration but also a possibility of respiratory tract illnesses treatment is part of the Bystrianska Cave offering. In addition it is located in the vicinity of a well-known sports centre Tále on the southern slopes of Nízke Tatry. The cave consists of so called Old and New Cave. It is more than 1,000 metres long and vertical span is 92 metres, with 490 metres available to the public.

Entrance to the Old Cave was known to the locals since ancient times. Explorers J. Kovalčík and E. Laubert were the first to enter the cave in 1923.

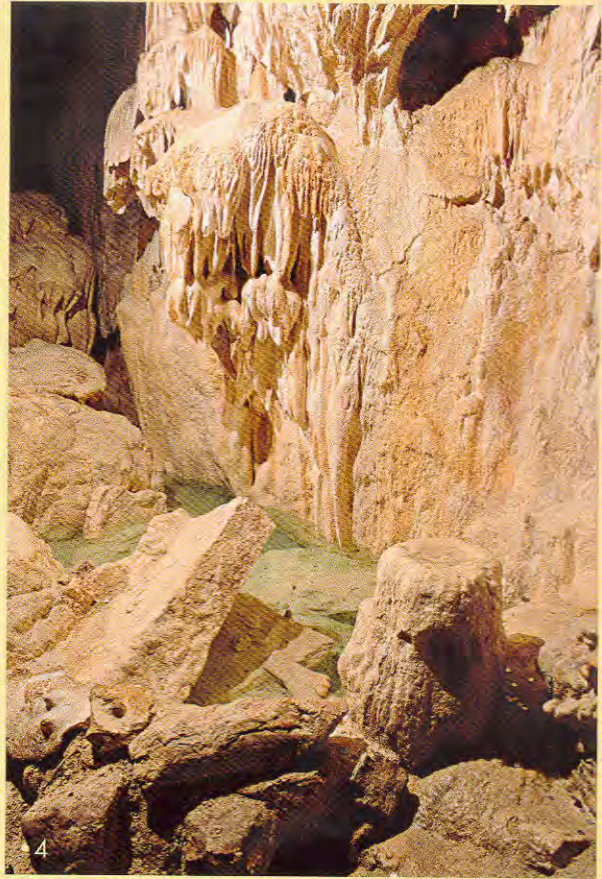
HARMANECKÁ JASKYŇA

HARMANECKÁ CAVE

This cave in the Veľká Fatra, not far from the centre of Slovakia - Banská Bystrica, offers a pleasant and interesting 80-minute excursion. The cave offers grand pagoda-like stalagmites, sinter waterfalls, curtains and sinter pools. From the overall length of 2,763 metres 720 metres are available to the public.

In addition to dramatic open spaces there are horizontal and slanting corridors with irregular corrosion oval shapes. It is well-known for a rich occurrence of white soft sinter. With 9 different species the cave belongs among the most important locations of bats in Slovakia. The entrance space called Izbica (Little Chamber) has been known to the locals since the ancient times.





1. *Bystrianska Cave*
2. *Veľká Fatra*
3. *Harmanecká Cave*
4. *Harmanecká Cave*
5. *Bystrianska Cave*



DOBŠINSKÁ LADOVÁ JASKYŇA

DOBŠINSKÁ ICE CAVE

🌐 WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE SITE UNESCO

"Ice Hole" was known to the locals of the Spiš-gemer kras for many years. However it took until 1870 until the first explorers entered below and discovered the subterranean beauty. It is by no coincidence that the region surrounding the cave is called Slovak Paradise National Park. Main part of the cave's total length 1,483 metres (475 metres open to the public) represents a huge cavity, declining 70 m below the entrance level, which was created by collapsing stone columns between cave levels. Due to its character of glaciation it ranks among the most important ice caves in the world. Ice interior consists of ground ice, ice waterfalls, ice stalagmites and columns. Ice area covers 9,772 m², total ice volume is 110,000 m³ and maximum ice thickness is 26.5 metres. The cave gained great popularity since it was first opened and it was also used for ice-skating during the summer months.

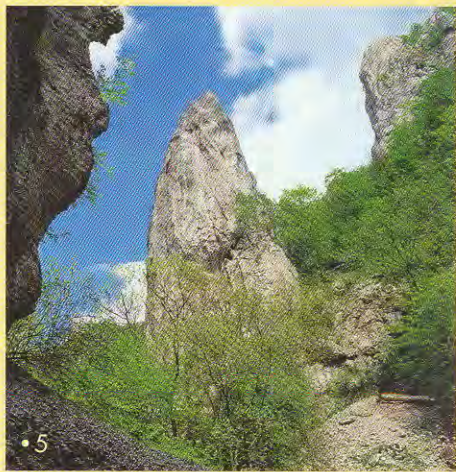
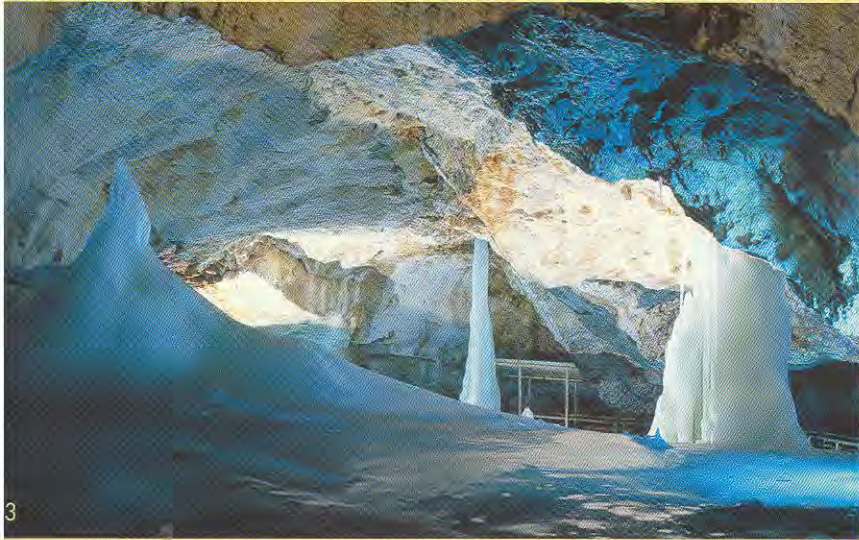
OCHTINSKÁ ARAGONITOVÁ JASKYŇA

OCHTINSKÁ ARAGONITE CAVE

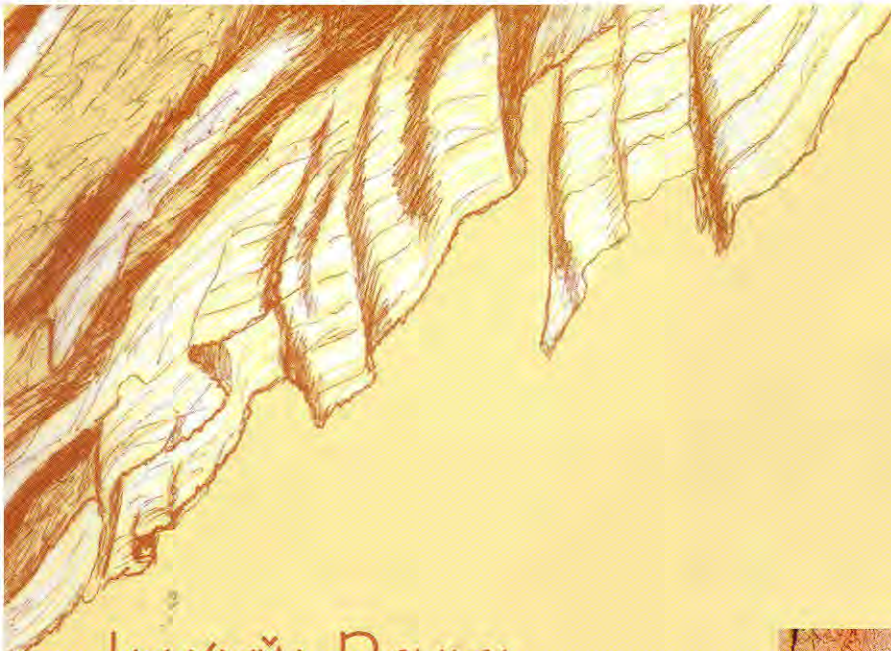
🌐 WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE SITE UNESCO

"Birth" of this cave must have looked like a movie scene when in 1954 during geological exploration works underground blue and white beauty was discovered. Aragonite interior of kidney-shaped, needle-shaped and spiral forms was formed under specific hydro-chemical and climatic conditions in sealed-off underground spaces. Network of pathways and halls open to the public and 230 metres long decorated by white clumps and shrubs of aragonite in sharp contrast with blue lime stones can be enjoyed during a 45-minute excursion.





1. *Ochtinská Aragonite Cave*
2. *Slovenský raj*
3. *Dobšinská Ice Cave*
4. *Ochtinská Aragonite Cave*
5. *Slovenský kras*



JASKYŇA DOMICA

DOMICA CAVE

🌐 WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE SITE UNESCO

Oldest Neolithic inhabitants of the Easter Slovakia, creators of Gemer linear pottery culture found in this cave temporary shelter. However it was the peoples of "Bukovohorská" culture who populated the cave, confirmed by many archaeological discoveries. The cave is 5,358 metres long with 1,315 metres open to the public, including also 140 metres long boat trip along the subterranean river Styx.

Major features of the cave are oval corridors with ceiling washouts. Underground waters of Styx and Domica creek occasionally flow through the cave. Domica forms a genetically compact entity with the Baradla Cave in Hungary.

Shields, drums and cascade pools, onion-shaped stalactites and pagoda-shaped stalagmites are characteristic for its rich sinter interior. So far 16 species of bats have been discovered in the cave.

GOMBASECKÁ JASKYŇA

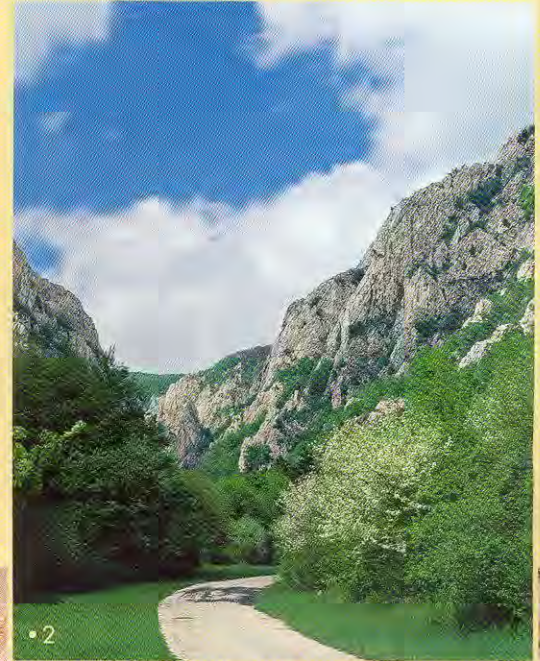
GOMBASECKÁ CAVE

🌐 WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE SITE UNESCO

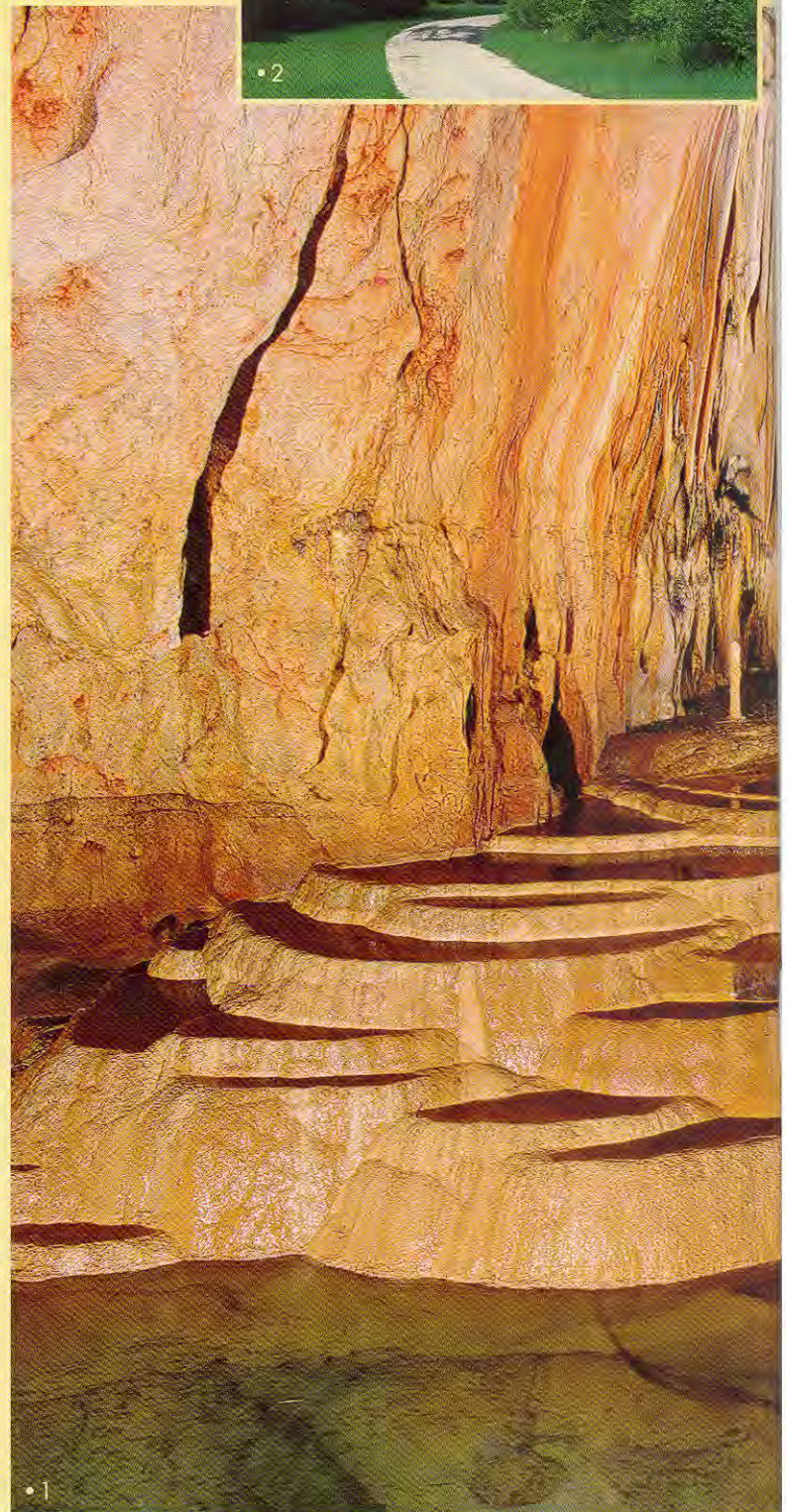
Situated on the western foothill of the Silická Plateau in the Slovak Karst National Park. It is a part of Silice-Gomabasec underground hydrological system, covering also Silická ľadnica.

Gombasecká Cave is a spring cave, 1,525 metres long with underground flow of Čierny potok (Black Creek). The cave is typical for its unique thin sinter straw stalactites reaching up to 3 metres in length. There are various other forms and shapes of stalactites, stalagmites and various sinter onflows and crusts. The cave was discovered in 1951 by volunteer speleologists from Rožňava who entered the subterranean space through Čierna vyvieračka. Part of cave 285 metres long was opened to the public in 1955. Since 1968 the cave is used for speleotherapy purposes as the first of its kind in Slovakia.

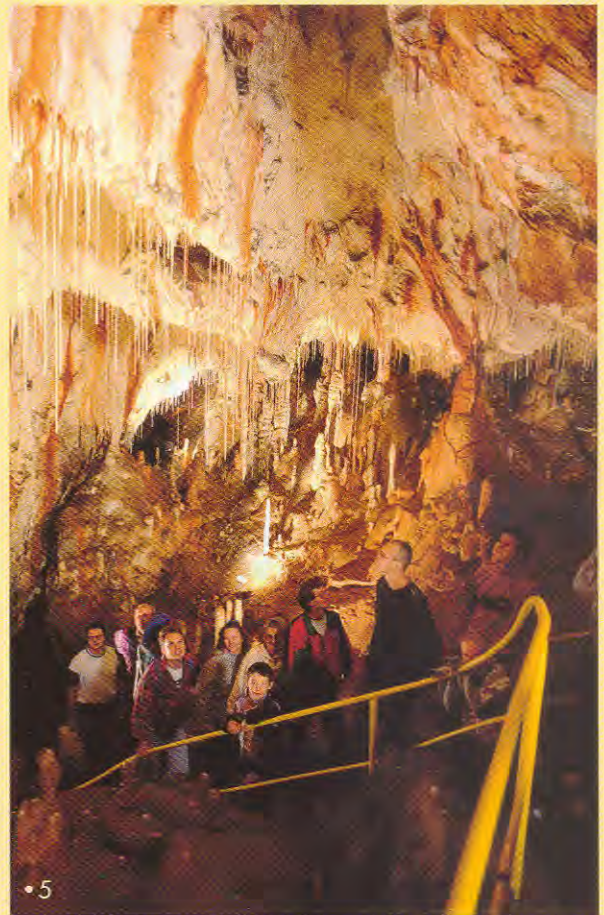
1. *Domica Cave*
2. *Slovenský kras*
3. *Domica Cave*
4. *Gombasecká Cave*
5. *Gombasecká Cave*

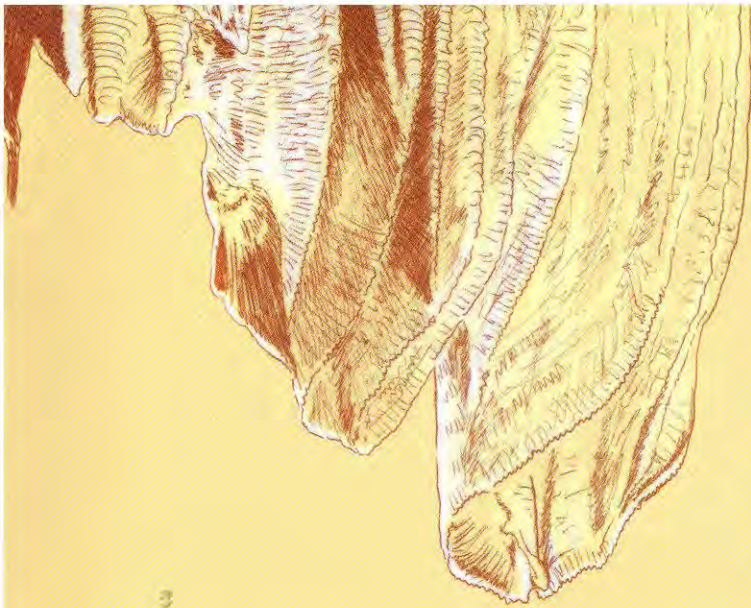


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JASOVSKÁ JASKYŇA

JASOVSKÁ CAVE

🌐 WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE SITE UNESCO

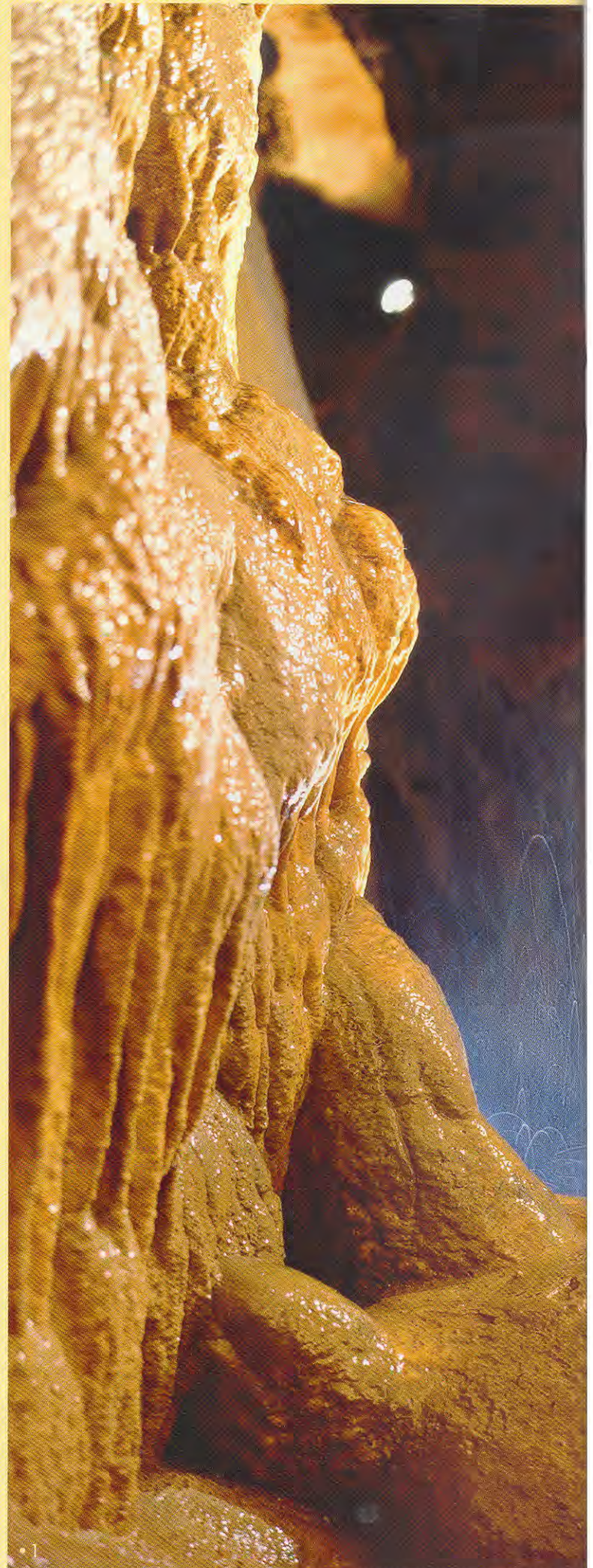
The story goes that the upper parts of the cave were discovered by one of the monks from the Jasov order. First mention about the existence of the monk order dates back to 12th century. The cave contains a number of preserved old inscriptions and drawings. Inscription from 1452 commemorates the victory of Jan Jiskra from Brandýs army and represents the oldest written record in Slovak caves. The cave contains archaeological finds from Neolithic Era, the Bronze Age, Halstadt and Roman Era. Sporadic findings indicate also a possible short-term Palaeolithic settlement. The cave is located in the National Park "Slovak Karst". It is 2,811 metres long with vertical span 55 metres. Today 550 metres are open to public. Upper and some lower parts of the cave with ceiling washouts were created by underground stream of the Bodva River. The lowest parts of the cave with straight ceilings were created by erosive effect of stagnant water. Rich sinter interior is represented by pagoda-like stalagmites, stalagnates, waterfalls, drums, feather and other shapes.

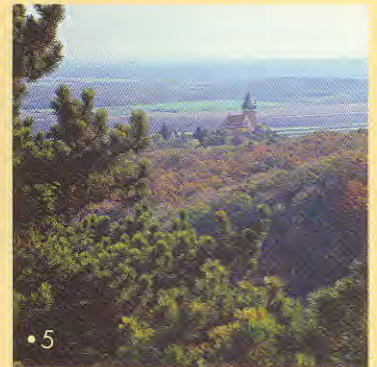
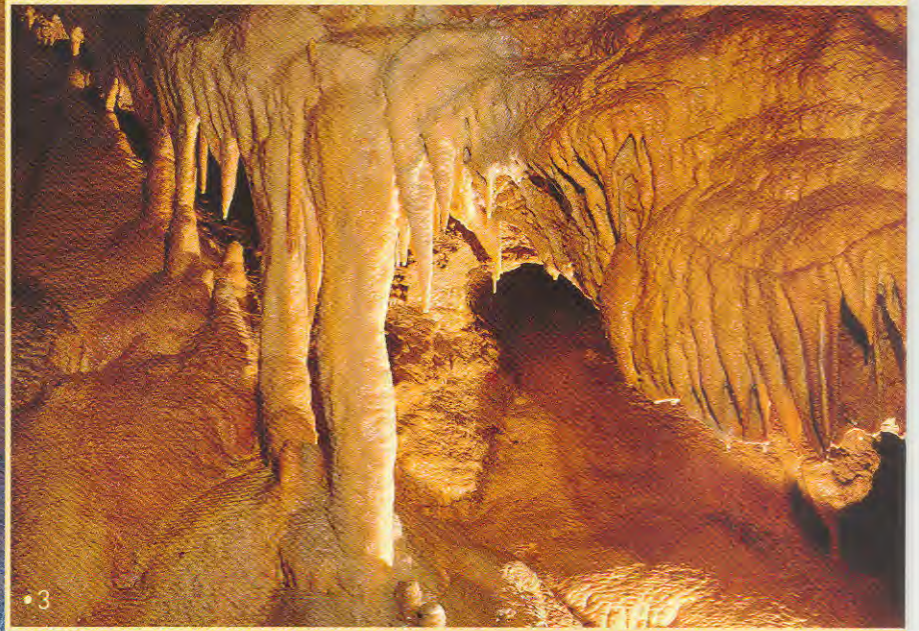
JASKYŇA DRINY

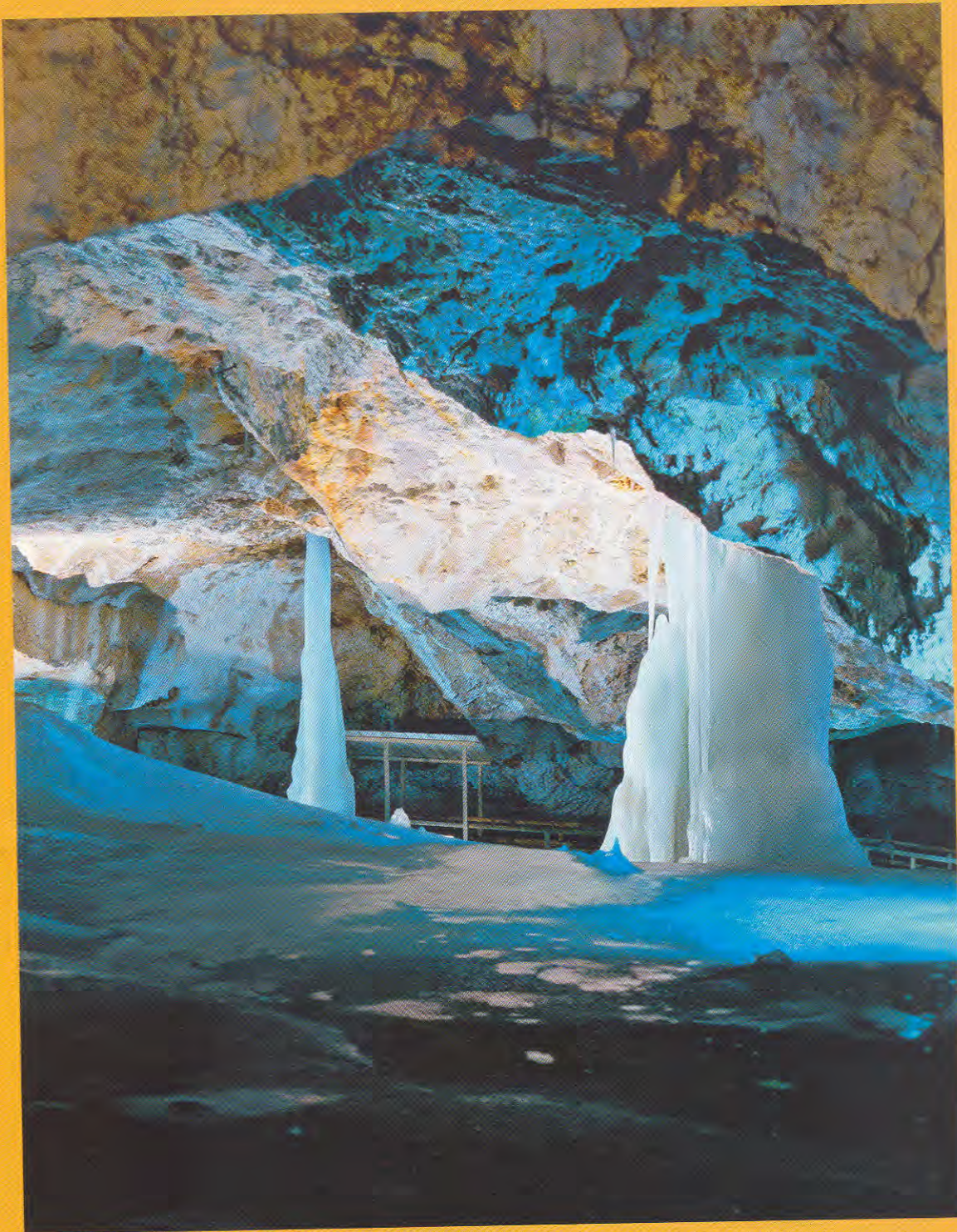
DRINY CAVE

Mysterious hole on the Drinkový Mountain was known to the locals already in the 19th century. Today this cave, which is closest of all caves to the capital city Bratislava, has 410 metres open to the public. At the same time it is the only cave in the Western Slovakia region accessible to the public. It is situated in the Smolenický Karst, in the Small Carpathian Mountains. It consists from narrow fissure corridors, which are broadened by erosive effect of precipitation waters. Medium-sized spaces were created mainly at the points of tectonic faults. Subterranean spaces are decorated by rich sinter interior, consisting of sinter curtains with tooth-edging and interesting sinter waterfalls, flow-ons and pools, pagoda-like stalagmites and various other stalactite shapes.

1. *Driny Cave*
2. *Jasovská Cave*
3. *Driny Cave*
4. *Most common cave inhabitants are bats*
5. *Malé Karpaty*







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