



The dome with Indian pagodes in Domica

Artefacts tracing the development of several Stone Age cultures have been preserved in numerous caves of the Slovak and Aggtelek Karst. Of particular importance are finds from Bükk settlements, including the remains of a pottery workshop, traces of clay mining, ceramics, bone sewing needles and a variety of other items. Simple wall drawings have been preserved in Ardovská Cave and in the Archaeological Dome of Silická ľadnica Ice Cave. Highly precious cult masks from the Kyjatice culture, made from human skulls, were found in Majda-Hraško and Babská diera caves. Numerous artefacts dating back to the Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, Hallstatt Culture and medieval period have been found in many other caves. The inscription in Jasovská Cave dating back to the Hussite era is also a significant historical record.

Silická Ice Cave



Coin details

Denomination: 10 euro

Composition: Ag 900/1000

Cu 100/1000

Weight: 18 g

Diameter: 34 mm

Incuse edge inscription: WORLD HERITAGE – PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

Issuing volume: up to a maximum of 11,000

(comprising brilliant uncirculated and proof)

Designer: Branislav Ronai

Engraver: Filip Čertáský

Producer: Mincovňa Kremnica

The obverse of the coin depicts stalagmites from Domica Cave, vertical stalactites and straw stalagmites from Gombasecká Cave and, below to the right, an aragonite formation from Ochtinská Aragonite Cave. The value and grandeur of the Slovak Karst caves is symbolised by an element of church architecture – a Gothic pointed arch. The coat of arms of the Slovak Republic is shown on the right of the design. The name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO' is in the lower part, and below it is the year of issuance '2017'. The denomination and currency '10 EURO' appears in two lines above the coat of arms.

The reverse of the coin depicts a dripstone formation from the Krásnohorská Cave and rare fauna found in the Slovak Karst caves (springtail, niphargus and bat). The text 'JASKYNE SLOVENSKEHO KRASU' (SLOVAK KARST CAVES) appears in the upper part of the design, above the text 'SVETOVÉ PRÍRODNÉ DEDIČSTVO' (WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE). In the bottom right are the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint 'MK', and the stylised letters 'BR', the initials of the designer Branislav Ronai.



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Photo: Pavol Staník, Jaroslav Stankovič, Progress Promotion, BMC Evolutionary Biology, Wikimedia

<http://www.nbs.sk/en/banknotes-and-coins/euro-coins/collector-coins>



World Natural Heritage
Caves of Slovak Karst
(Slovenský kras)

Silver Collector Coin

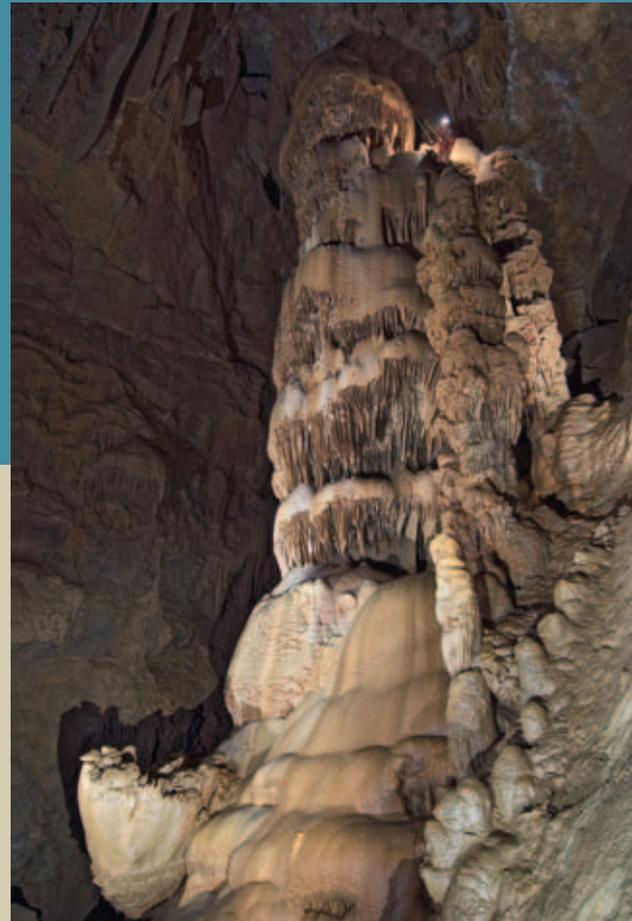
The 'Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst' were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List on the basis of a bilateral Slovak-Hungarian nomination project approved by the World Heritage Committee on 4-9 December 1995 in Berlin. In 2000 the entry was extended to include Dobšinská Ice Cave (Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa), situated in the Slovak Paradise (Slovenský raj) National Park.

The subterranean formations of the Slovak Karst and Aggtelek Karst (Hungary) are outstanding for the extraordinary diversity of their composition and morphology, the multiplicity of their flowstone formations, and valuable biological and archaeological treasures. No other temperate zone cave system in the world exhibits such complexity. A total of 1,184 caves are currently registered in the Slovak part and 280 caves in the Hungarian part.

The caves vary in their genesis and morphology. The most frequent types are river caves with flowing water or traces of past water flows, normally with typical features of river erosion or corrosion. There are very few karst sites with so many representative types of flowstone formations as there are in the Slovak Karst. The unique straw stalactites in Gombasecká Cave can reach up to three metres in length. The flowstone shields or drums in Domica Cave and the aragonite crystals in Ochtinská Aragonite Cave are known worldwide. The Slovak Karst caves

feature various types of stalactite (including rare ball-like dripstones in Domica), exquisite stalagmites such as the pagoda or palm types in Domica, huge pagodas in Zvonivá and stick-like stalagmites in Ardovská caves. The best known column is the 34-metre-high Rožňava Speleologists Dripstone in Krásnohorská Cave. Other noteworthy formations include the flowstone draperies in Milada and Domica caves, inflows and pea-like formations in Brázda Gorge, flowstone cascades in Domica, small flowstone pool forms in Diviacia Gorge and eccentric formations in Hrušovská Cave. Two caves with permanent ice fill are included in the site: Dobšinská Ice Cave, which contains 110,132 m³ of ice in a variety of formations and is truly one of its kind in the world, and Silická Ice Cave, which at 503 m above sea level is the lowest situated ice cave in a temperate zone.

Krásnohorská Cave



Domica Cave

A favourable climate has given rise to a variety of species of subterranean fauna, especially invertebrates. Since these cave-dwelling fauna live entirely underground, they evolved in, and are endemic to the Slovak and Aggtelek Karst caves and their environs. These species include a tiny white crustacean niphargus (*Niphargus aggtelekiensis*), neobissium (*Neobissium (Blothrux) slovacum*), pseudosinella (*Pseudosinella aggtelekiensis*) and tiny beetles (*Duvalius hungaricus* and *Duvalius bokori*). Gombasecká and Domica caves are home to other rare invertebrates, such as eukoenia (*Eukoenia spelaea*) and typhloiulus (*Typhloiulus spelaea*). The caves are also very important for bats, of which the bent-wing bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii*) is the rarest and most endangered. The caves most used by bats for hibernation are Domica, Jasovská, Drieňovská, Čertova diera and Dobšinská.

Gombasecká Cave



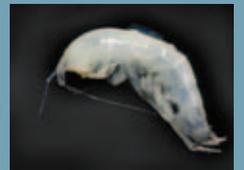
Ochtinská Aragonite Cave



Bats



Crustacean niphargus



Eukoenia

