

Obverse

The collector coin's obverse design depicts two stags fighting, watched by six does. The left side shows a rock formation of volcanic origin – part of the Kalamárka natural monument. The Slovak coat of arms appears at the upper left of the design. To its right are the coin's denomination '20' and currency 'EURO', one above the other. Along the bottom edge is the name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO', with the year of issuance '2020' above it. To the left of the year of issuance are the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies, and the stylised letters 'MP' referring to the coin's designer Mária Poldaufová.

Reverse

The reverse depicts the Bystrý potok waterfall, a national natural monument. Along the left edge of the design appears a fragment of traditional ornamentation. Below it there is the name 'POĽANA' and a depiction of the Sudeten mountain pansy (viola lutea sudetica). The words 'CHRÁNENÁ KRAJINNÁ OBLASŤ' (Protected Landscape Area) are inscribed along the bottom and most of the right edge of the design.

Coin details

Denomination:	€20
Composition:	.925 silver, .075 copper
Weight:	33.63 g
Diameter:	40 mm
Edge lettering:	OCHRANA PRÍRODY A KRAJINY (NATURE AND COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION); the beginning and the end of the text are separated by a stylised flower
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 11,000 coins in either brilliant uncirculated or proof quality
Designer:	Mária Poldaufová
Engraver:	Dalibor Schmidt
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)



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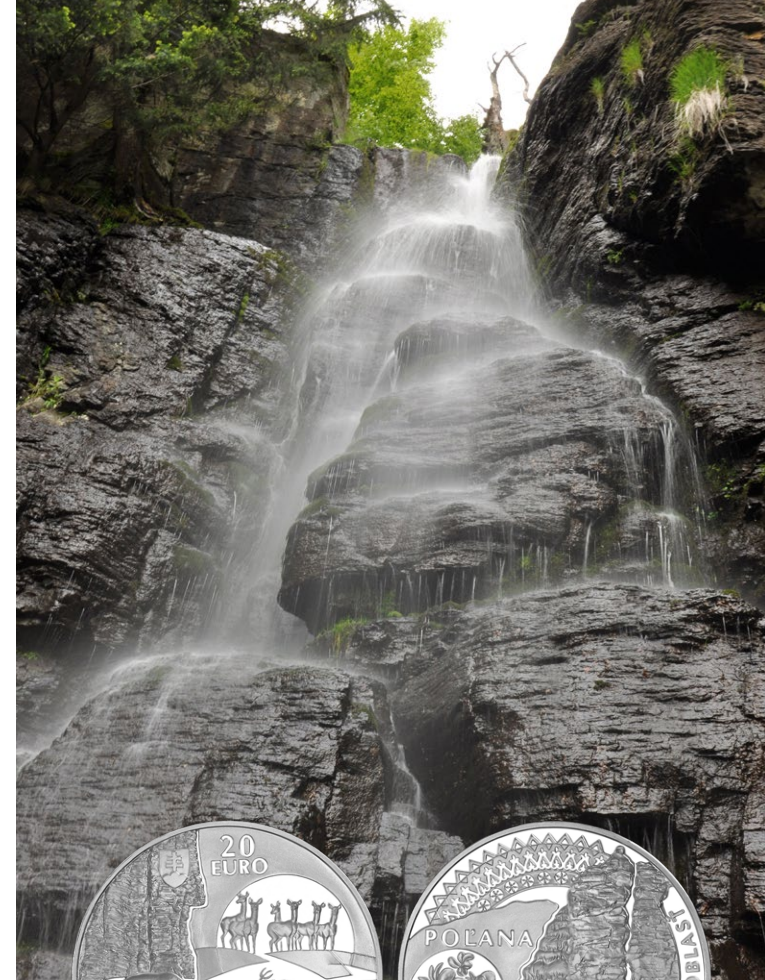
Text: Jana Durkošová et al.

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Poľana Mountains

Protected
Landscape Area

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN

Regarded by Slovaks as a symbol of national identity and character, the Poľana Mountains are a unique part of Slovakia that features virgin nature, original folk culture, and living traditions. They are a well-known highland region.

The Poľana Mountains are the highest volcanic mountain range in Slovakia and include one of the best conserved extinct volcanoes in the Western Carpathians, Mount Poľana.



Poľana Mountains Protected Landscape Area

They are located in central Slovakia, with Hrb mountain (1,255 m) on their northern border marking the geographical centre of Slovakia. The area was declared a Protected Landscape Area in 1981, and in 1990 it was included in the

UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves under the Man and the Biosphere Programme. Today, the Poľana Mountains Protected Landscape Area stretches over an area of 20,000 ha.

The area's remarkable geological structure was formed by volcanic activity in the Miocene period (13 to 15 million years ago). Collapse and erosion in the central part of the mountain range led to cauldron subsidence and the for-

mation of a caldera. The volcanic origin and geomorphological structure of the area gave rise to Poľana's characteristic rocky walls, lava flows, rock fields and waterfalls. The range's geographical location and geomorphological va-

riety support both mountain and thermophilous species. The non-forested areas are home to several species of insects, while the environs of local streams and marshy meadows are suitable for various amphibians. The most populous group of vertebrates are birds. The remnants of native beech and fir-beech forests are home to the white-backed woodpecker, the Ural owl and the red-breasted flycatcher, while the spruce forests provide habitat for the Eurasian pygmy owl, the boreal owl and the red crossbill. As for gallinaceous birds, the western capercaillie and the hazel grouse are still a presence in Poľana. The local fauna also include such mammals as the Eurasian otter and large beasts of prey, including lynxes, wolves and bears.

A substantial part of the area is covered by a forest complex. The highest points of Poľana are occupied by native spruce forests - the southernmost example of this kind of forest on andesites in the Western Carpathians. Many of them have a primeval character. Herbs are represented by various mountainous and sub-alpine species. Meadows and pastures include precious flora of peatlands and marshy meadows. The area is also rich in lichens, fungi, liverworts and other bryophytes.

Despite its attractiveness, Poľana remains somewhat undiscovered by tourists. Its natural wealth is complemented by cultural assets built up over centuries by its human inhabitants. For hikers visiting Poľana there is an extensive network of marked trails.