

- The Velká Fatra mountains was declared a National Park on 1 April 2002.
- The area of the National Park is more than 40,371 hectares, and as much as 85% is covered by forest.
- The highest peak of the mountains is Ostredok (1,592 m).
- Velká Fatra is unique through its highest presence of the English yew (a protected species depicted also in the logo of the National Park) in Central Europe.
- Since 1987 the Velká Fatra has been a protected water management area.
- After the EU entry, Velká Fatra was enlisted in NATURA 2000, the EU-wide network of protected sites, as a site of European importance and a bird sanctuary.



Ľavica skála - the crag between side valleys Malé and Velké Studienky

Capercaillie



Coin data

Denomination: EUR 20
Material: Ag 925/1000 Cu 75/1000
Weight: 33.63 g
Diameter: 40 mm
Edge: embossed inscription "OCHRANA PRÍRODY A KRAJINY" (protection of nature and landscape) headed by a stylized flower
Number of pieces: limited mintage of maximum 27,000 pieces
Designer: Roman Lugár
Engraver: Dalibor Schmidt
Producer: Kremnica Mint

Fatra cyclamen, Clusius gentian and English yew, typical representatives of the National Park flora, are depicted on the obverse of the coin, in the middle of the coin field in a composition of plants. The national emblem of the Slovak Republic is placed in the right upper half of the coin. The year mark "2009" is above the emblem. The name of the state "SLOVENSKO" is inscribed around the bottom edge of the coin. The mark of the Kremnica Mint "MK" between two dies, and stylized initials of the first and last name of the author of the coin design, Mgr. art. Roman Lugár, appear to the right of the Clusius gentian image.

The reverse side features a composition of flying golden eagle and Kráľova skála in the middle of the coin field. The denomination "20 EURO" is depicted on the upper edge of the coin. The name of the Park "NÁRODNÝ PARK VEĽKÁ FATRA" is inscribed around the bottom edge of the coin.



Dotted salamander

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Photo: The Velká Fatra National Park Administration and Dušan Majerník (the capercaillie)

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



Protection of Nature
and Landscape
Velká Fatra National Park
Silver Collector Coin

The Velká Fatra National Park is located in the northwestern corner of Central Slovakia, bordering the Váh river valley in the north, the Low Tatras (Nízke Tatry) mountains in the east, the Staré hory mountains and Kremnické vrchy hills in the south, and the Turiec basin in the west. The area, declared a national park in 2002, covers more than 40,371 hectares and is surrounded by a buffer zone of nearly 26,133 hectares.



The Velká Fatra Mountains rank among the most extensive and the most typical mountain ranges in Slovakia. A multiform natural environment with a great number of beautiful places has been preserved there. The central ridge is made up of soft rocks on



Endemic Fatra cyclamen



English yew

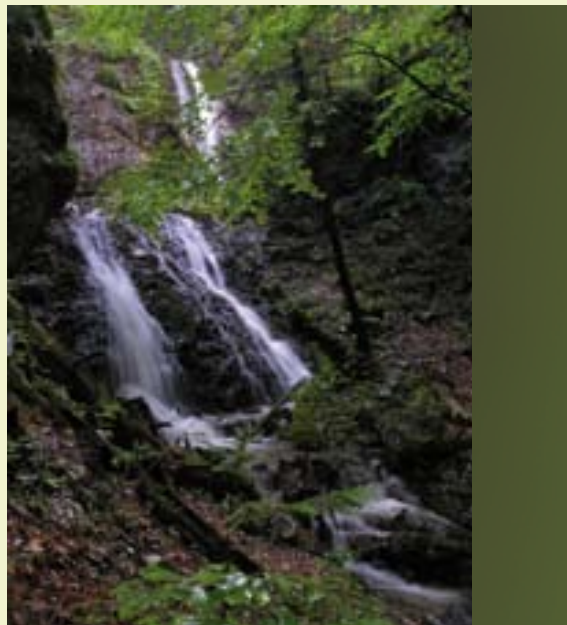
which smooth, rounded and huge crests were formed by water, wind, snow and frost. This part is called Hôľna Fatra, and the highest peak is Ostredok (1,592 m). The central ridge was deforested artificially in the past for the purpose of sheep and cattle farming. Currently, there are 2,000 hectares of meadows and pasturelands with rare fauna and flora species, in particular insects. Such deforestation had negative consequences as well – excessive avalanche activity and strong erosion.

Thanks to its rich resources of fresh water, the Velká Fatra mountains was declared a protected water management area in 1987. Designated as a site of European importance and a protected bird sanctuary, it is also included in NATURA 2000, the EU-wide network of protected sites.

Karstic phenomena such as rocky walls, crags, openings and canyon valleys are typical features of the relief of the area called Bralná Fatra which includes the most famous valleys – Gaderská, Blatnická, Belianska and Bystrická. More than 50 caves, important hibernation habitats for chiropterans, were discovered in the mountains territory. Harmanecká cave is the only cave open to the public. The biggest waterfall (nearly 25 m) can be found in Suchá dolina valley.

Up to 85% of the territory is covered by forest. Mixed spruce-fir-beech forests with dispersed maple, linden and ash trees predominate. Resistant Scots pine grows on rocks. The primeval forest ecosystems, only barely affected by human activity, were preserved on inaccessible, steep slopes. The abundant natural occurrence of the English yew, a protected wood species, which has been rare in Europe now and whose presence in the Velká Fatra mountains has been the highest in Central Europe, is a rarity. That is why the English yew is incorporated also in the logo of the National Park.

More than one thousand species of higher plants can be found in the park territory. A rare endemic Fatra cyclamen, which cannot be found anywhere in the world but in



Gaderská dolina waterfalls



Golden eagle

the Velká Fatra and the western corner of the Low Tatras mountains, grows in the woods. Martagon lily, perennial honesty, dame's rocket, or Alpine bells will captivate you by their beauty. Heuffel's crocus, narcissus-flowered anemone and globeflower rank among the most beautiful plant species in the upland meadows.

Clusius gentian, edelweiss, bear's ear, Slavic pasque flower, Carpathian snowbells, clove pinks and other plants grow on the rocks and detritus as well.

Deep inaccessible forests provide shelter for many animal species. These include the field game, in particular deer, wild boar, and fox. The rarest protected species – brown bear, grey wolf, and Eurasian lynx – found their home there. Our rarest birds – raptors including golden eagle and peregrine falcon as well as smaller bird species including wallcreeper and rock thrush – nest in the rocky walls. Our rarest gallinaceous birds such as capercaillie and black grouse still live on the timberline. Alpine chamois, which was imported here after the World War II, settled in the rock.

The most favorite tourist locations include Gaderská and Blatnická valleys, the highest crags of Turiec basin – Tlšťá and Ostrá, the central ridge in Krížna, Ostredok and Borišov localities, Blatnica and Sklabaňa castles, and the folk architecture reservation – Vlkolínec village, a one-of-a-kind location included in the UNESCO world heritage list.



View at Gaderská dolina