

The flowers of Lykovec muránsky (Daphne arbuscula) are depicted on the obverse of the coin with a section of the Murán Castle above them, and the state coat of arms in the bottom left part. The name of the state, SLOVENSKÁ REPUBLIKA, is inscribed above it in vertical and horizontal lines. The year of mintage 2006 is near the bottom edge of the coin. The stylized initials of Karol Ličko, the designer and the trademark of the mint in Kremnica are on the right under the castle ruins.

A pair of Muráň type Norik horses are depicted on the reverse of the coin; a part of the panorama of the plateau of Muránska planina and the inscription NÁRODNÝ PARK MURÁNSKA PLANINA (The National Park of Muránska Planina), the name of the national park, are above them. The denomination of the coin 500 Sk is near the right edge.

NÁRODNÁ BANKA SLOVENSKA

Nominal value: 500 Sk

Material: Ag 925/1000, Cu 75/1000

Weight: 33.63 g

Diameter: 40 mm

Edge: relief inscription OCHRANA PRÍRODY A KRAJINY
(PROTECTION OF NATURE AND LANDSCAPE),

with a dividing mark in form of stylized flower
of Lykovec muránsky (Daphne arbuscula)

Number of pieces minted - limited quantity: 13,500

of which standard: 8,500

proof: 5,000

Designer: Karol Ličko

Engraver: Dalibor Schmidt

Producer: Kremnica Mint

PROTECTION OF NATURE AND LANDSCAPE MURÁNSKA PLANINA NATIONAL PARK

COMMEMORATIVE SILVER COIN





Javorníková dolina, one of the most beautiful valleys

The Muránska planina plateau is situated on the boundary of Central and Eastern Slovakia in the western part of the Slovenské Rudohorie mountain range. It is one of the most precious natural landscape regions, and is relatively untouched by civilization. Preserving the flora and fauna and the rich and varied surface and underground carst forms became the incentive for turning this territory into a national park. The Muránska Planina National Park was established on October 1, 1997 on an area of 20,318 hectares.

Four geomorphologic units meet on the territory of this national park: the Veporské vrchy mountain range, the Carst of the Spiš-Gemer Regions, the Slotické vrchy mountains and the valley of Horehronské podolie. As a result, extremely variable carst and non-carst reliefs can be found here. Deep valleys, such as Furmanecká, Hrdzavá and the impressive Javorníková valley with several waterfalls were created by water in carsts and dolomites. It boasts of more than 400 caves and chasms, more than 50 sinking and reemerging streams, many surface carst forms – lapies, carst holes, canyons, rock towers, needles and arches. Fabova hola – 1,439 meters above sea level, is the tallest peak and Michňová – 105 meters, is the deepest chasm. Bobačka, which stretches for 3,000 meters, is the most extensive cave system.

Approximately 86% of the area is forested. There are 11 national wildlife areas, 13 wildlife areas, 1 protected area and 1 national nature monument.

The national park's flora is varied and rich; alpine and sub-alpine varieties, in addition to thermophilic varieties are well represented.



Muráň Castle – the entrance

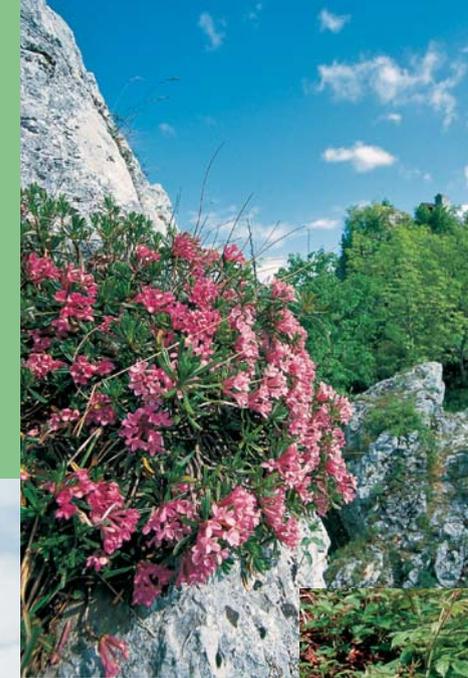
Lykovec muránsky (*Daphne arbuscula*), is the most typical plant. It is endemic to Muránska planina and no other place in the world. At the same time it is a Tertiary relict; in other words, it has survived here for millions of years since before the Ice Age. It is the most important plant in this region and one of the symbols of the national park.

In addition to the development of plants, conditions also exist for a wide range of fauna. Several thousand non-vertebrata were detected, and representatives of the five classes of mammals, a number of birds, serpents, amphibians and fish can be found. The half-wild breeding of Murán type Norik horses (a specific breed of so-called cold-blooded working horse) in the Big Meadow, grazing freely from May



A herd of the Slovak mountain horses at the Veľká lúka

to October, are typical here. The ruins of the once famous Muráň Castle with its well-known Cigánka (Gypsy) Rock directly over the municipality of Muráň remind us of the past. Cigánka Rock is one of the most important botanical, zoological, historical, archeological and tourist locations in Slovakia and it was turned into the national wildlife preserve in 1984.



Daphne arbuscula – is endemic to the Muráň Plateau



The largest of predators – the Brown Bear



The Fire Salamander



The Mountain Cock