



Alpine Edelweiss



Gentiana punctata



Tetrao urogallus



Gentiana Clusii



Eurasian Otter



Hesperis slovaca

Coin data:

Nominal value: **500 Sk**

Material: **Ag 925/1000, Cu 75/1000**

Weight: **33.63 g**

Diameter: **40 mm**

Edge lettering: **OCHRANA PRÍRODY A KRAJINY**

(Protection of nature and landscape),
preceded by a separation mark
in the form of a stylised flower

Mintage: limited to **9,500 pcs**

Designer: **Karol Ličko**

Engraver: **Dalibor Schmidt**

Producer: **Kremnica Mint**

The upper field of the obverse of the coin depicts the highest peak of Nízke Tatry, Ďumbier. Soldanella carpathica flowers are placed to the right of it; to the left is the name of the country, **SLOVENSKÁ REPUBLIKA**, together with its coat of arms. The year **2008** is at the bottom of the coin, near the edge.

The reverse shows a brown bear, the symbol of the National Park, surrounded by dwarf pine shrubs. The coin's nominal value, **500 Sk**, is located to the right of it, and the name of the park, **NÁRODNÝ PARK NÍZKE TATRY**, is given on the left side. Below the name are stylised initials of the forename and surname of Karol Ličko, the coin designer, and the mark of the Kremnica Mint.



Lilium bulbiferum



Lesser Spotted Eagle



Protection of Nature and Landscape
NÍZKE TATRY
NATIONAL PARK
SILVER COMMEMORATIVE COIN

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Photo: M. Jasík, S. Harvančík, M. Kaliský, P. Potocký, J. Kicko, P. Mathé

Further information on commemorative coins can be found on
www.nbs.sk/Slovak_Currency/Slovak_Commemorative_Coins



With regard to its natural and landscape values, the Nízke Tatry massif is considered to be one of the most precious mountains in Slovakia. To protect this area, the Nízke Tatry National Park (NAPANT) was established on 14th June 1978. It is the second-largest nature park in Slovakia, spanning over an area of almost 73,000 hectares. Together with its surrounding zone it is the largest nature protected area in Slovakia, covering around 183,000 hectares.

The 100 km-long Nízke Tatry ridge forms the core of the National Park. The Čertovica saddle divides it into a western part dominated by Ďumbier, and an eastern part with Kráľová hoľa being the major peak. Ďumbier (2,043 m AMSL) is the highest peak of the mountain chain. The mountains emerged at the turn of the Mesozoic and Tertiary periods during the Alpine orogenic processes. The crystalline core is surrounded by sedimentary rocks composed predominantly of limestone and dolomites, in which extensive systems of underground as well as surface karst were formed. Jánska dolina and Demänovská dolina Valleys belong to the most important karst areas. The deepest cave system in Slovakia (the deepest point of the Starý hrad Cave is 495 m below the surface) and the world-renowned Demänová Cave System of more than 35 kilometres in length were formed by erosive effects of water. Four caves are accessible to the public: Bystrianska jaskyňa, Važecká jaskyňa, Demänovská jaskyňa slobody, and Demänovská ľadová jaskyňa (the latter is an ice cave). Vrbické pleso Lake, the biggest natural lake of Nízke Tatry, was created during the Ice Age.

Due to its diverse geological composition, dissected relief and a mixed character of natural conditions, many bio-



Prašivá Massif

topes occur in the region. A large altitude span allows the presence of forests spanning from oak to spruce, as well as dwarf pine and alpine meadows. Each altitudinal zone is ty-



Tatra Chamois

pical of specific plant and animal communities that include many rare and endangered species.

The fauna is represented nearly by all West-Carpathian mountain species. The populations of brown bears (the bear is the symbol of the National Park), gray wolves, Eurasian lynxes, golden eagles, capercaillies (Tetrao urogallus and Tetrao tetrix), hazel grouses, Eurasian pygmy owls and boreal owls that live here are crucial for their continued existence in Slovakia. The park's area is also of exceptional importance for the protection of the Alpine Marmot, Tatra Chamois, Wallcreeper, Alpine Accentor, Black Stork, Peregrine Falcon, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Parnassius apollo and Pseudogaurotina excellens.

Out of the large number of plants growing in the Nízke Tatry Mountains, the most valued species are considered those that are endemic and do not grow anywhere else in the world, such as the Ochyrea tatrensis moss or the Hesperis slovacica rocket. Nízke Tatry is the only place in Slovakia where Encrusted Saxifrage, Parsley Fern and some other species can be found. The West-Carpathian endemite group includes Soldanella carpathica, which is to be found especially in mountain areas. The visitors' attention is drawn by the beauty of Gentiana Clusii, Gentiana punctata, Alpine Edelweiss, Pulsatilla slovacica, Alpine Primrose, as well as several types of orchids.

The area of Nízke Tatry is also an important source of drinking water supplying the regions of Liptov, Pohronie and Horný Spiš. The largest and most well-known rivers of Slovakia – Váh, Hron, Hornád a Hnilec – rise at the foot of the legendary Kráľova hoľa Mountain (1,948 m AMSL). Water flows through a complicated system of fissures and hypogean fractures, which results in a multitude of mineral springs.



Alpine Marmot



Moccasin Flower



Soldanella carpathica



Brown Bear