



👤 Coin details

Denomination:	€3.33
Composition:	.999 silver
Weight:	31.1 g
Diameter:	40 mm
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 6,500 coins in proof quality
Designers:	Grey wolf Eurasian lynx Brown bear
	Josef Oplíštil Tomáš Lamač (obverse) Roman Lugár (reverse) Tomáš Lamač
Producer:	Pressburg Mint



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Tám (Eurasian lynx) and Michal Haring (brown bear)

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Fauna and flora in Slovakia

- grey wolf, Eurasian lynx, brown bear

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN SET

The wolf has been a companion to humans throughout the millennia of human society's development. During the Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic), wolves began living in the vicinity of prehistoric hunters' settlements and fed on meat scraps. Wolves are found in various northern hemisphere habitats and are the second most widespread mammal on earth, after humans. Wolves are social animals, and their packs typically have between five and seven members. Weighing between 30 and 70 kg, wolves are classified as large carnivores. They have an exceptional sense of smell, keen low-light vision, and acute hearing, which they use to prey mainly on large ungulates. The way that wolves relentlessly run down their prey is captured by a Russian saying: 'The wolf is kept fed by its feet'. This way of hunting was well applied in the forest-steppe environment where wolves evolved. Their pack structure allows wolves to hunt prey that are several times larger than themselves (such as red deer and elk) and to raise, on average, between four and ten pups each year. Food from the kill is shared between all members of the pack. All the adult pack members help with the care and rearing of the young by bringing them food. The number of wolves in Slovakia is currently estimated to be between 300 and 600.



The Eurasian lynx is the largest wild cat in Slovakia, where it is sometimes dubbed 'the tiger of our forests' or 'the phantom'. As an adult, the male weighs 24 kg on average and the female around 4 kg less. In the wild, the lynx can live for up to 17 years. The lynx's most distinctive features include ear tufts, a spotted coat, and bobbed tail. It has excellent eyesight (as the second part of its Slovak name implies) and superb hearing, but a less developed sense of smell. Generally living and hunting alone, the lynx is agile and can jump a long way. It is actually a very shy animal that never attacks humans. In the past, the lynx was hunted by the nobility for its valuable pelt, and its claws were used in folk medicine. It used to be severely persecuted and was almost hunted out of the territory of what is now Slovakia, surviving today only in small numbers in the central northern part and the Eastern Carpathians. Since 1999, the lynx has had year-round protected status in Slovakia.

The brown bear is the largest predator in Slovakia. It has a stocky body, small eyes and ears, a short tail, prominent claws, and thick fur that is 8 to 12 cm long and comes in a wide range of shades from light brown to almost black. The adult male can weigh up to 350 kg. In Slovakia, brown bears are mainly found in the central, northern and north-eastern mountain areas. The brown bear is an omnivore that prefers mixed and coniferous forests. Its diet consists of 90% plant matter, with the remaining 10% made up of carrion, small animals, insects and, occasionally, sick or injured ungulates. Bears hibernate in dens from early November to April. Females with cubs are the first to enter the dens and the last to leave. Male bears seek out females only during the mating season, usually from the end of April to the beginning of August. The cubs are born during January and February in the safety of the winter den. At birth they are blind, have short fur and weigh less than 500 g. In the wild, bears can live to be more than 30 years old.

