Obverse

The obverse design features a composition of elements characteristic of the Little Carpathians PLA. Vineyards stretch out below the mountain range, above which an eastern imperial eagle is depicted in flight. On the left side is a martagon lily, with the ruins of Čachtice Castle silhouetted in the background. Next to the castle is the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint. On the lower right is a bunch of grapes, symbolising the traditional viticulture of the Little Carpathian region. Inscribed along the upper edge are the name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO' and the year '2026', separated by the Slovak coat of arms. To the right of the year is a stylised branchlet from the logo of Národná banka Slovenska, which changes into the letters 'NBS' when the coin is tilted. The coin's denomination '20' and currency 'EURO' appear on the lower edge.

Reverse

The reverse depicts the Little Carpathians Protected Landscape Area with rocky formations and forest stands. A saker falcon in flight is shown in the upper part of the design, while bats and a Eurasian eagle-owl appear on the right side. The lower part features plant species, a butterfly and a lizard. The words 'CHRÁNENÁ KRAJINNÁ OBLASŤ' (Protected Landscape Area) are inscribed along the upper edge, and 'MALÉ KARPATY' (Little Carpathians) along the lower edge. At the left edge are the stylised initials 'TL' of the coin's designer, Tomáš Lamač.

View of Havranica, a prominent mountain in the Little Carpathians (Photo: A. Lačný)

Coin details

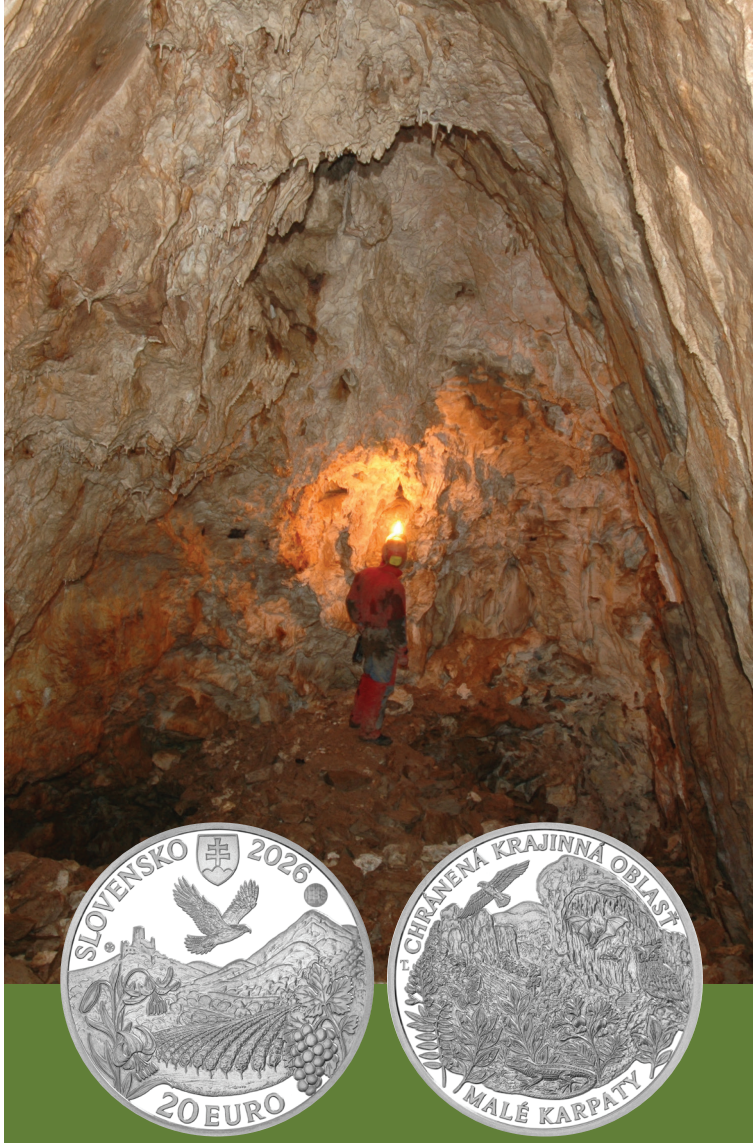
Denomination	€20
Composition:	.925 silver, .75 copper
Weight:	33.63 g
Diameter:	40 mm
Edge:	OCHRANA PRÍRODY A KRAJINY (Nature and countryside conservation); a stylised flower separates the start and end of the text
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 15,000 coins in either brilliant uncirculated or proof quality
Designer:	Tomáš Lamač
Engraver:	Dalibor Schmidt
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)

NÁRODNÁ BANKA SLOVENSKA
EUROSYSTÉM

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Translated by Národná banka Slovenska
Photographs courtesy of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and the Little Carpathians PLA Administration

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Little Carpathians
Protected Landscape Area

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN

The Little Carpathians Protected Landscape Area (PLA) in western Slovakia is largely covered by well-preserved forest communities typical of lower elevations, together with communities located at the boundary between the Carpathian and Pannonian bioregions. Its south-western part extends into historical vineyard landscapes. Several thermophilic (warmth-loving) plant and animal species reach the northern limit of their distribution here.

The Little Carpathians are a marginal crystalline-core mountain range of the Inner Carpathians with a distinctive geological history. Their core consists of very old, hard rocks surrounded by younger geological formations. The area is composed of granitoid rocks, limestones, slates, phyllites, amphibolites, and other rocks characteristic of crystalline-core mountains.

The area contains eight karst complexes and approximately 380 caves. The only cave open to the public is Driny, located in the Smolenice Karst, which is notable for its rich speleothem



Balkan goldenring (Photo: V. Vongrej)



Stone crayfish (Photo: V. Vongrej)

formations (flowstones and stalactites). From a cultural and historical perspective, Deravá Skala Cave near Plavecký Mikuláš is significant because it was inhabited by humans as early as the Paleolithic (Old Stone Age). Another important cave is Veľká Pec near Vrbové.

The deciduous forests covering 89% of the PLA comprise mainly beech, oak, narrow-leaved ash, sycamore and linden. They also include non-native species such as sweet chestnut. Among the non-forest habitats are warm and dry grasslands, rock and scree communities, and meadows. There are also occasional peat bogs and calcareous fens.

The Little Carpathians are the only place in Slovakia where the scorpion senna (*Hippocrepis emerus*) occurs naturally, albeit rarely. Other flora species found in Slovakia only in the Little Carpathians include spineless butcher's-broom (*Ruscus hypoglossum*), grey vetch (*Vicia incana*), knobbed parsley (*Myrrhoides nodosa*), and, occurring only on Devínska Kobyla peak, dwarf restharrow (*Ononis pusilla*) and rock buckthorn (*Rhamnus saxatilis subsp. saxatilis*). The spineless butcher's-broom appears in the PLA emblem.

The fauna of the Little Carpathians is species-rich, including many important species of insects and other invertebrates. Particularly noteworthy are the stone crayfish (*Austropotamobius torrentium*), found in streams in the southern part of the region, and the Balkan goldenring (*Cordulegaster heros*), a type of dragonfly. As regards birds of prey, the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) is relatively common, while the eastern imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) is an occasional nester. Other bird species of high conservation importance that nest in the area include the black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), the European honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), the Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*), and the middle spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos medius*). The PLA's caves and other subterranean spaces also serve as important wintering sites for bats.
The Little Carpathians Protected Landscape Area was established on 5 May 1976.



Spineless butcher's-broom (Photo: V. Vongrej)