

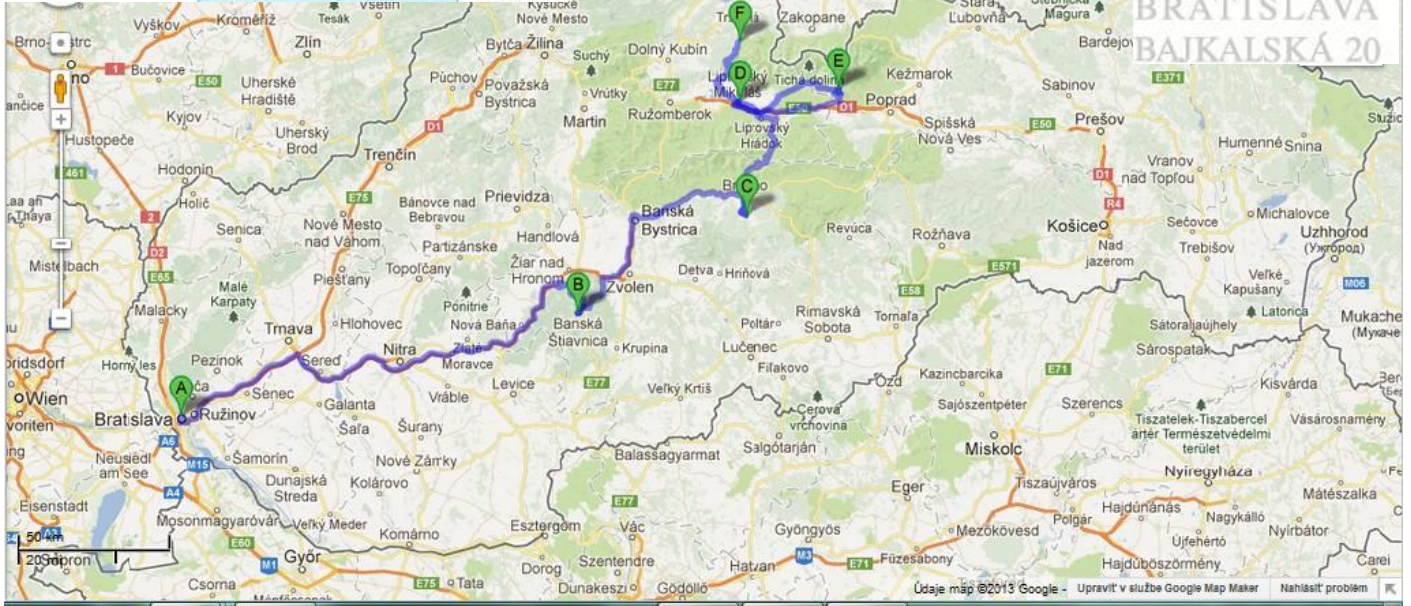


# SLOVENSKO – SLOVAKIA

21. 4. – 1. 5. 2013



SÚKROMNÉ  
GYMNAZIUM  
BRATISLAVA  
BAJKALSKÁ 20



## Podunajská nížina

The Danubian Lowland can be safely considered the most fertile region of Slovakia. Because of its highly fertile soil, there is a great variety of growable crops. It is this fundamental quality that bestowed a pleasurable habitat for even the earliest civilizations. Today, the lowland has an irreplaceable importance for the nationwide economy. There are plenty of plants that thrive in this region. Some of the most widespread crops are inarguably corn and wheat. This fact points to the plants' demand. To other vegetables that are also significant to the country belong barley, peas, beans and lentils.



Because of everything the lowland offers from an explorers perspective, it's only natural, that ancient settlers chose these locations in particular. The oldest settlements, which were uncovered in this region, are dated to approximately 9500 B.C. However, speaking of more developed civilizations, the Celts, who inhabited this territory in the third century B.C., are the most significant. Their cultural remains as well as the remnants of what once were majestic fortresses (Oppidums) have been



uncovered in many places, including Bratislava and Plavecké Podhradie. The Danubian lowland is also the ancient homeland of the Slavic tribes, who inhabited this land since the fourth century B.C. Besides the fact, that the Slavs, like the Celts were ruthless warriors, they were also skilled farmers and plant growers.

### **Banská Štiavnica** (B on the map)

Banská Štiavnica was really an important city in the Austria-Hungarian Empire era, it had the best gold and silver resources. In Banská Štiavnica there was the first university of mining in Europe. There is a very interesting legend about Banská Štiavnica. Many years ago an old farmer Jano lived there. He walked around his village and whistled on his flute. While he was whistling, some animals came towards him. After a few minutes he saw something special, they were lizards. He came closer and noticed that one of the lizards was golden and the other one was silver. He came closer but the lizards ran away, they ran underneath a big rock. Farmer Jano rolled the big rock and suddenly saw something magnificent. The biggest golden ore he had ever seen. From this time Štiavnica is the most famous mining town in Slovakia.



### **Dobročský Wildforest** (C on the map)

This wildforest is situated in central Slovakia in village Čierny Balog. Dobročský Wildforest has been one of the oldest conservation areas in Slovakia since 1913. We call it a wildforest, because there are conserved remains of primary forests, which were evolving for thousands years.

Between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century most of this wildforest was stacked up. Later in 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century forests started to be planted thanks to Jozef Matejovic. The whole progress of Dobročský prales has taken 400 years up to now.

Dobročský prales is situated in fir-beech altitudinal zone in absolute altitude 700-1000 meters above sea level. The land of the National park takes 103,85 ha. Local climate is cold and wet. The average year temperature is 5.4 - 6.5°C and the amount of rainfalls per year is 760-920 mm. The main types of wood in this wildforest are fir, beech, spruce, sycamore, ash and elm slender mountain. Animals that live in this area are deer, brown bear, lynx, wild cat, pine marten and abundant groups of birds.

In 1964 wind blew over and broke a popular fir that was one of the biggest in Europe. It was about 450-500 years old, the diameter of bole was 193 cm, its height was 56 meters and its weight 38 tons. The tallest tree in the wildforest was a 58-meter-tall fir that dried in year 1984.

The significance and importance of the area from European perspective is also confirmed with an honor of European Diploma, which was awarded in year 1998, 2008.





## **Black Balog** (C on the map)

It is a village in Central Slovakia. There is Černohorská railway and Dobročský Wildforest situated in Black Balog (Čierny Balog).

Černohorská railway operates in the Slovak ore mountains, valleys of river Black Hron and its tributaries. Before year 1982, when transport of this railway was canceled, the length of this railway was 131,98 km.

The original name of the railway was Fekete garamvolgyivasút, which means railway in valley of the Black Hron river. From the original name consists an acronym F.G.V. which we can still see in some places next to the railway.

It was formerly used for logging. Its branches ranged to most of the valleys of the river Black Hron.

In the early 60s the railway transport was replaced with the road transport, and at the end of year 1982 the railway transport was closed and all equipment (rails, locomotives and wagons) was designed for scrapping. But in year 1982 the railway was added to central national register of cultural monuments. Voluntary organizations Tree of Life officially opened traffic again.

And in year 1992 Voluntary organizations Tree of Life made the transport officially opened again. The parts of railway are still being repaired and opened gradually.

Currently, railway runs on a daily basis during the summer season.



## **Žiarska dolina** (D on the map)

„Valley Žiar“ is located on the south side of west Tatras. The most famous place to visit is **Žiarska chata** (Cottage at the end of the valley). There's a river that flows through this valley and it's called **Smrečianka**. This valley is a very popular place for tourists because of it's wonderful nature. Tourists either like to just walk around or go hiking to the mountains. Also the valley could be very interesting because of it's wildlife. A lot of endangered species live in this valley.



We will be staying at Hotel Spojar which is located at the beginning of the valley. It looks something like this.



### **Lake Štrba** (E on the map)

It is a moraine lake of glacial origin. Be careful how you write, because Štrbské Pleso with capital "P" is the village. Its altitude is 1 346 meters and its depth is approximately 200 meters.



### **Tatra Mountains** (E on the map)

They create a natural border between Slovakia and Poland. Tatra Mountains are the highest mountain range in the Carpathian Mountains.

The Carpathians are a range of mountains forming an arc across Central and Eastern Europe. They verge the Alps in the West. The highest peak of this range is Gerlach Peak. Can you guess is this peak located? It is located in Slovakia!

The High Tatras are well known for winter sports. We have many ski resorts, for example one here in Štrbské Pleso. This ski resort is called ParkSnow and it is famous for its ski jumping hills.

In 2004, the High Tatras faced a terrible storm. Due to this storm, a lot of trees were broken, fallen and cut down. Even nowadays, the nature of High Tatras is not fully healed and it will take a long time until it finally is.

It is said that the High Tatras are the most beautiful treasure of Slovakia and we have to agree with this statement.

