

# MOUNTAINS OF SLOVAKIA (HORY SLOVENSKA)

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## Introduction

Slovakia is a small country (it covers an area of 49.000 sq km) and borders on: Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine and Hungary. There are 5 million people living there and approx. 10% live in the capital city of Bratislava.

Slovakia is one of the most mountainous countries in Europe. The highest point is located in the Tatra Mountains (Gerlachovský štít 2655m) and the lowest point is in the Bodrog valley (94m).

The extreme points of the Slovak territory are:

- in the north: near a top of Mondrálova in Babia hora massiv on the Polish border (49:37)
- in the south: Donau coast near the village of Patnice on the Hungarian border (47:44)
- in the west: Morava coast near the village of Záhorská Ves on the Austrian border (16:50)
- in the east: near a top of Kremenec in Bukovské vrchy on the Ukrainian/Polish border (22:34)

Slovakian mountains belong to the Western Carpathians (a tiny part in the east belong to the Eastern Carpathians). The main rivers have estuaries in the Danube: Vah, Hron, Hornad and Torisa. The majority of the Slovak territory belongs to the basin of the Black Sea, but the highest part (High Tatras) belongs to the Baltic Sea (upper Poprad valley).

## Technical data

For the each peak the following information is provided:

1. Peak – official Slovak name, for border peaks alternative name in brackets, distinguishing adjectives (if needed added by the author) in italics.
2. Height – taken from the Source Map.
3. Prominence – difference between Height and Key Col Height.
4. Key Col – Slovak name of the Key Col; if the whole name is in italics the col is nameless: with geographical direction symbol and name of a village it refers to the nearest named point, if “local” it means that the col is on a ridge in a neighbourhood of the analysed peak.
5. Col Height – taken from the Source Map, if in italics estimated from contour lines.
6. Prominence Parent – name of the Prominence Parent (a higher and more prominent neighbour).
7. Latitude – rounded to 5” (exception: Tatry with 1” precision).
8. Longitude – rounded to 5” (exception: Tatry with 1” precision).
9. Source Map – a number of the sheet of the *Turistický Atlas Slovenska* (described below)
10. Country – SK: wholly in Slovakia, SK/CZ – Czech border, SK/PL – Polish border, SK/UA – Ukrainian border, SK/HU- Hungarian border.
11. Group – part of the geographical massif, if in italics introduced by the author for more precision.
12. Massif – Slovak name of the massif; geographical split is mostly according to the Slovak geography and may be divergent with other sources.

The prevailing source for the prominence calculations and peaks&cols names is:

### ***Turistický Atlas Slovenska***

Scale: 1:50.000

Contour lines grid: 20m

Edited by: VKU Harmanec

Edition year: 2005

Number of sheets: 372

Source of geographical information: *Barbara Zygmńska*, “Góry Słowacji”, ed. Pascal 2005 (in Polish).

## Prominent peaks

The list contains peaks with at least 200m of prominence. **The most prominent and also the highest is Gerlachovský štít (2655m/2355m) in the Tatra mountains.** The most extreme P200 peaks in Slovakia are:

- the northernmost: Javorina “Oravská” (Oravské Beskydy, 1047m/217m) 49:35:45N
- the southernmost: Karanč (Cerová vrchovina, 725m/495m) 48:09:30N
- the easternmost: Devínska Kobyla (Malé Karpaty, 514m/304m) 16:59:35E
- the westernmost: Stinská (Bukovské vrchy, 1090m/480m) 22:32:40E

There are 239 peaks on the list belonging to 45 geographical massifs (not orographical ones). Their characteristics are briefly described below.

### **Malé Karpaty**

The most western Carpathian range located between Morava, Danube and Wah rivers. The northern border is located south from the city of Myjava. The southern part is a popular recreation spot for Bratislava. Warm climate and low altitudes allow production of wine. A lot of medieval castles built by the Hungarians.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Záruby (767m/447m).

Number of P200m summits: 7.

### **Biele Karpaty**

The second Carpathian range from the west, located on the Slovak-Czech border (the border is not convergent with watershed between Morava and Wah). Lyský průsmyk shares a border with Javorniky in the north-east. Above the Wah valley there are a lot of limestone crags with archaeological sites of the Puchov culture (Roman times).

The highest and the most prominent peak: Veľká Javorina *Bielokarpatská* (970m/580m).

Number of P200m summits in Slovakia: 6.

### **Javorniky**

Located on Slovak-Czech border with peaks covered with spruce forest. Natural western continuation of the long range of Beskydy (located mostly in Poland). The northern border with Moravskoslezské Beskydy is Makovský priesmyk.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Veľký Javorník (1072m/387m).

Number of P200m summits in Slovakia: 4.

### **Moravskoslezské Beskydy**

The most western part of Beskydy range located mostly in the Czech Republic (just south-east part is in Slovakia).

The highest and the most prominent peak is located in the Czech Republic: Lysá hora (1324m/823m).

The highest and the most prominent peak in Slovakia: Veľký Polom (1067m/352m).

Number of P200m summits in Slovakia: 1.

### **Kysucké Beskydy**

Located on the Polish-Slovak border (in the Polish geography it is the western part of Beskid Żywiecki). The border with Oravské Beskydy is located on the summit of Bednárov Beskyd. On the NW slope of Veľka Rača, in a village of Osčadnica, a modern ski resort was built.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Veľka Rača (pol. Wielka Racza) (1236m/389m).

Number of P200m summits in Slovakia: 2.

### **Oravská Magura**

Located in the historic region of Orava (Arva) with the famous medieval castle Oravský zámok built on the daring limestone crag. On the highest peak there is a popular ski-resort of Kubinská hora.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Minčol *Oravsky* (1396m/550m).

Number of P200m summits: 5.

### **Kysucké vrchy**

Hilly range located between Kysucké Beskydy in the north and Malá Fatra in the south (border: Rovná hora pass). The highest peak is also the highest point of a long geological formation of limestone crags known in the Polish geography as Pieniński Pas Skałkowy.

The highest peak: Púčov (1096m/246m)

The most prominent peak: L'adohora (999m/329m).

Number of P200m summits: 4.

### **Malá Fatra**

High range of bare peaks split by Wah river into two parts: Krivanská Fatra in the north and Lúčanská Fatra in the south. In the north-east there are interesting limestone gorges of Diery and beautiful cone shaped peaks named Rozsutce. Traditional area for ski touring. In the Vratná valley there is a cable car ending 200m below the highest peak of the range.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Veľký Kriváň (1709m/958m).

Number of P200m summits: 10.

### **Oravské Beskydy**

The highest part of the long range of Beskydy, located on the Polish-Slovak border (in the Polish geography it is the eastern part of Beskid Żywiecki). Bare peaks of Pilsko and Babia hora offer broad views to the Tatra range. The northernmost part of Slovakia.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Babia hora (pol. Diablak) (1725m/1075m).

Number of P200m summits in Slovakia: 5.

### **Skorušinské vrchy**

Hilly area located in the north-west end of the Tatra range in the region of Orava split into a few parts by shallow valleys.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Skorušina (1314m/374m).

Number of P200m summits: 3.

### **Chočské vrchy**

Tiny but very picturesque range of limestone crags being a natural western continuation of the Tatra range. The range has complicated orography due to the lack of the main ridge. Medieval castles, deep gorges, abundant wildlife.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Veľký Choč (1611m/791m).

Number of P200m summits: 9.

### **Tatry**

The highest part of the Carpathians with the alpine relief. Divided into Western (grassy and partly limestone), High (granite and mostly rocky) and White (limestone) Tatras. Steep walls up to 900m of altitude, many glacier-origin lakes. Popular hiking, climbing and skiing resort.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Gerlachovský štít (2655m/2355m).

Number of P200m summits in Slovakia: 21.

### **Spišská Magura**

Long range of hills being a natural eastern continuation of the Tatra range. In the village of Osturňa the westernmost location of Ukrainian-speaking Rusini.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Veterný vrch (1111m/309m).

Number of P200m summits: 1.

### **Pieniny**

Picturesque massif of limestone crags, lying on the Polish border, divided by a deep gorge of Dunajec.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Vysoké skalky (pol. Wysoka) (1050m/250m).

Number of P200m summits in Slovakia: 1.

### **Lubovnianská vrchovina**

Broad hilly area located on the Polish border near a city of Lubovňa.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Kurčinska Magura (894m/284m).

Number of P200m summits: 1.

### **Nízke Tatry**

Long range of bare hills, partly with the alpine relief, located between deep valleys of Vah (in the north) and Hron (in the south). The main ridge is parallel to the Tatra range. A few popular ski-resorts: Chopok, Donovaly.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Ďumbier (2043m/1143m).

Number of P200m summits: 19.

### **Veľká Fatra**

Broad massive of bare hills, partly covered with spruce forest, located between Malá Fatra in the west and Nízke Tatry in the east. Skiing possibilities near a city of Ružomberok.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Ostredok (1592m/672m).

Number of P200m summits: 14.

### **Kremnické vrchy**

Located in central Slovakia, south of Veľká Fatra and east of a big city of Banská Bystrica. The range is mostly of the volcanic origin.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Flochová (1317m/427m).

Number of P200m summits: 1.

### **Žiar**

A tiny range thrust between Kremnické vrchy and Malá Fatra partly built with volcanic rocks.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Chlieviská (Sokol) (1024m/358m).

Number of P200m summits: 2.

### **Strážovské vrchy**

Very broad massive located west of Lúčanská Fatra on the left bank of the Vah river (opposite to Javorníky, south of a city of Žilina). Complicated orography implies large number of prominent peaks. The northern part is known Sul'ovské vrchy and consist of spire-shaped crags built of conglomerates.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Stražov (1213m/483m).

Number of P200m summits: 23.

### **Považský Inovec**

Long range of hills located in the western Slovakia on the left bank of middle Vah river near a city of Trenčín (opposite to Biele Karpaty). Short characteristics: mixed geology, warm climate, beech forests.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Inovec *Považský* (1042m/692m).

Number of P200m summits: 2.

### **Vtáčnik**

Tiny but relatively high massif located west of Kremnické vrchy between the rivers of Nitra and Hron. Volcanic origin crags offer interesting rock climbing possibilities.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Vtáčnik (1346m/736m).

Number of P200m summits: 1.

### **Pohronský Inovec**

Hills located south of Vtáčnik built of volcanic rocks and split by relatively deep valleys.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Veľký Inovec *Pohronský* (901m/331m).

Number of P200m summits: 3.

### **Tribeč**

Long range of hills built of granite rocks and covered with leafy forest. Near a historic city of Nitra (the oldest town in Slovakia) there are castles built on picturesque limestone crags.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Veľký Tribeč (830m/369m).

Number of P200m summits: 2.

### **Stolické vrchy**

The highest part of the Slovenské rudohorie (a long range in the central Slovakia located south of high Hron river). Stolické vrchy are located directly south from Nízke Tatry (a border between the ranges is the pass Pusté Pole). The range has complicated geological structure and is built by a few massifs that are not connected orographically. The mountains are rarely visited due to weak tourist infrastructure. Southern slopes belong to the interesting Gemer province, inhabited partly by the Hungarian minority.

The highest peak: Stolica (1476m/482m)

The most prominent peak: Salašiská (1132m/553m).

Number of P200m summits: 7.

### **Slovenský Kras**

Interesting limestone plateau with numerous caves on the Hungarian border (Hungarian name: Észak-Borsodi karszt).

The highest and the most prominent peak: Štít (851m/441m).

Number of P200m summits: 2.

### **Muránska Planina**

A part of the Slovenské rudohorie with the highest population of brown bears in Slovakia. Located between Fabova hol'a in the west and Stolické vrchy in the east. The top is a huge limestone plateau. Numerous medieval castles.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Kl'ak (1410m/401m).

Number of P200m summits: 1.

### **Fabova hol'a**

A granite part of the Slovenské rudohorie sometimes treated as a culmination of a nearby Muránska Planina or Veporské vrchy.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Fabova hol'a (1439m/491m).

Number of P200m summits: 2.

### **Veporské vrchy**

A western part of the Slovenské rudohorie located between Pol'ana in the west and Fabova hol'a in the east. A range is a mixture of limestone and volcanic rocks. The peaks are covered with dense beech forest.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Klenovský vepor (1338m/448m).

Number of P200m summits: 8.

### **Pol'ana**

According to the Slovak geography part of Slovenské stredohorie. Located west of Veporské vrchy built of volcanic rocks and covered with oak and beech forest. A range has a shape of disk with the highest peak with the parts of the old caldera in the center of the massif. In the southern part there is a good area for rock climbing.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Pol'ana (1458m/732m).

Number of P200m summits: 3.

### **Javorie**

Tiny range in the southern part of central Slovakia located between Štiavnické vrchy (in the west) and Pol'ana (in the east) south of a city of Zvolen. Lack of marked trails – military area.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Javorie (1044m/614m).

Number of P200m summits: 3.

### **Štiavnické vrchy**

Located south of Kremnické vrchy and west of Javorie on the left bank of the Hron river. The range is a eroded caldera created by the collapse of an ancient volcano. Due to the richness of minerals there are many old mines located on the hills near a town of Banská Štiavnica.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Sitno (1009m/579m).

Number of P200m summits: 5.

### **Slovenský Raj**

Picturesque tiny massif with numerous limestone gorges located between Nízke Tatry (in the west) and Volovské vrchy (in the east) between Hornad and Hnilec valleys. Precise borders of the massif are difficult to estimate. Numerous marked trails are crossing waterfalls in the gorges and are protected in the “via ferrata” style.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Veľká Knola (1266m/316m).

Number of P200m summits: 1.

### **Volovské vrchy**

Long range being the easternmost part of the Slovenské rudohorie. The peaks are covered by dense forest. Old mining area. Warm climate is good for wine plantations. A few skiing resorts (Plejsy, Kojšovská hol'a).

The highest and the most prominent peak: Zlatý stôl (1322m/472m).

Number of P200m summits: 10.

### **Čierna Hora**

Tiny range north of a valley of middle Hornad river with numerous rock and interesting plants.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Roháčka (1029m/493m).

Number of P200m summits: 3.

### **Levočské vrchy**

Broad massive located south-east from the Tatra range. For 50 years after the Second World War it was closed for public (military zone). South of the range one can see a magnificent Spišský hrad, one of the largest medieval castles in Europe.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Čierna hora *Levočská* (1289/604m).

Number of P200m summits: 3.

### **Bachureň**

Northern of the two tiny ranges located between the rivers of Torisa and Hornad (south-eastern continuation of the Levočské vrchy).

The highest and the most prominent peak: Bachureň (1082m/317m).

Number of P200m summits: 1.

### **Branisko**

Southern of the two tiny ranges located between the rivers of Torysa and Hornad on the border between the provinces of Spiš a Šariš.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Smrekovica *Branická* (1200m/423m).

Number of P200m summits: 2.

### **Čergov**

Forest covered hills located between the Polish Beskid Sądecki in the north and Levočské vrchy in the south.

The highest and the most prominent peak: Minčol *Čergovsky* (1157m/567m).  
Number of P200m summits: 2.

### **Košická kotlina**

Broad dale near a city of Košice in the eastern Slovakia. A few cone-shape hills with interesting medieval castles on the tops.

The highest and the most prominent peak: *Stráž Košická* (740m/350m).  
Number of P200m summits: 3.

### **Slanské vrchy**

Long meridian range in the eastern part of Slovakia reaching the Hungarian border. The hills are primarily covered with beech and oak forests.

The highest and the most prominent peak: *Šimonka* (1092m/762m).  
Number of P200m summits: 9.

### **Nízke Beskydy**

The easternmost part of the long range of Beskydy and also of the whole Western Carpathians. Relatively rarely visited. Inhabited by Ukrainian-speaking Rusini.

The highest and the most prominent peak: *Busov* (1002m/372m).  
Number of P200m summits in Slovakia: 9.

### **Bukovské vrchy**

Easternmost range in Slovakia on the Polish and Ukrainian border. The Polish part of the range is known as Bieszczady. The highest parts are covered with alpine meadows. Inhabited by Ukrainian-speaking Rusini.

The highest point: *Kremenec* (SW edge of the summit of *Kremenaros*) (1208m/0m)

The most prominent peak: *Stinská* (ukr. *Stynka*) (1090m/480m).  
Number of P200m summits in Slovakia: 9.

### **Vihorlatské vrchy**

Volcanic range close to the Ukrainian border (belonging to the Eastern Carpathians). Partly covered by a military zone.

The highest and the most prominent peak: *Vihorlat* (1076m/706m).  
Number of P200m summits in Slovakia: 5.

### **Cerová vrchovina**

Low hills located on the Slovak-Hungarian border.

The highest and the most prominent peak: *Karanč* (725m/495m).  
Number of P200m summits in Slovakia: 4.