

UK REINTRODUCTIONS STUDY TOUR TO SLOVAKIA 2010

Saturday 19th June 2010 – Thursday 24th June 2010

A six-day study tour in prime wolf, lynx and bear habitat in the Tatra Mountains of Slovakia to learn about how these large carnivores exist in a human-dominated landscape. The tour will also focus on the problems encountered when large predators live in close proximity to people, how these conflicts are being resolved in Slovakia, and what lessons can be learnt for potential reintroductions of these species to Scotland.



Itinerary

Day 1 (Saturday 19th)

12.00 Flight departs Luton Airport, arrives Bratislava 15.10.

17.15 Train departs Bratislava for Liptovský Mikulaš, arrives 20.33. Short drive to Borová Sihoť hotel on the outskirts of the town of Liptovský Hrádok, adjacent to wolf, lynx and bear habitat. Dinner.

Day 2 (Sunday 20th)

08.00 Breakfast at the hotel.

09.00 Introductory presentation on the area, its wildlife and the work of SWS.

10.00 Drive to start of full day walk between the Low Tatras and Western Tatras National Parks to see typical large carnivore habitat, visiting sheep farms along the way to learn about conflicts with large carnivores and to see examples of livestock protection measures including electric fencing and fladry. Packed lunch; dinner at a shepherd's-style restaurant.

20.00 Presentation on carnivores, conflicts and coexistence in Slovakia.

Day 3 (Monday 21st)

05.00 Optional dawn walk before breakfast.

08.00 Breakfast at the hotel.

09.00 Drive to Velka Fatra National Park to see more examples of livestock protection measures including livestock guarding dogs as well as measures to secure refuse from bears. Packed lunch; dinner at the 'Wolf's Throat' restaurant.

Day 4 (Tuesday 22nd)

08.00 Breakfast at the hotel.

09.00 Short drive to the start of an all-day hike in the Low



Tatras National Park. Overnight stay at a lodge above timberline for evening and morning opportunities to watch for wildlife including chamois, marmots, red deer, wild boar, perhaps also golden eagles and maybe even a large carnivore. Warm and waterproof clothes required, Bedding is provided at the lodge. Packed lunch; cooked meal at the lodge in the evening.

Day 5 (Wednesday 23rd)

05.00 Early start (for those willing!) to maximise chances of wildlife sightings while hiking up to the main ridge of the Low Tatras. Walk down into Demänovská Valley, drive back to hotel by minibus. Packed breakfast/lunch. Free-time to rest and relax in the afternoon.

19.00 Farewell dinner.



Day 6 (Thursday 24th)

08.00 Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to Liptovský Mikuláš.

10.09 Train to Bratislava departs, arrives 14.13,

17.15 Flight departs Bratislava airport, arrives Luton 18.30.

Price:

€627 (£560) includes flights, transfers, accommodation, all meals and excursions. Single supplement available in hotel only by arrangement (we will be staying in rustic wooden chalets in the hotel grounds).

Contact Richard Morley at info@wolvesandhumans.org or on 01460 242593 to reserve your place.

Itinerary may be subject to change



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