

NATURAL BEAUTIES AND ATTRACTIONS

Michalovce
Tourist Gateway to Zemplín

NATURAL BEAUTIES AND ATTRACTIONS



MICHALOVCE
srdce zemplína

Protected Landscape Areas

Vihorlat

- The Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area with its attractiveness, uniqueness, specific geological development and extraordinary fauna belongs to natural treasures of Slovakia. The mountain range Vihorlat is of volcanic origin and rises over the Eastern Slovak Lowland to an elevation of 1076 m. From the geological point of view, most of the protected landscape area belongs to neovolcanic Vihorlat Mountains. Crater rims of stratovolcano can be found in the area of the natural lake Great Vihorlat Lake (Morské oko) and at the location where the stream Porubský potok springs.

Besides the above-mentioned natural curiosities, above-ground sphagnum bogs, a significant botanical locality and natural monuments can be found in this protected landscape area. Snina's stone (Sninský kameň), a natural monument, deservedly belongs to the most beautiful natural formations in the whole mountain range Vihorlat. Summit plateaus provide spectacular views of the main Vihorlat ridge, picturesque natural lake Great Vihorlat Lake, border mountain ridge of Popričné and the Eastern Slovak Lowland.

This landscape area is due to its uncommon terrain, the result of which is vertical superlevation up to 800 m, rich in tourist tracks in total length of 88 km and thus ideal for walking tours. Climbing the mountain is interesting both by surrounding nature and a view it offers. Besides other precious plants, during your walks, you will probably notice *telekia speciosa*, which is a living symbol of Vihorlat. An educational path that leads from Remetské Hámre through Great Vihorlat Lake as far as the Vihorlat mountain top provides individual information boards about all natural beauties of this locality.





Latorica

- The Latorica Protected Landscape Area is listed in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance and belongs to large protected areas of lowland type. It is located in the southeast of Slovakia, in Trebišov and Michalovce districts. The protected landscape area is formed by the surrounding areas of the Latorica, the Laborec and the Ondava River with the system of blind river branches, riparian forests and alluvial meadows.

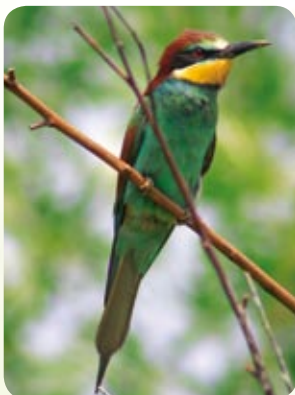
The uniqueness of this area lies in its rare and very precious water and marsh communities, which are exclusive to Slovakia. Here you can come across significant representatives of fauna such as purple heron, great cormorant and white-tailed eagle because the location of the area appears to play a prominent role in water bird migration. Rare aquatic species of plants can be found there such as European white water lily, yellow water lily, water soldier, water caltrop, Beckman's grass and many others.



National Nature Reserves

Senianske Fishponds – Bird Conservation Area

- National nature reserve Senné or Senianske fishponds (Senianske rybníky) is one of the most important ornithological localities in Central Europe. The area is listed in the Important Birds Area List and also belongs within Ramsar sites because of its high aquatic bird diversity. Researches have estimated that as much as 160 species of birds pause here on their migratory journeys and more than 50 species of birds even build nests here. The list of the birds born and bred there includes, for instance, Eurasian spoon-bill, pied avocet, Western marsh-harrier or great egret, little egret and purple heron. This “bird paradise” can be found between the municipal areas of villages Senné and Iňačovce in Michalovce district. The territory of the national nature reserve is recognized as deserving the fifth – the strictest degree of protection.



Jovsianska Hrabina

- Jovsianska Hrabina National Nature Reserve is a part of the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area. It is located at the foothills of the Vihorlat Mountains, nearby adjacent village Jovsa. This spot deserves protection for its habitat of protected leucojum vernum carpaticum, which has the most optimal ecological conditions for its vegetation here and is also the place with the highest population of leucojum vernum carpaticum. Ideal conditions for vegetation are provided by water regime of the Myslina Brook, which flows through the edge of the reserve.

Jovsianska Hrabina is definitely the most beautiful in spring when leucojum vernum carpaticum blooms and surrounding meadows are covered with white flowers. However, there is still a lot to see even after the flowers finish flowering because other flowers begin to bloom, e.g. corydalis cava, anemone nemorosa, yellow anemone, two-leaf squill or lesser celandine.



Kašvár, Ladmovské Limestones

- This nature reserve can be found at the foothills of the eastern part of the Zemplín Mountains at an altitude between 100-280 m in Trebišov district. Bedrock of the area is interesting since it is formed by limestones and dolomites. Major part of vegetation is represented by xerophytes and thermophilic scrub and grass plants which, however, are not primary vegetation types due to deforestation in the past. Kašvár is a crucial habitat for rare species of insects, e.g. *rosalia longicorn*, *mantis religiosa*, *carabus obsoletus*. Estimate of the number of butterfly species in the nature reserve is 1500. The largest butterfly in Slovakia, the giant peacock moth, can be found there besides small butterfly *Vespina slovaciella*, which is a world rarity because it has been known only from the Zemplín region so far.



Riparian Forest of the Latorica River

- Riparian forest of the Latorica River is one of the most significant nature reserves of the Latorica Protected Landscape Area. If you look for relax in a quiet area of riparian forests with alluring twitter of birds, you should drive up to the Slovak-Ukrainian state border. Riparian forest of the Latorica River is also a part of the Medzibodrožie Protected Bird Area.



Tajba

- Dead channel of the Bodrog River near the village of Streda nad Bodrogom is declared a national nature reserve under the name Tajba. Remnants of marsh communities in Medzibodrožie area, which are already quite rare nowadays, are home to a very scarce animal species listed in the Red Book of Endangered Species, the European pond turtle, which reproduces here regularly.



Cycle Routes

The Region of Lower Zemplín is an ideal area for development of cyclotourism, mainly for cycling routes creation with route difficulty rated as "rekrea" (i.e. tracks for less skilled cyclists). It applies mainly to its lowland and hilly areas where there is a relatively rich network of the roads of lower level (second class, third class, metalled roads and unmade field tracks) with low-frequency traffic.

Cyclotourists can choose from the following cycle routes:

Zemplínska šírava

- **Kaluža** - Vinné (castle, Vinianske Lake) - **Michalovce**
- **Michalovce** - Vinné (Vinianske Lake) - Kaluža - Kusín - Jovsa - Hnojné - south part of the water reservoir Zemplínska šírava - Lúčky - Zalužice - bridge - Zemplínska šírava dyke drain - Prímestská - **Michalovce** (Biela Hora)

Duša

- **Michalovce** - Petrovce nad Laborcom - Suché - Lesné - Pusté Čermné - Strážske - Staré - Zbudza - **Michalovce**

Ondavská rovina

- **Trhovište** - Moravany - Rakovec nad Ondavou - Nižný Hrabovec - Klčovo - The Ondava River dyke near Parchovany - Tušice - Tušická Nová Ves - Horovce - **Trhovište**
- **Trhovište** - Bánovce nad Ondavou - Bracovce - Markovce - Malčice - Oborín - The Laborec River and the Latorica River dyke - Sírnik - The Ondava River dyke - direction Horovce - **Trhovište**

Senianske rybníky (Senianske fishponds)

- **Michalovce** - Zemplínska Široká - Iňačovce - Senianske rybníky - Senné - Palín - Zemplínska Široká - **Michalovce**

Nová zemplínska "Trasa KSK"

- **Klokočov** - Michalovce - Lastomír - Sliepkovce - Stretava - Drahňov (manor house) - Vojany - Veľké Raškovce - Oborín - Brehov - Zemplín - Ladmovce - Viničky - **Borša**

Ukrajinská

Michalovce - Zalužice - Lúčky (archaeological site) - Závadka - Nižná Rybnica - Sobrance (spa) - Tibava (vineyards) - Orechová (vineyards) - Sejkov - **state border Ukraine**

Ublianska

Sobrance - Tibava - Choňkovce - Podhorod' - Ruský Hrabovec - **Ubl'a**

Vihorlatská

Sobrance (guitar museum) - Spa Sobrance - Ruskovce - Jasenov - Vyšná Rybnica - Remetské Hámre - **Great Vihorlat Lake (Morské oko)**

Medzibodrožie

- **Streda nad Bodrogom** - Viničky - Borša - Malý Kamenec - Stráže - Veľký Horeš - Malý Horeš - Pribeník - Dobrá - Biel - Veľké Trakany - Malé Trakany - Čierna nad Tisou - Boťany - direction to the rope bridge - southern dyke of the Latorica River - direction Svätá Mária - Viničky - Streda nad Bodrogom - direction to the state border Hungary - **Karos**
- **Streda nad Bodrogom** - Viničky - Borša - Malý Kamenec - Veľký Kamenec - Stráže - Veľký Horeš - Malý Horeš - Pribeník - Dobrá - Biel - Veľké Trakany - Malé Trakany - Čierna nad Tisou - Boťany - direction to the rope bridge - southern dyke of the Latorica River - direction Svätá Mária - Somotor - Viničky - **Streda nad Bodrogom**
- **Svätuš** - Kráľovský Chlmec - Malý Horeš - Pribeník - Dobrá - Biel - Bačka - Leles - Poľany - Solníčka - Boľ - Zátin - Svinice - Vojka - **Kráľovský Chlmec**

Použie

- **Vojany** - Ižkovce - The Laborec River and the Latorica River dyke - Beša - Čičarovce - northern dyke of the Latorica River - Ptrukša - Veľké Slemence - Ruská - Kapušanské Kľačany - Veľké Kapušany - Čierne Pole - Krišovská Liesková - Vojany - **Drahňov**
- **Veľké Kapušany** - **Kráľovský Chlmec**
- **Veľké Kapušany** - **Borša**

Vihorlatské vrchy (Dobrá voda - Borolo)

- **Sobrance** - Ruskovce - Jasenov - Vyšná Rybnica - Hlivištia - Ruská Bystrá (wooden church) - Ruský Hrabovec - Inovce - Beňatina - Podhorod' - Choňkovce - Baškovce - Spa Sobrance - **Sobrance**
- **Sobrance** - Tibava - Choňkovce - Koňuš - Priekopa - Porúbka - Koromľa - Husák - Vyšné Nemecké - Orechová - Tibava - **Sobrance**

Východoslovenská rovina (Borolo - Trasa KSK)

- **Sobrance** - Ostrov - Porostov - Kristy - Svätuš - Blatná Polianka - Senianske rybníky - Senné - Blatné Remety - Bunkovce - Nižná Rybnica - **Sobrance**
- **Sobrance** - Tibava - Orechová - Sejkov - Jenkovce - Záhor - Pinkovce - Lekárovce - Bajany - Veľké Kapušany - Budince - Ruská - Veľké Slemence - Ptrukša - rope bridge over the Latorica River - Boťany - Čierna nad Tisou - Malé Trakany - **Veľké Trakany**
- **Trebišov** - Hraň - Sirník - Brehov - Zemplín - Ladmovce - Viničky - **Borša**

Tokajské cycle routes

- **Veľatý** - Veľká Trňa - Malá Trňa - Černocho - Veľká Bara - Malá Bara - Viničky - **Borša**
- **Viničky** - Malá Bara - Veľká Bara - Černocho - Cejkov - **Streda nad Bodrogom**
- **Trebišov** - Čerhov - Slovenské Nové Mesto - Borša - direction Hungary - **Sárospatak**

- ## CYCLE R

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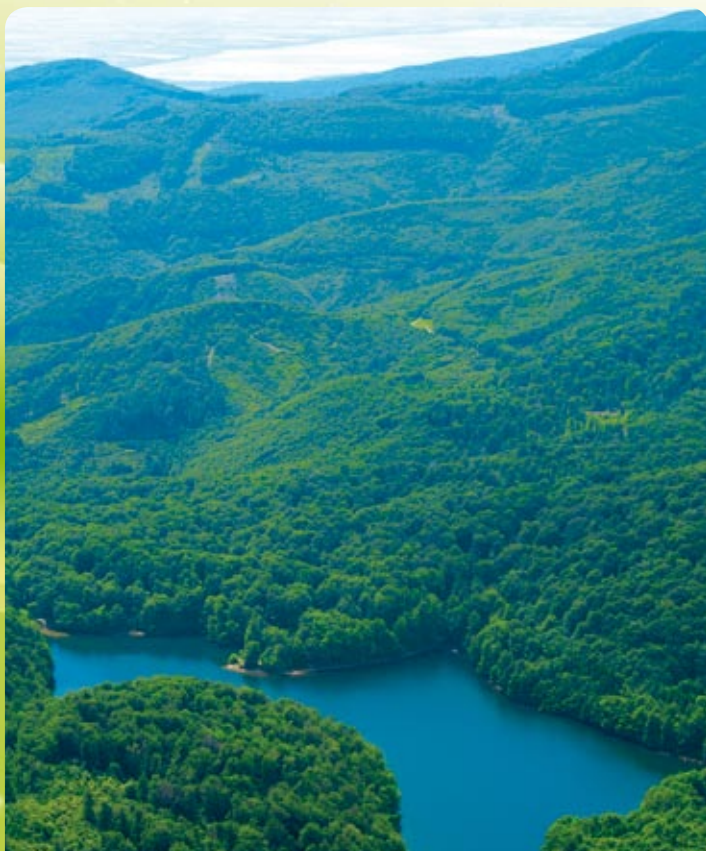
Natural Attractions

Great Vihorlat Lake (Morské oko)

- Great Vihorlat Lake, called “Morské oko”, is a part of the national nature reserve belonging to the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area. The lake is located directly in the heart of the mountain range Vihorlat and is one of the most splendid natural lakes in Slovakia. The lake, which is fed by the water from six pure streams, lies at an elevation of 618 m above sea level and spreads over a surface area of 13.8 ha (length of 750 m and depth of ca. 25 m).

Today, 13 fish species occur in the lake and its surrounding inflows. The area provides a habitat for brown trout, rainbow trout, Eurasian minnow, European perch, European chub, gudgeon or the bleak. However, due to strict protection measures, this rare natural jewel does not allow fishing. Boating, swimming and camping are also forbidden. Beautiful and pure Vihorlat nature still looks as if it has been made for walking and hiking.

Marked educational path of the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area leads from Great Vihorlat Lake to the prominent natural monument, called Snina's stone, rising to an elevation of 1005 m above sea level.



You can also exult in the beautiful scenery of the cycling route or tourist route around Great Vihorlat Lake. The route starts from the final bus stop of the village Remetské Hámre and is marked with blue signs. The circuit route around the lake ends here too. You can also take four other tourist routes from this point.



Hiking trail, as well as educational path from Remetské Hámre to Great Vihorlat Lake, is 9 km long. It takes about 15 minutes to walk from the terminal park-end-ride Krivec, under Great Vihorlat Lake, to the lake.

You can read lots of interesting facts about the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area on four information boards on the fourth kilometre of this physically easy and very marvellous trail. Both hiking trail and educational path were formed by rebuilding of a railroad track into an asphalt road. At the end of the village, you can see an exhibit of the original locomotive that used to ride on this railroad until recently.



Snina's Stone (Sninský kameň)

- You can take a bit more difficult trail with a total vertical drop of 618-1005 m and get to the top of the protected natural formation Snina's stone, which will offer you a magnificent view of the Cirocha River Valley, Vihorlat forests and the Eastern Slovak Lowland. It is one of the best views in the whole eastern Slovakia.



Snina's stone is morphologically significant rock ridge with two summit plateaus and is confessedly one of the most striking and beautiful natural formations in entire mountain range Vihorlat. Plateaus are divided by a little saddle – a crossroad of three hiking trails. Plateaus rise above surrounding beech forests, forming almost vertical walls that reach a height of 15-20 m, therefore you will need to climb up using iron ladders to see a spectacular outlook. You can get to the mountain top from Great Vihorlat Lake (red marked tourist route long 4 km), coming from the north of Sninské fishponds (blue marked tourist route long 8 km) or take the shortest but most difficult route from the village of Zemplínske Hámre (green marked tourist route long 2.2 km).

You can find a detailed list of cycling routes and hiking trails on the website www.dolnyzemplin.sk

Beňatinský Travertine

- Natural monument Beňatinský travertine is a part of the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area. It is located close to the village Beňatina, northward from Sobrance, about 1 km from the Ukrainian borders. It is the easternmost travertine in Slovakia. The lake has a remarkable green colour and has neither inflow nor outflow.

Travertine is forming here also today. It also attracts attention thanks to the mollusc fossil occurrence. Beautiful natural scenery reminding of Croatian rocky seashore and crystal clear water utterly allure to enjoy a carefree bathing experience.



Dendrologic Parks with Exotic Trees

- Michalovce is home to a natural attraction that is a rare 370-year old pedunculate oak. The tree is 25 m high and diameter at breast height reaches 642 cm. The oak tree is healthy, of massive growth and has irregular patulous treetop. The park called Kerta, in which the giant can be found, is one of the oldest places in the town and belongs to the conservation zone in which buildings of the mansion house together with farm buildings and premises of the Roman Catholic parish church of Virgin Mary's Birth are located. Park outplanting dates back to mid 19th century. Along with mansions, it was the Sztáray family's property.



- The Town Park in Trebišov of 62 ha was designed according to the English park model in late 18th century. Woody plants that have been imported from the whole world can be found there. The most significant ones are pagoda tree, inversa variety spruce, London plane, garden variety Finnish juniper, honey locust, Kentucky coffee tree, white fir, catalpa bignonioides. The park is unique not only in terms of dendrologic reference, but also from historical and cultural point of view because there are many other protected cultural relics located in its area.



- The town of Strážske can be proud of its natural dendrologic rarity – remnants of white poplar. According to professionals, this tree was the sturdiest one in Slovakia and whole Central Europe area. The tree stem diameter was already 401 cm in 1998, stem perimeter reached the length of 12.6 m and the tree age was estimated at roughly 200 years. The poplar was also inscribed on the list of thirteen specifically listed species or groups of significant trees in Slovakia. In addition, lime tree of Matthias Corvinus in Bojnice or 700-year-old oak tree from Dubinné is listed on the list.
- The Count Barkóci family, who lived in Pavlovce nad Uhom in the 19th century, had a park, with area less than 20 ha around its manor house, planted out. Besides other woody plant species, a 25 m tall and 199-year old walnut tree which is a remarkable prominent landmark of this park can be found there.
- The Kyjov primeval forest stretches over almost 400 ha in the Vihorlat Mountains. Preservationists refer to the forest as a prospect candidate for inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List and it is mainly thanks to 350-year-old beech trees that don't grow anywhere else. Entry to the forest is strictly prohibited and explicit permission of the caretaker is required for movement in the forest area.



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