

UK REINTRODUCTIONS STUDY TOUR TO SLOVAKIA 2010

Sunday 20th June 2010 – Friday 25th 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 (Sunday 20th)

20.40 Pick-up from Poprad-Tatry airport, drive to Borová Sihat' hotel on the outskirts of the town of Liptovský Hrádok, adjacent to wolf, lynx and bear habitat. Dinner.

Day 2 (Monday 21st)

08.00 Breakfast at the hotel.

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

10.00 Leave by minibus for full day walk between the Low Tatras and Western Tatras National Parks to see typical wolf 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 (Tuesday 22nd)

05.00 Optional dawn walk before breakfast.

08.00 Breakfast at the hotel.

09.00 Leave by minibus for 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 (Wednesday 23rd)

08.00 Breakfast at the hotel.

09.00 Leave by minibus for a 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 (Thursday 24th)

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 (Friday 25th)

08.00 Breakfast at the hotel. Leave for airport.



Price:

€27 (£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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