

# Demänovská Cave of Liberty

**1/ Deep Dome (Hlboký dóm):** Welcome to the national nature monument Demanovska Cave of Liberty. It is located on the right hand side of the Demanovska Valley in the Low Tatra Mts. This cave is a part of the Demanovsky cave system, the longest one in Slovakia with its 41 km. Its nine development levels were formed by Demänovka River and its dripstone decoration by precipitation from solutions of seepage water. One cubic millimetre of cave fill can take 10 – 15 years to grow. The cave was discovered by Moravian teacher Alois Kral on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1921. The cave is protected as a national natural monument and has been entered into the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. The tour is 1,145 m long.

**We must inform you that inside the cave it is strictly forbidden to touch and damage the karst decoration, pollute the cave and touch the electrical devices. Photography and filming is only permitted after paying the fee.**

**2/ Crossroads (Rázcestie):** Three cave directions meet here. One of them is the main cave path which is running alongside the Demanovka River, which flows 4 km through the cave and then reappears as a spring called the Resurgence. There are not many bats in this cave – only 4 species. The dominant ones are the Greater mouse-eared bat and Whiskered bat. All bat species are very important for natural balance and threatened. Some rare tiny invertebrates were also found here.

**3/ Great Dome (Veľký dóm):** is the greatest part of the cave opened to the public and also the highest in Slovakia with its 66 m. The passage to the right is called the Marble Riverbed. In 1921 it was the entrance gate for the cave discovery. You can see white and soft calcite fills on cave walls, which is called moonmilk, used as healing agent in the past.

**4/ Janacek's Dome (Janáčkov dóm):** Leos Janacek was a famous Czech composer. He visited the cave and this place became an inspiration for his symphony “Vsudybyl”. The Gothic column at the top part of the dome has an estimated age of 250 – 300 thousand years.

**5/ Kral's Gallery (Kráľova galéria):** named after the discoverer of this cave. The Column of Eternal Desire in front of us has only 1 mm left to join the upper and lower part, however the seepage water channel, which was feeding their desire, has dried out. The whole left hand side is very remarkable by rich colourfulness and decorations.

**6/ Pink Hall (Ružová sieň):** We are now standing probably in the most beautiful part of the Demanovske caves. It is named after the pink coloured dripstone and flowstone formations. On the left hand side you can see the Water-Lily Lake. At the end you can have a look into the Hell's Dome with the underground river Demanovka.

**7/ Hviezdoslav's Dome (Hviezdoslavov dóm):** It is named after a famous Slovak writer. A dominant of this dome is the many-coloured flowstone waterfall – the Sweeping Willow. Varied colours depend on several factors as a quantity and type of chemical elements in seepage water.

**8/ Janosik's Dome (Jánošíkov dóm):** Juraj Janosik was a legendary Slovak outlaw who took from the rich people and gave to the poor ones. He was hanged in Liptovský Mikuláš in 1713. The beauty of the dome is highlighted by the 1 meter deep Mirror Well.

**9/ Emerald Lake (Smaragdové jazierko):** is the biggest and deepest lake on our tour. Its crystal clear water reaches 2.5 to 3 meters in depth. Next we will go through the Passage of Suffering. It was named by the cavers who manually dug the passage for 2 years.

**10/ Cave cemetery (Jaskynný cintorín):** Thousands of years ago a small natural disaster occurred in this place. The roof layer of the limestone collapsed under its own weight and buried the decorations on the bottom. Later on the decorations started to form again, but because of karst water shortage the growth stopped. Thank you for your attention and visit. You can visit also other show caves in Slovakia – the closest one is the Demänovská Ice Cave and Važecká Cave. Have a nice day.

