

Jasovska Cave

1/ The Old Dome (Starý dóm) – I would like to welcome you in the name of Slovak caves administration to the National natural monument Jasovska cave. The cave was opened to the public as the first cave in Slovakia in 1846. It is located on the most eastern projection of the Slovak Karst. It stands out not only by its rich dripstone decoration and valuable morphological formations, but also by the valuable cave animals and unique historical cave signs. In 1995 it was inscribed in the world's science and cultural heritage list of UNESCO within the framework of Slovak and Aggteleksky karst for its extraordinary value.

The Jasovská Cave was formed in Middle Triassic grey Gutenstein dolomite and pale Steinalm limestone and dolomite with an estimated age of 220 million years. It was formed by corrosive and erosive activities of the ponor waters of the small river called Bodava. It was created in 5 intermediate levels. The air temperature in the cave varies between 8.5 and 9.4°C. Through artificially dug entrance and through the entrance passage we entered the Old dome. It is one of the oldest parts of the cave. We can find all forms of the sinter decoration here.

Touching and damaging the karst decorations, smoking, littering and touching electrical equipments is strictly forbidden. An extra fee is charged for taking pictures and video recording.

2/ The Great Dome (Veľký dóm) – It is the biggest and richest decorated part of the cave. Many parts of the Great dome are decorated by rich sinter fills. The pagoda-like stalagmites, sinter columns, waterfalls, drums, straw stalactites, etc. are very interesting. Mostly it is red and brown-red colours, which are typical colours caused by elements of iron in the calcite. Grey and dark-grey colours are caused by elements of manganese. The cave is a very important wintering place for the bat species. To this time there were about 20 species of bats located in this cave. The bats are not the only animals living in the cave. Also very valuable are small invertebrate-crustacean, palpigrade, etc. They all are totally adapted to life in the dark and wet underground cave environment.

3/ The Melco's Hall (Melčova sieň) – We are now in the Melco's Hall which was named after its first explorer. On the richly decorated cave ceiling we can see mostly straw stalactite decoration with a white characteristic colour. This kind of decoration will continue also through the Bear's passage. Here whole cave bear skeletons were found.

4/ The Cave Maze (Bludisko) – We are in the Maze. There is a very complicated network of the underground passages with many side branches in which you could very easily get lost. Here, also found was the biggest stone caveing in. It was possibly created in the last Ice Age. At the bottom of the maze there are many fallen stone blocks, fallen stalagmites and stalactites and other decorations. From the maze we can go to the Music hall where are the Angel's wings and other sinter coating dripstone decoration.

5/ The Dinning-room (Jedáleň) – The space in the Dinning-room is without the sinter decoration. These parts of the cave are well known for ages and were used by people as a shelter, as far back as the tartar invasion. The inscription from 1452 in the Husitska hall is a record of the victory of Jan Jiskra's from Brandýs soldiers, over the soldiers of Jan Hunady in the battle by Lucenec in 1451. Before the cave exit you can see already mentioned bones of the cave bear and some other archaeological findings of Bukk-Mountain and Halstadt Cultures. They are from surrounding areas of the cave exit. It was inhabited in the past by the Neolithic humans. Thank you for your attention and visit. We hope you enjoyed your tour and we wish you all the best on your journey discovering the beauty of the Slovakian nature.

