Bystrianska cave

1/ Entrance passage (Vstupná chodba):

I would like to welcome you in the name of Slovak caves administration in the Bystrianska cave. The cave is set in Horehronska valley on the southern side of the mountain Low Tatras. The entrance is 565 meters in altitude. The cave was formed in various stages by the sinking waters of Bystrianka flowing to the karts area from the south slopes of Low Tatras. The cave was formed from the Mesozoic Middle Triassic dark grey limestone of the Choč Nape with chert intercalations. A significant part of Bystrianska cave was discovered by Jozef Kovalcik and the Holman brothers through abyss Hell. The old cave was known by local people for ages. Further exploration continued in 1923. The show tour measures 580 m in length. Up to this time they explored more than 3 km of the cave passages. The air temperature of the cave in very stable, it is around 5.7-7 *C. Humidity is more than 90 %. We must inform you that touching and damaging the karst decorations, smoking, littering and touching electrical equipment is strictly forbidden. An extra fee is charged for taking pictures and video recording.

2/ The Treasure house (Klenotnica):

The development of the cave decorations is caused by a dissolubility of the calcite in the water. Rain water is filtering to the cave through the limestone roof. By the transition of the water through the roof the water is mineralized. If the mineralized water progresses to the end of a stalactite in the form of a water drop, the calcite precipitates from the water back to its insoluble form. A settlement of the precipitated crystals creates a sinter and from sinter water the decorations in the cave are formed. Dependent on the direction which the water flows from, it creates different fantastic forms of decorations that you can see all around you. One of the columns you can see in front of you was named after an Indian temple – The Great pagoda.

3/ The Canopies Hall (Sieň baldachýnov): On the top you can see the Great canopy. It is a symbol of

this cave. Under the Great canopy is an abyss 20 m in depth with an active riverbed. Water appears with 48-116 hour delay karst resurgence Tajch in Valasska (approximately 4 km from the cave).

4/ The Hell (Peklo): Now we are passing

Now we are passing through the floor of the abyss Hell. At a height of 70 meters it is the original entrance where the explorers J. Kovalcik and the Holoman brothers entered the cave for the first time. In 1939 the cave was temporarily opened to the public. Further explorations continued in the 50's and at that time the greatest discovery was made, the connection between The Old and New cave.

5/ The Collapsed dome (Zrútený dóm): The dome was formed by the collapsing of the cave roof and walls. This lead to the creation of a smooth area- tectonic mirror. Under the world war two memorial there is a therapeutic centre. It is used for a speleotherapy- a therapeutic method for a cure of respiratory problems. speleotherapy- a therapeutic method for a cure of respiratory problems. Some 30 species of bat are living in Slovakia. Eight bat species were found in the cave with the most abundant being the Lesser Horseshoe Bat (approximately 200 of them) and the Greater Mouse-Eared Bat. All bat species are very valuable and under threat of extinction. Also valuable are small invertebrate like crustacean etc. All the animals are totally adapted to life in the wet, cold and dark underground environment of the cave. Thank you

for your attention and visit.

