

# Domica Cave

**1/ Entrance Hall (Vstupná chodba):** Welcome to the cave of prehistoric man – Domica. It is located at the south-west border of the Silická Plateau (Silická planina) in the Slovak Karst (Slovenský kras). The entrance to the cave is at the southern foot of the Devil's Hole Hill (Čertova diera) at an altitude of 339 m above sea level. The cave forms a homogenous genetic unit with the Baradla Cave in Hungary with total length over 25 km. There are more than 5,300 m of underground corridors in the territory of Slovakia. The cave is protected as a national natural monument and was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List within the Caves of the Slovak and Aggtelek Karst. Both caves, Domica and Baradla, were included among the Ramsar wetlands of international importance. The discovery entrance is located approximately 50 m above the present one. It is 14 m deep abyss through which the discoverer Ján Majko got into the underground spaces for the first time on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1926. Formations typical for Domica are great stalagmites of pagoda shape and the unique calcite shields and drums which occur here in really a great number. It also contains flowstone falls, curtains, and the unique rimstone dams. Domica is also a significant archaeological location of the Early Stone Age – the Neolith. Various stone and bone items and a number of pottery fragments have been found here. The cave provides a shelter for many species of cave animals. 16 species of bat have been described here. The air temperature varies around 10 °C, the relative humidity is more than 90 %.

**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.**

The tour continues through the Archaeological Corridor.

**2/ Samson's Columns (Samsonove stĺpy):** is the mightiest formation of the cave system. Their age is estimated to 350,000 years and various colours are caused by iron and manganese admixtures. Also a cave chimney which is 24 m high is also worth noticing.

**3/ Majko's Dome (Majkov dóm):** is the greatest underground space of the cave named after the discoverer. On the right from the path, there is the riverbed with the discovery entrance through which Ján Majko got into the underground for the first time. The thickness of the limestone laying above is approximately 100 m. The formations typical for this dome are Cave curtains, Pupa and Pulpit. The tour continues along the rimstone pools called the Roman Spa. Like the dripstone formations, they are also formed from the calcite which precipitated from the water of the underground Styx stream.

**4/ Dome of Mysteries (Dóm Mystérií):** Terrace steps were made by a prehistoric man of the Beech-Mountain culture. The imprint of thick fabric in clay and other archaeological finds were found here. The walls of Sacred Passage have lines and simple charcoal drawings from the Neolith.

**5/ Dome of Indian Pagodas (Dóm indických pagod):** the most beautiful part of the cave named after the stalagmites growing in the middle. The dark guano pile on the side is formed from bat excrements. A great number of bats is wintering in this cave – the most common is the Mediterranean bat (*Rhinolophus euryale*). In other parts of the cave there are special flowstone formations – shields and drums, which are typical for this cave. They have circular or oval shape and grow regardless the gravity.

**6/ Palm Grove (Palmový háj):** a lot of thin columns situated here remind of the slim palm trunks. On the right hand side of the path there is a formation called the Blooming Tree. The treetop is formed of pea-like protrusions – so called pisolites.

**7/ Concert Hall (Koncertná sieň):** a hall is characteristic for its distinct acoustics. The ceiling contains typical examples of shield formations. There is a Gothic Column in the centre of the room. Next on the right you will see a Primeval Forest with a large number of stalactites and stalagmites of various thickness and shape. The tour ends behind there. Thank you very much for your visit. We would also like to recommend you the visit of the other show caves in Slovakia.



0 40 80 120 160 m

Klenotnica

Gotický dóm

Majkov dóm

Stará Domica

východ

vchod

Dóm indických pagod

Koncertná sieň

Palmový háj

Panenská chodba

Suchá chodba

Čertova diera

 Priestory jaskyne

 Prehliadková trasa

 Občasný vodný tok