

# Gombasecka cave

**1/ The Hall of Explorers (Sieň objaviteľ'ov)** – I would like to welcome you in the name of Slovak Caves Administration to the Gombasecka Cave. It is located on the western edge of the Silická Plateau in the Slovak Karst National Park. The cave is known for its well preserved beautiful decoration of the straw stalactites. It is registered as a national natural monument. From 1995 it is inscribed on the World Natural Heritage list of UNESCO within the framework of the Slovak and Aggtelek Karst for its extraordinary value. The cave is formed in the Middle Triassic light Wetterstein limestone. It was formed mostly by corrosive and erosive activities of the Black Brook. The original entrance to the cave lies above the resurgence of the Black Brook. Many interesting animals live in the cave, many of them totally adapted to living in the dark and wet environment. The finding of a blind millipede of *Typhloiulus sp.* genus with 26 mm body length is remarkable. A group of the fire salamanders can be found near the entrance during winter. In the spring and autumn season, occasionally we can observe the Smaller horseshoe bats. The cave was discovered on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1951 by speleologists from the Roznava town. The show path is 530 m long. Humidity in the cave is more than 90% and air temperature is very stable, around 9.2°C.

**We must inform you that touching and damaging the calcite decorations, smoking, littering and touching electrical equipment is strictly forbidden. An extra fee is charged for taking pictures and video recording.**

**2/ The Halls of Fairies (Sieň víl)** – This hall has rich decoration of straw stalactites. They are growing from the cave ceiling and can grow a few meters long. The longest straw stalactite in Gombasecka cave is 3 meters in length. Another part of the decorations are stalagmites, growing from the cave floor. When the stalactite and stalagmite are connected, a column is created. A colour of calcite decoration depends on its chemical composition. In this cave, elements of iron in calcite has created red coloured decorations but also yellow, pink or brown colours.

**3/ The Marble Hall (Mramorová sieň)** – It is the largest hall in the cave. We can see here a 12 m deep well created by the dissolving activities of the underground water. On the walls you can see decorations shaped by corrosion which were made by dissolving of the limestone. When there is a lot of rainfall the level of water is rising and consequently flowing out of the cave through the riverbed in the Gothic passage, then into the Black brook. The most interesting part of the decoration in this hall is the straw stalactite 160 cm in length.

**4/ The Herenyi's hall (Herényiho sieň)** – We've just entered the most beautiful part of the cave. The hall is named after one of the explorers Ladislav Herenyi. This branch of the cave has very rich decoration containing straw stalactites. Some of the straw stalactites can grow up to 2.5 meters in length.

**5/ The Rozložník's Hall (Rozložníková sieň)** – The part of the cave opened to the public is ending in this hall. We will return back through the Herenyi's hall and the Entrance passage to the surface. In the opposite direction there is a narrow clay passage continuing through the underground canyon of the Black brook. This hall is characteristic due to a variety of colourful decorations. The flowstone crust to your right is in dark and black shades, which were caused by elements of manganese mineral in the calcite. The straw stalactites thickly growing in the back of the hall, resemble the shape of a Harp. Some of them are reaching the length of 2 meters. Thank you for your attention and visit. We hope you have enjoyed your tour and we wish you all the best on your journey discovering the beauty of the Slovakian nature.



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