

Harmanecká Cave

1/ Entrance Hall (Vstupná sieň): Welcome to the Harmanecká Cave. It is lying on the northern side of the Kotolnica massif between the southern part of the Great Fatra Mts. and Kremnické Hills. The cave is formed in the Middle Triassic dark-grey Gutenstein limestone with estimated age of 220 million years. The Entrance Hall – A Little Chamber was known for ages to the local people. However, the cave was discovered as late as 22nd June 1932 by 18 years old Michal Bacurik. It was opened to the public in 1950 and in 1972 it was designated a national natural monument. More than 3,216 metres of cave passages have been explored by now, but only 720 m is opened to the public. Air temperature varies between 5.8 and 6.4 °C and 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/ Explorer's Dome (Dóm objaviteľa): Through artificially dug passage we entered the Explorer's Dome. Many different shapes of dripstone formations can be found here – stalactites growing from the cave ceiling and stalagmites growing from the cave floor and in case of their connection they make columns.

3/ White Gothic Dome (Biely dóm s gotickou klenbou) It was named after the shape of the ceiling which resembles the gothic vault and also after the characteristic white colour, because the cave fills are formed from chemically clean white calcite. Other colours of dripstones are caused by different elements in solution with calcium carbonate. Iron oxides cause red, yellow and brown colour. Magnesium oxides are causing grey colour and manganese oxides black colour.

4/ Dome of Pagodas I. (Dóm pagod I.) We just passed into the biggest area of the cave opened to the public, the Dome of Pagodas which is 28 m high. It was named after the great stalagmites in the shape of pagodas which are reaching between 12 – 15 m in height. This part of the cave was flooded many times as can be seen by the water level lines on the walls.

5/ Riverbed (Riečisko): The Riverbed was named after the shape of its passages, which were modelled by the erosion activities of underground waters. At present there is no water stream in this cave. A lake can be seen on the bottom of the Riverbed only in sometimes in spring.

6/ High Gothic Dome (Vysoký gotický dóm): We've just entered the High Gothic Dome. It is 28 m high. On the walls to your left hand side, you can see calcite decoration in the form of draperies and waterfalls.

7/ Stray Dome (Bludný dóm): It was named after the explorers Bacurik and Babjak who have lost their way in this space. It was formed as a result of the ceiling collapse that buried calcite formations.

8/ Dome of Pagodas II. (Dóm pagod II.): We are again in the Dome of Pagodas but in its second part, which is richer in dripstone decoration. The most common animals living in caves are bats. They are staying here mostly in winter months, during their winter sleep. 11 bat species were observed in the Harmanecká Cave. There are also interesting tiny invertebrates like millipedes and crustaceans in this cave.

9/ Dome of Pagodas III. (Dóm pagod III.): The cave tour is ending here. The visit of Harmanecká Cave may have showed you the values hidden inside our caves. We would recommend you to go and visit other Slovakian show caves. The closest one is the Bystrianska Cave. Thank you for your attention and visit. Have a nice day.

