

Driny cave

1/ The entrance corridor (Vstupná chodba):

I would like to welcome you in the National natural monument Driny cave. It is located in the Smolenice karst in the Lesser Carpathians, to the southwest of the village Smolenice. It is formed from brown-grey Lower Cretaceous chert limestone with an estimated age of 90 million years old. Driny is a typical fissure cave, with passages formed by corrosion of atmospheric waters penetrating along tectonic faults. There's never been an active riverbed here, and for that reason it belongs to the smaller caves. The known length of this cave is 680 meters. Cave was discovered by the local villagers Jan Bramic and Imrich Vajsabel. The surname Banic is well known across the world as the father of the Jan Banic was a famous Stefan Banic, a man, who invented a parachute. His invention of the parachute was the first ever registered in the world. It was first registered in 1914 in America. The average air temperature in the cave is 8°C and the humidity is more than 90%. The temperature and humidity are the ideal conditions for the wintering of bats. They come here at the end of November and they leave the cave in March. The discovery chimney is a natural entrance for the bats. For that reason you can see most of the bats hanging off the ceiling above your head. In the winter season we can find a group of 200 or more bats here. All bat species are very valuable and under threat of extinction.

We must inform you that touching and damaging the karst decorations, smoking, littering and touching electrical equipment is strictly forbidden.

2/ The Majko's Hall (Majkova sieň):

We passed into the Majko's hall. It was discovered by Jan Majko, a well know Slovakian speleologist, in 1950. There is a well preserved sinter fill here and we can admire a variety of rich shapes of different cave decoration. The stalactites are growing from the cave ceiling and the stalagmites are growing from the cave floor. When the stalactite and stalagmite are connected a sinter column is created. A 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. The water is mineralised through the transition of the water through the roof. If the mineralised 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 decorations are formed in the cave. Depending on which direction the water flows from, it creates different forms of fantastic decorations that you can see all around you. It is very slow chemical-physical process. A one cubic millimetre in this cave takes approximately 10 – 15 years to grow. It all depends on the quantity and also quality of the water flowing in.

3/ The Collaborators' Hall (Sieň spolupracovníkov):

The hall was named after the group of people who undertook the exploration and survey works in the cave. In 1935 the cave was opened to the public and through this underpass the first show tour was led, but at that time it was only 170 in length. After the war, the exploration and survey work continued, and more passages were opened to the public. The cave is now 680m in length and 450m in length are now open to the public. We can progress now to the rest of the cave. Please pay attention here to the stone curtains with toothed edges-the Elephant ears.

4/ The Entrance corridor (Vstupná chodba):

We are again at the Crossroad under the Discovery chimney where we started our tour and where the tour will end. The visit of Driny cave showed you the values hidden inside all Slovakian caves. For this reason they are all protected by the law as natural monuments and some of the most valuable, as national natural monuments. Some 7100 caves are known in Slovakia. Each and every one has an individual character and so we would recommend you to go and visit other Slovakian show caves. The closest to Driny cave is Harmanecká cave approximately 200 km from here. Thank you for your attention and visit.

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