

GEOTOURISM IN BANSKÁ BYSTRICA REGION

BANSKÁ BYSTRICA GEOPARK
HAS BEEN BUILDING A SPECIFIC PRODUCT
OF CULTURAL AND COGNITIVE TOURISM

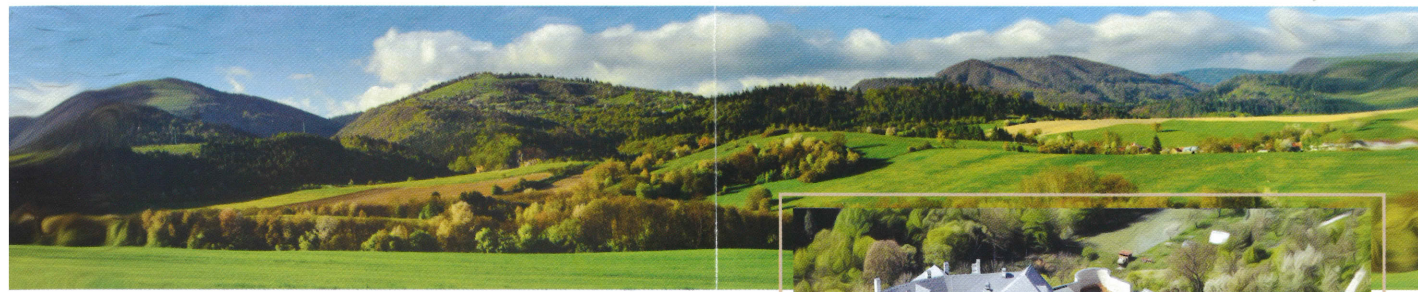
*"Visiting the Banská Bystrica Geopark means
an undoubted experience of discovering
the unknown right in the heart of Slovakia."*

The towns of Banská Bystrica and Kremnica offer first of all a wide spectrum of service facilities, interesting monuments of their history, historical town reserves, museums, city sightseeing routes, etc. In the region's countryside you can experience traditional folklore, unique events and a typical local gastronomy.



**BANSKOBYSSTRICKÝ
GEOPARK**

Podporené z Environmentálneho fondu 2017



The Banská Bystrica Geopark is also rich in people and interesting projects for building the geo-tourism infrastructure. The civic association **Banskobystrický geomontánný park (BBGMP)** connects people who are interested in geo-tourism, geopark building, tourism development and territory protection. The main projects of the civic association focus on building of a natural mining open-air museum and the exhibition of the **Regional Mining Museum**, a regio-

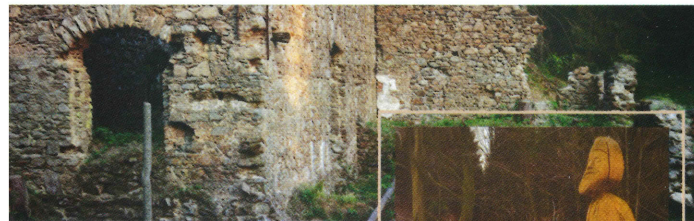
nal network of educational routes, especially walking and cycling ones, to link geopark components, objects and sites. The civic association is a partner of those who develop their unique works in the municipalities of the geopark: villages, towns and cities, institutions, associations and others. They include local museums, crafts, educational paths, sites with typical elements and objects, local colour from all areas of life.

COPPER ROUTE regional educational paths through the geopark

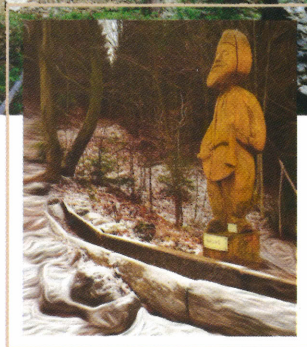
The **COPPER ROUTE** target group includes the so called discoverers, people who love discovering new places, their history, culture, new and traditional tastes and longing for an experience. The surroundings of the town and the countryside offer mainly specific facilities of geo-mining tourism: (local and regional museums, educational paths, open-air museums, guides, local specialties, etc.). The first paths include educational paths that start in **Špania Dolina** and **Lubietová**. Later on, the villages of **Staré Hory**, **Malachov**, **Baláže**, **Strelníky**, **Povrazník**, **Podkonice** and **Turecká** joined. Building of a route has no beginning or end. It depends mainly on accelerating of activities at the local level. The paths lead through sacral and historical sights and are suitable for hiking and cycling. They lead along the copper road to discover minerals, such as the dark green libethenite, blue mrazekite and green euchroite.



The region of **Banská Bystrica** is very interesting because of manifold geological structure, rich nature and numerous monuments of mining history. The extraction started here in the early Stone Age already. In the 16th century, major changes occurred in mining. The Mining Company in Banská Bystrica, which was run by the Fugger family, was the biggest and the best-built business in the world at that time. Copper was exported all around the world. Before the discovery of America the area of **Špania Dolina**, **Staré hory** and **Lubietová** was noted for the largest copper deposit in the then known world. The towns of **Banská Bystrica** and **Kremnica** were the centers of entrepreneurial families of **Thurzo** and **Fugger**, who were extracting and exporting precious metals (gold, silver, copper) around the world. The mining history of the region has continued until recently.



Stunning nature, geological structure and composition combined with historical facts have left a myriad of discovered but also undiscovered monuments and sites; many are lumps, shafts, galleries, remnants of smelters, hammer mills, water system in mines and roads still wait for unveiling. Banská Bystrica Geopark is rich in 292 locations of geo-mining interest.



Veľká Fatra and **Low Tatras National Parks** and **Pofana Protected Landscape Area** are located in the territory of the Banská Bystrica Geopark. The area around Banská Bystrica is interesting also from ethnographic point of view. You can find here well-preserved original architecture of local people, not to mention architecture of Banská Bystrica and Kremnica itself. There are at least 16 educational and 30 tourist paths in the territory of the geopark.

- 16 geological sites,
- 33 geological and mining sites,
- 10 geological and natural sites,
- 16 mining sites,
- 1 mining-historical site,
- 10 cultural and historical sites,
- 9 natural sites,
- 7 archaeological sites.