



Banská Bystrica Geopark

BANSKÁ BYSTRICA
GEOPARK



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The construction of the Banská Bystrica Geopark began in 2006, and the existence and use of geological and mining sites, ecological phenomena and historical monuments of Banská Bystrica and its surroundings were prerequisites for its creation. Ore mining has been the main factor influencing life in this area in the past. Copper ores mining in the Špania Dolina, Staré Hory and Ľubietová areas were in particular known worldwide. After the mining of these deposits, many mining monuments were preserved, especially the buildings of shafts and smelting-houses, clapper, gate portals and a sophisticated water system approximately 40 km long. Since 2016, the geopark is the national geopark of the Slovak Republic, included in the Slovak Geoparks Networks.

Nemecká and Ráztoka).

The geopark territory is divided into geo-mining areas of three categories:

- 1. category:** starohorsko-špaňodolinská, ponicko-ľubietovská and kremnická geo-mining area (central geopark area),
- 2. category:** the towns of Banská Bystrica and Kremnica (tourism centres),
- 3. category:** brusniansko-bukovecká and badínsko-tajovská geo-mining area (geopark interest area).

The geopark is a phenomenon that returns people back to the roots, and at the same time, it preserves values for the future. It is not only a product, but also an area of extraordinary value. It is built and operated through active cooperation among regional and local self-government, professional institutions and private sector representatives.

The current management of the **Banskobystrický geomontánný park, o. z.** (civic association) unifies entities for common interest, it examines, educates, informs and helps to build eco-tourism and geo-tourism infrastructure and to protect geo-mining objects and sites in Banská Bystrica and its surroundings.



1 Photo panorama from the Kremnické mountains

The territory of the geopark is spread over an area of 886 km² and includes the district of Banská Bystrica (town of Banská Bystrica and municipalities: Badín, Baláže, Brusno, Čerín, Dolná Mičiná, Dolný Harmanec, Donovaly, Dúbravica, Harmanec, Hiadel, Horná Mičiná, Horné Pršany, Hrochoť, Hronsek, Kordíky, Králiky, Kynceľová, Lučatin, Ľubietová, Malachov, Medzibrod, Motyčky, Moštenica, Mólča, Nemce, Oravce, Podkonice, Pohronský Bukovec, Poniky, Povrazník, Priečod, Riečka, Sebedín-Bečov, Selce, Slovenská Ľupča, Staré Hory, Strelníky, Špania Dolina, Tajov, Turecká, Vlkanová), Žiar nad Hronom (town of Kremnica) and Brezno (municipalities of



5 Bumps in Podlipa



6 Mining pathway in the Staré Hory



2 Harmanecký waterfall



3 Lower Joban drift

There are 292 sites in the geopark territory: geological (46), geological and mining (53), geological and natural (40), mining (36), mining-historical (1), cultural-historical (80), natural (29), and archaeological (7). National Park Veľká Fatra, the Low Tatras National Park and the Protected Landscape Area of Poľana interfere with its territory. The surroundings of Banská Bystrica is also interesting from an ethnographic point of view and original folk architecture can be found here, not to mention the architecture of Banská Bystrica and Kremnica itself. There are 16 educational and 30 tourist footpaths within the territory of the geopark.

CONTACTS

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7 Green walley



4 Photo panorama from Nemecká