



*Birds Around
The Tatras*

*Forest And Mountains
Of The Carpathians*



Orava, an unspoilt region of Slovakia



Liptov heart of north Slovakia

ORAVA

This large area of hills and mountains with broad open valleys is located only one and half an hours south of Krakow and comprises a nice variety of habitats. Besides the high mountains there are many peat bogs in Orava, as well as old forests with woodpeckers and owls.

LIPTOV

Similarly to Orava there is a large artificial lake in the middle of Liptov basin. It is reputedly the most beautiful region of the country with a ring of mountains all around and pastures at their foothills. Varied habitats that also include shore vegetation and scattered bushes host large numbers of species.

THE TATRAS

Two large parallel high mountain ranges dominate the landscape of north Slovakia, Low Tatras in the south and High Tatras in the north. Each of them have access to the alpine zone by a chairlift.



This short tour takes you from Krakow around the highest Carpathian Mountains. Scenic views of the most beautiful Slovak mountains and walks in largely unspoilt countryside will focus on hard-to-see forest and alpine birds. We will explore peat bogs, beech and spruce forests, meadows above the treeline, the lakes and grasslands of Orava, Liptov and Tatra regions in the north of Slovakia.

Because we employ the expertise of two or three local guides throughout the tour, we will stand a very high chance of seeing timid birds like owls, woodpeckers and grouse. We will also look for local raptors, passerines and Wallcreeper.

Travelling will be comfortable, distances driven short and we can keep you busy all through the day if you wish.



4 tern species in one flock flying over Liptovská Mara reservoir

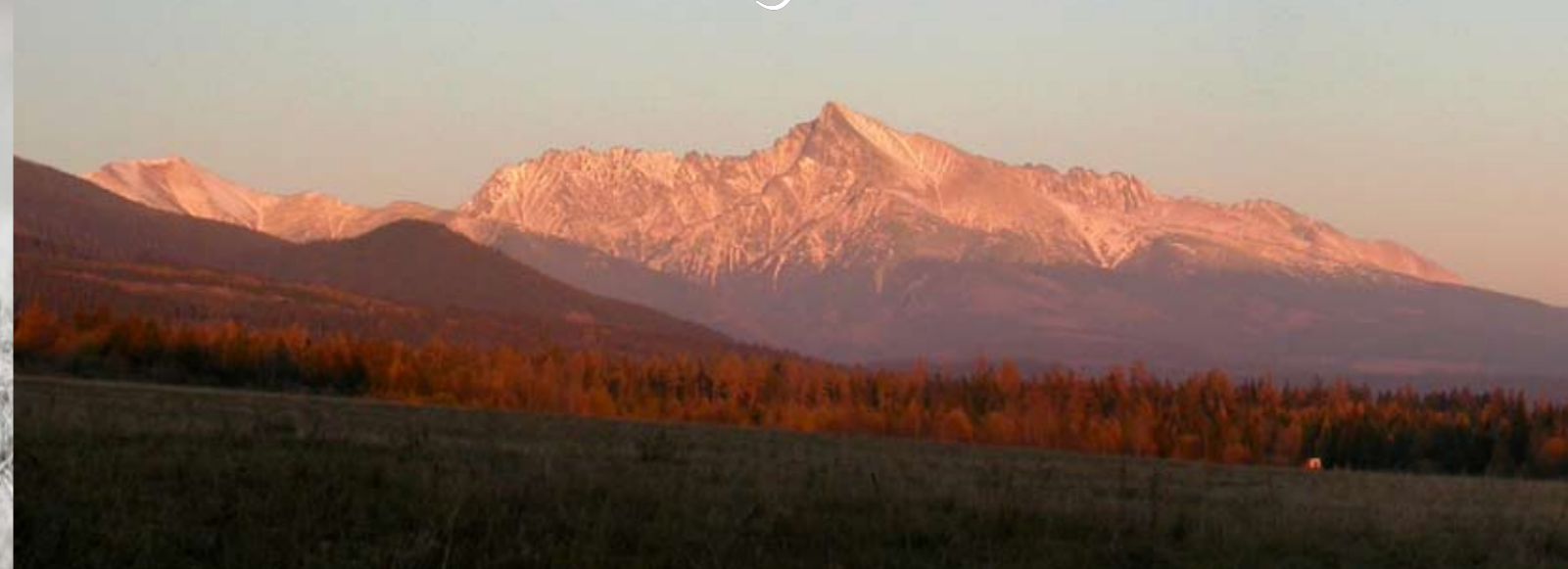


Lesser Spotted Eagle

Black Grouse up to 50 still display on the last large lek



The High Tatras at sunset from the west



FACT FILE

Slovakia

7 days | 2 hotels

season: best between 5-25 May

ground price: see the web site or ask
single room supplement: see the web site or ask

guide: Martin Hrouzek or Adam Bodor

airport: Krakow, Poland

group size: 5 - 14

number of species: 120 - 150

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

D1 Arrival at Krakow

D2 Orava

D3 Orava

D4 Orava /Liptov

D5 Liptov

D6 Liptov / The High Tatras

D7 Departure from Krakow

Although we always try to avoid the strenuous walks and most of them are really easy there might be some more difficult bits since birds often don't breed near trails.



*Red-br. Flycatcher
late migrant from SE Asia*

north Orava great range of habitats





Three-toed Woodpecker is often easy to approach



*Belianske Tatras
the last site of the tour*



HIGHLIGHTS

- Black Stork
- Black and Hazel Grouse
- Golden and Lesser Spotted Eagle
- Three-toed and Grey-headed Woodpecker
- White-backed Woodpecker
- Ural, Eagle, Tengmalm's and Pygmy Owl
- Corn Crake
- Alpine Accentor and Water Pipit
- Nutcracker and Ring Ouzel
- Barred and River Warbler
- Collared and Red-breasted Flycatcher
- Citrine Wagtail
- Crested Tit and Firecrest
- Common Rosefinch
- Wallcreeper (some years)
- Scenic landscapes
- Mixed and coniferous mountain forests

GUIDES AND HOTELS

Martin Hrouzek

Full-time wildlife guide and tour leader. Martin designed many of the company holidays including Birds Around The Tatras. Besides guiding he works for an NGO and scouts new destinations across Eastern Europe. He has led or co-led over sixty wildlife holidays over the past eighteen years.

Hotel in Orava region

We use a newly remodelled three star hotel in the north of the area close to the Black Grouse leks. Plenty of birds can be seen right outside the small village where it is located.

Hotel in Liptov region

There are two hotels that suit us best in this area, both near Liptovska Mara reservoir. The close vicinity of the lake ensures that we will have good birding opportunities on our pre-breakfast walks. Hotels are of three star standard.



*Tengmalm's Owl
several pairs occupy nest boxes*



*Wallcreeper
sometimes breeds in accessible areas*



Chočské hills
right outside your hotel

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Please don't hesitate to ask
for a detailed itinerary



foothills of the Tatras