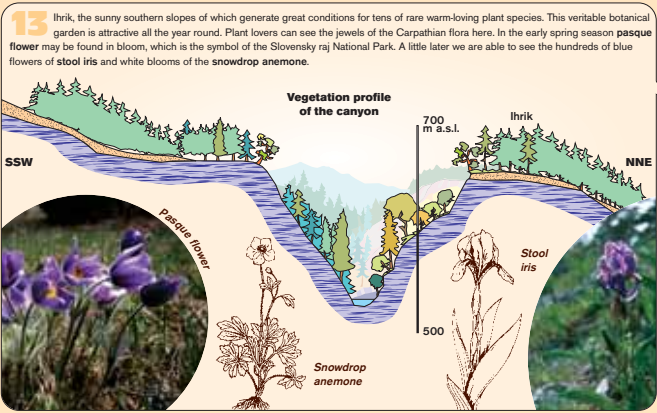
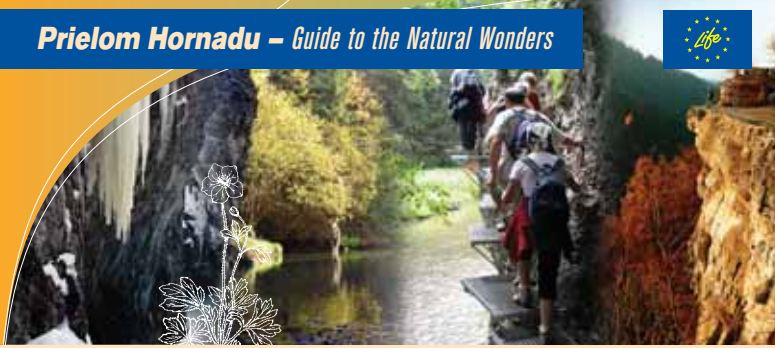




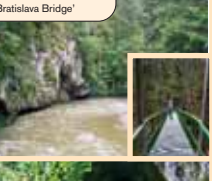
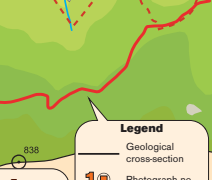
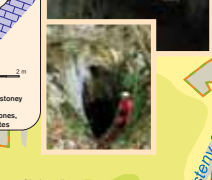
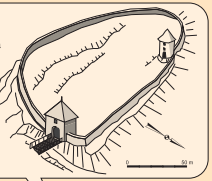
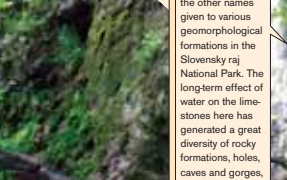
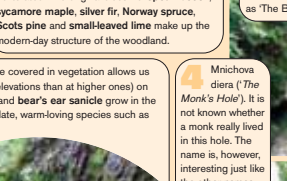
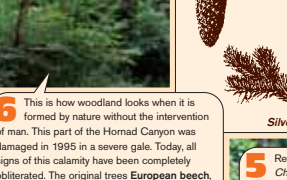
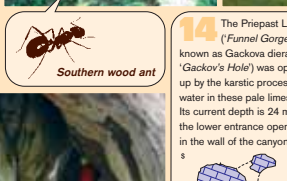
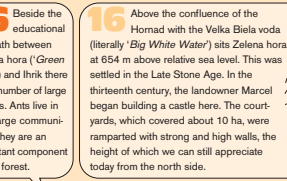
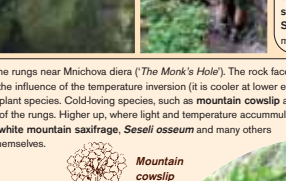
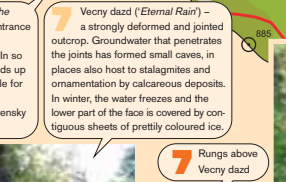
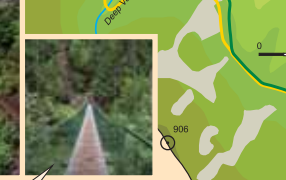
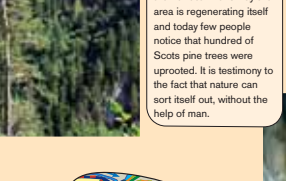
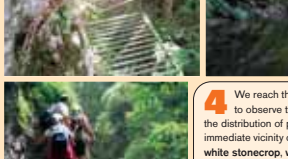
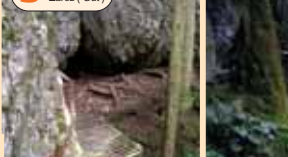
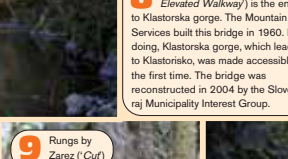
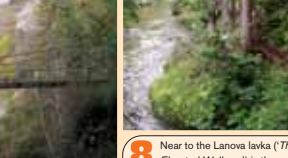
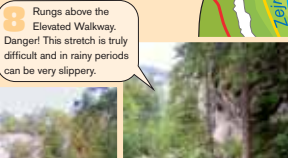
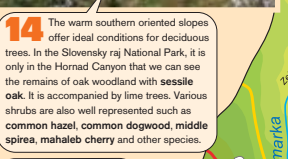
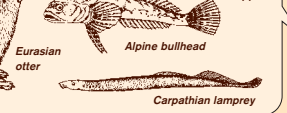
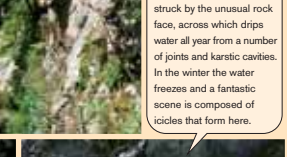
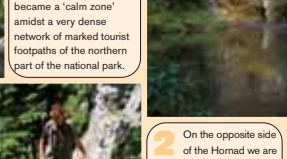
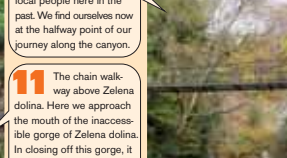
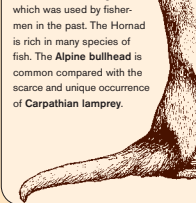
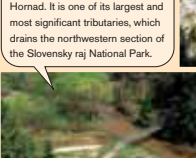
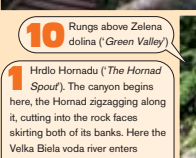
Dear visitors,

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you visit a truly unique area formed by the river Hornad, which has cut through great thicknesses of limestone to make a canyon 11.7 km long. The character of the rocks, the segmentation of the terrain, its microclimate and the presence of water provide the ideal conditions for a great variety of plants, animals and their habitats. The attractiveness of the area is enhanced further by the occurrence of interesting rock formations such as the Tomasovsky vlyhad (Tomasovsky viewpoint), the Iha (literally 'the Needle' from Slovak) and the Kuzatelnica ('The Pulpit'), various caves, swallow-holes and cliffs. Due to its exceptionally high natural value the area occupied by the canyon is protected at the highest level of protection in the form of the Hornad Canyon National Nature Reserve, which has a total area of 290.49 ha. The area is also a component part of the proposed protected area of the Natura 2000 network, which has pan-European significance. This bears testimony to its importance at the European level. The educational trail will enable you to get the best out of your visit to the Hornad Canyon and to discover all its hidden wonders.

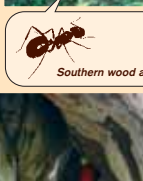
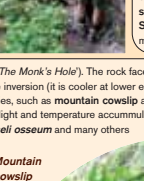
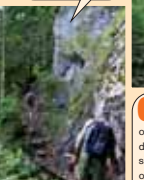
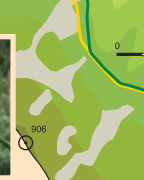
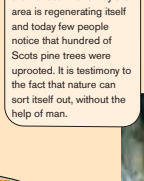
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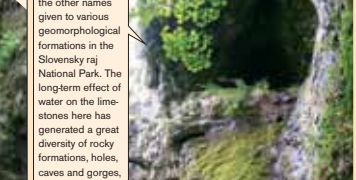
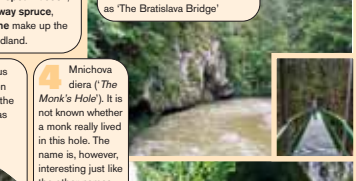
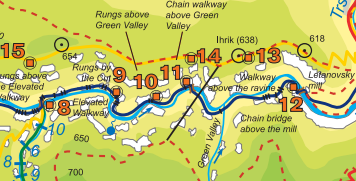
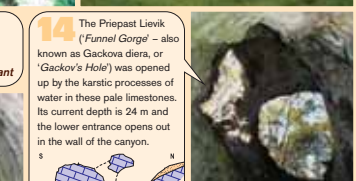
13 Fantastic view of the Hornad Canyon from Ihrlik. The river here charges its way through a narrow, inaccessible canyon. Maybe that was the reason that in the Early Stone Age our distant ancestors settled here on Ihrlik, where they used the natural caves as dwellings. Their presence is confirmed by archaeological finds in this area.



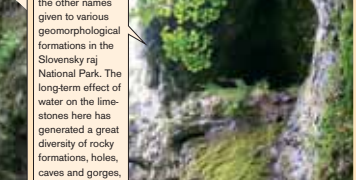
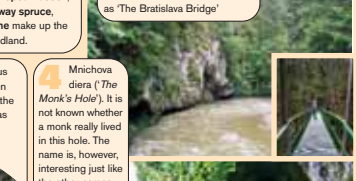
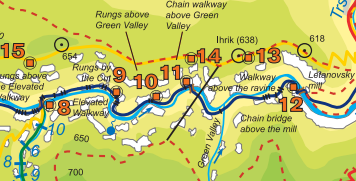
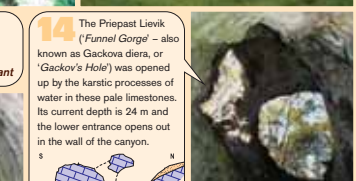
15 In 1995, the northern slopes of Klastorska gorge, which were covered with relict Scots pine woodland, became casualties of the severe gale. Since this area is protected at the highest level, the trees were not removed but left here for natural processes to take their effect. In this way the area is regenerating itself and today few people notice that hundred of Scots pine trees were uprooted. It is testimony to the fact that nature can sort itself out, without the help of man.



16 Beside the educational footpath between Zelena hora ('Green Peak') and Ihrlik there are a number of large anthills. Ants live in very large communities. They are an important component of the forest.

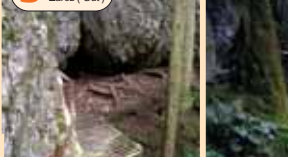
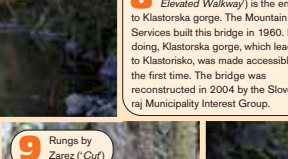
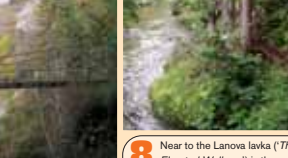


16 Above the confluence of the Hornad with the Velka Biela voda (literally 'Big White Water') sits Zelena hora at 654 m above relative sea level. This was settled in the Late Stone Age. In the thirteenth century, the landowner Marcel began building a castle here. The courtyards, which covered about 10 ha, were ramparted with strong and high walls, the height of which we can still appreciate today from the north side.

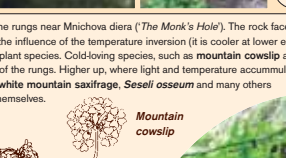
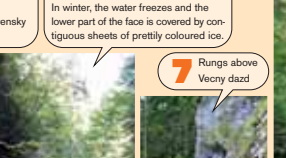


14 The warm southern oriented slopes offer ideal conditions for deciduous trees. In the Slovensky raj National Park, it is only in the Hornad Canyon that we can see the remains of oak woodland with sessile oak. It is accompanied by lime trees. Various shrubs are also well represented such as common hazel, common dogwood, middle spirea, mahaleb cherry and other species.

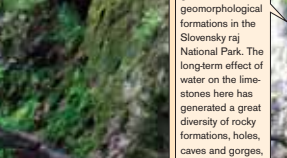
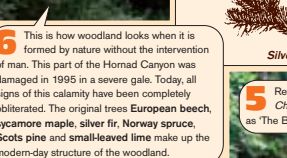
8 Rungs above the Elevated Walkway. Danger! This stretch is truly difficult and in rainy periods can be very slippery.



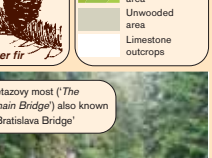
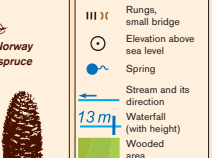
8 Near to the Lanova lavka ('The Elevated Walkway') is the entrance to Klastorska gorge. The Mountain Services built this bridge in 1960. In so doing, Klastorska gorge, which leads up to Klastorsko, was made accessible for the first time. The bridge was reconstructed in 2004 by the Slovensky raj Municipality Interest Group.



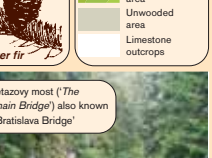
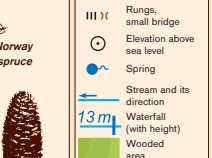
7 Večný dážď ('Eternal Rain') – a strongly deformed and jointed outcrop. Groundwater that penetrates the joints has formed small caves, in places also host to stalagmites and ornamentation by calcareous deposits. In winter, the water freezes and the lower part of the face is covered by contiguous sheets of prettily coloured ice.



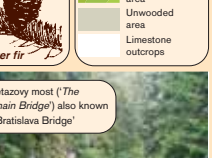
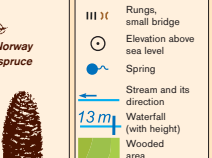
6 This is how woodland looks when it is formed by nature without the intervention of man. This part of the Hornad Canyon was damaged in 1995 in a severe gale. Today, all signs of this calamity have been completely obliterated. The original trees European beech, sycamore maple, silver fir, Norway spruce, Scots pine and small-leaved lime make up the modern-day structure of the woodland.



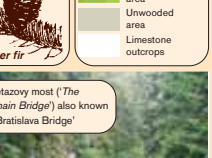
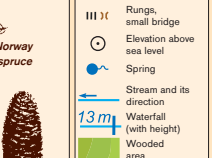
5 Retazovy most ('The Chain Bridge') also known as 'The Bratislava Bridge'



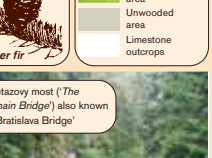
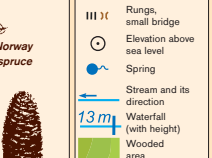
4 We reach the rungs near Michovca diera ('The Monk's Hole'). The rock face covered in vegetation allows us to observe the influence of the temperature inversion (it is cooler at lower elevations than at higher ones) on the distribution of plant species. Cold-loving species, such as mountain cowslip and bear's ear sanicle grow in the immediate vicinity of the rungs. Higher up, where light and temperature accumulate, warm-loving species such as white stonecrop, white mountain saxifrage, Sessel ooseum and many others have naturalised themselves.



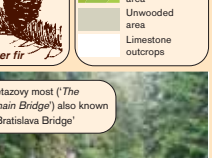
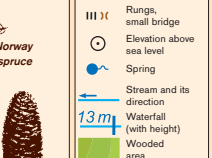
4 Michovca diera ('The Monk's Hole'). It is not known whether a monk really lived in this hole. The name is, however, interesting just like the other names given to various geomorphological formations in the Slovensky raj National Park. The long-term effect of water on the limestones here has generated a great diversity of rocky formations, holes, caves and gorges, which you can see on your way through the canyon.



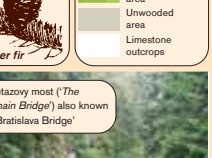
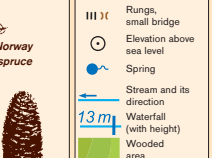
3 Rungs under Zelena hora ('Green Peak')



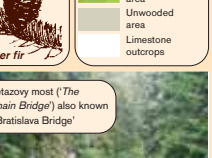
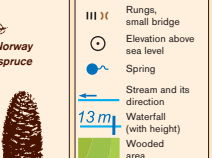
2 The first place where you can take a break after a demanding section is the wooden cottage, which was used by fishermen in the past. The Hornad is rich in many species of fish. The Alpine bullhead is common compared with the scarce and unique occurrence of Carpathian lamprey.



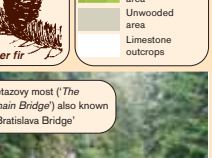
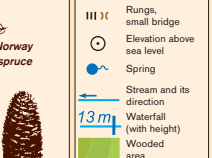
1 Hrdlo Hornadu ('The Hornad Spout'). The canyon begins here, the Hornad zigzagging along it, cutting into the rock faces skirting both of its banks. Here the Velka Biela voda river enters Hornad. It is one of its largest and most significant tributaries, which drains the northwestern section of the Slovensky raj National Park.



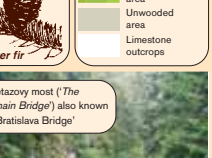
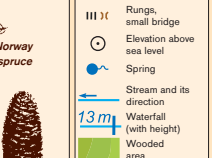
10 Rungs above Zelena dolina ('Green Valley')



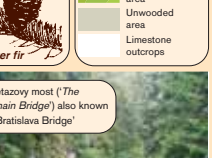
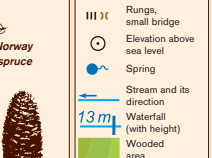
11 The chain walkway above Zelena dolina. Here we approach the mouth of the inaccessible gorge of Zelena dolina. In closing off this gorge, it became a 'calm zone' amidst a very dense network of marked tourist footpaths of the northern part of the national park.



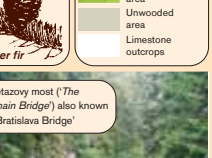
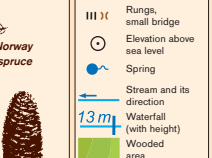
12 The chain bridge above the mill. Only the same remains of the original mill, which served local people here in the past. We find ourselves now at the halfway point of our journey along the canyon.



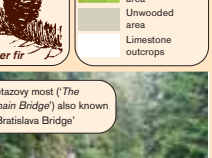
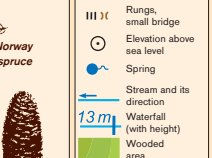
13 Ihrik, the sunny southern slopes of which generate great conditions for tens of rare warm-loving plant species. This veritable botanical garden is attractive all the year round. Plant lovers can see the jewels of the Carpathian flora here. In the early spring season pasieka flower may be found in bloom, which is the symbol of the Slovensky raj National Park. A little later we are able to see the hundreds of blue flowers of stool iris and white blooms of the snowdrop anemone.



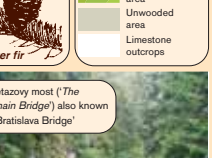
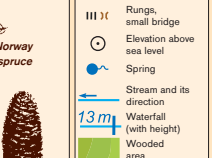
14 The Preppast Lievik ('Funnel Gorge' – also known as Gackova diera, or 'Gackov's Hole') was opened up by the karstic processes of water in these pale limestones. Its current depth is 24 m and the lower entrance opens out in the wall of the canyon.



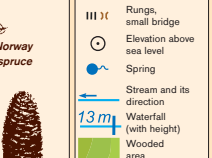
15 In 1995, the northern slopes of Klastorska gorge, which were covered with relict Scots pine woodland, became casualties of the severe gale. Since this area is protected at the highest level, the trees were not removed but left here for natural processes to take their effect. In this way the area is regenerating itself and today few people notice that hundred of Scots pine trees were uprooted. It is testimony to the fact that nature can sort itself out, without the help of man.



16 Beside the educational footpath between Zelena hora ('Green Peak') and Ihrlik there are a number of large anthills. Ants live in very large communities. They are an important component of the forest.



16 Above the confluence of the Hornad with the Velka Biela voda (literally 'Big White Water') sits Zelena hora at 654 m above relative sea level. This was settled in the Late Stone Age. In the thirteenth century, the landowner Marcel began building a castle here. The courtyards, which covered about 10 ha, were ramparted with strong and high walls, the height of which we can still appreciate today from the north side.



What you should know before your visit

The canyon is accessible all year round. You can enter it from the villages of Podlesok or Cingov. Unlike the gorges of the Slovensky raj National Park, it is possible to traverse the canyon in both directions and it is necessary to be both considerate and tolerant when visiting it.

Before entering the canyon, you should be aware of the fact that the terrain is quite demanding and in places may be dangerous. Many stretches are only accessible thanks to the technical equipment mounted there by the Mountain Services between 1960 and 1974. At the same time, you should respect the fact that in the interests of habitat protection hiking in the area is only allowed along marked paths. We also shouldn't forget that litter has no place in such a nature reserve. Please take any litter with you when you leave.

In winter, when the surface of the Hornad is covered in ice, visitors can admire the unique ice structures decorating the cliffs while walking alongside the frozen river, on foot, on cross-country skis or on ice-skates. By Letanovský mlyn ('Letanovský Mill'), a frozen waterfall is dedicated specifically for use by ice-climbers.



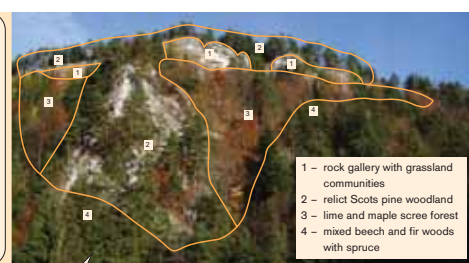
Facts about the canyon

Length of the canyon: 11.7 km from the confluence of the Hornad and the Velka Biela voda ('Big White Water') rivers beneath Zelena hora ('Green Peak') to its opening near Smizianska Masa

Heights above relative sea level: Hrdlo Hornadu ('The Hornad Spout') – 530 m, Tomasovsky vyhlad ('Tomasovsky Viewpoint') – 667 m, opening out by Smizianska Masa – 470 m

Depth of the canyon: 100 – 150 m

Difficulty of the terrain: The whole length of the Hornad Canyon is accessible thanks to metal rungs, various walkways and small bridges. On the route we find nine stretches with rungs, seven metal bridges and walkways, about 400 m of ladders against steep rock faces and about 100 m of wooden walkways.



- 1 - rock gallery with grassland communities
- 2 - relict Scots pine woodland
- 3 - lime and maple scree forest
- 4 - mixed beech and fir woods with spruce

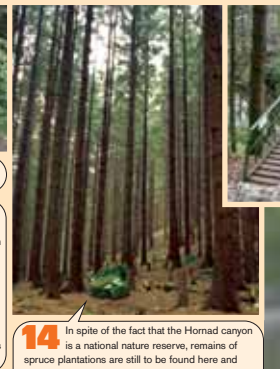
15 The small bridge beneath Tomasovsky vyhlad (T. Viewpoint)

17 In looking out from Biely potok, we are afforded quite remarkable scenery. In addition to the Tomasovsky vyhlad (T. Viewpoint) we also see a rock gallery here, which borders the southern slopes above the Hornad. It is especially noteworthy that we find the remarkable remains of relict Scots pine forest, which cover the rocky outcrop and slope above the Tomasovsky vyhlad. This looser vegetation is composed mainly of Scots pine. In the lower and eastern parts of the slopes we find the beautiful vegetation of the small-leaved lime and sycamore maple, which form lime and maple scree forest. The rest is covered by beech and fir woodland with some spruce.



13 Uzina ('The Narrows') and the small bridge above the Narrows

12 The river Hornad leads us along the entire length of our journey. In one place a gentle quiet river, in another it gathers itself into a great waterfall as it bounds its way over jutting rocky sills or as it cuts deeply into the rocky walls of the canyon, scouring out a variety of holes and caves.



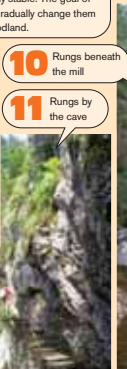
14 In spite of the fact that the Hornad canyon is a national nature reserve, remains of spruce plantations are still to be found here and these are far from ecologically stable. The goal of nature protection here is to gradually change them into a more stable mixed woodland.



10 Rungs beneath the mill

11 Rungs by the cave

12 Rungs over Tinaia ('The Stream pool')

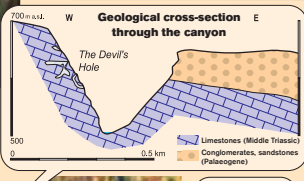


16 The Biely potok ('White Stream') constitutes a very significant tributary of the Hornad. In its clear waters there are a number of species of fish to be found, the most widely distributed of which is the common trout. Since Biely potok is a part of the Kysel National Nature Reserve and protected at the highest level, fishing here is strictly prohibited. The kingfisher, of course, does not have to respect the ban.

9 There is a spring in the gully to one side.

8 Various technical measures serve the protection of habitats. One of these is the system of small bridges, thanks to which the traverse of the canyon is not only safer but also protects the vegetation from being trampled and the soil from erosion.

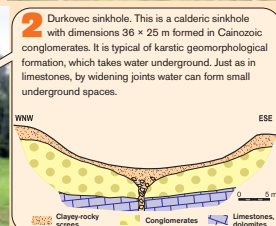
7 Kartuziansky ('Carthusian') Bridge, which carried Carthusian monks up to the area of Klastorisko. This stone bridge was destroyed in the Second World War. The two sides were then reconnected by means of an iron walkway, at the location of the old bridge. In 1995, the bridge was reconstructed by the Letanovca 'urbaria' (municipal entity).



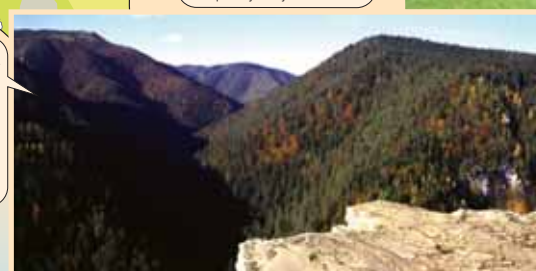
3 As you leave the educational footpath from Cingov, the first viewpoint is at the limestone rock formations called the Iha ('The Needle') and Kazatelnica ('The Pulpit'). In the 1960s, these were significant landmarks; today, only their peaks rise up above the woodland overgrowth. Here you can see warm-loving vegetation that is settled on the southern slopes. It is significantly different to that which has so far accompanied you on your walk.



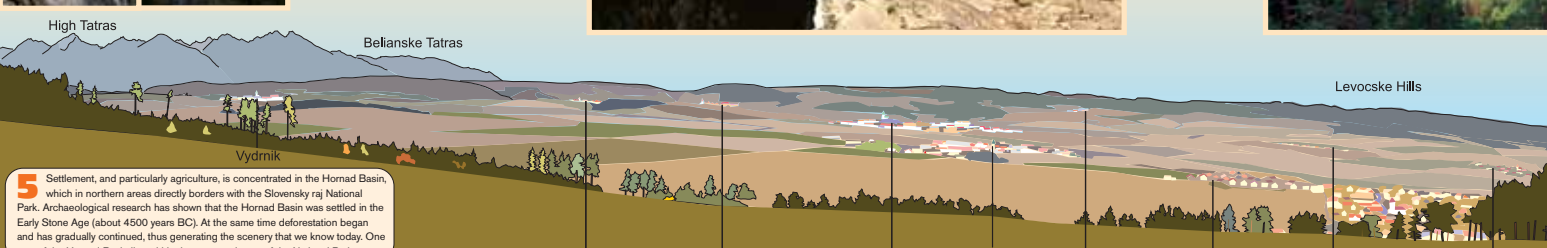
6 Letanovský mlyn ('Letanovský mill') from Majerska



4 The most visited viewpoint in the Slovensky raj National Park is Tomasovsky vyhlad ('The Tomasovsky Viewpoint'). The rock gallery on the southern slope of Ludmianka gives a unique view not only over the Hornad Canyon and the valley of Biely potok ('White Stream'), but also on the adjacent wooded areas of Kolsky, Kysel, Certova sihal ('The Devil's Orphan') and, when there is very good visibility, up to the High Tatras mountains. This is the only place in the Slovensky raj National Park where climbing is allowed. The opposite side of Certova sihal is dominated by the opening into the inaccessible cave known as Certova diera ('The Devil's Hole').



1 Cingov is the largest and most frequently visited recreational centre in the northeastern part of the Slovensky raj National Park. It also serves as a junction point for many tourist footpaths.



5 Settlement, and particularly agriculture, is concentrated in the Hornad Basin, which in northern areas directly borders with the Slovensky raj National Park. Archaeological research has shown that the Hornad Basin was settled in the Early Stone Age (about 4500 years BC). At the same time deforestation began and has gradually continued, thus generating the scenery that we know today. One part of the Hornad Basin lies within the protected zone of the National Park.

- Janovce
- Cencice
- Spissky Stvrtek
- Letanovce
- Dravce
- Spisske Tomasovce
- Mecedelovce
- Armutovce