



*Butterflies and
Moths of Slovakia*

Slovak Karst

butterfly heaven in the southeast



Rosy Footman

often found in our moth traps



WHITE CARPATHIANS

Westernmost projection of the Carpathian mountains covered with loess soil. Low hills with moderate slopes reach some 1000ft. This range has the largest areas of low-lying flowery meadows in Central Europe, many of them are very species-rich. The last site of Danube Cl. Yellow outside Romania.

BELANSKE TATRAS

Eastern part of the High Tatra range built of dolomite and limestone. Subalpine and alpine meadows boast the richest mountain flora north of the Alps. Foothills have several preserved mires.

SLOVAK KARST

The largest limestone karstic area of Central Europe with several large caves and hundreds of sink holes. Formerly much grazed, many of the pastures are abandoned now. One of the best sites for butterflies in the whole region e.g. Woodland Brown or gliders.



Variable Burnet Moth | Right: Nickerl's Fritillary



High mountains provide beautiful scenery with alpine flowers at their best while hilly areas along the Czech-Slovak border offer gentle walks in varied man-managed landscapes and many butterflies hovering above meadows. Slovak Karst can recall days when butterflies were common everywhere in this region. Such a wide range of habitats offers the naturalist a quite exceptional variety of wildlife to enjoy.

The tour visits some of the best butterfly areas in the country, looking at the wealth of flowers that we shall encounter on the way, and enjoying the bird life too. Together with a wide variety birds and plants, many of the largest and most beautiful butterfly species on the Continent can be found. We will search for the Danube Clouded Yellow which has almost disappeared from the whole region and the much sought-after Scarce and Dusky Large Blues will be high on our list, complemented by gliders, fritillaries or emperors. Summer time before harvesting of crops is always an idyllic season in Central Europe.

Purple-edged Copper

common on mountain meadows



Limestone outcrops





view of the Tatra mountains from our hotel

Large Chequered Skipper



Dusky Large Blue | Right: Lukáš Spitzer

FACT FILE

Slovakia

8 days | 3 hotels

dates: 7th - 14th July

ground cost: €945 / £780

single room supplement: €115 / £90

guide: Lukáš Spitzer

airport: Bratislava, Slovakia (or Vienna)

group size: 4-14

number of species: 85 - 105

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

D1 Arrival at Bratislava (Vienna)

D2 White Carpathians, Czech side

D3 White Carpathians and Váh river valley

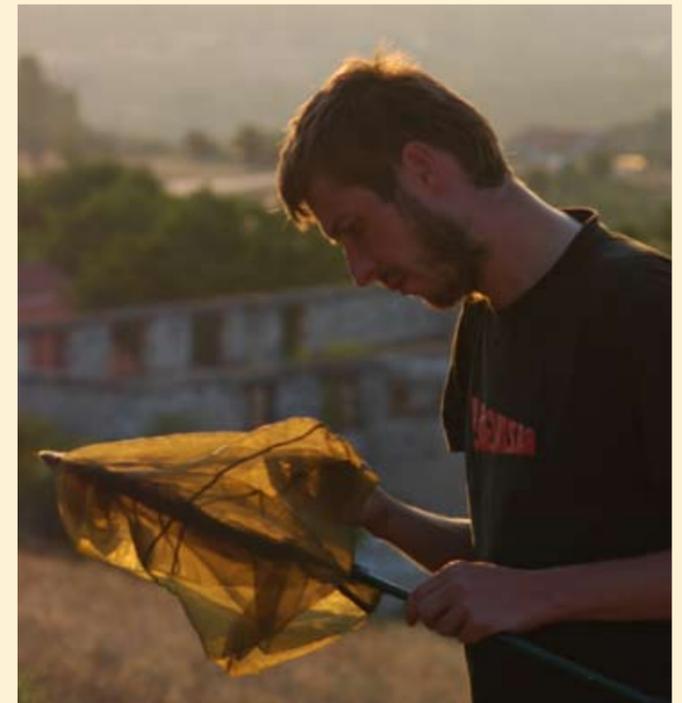
D4 Transfer to the Tatras, limestone outcrops

D5 The Belanske Tatras and mires

D6 Slovak Karst, eastern part

D7 Slovak Karst, western part and Hungary

D8 Departure from Bratislava (Vienna)



Lulworth Skipper



sunset over the White Carpathians



*White Carpathians
large network of flowery meadows*



Pallas's Fritillary



HIGHLIGHTS

- Dusky Clearwing and other clearwings
- various moths and burnet moths
- Apollo
- Danube Clouded Yellow
- Large and Purple-shot Copper
- Meleager's, Chequered and Cranberry Blue
- Geranium Argus
- Alcon, Scarce and Dusky Large Blue
- Hungarian and Common Glider
- Nickerl's and Lesser Spotted Fritillary
- Pallas's, Cranberry and Shepherd's Fritillary
- Woodland and Rock Grayling
- Blind Ringlet
- Oriental Meadow Brown
- Large Chequered Skipper
- alpine flowers
- large flowery meadows

GUIDES AND HOTELS

Lukáš Spitzer

Lukáš specialized in butterflies and leads research on Large Blue and Niobe Fritillary in his region, the western Carpathian mountains. He has concluded his PhD. studies recently and besides his regular occupation in a museum he also works for the Czech Academy of Sciences. Lukáš guided butterfly tours for Naturetrek in the past. He will guide our butterfly tours to Slovakia, Romania and Macedonia.

White Carpathians, Czech Republic

The hotel is located just 5 km from Slovakia. It is modest but clean with en suite facilities and home made cuisine. We will run the moth trap in the hotel garden.

The High Tatras, Slovakia

Beautiful small family run hotel with views of the Tatra mountains and meadows all around the village.

Slovak Karst, Slovakia

New, very nice pension built below a reserve where we can enjoy early morning photography.



Woodland Grayling



*Shepherd's
Fritillary*



*Common Glider
one of the few spreading species*

Slovak Karst

former pastures turned into meadows

Images were kindly provided by:
Miloš Balla, Slovakia
Dušan Šácha, Slovakia
Martin Hrouzek, Czech Rep.

Published by:
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Please don't hesitate to ask
for a detailed itinerary or
look at our web site



Apollo

Crab Spiders

often catch interesting butterflies

