

Butterfly special



Mires with Bistort



*Scarce
Fritillary*

FOOTHILLS OF THE TATRA MTS.

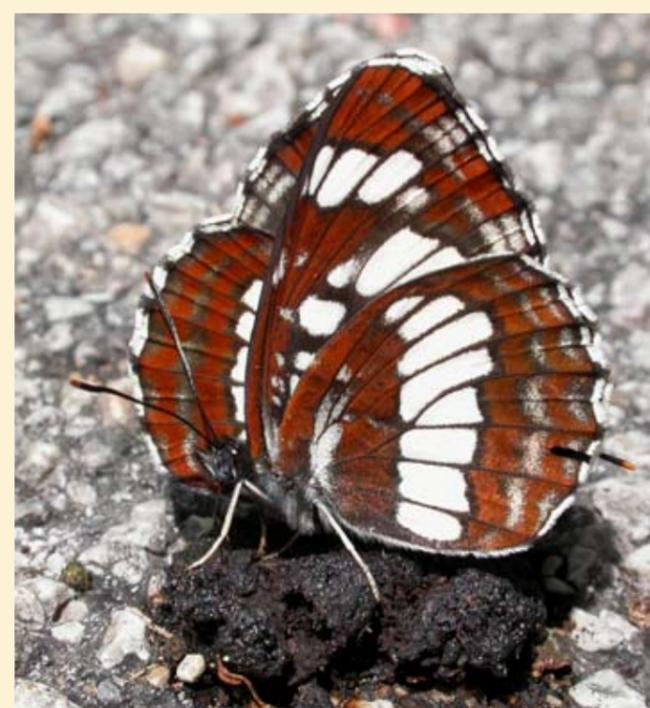
The High Tatras are found 2 hours from Krakow airport. Early June is just at the beginning of the season but two highlighted species are on wing in this period - Fenton's Wood White and Scarce Heath.

CEROVÁ UPLANDS

Low, nicely modelled hills with large patches of grassland, partly grazed. The much praised Common Glider and Scarce Fritillary occur in light forests, while meadows host Osiris Blue and others.

SLOVAK KARST

Large area of karst, consisting of 7 elevated plateaus. Forest steppes, pastures and former pastures with limestone pavements and other habitats provide home to many interesting species like both gliders and Woodland Brown.

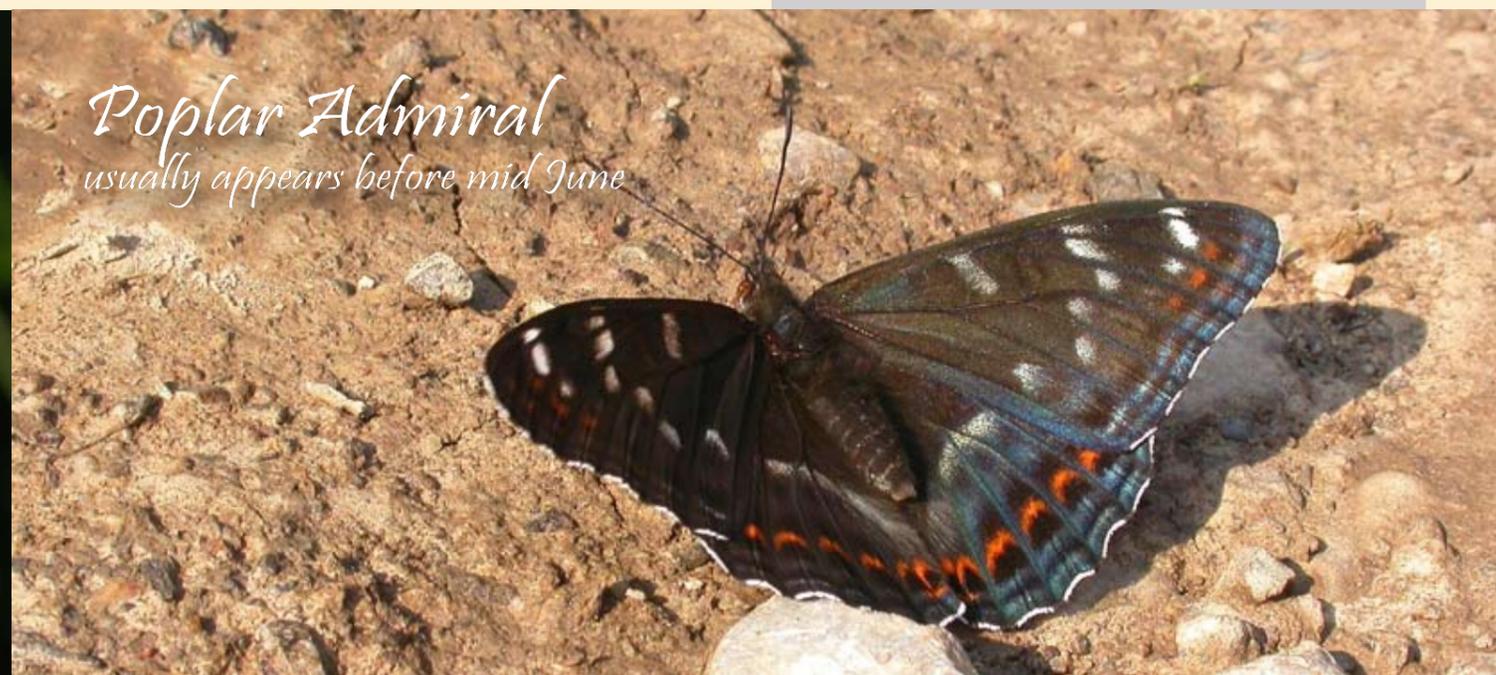


This tour focuses on several attractive butterflies. Most of them cannot be seen in July and some feature very highly on many personal lists as attractive and fast disappearing species. Pleasant weather, gorgeous landscapes and short distances will be other features of this early season holiday. A brief journey takes us from the foothills of the high Carpathians south to the hills of Pannonia.

This is also an excellent season for flowers, with us almost certainly seeing Lady's Slipper Orchid and we are likely to spot some special birds like Lesser Spotted Eagle or Nutcracker. Since the longest driving time is only two hours, we will spend virtually all our time in this rather unknown and unspoilt country full of green carpets of forests and meadows.



*Large Copper
common in various habitats*



*Poplar Admiral
usually appears before mid June*



wet meadows below *Tatra mountains*



Woodland Brown
survives in a handful of sites



FACT FILE

Slovakia

7 days | 3 hotels

dates: **1-7 June 2013**

ground price: €830 / £675
single room supplement: €80 / £65

guide: Lukáš Spitzer

airport: Kraków, Poland or Budapest, Hungary

group size: 4-14

number of species: 60 - 80

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

D1 Arrival at Kraków, Poland

D2 The Low and High Tatras

D3-4 Transfer via Muráň plateau, Cerová uplands

D5-6 Slovak Karst

D7 Departure from Kraków, Poland

Note: starting from and finishing in Budapest is an equivalent option, both time and distance wise.

Left: The Low Tatras | Right: Clouded Apollo



Safflower Skipper
an early summer species



Hyphoraia aulica

Cerová Uplands *large grasslands*



Green Lizard

shares habitat with warmth-loving butterflies



HIGHLIGHTS

Scarce Fritillary
Northern Wall Brown
Fenton's Wood White
Scarce Heath
Common and Hungarian Glider
Woodland Brown
Chequered and Eastern Baton Blue
Osiris and Large Blue
Chequered Skipper
Poplar Admiral (if on wing)
Lesser Spotted and Knapweed Fritillary
Lesser Marbled Fritillary
Clouded Apollo
Lady's Slipper Orchid
Turna Golden Drop
moth trapping (if conditions allow)

Left: Scarce Heath | Right: Austrian Dragonhead

GUIDES AND HOTELS

Lukáš Spitzer (31)

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 and travelled extensively to Altai, Africa, Balkans and eastern Europe. He will be your guide on butterfly tours to Slovakia and Romania.

Hotel in Ždiar village, The Tatras

new family run hotel in a traditional village on the eastern edge of the Tatras. Great food and environs.

Hotel in Fiľakovo, Cerová Uplands

small pension in the center of a small town below the ruins of Fiľakovo castle. The town is on the outskirts of Cerová uplands close to all sites.

Hotel in Turňa nad Bodvou, Slovak Karst

small and new pension below Turňa Castle hill.



Chequered Skipper

widespread and common

Chequered Blue

occurs in limestone terrain



search for *Alcon Blue*



Images were kindly provided by:
Miloš Balla, Slovakia
Lukáš Spitzer, Czech Republic
Martin Hrouzek, Czech Rep.
All photos were taken in areas visited on this tour.

Right: Spotted Fritillary

Published by:
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for a detailed itinerary or
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Common Glider keeps spreading in Slovakia