

- Poloniny was declared a National Park on 1 October 1997.
- The National Park has an area of 29,805 hectares, with 80% of the area comprising forest ecosystems.
- It is our least populated National Park, and the largest primeval forest complex in Slovakia can be found here.
- The biggest and the best-known primeval forest is located in Stužica National Natural Reserve, which was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2007 as 'The Primeval Beech Forest of the Carpathians'.
- The highest peak Kremenec (1,221 m) is the point where the borders of three countries – Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine – meet.
- Poloniny is the only area in Slovakia where the free-living European bison can be found.
- The water reservoir Starina is built on the upper flow of Cirocha river in the Bukovské vrchy mountains. With the content of 59.8 mil. cubic metres the reservoir fills 240 hectares.

Coin data

Denomination: **EUR 20**

Material: **Ag 925/1000**
Cu 75/1000

Weight: **33.63 g**

Diameter: **40 mm**

Edge: relief inscription **OCHRANA PRÍRODY A KRAJINY** (protection of nature and landscape) with a dividing mark in the shape of a stylized flower

Number of pieces minted: limited, **27,000** pieces maximum

Designer: **Karol Ličko**

Engraver: **Dalibor Schmidt**

Producer: **Kremnica mint**



Starina water reservoir

The upper half of the coin's obverse depicts part of the characteristic landscape motif of Poloniny National Park with Purple hellebore underneath. The inscription near the upper rim of the coin reads SLOVENSKO, the name of the country. The lower part shows the national emblem of the Slovak Republic with the year 2010 to its left.

The reverse of the coin depicts two Gray wolves with a part of fallen tree. The inscription near the upper rim reads NÁRODNÝ PARK (National Park). The inscription near the lower rim reads POLONINY. The right upper part of the coin shows its nominal value 20 EURO. The mark of the Kremnica Mint MK between two dies, and the stylized initials of the author of the coin's design – Karol Ličko – are placed near the right rim of the coin.



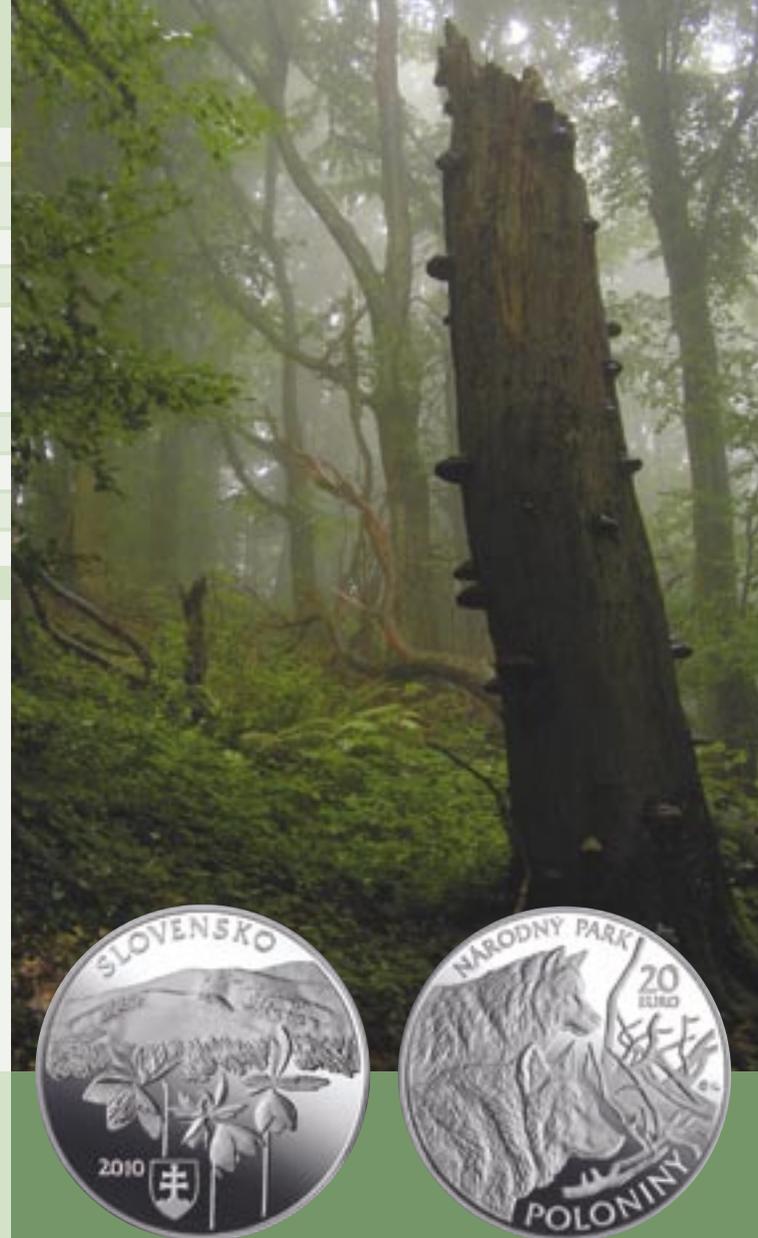
Gray wolf



View from Kremenec

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in cooperation with Poloniny National Park Administration
Photo: Miroslav Buraľ, Zdeno Vlach (wolf)

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Protection of Nature
and Landscape
Poloniny National Park
Silver Collector Coin

Poloniny National Park is the easternmost Slovak large scale natural reserve. It is located in the area where the borders of three countries – Slovakia, Poland, and Ukraine – meet. It is the least populated national park in Slovakia. Its name derives from the alpine pastures above the upper border of forest on the central crest of the Bukovina Mountains, which are called 'Poloniny' in this part of the Carpathians. Poloniny National Park was established on 1 October 1997. It has an area of 29,805 hectares, with the specially protected area amounting to 10,973 hectares.



Pastures of Poloniny

The most valuable parts of the National park are protected in seven national natural reserves, twelve natural reserves, and one natural monument. In 1993, UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme declared it the International East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve together with the adjacent Polish and Ukrainian regions, which made it the first trilateral biosphere reserve in the world. Poloniny National Park was awarded the prestigious European Council Diploma in 1999.

The National park contains the largest primeval forest complex in Slovakia. More than 80% of its area is comprised of forest

ecosystems, especially of beech and fir-beech forests. The biggest and best-known primeval forest is located in Stužica National Natural Reserve, which was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List together with Rožok and Havešová national natural reserves in 2007 as 'The Primeval Beech Forest of the Carpathians'. It is considered to be a trans-border, bilateral world natural heritage reserve, comprising ten separate primeval beech forest areas. Apart from these, one more is registered in the list – Vihorlat, and six more in Ukraine. The highest peak is Kremenec (1,221 m), which, at the same time, is the easternmost point of Slovakia, where the borders of three countries – Slovakia, Poland, and Ukraine – meet.

The National park is a part of the East Carpathians Region, which is also reflected in its fauna and flora. The region has 5,981 species of invertebrates and 319 species of vertebrates. Poloniny's regularly nesting avifauna includes the Black stork, the Honey buzzard, the Lesser spotted eagle, the Common kingfishers, the Black woodpecker, the White-backed woodpecker, the Great Grey shrike, the European nightjar, endangered species include the Red kite, the Peregrine falcon, the Short-toed eagle, and the Golden eagle. Notable bat species are represented by the Rearmouse and the Leisler's bats. Predators which inhabit the area include the Brown bear, the Eurasian lynx, the wildcat, and the Gray wolf. The National park is the only area in Slovakia where the free-living European bison can be found. Nine European bisons are listed in the Poloniny National Park area under the project of the European bison restitution.

The floral diversity of the region is documented by more than 1,000 species of higher plants, 1,207 known species of fungi, more than 300 species of bryophytes, and more than 200 species of lichens. In terms of the phytogeographical division of Slovakia, the area of Poloniny National Park is the only one that belongs to the East Carpathian floral region, represented by *Ranunculus carpathicus* (Carpathian buttercup), *Viola dacica* (Dacian violet), *Campanula abietina* (Fir-tree bellflower), *Dianthus barbatus* L. subsp. *Compactus* (Sweet William), *Helleborus purpurascens* (Purple hellebore), etc. The whole region possesses excellent preconditions for tourism, which is less developed here than in other Slovakian regions. Poloniny offers a lot of interesting hiking and bicycle trails of the Carpathian arterial road. The cultural and historical attractions of the region are represented by Greek Catholic churches with unique wooden architecture in Topoľa, Uličské Krivé, Ruský Potok and Jalová.



Purple hellebore



European bison



Kamenec boundary stone on the border of three countries



Carpathian buttercup



Alpine longhorn beetle