Veľká Fatra was declared a National Park on 1 April 2002.

- The area of the National Park is more than 40,371 hectares, and as much as 85% is covered by forest.
- The highest peak of the mountains is Ostredok (1,592 m).
- Veľká Fatra is unique through its highest presence of the English yew (a protected species depicted also in the logo of the National Park) in Central Europe.
- Since 1987 the Veľká Fatra has been a protected water management area.
- After the EU entry, Veľká Fatra was enlisted in NATURA 2000, the EU-wide network of protected sites, as a site of European importance and a bird sanctuary.

**Coin data**

| Denomination: EUR 20  
| Material: Ag 925/1000, Cu 75/1000  
| Weight: 33.63 g  
| Diameter: 40 mm  
| Edge: embossed inscription “OCHRANA PRÍRODY A KRAJINY” (protection of nature and landscape) headed by a stylized flower  
| Number of pieces: limited mintage of maximum 27,000 pieces  
| Designer: Roman Lugár  
| Engraver: Dalibor Schmidt  
| Producer: Kremnica Mint  

Fatra cyclamen, Clusius gentian and English yew, typical representatives of the National Park flora, are depicted on the obverse of the coin, in the middle of the coin field in a composition of plants. The national emblem of the Slovak Republic is placed in the right upper half of the coin. The year mark “2009” is above the emblem. The name of the state “SLOVENSKO” is inscribed around the bottom edge of the coin. The mark of the Kremnica Mint “MK” between two dies, and stylized initials of the first and last name of the author of the coin design, Mgr. art. Roman Lugár, appear to the right of the Clusius gentian image.

The reverse side features a composition of flying golden eagle and Kráľova skala in the middle of the coin field. The denomination “20 EURO” is depicted on the upper edge of the coin. The name of the Park “NÁRODNÝ PARK VEĽKÁ FATRA” is inscribed around the bottom edge of the coin.
Karstic phenomena such as rocky walls, crags, openings and canyon valleys are typical features of the relief of the area called Bralná Fatra which includes the most famous valleys – Gaderská, Blatnická, Belianska and Bystrická. More than 50 caves, important hibernation habitats for chiropterans, were discovered in the mountains territory. Harmanecká cave is the only cave open to the public. The biggest waterfall (nearly 25 m) can be found in Suchá dolina valley.

Up to 85% of the territory is covered by forest. Mixed spruce-fir-beech forests with dispersed maple, linden and ash trees predominate. Resistant Scots pine grows on rocks. The primeval forest ecosystems, only barely affected by human activity, were preserved in inaccessible, steep slopes. The abundant natural occurrence of the English yew, a protected wood species, which has been rare in Europe now and whose presence in the Veľká Fatra mountains has been the highest in Central Europe, is a rarity. That is why the English yew is incorporated also in the logo of the National Park.

More than one thousand species of higher plants can be found in the park territory. A rare endemic Fatra cyclamen, which cannot be found anywhere in the world but in the Veľká Fatra and the western corner of the Low Tatras mountains, grows in the woods. Martagon lily, perennial honesty, dame’s rocket, or Alpine bells will captivate you by their beauty. Heuffel’s crocus, narcissus-flowered anemone and globe-flower rank among the most beautiful plant species in the upland meadows.

Deep inaccessible forests provide shelter for many animal species. These include the field game, in particular deer, wild boar, and fox. The rarest protected species – brown bear, grey wolf, and Eurasian lynx – found their home there. Our rarest birds – raptors including golden eagle and peregrine falcon as well as smaller bird species including wallcreeper and rock thrush – nest in the rocky walls. Our rarest gallinaceous birds such as capercaillie and black grouse still live on the timberline. Alpine chamois, which was imported here after the World War II, settled in the rock.

The most favorite tourist locations include Gaderská and Blatnická valleys, the highest crags of Turiec basin – Tlštá and Ostrá, the central ridge in Krížna, Ostredok and Borišov localities, Blatnica and Sklabiňa castles, and the folk architecture reservation – Vlkolínec village, a one-of-a-kind location included in the UNESCO world heritage list.