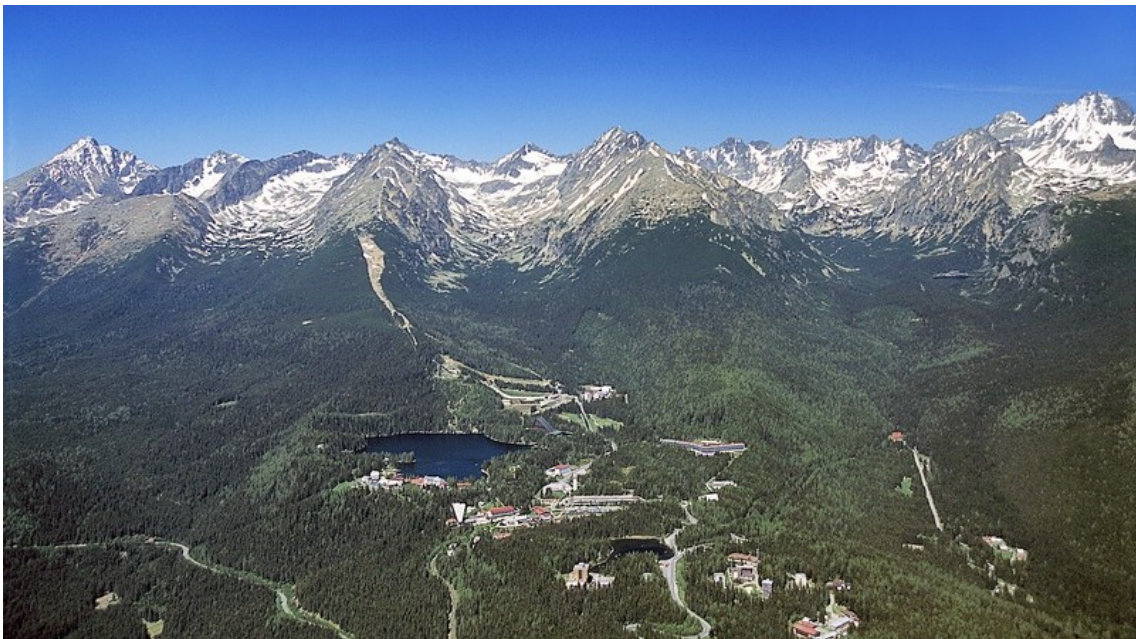




## Štrbské pleso (1264m)



Top : 20.07277° 49.11209°



## Tour de Slovaquie – Okolo slovenska

Organized since 1953 with an almost instinting continuity (exception from 1961 to 1963). Nowadays the race belongs to the UCI Europe Tour (2.2). No Peter Sagan in the very international winner list, but a few well-known names : De Rooy (1978), Ivanov (1987), Tonkov (1989), Hončar (1993) and Vakoč (2013).

Official website : <http://www.okoloslovenska.com/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Okolo\\_Slovenska](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Okolo_Slovenska)

### Tour 2017

A prologue and 4 stages. 14 KOM in the first 3 stages (5 1<sup>st</sup> cat. and 9 2<sup>nd</sup>). The highest heights are in the Tatras, both High and Low. They will be visited in the queen stage (the 1<sup>st</sup>), between Levoča and Banská Bystrica.

#### In 1<sup>st</sup> cat. :

Štrbské Pleso (1264m – 1<sup>st</sup> stage)

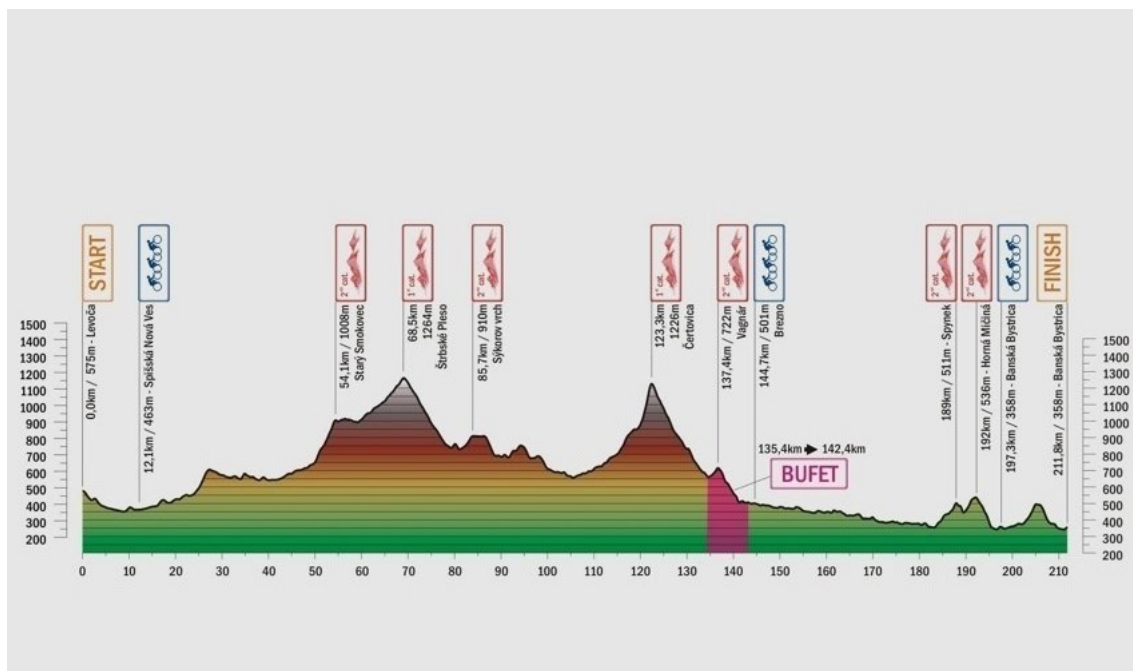
Čertovica (1226m – 1<sup>st</sup> stage) **BIG844**

Salamandra (792m – 2<sup>nd</sup> stage)

Polana (532m – 3<sup>rd</sup> stage)

U Štefku (508m – 3<sup>rd</sup> stage)

#### Close-up of the 1<sup>st</sup> stage



7 KOM (2 1<sup>st</sup> cat. and 5 2<sup>nd</sup>)



Sedlo Čertovica



Top of Salamandra, in the wilderness

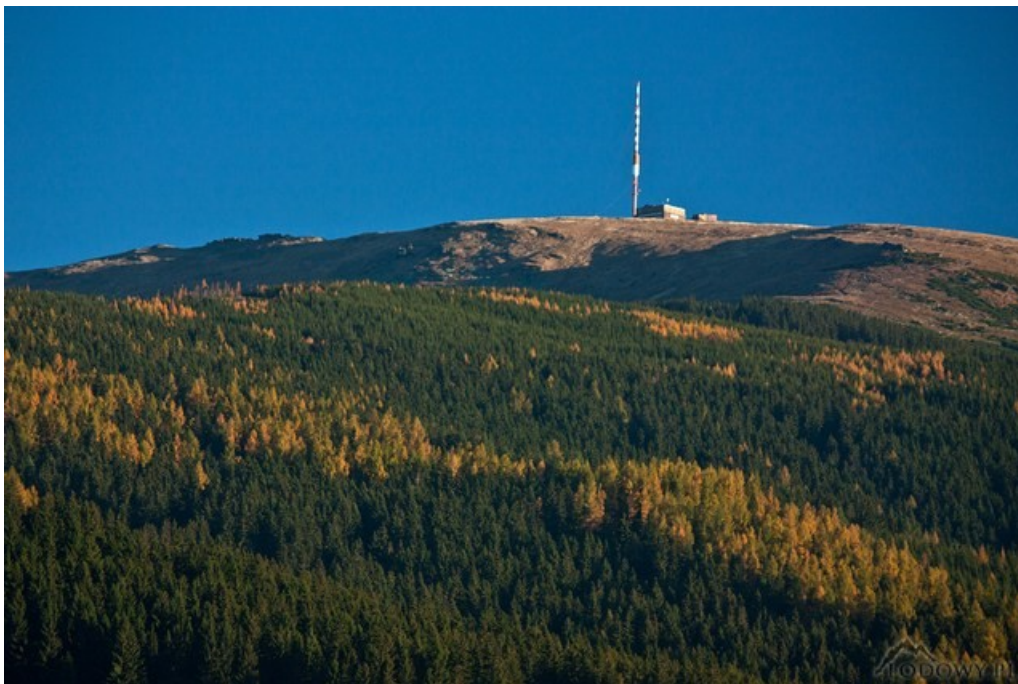
## Topography of Slovakia



Slovakia is a mountainous country : most of the territory belongs to the Carpathians. The 2 most important ranges lie in the north (Tatra Mountains) and in the middle (Slovenské Rudohorie).

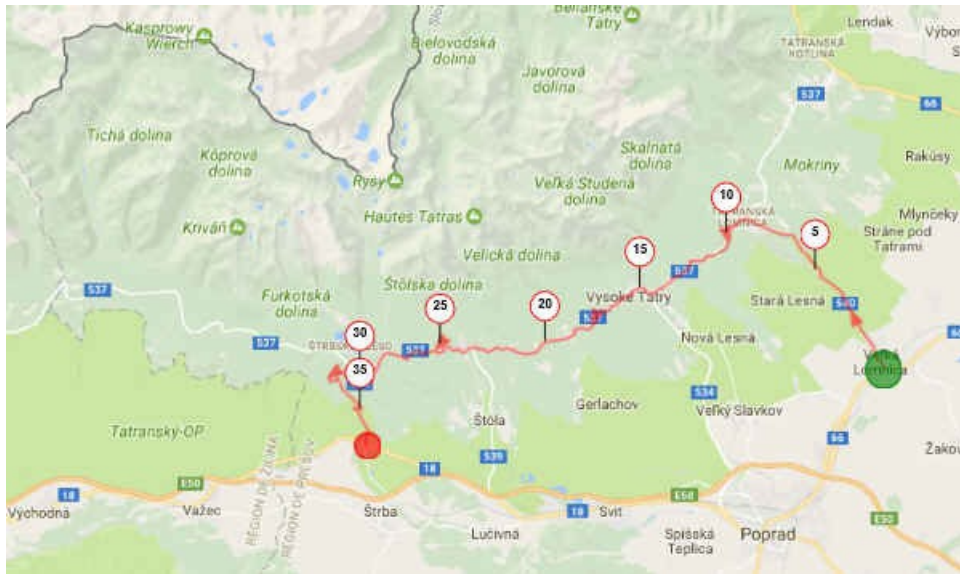
In the first, we can find, for instance, Ťatliakovo jazero (BIG843) and Sliezsky dom (BIG845) in the High Tatras ; Sedlo Čertovica (BIG844) and Kráľova Hoľa (BIG964) in the Low Tatras (Nízke Tatry).

In the second, with lower altitudes, Panské sedlo (BIG849) or sedlo Brezina (BIG963).



Kráľova Hoľa (1946m)

## Štrbské pleso – Portrait



For sure not the most tricky climb in the Tatra Mountains, but amazingly ranked in 1<sup>st</sup> category. Fortunately the viewing pleasure is inversely proportional to the pain.

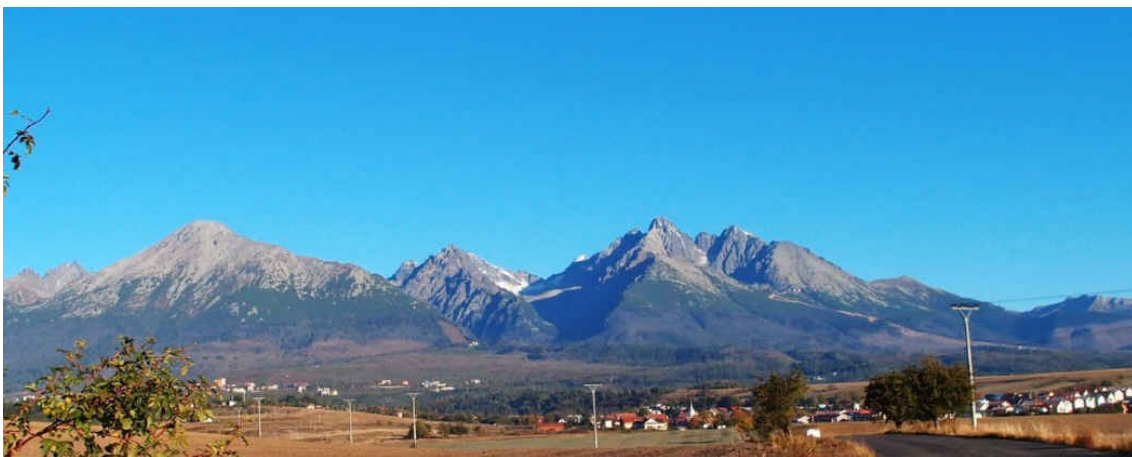
29,2km – 623m elevation gain

1,7 1,7 2,0 1,8 2,2 / 2,3 2,6 3,1 3,4 2,8  
1,5 4,0 2,0 2,1 3,4 / -0,5 1,1 -0,7 -1,2 0,6  
2,3 2,3 2,9 1,5 2,9 / 2,8 3,0 3,9 3,8 + 10m

The climb has 3 parts :

- 1- 15km very slight uphill, from Velika Lomnica to Starý Smokovec (Vysoké Tatry) = KOM 2<sup>nd</sup> cat.
- 2- 5km almost flat, 350m above the valley
- 3- 4 last km slight uphill = KOM 1<sup>st</sup> cat.

The race doesn't go to the mountain lake (« pleso »). At the crossroads below, the riders go down straight to the valley, avoiding the dead-end road. But ideal place for an uphill finish.



Foot with view to the High Tatra Mountains



Tatranska Lomnica - km9



Vysoké Tatry - km15



km22



Straight line 2km before the KOM



The « pleso » and the High Tatra Mts.



Descent – view to the valley

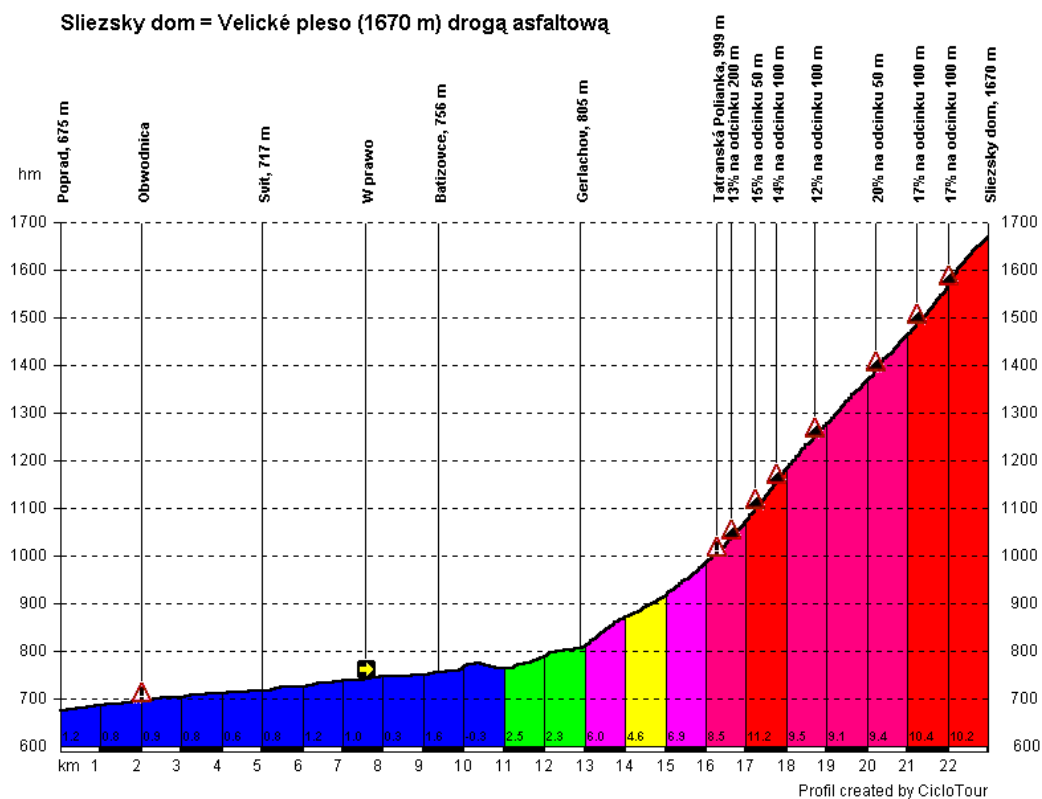
## Cherry on the cake : Sliezsky dom

If the climb makes you unsatisfied, we have some food to satisfy your hunger, at km19, in Tatranská Polianka. But the break will be hard and the slope will kill you. 7km at 10%, with max. 17% (100m), and even 20% (50m).



Velické pleso in its green setting

Michał Książkiewicz studied the climb on <http://www.genetyk.com/podjazdy/sliezsky1.html>







After Tatranská Polianka, no timeout. The narrow and not very busy well asphalted road becomes very steep.



Through the forest the slope is not less steep : 14%



View to the valley against the light



The rider is tired, the asphalt fatigued, but the hardest is behind him and the top is so close.



Sliezsky dom : the Holy Grail



High-angle shot of Velické pleso and Sliezsky dom. In the background, the last hectometers of the climb and a piece of valley.