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Exploring the "Big Little Country" - Slovakia - Day 2

Friday, August 19, 2016

All 4 excursion buses from the university met for the night at the same hotel in the city of Proprad in the Vysoke Tatry (High Tatra Mountains). This was the view from our window.



After a buffet breakfast we set off again in 4 different directions.

First stop was a "historical reservation" - a collection of buildings tracing the evolution of the area since prehistoric times.



I've noted here on SP that I'm descended from a long line of grain eating peasants. In this museum there is archeological evidence of grain cultivation here since 6000 BC.

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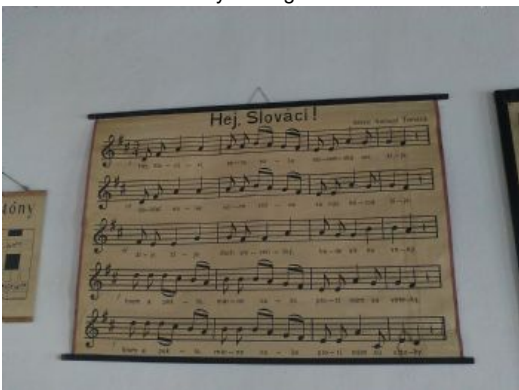
Here's something you won't see in the USA - museum visitors climbing on the exhibits. The sign said to stay off, but the guide said it was OK.



Shopping in 19th-early 20th century style



And a 50s era Soviet style village school





Our 2nd stop was the town of Podolinec with its 16th century klastor (monastery)



Some of the furnishings are original or even predate the church itself.



Then it was on to the town Zilnia in Gorel region of the country where the ethnic tradition is reflected in distinctive dress, mostly for special occasions, but in simpler versions for everyday.



Here our students are exchanging rings in a traditional ceremony. I've got to say that everyone was very enthusiastic about participating in every opportunity offered.



As we toured the area in a slow mode of transportation



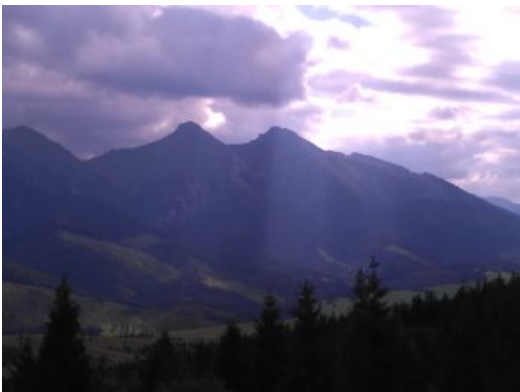
I took a photo of this little cabin. I'd be happy spending summers here.



It gets quite cold in the winter. It is a ski area after all.

This brings me to our last stop - a ski lift to the real high country. I have NEVER been on a ski lift.

I was very proud of being able to jump on and not land on my butt on the ground, but I celebrated too long and the bar came down on my thigh. Ouch, I got a nice bruise as a souvenir. But it didn't stop me from taking pictures.



Still smiling at the top



Unlike day 1 the trip back to the hotel was uneventful

After dinner, a troop of Roma (Gypsy) dancers provided wonderful entertainment.



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1STBUCKETITEM

Another wonderful day! Must have been lots of fun watching the Gypsy dancers.
1748 days ago



MCJULIEO

What a wonderful trip!
1755 days ago



DOVESEYES
Awesome

1755 days ago



ONEKIDSMOM

The ski lift took me back to my 20's (the last time I was on a similar device)... and the mountain views, the cultural immersion... just a great, great adventure. Thanks for taking the

photos and bringing your Spark buds along for the ride.
1755 days ago

THANK YOU!



LIVEDAILY

Such colorful costumes!! The mountains were beautiful!!
Thank you so much for showing us such a historical part of the world!!
1755 days ago





MARYJEANSL

I just love the clothing - and the beautiful church/monastery. I presume it is just a museum now - no more monks? Lovely, lovely place!
1755 days ago



PHEBESS

That church is incredible!!!! Love the gold edging!!!! And good for you for hopping on the ski lift!!!! (I'd think the hardest part would be hopping back off, though.) Oh, if you can find it, arnica gel will speed up healing bruises.

The costumes are, well, WOW!!!

And the Roma dancing!!!! Love it!!!!

PS - A good friend and his wife are spending September in Namibia and Botswana. Want to meet up there some time????
1755 days ago

Comment edited on: 8/19/2016 6:18:37 PM



BRIGHTSPARK7

What fun! Thank you for the pictures too, so we could see the splendor.
1755 days ago



SUNNYBEACHGIRL

What an interesting place to visit
1755 days ago



PRNCSUP1-2FULL

Such a lovely trip! Congrats on your first ski lift ride! Sorry about the bruise, but think it was worth it!
1755 days ago




CD4114015

Thank you for always sharing your trips and blessing us that aren't there!
1755 days ago



PEGGYO


1755 days ago




TERI-RIFIC

Loved reading and looking at the pictures. Beautiful.
1755 days ago



PHOENIX1949


1755 days ago



SUBMOM2

Great pictures! I love the little cabin...so glad you're enjoying your trip!
1755 days ago



PGBACK

Great photos. Thank you for sharing your adventure.
1755 days ago



HELEN_BRU

I had no idea there was so much to see!
1755 days ago



SLENDERELLA61

Great photos! Great blog!! What an experience.

So, do you think you handle grains better than most because of your genes and ancestry? I've wondered that, too. My grandparents were dairy farmers and I think it goes back generations, although probably not to 6000 BC. I've wondered if I handle dairy better than most because of it. Maybe.



Thank you for sharing such and incredible experience. -Marsha
1755 days ago



SMILINGEYES2

What a wonderful learning experience. Enjoy the remainder of your visit.
1755 days ago

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