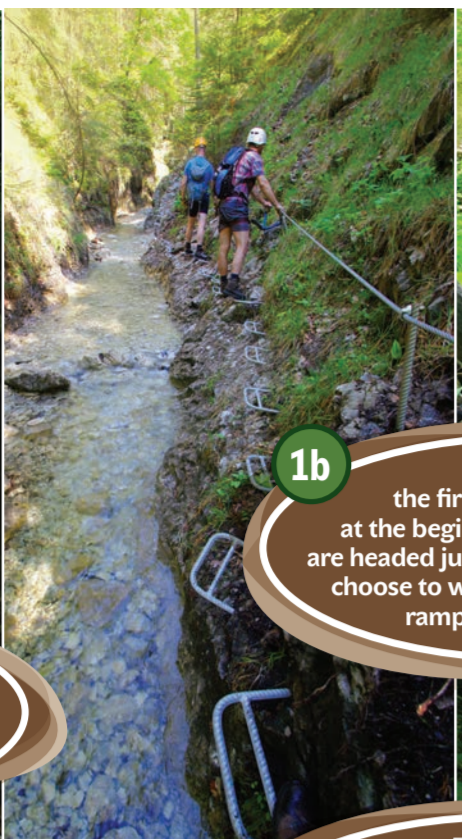
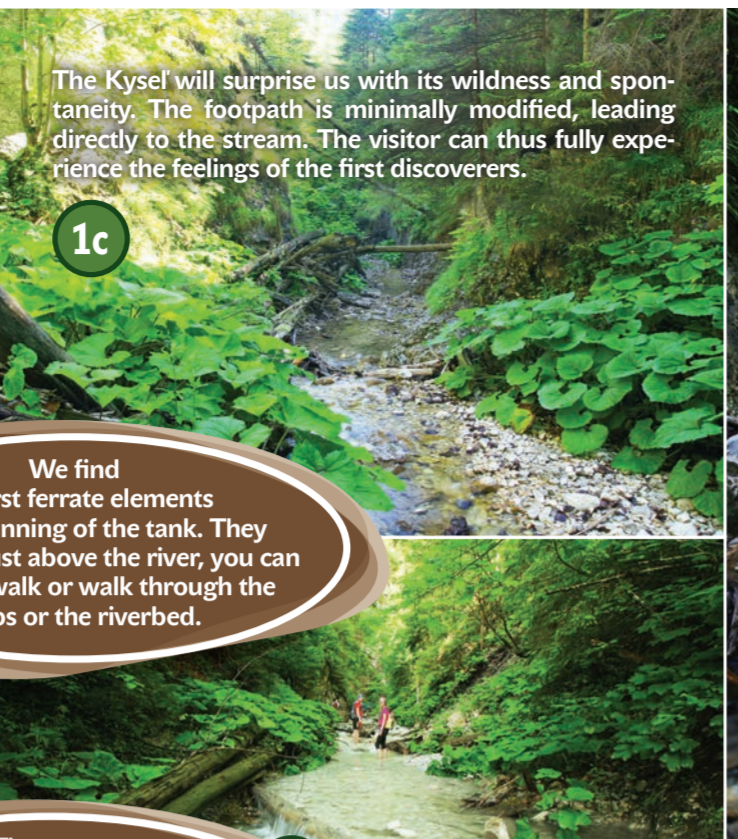




**1a** We enter Kysel', a few meters above the information panel. A narrow walkway leads to the brook.



**1b** We find the first ferrate elements at the beginning of the tank. They are headed just above the river, you can choose to walk or walk through the ramps or the riverbed.



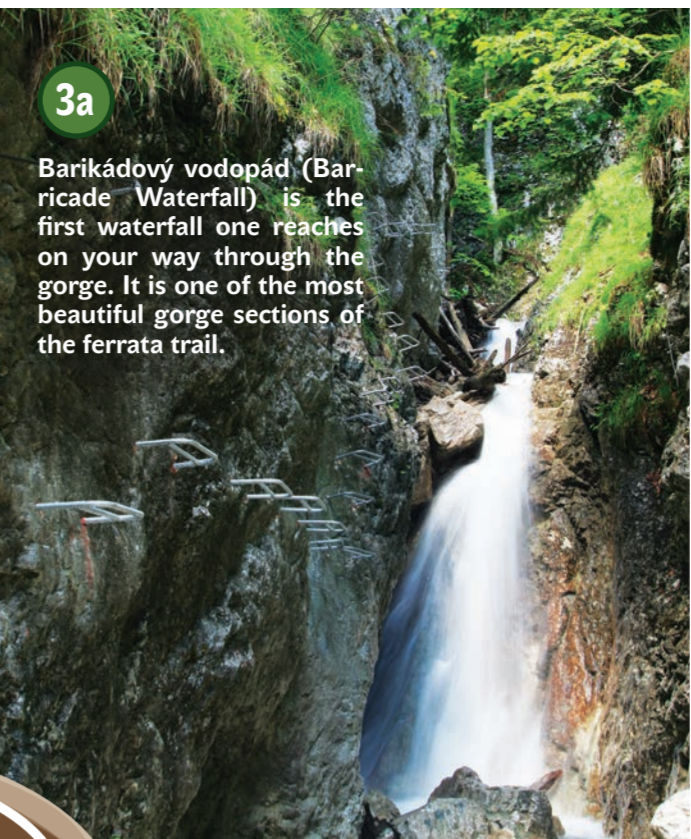
**1d** The vegetation of the bottom of the gorge is very valuable. In particular, the nine-kilogram of Kablik is striking. Do not let them slip and do not go out of the river to the adjacent shores.



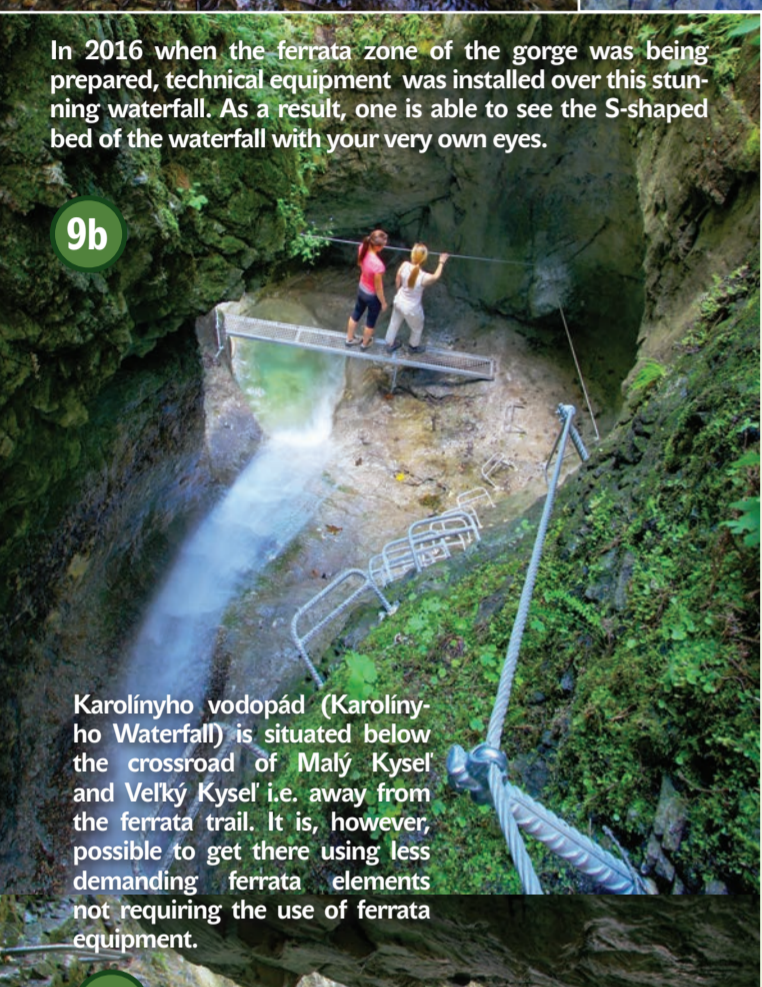
**2a** The gorge gets gradually narrower surrounded by steep rocky crags and the air there gets noticeably moister and colder.



**2b** Through the amount of attacked wood and debris, we pass through to the first waterfalls that appear after 430 meters of grazing. The above is an old metal ladder from the original access, which has been thrown, washed and deposited under the deposits.



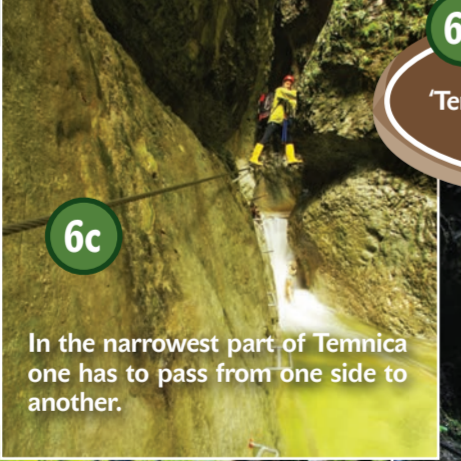
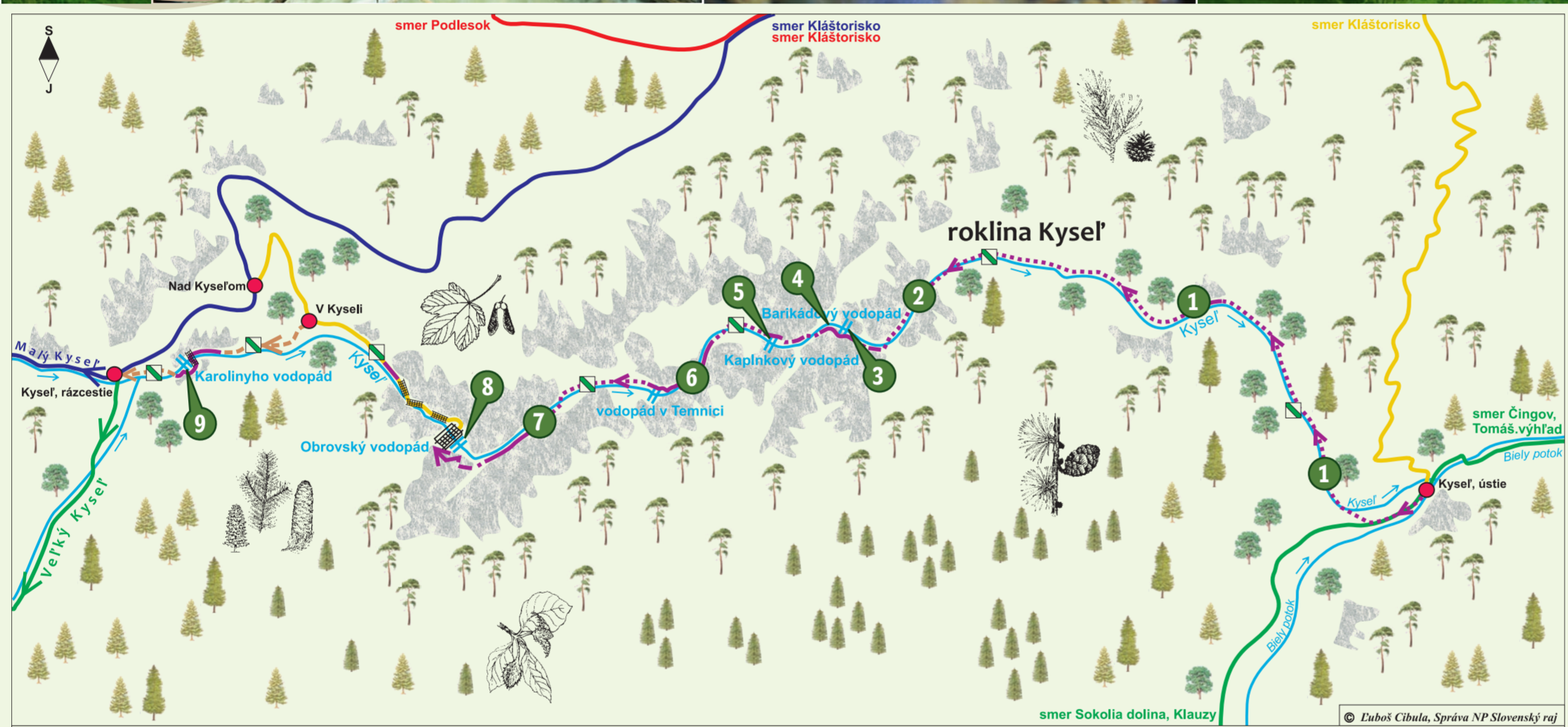
**3a** Barikádový vodopád (Barricade Waterfall) is the first waterfall one reaches on your way through the gorge. It is one of the most beautiful gorge sections of the ferrata trail.



**9b** Karolínyho vodopád (Karolinyho Waterfall) is situated below the crossroad of Malý Kysel and Veľký Kysel i.e. away from the ferrata trail. It is, however, possible to get there using less demanding ferrata elements not requiring the use of ferrata equipment.



**8** The most difficult section of the ferrata trail is the steep climb along the grand Obrovský vodopád (Huge Waterfall). The ferrata trail ends on the bridge over the waterfall. Here, there is a gate, through which an alternative Kysel' trail can be entered. This track is suitable for any visitor and goes down the gorge.



**6a** We are entering the cave 'Temnica' with its typical wet and moss-covered rocks.



**6c** In the narrowest part of Temnica one has to pass from one side to another.



**7** The area above Temnica is mostly covered by sycamore maple scree forests.



**6b** A romantic section of the most beautiful rocky pass in Slovensky raj.



**5a** Kaplnkový vodopád (Chappel waterfall) is the place that has changed the most since the fire in the Kysel' Gorge. As a result of the fire this then grand waterfall was buried under a huge amount of hill eroded material and burnt tree trunks.



**4b** The cave was named by gorge visitors, who took shelter from adverse weather in its small chamber behind the cave entrance. The huge chimney of the cave was ideal for taking smoke out and its high ceiling was perfect for protecting them from rain.



**4a** Once you pass Barikádový vodopád you will see a rock of an interesting shape on your right side called 'Udiaren' (Smoking Room).

Dear visitors, the leaflet you are holding in your hands will guide you through the area, which is unique in terms of its inanimate nature and variety of plants, animals and their habitats. We hope that it will help you to get to know the gorge, discover its beautiful spots and understand the importance of nature and its preservation.

Issued by: ŠOP SR - Správa NP Slovenský raj with the support of Košice Self-Governing Authority  
 Photographs: Peter Olekšák, Miro Lehocý, Archive of Ján Petrik, Archive of Správa NP Slovenský raj  
 Wording: Tomáš Dražil  
 Maps: Luboš Cibula  
 Vegetation profile: František Mihál  
 Illustrations: Riki Watzka  
 Graphic design: Majka Sabolová Rusnáková, LVC s.r.o.  
 Print: LVC s.r.o.  
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 KOŠICKÝ SAMOSPRÁVNÝ KRAJ, ŠPISŤ, embraco, sport, etc.

# KYSEL' - FERRATA NATURE TRAIL OF THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE SERVICE (HORSKÁ ZÁCHRANNÁ SLUŽBA)

BEAUTY SPOTS TOUR GUIDE



www.npslovenskyraj.sk

## Dear Visitors,

Welcome to the Kysel Ferrata nature trail maintained by the Mountain Rescue Service. Please, respect that you are entering a world of wild and unique nature. The lower part of the Kysel Gorge was closed to the public for forty years following the devastating fire in 1976.

The eroded material and wood that slid down to the gorge from surrounding slopes following the fire have changed its original appearance. At the same time, however, they also created new and unique scenery.

Our goal is to show you unbounded and wild nature that has experienced minimal changes to its original appearance. The technical equipment of the ferrata trail enables you to pass the gorge in a comfortable and safe manner.

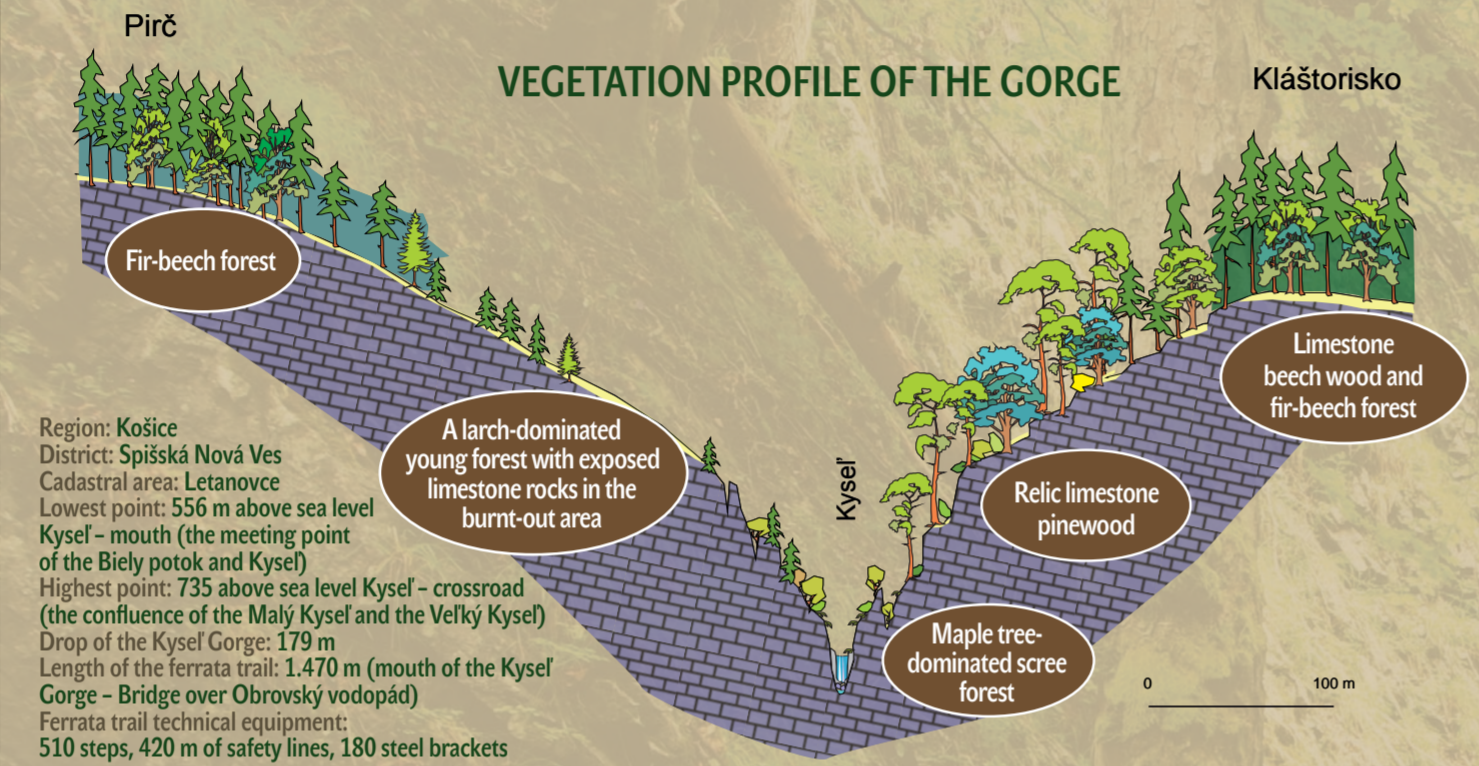
Let us not forget that the Kysel Gorge has the strictest level of protection falling into the A zone of the national park. Its significance for the preservation of the European nature is emphasised by its falling into the NATURA 2000 system of the European protected areas.

Before the fire, Kysel used to be the most visited gorge in Slovenský raj. This, however, is no longer an ambition due to its distance and difficult access. The visit to the Kysel - Ferrata nature trail maintained by the Mountain Rescue Service, should be a place offering peace and quiet and untouched nature to be experienced with all your senses in combination with a little bit of adrenaline boosting activity.

The ferrata nature trail is maintained by Štátna ochrana prírody SR - Správa NP Slovenský raj (State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, Authority of Slovak Paradise National Park).



Panorama of the gorge



## What should you know before entering the Gorge

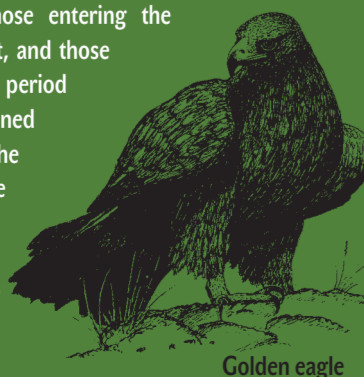
Unlike the rest of the gorges in Slovenský raj, the section starting where the gorge meets the Biely Potok and ending with the bridge over Obrovský vodopád (Huge Waterfall) is open to the public as a ferrata trail, i.e. a secured track equipped with safety lines and climbing irons. Each visitor will need to have a ferrata set with them. The passing of ferrata is a demanding hiking activity, which is not recommended to children of up to 6 years of age.

In its lower part, the track goes through a stream. In case of higher water level it is recommended to have a spare pair of shoes.

Bear in mind that the water level may easily rise in the gorge following heavy showers. Whatever the water level, please, keep on hiking along the stream, avoid walking on the surrounding vegetation and do not create new trails on the stream slopes as you might easily damage the sensitive habitats of the gorge's bed by walking through them and cause the thin layer of the soil to be easily washed away.

The ferrata trail is only open in the period from 15<sup>th</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> October for nature conservancy reasons. The ferrata trail may only be passed by those holding a valid ticket issued by the Authority of Slovak Paradise National Park. If interested, it is possible to contact the Authority of Slovak Paradise National Park in order to book tour guide services, professional interpretation included. The list of the points at which tickets can be bought and borrow a ferrata set is available on the website of the Authority of Slovak Paradise National Park - [www.npslovenskyraj.sk](http://www.npslovenskyraj.sk).

The revenues from ticket sales are used for nature conservancy purposes. Those entering the gorge without a valid ticket, and those entering the gorge in the period other than above mentioned or otherwise breaching the Rules of the Trail shall be imposed a fine of maximum € 66.00 by employees of the Authority of Slovak Paradise National Park or nature guards.



## RULES OF THE TRAIL

Special-Use Nature Trail - Kysel Ferrata

Open only from  
15<sup>th</sup> June - 31<sup>st</sup> October

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (Štátna ochrana prírody Slovenskej republiky), the Authority of Slovak Paradise National Park (Správa národného parku Slovenský raj), Štefánikovo námestie 9, 052 01 Spišská Nová Ves, is the authority managing Slovak Paradise National Park as stated in Ordinance of the Slovak Government of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015 No. 69/2016 Coll. declaring Slovak Paradise National Park, its zones and a protection zone (hereinafter referred to as the "Authority").

By these Rules of the Trail, binding for all the visitors, the Authority stipulates conditions of use of the ferrata-type nature trail situated in the Kysel Gorge in order to provide information on the rights and obligations arising from Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Related Legal Regulations.

Section 1 The ferrata-type nature trail passes the gorge Kysel from the point where the gorge reaches the brook Biely potok (White Brook) to the bridge over Obrovský vodopád (Huge Waterfall) (hereinafter referred to as "the Kysel ferrata trail").

Section 2 The Kysel ferrata trail is available to the public from 15<sup>th</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> October of each year should the Authority not forbid the stay in the area in writing for a special reason. Kysel Ferrata may be passed in the hours between sunrise and sunset.

Section 3 The visitors can pass the Kysel ferrata trail in one direction only, i.e. from its top to its bottom.

Section 4 The Kysel ferrata trail may only be used by those, whose physical abilities and knowledge enable them to pass the trail in accordance with the conditions stipulated by the Authority herein. Visitors under 18 years of age may only pass the Kysel ferrata trail accompanied by their legal representatives or those older than 18 years of age and authorised by their legal representatives. Those of less than 6 years of age are advised not to hike the ferrata trail.

Section 5 Each visitor of Kysel Ferrata shall:

- Become familiar with and observe the Rules of the Kysel ferrata trail, which are available on the notice boards at the point where the Kysel Gorge meets the Biely Potok, then at Kláštorskisko, Čingov and Podlesok and on the website of the Authority of Slovak Paradise National Park [www.npslovenskyraj.sk](http://www.npslovenskyraj.sk);
- Use the Kysel ferrata trail based on a valid single-pass permit (ticket) with a date stated on it and issued for the Kysel ferrata trail visitor by the Authority and show the permit together with their identification card or a different identification document when asked to do so by an employee of the Authority of Slovak Paradise National Park or by a nature guard;
- Use the ferrata-type nature trail only after having become familiar with at least the fundamental safety principles of such trail use and with the technique of gorge traversing and only when holding ferrata equipment, especially a shock-absorbing ferrata safety set, helmet, firm slip-resistant shoes and gloves (the equipment to be ensured by visitors at their own expense or to be rented out from the Authority or any other authorised entity);
- Follow the rules of public policy and shall not impinge others' protected rights by behaving annoyingly or disturb the environment around them by being inappropriately loud;

e) Treat the nature with respect mainly by keeping place tidy and clean, following hygiene requirements and not performing any activities that would result in environmental pollution, especially disposing of waste inappropriately;

f) Follow the instructions given by employees of the Authority of Slovak Paradise National Park and nature guards and inform them on any breach hereof that the visitor becomes aware of by calling 0903 298 220.

Section 6 Kysel ferrata trail visitors are forbidden:

- To hike the gorge under the influence of alcohol, narcotic and psychotropic substances or in health conditions having a negative impact on consciousness, balance, eyesight or other sensory receptors or otherwise preventing safe ferrata hiking or to consume such substances while passing the ferrata trail;
- To hike the Kysel Gorge in conflict herewith;
- To damage the natural environment of the gorge;
- To go off the nature trail;
- To camp, bivouac or set a fire;

Section 7 The ferrata trail visitors perform the above activities at their own liability and risk. The Authority shall not be held responsible for any potential threat and/or damage to the lives and/or health of the ferrata trail visitors. As regards the ferrata trail visitors younger than 18, their legal representatives shall be held responsible for their safety and actions regardless of whether present when such actions are taken. The Authority shall not be held responsible for any misappropriation or loss of objects in visitors' possession. The ferrata trail visitors are also given a possibility to buy an insurance for mountain rescue services together with their tickets as these are not included in the price of a valid single-pass permit (ticket) issued to the ferrata trail visitors by the Authority. The insurance premium is paid separately and voluntarily.

Section 8 The visitors can hike the ferrata trail on their own or, upon an arrangement with the Authority, with a guide providing professional interpretation.

Section 9 Tour guide services, professional interpretation included, shall be subject to fees as per the valid price list of SOP SR available on [www.npslovenskyraj.sk](http://www.npslovenskyraj.sk).

Section 10 It is not mandatory to be guided when passing the gorge.

Section 11 Employees of "Správa Národného parku Slovenský raj" or nature guards will be entitled to refuse to give a permit for passing the ferrata trail to those not meeting the conditions of hiking the ferrata trail as per the Rules. The visitors shall immediately respect the refusal and shall not pass the Kysel ferrata trail.

Section 12 The Rules shall be applicable and effective as of 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016. The Authority will be entitled to amend the Rules of the Trail. For the stipulation of conditions for hiking the Kysel ferrata trail the decisive rules are those stated on the notice boards (should there be any conflict amongst them, in the following hierarchy) placed at the point, where the gorge meets the Biely Potok, at Kláštorskisko, Čingov and Podlesok and available on the website of the Authority of Slovak Paradise National Park [www.npslovenskyraj.sk](http://www.npslovenskyraj.sk). Under the term "visitor" the person, who passes the gorge Kysel even without being given a valid single-pass permit (ticket) issued by the Authority shall be understood for the purposes hereof.



Picture of the burnt-out area in Kysel taken from the opposite slope

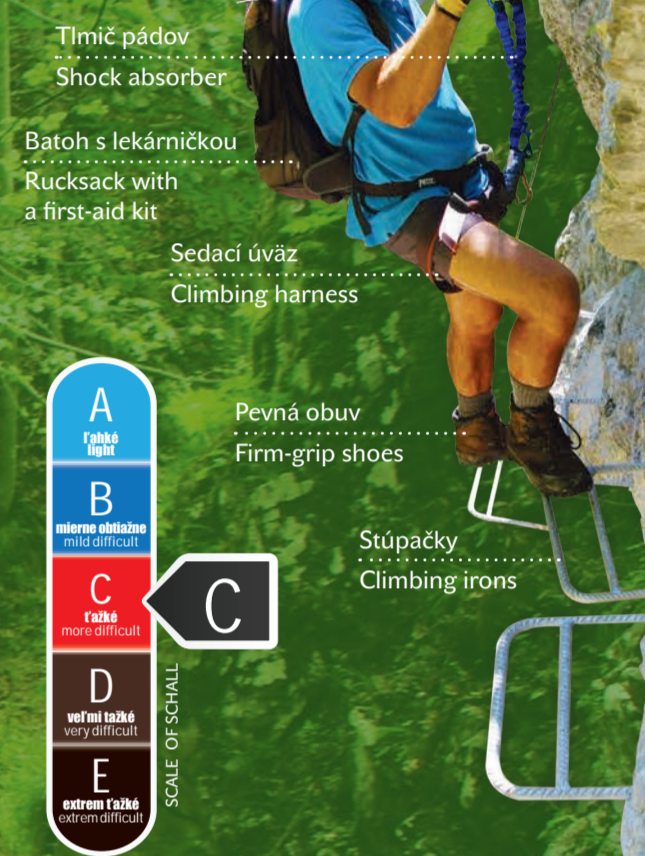
## Fire in the Kysel Gorge

The fire broke out the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> July 1976, probably due to an improperly extinguished open fire in the mouth of Kysel close to the Biely potok (White Brook). It subsequently spread over the northern slopes of the gorge engulfing an area of 30 hectares. As it was very sunny and extremely hot it was impossible to get the fire under control before a spell of heavy showers a week later. On the difficult to access slopes the fire destroyed almost the entire forest growth. Extensive erosion uncovered limestone crags and dead tree trunks. Loose boulders moved from the steep slopes down to the gorge. The time and power of nature have gradually healed the scars the fire had left and resulted in a young forest growth with a heart of the old dead or vegetative pine trees.



## FERRATA SET

- Oceľová konzola  
Steel bracket
- Istiace lano  
Safety line
- Rukavice  
Gloves
- Prilba  
Hard hat
- Tlmič pádov  
Shock absorber
- Batož s lekárníčkou  
Rucksack with a first-aid kit
- Sedací úväz  
Climbing harness
- Pevná obuv  
Firm-grip shoes
- Stúpačky  
Climbing irons



- A ľahká ľahká  
easy
  - B mierne obtiažne  
mildly difficult
  - C ťažšie  
more difficult
  - D veľmi ťažké  
very difficult
  - E extrémne ťažké  
extremely difficult
- SCALE OF SCHALL

