



2. DISCOVER THE BEAUTY SÚĽOV ROCKS

Lenght: 27 km

Pitch: +735 m

Moderate to strenuous hiking tour

ŽILINA – BITAROVÁ – PEKLINA – RÔSOVINY under Roháč hill – HRIČOVSKÉ PODHRADIE – OVČIARSKO – HRADISKO – ŽILINA

We set off from **Žilina**-Závodie by the bridge over the river Rajčanka, (335 AMSL), about 1,5 km from the centre (through Rondel – a big traffic roundabout). We go across Závodie and turn direction Hôrky. We breathe on while going up to the saddle of the national road over **Hôrky** (405) 2,2 km. At the beginning of **Bitarová**, just behind the sign „Začiatok obce“ (beginning of the village), we turn left from the main road and turn left again on the crossroads by the Municipal Office, closely in front of the chapel (380) 5,2 km.

Note:

We can also move from Žilina to Bitarová following less frequented roads (but the route is by 2,5 km longer), as follows:

*From the **Žilina centre** (342) across (or under) Rondel (a big traffic roundabout) to the district **Závodie** (335) 1,5 km – we turn left just behind the bridge over the river Rajčanka. Go on the narrower asphalt road alternately opposite the river flow and on the path to the footbridge by Kamenná Street, where the cyclists from the suburbs of Hliny and Solinky can join. Go on alongside the river Rajčanka following a green marked asphalt road to the inn in the centre of the village **Bánová** (340) 3,5 km – to the left side, following the main road and 0,4 km behind the bridge around the cemetery to the less frequented field asphalt road. We turn right on the crossroads (direction Hôrky) and in a moment turn left up to the main road before the village Bitarová 7,7 km – at the beginning of the village **Bitarová**, just behind the sign „Začiatok obce“ (beginning of the village), we turn left from the main road and we turn left again on the crossroads by the Municipal Office, closely in front of the chapel (380) 5,2 km. We continue according the following description.*

Here, we are pleased to say goodbye the traffic. Firstly, we go on the asphalt road around the shop, in a short time the more significant climb on the field road to the saddle above Peklina (465) 6,45 km. We test our brakes in the following steep downhill road to **Peklina**. On the crossroads in the village (405) 6,95 km we turn left and aim, first on the broken road, to the southwest, into Peklinská Valley. Later on, we go on the long climb on the sandy forest road, digging into the curves in the rocky slopes of Roháč hill. At the highest parts (665) 13,65 km, nice views to the village Paština Závada occur there. The following short downhill road make us come to the crossroads in the saddle of **Rôsoviný**, X red sign (630) 14,35 km.

Following the red signs on the right side we go down to the **TIM (Hiking Information Point) under the Hričov castle** (520) 16,35 km, a possibility to visit the castle. Next, first following a more difficult downhill road to the village **Hričovské Podhradie**, then crossroads by the inn (330) 17,85 km (on the left upper part a possibility to visit an approximately difficult CHPV (protected natural features) Hričovská needle - 0,75 km). From the village we follow the red signs, first a steep climb up to (400) 18,5 km, later on the narrow forest path to the **saddle above** the village **Ovčiarsko** (520) 21,2 km. Comfortable downhill road to the village **Ovčiarsko**, crossroads with the main road (425) 22,05 km. Following the red signs to the crossroads on the upper end (455) 22,5 km. On the right side an unmarked field path along the slant of Hradisko, across the top of the climbing (505 AMSL) to the little saddle under the **lime-tress and memorial** (500) 23,5 km. Go up to the forest (510 AMSL) and the downhill road to the crossroads with asphalt road elevating the cottage (485) 24,2 km. In a short time to the left side on the forest path, then on the asphalt road to the SAD stop of Slovak Lines **Žilina-nový cintorín** (new cemetery) (360) 26,9 km.

OPTION with a difficult downhill road to PAŠTINA ZÁVADA.

When set off the village **Peklina** to the saddle Rôsoviný, we come to the **crossroads** on the sandy forest road in its left turn after 5,13 km (measured from the centre of the village). From the sign „Zákaz vjazdu“ (No entry) it is 1,7 km.

We turn right to the downward, left turning road. After 240 m we turn right to the steeply downward path leading to a romantic canyon, bordered with rocky walls. Then across the canyon, still steeply, mostly following the stream. This part is 1,3 km long and negotiable only for experienced, technically well-equipped riders.

When coming out from the canyon, we go down the field road to Paština Závada (350 MASL) the following 1,7 km. In the village, to the left side, about 20 m on the national road and immediately to the right side into the street among the trees. Behind them, go on the field road and steeply upward above **Ovčiarsko** (480 MASL) at the end. We go down to the village and then we continue according to the basic route up the village and along the slope of Hradisko to Žilina.

