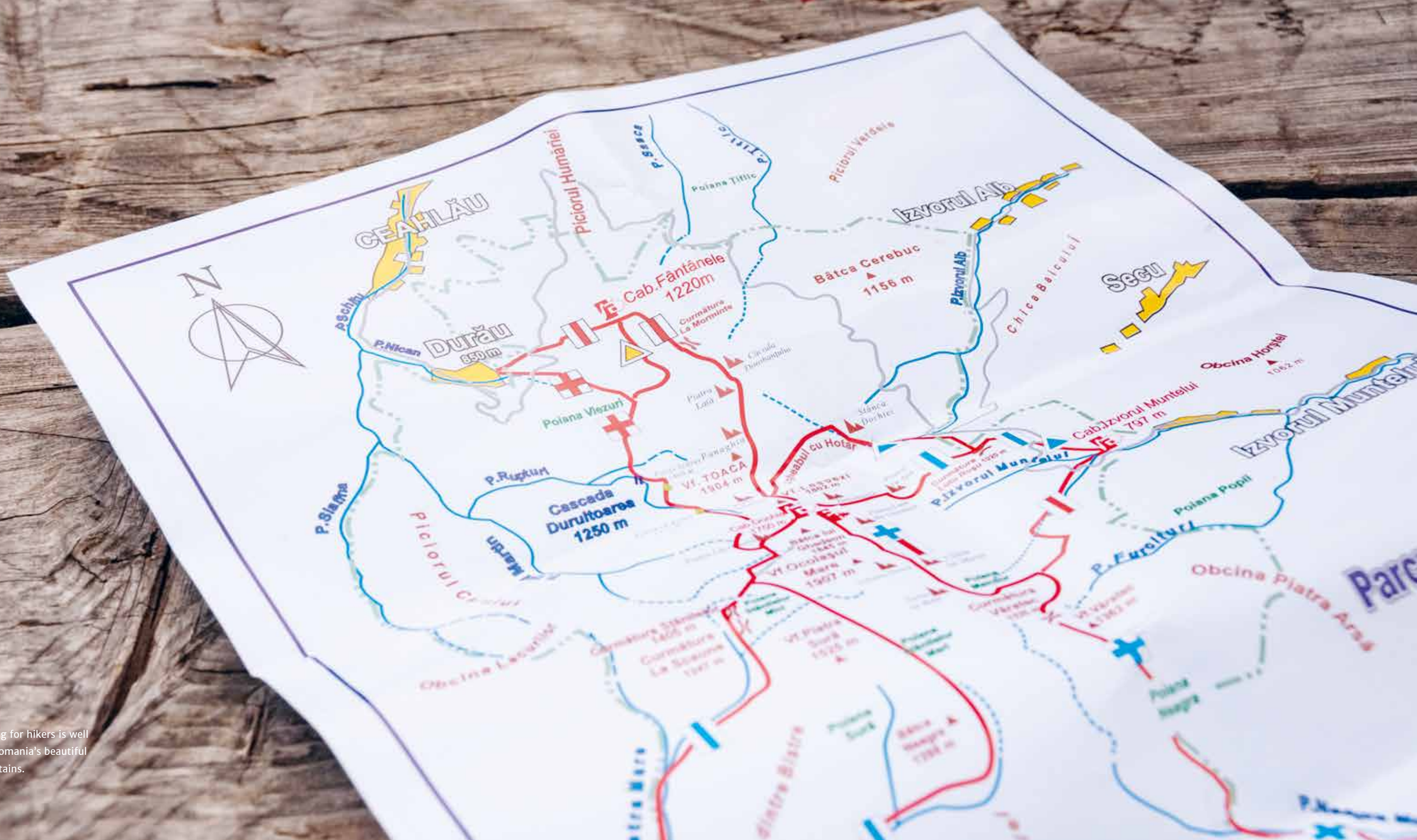


ON
THE
ROAD
IN
EUROPE



Transfăgărășan, Romania
45°36'19.5"N 24°37'03.0"E



The signposting for hikers is well organised in Romania's beautiful Ceahlău Mountains.



Molde, Norway
61°20'17.1"N 7°18'09.4"E

Sabine de Milliano

ON THE ROAD

Unforgettable Scenic Road Trips

IN EUROPE

Saarschleife, Orscholz, Germany
49°30'06.9"N 6°32'27.2"E

TERRA



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Introduction

Happiness is found in the little things – and in being on the road in Europe. A gorgeous viewpoint just around the corner, a friendly encounter with locals or fellow travellers, a delicious meal after a long hike in nature, or spotting wildlife right in front of you. I remember countless moments when I was pleasantly surprised while being on the road. Over the past 15 years, I have travelled more than 150,000 kilometres through over 50 countries, including all European nations. The greatest lesson that I have learned on all those adventures is that you do not have to travel far to see and experience beautiful things. Europe has it all and offers enough for a lifetime of travelling!

No other continent has such a large diversity in nature and culture in a small geographic area as Europe does. That makes it perfect for an adventure on the road. Starting your journey from your front door – or an airport if you are coming from another continent after reading this book – means that you will gradually progress to your farthest destination. Along the way, you will notice changes in climate, architecture, trees, language, food, culture, wildlife, and much more. Some changes are gradual, while others are abrupt. By driving through Europe instead of flying, you will experience the diversity of our planet's ecosystem and learn the geopolitical history of Europe in a way that no schoolbook can ever teach you. A road trip is simply an unforgettable, fulfilling, and thought-provoking adventure that I would recommend to anyone. Through this book, I hope to inspire others to hit the road and appreciate it as much as I do.

This book describes six road trips through 25 countries. All of them are suitable for travelling by car, camper, caravan, or motorcycle, and various types of accommodations are available along the routes to spend the night. Some countries are also excellent destinations for wild camping, for those who love to fully immerse themselves in nature.



‘A road trip is simply an unforgettable, fulfilling, and thought-provoking adventure that I would recommend to anyone’

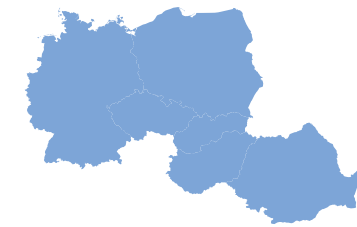
The six road trips vary in length and level of adventure, but none of them require specific skills or extensive preparation. They are accessible to anyone who is open to driving in unknown terrain and exploring what lies beyond the horizon. The road trips will take you past some of Europe's most stunning landscapes, picturesque towns, and vibrant cultures that will leave a lasting impression on you. Most of my personal favourites are included, although I should point out that it is impossible to cover all of Europe's diversity and splendour in one book of 256 pages. But if you ever come to the point where you have completed all the trips of this book, I am confident that you will have the experience and curiosity to discover the other geographic regions of this fantastic continent as well. Let these pages mark the beginning of many new road trip adventures for you.

Enjoy the journey!

Camping out in the wild in Lapland, Sweden's northern wilderness.

1

PEAKS
OF
THE
EAST



An adventurous journey through **the Carpathians**

Thousands of peaks, hundreds of villages and dozens of photogenic cities colour the journey through the Carpathian Mountains. Although this is a relatively unknown part of Europe for many, this geographic region is a true delight for road trip travellers. Offering a balanced mixture of adventure, fabulous scenery, culture, and hospitality, Eastern Europe will undoubtedly steal your heart.

Hike through ancient forests and admire the views from the summits of unspoiled mountain ranges. Stroll through inviting cities and towns while enjoying some of the best historical architecture where you least expect it. Taste the local flavours – the countries of the Carpathians offer an interesting cuisine influenced by many cultures – and try some of the best wines from our continent. Last but not least, be sure to drive the Transfăgărășan, one of the best and most impressive roads in the world!

When you go exploring the East, you should visit Romania in particular. This is one of my favourite destinations in Europe and a country full of pleasant surprises and friendly encounters. Weather permitting, life happens out on the street, and it is a joy to observe the street scene while driving through towns and villages. Outside of the residential areas, there is a range of natural landscapes waiting to be discovered. Whether you will go left or right at the next crossroad, you will not be disappointed.

GERMANY
CZECH REPUBLIC
POLAND
SLOVAKIA
HUNGARY
ROMANIA

My dog Alex in Tiské stěny,
Czech Republic
50°47'11.9"N 14°01'46.9"E

THE COMPLETE ROUTE

An adventurous journey through the Carpathians

Total length
2900 km

Countries
Germany | Czech Republic | Poland
Slovakia | Hungary | Romania

Time
3-4 weeks

Best season
May to early June and late August to October. Summers are hot, winters can be harsh. Beware that some mountain roads such as Transfăgărășan (DN7C) are open only for a few months each year. Bohemian Switzerland can be visited in winter as well.

- Destinations**
- 1 Dresden
 - 2 Bohemian Switzerland – 60 km
 - 3 Kraków – 510 km
 - 4 High Tatras – 190 km
 - 5 Banská Štiavnica – 160 km
 - 6 Tokaj – 240 km
 - 7 Maramureș – 310 km
 - 8 Ceahlău – 230 km
 - 9 Sighișoara – 190 km
 - 10 Bucegi Mountains – 170 km
 - 11 Transfăgărășan – 220 km
 - 12 Sibiu – 80 km
 - 13 Retezat – 170 km
 - 14 Apuseni – 220 km
 - 15 Cluj-Napoca – 150 km

Balance*

Nature ●●●●●
Culture ●●●●●
Culinary ●●●

* (max 5 dots)

SHORTER ROUTES

Colours and flavours of Eastern Europe

Total length
1050 km

Time
2 weeks

Destinations
5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 15

Balance

Nature ●●●
Culture ●●●●●
Culinary ●●●

Highlights of Transylvania

Total length
1100 km

Time
2-3 weeks

Destinations
7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 15

Balance

Nature ●●●●●
Culture ●●●●●
Culinary ●●●

From Summit to Summit

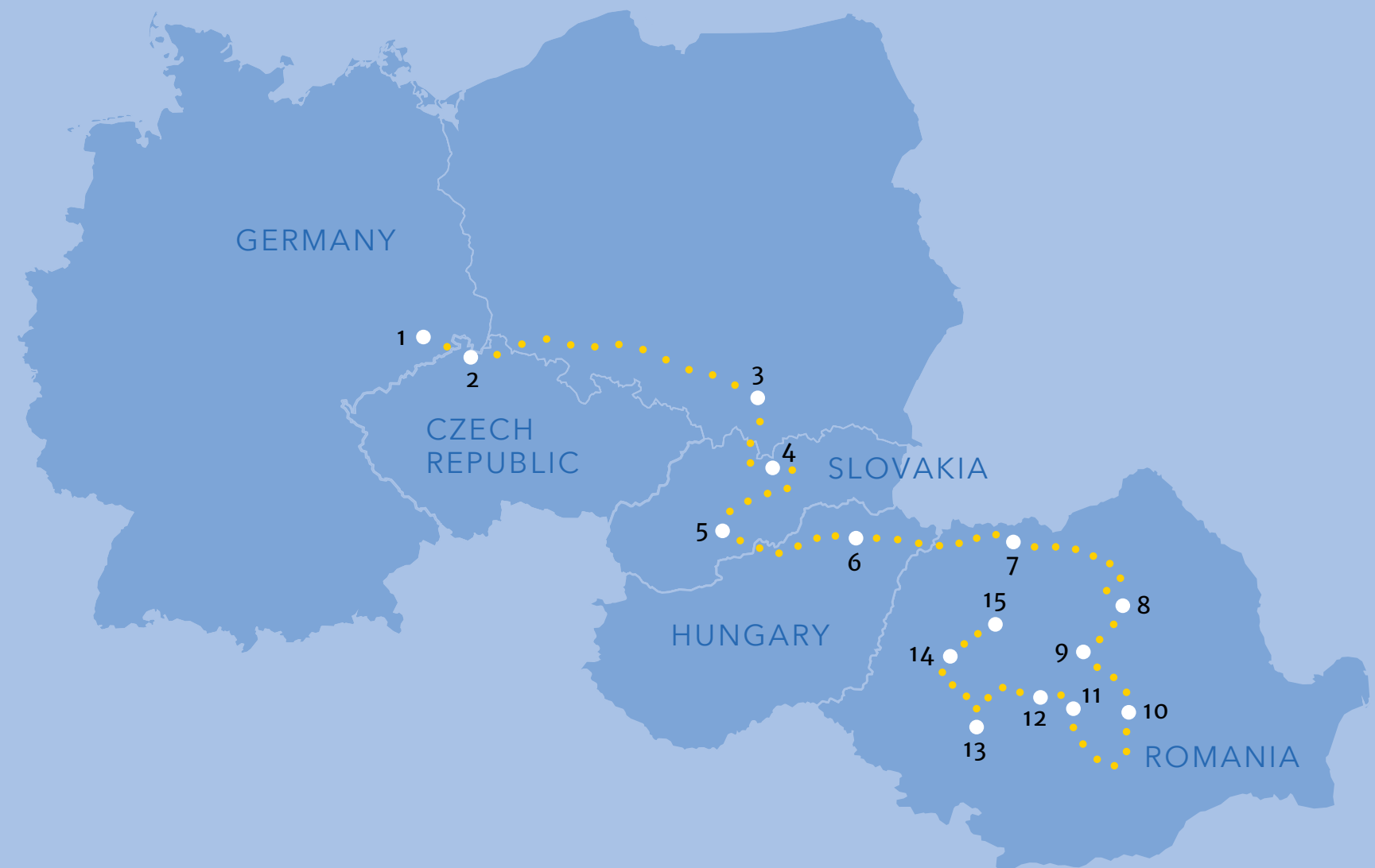
Total length
1600 km

Time
3 weeks

Destinations
4 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 13

Balance

Nature ●●●●●
Culture ●●●●
Culinary ●●●





GERMANY

1 Dresden

This road trip adventure starts in Dresden, the charming capital of the German state of Saxony. The detailed façades colouring the heart of the city make you feel like you are strolling through an historical old town. But do not judge a book by its cover – the city was almost entirely rebuilt in its original style after being largely destroyed during World War II. This does not change the historical atmosphere of the *Altstadt*, though, and you will appreciate how they have been able to rebuild this photogenic city.

Dresden, Germany
51°03'18.8"N 13°44'28.6"E



60 km

CZECH REPUBLIC

2 Bohemian Switzerland

The landscape of České Švýcarsko, as this nature park is officially known, is a unique mix of sandstone sculptures and dense forests. You can spend hours hiking here while enjoying the views from the many peaks, hills and rock formations that characterise the area. Regardless of the season or weather, spending a few days in this region is a great stop on your journey to the Carpathian Mountains. My favourite location in the park is the forest of Tiské stěny (Tisa Rocks). With its impressive natural sandstone statues, it is a perfect destination for what I enjoy most: hiking and photography.

EXPLORE

Bohemian Switzerland is also known for its colourful glass art. There are several studios and workshops within an hour's drive of Bohemian Switzerland, such as Novotný in Nový Bor and Ajeto in Lindava. At both locations, you can enjoy a cup of coffee while watching glass objects being made live right in front of you.

Sněžná, Krásná Lípa, Czech Republic
50°55'26.6"N 14°28'56.6"E



Sněžník, Czech Republic
50°48'22.8"N 14°06'15.9"E

510 km

POLAND

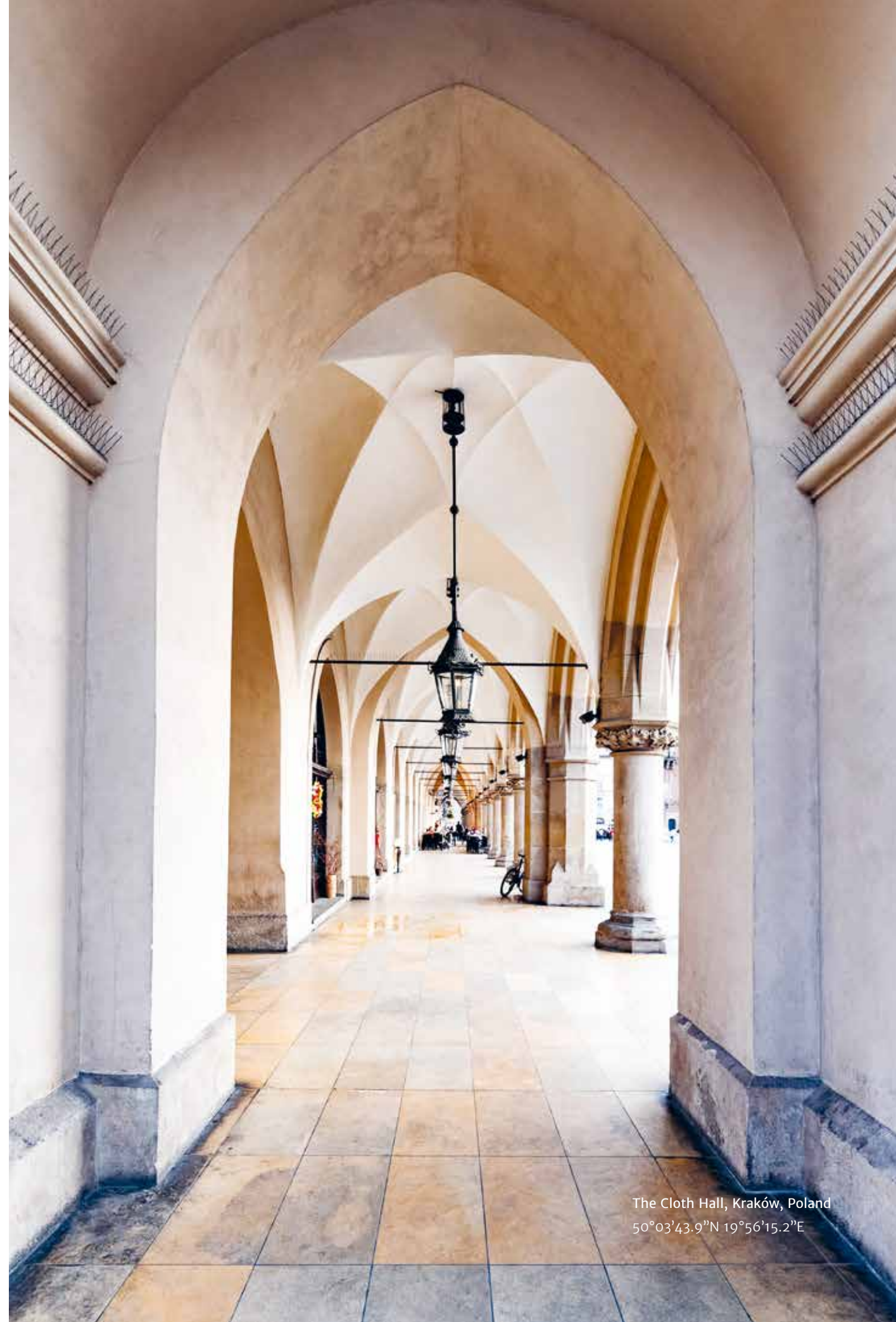
3 Kraków

Kraków has a rich history and is a bustling cultural city, of which Rynek Główny (the Main Market Square) is the beating heart. With a size of roughly 40,000 m², this is the largest medieval market square in Europe. Kraków's university also originates from the medieval era, and the many students in the city contribute to the positive vibe and trendy food scene.

EXPLORE

Make a stop at Szklarska Poręba on the edge of the Giant Mountains (*Krkonoše*), which is a popular base for hiking, mountain biking, and skiing. Visit the Kamieńczyk waterfall or take a walk to the top of Szrenica mountain if you have more time.

Rynek Główny, Kraków, Poland
50°03'44.4"N 19°56'13.6"E



The Cloth Hall, Kraków, Poland
50°03'43.9"N 19°56'15.2"E



190 km

SLOVAKIA

4 High Tatras

EXPLORE

Less than an hour's drive from Štrbské Pleso lie the imposing ruins of Spiš Castle, one of the largest castles in Europe and worth a visit just for its size.

Sharing the border of Poland and Slovakia, the High Tatras form the highest part of the Carpathian Mountains with about ten peaks exceeding 2600 metres. Outdoor and mountain sports enthusiasts can spend weeks here. If you have time and love mountain hiking, I recommend climbing Kriváň, praised by many as the most beautiful mountain in Slovakia. Or experience the mountain atmosphere at lower elevations and take a shorter hike from the village of Štrbské Pleso, located by the scenic lake of the same name.

The High Tatras in the distance – the highest summits of the Carpathian Mountains.



160 km

SLOVAKIA

5 Banská Štiavnica

The rough peaks of the Carpathians slowly give way to flower meadows and picturesque towns as you travel further south. One of them is the romantic Banská Štiavnica, which offers opportunities for photography both day and night. The historic city centre, with about 10,000 inhabitants, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993. Despite this status and its past as an attractive place for gold and silver mining, mass tourism has not yet taken hold in Banská Štiavnica. Let us just hope it will stay that way.

Banská Štiavnica, Slovakia
48°27'25.2"N 18°54'13.3"E