

# CONFERENCE TRIP

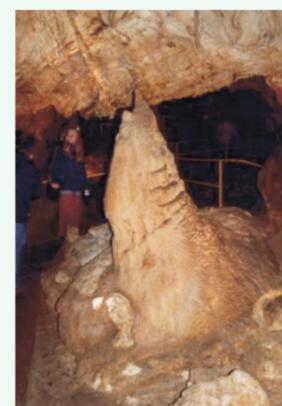
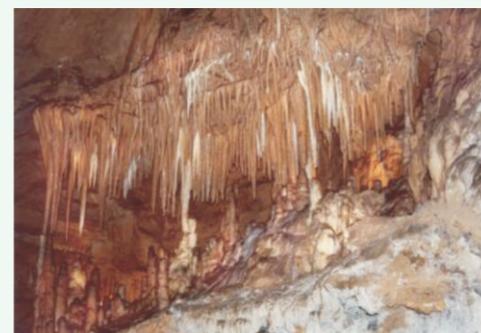
Please register for the trip at **MFCS OFFICE**  
**till Monday 10 a.m.**

## Belianska jaskyňa (Belianska Cave)

Belianska Cave (entrance at 885 m above the sea) is the only cave open to public in the High Tatras. It is situated under the eastern end of the Belianske Tatras, in the northern slope of Kobyľí vrch (Kobyľí Hill).

Myths that it was inhabited by prehistoric people are not documented. In the 18-th century it was visited mostly by treasury searchers who at the same time were the authors of its wall paintings. It became interesting for the scientists after the visit of Július Husz and John Britz on August 5, 1881.

It was open to public in 1882. It was one of the first caves with electric lights in the world (1896). The internal area was enlarged through excursions that followed. The final length of the cave is 1752 m, from which 1001 m are open to public.



## Kežmarok castle

The town Kežmarok has 17 500 inhabitants. It is situated in the northern Slovakia, in picturesque Spiš land under the High Tatras mountains, 626 m above the sea. It is a centre of the district and one of cultural and tourist centres in the Spiš region.

More than seven centuries long history of the town influenced its architecture, too. It contains the Roman, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. A very peculiar feature of the town is its cradle shaped centre with a Mayor House in the middle and a castle at the end. Kežmarok is one of important reservations of historical monuments in Slovakia. It is full of churches and old townsman houses (the most interesting are the following National Cultural Monuments: a wooden Evangelic church from 1717 and an Evangelic Lyceum from 1775. The Roman-Catholic Church of St. Cross from 1498 was awarded the title Basilica Minor by the pope. The tradition of folk crafts remained till today and has been presented each year in the second week in July since 1991.

Kežmarok castle is the only completely preserved castle in the Spiš region. It was built as a defensive castle. It is first mentioned in 1463 in connection with the Zápoľský family. Its history is linked with the Tökely family which had the originally Gothic fort rebuilt as a luxurious Renaissance residence. They also built the baroque chapel. Last owner was Ferdinand Rueber nad in 1702 it was bought by the town of Kezmarok. The castle burnt down several times in the 18th century and was repaired in the 18th and 20th century. General restoration work was carried out between 1962-1985.

The castle has housed a museum with historical collections and exhibitions on the city and its surroundings since 1931.

