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Tatra Mountains

LOCATION Poland to Slovakia **START/FINISH**
Kuźnice (loop) **DISTANCE** 17 km (10.5 miles)
TIME 8.5 hours **DIFFICULTY** Moderate
INFORMATION Best May to September, when dry

Skirting the mountainous border between Poland and Slovakia, this circular hike takes in the Tatras' most spectacular scenery, from craggy cliffs to pristine pine forest.

This day hike begins in Kuźnice, the southern edge of the chalet-dotted Polish city of Zakopane. Fringed by evergreen pines, the wide cobblestone track narrows as you pass a simple, timber-built monastery, the Hermitage of Brother Albert, while the views widen and unfurl. Hala Kondratowa, a historic mountain hut, makes the perfect place to pause, smell the carnations, and drink in the sweeping vista of golden brush, forest-veiled valleys and soaring rocky peaks.

From the hut, it's a steep ascent on slippery sheets of rock to reach Giewont's summit, but the panoramas improve with every step. Beyond lies the most scenic part of the hike, as the windswept path levels out into a rugged ridge walk. Ride the crest of the mountain all the way to the big-ticket peak of Kasprowy Wierch. Polish pinnacles dominate on the left, with Slovakian summits to the right; markers along the path indicate where the border lies.

Before descending through the alpine forest into Kuźnice, stop at the summit and soak up the panoramic views one last time – you've earned it.

*The High Tatras Poland Ed et
qui ad quam nihilite sint dolo
ius dolut laut magnatur,
venihillabo. Et alitatur aut
aditat lat offic to idel*

