

## Slovakia – March 2017

This isn't a real trip report, we only went for 3 days and weren't looking for wildlife, but since there's nothing about Slovakia on mammalwatching.com we can at least make a start!

The north-east part of Slovakia might actually conceal some large mammals; otters, lynx, bear, wolf, beaver, boar are all apparently present (though surely much scarcer and harder to see than in wilder parts of eastern Europe).

We saw lots of red deer right across the region, in fields visible from the roads. In one field east of the town of Stara Lubovna we spotted two badgers arguing in broad daylight at about 2pm; we got out of the car quickly enough to get a better sighting of one of them (bear in mind the photo was taken with a pocket camera!) before it trotted out of view.



If you haven't yet seen the European Souslik (aka European Ground Squirrel) and you are visiting Slovakia, then make sure you visit Spis Castle. Not only one of the most impressive medieval ruins in Europe, but there is a good sized colony of souslik in the large lower bailey - with a few minutes patience you can't fail to spot them, even if there are plenty of people about.



That's it. Three days, three mammals, one of them a lifer for us, and we most certainly weren't even trying!