



# A LOST SUPERVOLCANO IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

Imagine that there is a gigantic volcano in the middle of Europe. It has a diameter of several hundred kilometres and is almost 5 km high. Once it erupts, it destroys all humanity!

## Does this seem unlikely?

And yet, 15 million years ago there was a supervolcano just like that.

The Supervolcano Štiavnica was one of the most fearsome volcanoes ever found on Earth.

*"It kept erupting with a force greater than 100,000 Hiroshima bombs and was spewing lava, rocks and volcanic ashes up to a height of 40 km,"* says RNDr. Ladislav Šimon, PhD. from The State Geological Institute. He adds: *"The last eruption on Earth of such magnitude happened 72,000 years ago and we know from the evidence that almost all of humanity became extinct."*

## You can see it with your own eyes

You have two options. You either use a time machine to travel back millions of years or you can set out to discover its remnants right now, before millions of tourists flock there.

## Where can you find the lost Supervolcano Štiavnica?

To admire the remnants of one of the world's largest supervolcanoes, you don't need to travel by submarine to the bottom of the ocean, trudge across the inhospitable plains of Alaska, or freeze in Antarctica. The lost Supervolcano Štiavnica is surprisingly easily accessible right in the heart of Europe, in the middle of Slovakia.

According to CNN; this super volcano, once one of the greatest threats on the planet, had transformed into: *"An enchanting and breath-taking UNESCO destination, hidden deep in the forests, offering tourists a globally unique experience."*



*15 million years ago, a Supervolcano Štiavnica that you have never heard of erupted on our planet.*



*Discover the remains of gigantic Supervolcano Štiavnica - incredible, hidden destination in the middle of Europe, in the heart of Slovakia.*

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## The world's biggest water engine mechanism

Right in the middle of the Supervolcano Štiavnica you can find the biggest water engine mechanism ever made by mankind. It is as big as 100,000 football pitches and took almost 200 years to build. The world's greatest scientific minds at the time built in the mountains dozens of artificial lakes, connecting them with hundreds of kilometres of canals and thousands of kilometres of underground tunnels.

Since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was used to mine gold, silver and other precious metals that the supervolcano had spewed out over millions of years. Thanks to the gold and silver mined for centuries with the help of this water engine, the Austro-Hungarian monarchy gained extraordinary wealth and power.

*"The world's biggest water engine mechanism is such a unique masterpiece that it is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List",* adds Nadežda Babjaková, Mayor of Banská Štiavnica.

Recently, however, a new radical theory has emerged, which is gaining more and more fans. Many people are thrilled by the idea that this water engine is actually the world's first aqua park.

There are several facts to support this:

- The ingenious system of lakes interconnected by canals and underground tunnels is strikingly reminiscent of the principle on which the world's largest aqua parks operate nowadays.
- For aqua parks, it is essential to have a huge source of warm water. The world's biggest water engine was built in a volcano with an unlimited amount of geothermal supervolcanic water.
- The hypothesis that the world's biggest water engine might have been originally intended for fun is supported by the fact that the biggest celebrities of the entertainment industry of the time - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - were involved in its construction.
- It is also a mystery why the builders positioned the entrance to the biggest water engine mechanism used for gold mining right on the main square. This decision would only make sense if the entrance was indeed the main entrance to the aqua park.



*The world's biggest water engine mechanism is the ingenious system of dozens of lakes interconnected by hundreds of canals and thousands of underground tunnels.*



*A new radical theory claims that this water engine is actually the world's first aqua park with an unlimited amount of geothermal supervolcanic water.*

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Despite these facts, there are still people who doubt this idea of the world's first aqua park. Therefore, the biggest fans of this theory decided to test it in practice. At the foot of the supervolcano, they built a scale model of the biggest water engine. They used exactly the same geothermal super-volcanic water and found out that the world's biggest water engine mechanism works surprisingly well as an aqua park too. This is demonstrated by the thousands of visitors who come every year to the foot of the supervolcano to swim in the super-volcanic water.

The best way to find out whether the world's biggest water engine was used for gold mining or was, in fact, the world's first aqua park is to visit it and explore.



## Silicon Valley of the 18<sup>th</sup> century

Few people know that the first technical scientific congress on our planet took place at the Supervolcano Štiavnica. It began on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1786 and ran for a whole year! The world's largest technical minds met here under the leadership of Ignac von Born, who was considered to be the Einstein of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, to embark on one of the greatest discoveries of mankind. For the first time in history, scientists succeeded in extracting gold from rock here at the Supervolcano Štiavnica. This discovery enabled the completion of the biggest water engine mechanism and prompted a worldwide revolution in gold mining.



The world's largest technical minds like James Watt, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, met here under the leadership of Ignac von Born, who was considered to be the Einstein of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



Right here at the Supervolcano Štiavnica - the Silicon Valley of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, for the first time in history, scientists succeeded in extracting gold from rock.

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## The town that gave birth to the longest love poem in the world

Banská Štiavnica sits in the heart of the Supervolcano Štiavnica. Those who have visited it say that it is the most romantic town in the world, as it is exactly where the world's longest love poem was born from a true love story. The love story of Marína and Sládkovič in many ways resembles the story of Romeo and Juliet. Unlike that one, however, theirs is a true love story, which really happened in Banská Štiavnica 200 years ago.

## From the eruption of lava to the eruption of love

Katarína Javorská, PR Manager of Supervolcano Štiavnica:

*"It cannot be just a coincidence that the world's longest love poem (also registered as a world record at the World Record Academy) was born out of great love right in the heart of a supervolcano, in the picturesque town of Banská Štiavnica. I would like to invite people from around the globe to visit us and see the authentic places that gave birth to wonderful love verses. I think that everyone who believes in love should come to the heart of the Supervolcano Štiavnica at least once in their lifetime - to visit the house where Marína lived, walk around her familiar places and experience first-hand the eruption of passion and romance as did Marína and Sládkovič in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century."*



In this town in the heart of Supervolcano Štiavnica, world's longest love poem was born from true love story of Marína and Sládkovič. Banská Štiavnica is the town of UNESCO world heritage.



Manuscript of the love poem Marína from 1846 has survived to this day. The poem Marína has so far been published in more than 50 editions, in 8 world languages. It is world's longest love poem registered as an official world record at the World Record Academy.

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## 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the edition of the World's longest love poem

Sládkovič's love poem *Marína* is considered a Slovak national treasure. It was first published as a book in 1846, so in 2021 we are celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first edition of the World's longest love poem. Andrej Sládkovič (1820-1872) is the most famous Slovak romantic poet. In Slovakia, there are 22 schools, 122 streets and even one town and one planet – No.4781/1980 TP named after Sládkovič. Two years after edition of the poem *Marína* - World's longest love poem, during the anti - Habsburg revolution, Sládkovič was arrested, sentenced to death and almost executed. His most famous poem *Marína* has so far been published in 55 editions and in 8 world languages.

As Sládkovič wrote to *Marína* in 1846: *"There are two sorts of people. Those who haven't yet been to Štiavnica, and those who have already fallen in love with it forever. Just as I did with you, Marína."*

Anyone who visits this most romantic town in the world simply feels the need to come back again and again - to relive the Genius loci of the place at the heart of Supervolcano, where an eruption of lava turned into an eruption of love, immortalised in the world's longest love poem.

## The only Love Vault in the world

Another unique place you will discover in Banská Štiavnica is the LOVE BANK - experience house dedicated to the world's longest love poem. It is located in the house where *Marína* lived, within its basement, in a former gold mine. The main attraction of the LOVE BANK is the only Love Vault in the world. It is made up of 2,900 verses of the world's longest love poem. In the verses there are 100,000 Love Boxes. In these, people from different parts of the world keep symbols of their love and happiness. They believe that thanks to the magical power of the world's longest love poem, their love and happiness will last forever.



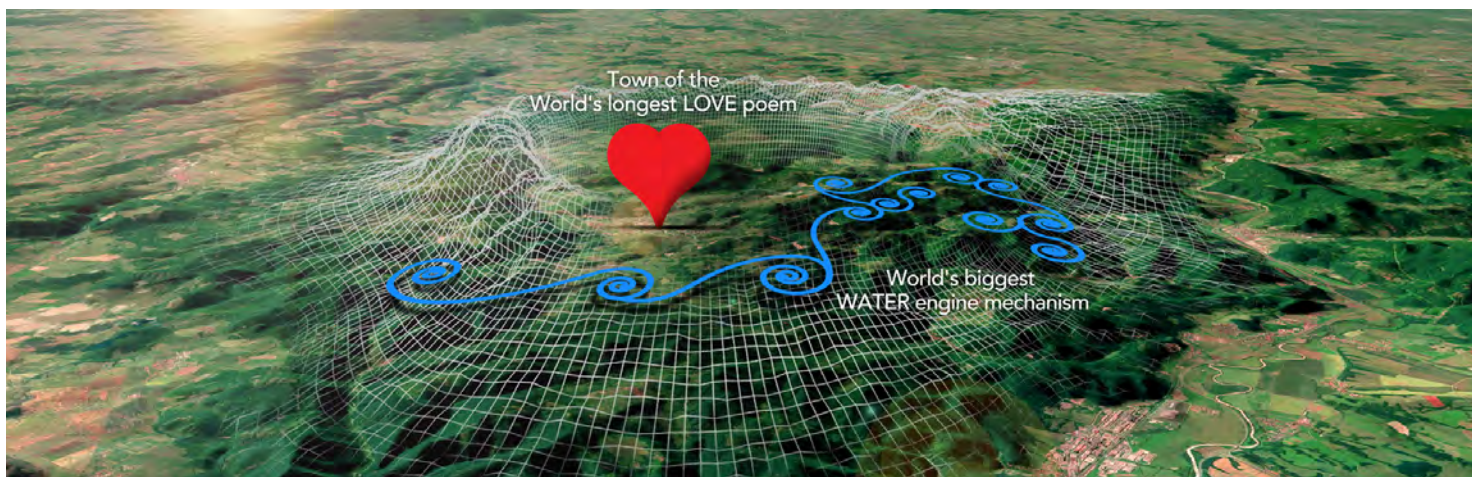
The only Love Vault in the world is located in the LOVE BANK, in the house where *Marína* lived, within its basement, in a former gold mine.



The only Love Vault is made up of 2,900 verses of the world's longest love poem. In the verses there are 100 000 Love Boxes. In these, people from different parts of the world keep symbols of their love and happiness.

## Be among the first in the world

If you're heading to the centre of Europe, don't miss out on discovering the remnants of Slovakia's lost Supervolcano Štiavnica. Get there before the crowds of tourists from all over the world, beat them to it! The lost Supervolcano Štiavnica is a magical destination full of unique world attractions. *"An enchanting and breath-taking UNESCO destination, hidden deep in the forests, offering tourists a globally unique experience."*



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