

Lika – Karlovac

The Festival of Fairy Tales

The logo for Croatia, featuring a red square above the word "CROATIA" in a stylized, colorful font. The letters are yellow, blue, and green, with a white outline. The background of the entire image is a scenic view of a waterfall cascading down a rocky cliffside, surrounded by lush greenery and autumn-colored trees. The water is clear and green, and the rocks are dark and jagged. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

CROATIA

Lika-Karlovac

From Europe



1. The Medieval town of Ozalj, www.ozalj.hr
2. Ozalj-Vivodim wine road, www.vinari-vocani-ozalj.hr
3. Munjara (Ozalj power station), www.ozalj-tz.hr
4. Ribnik, www.ribnicka-dolina.com
5. Netretić, www.netretic.hr
6. Dubovac, www.dubovac.info
7. Duga Resa, www.tz-dugaresa.hr
8. Karlovac, www.karlovac-touristinfo.hr
9. Bosiljevo, www.bosiljevo.hr
10. Barilović, www.opcina-barilovic.hr
11. Đulin Ponor, www.tz-grada-ogulina.hr
12. Novigrad, www.duga-kameleon.hr
13. Bijele and Samarske Cliffs, www.tz.kz.hr
14. Ogulin, www.tz-grada-ogulina.hr
15. Tounj, www.tounj.hr
16. Tounj cheese, volimsic.com
17. Clear rivers, www.tz.kz.hr
18. Lynx, www.rp-sjevemi-velebit.hr
19. Edelweiss (*Leontopodium alpinum*)
20. Wolf (*Canis lupus*), www.life-vuk.hr
21. Lily (*Lilium*), mojvijet.hr
22. Plaški, www.plaski-ilka.com
23. Slunj, www.tz-slunj.hr
24. Rastoke, www.tz-slunj.hr
25. Cetinograd, www.cetingrad.org
26. Sardines, www.tz-senj.hr
27. Nehaj, www.tz-senj.hr
28. Sokolac, www.brijnje.hr
29. Bear, www.brijnje.hr
30. Barać Caves, www.baraceve-spilje.hr
31. Senj Cathedral, www.tz-senj.hr
32. Trout, www.gacka.hr
33. Iris, mojvijet.hr
34. A traditional house from Lika, www.lickozenjska.com
35. The old town of Drežnik, www.tz.kz.hr
36. Zavižan, www.tz-senj.hr/plinarski-dom-zavizan
37. Japodian hat, www.dolina.com
38. Otocac, www.tz-otocac.hr
39. Mussels, www.tz-senj.hr
40. Luka's Cave, www.speleologija.hr/lukinjama
41. The Shrine of St. Mary, www.krasno.hr
42. Kosinj'ski Misa, tz-perasica.hr
43. Gacka, www.gacka.hr
44. Lika's sheep sort "Pramenka", www.hp.hr
45. Plitvice Lakes, np-plitvicekojezer.hr



CROATIA

LIKA

ĐULIN PONOR

BIJELE I SAMARSKJE STIJENE

Ogulin

Oštarije

Tounj

Generalski Stol

Bosiljevo

Duga Resa

Karlovac

DUBOVAC

Netretić

Ribnik

Ozalj

Draganić

NOVIGRAD

Vojnić

Krnjak

Barilović

LILIJUM

LEONTOPODIUM ALPINUM

Slunj

RASTOKE

Cetinograd

Plaški

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- 46. The forests of Plješivica, www.plsavez.hr
- 47. Lunj olives, www.lun.hr
- 48. Lum, www.lun.hr
- 49. Marine Reserve in Novajla, www.tz-novajla.hr
- 50. Veliki Kozjak, www.ppp-velebit.hr
- 51. The olm (Proteus), www.spaleologija.hr
- 52. Kosinj bridge, www.lickosenjska.com
- 53. Japodan earring, www.min-kulture.hr
- 54. Novajla Reliquary, www.tz-novajla.hr
- 55. Caska, www.tz-novajla.hr
- 56. Degenia Velebitica, hir.botanic.hr
- 57. Peak Kizza on Velebit, www.plsavez.hr
- 58. Cave Park Grabovača, www.ppp-grabovac.hr
- 59. Lički Osik, www.tz-gospic.hr
- 60. Antiquity excavation sites, www.amz.hr
- 61. Monastery of St Josip (Joseph), www.tz-karlobag.hr
- 62. Baške Oštarije, www.tz-gospic.hr
- 63. The birth house of Ante Starčević, www.tz-gospic.hr
- 64. Gospić, www.tz-gospic.hr
- 65. Bats (Chiroptera), www.speleologija.hr
- 66. Coniferous forests, www.hrsurne.hr
- 67. John Dory (Zeus faber), www.tz-novajla.hr
- 68. Lace from Pag, www.pag-tourism.hr
- 69. Simonovića Stapina – Velebit cliff, www.plsavez.hr
- 70. Mirila – stone monuments to the departed in Starigrad Paklenica, www.rivijera-paklenica.hr
- 71. Mountain peak Zir in Lika, www.lickosenjska.com
- 72. Horned viper, www.ppp-velebit.hr
- 73. Tul Cliffs, www.ppp-velebit.hr
- 74. Freshwater fish, www.lickosenjska.com
- 75. White-tailed eagle, www.ppp-velebit.hr

- 7. NEHAJ
- 8. SOKOLAC
- 9. Brinje
- 10. Senj
- 11. Sveti Juraj
- 12. Starigrad
- 13. Jablanac
- 14. Krasno
- 15. Kutevevo
- 16. Otočac
- 17. Vrhovine
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- 699. Otočac
- 700. Vrhovine
- 701. Krasno
- 702. Kutevevo
- 703. Otočac
- 704. Vrhovine
- 705. Plitvička jezera
- 706. Saborsko
- 707. Rakovica
- 708. Kamenjak
- 709. Kizica
- 710. Srijem
- 711. Baške Oštarije
- 712. Karlobag
- 713. Novajla
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- 730. Vrhovine
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- 734. Vrhovine
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- 760. Vrhovine
- 761. Krasno
- 762. Kutevevo
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- 765. Plitvička jezera
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- 790. Vrhovine
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- 792. Kutevevo
- 793. Otočac
- 794. Vrhovine
- 795. Plitvička jezera
- 796. Saborsko
- 797. Rakovica
- 798. Kamenjak
- 799. Kizica
- 800. Srijem
- 801. Baške Oštarije
- 802. Karlobag
- 803. Novajla
- 804. Stara Novajla
- 805. Caska
- 806. Prizna
- 807. LUKIŃA JAMA
- 808. VELIKI KOZJAK

Towards the Mediterranean

Just as you are in awe of the view of the distant sea, you will be surprised by the dolomites, deep valleys, chasms, dark gorges, silent woods...

Dragutin Hirc (1853-1921),
*naturalist, mountaineer
and travel writer*



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Li-Ka

Lika-Karlovac is the tenth and youngest Croatian tourist region, formed by the joining of two counties, Karlovac and Lika-Senj, which, thanks to their geostrategic and transit position, connect the north to the south of Croatia. The region borders on two neighbouring countries, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and it leans onto the three other Croatian tourist regions: Central Croatia, Kvarner and Dalmatia-Zadar.





A Passage to the Adriatic

The Champion Globetrotter

Summer on Lujzijana
Prilišće and Netretić, June
www.lujzijana.com/

Karlovac City Museum
www.gmk.hr

Historia Viva
revival of famous people from
the history of Karlovac
www.historia-viva.hr

The area is marked with routes which have prehistorically linked Central Europe to the Adriatic Coast and the Mediterranean Sea. This was probably one of the reasons which motivated the Karlovac researchers Mirko and Stjepan Seljan to travel the world. The brothers Seljan conducted significant geomorphologic, climatological and ethnographic research in Africa and South America after 1899. On the eve of these achievements Mirko became famous in speed walking: he won the title of the Champion Globetrotter in 1899 when he walked from St. Petersburg to Paris in one hundred days.

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Beauty of the Karlovac County rivers Kupa, Korana, Mrežnica and Dobra, densely forested hills of Velika and Mala Kapela, karst vegetation, transit location and rich historical heritage are the permanent values that underpin the local economy. Throughout the seasons, the four rivers offer different atmosphere which visitors can experience by walking on their banks, cycling, swimming in the summer, fishing or visiting the nearby caves, while those inclined towards adventure can try rafting and canoeing. Forests provide opportunities for photo safaris, but also the real hunting of various game. The area of Karlovac County has been the most important transit point between North Croatia and its coast since the

ancient times. Therefore, from its very establishment in 1579, the city of Karlovac became a strategic, economic and traffic center of military and civilian Croatia and an intersection of the main roads. Alongside the historic roads like 'Karolina' (Karlovac - Bakar, built from 1726 to 1733), 'Jozefina' (Karlovac - Senj, 1775-1779), 'Lujzijana' (Karlovac - Rijeka, 1805-1813) and 'Rudolfina' (Ogulin - Novi Vinodolski, 1874), the Karlovac County of our time got a modern motorway which connects the Danube countries with the Adriatic Sea.



The Frontier of Empires

Pannonian and Alpine Adornments

Historic memories are kept alive by a multitude of fortified positions. Old towns, castles, traces of refuges in caves ... today serve as evidence that this was the border of two great empires for centuries: Habsburg and Ottoman.

County Review of Indigenous Folklore
Ogulin, beginning of June
www.ogulin.hr

General Ivan Ferenberg
was the first commander of Karlovac

Millenium Ball
celebrating the town's birthday

The building of Karlovac fort,
started on 13 July 1579

Ferenberg's Well, water well in the
Borlin suburb named after the first
commander of the city

Four Rivers
International Etno & Jazz Festival
Karlovac, June, July
www.tzkz.hr

8



Long-term war conditions were not favorable to development, especially industrialization, so the area remained quite poorly inhabited until today. However, this enabled the preservation of natural resources and traditional way of life for today's generation. The features of the Alpine, Pannonian and karst natural environments all meet in the area of Karlovac County. This merger is confirmed by the rich ethnological heritage. Folk costumes of Pokuplje represent the transition between the Pannonian flourish and Alpine scarcity of ornaments, creating their own vision of elegance. The horn headdresses of Pokuplje and 'jalba' lace (created by traditional miniature lace technique) portray the meeting of medieval folk customs

with court culture, which was especially nurtured in the family of Duke of Frankopan. The rest of the county ethnographically belongs to the Dinaric Mountain range and it is possible that costumes here draw roots from lapodian prehistoric culture. The museums of Karlovac, Ogulin and Ozalj sometimes exhibit several hundred year old costumes which feature certain details that even women of today like to wear. The transitional characteristics of this region are also seen in the traditional architecture. Numerous older type houses on the hills or in the valleys were built from wood or stone or both materials, depending on the prevailing material in the area.



The Most Beautiful Mountain and the Cleanest Sea

Mountains and the Sea of Joy

Rarely is a man so connected with the mountains and the sea simultaneously, and they, so deeply embedded in him, as in the Lika-Senj County.

Rowing on River Lika
regatta on River Lika
Perušić, May
<http://tz-perusic.hr>

Gospić Summer of Music
Classical music concerts
Gospić, June-July
www.gospic-online.com

Lika Art Annals
painting exhibition
Museum of Lika, Gospić, October-
November-December
www.gospic-online.com

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The most beautiful Croatian mountain Velebit,
and the clearest part of the sea with the island of Pag



How could it not be so in an area with 150 kilometers of dynamic merging of the largest and most beautiful Croatian mountain, Velebit and the purest part of the sea, with Pag as one of the most indented Adriatic islands. Along with an enormous attractive power of Velebit and the sea, the eternal connection between the local people and nature is the result of the peculiar energy which circulates between the forest, mountain and coastal ecosystems in the vortex of karst, sun and stormy wind. The west, continental part of the county belongs to highland Croatia due to its natural features, and the whole area has the characteristics of the covered karst landscape in which a variety of green tones of forests and

meadows interchange, complemented by the blue surface waters, while the underground karst, particularly in the central part, abounds in speleological features.

River Gacka is regaining its identity



Dynamic interfusion of the mountain and the sea



The Untouched Nature
**Everlasting
Attraction**

Eco-Ethno Fair
honey, cheese, health herbs, *rakija*
(local brandy traditionally made
of plums), jam
Otočac, July
www.tz-otocac.hr

Premužičeva Staza (Premužić Trail)
easy access to the heart of Velebit
www.pp-velebit.hr

*Enchanted, we walk the trail below ridges, above the abysses,
through the meadows and valleys, over stone bridges, tiny foot-
bridges and lintels, among the sprouting spruces and unde-
cayed stumps and we do not have words to disturb the silence
around us.*

Dr. Ante Rukavina
(1928-1994),
*veterinarian, mountaineer
and the lover of Velebit*

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Dynamic landscape is the main characteristic
of this area



The Mythical district of Croatian mountains
is always fascinating

In the olden times only the bravest merchants and farmers found the courage to carve the paths through the high mountain crags. The first quality roads were built in the 18th century, with the strengthening of economic and cultural exchange between the two - previously almost entirely devided - worlds. Today, when the construction of a modern highway through the tunnel of Sv. Rok finally broke through the entrails of Velebit, we remember with awe the snow-covered mountain passes whipped by storms: Vratnik, Veliki Alan, Oštarijska Vrata, Mali Alan and Prezid. However, many of Velebit's secrets would never have been available to the ordinary visitor had it not been for nature lovers, hikers and sci-

entists who developed and marked a number of hiking paths and trails, of which the most famous one is a sixty kilometers long Premužiceva Staza (trail) built in 1930-1933, which allows anyone to reach the peaks of this mythical mountain and go over the heights decorated with beautiful karst formations, from the tiniest cracks to the highest cliffs, sinkholes, towers and stone pillars. This trail connects the man with the primeval wilderness, and by walking through it, the man becomes a friend to the mountain and the mountain becomes a friend to the man. It was named after the designer and forest engineer Ante Premužić (1889-1979), another lover of Velebit.

Premužiceva Staza (Premužić Trail) – passes over the peaks of Northern and Central Velebit



Mountains, sea, lakes and rivers – create Lika-Senj County

My Homeland

*Oh, look at it in splendor, you enchanted stars,
This is mine, my homeland!*

Silvije Strahimir Kranjčević
(1865-1908)
Croatian poet





Gem of the Karst

Water World

The Marathon of Plitvice
Plitvice Lakes, June
www.np-plitvicka-jezera.hr
www.tzplitvice.hr

Orchids - 55 species of orchids, three types of carnivorous plants

Listed species - are some 1400 plant species of which 72 are endemic

Forests consist of beech, fir, spruce, maple, ash, pine and other trees

A large number of mammals - bear, lynx, wolf, wild cat, fawn, deer, wild boar, badger, pine marten, beech marten, otter etc.

Some sixteen lakes and basins, up to thirty larger and smaller waterfalls, four streamlets, one river, a multitude of hills and hummocks with gentle valleys and terrifying precipices, ancient forests and luscious greenery, and on top of all, drinking water good enough for the gods - adorn this perpetuum mobile of the water world.

Adolf Veber Tkalčević
(1825-1889),
clergyman in the diocese of Zagreb, linguist, writer and politician



There are many wondrous waters in Croatia, still and flowing, slow and wild, large and small, surface and underground, but Plitvice Lakes are unique. Rarely is the impact of water so distinct as in this part of Dinaric karst, where, in the glorious process of creation and destruction, it forms the surface and the underground of the bedrock. The most brilliant example of such a creative symbiosis between rocks and water in a karst area is undoubtedly Plitvice Lakes, the oldest Croatian national park and nature monument from UNESCO's World Heritage List.



Scientific studies confirmed the presence of 321 species of butterflies, 2 species of higher crustaceans, seven species of fish, 12 species of amphibians, 13 species of reptiles, 157 species of birds, 20 species of bats ...



Europe's Ancient Forest

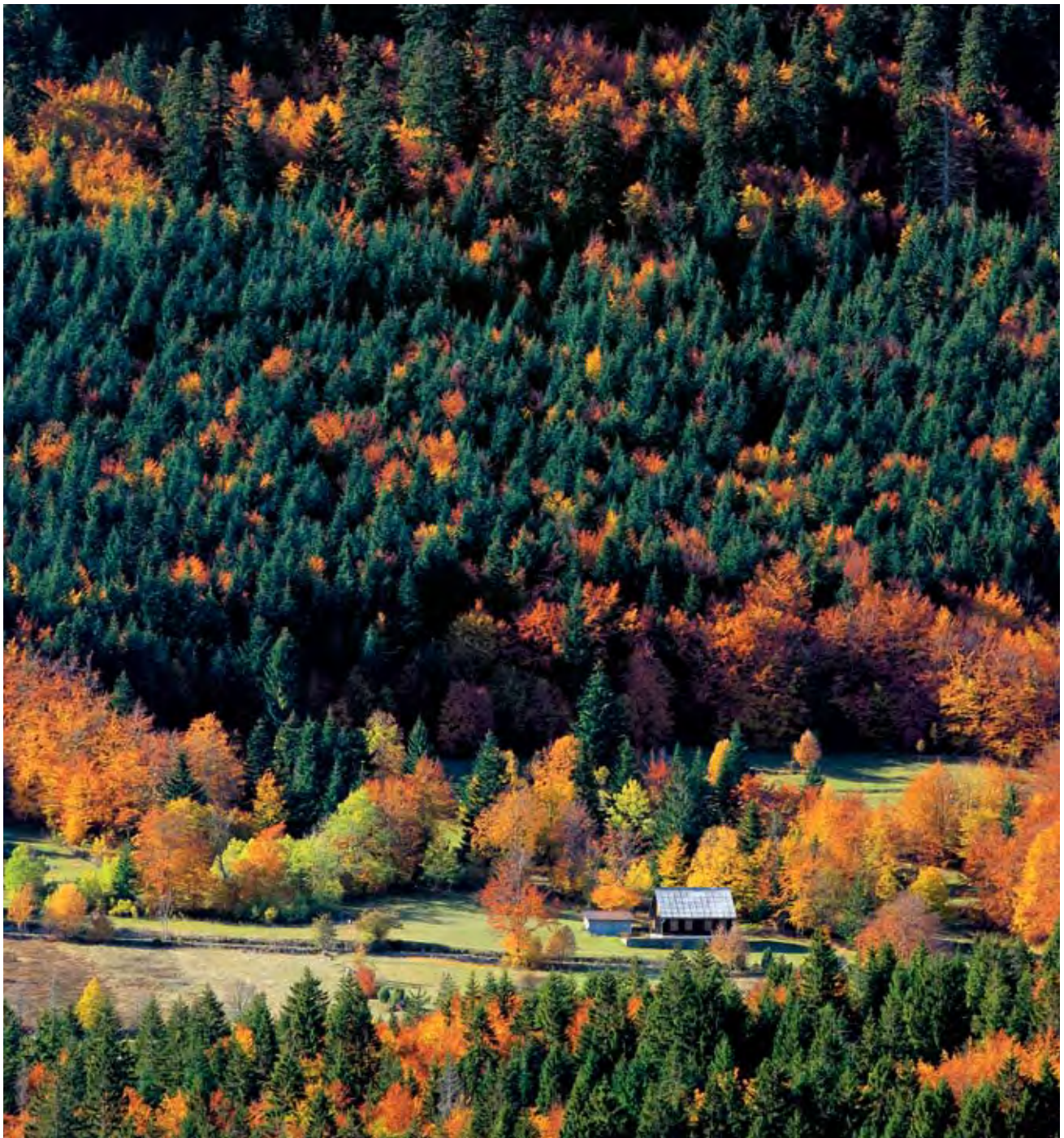
Black Forest

All the development stages of a European ancient forest can be seen here mosaically and on small areas: its greatest period, the aging period, the period of decay, the rejuvenation and the period of the young forest. Fir and spruce trees in excess of 50 meters in height can be found in these forests.

Klepina Duliba (Klepina Valley)
virgin forest of spruce and beech
Special reserve of forest vegetation
Stirovača

Čorkova Uvala (Čorkova Bay)
the most beautiful virgin forest of the
Dinarides: beech, fir and spruce
special reserve of forest vegetation

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There are two ancient forests in this region. One ancient forest is in Klepina Duliba (valley), and the other in Čorkova Uvala (bay). Klepina Duliba is known for its cold water from the source in Štirovac and is distinguished by the freshness of mountain air and rich flora and fauna. Ancient forest Čorkova Uvala in the National Park Plitvice Lakes is one of the most beautiful and best preserved virgin forests in the area of Dinarides which developed without a significant human impact. It spreads over 84 hectares and consists of a community of Dinaric beech and fir forests (E.5.2.1. As.Omphalodo-Fagetum Ht. 1950 – national classification). It features a unique karst landscape abundant in sinkholes,

cracks, steep slopes and stone blocks. A virgin or ancient forest is a school of natural perfection with a fully stable and persistent forest ecosystem. It was declared a special reserve of forest vegetation in 1965.



Potatoes from Lika, Cabbage from Ogulin

Family Community

In today's dominance of the city and its atomized, alienated lifestyle, a break in Lika-Senj and Karlovac County with the people who cherish traditional values, seems like a return to a peaceful, good, relaxing past.

Days of Cabbage
the festival of Ogulin sauerkraut
Ogulin, September
www.ogulin.hr

Autumn in Lika
traditions, customs and food
Gospić, October
www.tz-gospic.hr

Winter Fairytale
Ogulin, December
www.tz-grad-a-ogulina.hr

Lika's potatoes are about to become a brand; their quality is not rivaled in the whole of Croatia

Lička Rakija – šljivovica (homemade plum brandy) can be considered a homeopathic cure in small doses



This impression is completed by the traditional items, which do not only serve as museum exhibits, but are used by the people on the daily basis. While folk costumes and traditions have long been forgotten in most of the western world, here we still have the characteristic blankets, thick woolen socks, handmade woolen rugs (biljac) and purses, and it seems that they will have a bright future as indispensable details of the image of rural idyll, arguably the key feature of the future tourism in Karlovac and Lika. Just looking at the local foods - potatoes, cabbage, polenta, smoked meat, cheese, honey and homemade brandy (rakija) - it is clear how these products form a part of strong regional identity, which is, at the time of

faceless global confection industry, becoming an increasingly important point of attraction. The uniqueness of the local specialties lies primarily in organic purity and the method of preparation, which is passed down from generation to generation. Thanks to that, the potatoes from Lika and the cabbage from Ogulin have become a widely known brand of Lika.



City as a Museum

The Mirror of Culture

The layered historical development of this region was synthesized in the formation of Senj, a coastal museum city, with a prominent national cultural focus since the Middle Ages.

Festival of Northern Adriatic 'Klapas'
(traditional vocal 'a capella' bands)
Senj, July
www.senj.hr

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Senj is the oldest Northern Adriatic town

Located at the foot of Velebit Mountain, Senj is the largest city between Rijeka and Zadar, and perhaps the oldest coastal city between Istria and Dalmatia. As the mirror of culture of the Northern Adriatic, Senj gave many famous people to our homeland and the list of its writers is especially imposing. The greatest literary names of Croatia come from Senj: the most prominent poet of Croatian realism Silvije Strahimir Kranjčević (1865-1908), novelist and short story writer Vjenceslav Novak (1859-1905), writer and journalist Milutin Cihlar Nehajev (1880-1931) and writer, historian and linguist Pavao Ritter Vitezović (1652-1713).



Numerous writers used Senj as the location for the plots of their works

An Ideal Renaissance City A River Star

City of Karlovac celebrates its birthday
cultural, entertainment and sports
events
Karlovac, 13 July
www.karlovac.hr

Karlstadt Festival
Karlovac, June-July
www.karlovac-touristinfo.hr

Spring promenades
flower show, promenade concerts,
traditional produce, horse driven
coaches
Karlovac, April-May
www.karlovac-touristinfo.hr

An ideal Renaissance city in the form of a six-pointed star was erected in the sixteenth century in the region between the rivers Korana, Kupa, Mrežnica and Dobra. Both as a fortification and urbanistically, Karlovac is a pearl of the Italian architectural school which was employed by the war council in Graz. The space inside the city bastions and ramparts was broken down into 24 regular blocks. In the centre of the town were the barracks and armory, as well as Catholic and Orthodox churches.

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Karlovac was established as a fort in the 16th century

The Star – a plan of the fortress

The construction of a large fortress for the purpose of defense against the Ottoman conquerors began on 13 July 1579 on the estate of Duke Zrinski at the foot of the old town Dubovec. The construction was managed by the renowned architect Martin Gambon. The city was named Karlovac (Carlstadt) in honour of its founder, the Austrian Archduke Karl von Habsburg. Historical fate of Karlovac was identified by the duality of its location: country borders, as well as crossroads of waterways and roads were formed here simultaneously. As early as the first decades of the eighteenth century and especially after the Ottomans were suppressed further east away from river Korana, the city started

expanding outside the walls. The so-called 'grain highway' was also built: Pannonian grain delivered to Karlovac via the rivers Sava and Korana was transferred from grain-ships onto horse-drawn carts which then took the roads Karolina, Lujzijana and Jozefina to Trieste, Rijeka and Bakar as well as Senj harbors. Karlovac became the focus of civic life and culture, and thus opened up the beauty of the whole region to the world. In view of these major changes Baron Nicholas Vranyczany founded the Karlovac Brewery in 1854, which still produces 'Karlovačko' beer, popular and known even outside the Croatian borders.



World Biosphere Reserve

A Divine Place

Climbing Trails

several climbing tracks Gromovača, Crikvena and Šatorina come off the trail

Mountain Houses

Zavižan PD (mountaineering association), PK Alan (mountain house) and Rossijeva Koliba (cabin)

'What is this wonderful place between the picturesque boulders ... in the midst of so many rock formations, all kinds of obelisks, towers, tiny towers, peculiar karstic shapes and round smooth rocks whipped by winds and jagged by lightning!'

Dr. Ante Rukavina
(1928-1994),

*veterinarian, mountaineer
and the lover of Velebit*

The Climb to Zavižan
cycling race
Senj - Zavižan, June
www.tz-senj.hr

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Lika – Karlovac, a unique quality of water and a characteristic freshness of the mountain air



Ice adornments of a multitude of waterfalls in Lika – Karlovac cluster

A View from Zavižan towards the Kvarner Islands

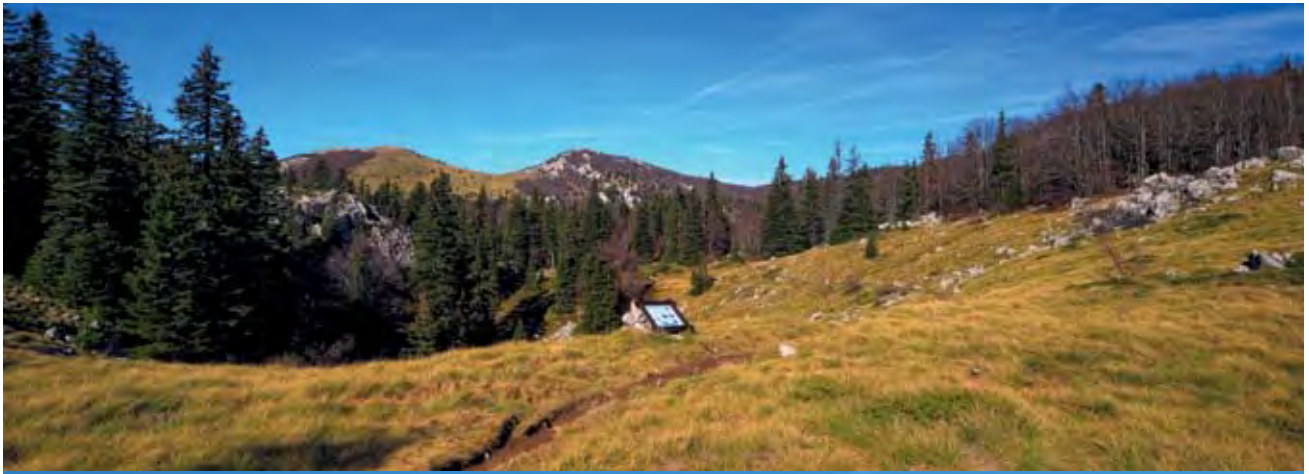


The nature here merged individual beauties and attractions into a single mosaic, the most beautiful mountain ecosystem in Croatia and surely one of the most beautiful in the world - Velebit Mountain. Situated on the border of the sea and the continent, we can observe the characteristic flora and fauna of the Dinaric range to which this mountain belongs but also the features of the Mediterranean, the Alpine and the Pannonian – Peripannonian environments. It is therefore not surprising that, because of its geomorphological uniqueness and biodiversity, UNESCO added it on the list, declaring the whole of Velebit a World Biosphere Reserve. Indeed, everywhere you look you will see the proud peaks,

white limestone rocky towers, sinkholes, virgin forests and mountain valleys, you will find deep holes and caves and the plants you have never seen ...



The evergreen complex of the Štirovačka virgin forest



An abundance of flora and fauna adorn Štirovača



Born in Lika

The Lord of Lightning

As a child, Nikola Tesla observed the lightning beating the rugged rocks of Velebit and deep down inside he nurtured the idea that natural energy can be harnessed for the benefit of man. This idea enabled him to produce and discharge several million volts accompanied with deafening thunder which could be heard up to twenty kilometers away from his laboratory in Colorado Springs and which earned him the nickname the lord of lightning.

Memorial Centre Nikola Tesla
science, art, tourism
Smiljan
www.mcnikolatesla.hr

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Memorial Centre Nikola Tesla



Lika, the homeland of Nikola Tesla



There are still regions in Europe where man is bound to feel small compared to the irrepressible force of nature. There are still areas where snow, ice, wind, mountains and wilderness decide the fate of man, who must therefore learn to respect them in order to survive. The contrast between the mountains, karst fields, vast forests and bare limestone slopes and the blue sea scribbled by the northern wind and the whiteness of indented rocky shore of the island of Pag, paints the picture of the Lika-Senj County. This unique environment and a close correlation between the local people with nature might have been crucial for the emergence of Nikola Tesla – world class genius, scientist and inventor of more than 700

patents, mostly in the field of electromagnetism, who was born in 1856 in a small village of Smiljan at the foot of Velebit, the most beautiful Croatian mountain.



Tesla's experimental station in Colorado Springs (small scale) 1899-1900



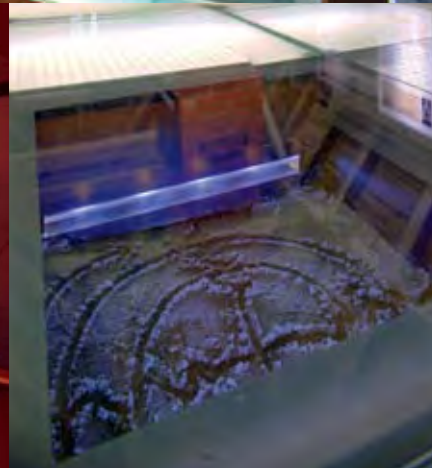
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Nikola Tesla, the synonym for major electronic inventions

Documentary material, mainly unpublished until now



Multimedia Centre features Tesla's life and inventions



The legacy of the boy from Lika, scientific visionary

Lun The Wild Olive

A special olive oil, derived from the small fruits of unique, wild olive trees is found on the island of Pag, in the village of Lun, situated at the tip of a narrow, needle-like, northwest end of the island. Around one thousand five hundred indigenous wild olive trees, on nearly twenty five hectares of centuries old olive groves, are a green adornment of this rocky island.

Lun Olive Festival
a festival dedicated to the olive
and olive oil
May
www.tz-novalja.hr

Olive grove trail
a walk where one can enjoy olive roots
from biblical times
www.tz-novalja.hr

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The location of the wild olive trees has been protected as a reserve since 1963



Architecture of nature's shapes: interconnection of wood and stone

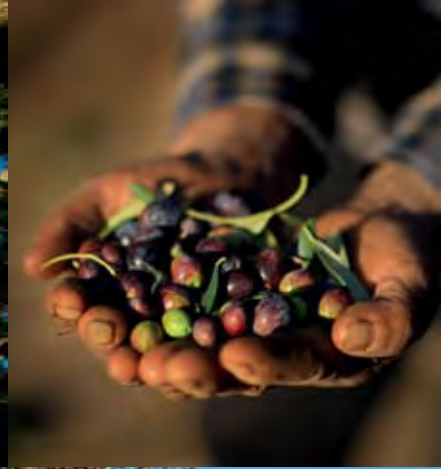
Around 1500 trees are unique by their size and fascinating shapes

The wood of this olive tree was used in the production of furniture and wooden artifacts

Thousands of trees planted on an area of some twenty hectares

Wild Olive - *Olea Oleaster* - grows as much as eight meters in height. The area of 'lunski' or, as the locals say, 'lunjski' (letter 'nj' is pronounced like a Spanish ñ) olive groves has been protected for more than forty years as a botanical reserve, unique in the Adriatic, due to its botanical and aesthetic values. Lun is a great rarity, even by world measures. Such wild olive plantations cannot be found anywhere else except in Greece and Israel, with Lun trees being the most concentrated and the oldest. Undoubtedly, the values of this environment are the largely preserved authenticity of architecture and landscape, the traditional way of life and especially the offer of healthy, local food. The beauty of this area can be enjoyed

from May to September, but also during the rest of the year, even when nature shows its strength through wild storms or heavy southerly winds. The olives of Lun do not usually yield large amounts of fruit, but the oil is of exceptional quality. The oldest trees were planted up to 1500 years ago which confirms the tradition of olive growing in Pag. And where there is tradition, there is, no doubt, the quality.



Sea Foam

The Wind of Adventure

Anyone coming to this region and deciding to spend several days here can expect to be swept by a wind of adventure. Dynamic landscape and the variety of challenges can be compared to the power of 'bura', a strong northwestern wind which cleans the atmosphere like none other.

Mountain car racing
Karlobag, May
www.tz-karlobag.hr

Sambastico
Samba festival
Senj, July
www.tz-senj.hr

Moto-meetings
Senj, June
www.tz-senj.hr

Senj Summer Festival
Senj, July
www.tz-senj.hr

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The winter images of the foaming sea are fascinating. Senj waterfront is then bound by ice and its frozen light house reminds of the proud Senj 'uskoks' (Croatian soldiers fighting in the Ottoman wars), warriors who, during their winter night-watch had to tie themselves with chains to the indestructible walls of the undefeated Nehaj Tower so they would not be blown away by bura. The summer tale is completely different. Bura will occasionally chase the waves towards the open sea, bringing a breath of fresh air to the villages at the foot of Velebit, urging the tourists and lovers of this landscape to rouse from daydreaming and dedicate themselves to active vacation. There is a multitude of opportunities for being active on

the coast at the foot of Velebit, from mountaineering, cycling and sight-seeing along the coast or on the woody north side, to visiting one of the nearby islands.



Fairytale characters – in every street



Writing on the Stone

The road from Kosinja towards Štirovača passes along the source of river Begovača. One thousand six hundred meters further down the road and thirty steps to the left, stands a five meter high and seven meter wide rock engraved with a Latin inscription which states that this was the border between the ancient Illyrian tribes of Ortoplines and Parentines. Liburnian Ortoplines were mentioned by the ancient writers Plinie and Ptolemy, and it seems their territory extended from this boundary stone on the west, to the sea. Parentines, which we



know of only from this inscription, probably lived east of the source of Begovača, on the lower banks of River Lika, and their main village may have been Kosinj Gornji.



lapodes (Japodi)

Life on the Water

Advent in Otočac

Christmas magic in the valley of Gacka
Otočac, December
www.otocac.hr

Atelier Janja Gora

the point of search for the lost lapodian treasure
www.janjagora.com

Clay warrior horse riders

Kolapijani, collection of idols
City Museum Karlovac
www.gmk.hr

Days of River Gacka

Otočac, June-July
www.tz-otocac.hr

The language of lapodes, people who lived here about three thousand years ago, has remained largely unknown; its only trace lies in tombstone names (taphonemes), and Roman lists of lapodian villages and recorded lapodian names of nearby rivers. From these meager records it seems that the original lapodian language was a transitional form between the language of Pannonians and authentic, southern Illyrians.



Japodi (Iapodes Latin, Iapydoi Greek) were Illyrian tribes who inhabited the area between the rivers Kupa (Lat. Colapis) and Una (Oeneus), Velebit (Mons Baebius) and the city of Vinodol (Valdevinum). In their already advanced society, most respected were miners, blacksmiths, farmers, shepherds and warriors. We know that they bred sheep and cattle, and grew crops and pulses. Their necklaces made of metal and amber, and their spiral and triangular pendants are attractive even today. As Iapodian landscape was abundant with mountain forests, rural houses were mostly wooden, so not many traces remained. Stone buildings were erected only in the cities, which were mostly located on the mountain tops and had up

to 3000 inhabitants. The capital and largest Iapodian cities were the metropolis Metulum near Josipdol, Monetium (fort Humac) at Brinje, Avendo (Latica) near Kompolje, Arupium (Vital) near Lički Prozor and others, and so far about eighty of their forts have been discovered between rivers Kupa and Una. Kolapijani were a less known tribe which inhabited Pokuplje (the area around River Kupa) in the Iron Age and from whom the Croats inherited a unique small army of unusual clay idols on horseback.

Amber and glass jewelry, the culture of crafting with copper



Green meadows and opal coloured rivers



The Nest of Glagolitsa

The People's Alphabet

Senj City Museum
situated in a Gothic-Renaissance
Palace from the 14th -15th century
www.tz-senj.hr

Senj Evening Concerts
a feast of classical music
Senj, July-August
www.tz-senj.hr

Senj Tablet
collection of Glagolitic Alphabet and
Glagolitic printing
www.tz-senj.hr

Glagolitic Alphabet (Glagoljica, Glagolitsa) – which probably developed in as early as the 9th century for the purpose of baptizing the Slavs – has from the 12th century remained only on Croatian territory and it particularly developed in the area of Senj. Indeed, a Glagolitic printing house was situated in Senj. It was one of the first printing houses in the whole Southeastern Europe, founded around 1494.



Romanic Cathedral of Mary's Ascension built in 1169



Kosinjska printing-house printed the first book in Croatian in 1483

Senj is well known due to Glagolitsa, an alphabet from the 9th century

The Bishop of Senj was the only one in the Catholic world allowed to use the Glagolitic Alphabet and the Slavic language in liturgy upon the approval of Pope Innocent IV in 1248. This gave a new impetus to the development of the Glagolitic script in the 14th and 15th century. Glagolitics from Senj crowned their persistent struggle for the preservation of Glagolitic alphabet, when they established a Glagolitic printing house, one of the most important Croatian cultural institutions of the 15th century. Glagolitic Alphabet could only survive as a living script by matching the achievements of Latin so, less than thirty years after Gutenberg's Bible was printed, Croatian Glagolitics published their first printed

book in Glagolitsa. Following that they founded the famous Senj printing house in 1494. Glagolitic epitaph discovered in 1964 during the reconstruction of Nehaj Tower, in what was probably a part of the original church found in the foundations of the fort, is the proof of how ingrained Glagolitsa was in Senj. The epitaph, also called the 'Senj Tablet' is roughly as old as the 'Baška Tablet' – one of the first monuments containing the name Croatia.

Glagolitsa was the people's alphabet in Senj



Glagolitic alphabet was carefully preserved by the clergy in Senj and the surrounding area



A Witness to Literacy

Frankopanian City

Forts, castles and ruins of old fortifications are proof of both literacy and culture of this region. This is especially true of the time when the noble family Frankopan was at the peak of its power and glory. The town of Modruš was an important centre of Croatian literacy and Glagolitsa. Later on, in the 17th century, Croatian culture was marked by the 'Ozalj Circle'.

Frankopanian Summer Evenings
an entertainment event
Ogulin, June
www.radio-ogulin.hr

'Ciklobajka'
cycling tour on the trail of fairy tales
Ogulin, June
www.tz-grad-a-ogulina.hr
www.babaroge.hr

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The ruins of the once important old city of Novigrad

Stone bridge on 'Karolinska' road over River Dobra, 18th century



Duke Bernardin Frankopan (1453-1529), the master of Modruš and the builder of Ogulin, is one of the noblemen who organized the defense of Croatia during the fiercest Turkish attacks. In his famous 'Speech for Croatia' (Oratio pro Croatia) in 1522 he asked Pope Adrian VI for the help of the European powers, and later that year he requested the same from the German parliament in Nürnberg. The members of 'Ozaljski Krug' (Ozalj circle) were a friar and lexicographer Ivan Belostenec, a poet, Countess Ana Katarina Zrinska born Frankopan (Bosiljevo, about 1625), her husband Count Petar Zrinski, Croatian Ban and army leader and Ana's half brother Fran Krsto Frankopan (Bosiljevo, 1643), nobleman, warrior

and poet. The two latter ones were both Croatian heroes, executed as conspirators in 1671 in Vienna's Novo Mjesto (Wiener Neustadt). Robust ruins of the old cities like Modruš, Slunj or Cetingrad welcome a traveler on these historical roads. Novigrad on Dobra is another Frankopanian city situated only about ten kilometers from the town of Dubovec on the old 'Karolinska' road and currently undergoing reconstruction. In its neighborhood is a well preserved stone bridge, the contemporary of the historical road. This was where the noble family Patačić held a banquet for Emperor Joseph II who was visiting the borders of his empire in 1783.

The Old Church village with the parish church, old school and county hall



Woody and green hills above River Dobra



Continued Presence of Settlers

The Ancient City

The Medieval City of Ozalj was turned into a castle in the 18th century
www.ozalj.hr

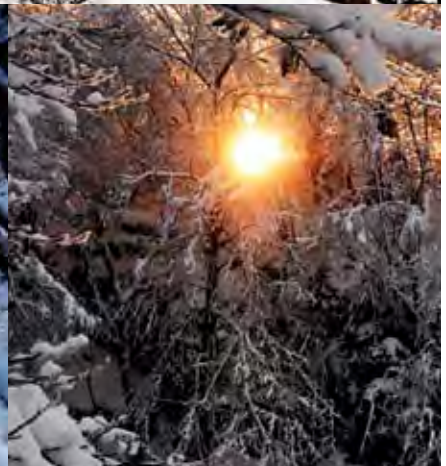
The Homeland Museum located in the castle
www.ozalj.hr

The ancient city of Ozalj, which has in recent times been included among one hundred most important archeological sites of Croatia, is one of the most impressive proofs of continued habitation.

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Sokolac, the old town close to Brinje



Among its layered construction one should single out the entrance tower built under Juraj Zrinski which can be reached by an ancient bridge that served as a drawbridge until 1821. Nikola Šubić Zrinski (1508-1566), who fell while heroically defending Siget (near the present Croatian/Hungarian border) in Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent's descent on Vienna, is the builder of 'Palas' (palace) situated on the very cliff above Ozalj. In it, the Gothic and the Renaissance styles intertwine and its interior graffiti hold testament to the persistence of Glagolitic script. Beautifully restored Romanic defense tower, also called 'Babonić –Kula' leans onto a north wing of the palace which has been restored in the baroque style.

The first written records of the name Drežnik date from the 12th century, while the countries of the old Croatian parish of Drežnik and the County of Drežnik as a feudal estate are mentioned in many documents dating from the 13th to 15th century. The old town core of Drežnik was built towards the end of the 15th century as a strategic requirement. It fell under the Osman government during the 16th and 17th centuries, and it was liberated in 1788 in the last major war against the Turks. It then became a part of Vojna Krajina (Military Frontier).

The first written documents, containing the name Drežnik date from the 17th century



The Medieval town of Ozalj was turned into a castle in the 18th century



Drežnik Town 'Kaštel' (Castle)

Educational trail 'Old Town'
visitors will encounter the world of flora and fauna as well as the geological structure of the canyon on a 2000 meter long trail through the canyon of River Korana
www.rakovica.hr

Equestrian marathon
The equestrian trails of Rakovac and Plitvice area and the surrounding areas
Rakovica, June
www.rakovica.hr
www.jelovklanac.com

The Medieval town of Drežnik situated on a sheer cliff above the steep canyon of River Korana is mentioned in the old documents as early as 1185. It was under the ownership of many masters, like the families Nelipić, Gisingovac and Babonić. From 1321 its owners were the family of Duke Krčki who later became the Frankopans and who additionally strengthened the town. Nevertheless, it fell under the Turkish jurisdiction in 1592. In the last Turkish war in 1788 and after a two day siege and strong cannon fire from the Austrian imperial military forces, Drežnik was liberated and became a part of Vojna Krajina (Military Border).



Located on the northern banks of Korana, the town was a link in a chain of fortification buildings which served as ramparts in the defense against the Turks – the so called 'kordon' – after which this area was indeed named - Kordun. The old city is an irregular rectangular shape with stone walls and two rectangular and one cylinder shaped towers, the latter located on the north side. After the disappearance of danger from the Turks the fort lost its importance and started disintegrating. The visitors will however, be able to observe the landscape in the same way its military forces did once upon a time, from the reconstructed Drežnik tower. Drežnik of today is a small town suitable for a stopover while

travelling from continental to coastal Croatia. Along with outstanding culinary offer, among which seafood specialties and game dishes stand out, the landscape and natural beauty offer a unique experience to the lovers of quiet relaxation, long walks and fresh air, who will long remember their stay in Drežnik.

Days of medicinal herbs
of Karlovac County
Exhibition market
Rakovica, September
www.rakovica.hr



Ribnik (Pond)

The Weaving of Language

Autocross

Racing in Ribnik

www.ribnicka-dolina.com

Situated in a valley, Ribnik is a rare example of a fortified structure surrounded by a still distinguishable defense moat (that later became a fish pond) which was irrigated from the stream Obrh. Theologist, linguist and political thinker Juraj Križanić was born nearby Ribnik. His wish was to 'weave' the language that could be understood by all the Slavs.

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Situated in the small valley, Ribnik's strong walls were surrounded by a deep moat

Juraj Križanić (1618-1683) was one of the earliest advocates of 'Pan - Slavism'. He believed that the disunion among the Christians is damaging for the Slavs. He was hoping that, with Russia's help, Slavs could be liberated from the Turkish oppression and German danger, and rise as a great nation. With this idea in mind he travelled to Russia, where, instead of receiving support, he was exiled to Sibiria for fifteen years. However, his spirit was not crushed and he filled his days with writing. He wrote in a particular combination of Slavic languages, which became his own language, invented to enable all Slavs to understand it. He also compiled the grammar of this language, which included the ideas of the

'Ozalj Literary Circle'. He expressed numerous, particularly advanced economic and political ideas in his most important work 'Politics' and in his other works. On his return from Russia he stopped in Poland. He was killed while defending Vienna from the Turkish siege with the Polish military forces.

The old town of Ribnik, a 'watertown' situated along an important trade and strategic road



Dubovac

A Famous Market

The Feudal Fair of Dubovac
Medieval fair: traditional crafts, presentation of the 16th century skills – archery, folk dances, drummers, the revived history of the Noble county of Dubovac
Old town of Dubovac, Karlovac, May-June
www.karlovac-touristinfo.hr

'Karlovac Most Wanted'
International break-dance competition
Karlovac, May
www.promenada-klub.hr

Fort Dubovac is situated on a hill beside River Kupa, overlooking Karlovac and is one of the most beautiful and best preserved monuments of Croatian feudal architecture. Dubovec was also a famous market where the most traded produce was coastal sea-salt and grain from the Kupa valley and Slavonia (eastern Croatian plain).

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This fortified city grew on a site of a prehistoric acropolis. The discovered remains of settlements date from the New Stone Age to the Bronze Age (3000BC until 1000BC). It is believed that Dubovac was one of the most important centers of Colapiani, an Illyrian tribe which inhabited the area of today's Kupa valley and reached a relatively high level of cultural development in 1000BC. A mound was formed as a result of the remains of their settlements and a round tower of the County of Dubovec was erected on it in the 12th century. Therefore the mound, as well as the fortress on it represent valuable cultural heritage. In the 15th century, Dubovac obtained the characteristics of a Renaissance castle, with the erecting of the

walls, quadrangular defense-tower (which is by far the best observatory today) and three circular cross section towers. Its owners were Slavonian aristocratic family Sudari, Frankopani, Zrinski and Gašpar Šubić Peranski. From 1671 until the arrival of the French in 1809 the town was owned by the generals of Karlovac and it was bought off by Count Laval Nugent in 1837. He restored it in the Romantic style (cornices on the towers and walls). The town was again rebuilt in 1952-1963 (by architect Greta Jurišić) according to the 1657 plans by M. Stier as well as graphic drawings from the end of the 18th century.



The Treasure of Turquoise Lakes

The world renowned Plitvice Lakes, the oldest Croatian national park and the only Croatian national park on the UNESCO world natural heritage list, are one of the best examples of the complexity of karst hydrology in the world. The nature here clearly shows us the formation of travertine which forms barriers that separate 16 descending and interconnecting lakes, whose turquoise waters flow from one to another. The highlight



of this natural harmony is the waterfall of the Plitvice Stream which, after a vertical drop of almost 80 meters, forms the valley of the River Korana.



Lika

Land of the Wolf

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Wolves are on the red list of endangered mammals in Croatia

According to one interpretation, the name 'Lika' comes from the Greek word 'likos' meaning a wolf. Indeed, the first European example that the 21st century has brought the changes in the relationship between the civilization and the wilderness, the man and the beast, is a wolf called Lik, who grew up with the ecologist Pavle Balenović. It is therefore not surprising that the documentary 'Wolf and Man' by Davis Wallace (BBC) has won over the world audiences by discovering the intimate emotional life of these representatives of the wild.

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Wolves are always present in the area of Lika.



The howling of wolves in Velebit's snow blizzards

The name 'Lika' is derived from the Greek word *likos* meaning wolf



With the onset of the third millennium, we are finally rediscovering that a beast can be tamed by friendship. Moreover, the BBC documentary portrays the repressed character of the wolf which, when awakened, becomes – friendly. This is not only down to the wolf’s instinct; his intelligence also plays an important part: through a Velebit blizzard, in a desert of snow, Lik, assumes a part of a guide and leads Balenović down the snow swept mountain tracks towards safety, like a sheep dog. Balenović proves that taming of wild animals is possible through a ‘trusting partnership’. A message from Lika’s wolf Lik and his human friend is that a trusting partnership is possible and necessary for achieving

new forms of coexistence between the man and the nature, those forms that guarantee the survival of the Blue Planet and sustained development of human society.

Croatia is a habitat for 180 to 230 wolves



Winnetou and the Eagle

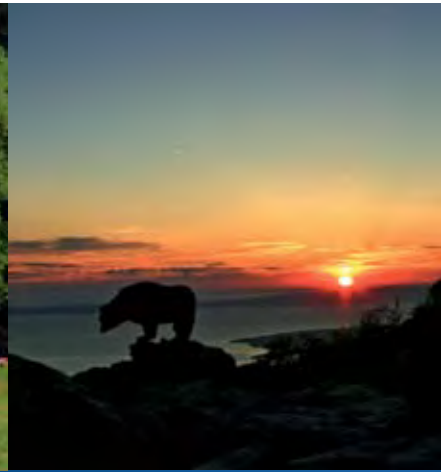
Bear Photohunt

The appearance of Pavle Balenović who is able to communicate with wolves and the establishing of the refuge for abandoned baby bears, in the village of Kutarevo at the foot of Velebit, are the unique phenomena of our time. These examples raise our hopes that man and nature will one day sincerely embrace each other.

Refuge For Young Bears
founded in 2002 with the aim
to save abandoned young bears
Kutarevo
www.kutarevo-medvjedi.hr

Days of Honey
exhibition market
Ogulin, December
www.ogulin.hr

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Environment of the bear also offers an opportunity for the development of eco-tourism

Brown Bear big game of Lika's deserts

Birds of prey best portray the harsh attractiveness of the mountains Velebit, Mala and Velika Kapela and Lička Plješivica, reminding us of the primeval laws of nature, which wants us to be decisive, persistent and strong, in order to survive. Every animal species here has a clearly defined position in the food chain thus creating the only real balance, the balance of nature. Brown bear, wolf, wild boar, fox, wild cat and lynx, but also representatives of reptiles, an angry, nose-horned viper - the proud master of the karst rocks or prey birds like an eagle or a falcon, can all be found in Lika's rugged mountains. Today, more and more ecologically conscious

visitors hunt for the large game with their cameras. In this way they allow the nature to control the impressive fauna of this area with its own laws.

Mountain forests are a habitat for bear, wolf and lynx



Fascinating landscapes interchange on a small area



The Golden Left Hand
'Fair Play' Trophy

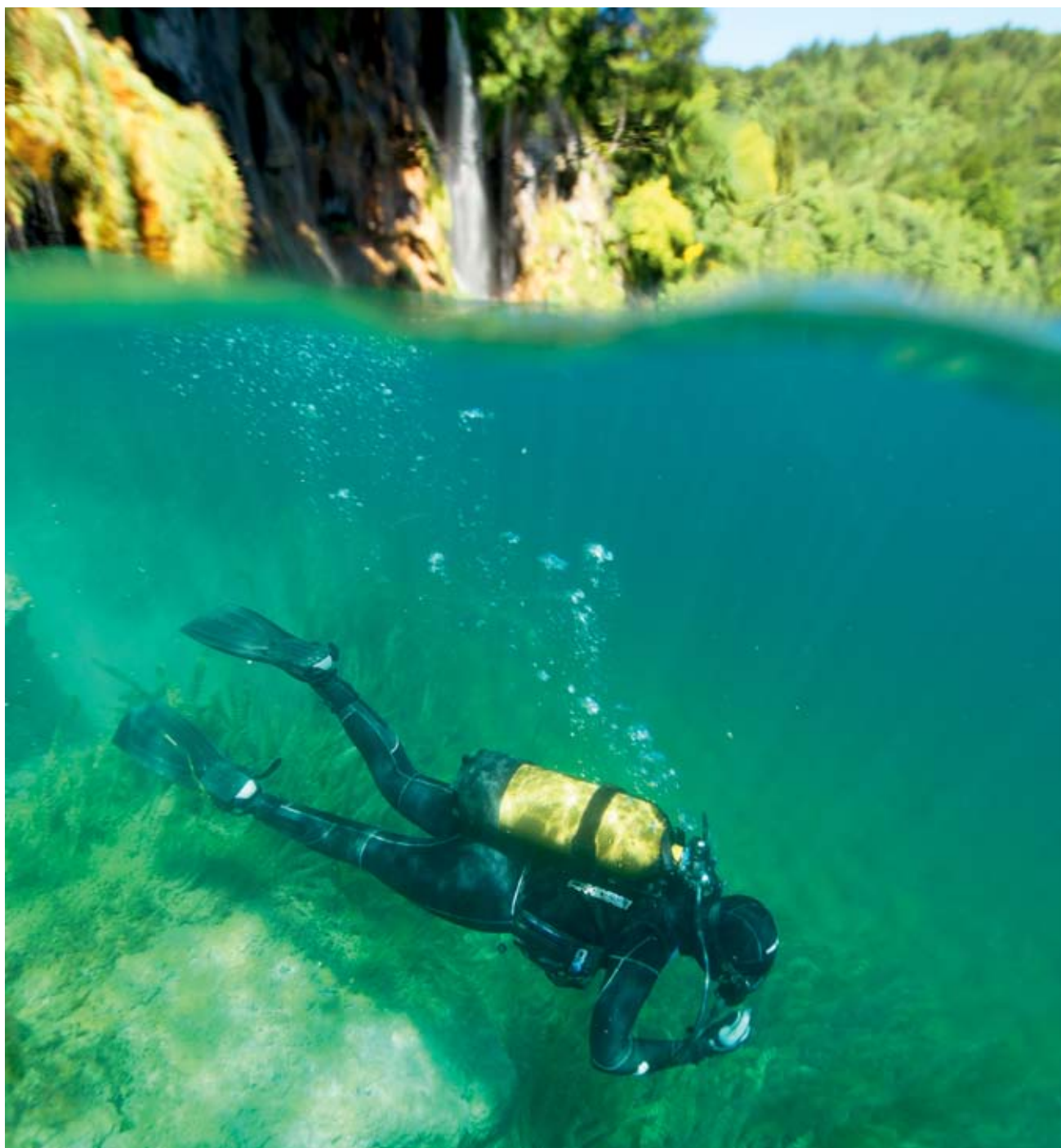
Antun Stipančić Tova, the so called 'golden left hand', world champion in 1979, three times European men's doubles champion and the world singles silver medalist in 1975, received R. Bergmann's Fair Play Trophy.

Three Lakes Cycling Tour
Ogulin, June
www.babaroge.hr
www.tz-grada-ogulina.hr

International Folklore Festival
Karlovac, July
www.ka-mjf.org

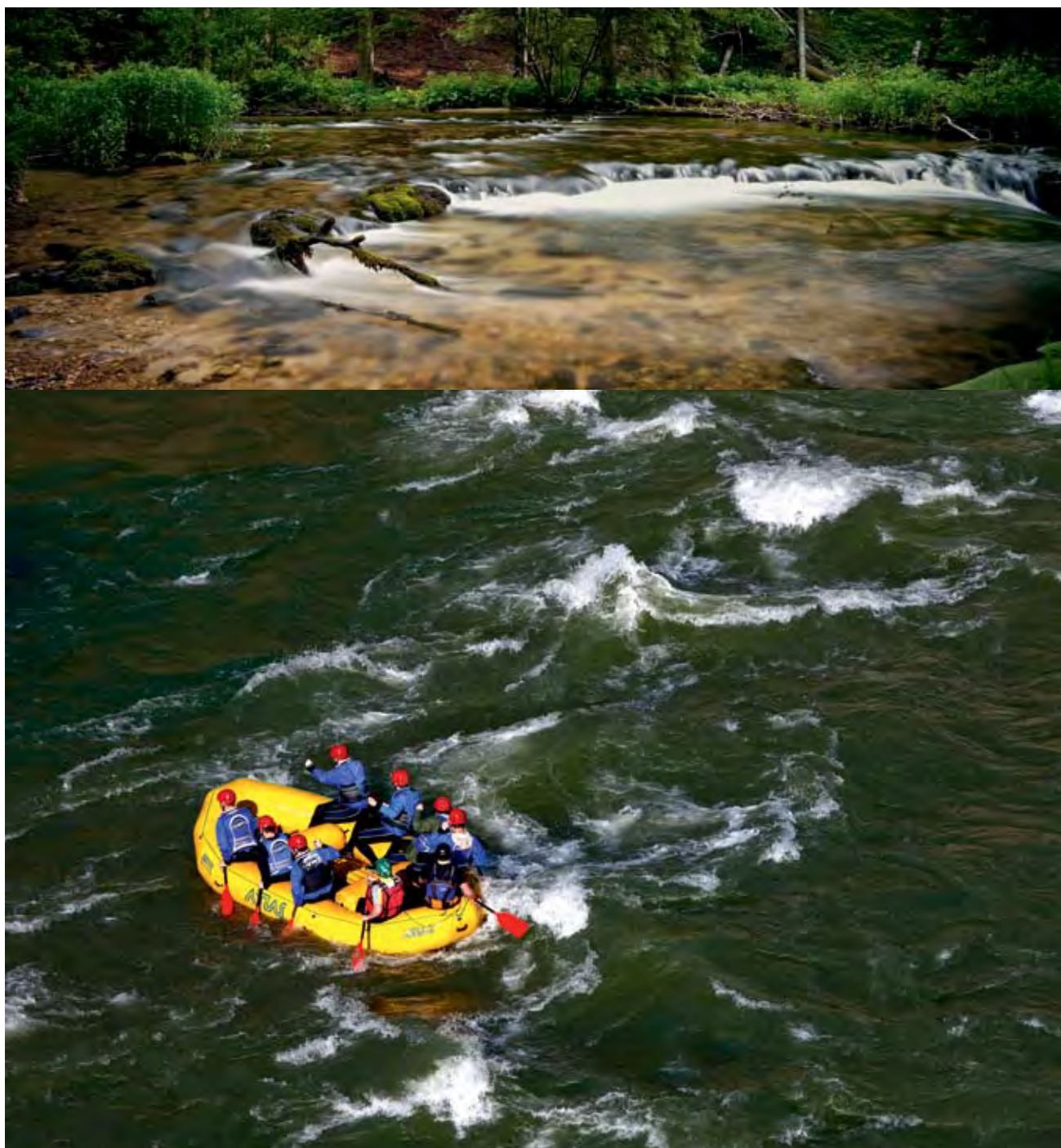
International Ethno-Jazz Festival
Karlovac, June-July
www.karlovac-touristinfo.hr

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Antun Stipančić Tova was the man of the world. He will be remembered by the generations of table tennis players from all continents, those that played with him, against him or simply enjoyed his mastership at the green table. Tova left a permanent mark with his outstanding sporting achievements thus becoming a part of sporting history of the world, Croatia and Duga Resa, his hometown. Duga Resa - known for its textile production - and its surrounding region is an area of an unusually attractive beauty, located at the point of transition from the pine forests of Gorski Kotar into the karst formations with deeply set valleys surrounded by luscious vegetation and vast meadows, along

the course of River Mrežnica. The nearby hill Vinica (321 m) offers pleasant walks (Tušmer promenade) or cycling on its gentle, hilly trails. One can also cycle along the blue-green beauty – River Mrežnica, which attracts swimmers, fishermen and other river lovers with its colour, clear waters, travertine barriers, cascades, torrents and waterfalls.



Hajdučki Kukovi

A strict nature reserve of Hajdučki and Rožanski Kukovi (the literal translation of 'kukovi' is hips, an accepted term in the area of Dinaric Alps for this type of karst formation) is composed of high stone boulders and deep funnel-shaped holes in the limestone formation. Rožanska formation is slightly bigger and more accessible than the neighboring, unapproachable harsh karst of Hajdučki Kukovi, because the well known Premužić trail - a masterpiece of the old stone masons - stretches along its western side. Kukovi are separated by a high altitude pass



Lubenovačka Vrata. Some parts of the strict reserve have remained completely untouched by humans, which gives them an air of the unknown and mysterious. This specific relief of extreme karst forms is one of the most impervious areas of Velebit. Kukovi were a safe refuge for 'Hajduks' (pronounced hi-dukes) – the famous outlaws, who were the subject of epic folk poems and after whom Hajdučki Kukovi were named.



Uskoks

On Nehaj Fort

The uskoks used the fort of Nehaj as a military fortress and a point from which they defended the city of Senj and prepared attacks on Ottomans and Venetians.

Uskok Days
an event which revives the past
Senj, July
www.tz-senj.hr

Uskok military unit
performs in various cultural events
Senj
www.tz-senj.hr

*"As an angel protects the soldier
So the crown crowns your brow,
While Nehaj –fort's old glory,
Stands above you!"*

S. S. Kranjčević
from the poem To Senj-Town

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Uskoks attacked Ottomans and
Venetians from this position



Uskok Fortress - the legendary Nehaj

Uskoks were an organized military formation consisting of fugitives from Croatian, Herzegovian and Bosnian regions occupied by the Ottomans. Ottoman war raids on Lika and Croatian coast became especially intense in the first half of the 16th century. The area around Senj grew desolate, and the city itself became the shelter for the refugees from the occupied territories. As early as the beginning of the 17th century, these refugees and fugitives formed military forces, which successfully defended Senj from Ottomans and Venetians, inflicting heavy losses upon them during their raids on Croatian territory, which was under the Austrian rule at the time. The building of Fort Nehaj which housed the Uskok crew was

completed in 1558 under the supervision of the captain and general of the Croatian Military Border - Ivan Lenković. Its purpose was the defense from the position of Hill Trbušnjak. Because of their heroic resistance against a much stronger enemy these brave fighters became the protagonists of legends and folk songs. Today, Fort Nehaj exhibits several museum collections, one of which is dedicated to Uskoks. Outside the parameter of Senj city walls there were at one time, churches and other buildings. During the construction of Nehaj Fort all those buildings were demolished and their reclaimed materials were used to build the fortress.



Fort Nehaj was built on hill Trbušnjak

The Door to the Underworld Đula's Love

Đula's Precipice and Cave Medvedica
an underground cave chain
www.speleologija.hr/DjulaMedvedica

Homeland Museum of the Town
of Ogulin the richest collection of
mountaineering and Alpine moun-
taineering in Croatia
www.ogulin.hr/grad/muzej.htm
www.ogulin-uciliste.hr

Days of Ilma de Murska
– the Croatian nightingale
A tribute to the opera singer
Ogulin, February
www.ogulin-uciliste.hr

Day of Ogulin
A multitude of events
Ogulin, 4th September
www.ogulin.hr

Đulin Ponor (Đula's Precipice) in Ogulin, where River Dobra
sinks into the subterranean passages and then returns to the
surface a few kilometers further down, got its name, according
to tradition, after a tragic young girl Đula (pronounced Julia) or
Zulejka (Zuleika) from the noble family Gušić. In the 16th centu-
ry, the tradition says, Đula jumped into the precipice after hav-
ing heard that the young military border captain, whom she
loved in spite of her family being against this liaison because of
his modest background, was killed in the battle with Ottomans.

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The world of fairytales
is where
most toponyms originate from

Some toponyms originate from
stories and legends

Đulin Ponor is located in the centre of Ogulin and marks the end of the picturesque gorge of River Dobra, which disappears into the depth of the earth, underneath a 40 meter high sheer rock. This precipice is simultaneously the biggest entrance into the chain of caves called Đulin Ponor – Medvedica (or Đula – Medvedica), the longest cave chain in Croatia whose underground channels measure over 16 kilometers in overall horizontal length. Ogulin is the only town in Croatia and one of the rare ones in the world which was literally built on top of cave chambers and channels abundant in water and calcium carbonate adornments. The longest cave tube stretches underneath the main Ogulin street (Bernardin

Frankopan Str). The entrance area to the chain Đula, Medvedica and Badanj, is located in the middle of the town and has been well known for hundreds of years. The underworld of Ogulin has always attracted the attention of its residents and stirred their imagination. Đulin Ponor and Medvedica were mentioned in the works of many Croatian and foreign biologists and naturalists especially from the 19th century onwards, but they never entered deep into its cavity. The first experiments were carried out by geologists Josip Poljak (1926) and Mirko Malez (1956-1957).

Ogulin was built on top of cave chambers



The Turkish Border

Military Border

The Museum of the Collection
of Arms from the Croatian
Homeland War
Karlovac – Turanj
www.ka-net.net/muzej/muzej.html

Rowing Regatta
Lake Sabljaci
Ogulin, June
www.vsz.hr

Cycling tour on the tracks of Ogulin
Ogulin, September
www.babaroge.hr
www.tz-grad-a-ogulina.hr

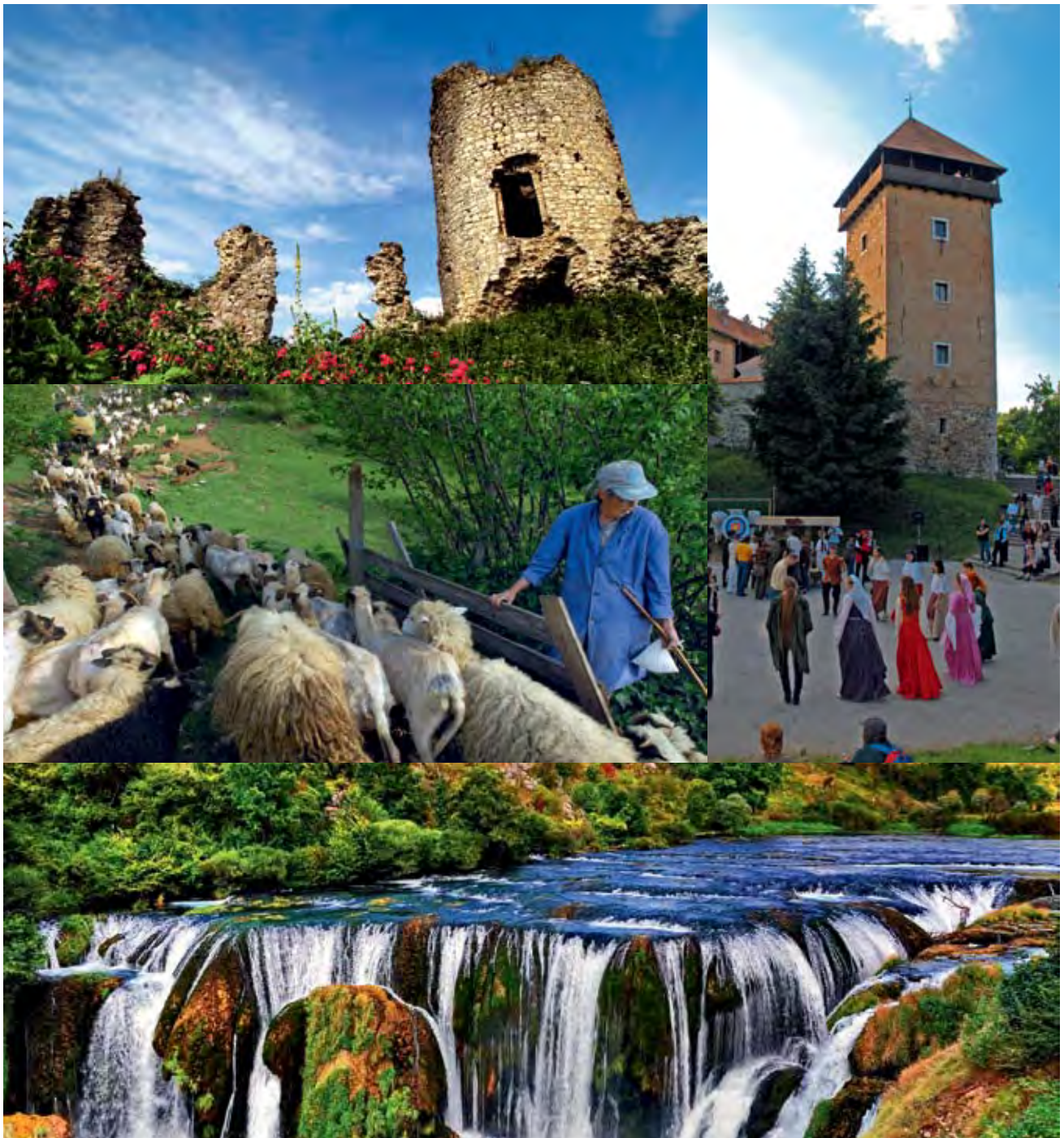
'Vojna Krajina' (Military Border) is the name given to a specific border district of Croatia, which was established by King Matija Korvin (1443 – 1490) for the purpose of defense from the Turkish attacks. During the rule of the Habsburg Monarchy, it grew into a major war province subjugated to the Imperial War Council and thus exempt from the rule of the Croatian Ban and parliament.

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In the period between the 16th and the beginning of the 19th century the Military Border was divided into several generalates. Karlovac Generalate - the so called Croatian Krajina (Croatian Border) - covered the vast district between River Kupa and the sea, which in 1712 embraced the newly liberated Lika and Krbava. After the establishment of the modern military constitution in the middle of the 18th century, Karlovac Generalate split into Lika (Gospić), Otočac, Ogulin and Slunj Regiment. The soldiers of Krajina, whose main task was the defense against the Turks and the army service, enjoyed special privileges, which were denied to the common population. The Military Border was re-included into the Croatian

political system as late as 1881, long after the danger from the Turks had passed.



The 'Rakovica Revolt'
The Uprising

An armed uprising, known as the 'Rakovica Revolt' broke out on 7 October 1871, in the district of Rakovica, under the leadership of the people's tribune Eugen Kvaternik, as well as Ante Rakijaš and Rade Čuić.

Days of Rakovica County
Tourist entertainment event
Rakovica, August
www.rakovica.hr

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It was a reaction to an 1868 agreement between Croatia and Hungary, which destroyed any hopes of the Croats for the ensuring autonomy and integrity within the Habsburg Monarchy. Both Croats and Serbs from this region took part in the uprising. The main headquarters of the national Croatian army were set up in an inn 'Plitvice', in a small town of Rakovica. It was there that the Temporary Croatian National Government issued its first documents. The uprising was quickly put down and the leaders killed, but Rakovica Revolt stayed deeply embedded in the minds of the people and strengthened the longing for an independent Croatian state.

Located at the northern entrance into the National Park Plitvice Lakes, Rakovica offers a varied accommodation capacity (campsites, hotels, boarding houses, small family restaurants with accommodation and private accommodation) and plenty of possibilities for an active vacation (cycling trails, educational trails, horseback riding, caves, old grain mills, off-roading, paintballing, archery...) and is therefore one of the most touristically dynamic counties of this part of Croatia.



Approaching the Caves
Cave-Forts

More than 50 fortified caves, with exceptionally interesting remains of European history, have been discovered in Croatia up to now. Most of the caves which were adapted for defense purposes, some thirty of them, are found in the district of Karlovac.

Days of cheese
Rakovica , August
www.rakovica.hr

Family farming estate Novković
the production and tasting of cheese
www.tzkz.hr/hr/gastro/opg-novkovic

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All of the cave – forts have probably not been discovered

People from this area were good warriors

The largest number of fortified caves and half caves is located in the gorges of the upper course of rivers Korana and Mrežnica. All of them have probably not been found and some of the fortress' walls have entirely disappeared, whilst some such caves have completely collapsed. Cave fortresses are wondrous examples of architectural mastery. They are silent witnesses to the struggle of ordinary people of this district, farmers and soldiers, who hid in them and fought against the enemy, usually foreign invaders but sometimes tyrannical Croatian noblemen and officers. These caves are rarely mentioned in historical sources which is understandable as people did not want

to give away their location easily. The caves served as refugees' sanctuaries but they were at the same time real small fortresses. Some are easily accessible, while the entrance into the others is hidden or located on high cliffs.



The view of the landscape is still breathtaking today



Cheeses from the area of Karlovac are of an outstanding quality

Cheeses from Pag and Lika
The Sheep

Lika must be the one area in Croatia where a domestic animal determined man's fate, sharing with him the good and the bad. Its population survived owing to coexistence of the shepherd and his faithful companion – the enduring sheep 'Pramenka'.

Exhibition of Pag sheep and cheese gastro – economic event, exhibition and tasting of the famous cheese
Novalja, first week-end in July
www.tz-novalja.hr

Days of the Karlovac County exhibition fair
Rakovica, August
www.rakovica.hr

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The sheep of Pag graze various plants saturated with sea salt

Living in straitened circumstances and using everything that the sparse nature was offering, a shepherd from Lika and Velebit mostly depended on his herd of sheep. He made clothes from the sheep's wool and skin and ate its meat. From its milk he produced widely known cheeses like 'Krasnarski', 'Velebit-ski' or 'Škripavac' whose name was inspired by the squeaky sound which occurs with every delicious bite. We should also not forget 'basa' (a kind of savory clotted cream) – an indigenous product of Lika made from sheep's milk. The island of Pag offers similar stories. Looking at the sheep herds on the harsh rockery of karst, one always asks a question: how can they possibly survive on these barren crags, defying the blows

of strong winds and the burning of summer sun, which seems to want to drain the last drop of water and burn even the tiniest blades of grass. Nevertheless, not only have both man and his sheep survived in this sparseness, but it seems that the locals from Pag and Lika compete in the art of living in the karst, forever asking us wheather the cheese from Pag or Lika is better and whose lamb is more delicious.

Škripavac, smoked cheese and other excellent cheeses from Tounj and Lika



The uniqueness of the island cheese is due to the milk of the Pag sheep



'Mesopust' and Masquarades

The Carnivals of Senj

International Summer Carneval
in Senj
numerous cultural and entertain-
ment events
Senj, August
www.tz-senj.hr

Mačkare' in Rakovica
www.rakovica.hr

'Mesopust' – Masqued Balls
Senj, January - February
www.tz-senj.hr

The Carnival of Gospić
the review of carnival traditions
Gospić, February
www.tz-gospic.com

Those six days of summer craziness start on Monday with various competitions like cart rides, carrying of fishermen's crates and transporting of water in 'mastele' (a traditional, shallow, wooden crate used for washing laundry) and continue with a masked basketball tournament, masqued 'moto-alka' (alka is a traditional knight's game on horses, here motorbikes replace horses) and the carrying of flag with an accompaniment of the city band. There is a presentation of international carnival groups on Friday. Everything culminates on Saturday with a big carnival procession from Fort Nehaj to Velika Placa (Grand Square) where the party continues until the morning.

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'Come to Senj' – is the slogan of the summer carnival

Carnevals are held in Senj from the first Saturday in the New Year until the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, every year during the carnival season. There is also a version of the ball dedicated exclusively to children. A particularly interesting day is the 'Mesopust' Tuesday, when carnival procession is held in the town. In order to extend the enjoyment of this atmosphere to the tourist season, a multi-day summer carnival has been held every year, on the second week-end in August, since 1967 and marks the oldest such event in Croatia. Whilst the carnival of Senj is called 'mesopust' (a direct translation of the word carnival), the locals of Rakovica have been going to 'mačkare' (masqued ball) for as long as they can remember.

Masqued groups visit the towns and villages, hotels and restaurants, cheering up the visitors with song and dance whilst the hosts give them boiled eggs, bacon, 'rakija' (traditional brandy) and in more recent times – money. This tradition is kept in the whole of Kordun region.

The oldest events of this kind in Croatia



The carnival festivities last four days

The slogan of the summer carnival in Senj is 'The carnival is running away, whatever you catch – hold on to it'



UFO

The Pag Triangle

'Pag Triangle' is an indentation in stone measuring 32 x 32 x 22 meters, located only a few kilometers from Novalja. Some claim that this is the location of a mysterious cult of the prehistoric man; the others believe it is a UFO trace, but of course it could be something completely different. All those theories have their followers, some of whom claim that they have seen unidentified flying objects in the sky above Pag.

Novalja Cultural Summer
Novalja, June – September
www.tz-novalja.hr

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Novalja Cultural Summer starts on the eve of the Day of the Town of Novalja



The town of Novalja is situated in a gentle bay on the north eastern part of the island of Pag. As it is located on the route from the north to the south of the Adriatic Sea, Novalja is a harbour for numerous sailors, who can here, among other things, get fuel. It also has an excellent link to the mainland: during the summer season the ferries sail non-stop from Prizna on mainland to Žigljen on the island of Pag and at other times of the year as many as 13 times a day. The south side of the island can also be reached by the Pag Bridge. Numerous daily coach lines connect Novalja with almost every part of Croatia while the fast catamaran line links it to Lošinj, Rab and Rijeka as well as Silba and Susak during the summer months.

Zemunik Airport in Zadar is about 80 kilometers or an hour's drive away from Novalja.



The Beaches of Novalja
The Three Seas

Novalja has its beautiful beaches on as many as three different 'seas': the beach Straško is on Kvarnerić side, facing the islands of Lošinj and Cres, the beach Planjka is located in the area of Stara Novalja (Old Novalja) in a deeply set bay of Trinčel and finally the beaches Caska and Ručica, as well as the best known – Zrće, are located in the north western part of the gulf of Pag.

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Alongside these beaches, there is a string of smaller but equally as unique beaches. We should not forget the east side of the island, as the eastern and the western side of the island form its two counties and complement and exalt each other. The access to the beach Caska is mainly sandy, while the sea entrance is pebbly. It is situated at the location of the old Roman city whose remains can be found very close to the beach as well as on the sea bed which steeply descends towards bigger depths. Planjka is a beautiful, warm and shallow beach covered in fine sand and ideal for small children. It has a good hospitality offer and varied sports – recreational facilities. The Blue Flag has been flying on it

ever since 2004, just like on the 1.5 km long and somewhat stonier beach Plaško which is situated in the bay facing the open sea. This beach is very popular as it is surrounded by a beautiful pine forest which offers plenty of shade. Sveti Duh is a sandy – pebbly beach half of which has been reserved for the nudists while Ručica is an undiscovered sandy beach that can be accessed via a picturesque area called Kanjon. It is a combination of clean, transparent sea and divine moonlike landscape. The most beautiful and attractive beach is the spacious and pebbly Zrće which can accommodate several thousand bathers under its Blue Flag.



Zrće

Day and Night

Zrće, the main epicentre of summer partying in this part of Europe, speaks the most varied languages, most of all the language of movement. Young people from all parts of the world rush to this long sandy beach bringing their own rhythm to the island which has itself been radiating glorious energy, by absorbing the power of the wind and the sun, since the ancient times.

Zrće

a long, pebbled beach near Novalja
www.tz-novalja.hr
www.zrce.hr
www.otok-pag.net/plaze_otoka.htm

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A popular destination of the young people looking for summer fun.



During the summer months this is a destination for wild partying



Ten years ago, something rather unexpected happened on this particular spot on the island of Pag, close to Novalja, whose summer peace was usually disturbed only by the singing of crickets and the splashing of waves. Instead of swaying to the rhythms of the tides, the long, sandy beach started swaying to the inspiring rhythms of the DJs house and trance music. Some were, at first, suspicious about the mass summer parties, but Novalja whose beaches are welcoming everyone, soon became the symbol of youth entertainment tourism. From year to year Zrće is visited by a growing number of people from a growing number of various countries. Croatian youths started the trend but thanks

to the global network Germans, British, Italians, Russians... rushed to Zrće. Today, Zrće is the stage of the most famous world renowned DJs and an unavoidable destination for the fans of their art from all over the world. Day and night, night and day, through the constant interchange of dynamics and 24-hour rhythms, there is no starting point. The only certain thing is that the madness of the After Beach Party starts at 2 a.m.



Dream Waters

The karst areas are most of all exalted by the virgin clean, clear rivers and streams. The play of stone and water, the white and the green, the overground and the underground, the flowing away, sinking into subterranean passages and rising out again – this is the joyous dance of life in all its shapes and forms, different throughout the seasons but always exciting and inspiring.





Turquoise Rivers

The Most Beautiful River Source

The travertine barrier under which River Korana begins its life is one of the best known sites of Plitvice Lakes. It is said that Korana is a river with the most beautiful source. The source of River Slunjičica is in a deep canyon, has a round shape and dark turquoise water with the depth of 25 meters.

Summer in Slunj
sport and recreational events
Slunj, July - August
www.slunj.hr

Rastraft
sport/ music event
Slunj, April
www.rastraft.com

The Days of Slunj
sport/music event
Slunj, July - August
www.slunj.hr

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It is located next to village Slušnica, so the lake is sometimes called Slušničko Lake and Slunjčica sometimes becomes Slušnica. Slunjčica is the continuation of a subterranean river Lička Jasenica which disappears into the underground some fifteen kilometers southwest of Slunj and then rises again six kilometers south of it as Slunjčica. Slunjčica flows through a canyon and, in some spots, over the travertine barriers. In Rastoke, Slunjčica 'pours away' and flows into Korana, another beauty, which twists until it reaches Plitvice Lakes and Slunj on its thirty kilometer long trail. Korana is 144 kilometers long from its source up to its estuary into River Kupa in Karlovac. River Mrežnica, the left tributary of Korana, is suitable for

boat rides as well as rafting. Many enjoy bathing in its clear waters in the summer. River Una, an undiscovered beauty of the karst, which touches Lika's east side, impressively gushes out of the abdomen of a rocky mountain in the nearby, northern part of the Zadar County



Spring in Ozalj

An Ideal Watercolour

Ozalj – Vivodin Wine Road
the grape-growing sub region of
Plešivica
www.vinari-vocari-ozalj.hr

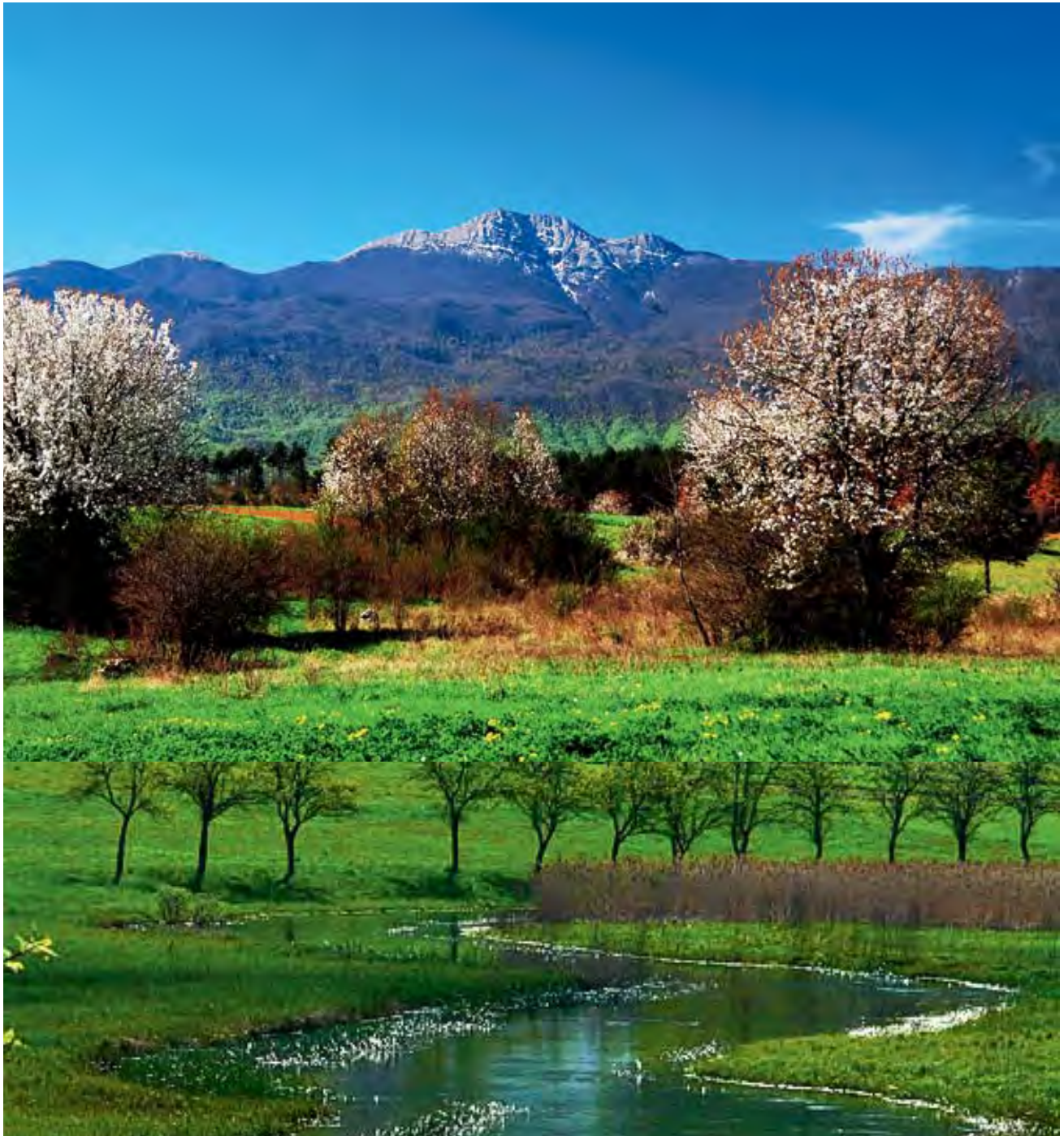
The Chesnutt festival on Vučjak and
Kamanj
is held in any weather
Vučjak and Kamanje, October
www.kamanje.hr

Croatian traditional lace Jalba
is on the Ministry of Culture's list of
protected intangible heritage
the revival of the extinct lace making
technique using a sprang frame
Trg near Ozalj
www.poukz.hr

Slava Raškaj, born in 1877, in Ozalj, is one of the most important names of Croatian painting from the turn of the 20th century. Her significance is emphasized by the originality of her choice of motif and the use of two techniques which were rarely employed in painting during her time: watercolour and pastel... Slava Raškaj is especially recognized for the originality of her painter's spirit. Her watercolour, fluid and light, is a specific example of an ideal watercolour.

Matko Peić

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Her soft landscapes featuring folklore details from the area of Ozalj are possibly the first of their kind in Croatia. The paintings, actual portraits of the peasants' houses, are alive and unique. The spring landscapes of the Ozalj district are more than just simple pictures. During 1898 and 1899 Slava Raškaj mainly spent time at home, in Ozalj, wandering in the nature and painting landscapes filled with fluid atmosphere. Locked in her own quiet world, gifted with huge talent, she managed to create her own artistic expression and fully master the technique of watercolour. A series of unforgettable paintings *Water-lilies* and her most valuable works: *The Tree in the Snow*, *Early Spring*, *Winter Landscape*, *Spring in*

Ozalj...were created around 1900. With the depth of their feelings those sincere painting expressions created a clear, childishly naïve, and poetic interpretations of everything that surrounded her. The world of Slava Raškaj is the quiet River Kupa, osier-bed along the river banks, reeds and elm trees and oak trees and flowers and water-lilies and groves and those little wooden huts attached closely to the steep river banks wrapped in the breath of spring, the glow of summer, the crimson colours of the autumn and the white blanket of winter.



Green Valleys

Four Rivers

The city of Karlovac, built in the green valleys of four rivers, under the old town of Dubovec, experienced its first golden age at the end of the 18th and its second, in the mid 19th century.

May Day Cycling Tour

Cycling towards health
Karlovac, 1st May
www.karlovac.hr

Days of Beer

beer is the fifth river flowing through
Karlovac
Karlovac, August - September
www.karlovac-touristinfo.hr

Midsummer Nights Spark

lighting the torch in the centre of
the town
Karlovac, 23rd June
www.karlovac-touristinfo.hr

Karlovac Art Meetings

Gallery Vjekoslav Karas
Karlovac, City Day
www.gmk.hr

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Central town square with Franciscan Monastery
and the Church of Holy Trinity



Foginovo bathing place is a traditional
location for summer gatherings



The rise of the middle class is also linked to the economic boom in Karlovac. Grain merchants, usually of common descent, were now economically as strong as the aristocracy. The new wealth together with patriotic aristocracy, longed for cultural and political affirmation of their people and homeland. Karlovac thus became one of the leading centers of the Croatian National Reawakening movement which was promoted through the writings of Count Janko Drašković, the paintings of Vjekoslav Karas, the performances of the first Croatian choral society *Zora*, the dedicated work of Illyrian Reading society, the diaries of Dragojla Jarnević, the verses of Ivan Mažuranić... Some of the old roads became city streets.

Today, the beautiful Biedermeier and Historicistic palaces built in that period are still homes to the people of Karlovac and public institutions. Many military buildings, which were built in the monumental style from the period of Baroque, have also been preserved.



Karlovac is unique because of its four rivers flowing through the town

Otočac

A River Island

Eco – Ethno manifestation

Exhibition Fair

Otočac, July

www.tz-otocac.hr

Sports Fishing on Gacka

fishing school, fly-fishing

Gacka, from the beginning of April

until the end of September

www.gacka.hr

Otočac owes its name and existence to a river island. It was, in fact, situated on a natural small island in the middle of River Gacka until as late as the 18th century. The island was fortified with walls and towers for defense. It was accessible only by boat across the water. This made it unconquerable and during its long history Otočac was never occupied by the enemy.

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Otočac gained a status of a town when it was issued a Papal Bull

The King of Naples donated the land and the town of Karlovac to Prince Krčki (1300)



Otočac Diocese was founded by Pope Pío II in 1460

The fertile, tame landscape of Gacko Polje, the true rural idyll, with waters which are the habitat to the flocks of ducks and geese, is a complete contrast to the brutality and inhospitality of Velebit. Nine karst wells - the remarkable *Vrila Gacke* - are located in the southeastern part of Gacko Polje. The water gushes out of them from the underground and then confluences into a crystal clear and fast flow of the subterranean Gacka. River Gacka is known for its famous trout, which here grows up to five times faster than in the other rivers of the karst district. Apart from being a monument to karst hydrography, this part of Gacko Polje, intersected with meandering rivers, is an ethnographic

paradise. The mills next to Majerovo and Veliki and Mali Tonković Wells grind top quality grain even today and different coloured, hand woven and dyed materials are washed out in 'stupe' (a traditional wooden device made of two wooden grinding plates used for chafing and washing out dyed materials, usually wool) through clear, fresh water.

One of the oldest settlements of Croatian people



Otročac is situated in the Gacka Valley



Duga Resa

The Garden Town

Summer on Mrežnica
recreation: swimming and cycling on
the river banks
Duga Resa, July - September
www.tz-dugaresa.hr

Autumn in Duga Resa
entertainment event
Duga Resa, October
www.tz-dugaresa.hr

Winter: 'Vincekovo' (St Vincent's Day)
traditional events
Duga Resa, 22nd January
www.tz-dugaresa.hr

Art lovers are more and more engrossed with the architectural heritage of the town of Duga Resa: the concept of the so-called Garden town with workers houses was established here as early as 1884. The level of economic, as well as private and social life, was therefore determined by the existence of the 'spinning and weaving factory'.

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Architectural heritage of the 19th
century industrial town



The 'Munjara' whose exterior was
designed by Herman Bolle in 1908

Bathing in River Mrežnica is a special treat



The town itself developed thanks to the construction of the textile factory. Only the surrounding villages existed up to that time among which a small industrial town was established in 1884. Workers quarters like Kasar and Inzlj, the civil service building, hospital, nursery and kindergarten as well as other large and small villas, are all examples of the preserved architectural heritage of a 19th century industrial town. The architectural heritage was completed with the Ozalj power station, the so called 'munjara' (lightning house), which was built by neighboring Karlovac in 1908. Its exterior was designed by the famous Herman Bollé, in a romantic style. Painter and graphic designer Miroslav Šutej, born in Duga Resa, is the author of one of the most characteristic opuses

of contemporary Croatian art. His works are displayed in the collections of Zagreb and Rijeka museums of modern art but also in the leading world galleries and museums like The Tate Gallery in London or the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Beautiful colour and clear waters of Mrežnica attract the lovers of river sports



Gospić

Vodarica Marta

Memorial house of dr. Ante Starčević in his birthplace Veliki Žitnik, witnesses the life of a great Croatian politician and fighter for an independent and democratic Croatia.

Museum of Lika houses attractive collections of weapons and furniture.
www.tz-gospic.hr
muzej-like@gs.t-com.hr

Bužim
The remains of the ruins of this medieval city are situated only 10 km from Gospić.

Headquarters of Velebit Nature Park
Kaniža Gospička 4b, 53000 Gospić
www.pp-velebit.hr

Since 1893, the center of Gospić has been adorned by a bronze sculpture portraying Vodarica Marta (a woman who lived in Gospić and brought water to the sick in times of plague and cholera), the work of Robert Frangeš Mihanović, set up in honor of the opening of the municipal water supply. This completed the transformation of the medieval village and a Turkish town into a modern provincial town.

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Gospić – Senj Diocese has headquarters in Gospić



Gospić – from 1699 it was the administrative and cultural centre of the Lika district

Ever since the prehistoric times, a branch of the so-called amber trail led through Lika, during Antiquity, a road connecting Siscija (today's Sisak) and Salona (Solín, near Split) passed through there, in the mid 18th century a modern road called 'Terezijana' linked Gospić to Senj and a first train passed through Gospić in 1921. The first tennis court in this part of Europe was built in 1900, in Gospić forest park Jasikovac, as a sign of the new era. After the expulsion of Ottomans from Lika in 1699, Gospić became the seat of the Regiment of Lika and the administrative and cultural center of the district of Lika. Alongside many buildings designed for administration, education and military

purposes during the 18th century, the cathedral of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary was built from 1781 to 1783. A bronze relief, also a work of Frangeš-Mihanović, was subsequently placed on its front to commemorate the *Bilajska* battle of 1809, which was fought near Gospić between the French forces under Marshal Marmont and Krajišniks (the military border soldiers). Noted among the other old buildings are the Museum of Lika, which houses the most complete collection of the Dinaric traditional culture in Croatia, the building of the Teacher Training College (1869), the building of the County Administration of Lika-Senj (1894), the old water mill 'Murkovića Mlin' on river Novčica and the birthplace of the great Croatian painter Miroslav Kraljević.



Christmas and New Year festivities make the town particularly attractive

Baške Oštarije and Karlobag

A Priest and Warrior

Karlobag is the birthplace of Marko Mesić (1640 – 1713), a Croatian priest and warrior, who lead the people of Lika in their final uprising against the Ottoman rule in 1689.

Capuchin Monastery with valuable paintings, the parish church of St. Josip (Joseph) from 1713 and the church of the Sad Mother of God.

Above Karlobag are the ruins of the medieval fort 'Fortica' and the remains of the church of St. Karlo of Boromej built in 1615.

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Central Velebit stretches all the way to Baške Oštarije on the road Karlobag – Gospić



Karlobag got its name after the Archduke Karlo II



Baške Oštarije is situated in the amazing landscape of the Velebit Mountains, just 18 miles from Gospić, at an altitude of 1000 m. This is a destination for all those who appreciate the richness of flora and fauna, hiking and mountaineering and skiing and winter sports during the winter. Only a short, 15 minute drive, down by the sea is Karlobag, a place which can be found on all the old geographic maps since antiquity. Its Roman name was Vegium, and then Scrisa and Bag, and it was devastated and burned in a Turkish attack in 1525. It was first mentioned under the name of Karlobag in 1580, after the Archduke Charles II (1540-1590) who was responsible

for its restoration. A city pool was opened for tourists in 1920. As the center of the southern part of the 42 km long Velebit coast, Karlobag and surrounding towns of Ribarica, Cesarica, Lukovo Šugarje, Barić Draga and Baške Oštarije represent an attractive tourist destination, especially due to the untouched nature, clean sea and the connection with the mountain.

White limestone boulders – 'Kukovi'
- stretch towards the south east



At the foot of 'Kukovi' - striking valleys



Cult Locations

The Shrine to Nature

Impressive relief shapes and the richness of flora, unique examples of vegetation and rare species of fauna. Peaks and pointy boulders, springs and river sources, sea, water and rock...

For Croatia, these are not just spectacular and fascinating landscapes but some of the cult locations of the Croatian people.

(The fairy said) 'Know this, you must have a strong and brave heart, because when travelling with me you will encounter horrible and strange places, into which it is easy to enter but it is a grave torment and struggle to get out to the light of day...!' So we set out up the mountain, very rocky and steep. Soon after, we entered thick and entangled thorny hedges and bushes and thus arrived to the opening of a hole, through which we could see a large cave stretching...As we went further we were hit by a strong wind...

Petar Zoranić
'Mountains'



The attractiveness of this region is the result of a specific combination of the dynamic landscape and karst eco-systems of forest, mountain and Mediterranean environments, which are all connected by an intense flow of energy within this complex karst laboratory. One of the cult locations which stir emotions and thoughts is, primarily, Velebit. Velebit is not only the most beautiful Croatian mountain but it is also Croatian people's holy mountain. The first Croatian novel 'Plavine' (The Mountains), by Petar Zoranić (1536), talks about the fairy Zorica who sends a 'shepherd called Zoran' into the mountains to find a plant which will heal his pain caused by unrequited love. He is led through the mountain by many dif-

ferent fairies, and having escaped from the 'beasts' he reaches 'the Door of Hell' – Paklenica. He encounters other shepherds who tell him, among other things, the story of the creation of Velebit Mountain. After numerous other events the shepherd falls asleep and dreams about the fairies Latinka (signifying Rome), Kaldejka (Chaldea), Grkinja (Greece) and Hrvatica (Croatia). The first three are holding many golden apples which symbolise literary works while Fairy Hrvatica complains about not having many golden apples. Thus the symbiosis of the protagonist's spiritual condition and the divine nature, led to the awareness about the need for cultural awakening.



These landscapes are among the most beautiful karst areas in the world

Wild animals are the supreme adornment of this area

Ogulin

The Homeland of Fairy Tales

Ivana's peculiar tales, inspired by her homeland are today recognised as the world cultural heritage translated into numerous languages, delighting children all around the world and inspiring all the forms of new artistic creation.

Unique fairy tale trail unites the beauty of the landscape and the imagination of the writer, inspires one to investigate, fires up the imagination and encourages action.

The first strong impressions that I remember are from Ogulin... I remember a particular excitement stirred in me by the unusual nature and the clothes worn by the locals. Curious and aggressive shapes of Klek (mountain) and the romance of Dobra (river) so fed my imagination that I stayed awake deep into the night imagining the most remarkable and fantastic possibilities: what might be happening in the deep night around Klek.

Ivana Brlić Mažuranić

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Ogulin is children's favourite destination towards the end of spring



Ogulin became the hometown of fairy tales



'Stories from the Past', a famous work by Ivana Brlić Mažuranić, are inspired by memories of her birth town, Ogulin. The writer of unique imagination, Ivana Brlić Mažuranić, originates from a well known intellectual, bourgeois family, Mažuranić: her father was Vladimir Mažuranić, writer, lawyer and historian, her grandmother Aleksandra Mažuranić was the sister of the linguist Dimitrije Demetar and her grandfather was Ivan Mažuranić, a famous politician, Croatian Ban and poet. She thus acquired an excellent education including the knowledge of foreign languages. Ivana later lived and created her works in Slavonski Brod but she always drew inspiration for her fairy tales from the memories of her native

Ogulin and its surrounding area. Owing to these jewels of Croatian and world literature, Ogulin, as the *homeland of fairy tales*, holds an International Festival of Fairy Tales (OGFB), every year, in June. Throughout the year the children as well as adults can visit numerous creative workshops for releasing imagination and developing artistic talent.

Ogulin Festival of Fairy Tales,
June
www.ogfb.hr

Advent in Ogulinu
Ogulin, December
www.ogulin.hr

Releasing imagination and developing
artistic talent

Educational fun for the
little ones



The Festival of Fairy Tales

The natural beauty of this region creates a real festival of fairy tales with its diversity and uniqueness. Wonderous sights supersede each other and it is hard to tell which image will leave a stronger impression on the visitor. Such surroundings, filled with myths, legends, fascinating natural shapes and the zest for life had to produce a writer who would encompass all those ingredients and envelope them in a fairytale. It is therefore no coincidence that Ogulin is the birth place of Ivana Brlić Mažuranić (1874-1938), a writer of the most beautiful



children's literature in Croatia. In her own words, her "Stories From the Past" were inspired by the memories of the romantic course of River Dobra, peculiar and abrupt formations of Klek Mountain, folk costumes and local traditions. Today, the strenght of her words can still be expeared in Ogulin – the homeland of fairytales. Indeed, her protagonists like Kosjenka, Regoč, Stribor, Jaglenac, Rutvica, Palunko, Vjest, Potjeh, Malik Tintilinić, Svarožić, Bjesomar... still inhabit the mountain barren cliffs, forests, caves, rivers, lakes and ruins of ancient cities

scattered across this part of Croatia.

Ivana's house of fairytales in Ogulin is a multimedia cultural centre, connected with other cities which nourish the love of fairy tales in Croatia and the world.



Strict Nature Reserve

An Abundance of Magic

Patkov Gušt Cave is in the second place in the world by the length of its vertical drop (553 meters).

Velebit Cave has the deepest subterranean vertical drop in the world (513 meters) and is closely followed by Meduza Cave.

The rocky boulders seem to be joining together and every moment present themselves in different shapes. It seems like one could read the history of a thousand winds and storms in this kingdom of stony intersections where juniper trees growing out of the cracks in the rocks are the witnesses of life. Their shadows on the hills add to the magic, as if there was not enough of it already.

Ante Rukavina,
1979



In the central part of Mount Velika Kapela, on the border of Karlovac and Primorsko-Goranska County are Bijele (white) and Samarske Cliffs, the area which has been declared a strict nature reserve due to the exceptional phenomena of its karst landscape, one of two areas protected in this way in Croatia. The other strict nature reserve are Hajdučki and Rožanski Kukovi (peaks and boulders made of steep rocks and cliffs) situated in the National Park Northern Velebit. Practically all karst formations have developed in those nature reserves: from wild cliffs, cracks in limestone formations, valleys, huge boulders, towers, domes, obelisks and ridges, to deep holes. These areas belong to the most beautiful karst locations in

the world by their multitude, diversity and beauty. Here, where the silence of fir, juniper and beech forests is from time to time interrupted by a shriek of a wild animal or a flutter of birds wings, the deep, undiscovered 'ponikve' (large depressions in karst which can have very steep sides) are just as scary. Some of them are still completely inaccessible to humans. Hiding underneath this dramatic surface is the magnificent world of subterranean karst morphology. The deep Velebit pits are already well known around the globe. Lukina Jama – Trojama, a cave system with the depth of 1392 meters is one of the deepest pits in the world.



'Kukovi' are separated by deep holes, chasms and ravines

Plitvice Lakes

Underneath the Waterfall of Pearls

Zlatna jezičnica (transl. golden tongue) (*Ligularia sibirica*) – a perennial herbaceous plant found on IUCN's Red List in the category of critically endangered species. National Park Plitvice Lakes is the only location where this plant can be found in Croatia but also on a much wider area of southeast Europe.

Carnivorous Plants: Okruglolisna Rosika (*Drosera rotundifolia*) and Tustica Kukcolovka (*Pinguicula vulgaris*) are on IUCN's Red List in the category of critically endangered species. Mala Mješinka (*Utricularia minor*) is a very rare carnivorous plant found in water

This divine water was its own creator. For thousands of years it has sedimented travertine on top of moss and built barriers in order to gather in front of them and then jump over them, not once, but in cascades, allowing itself to spill over bigger or smaller rocks, in a smooth cascade or a graceful waterfall.

Plitvice Lakes are different during every season – full of flowers in the spring, lusciously green in the summer, bursting with fireworks of all hues of green, yellow and red in the autumn and covered with the icy, snowy blanket in the winter. But throughout this time their waters are building the travertine diving boards through complex physical, chemical



Waterfalls and cascades connect the lakes.



and biological processes. Atmospheric precipitations absorb carbon dioxide and as they pass through soil they turn into carbonic acid which melts the limestone underground. When water is dispersed in waterfalls, carbon dioxide is released along with calcium hydrogen carbonate which is poorly soluble in water and therefore sediments on moss and algae. Although this phenomenon has been largely researched, the Plitvice Lakes hold many more secrets and present a real challenge for science and scientists. Located between the mountains Lička Plješivica and Mala Kapela, 16 large and a multitude of smaller lakes are fed by the water from small mountain rivers and streams. The lakes are divided into

the Upper Lakes (Prošćansko Lake, Ciginovac, Okrugljak, Batinovac, Vir, Veliki and Mali Jovinovac also called Veliko and Malo Lake, Galovac, Milino Lake, Gradinsko Lake, Veliki Burget and Kozjak) and the Lower Lakes (Milanovac, Gavanovac, Kaludеровac and Novakovića Brod). Prošćansko Lake and Kozjak are the biggest and the deepest (37 and 46 meters), and most of the other lakes are not deeper than 15 meters. Eventually, the waters of these divine lakes join the 78 meter high Veliki Slap (Grand Waterfall) of the Plitvice Stream, the highest and most beautiful Croatian waterfall, and together they create River Korana which penetrates the canyon, heading north.

The most visited Croatian national park



The lakes are divided into Upper and Lower Lakes



Samograd

The Pearl Castle

If it were possible to let a ray of sunshine into the cave, to light up those magical spaces, then Samograd would turn into a castle of pearls, as if it were built by a fairy.

Visiting the caves

During the spring, summer and autumn season

Cave Park Grabovača

www.pp-grabovaca.hr

Dragutin Hirc

(1853-1921),

naturalist, mountaineer and

travel writer

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Samograd is the biggest and most remarkable cave on Grabovača

Samograd, which is Croatian for 'self created' or 'self built', is the biggest and the most attractive cave on the eastern slopes of hill Grabovača. As many as six caves and one pit are located on the relatively small area of this unique hill. Samograd cave is adorned by a multitude of stalactites, stalagmites, limestone icicle-like pillars and two sinter bridges. Its entrance is on the altitude of 675 meters, in an elliptical 'vrtača' – a crater-like depression in karst, the shape of a narrow channel which then widens into a big hall and then narrows again. The access to the cave is easy, and people of all ages will simply progress through the cave's lit up passages and stony steps.



Adornments are inside and outside of the cave



Samograd, 'self-created', 'self-built'

Naturalist Dragutin Hirc has described this area



Barač Caves Torchlit Chambers

Barač Caves
Organized sightseeing tours to Barač Caves

Large Cave System
paleontological and archeological excavations, subterranean animal world
www.baraceve-spilje.hr

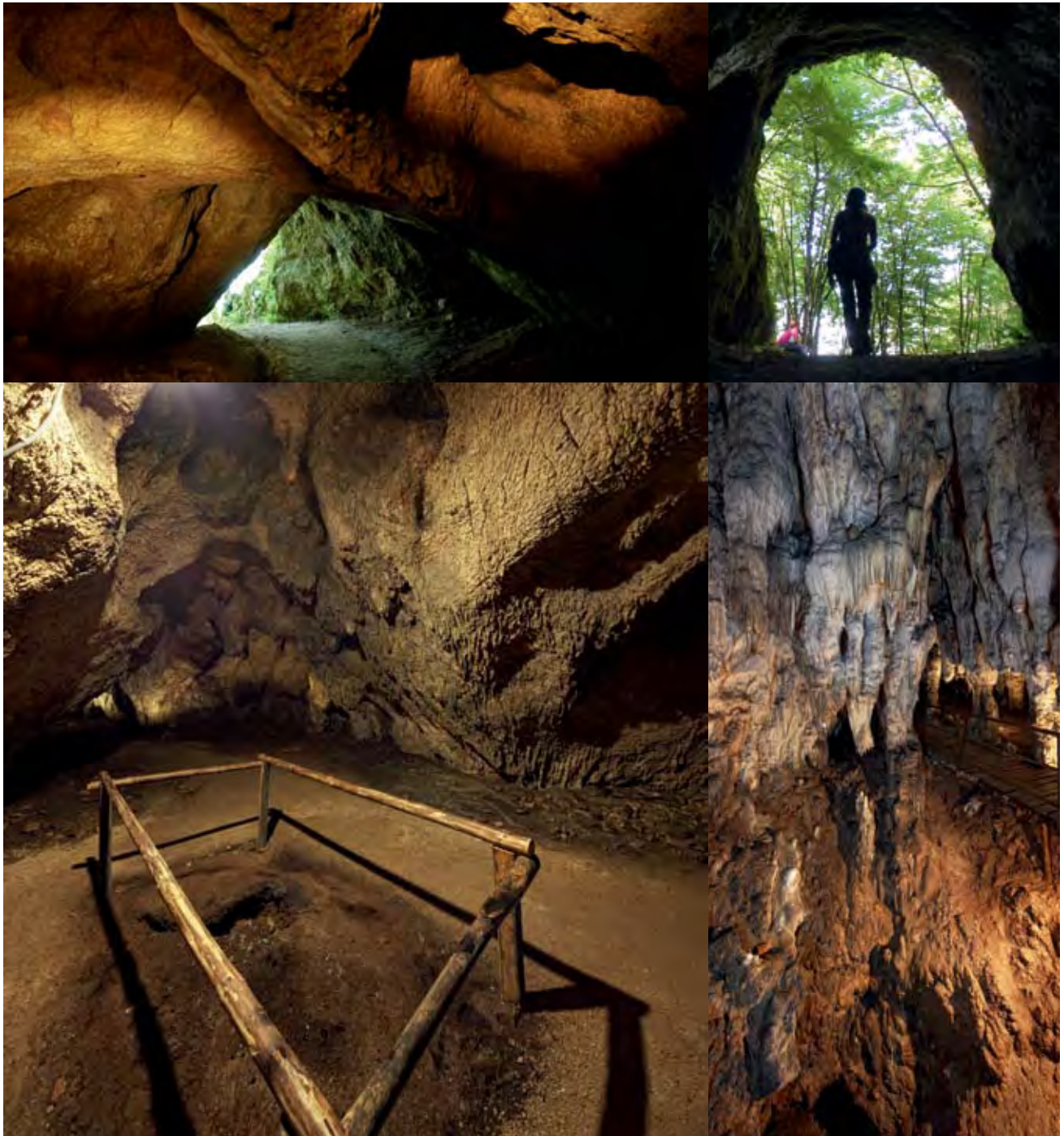
Barač Caves were drawn into topographic maps in 1699 and were opened to the public in 1892. In those days the gentry were being driven to the caves in horse carriages, and led through them by guides with flaming torches.

Cave Vrlovka near Kamanje
excavations discovered various prehistoric and Roman tools and pieces of pottery as well as the Roman money during the reign of Emperor Claudius II Gothicus (268-270)
www.kamanje.hr

Gajina Cave
archeological site from the time of Iapodes and a location suitable for sports climbing and relaxation
www.rakovica.hr

108

Barač caves are situated about 6 km from Rakovica

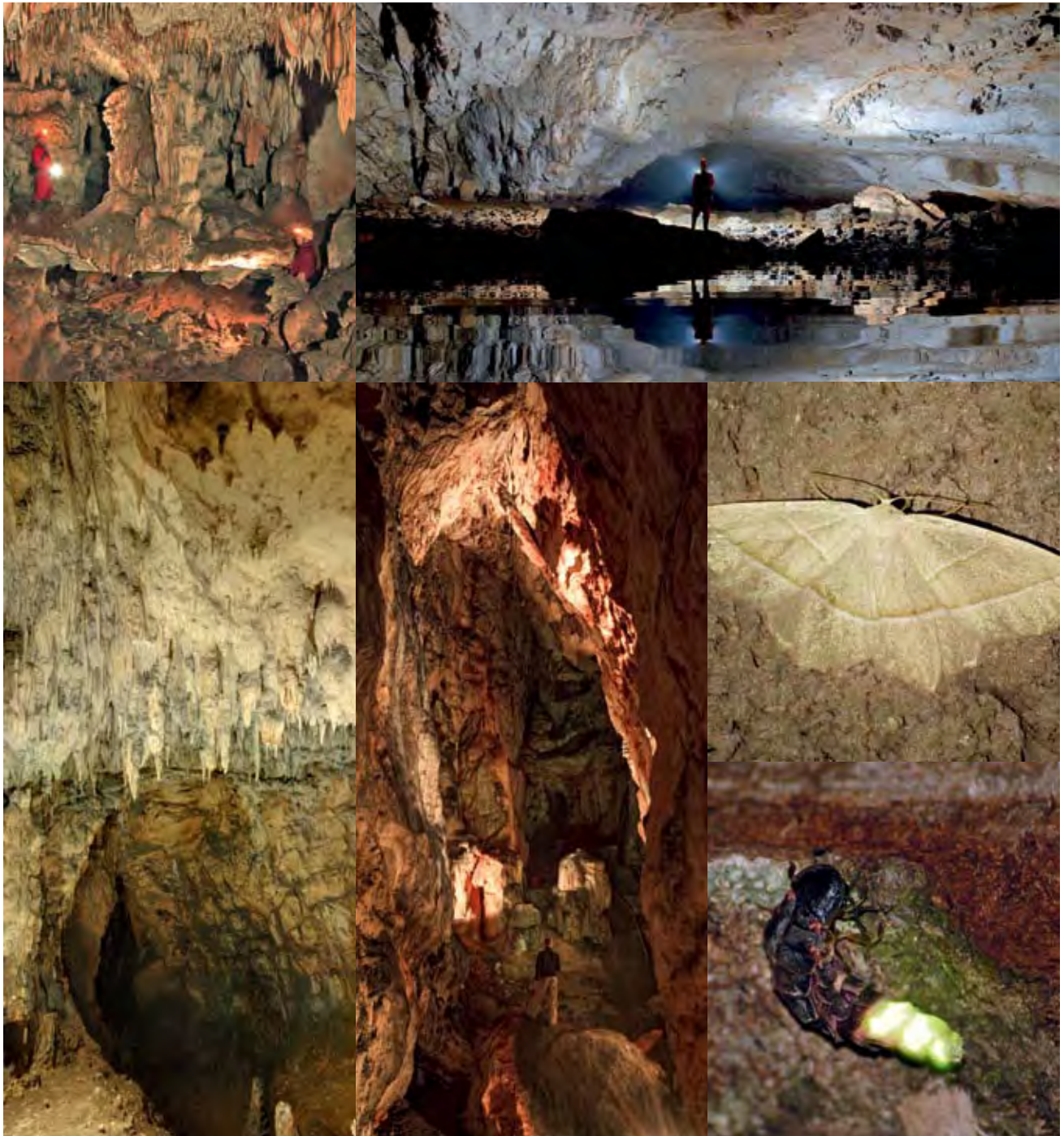


Entrances to all of the three caves are on the north side

There are three caves, Upper, Lower and New

Barač Caves – Gornja (Upper), Donja (Lower) and Nova (New) cave - are located east of Rakovica. This is a 12 kilometer long cave system and the chambers and channels of the Upper Cave have been adapted for visitors. The first written records of these caves, *Die Wassernoth im Karst* by I. T. Bunek, were published in 1874. Croatian mineralogist, Professor Mijo Kišpatić paid special attention to paleontological and archeological research of the caves and published his findings in 'Viestnik' of Croatian Archeological Society in 1885, as well as in his book 'Pictures from Geology'. On his initiative, the 'Committee for Research and Adaptation

of Barač Caves' was established in 1892. The committee's aim was to preserve this valuable site as much as possible.



A visit to Barač caves is described by Josip pl. Sugh in 1898

Štirovača

The Forest of Miracles

Museum of Forestry

in one of the three oldest forestry associations in Croatia Krasno
www.tz-senj.hr

Camping in Mrkvište

mountaineering and socializing
PD Zavižan from Senja, end of July
www.hpd.zavizan.com

*"I kiss your miraculous fairies,
Offspring of your exquisite joke,
My homeland Lika's timid valleys,
Steep holes, poplars and soil..."*

Danilo Medić

1844-1879

Croatian Writer

Štirovača

mountaineers' gathering and socializing event PD (mountaineering association)

Šumar, end of June
www.pdsumar.hr

110

Beech and pine forests are situated at an altitude of 800m

The most widespread forest community of the mountain vegetation belt is the beech forest



The southern area of National Park North Velebit encompasses a part of the mountain valley Štirovača, well known by its grand and preserved evergreen forests and unique by the freshness of mountain air and an abundance of flora and fauna. Štirovača Valley is among the rare localities within the park with a natural spring of drinking water and several streams which irrigate the surrounding moist meadows. Štirovača used to be an exceptionally lively place, especially during the warm summer months. There was a saw-mill, a restaurant, cottages in which shepherds lived with their families, as well as forestry office and saw-mill workers.

Today it remains the favourite excursion site of the local population and a pleasant, relaxing spot for visitors.



Velebit's vast coniferous forests



Forest is a home for a large number of animals

Cissae and Novalja

The Sunken City

Novalja Summer of Culture
Novalja, June-September
www.tz-novalja.hr

Town Museum Novalja
a collection of archeological,
underwater-archeological, ethno and
artistic photographs
www.muzej.novalja.hr

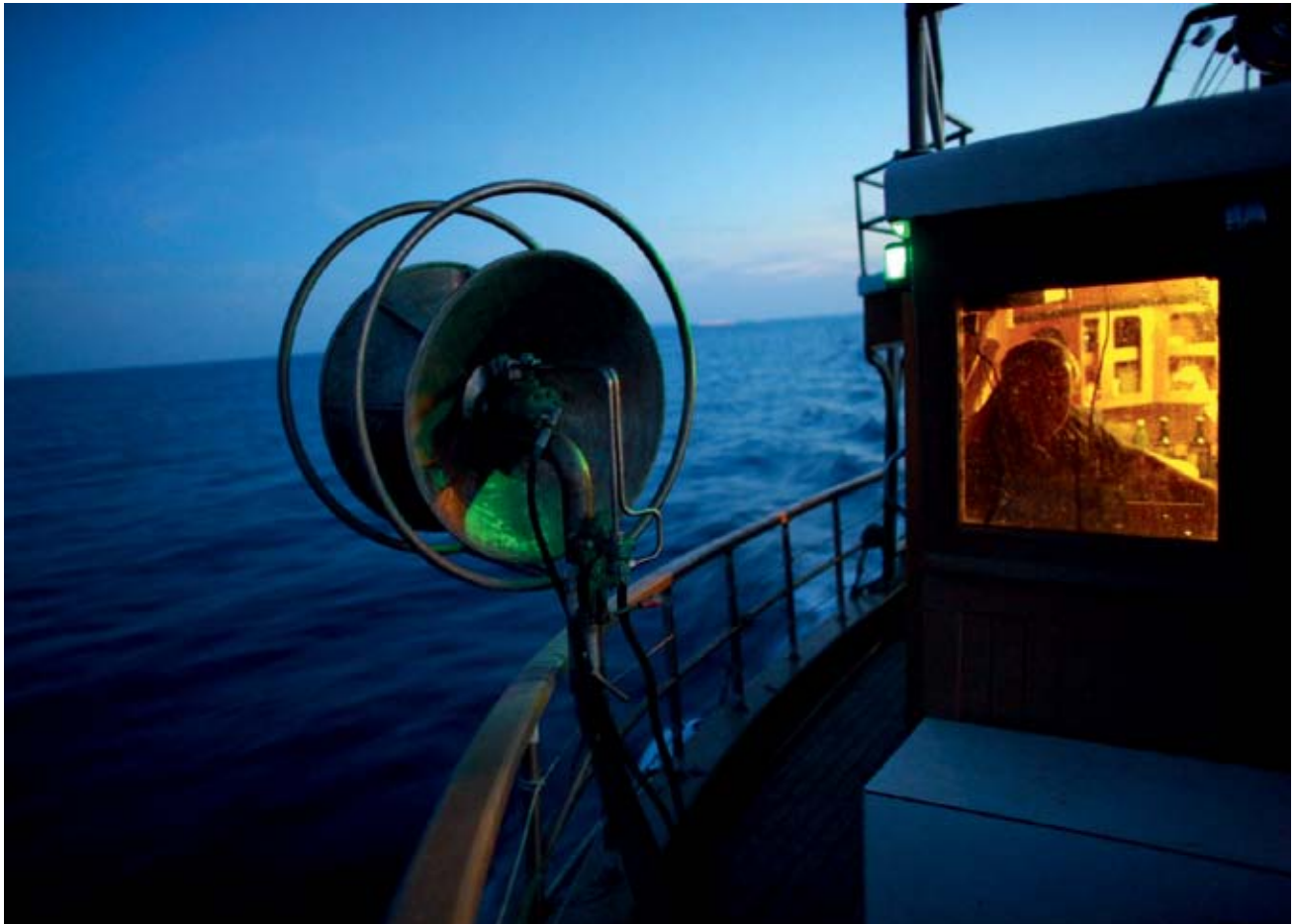
"Talijanova Buža"
a 1050 meters long underground
aqueduct, from Antiquity
www.otok-pag.net

Cissa was the largest Roman settlement on the island of Pag. The remains of the city which was, according to the 4th century legend, destroyed and flooded in an earthquake, can today be seen on a sandy and pebbly sea bed of the beach Caska.

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The name **Novalja** originates from the Latin word *navalis*, meaning a harbour

Amphora, remains of the cargo from the sunken Antiquity ship



Sandy sea bed displays the remains of the sunken ship

One of the remains of the Roman city Cissa (1st century B.C.) is a kilometer long aqueduct which cuts through hard rock and which supplied Cissa and its harbor Novalja. The name Novalja originates from the Latin word *navalia*, meaning harbor. Built above the entrance into an ancient aqueduct, the Town Museum Novalja has, in its attractive collections, documented all historical periods. There is an infinite number of Roman excavations on land and in the sea, like the remains of *villa rustica* with mosaics, and the remains of the cargo from the sunken Roman ship on the sea bed. After the fall of Cissa, Novalja developed into a large settlement in the 5th century, which is confirmed by the remains of three

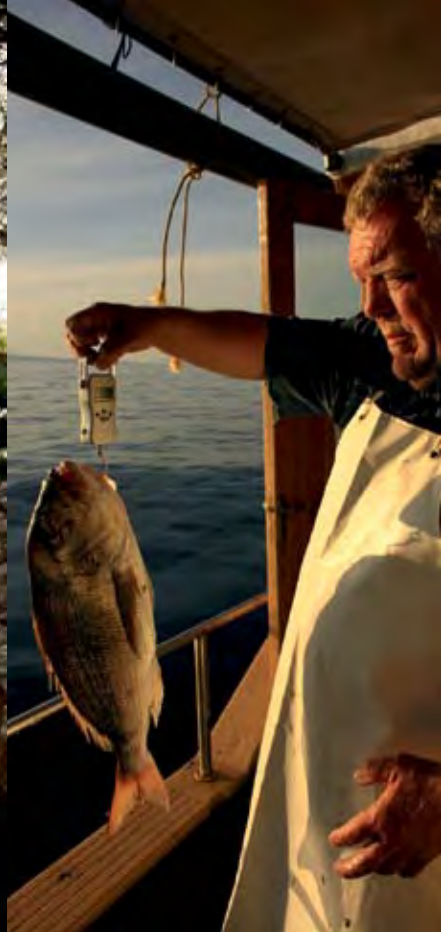
magnificent early Christian basilicas.



Roman finds are abundant in the sea as well as on land



Talijanov**a buža**, a kilometer long underground aqueduct



Fish have been the main food of this region since Antiquity

The Mother of God
Holy Mary

The Reliquary of Novalja
One of the most beautiful reliquaries of early Christianity

The oldest known image of the Mother of God on the east coast of Adriatic can be found in the Reliquary of Novalja. Her image with wide opened arms preparing for prayer was created some hundred years before the Council of Ephesus was held in 431, after which many churches along the Adriatic coast were dedicated to Mary.

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The church of St. Anton
in the Novalja Field



Kate of Novalja

The Reliquary of Novalja from the 5th century



The island of Pag was inhabited from as early as Lower Paleolithic period. In the last centuries B.C. Liburnians settled there, and the ruins of their fortified settlements on the hills can still be seen today. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476, during the time of big migrations, the island was inhabited by various nations. The Croats settled there in the 7th century with the main settlement in Keša (the name originates from the old Cissa). Keša collapsed in the clashes of Rab and Zadar over the island of Pag, in the 12th century, after which the city of Pag came into prominence. In 2010, the excavation of the oldest Croatian bronze jewellery (9th – 11th

century), found in a child's grave near the church of St Juraj, caused a real sensation.



The early Christian reliquary is kept in the Archeological Museum of Zadar



During the time of big migrations, the island was inhabited by various settlers



From Cape Kijac to Bay Mandalina
Crystal Clear Sea

Sailing Regatta
Senj, July
www.tz-senj.hr

Fishermen's Faires
Senj and Sv. Juraj, July
www.tz-senj.hr

Along with the city of Senj, whose once famous uskok and then merchant navy is today represented by Sailing Club Senj, the smaller coastal settlements in this district are Bunica, Kalić, Sveti Juraj, Lukovo Otočko, Donja Klada, Starigrad, Jablanac, Stinica, Prizna, Cesarica, the town of Karlobag, Lukovo Šugarje and Barić Draga. This is where the sea is crystal clear.

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Bura (strong north eastern wind) is a unique feature of Senj district



Chrystal clear is the colour of the sea in this part of the Adriatic



The narrow coastal belt of Lika-Senj County situated under Mount Velebit and stretching over 118 kilometers from Cape Kijac to Bay Mandalina south of the village of Barić Draga is one of the most impressive parts of the whole Croatian Riviera. Although less known, because the tourist season is shorter in the mountains, these old fishermen villages offer calm and quiet atmosphere accompanied by the joy of swimming, walking over mountain trails or mountaineering. It is very easy to change your surroundings here: unique summery atmosphere of Croatian Adriatic reigns on the nearby islands, while the mountains offer blooming pastures, shady forests, streams and rivers.



Old fishing villages offer peace and quiet



One of the most striking parts of Croatian riviera



The change of scenery is very easy



The Bay

Zavratinica

Zavratinica, one of the most wondrous bays of the Velebit coastal area, became a secret summer destination of the Viennese and Prague elite at the beginning of the 20th century when the upper trail with a gazebo and the walking path along the sea shore were built.

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Zavratinica — has been a protected landscape from 1964



Attractive, 900 meters long and cut into a Velebit cliff, this narrow bay reminds of a Norwegian Fjord. Its width varies from 50 to 150 meters and the canyon rises up to the height of 100 meters. It is situated only 15 minute walk along the sea from the town of Jablanac. The bay can also be reached from the village of Zavrtnica, down the sandy trail leading from the gazebo to the sea. Zavrtnica was formed by tectonic movements that broke the carbon rock after which the canyon was deepened by the waters of Velebit. Due to the constant, slow sinking of the whole Adriatic Coast, the canyon of Zavrtnica has completely descended into the sea.

Prominent Croatian writer Vjenceslav Novak could not resist the magical attraction of Zavrtnica and found inspiration for his work here.



Secret summer resort of the Viennese and Prague elite at the beginning of the 20th century



Bijele and Samarske Cliffs

Wonderously Beautiful

'Bijele' and 'Samarske' Stijene (cliffs)
unique geomorphologic karst phenomenon
www.tz-grad-a-ogulina.hr www.tz-senj.hr

Gardens
Small clearings abundant in flora

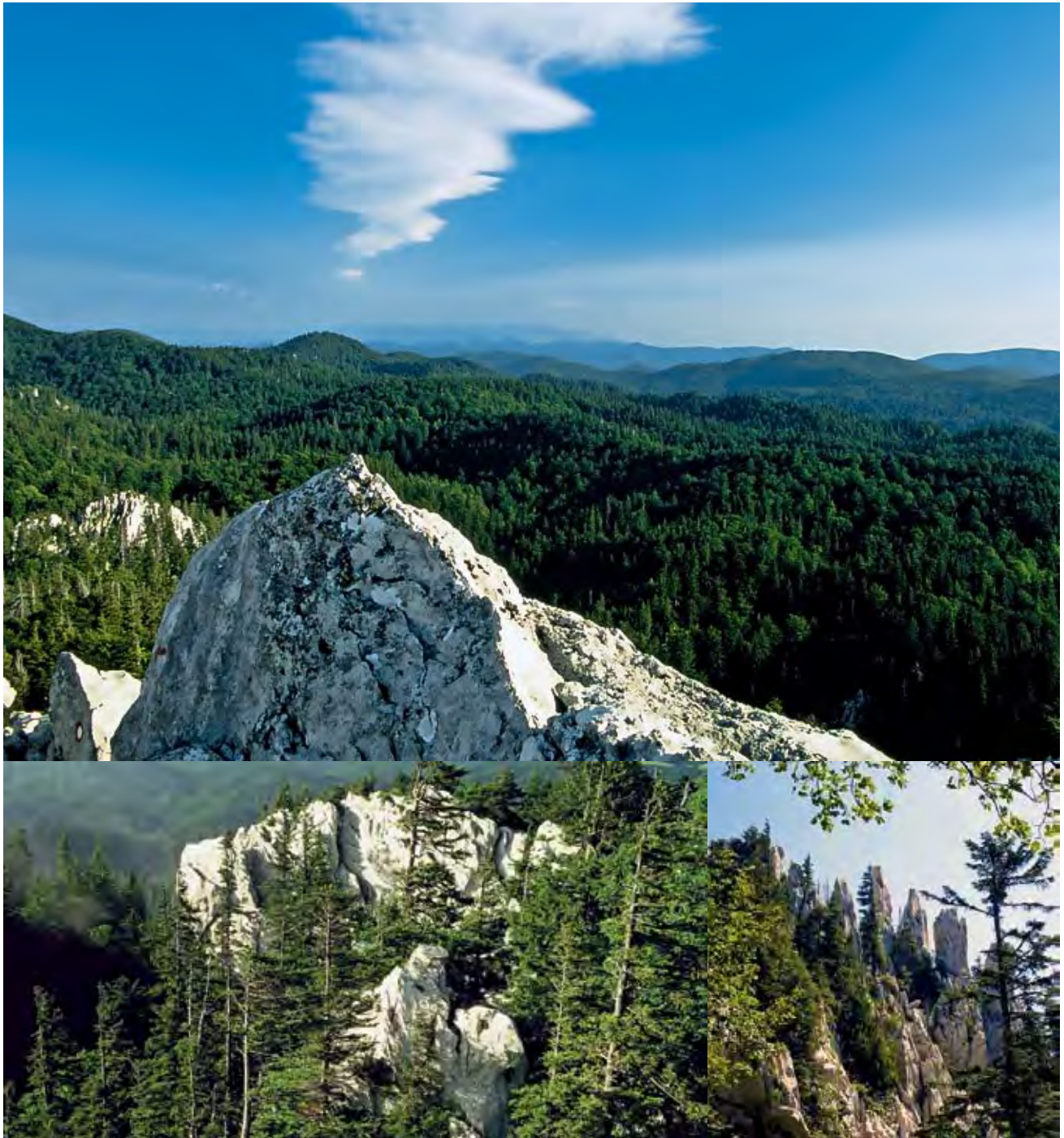
Vihoraški Put (Vihoraški Passage)
connects Bijele and Samarske cliffs

Bijele (white) and Samarske (saddle) Cliffs are uniquely divine, unparalleled and without an equal. The beauty of their brutal and virginal nature is irresistibly attractive. The nature of this landscape created a labyrinth of karst shapes, a multitude of high, vertical cliffs, deep impassable karst depressions and chasms eternally filled with snow.

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'Bijele' and 'Samarske' Cliffs offer an exquisite
esthetic experience

Forests remain untouched on higher altitudes



Bijele and Samarske Cliffs were named
after their vertical, white rocks

Bijele and Samarske Cliffs are the main subgroup of the Mount of Velika Kapela. In the beginning both cliffs formed a single mountain slope which was then broken down into many smaller, rocky clusters that assumed today's stunning forms through various atmospheric and chemical reactions. The shapes were named according to the associations which they inspired: Dvorac (castle), Čovuljak (midget), Morski Pas (shark), Amfiteatar (amphitheatre), Piramida (pyramid), Dvorac-Kula (castle-tower), Prsti (fingers)... Because of their beauty and rare, as well as endemic plant species, Bijele and Samarske Cliffs received the status of a strict nature reserve in 1985. Due to their inaccessibility the cliffs were isolated

and little known which resulted in the preservation of their natural characteristic. The passage to Bijele Rocks was first discovered by game-keepers, on 28 July 1899, while following a bear trail and coming across a passage through seemingly impassable mountain parts.

Rocks grow from inaccessible karst depressions and precipices eternally filled with snow

The karst workshop of nature always offers new experience and new details



Fragrant Immortelle

Blooming Flowers

Velebit Botanical Garden
Nacional Park Northern Velebit
www.np-sjevni-velebit.hr

Weather station, Zavižan
The highest altitude meteorological
station in Croatia

*"Velebit, you fairy-like rock,
I kiss your fragrant immortelle.
The blooming flowers of your valleys
And haughty cliffs of your heights.
Vigorous firs and their adorned branches."*

Danilo Medić
1873
Velebit

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Mountain meadows and pastures are
important for preserving biodiversity



Floristically, this is an incredibly diverse area



More than 1850 plant species and subspecies have been noted in the area of Velebit, and among as many as some eighty endemic ones, the best known are *Degenia Velebitica* (velebitska degenija), Croatian *Sibiraea* (hrvatska sibireja), *Arabis Croatica* (hrvatska guštarka), *Dianthus Velebitica* (velebitski klinčić) and *Primula Kitaibeliana* (Kitaibelov pakujac). The whole mountain enjoys the status of a nature park within which there are two national parks. National Park Paklenica is situated on the southern slopes and National Park Northern Velebit on the northern slopes. Particular protected natural units within Nature Park Velebit are the strict nature reserve Hajdučki and Rožanski Kukovi, the

Special reserve of forest vegetation – Štirovača, and Velebit Botanical Garden on Zavižan, as well as numerous individual natural phenomena.



Rastoke

Fairy's Hair

May Day celebrations
exciting events on rivers Korana and
Mrežnica Rastoke, May
www.mirjana-rastoke.com

A wedding in Rastoke
the estate of the Holjevac family
Rastoke, throughout the year
www.slunj-rastoke.com

Rastoke traditional home
celebration of home-made traditional
dishes Rastoke
www.slunj-rastoke.com

The image of River Slunjčica is magical and magnificent. This fairytale world offers travertine boulders, moss - dewy with pearls, infinite glistening waterfalls, playful torrents and some ten meter high waterfalls of which the most beautiful are Veliki Buk, Hrvoje and Vilina Kosa (Fairy's Hair), at the estuary of Slunjčica into Korana.

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Rastoke (a historic centre of the Croatian municipality of Slunj) is impressive with its cascades, waterfalls, torrents, small islands, streams, greenery and vegetation as well as its small cottages and water mills. The name of the place itself explains that water is being poured out ('rastače'). Here, the cascading waterfalls of River Slunjčica very richly branch out. With more than twenty of its cascades and waterfalls Slunjčica flows away into a multitude of branches, spills over in between houses and water mills, flows underneath small wooden bridges, in some places lake-like and peaceful and in some boisterous, rustling, showering and evaporating. Trout can be seen swimming in the clear water underneath small bridges.

Rastoke is also called Small Plitvice because its waterfalls, clear waters, fragrances and freshness are a real stairway to the most famous and the oldest Croatian national park.



Rastoke got its name due to water branching out and overspilling



Slunjčica roars, rustles, pours and evaporates

Klek The Sleeping Giant

Witches, fairies and elves
festival, taking an exam in broom
flying fun for all generations
Klek, June
www.ng-junior.com
www.tz-grad-a-ogulina.hr

Botanical education trail
learning about plant communities and
endemic species Klek
www.aktivni-odmor.com
www.tz-grad-a-ogulina.hr

HOC Bjelolasica
Croatian Olympic centre
www.bjelolasica.hr

There is no mountain peak in the whole of Croatia that stirs people's imagination as much as Klek. According to tradition, Klek is the gathering point of witches, which have practically become the symbol of Klek and Ogulin. From the distance, Klek looks like a sleeping giant with Klečice (two stony boulders) as his legs and the summit peak as his head.

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Klek, a prominent peak on the eastern ridge of Mount Velika Kapela

Klek's shape is that of a 3-4-kilometer long spine with northwest-southeast position, covered in a foresty cape from neck to foot, with spacious meadows abundant in spring flora at its base. Klek is one of Croatia's best known mountains due to its interesting appearance as well as a 200 meter high cliff which has always been inviting climbers. This is a woody, nearly 4 kilometers long mountain ridge, out of which protrudes a huge stone boulder on one side and two stone 'legs', Klečice, on the other. It belongs to the massif of Velika Kapela. Enchanted by the beauty of Klek, Johannes Frischauf, a mathematics professor from Graz, initiated the establishment of a mountaineering society of Croatia in 1874. To recognize

the establishment of organized mountaineering, Klek became a trade mark of the Croatian Mountaineering Association.

Geological education trail

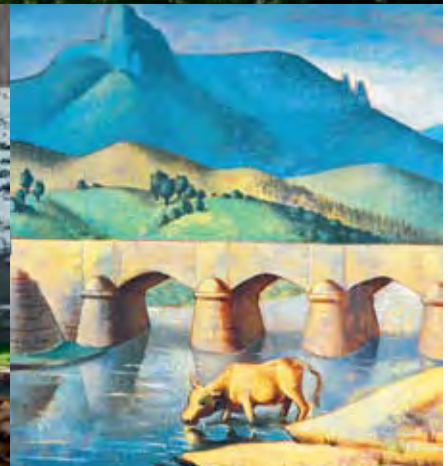
learning about the geoheritage of the protected nature reserve – of the significant Klek landscape
www.karlovac-nature.hr
www.tz-grad-aogulina.hr

Celebration of the mountaineers' New Year

Klek, the first week-end in the New Year
www.plsavez.hr
www.tz-grad-aogulina.hr



Miraculous Klek, a sleeping giant



Klek's south-east cliff, the first school for Croatian climbers

Kuterevo

The Bears and the Tamburas

The two mountain settlements: Krasno, in the Nature Park Velebit at the altitude of 800 meters and Kuterevo at 559 meters are known today to the whole of Croatia.

Refuge for Young Bears in Kuterevo
salvation for young bears that lost
their mothers
www.kuterevo-medvjedi.hr

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Baby bears who are left without their mothers find refuge in Kuterevo

Kuterevo, a village on the slopes of Northern Velebit has long been known for its carpenters who will even travel to the distant fairs in Dalmatia to sell their small barrels, wooden jugs and stools. They are especially skilled in the craft of making 'tamburica dangubica' (tamburica is a diminutive of tambura, a traditional string instrument resembling a lute, dangubica has two strings or two pairs of strings and literally means 'to waste the day') or 'samica' ('a loner' because it usually plays solos) which is also sometimes called 'kuterevka'. These skilled carpenters occasionally still make long oars for sea vessels. Today, Kuterevo is known by many as a refuge for young bears who are left without the care of their mothers

due to an accident or for various other reasons. The tourists who come to enjoy the peace and quiet will not be in absolute wilderness here but wilderness can be found only several hundred meters away and they can always answer its call.



The makers of tambura known as kuterevka

Krasno

A Miracle Flower

Krasnian Cheese

embodies the vastness of Velebit and the hard work of cattle-breeders
Krasno
www.tz-senj.hr

Our Lady of Krasno

the shrine is visited by believers from the whole of Croatia
Krasno, 15 august
www.tz-senj.hr

The legend says that children shepherds came across a wondrous flower with an image of Virgin Mary in its heart. They picked it and took it to their village only to find it in the same spot the next day. This was repeated several times, so the locals of Krasno built a chapel to Virgin Mary, whose altar is positioned on the exact spot where the flower had been found. In the old days the shrine was visited by the pilgrims from western Bosnia, Kordun, Lika and Krbava, on the feasts of Velika Gospa (Assumption of the Virgin Mary, 15th August) and Mala Gospa (the Birth of the Virgin Mary, 8th September) but it is today visited by the people from the whole of Croatia as well as the world.

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Krasnian cheese is produced from cow's and sheep's milk

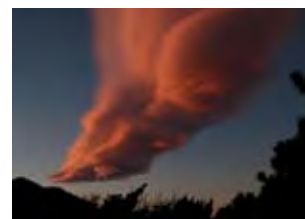


Krasno is located at the foot of Nadžak Bilo, Senj Bilo and Švičko Bilo

Krasno is an idyllic mountain village located in a valley, at an altitude of 800 meters, at the foot of Nadžak Bilo, Senj Bilo and Švičko Bilo (mountain ridges). It is composed of 14 smaller villages scattered along the edges of Krasno Field, a picturesque, 7 kilometer long valley, completely surrounded by high and steep woody slopes and peaks. Forestry is the traditional vocation of the people of this area. Krasno boasts the first forestry association in this area, established back in 1725. The first museum of forestry has been opened in the village to mark the 240th birthday of the forestry association. It reminds us of how work was once carried out and warns us that forests need to be carefully managed. The local cheese

factory, on the other hand, produces excellent cow's and sheep cheeses thanks to the years of experience, traditional recipes and organic local milk. The North Velebit National Park administration headquarters are situated in Krasno.

Antonja u Krasnu (The Feast of St. Anthony)
cultivation of traditions and Lika Olympics
Krasno, 13 June
www.tz-senj.hr



The miracle flower was seen by children – shepherds above Krasno according to the legend



A Magnificent Recreation Park

The district of the tourist region Lika-Karlovac offers exceptional opportunities for an active vacation. There are numerous facilities for recreation and sport which are suitable for people of all ages and level of fitness. From gentle walks in the fresh forest air enriched with mountain ozone and sea-spray aerosols, to mountain passes of moderate difficulty and extremely demanding alpinist feats. From organized touristic sightseeing tours of the caves to speleological descents into undiscovered pits or diving in the deep or shallow depths of the sea. From



refreshing in clear rivers, lakes or Adriatic beaches, to canoeing, kayaking, sailing and rafting. Hunting and fishing are available in all parts of the region. Winter sports are one of the main attractions, and cycling is more and more becoming a trade mark of active vacations in the region of Lika and Karlovac.



Cycling and Rafting

Cycling With Soul

Croatian Olympic Centre Bjelolasica,
located in Jasenak
www.bjelolasica.hr

Bike&Bed

About a hundred accommodation
facilities which fulfill *Bike&Bed* criteria
www.bicikl.hr
www.tzkz.hr

Cyclotourism

11 cycling routes with overall length
of 700 kilometers are offered by this
county as well as cyclotouristic maps,
signalization, possibility of renting a
bicycle, cycle service
<http://cikloturizam.tzkz.hr>

Upon its arrival to Croatia, the bicycle very soon became the darling of the local population but it was later replaced by a car on a massive scale. Today, the new network of motorways disburdens state and local roads from motorized traffic and enables safe cycling. Along the way, village households will offer drinking water, homemade food and a welcoming smile. Karlovac County indeed offers unforgettable week-end rides and active vacation.

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Cyclotouristic routes of Karlovac County are highly enjoyable as one can absorb the beauty of nature and enjoy the hospitality of the locals. Physically undemanding rides, on the local roads that follow courses of clear rivers, are intended for occasional cyclists who are also true lovers of nature, whilst the hilly trails, which will drain your last atom of energy, are a challenge for those wanting more from themselves and their bicycles. Every route offers a unique experience, completed with an exceptional choice of reasonably priced food. There are local specialties accompanied by the view of waterfalls or a calm lake, a wealth of historical heritage spiced up by legends, Bike&Bed accommodation, cyclists' hotels, cycle

service, shops selling cycling gear – everything that a cyclist might need.

Thermal spa Lešće,
located next to River Dobra
www.toplice-lesce.com

Tourist Centre, Petrova Gora
www.muljava.hr

Tourist Centre, Mirjana,
Rastoke
www.mirjana-rastoke.com

SrCe Priroda,
(Heart of Nature), farming estate
Srakovčić
<http://priroda.hotelkorana.hr>

Accommodation
www.tzkz.hr/cgi-bin/smjestaj/smjestaj_trazilica.asp



Mountaineering and Diving

Trekking with Heart

Diverse areas and dynamic landscapes of the Lika-Senj County, from continental hinterland and mountains to the coast and islands, enable the pursuit of various activities.

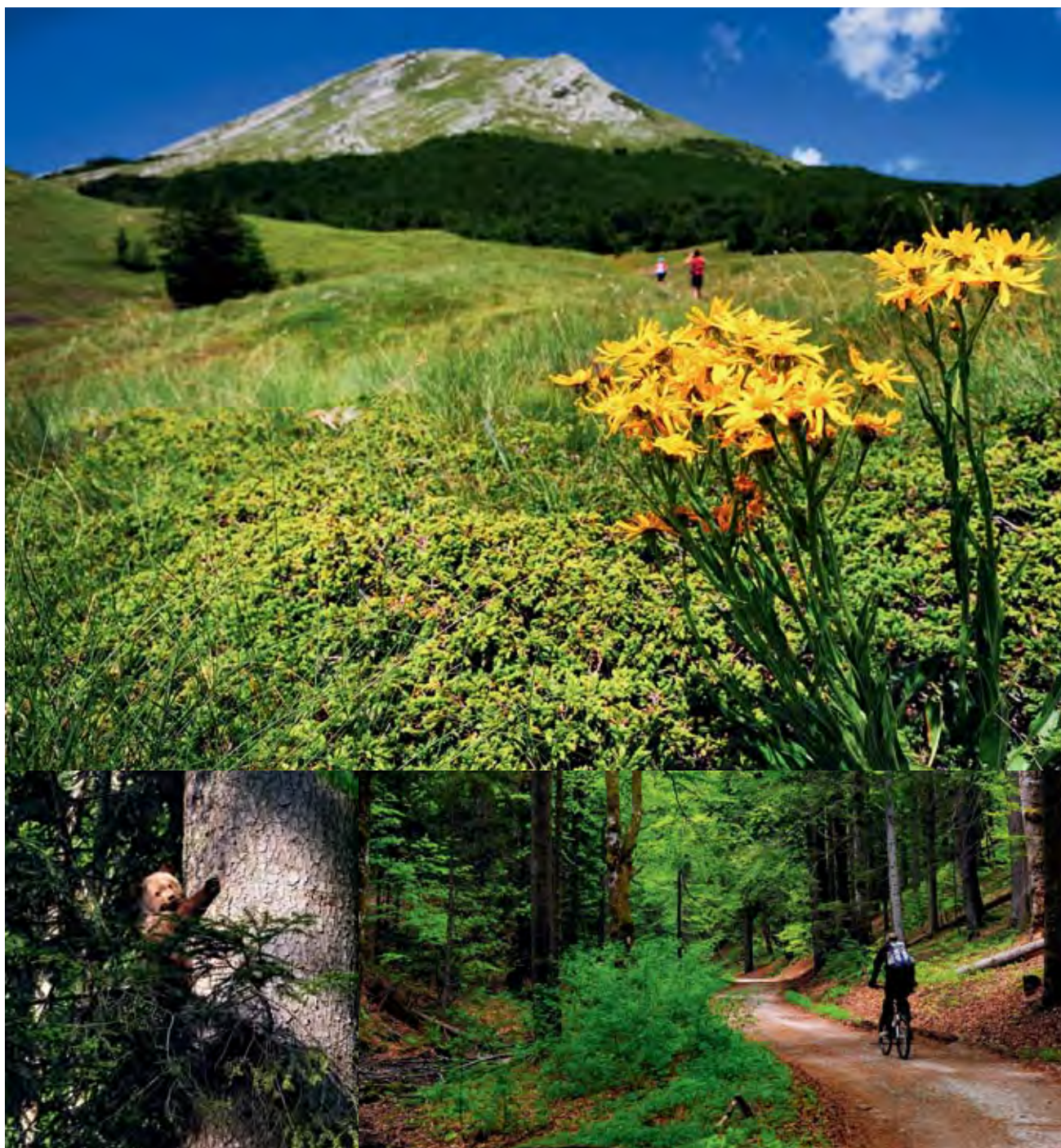
A special offer

alpinist climbing, canoeing, visiting caves and pits, hunting and fishing

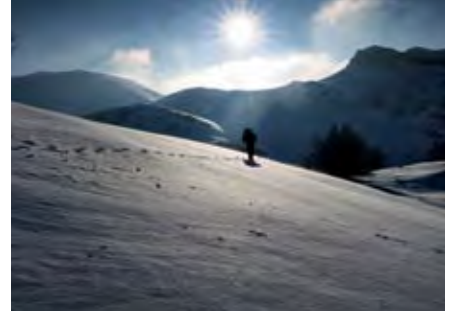
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www.rizvancity.com

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www.sru-lika-gospic.com
www.krpan-lov.com

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Trekking, cycling and mountaineering are just some of the activities offered on the continent, whilst scuba-diving, wind-surfing and underwater fishing are offered on the coast. The main advantage of this area is a wide variety of recreational activities in its continental and coastal parts. From recreational walking and hiking to alpinist mountaineering, from swimming and wind-surfing, scuba-diving and underwater fishing to sailing on dinghies. Best of all, there is a possibility of combining these activities on the daily or weekly basis, which is also a certain tribute to tradition. After all, the people of Velebit have always been in sync with both the sea and the mountains.



Sveto brdo (Holy Mountain), 1752 m, situated on the southeastern slope of Velebit on the outskirts of Zadar region





World Heritage

In 1978, *Velebit Mountain* massif was included in the international network of biosphere reserves by UNESCO under the *Man and the Biosphere program* (M & B).

Plitvice Lakes National Park was included on the World Heritage List in 1979.

National Park Northern Velebit is on the list of the ten most important forest areas in the Mediterranean within the framework of the World Wildlife Fund – A Gift to the Earth.

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www.visitcroatia.jp

1. International Folklore Festival, www.ka-mff.org
2. Autocross, www.rbnicka-dolina.com
3. 'Vincekovo' – St Vincent's Day (celebrated on 22 January as the beginning of a new cycle in wine making), www.tz-dugaresa.hr
4. Karlovac Town Museum, www.gmk.hr
5. Days of Beer, www.danipiva.com
6. Fishing, www.tz.kz.hr
7. Historia Viva (revival of famous people from the history of Karlovac) www.karlovac-touristinfo.hr
8. 'Karlovac Most Wanted' (break dance competition), www.promenada-klub.hr
9. The Feudal Fair in Dubovac, www.karlovac-touristinfo.hr
10. 'Ciklobajka' (Cycling tour on the trail of fairy tales), www.tz-grada-ogulina.hr
11. 'Three Lakes' cycling tour, www.babaraga.hr
12. Days of Cabbage, www.ogulin.hr
13. Days of Honey, www.ogulin.hr
14. Boats on river Mrežnica, www.tz.kz.hr
15. Rafting, www.kaniking-avantura.hr
16. Photo safari, www.tz.kz.hr
17. Educational botanical trail, www.aktivni-odmor.com
18. Ogulin Fairy Tale Festival, www.tz-grada-ogulina.hr
19. Children's workshops, www.tz-grada-ogulina.hr
20. Rowing on Šabljac Lake, www.tz-grada-ogulina.hr
21. Sightseeing, www.lickosenjska.com
22. A wedding in Raastoke, www.slunj-rastoke.com
23. Skiing, www.tz.kz.hr
24. Sailing, www.tz-sej.hr
25. Sambastico (Samba Festival), www.tz-sej.hr
26. Tobogganing, www.tz.kz.hr
27. Hunting, www.tz.kz.hr
28. Cheese tasting house in Slunji, www.tz.kz.hr
29. Festival of Northern Adriatic 'Klapas' (traditional vocal 'a capella' bands), www.sej.hr
30. Uskok Days, www.tz-sej.hr
31. Rakija (traditional plum brandy), www.tz.kz.hr
32. Carneval, www.rakovica.hr
33. Winnetouland Festival, www.rakovica.hr
34. Fishermen's Fair in Sv. Juraj, www.tz-sej.hr
35. The Climb to Zavižan, www.tz-sej.hr
36. Otočac Airport, www.atozac.hr
37. Archery, www.tz.kz.hr
38. Days of Medicinal Herbs of Karlovac County, www.rakovica.hr
39. Equestrian Marathon, www.rakovica.hr
40. Fishing in Starigrad, www.tz.kz.hr
41. Velebit Botanical Gardens,



1

Ozalj

Draganić

Netretić

Karlovac

Duga Resa

Bosiljevo

Generalski Stol

Barilović

Krnjak

Vojnić

Tounj

Ogulin

Oštarije

Josipdol

Cetingrad

Slunji

Plaški

Saborsko

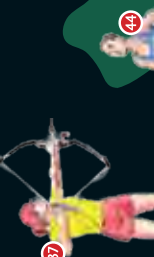
Rakovica

Brinje

Seni



www.nrp-sjevemi-velebit.hr
42. Eco-Ethno Fair, www.tz-otocac.hr
43. Sports Fishing on Gacka, www.gacka.hr
44. Plićvice Marathon, www.plicvice.hr
45. Educational trail Stari Grad, www.rakovica.hr
46. Tambura 'Kuterevka', www.tz-otocac.hr
47. Hunting for wild boar, www.lovac.info
48. Lunj Olive Fair, www.tz-novajla.hr
49. Windsurfer, www.tz-senj.hr
50. Premuzički Trail, www.ppv-velebit.hr
51. Refuge for young bears, www.kuterevo-medvedji.hr
52. 'Rosijeva Koliba' ('Rosi's Cabin' mountain house), www.nrp-sjevemi-velebit.hr
53. Rowing on river Lika, tz.perusic.hr
54. Autumn in Lika, www.tz-gospic.hr
55. Speleology, www.lickosenjska.com
56. The exhibition of the Pag sheep and cheese, www.tz-novajla.hr
57. Memorial Centre Nikola Tesla, www.mtcnikolatesla.hr
58. Lika Arr' Animals, gospic-online.com
59. Honey from Lika, www.lickosenjska.com
60. Diving, www.tz-novajla.hr
61. Zrće Beach, www.zrce.hr
63. Hotel 'Velebno', Baške Oštarije, www.tz-karlobag.hr
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67. Biker Days, www.tz-gospic.hr
68. Mountaineering, www.nrp-sjevemi-velebit.hr
69. Free climbing, www.paklenica.hr
70. Hunting, www.lickosenjska.com
71. Produce of Lika Fair, www.gracac.hr



● Vrhovine

● Otočac

● Kuterevo

● Krasno

● Starigrad

● Jablanac

● Korenica



● Perušić



● Lički Osik



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● Stara Novajla

● Caska

● Novajla



● Donji Lapac



● Lovinac



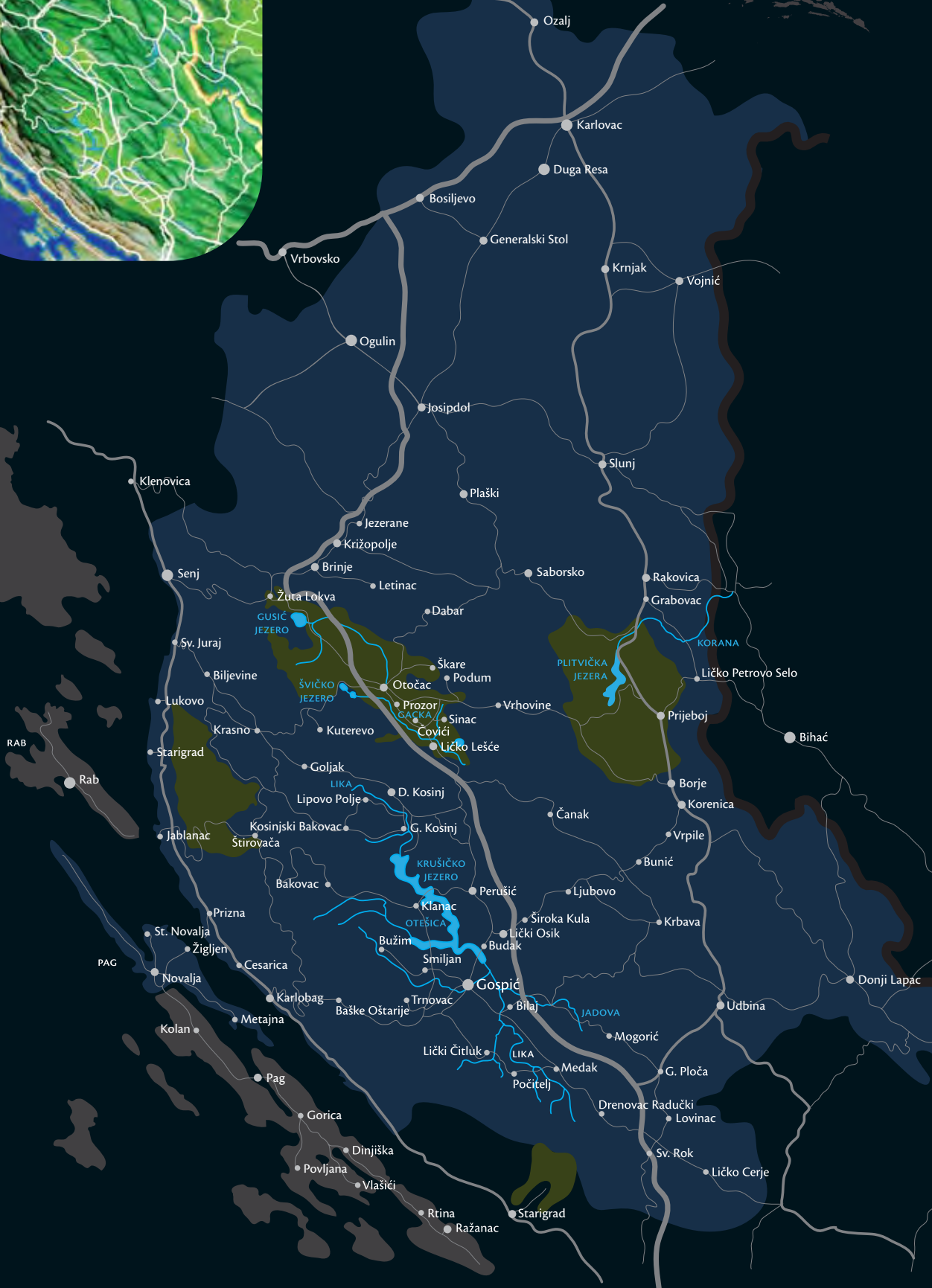
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