The Lika-Senj region should be visited during all four seasons throughout the year. This interesting region will surprise you with its beauty, exceptional points of interest and the particularly warm welcome of its hosts.

While driving towards the sea, or coming back from the sea, you only need to “descend” from the motorway and visit some of the Lika towns and localities Velebit foothill villages, refresh your body and soul by enjoying the intact nature of Gacka and Velebit and explore the first class attractions found at every step.

Lika is mystical and beautiful, preserved and wild, unique in its link of elements: stone, wood, water, water sources, rivers, and the handshakes and smiles of its hosts. Simply said, it is a magnificently preserved natural environment.

Welcome!

Lika-Senj County Tourist Board
The Gate to Lika

Travelling south from Zagreb and having passed the tunnel Mala Kapela, the first place for turning into the Lika region is Brinje. The old road that connected Lika and Gacka with the sea across Vratnik and onto Senj has now an attractive road for those who are visiting this area for the first time. For those who have travelled this road in the past, it serves as a reminder of the time that passed by when the rhythm of life moved at a much slower pace.

Brinje is first mentioned in 1343 as “Brigna”, and the second time on June 18 of the same year as “Bregne”. It is considered that the name derives from the chakavian local dialect “brnja”, i.e. simple juniper tree that grows in the area. The second explanation can be attributed to the local dialect “brinia”, which means exaltation, also a characteristic of the Brinje region landscape. Remains of the old town of Sokolac (hill-fort) can be seen on top of the hill in the center of Brinje. It was founded at the beginning of the 15th century by Nicholas IV Frankopan as the residence of this noble family. The three-floor chapel of the Holy Trinity with vaults and Frankopan coat of arms is one of the most important Gothic monuments in Croatia.

Did you know?

Historians agree that it is difficult to establish the exact source when and how the name Sokolac came to be used. One of the stories starts with the wedding of Nicholas IV with Dorothy Gorjanski, when, on the eve of the wedding, Nicholas sent a present to Venice - a horse and falcon (sokol) and goes by saying that when man left the town, falcons made their nests high up in the sky thus inspired historians and people to call the town by this name.

Our recommendation

The Holy Trinity Chapel in Sokolovac is a world-wide cultural heritage monument and one of the most beautiful medieval monuments in Croatia.

St. Fabian and Sebastian Chapel is a protected worldwide cultural heritage monument and one of the oldest sacral buildings in the Brinje municipality area. The building is late Romanesque style of sacral constructions dating from the 14th century.

The parish church of the Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary was built by the well-known defender and liberator of Lika from the Ottomans, the priest Marko Mesić, born in Brinje around the year 1700, on the remains of the older monastery church of St. Mary dating back to 1476.

The church of St. Vid dates from the 14th century and is one of the oldest sacral buildings in Brinje.

In the very center of Brinje, on the Josephine Road, there is a stone bridge across the 200-year-old Gate Jaruga stream. The bridge was built in 1801 by the industrious hands of by coastal and Brinje builders and stone-carvers. There is a sundial on the bridge with a stone sphere for reconstruction.

A bronze monument to the Brinje miners is the work of the academic sculptor Koste Angelija Radovanija. The miners from Brinje are well-known as builders of many roads and tunnels throughout Europe, breaking tunnels from Tierra del Fuego to Siberia and, therefore, famous throughout the world.

Activities

- angling on Brodić Lake where there is a Hunter’s Home
- strolling in the locality and surroundings
- for cavers – abysmal Cave Rokina and Cave Siničić near Letinca village from the neolithic period as an important and unique archeological prehistorical site. A paleolithic hunter lived here 9500 years before Christ and left some pictures on the rock face of the cave that have not been solved until this day.

Useful Information:

1. Brinje
2. Sokolac, Rokina bezdana - cave, Brodić Lake
3. A1 - Exit 8
4. Our recommendation

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Eating Out

Restaurant VICTORIA
3 Frankopanska, 53260 Brinje
Tel. +385 (0)53 700-746, Fax: (0)53 700-005
Cell. +385 (0)98 245-173
www.vi-victoria.hr

Where to stay

Hotel Lika-North
PUO Brinje, Tel.: +385 (0)53 646 050
Hotel Lika-South
PUO Brinje, Tel.: +385 (0)53 646 040
www.restaurant-rika.com

Brinje Tourist Office
62 Frankopanska, 53260 Brinje
Tel.: +385 (0)53 701 407
Fax: +385 (0)53 701-210
info@visitbrinje.hr
www.visitbrinje.hr
The Old City of the Croatian Littoral

The city of Senj, known for its tempestuous and rich history, was founded more than 3000 years ago. Fortress Nehaj that dominates the city under the Velebit was built in the 16th century served for the defense from foreign conquerors such as Turks and Venetians. The fortress hosts the museum collection of objects of the Senj Uskoks the Senj Port Authority and the permanent exhibition of Senj named Churches Through History and Senj City and Noblemen’s Coats of Arms. There is a restaurant on the ground floor. In the old city nucleus with its various shops, narrow streets, strongholds, and sacral objects you can observe the singular diversity of this city connected by sea with other Mediterranean cities, while by road with the hinterland over Vratnik Pass (700 m).

Senj Tourist Office
Stara cesta 2, 53270 Senj
Tel.: +385 (0)53 881-068
Fax: +385 (0)53 881-219
info@tz-senj.hr
www.tz-senj.hr

Nehaj Fortress
Nehajeva bb, Senj
Tel.: +385 (0)53 885-277
gradski.muzej.senj@gs.t.com.hr

Useful Information:

Zavratnica
A hiking trail to Zavratnica starts right under the kiosk selling ferry tickets. The bay is 900 m long and from 50 to 150 m wide. The canyon rises up to 100 meters. Thanks to its natural values, it was pronounced “protected landscape” back in 1964, and from 1981 a part of Velebit Nature Park.

Eating Out
You can refresh in Senj at many restaurants and taverns that offer a large selection of dishes based on the combination of coastal and Velebit traditions.

Where to stay
Accommodation can be found at the LIBRA hotel located on the coast at Obala dr. Franje Tuđmana 8, Hotel ART, Obala kralja Zvonimira 4, and large number of private apartments and vacation houses.

Did you know?
In 1248, the Senj bishop became the only bishop in the Catholic world that could use the Glagolitic script and the national language in liturgy by permission from Pope Innocent IV. This encouraged the development of the script during the 14th and 15th centuries mentioned in many preserved Glagolitic inscriptions and handwritten books and documents.
Gacka
Gacka River, Sinac vrilo and mills, Refuge for young bears at Kuterevo
A1 - Exit 10, Otočac

Green - Turquoise Oasis
Gacka is a valuable etnographic locality where the abundance of true values meets unanimously: beauty, water, landscape, tradition, authenticity and, naturally, gastronomy! The karst precipice of Gacka, the queen among rivers, source of life for the inhabitants of Gacka polje, and a discovery of peace and beauty for tourists and travellers. Water from the river is drinkable water (second alkaline chemical composition of the water for its optimal temperature and the five times faster than in other rivers of Croatia known for its brown trout that grows five times faster than in other rivers of the karst regions, particularly favorable for its optimal temperature and the alkali chemical composition of the water. Trout is the most sought after river fish, the water is drinkable water. Food and Crab from Karst Waters Otočac, 10 Kralja Zvonimira
Tel.: +385 (0)53 771 558
tzg-otocac@GS.t-com.hr / info@tz-otocac.hr

Getting there: Gacka can be reached from motorway A1 at Exit no.10 for Otočac. On the road towards the locality of Vrhosnine in the direction of Korenica and Plitvice there is a sign for turning towards Sinac, i.e. the source of the Gacka River.

Tour Plan: The town of Otočac is the center of the Gacka region and the first urban locality where you can visit many sights, such as church of the Holy Trinity in the town center, the chapel of the Holy Virgin Mary in Poljica dating from 1723 and other interesting etnographic features in Gacka Museum. Upon leaving Gacka you can turn northeast to Plitvice Lakes National Park or southeast to North Velebit National Park.

Activities: - cycling trails in Gacka river valley and the Velebit foothill villages - walking trails: Humac, Gacka - marked hiking trails: Otočac - Zažibin - sports airport: Otočac, Špilničko polje - Gacka River game fishing - Kayaking and bird watching at the Gacka river - Markočev vrilo hiking trail

We Recommend:
- Gacka Museum located in the city center with a rich archeological collection, daily visits, on working days from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Group visits outside working hours according to earlier appointment
- etnographic collection of traditional values in the Gacka region - Green Oasis collection, Likčko Leše - Galan park of Croatian memory - the collonades of the regional and national history from 9th to 21st century
- Otočac sculpture Calvary with fifteen stone columns set from the base of the Fortica to the Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows shrine of the Mother of God from Kranjska, (Mother of God of Carmel) and St. Ann from Kosašnica.
- game fishing in the Gacka River is an attraction for anglers for the river is known for its brown trout that grows five times faster than in other rivers of the karst regions, particularly favorable for its optimal temperature and the alkali chemical composition of the water.
- Gacka river game fishing - Days of Gacka, concerts and theater performances July - August
- Bakar memorial bikes race, June
- Etno Art Gacka, exhibition - sale fair in Sinac, July
- Galjan tournament of old sports - October
- Advent Otočac, December.

Did you know?
A stamping mill for making cloth has been preserved in Sinac, in other words, hand woven products made of wool that were acquired from sheep. To prepare the rough fiber for creation of comfortable clothes, it was necessary to soak it and then beat it. This was done in stamping mills, special water-mills adjusted for this purpose. Mills were also renewed where, along with the sound of clear water falling on the stone wheel of the mill, one can smell the odour of freshly ground flower.

Otočac - Center of the Early Croatian Gacka Region
While the river seduces you with its beauty, it surely does not come to your mind that you are in the proximity of the oldest locality of the Croatian population. Proof of this is on the Balcanska Plaque from 1100, and other proof can be seen in the homeland museum of the town of Otočac.

Useful Information:
What to See
Velebit refuge for young bears and cubs Velebit Association of Kuterevo (VUK)

Getting there:
Motorway A1 at Exit no.10 for Otočac. On the road towards the locality of Vrhosnine in the direction of Korenica and Plitvice there is a sign for turning towards Sinac, i.e. the source of the Gacka River.

Activities:
- gastronomic events in Gacka
- folk and traditional events in Gacka, throughout the year
- seasonal events in Otočac: 
  - Ekoetno Gacka, exhibition - sale fair in Sinac, May
  - Gacka Cup; Taekwando Gacka Cup: May
  - Advent Otočac, December. 
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- Etno Art Gacka, exhibition - sale fair in Sinac, July
- Sports airport: Otočac, Špilničko polje
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The only natural value in Croatia listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List

The Plitvice Lakes are situated somewhat further from the motorway, which is good, but not too far not to be ‘en route’ and visited on the way to the sea. It is definitely one of the places to come with someone dear to your heart, holding hands or embracing and walking around the magical landscape surrounded by the sound of the falls and the crystal clear water. You can also come alone with a smile on your face to greet all the living creatures around you, the ones flying, crawling, swimming, running... or stop for a second with your camera that you surely must have with you and catch the last ray of the sun on the drops of dew before they dry. Words are needed when speaking of the frozen falls that resemble the drops of dew before they dry. W ords are needed when speaking of the frozen falls that resemble the drops of dew before they dry.

The Plitvice Lakes are a world jewel of an inestimable value. Their specific beauty is a refuge for nature lovers and an inspiration for artists, and the unique and rich nature an exploration polygon for scientists. Visit Štefanija’s islet on the Lake Kozjak. The islet was named in honor of Queen Štefanija who visited Plitvice Lakes on September 5, 1888. Queen Štefanija was the first woman from our famous Hapsburg-Lotarin dynasty who visited the lakes 70 years after the Queen and Empress Caroline visited them in mid June, 1818.

Getting there: A1 highway from Zagreb, Otocac exit, through Vrhovina and Vrška Korenica for less than an hour taking the exit to D1 state road at the restaurant Borje and continuing towards the Plitvice Lakes.

Tour Programs: The park has two entrances, north entrance or Entrance 1 opposite the Lička kuću restaurant, and the south entrance or Entrance 2 opposite the turning for hotels Plitvice and Bellevue. B various programs of visit and sightseeing are at the disposal for the guests, which include walking along the paths and wooden bridges, trade ride and boat trip on Lake Kozjak. The panorama train and the electrical boat connect the Lower and Upper Lakes and are included in the price of the ticket. All information can be obtained at info centers located at entrances 1. and 2.

Activities: Walking, hiking on Lička Pješćenica and Minjina paragliding in Belopolje, riding the electrical boat and train, photography, cycling, skiing, rowing.

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Hiking trail Medvedjak is an arranged and marked hiking trail that leads to the peaks Oštri Medvedjak (889 m above sea level) and Tuč Medvedjak (968 m above sea level). The trail from peak Oštri Medvedjak reaches up to Lička Pješćenica, Una Valley (Bihac), Korana Valley, Drenikin Grad and Lička Petnica-Selo. An impressive view of a part of Plitvice Lakes, Lička Pješćenica and Mala Kapela spreads from Tuč Medvedjak peak.

Šupljara is cave located along the eastern edge of the Lower Lakes, in a limestone canyon set in motion by the strength of the water. The mill is a traditional farm building and a cultural heritage construction showing the old manner of grinding wheat. The mill is set in motion by the strength of the water.

Baraćeve Caves are located at about 16 km from the Plitvice Lakes National Park. They are connected to the underground flow of the Korana River that emerges from the waters of the Plitvice Lakes and Plitvice stream. They consist of three caves: Velika and Mala (Big and Small), Gornja and Donja (Upper and Lower) and Novu (New) Barać Caves. Gornja Barać cave is arranged for tourist sightseeing. Hiking trail Medvedjak – educational and recreational trails of forest ecosystems. Čerkovka uvala – 21 km long, “Plitvice” trail – 9 km long.

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The World of Silence and Freshness

In 1978 the Velebit was inserted in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (“Man and the Biosphere Program” (UNESCO). Within the natural park there are a number of protected localities: 2 national parks (North Velebit, Paklenica). North Park Velebit includes several previously protected areas - Strst nature reserve Hajdučki and Rožanski kaštel. Botanical reserve Viskita and Botanical reserve Zvartol-Balunić-Velika kosa, within which there is a well-known Velebit Botanical Garden, a declared monument of landscape architecture. More than 300 caves have been discovered in the area of National Park North Velebit of which the most important cave structures are Cvečka Cave and Lučeva Cave. In the past, this area was settled by a greater number of people that left their traces in the numerous ruins of_stables, sacral buildings and cultural monuments. Today, they are a source of inspiration for artists and the culture of the inhabitants of this mysterious mountain.

Paklenica National Park extends onto the southern slope of the Velebit Massif, and the most attractive features are the monumental canyon of Velika and Mala Paklenica whose vertical cliffs over 400 m high have made the canyon of Velika and Mala Paklenica whose most attractive features are the monumental Paklenica National Park extends onto the mount.

Culture of the inhabitants of this mysterious mountain:

Sacral buildings and cultural monuments. Today, their traces in the numerous ruins of stables, sacral buildings and cultural monuments. Today, they are a source of inspiration for artists and the culture of the inhabitants of this mysterious mountain.

Paklenica National Park extends onto the southern slope of the Velebit Massif, and the most attractive features are the monumental Paklenica National Park.

The Velebit National Park NP North Velebit, Velebit NP A1 – exit 10, Otočac

The Velebit National Park NP North Velebit, Velebit NP A1 – exit 10, Otočac

Getting there: North Velebit National Park can be reached from the motorway, exit for Otočac towards Kranjska locality. At Otočan village there is a road fork for Zavilan (entrance into Babić-Sika where tickets can be bought for the North Velebit National Park tour). You can reach Babici Site from Kranjs by driving along the gravel road (5 km) through Vukelic village. You can also reach Zavilan from the coastal street, turning to Babić (from the Adriatic coastal road onto a curvy mountain road which is 12 km long and takes you to Otočan (90 km).

Tour Plan: The national park can be reached from the continental, directions Miklošič, Ledine Dviga, Begomica and Stonica, or from the southwest hiking trail, and from directions Brencica and Gornji Klađe on the coast, while on the northeastern side from Kranjs. A circular tour of Veliki Zavilan starts from the road at the entrance to the Velebit botanical garden. It is possible to go down on the circular path in the garden from the top and then take it back to Belinovac and Velike kosa where you will reach the lodge for which you need about 2-3 hours. The view from the top extends towards the sea and the islands of Kvarner, Goli otok, Sveti Grgur and Rab, while in the distance on the islands of Cres and Loben with noticeable Cestria. The Velebit peaks Veliki and Mali Poljaver and on the other side Belinovac and Vukelic can be seen from the climbers’ lodges and somewhat further on Mali Rajnac (169 m) and further on Rožanski kukove.

You can start your Velebit hike from Premužičev Trail, from its beginning at 2 km from the botanical gardens, and up to Rossieva koliba (about 2 hours).

Activities:

- instructive, cycling and hiking trails, alpinism, caving, bird-watching
- walking along Premužič Trail suitable for all ages
- photo safari of mountain endemic flowers and wild animals
- horseback riding in North Velebit National Park
- cycling “Climb onto Zavilan” - June

We Recommend:

- to visit the botanical gardens on Zavilan
- Zavilan Climber’s Lodgings (1600 m above sea level) - visit of the meteorological station and viewpoint from which a fourth of all the Croatian islands can be seen - Kranjs village – visit of the cheese dairy “Bunad”, possibility of buying homemade cheese
- Events “Antonija u Kranjs” the celebration on the occasion of the St. Anthony, the patron saint of the parish of Kranjs. Middle of June numerous events take place and also the Fair of Traditional Products that represents products from traditional local crafts as well as culinary specialties of the region and its surroundings. In the church the Mother of God from Kranjs is located above the locality, the inhabitants of the coast and Like have been gathering from ancient times on the 15th of August to listen to the church choir in honor of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary

In Kutačevo you can see first class wooden vessels for cooking, longlasting wooden tools and the unbeatable chairs from Kutačevo made by the hard-working people of the region and their industrious hands, as well as an asylum for young bears.

Did you know?

Premužič Trail is the hiking trail that leads along the Velebit across the craggy ground of the North and Mid Velebit. The beginning of the trail is at Zavilan Climber’s Lodgings and then across Veliki Alan Pass and onto Otarčianka vrata. It was built from 1930 to 1933. The designer and construction organizer was the forest engineer Ante Premužić (1889 – 1979).

Upper picture: North Velebit NP entrance
Lower picture: Premužič Trail

Useful Information:

What to See

In North Velebit National Park - Rožanski and Hajdučki kukove where Lukine Caves are located - 1392 m deep, Sloučáke Caves - 1320 m, and in Velebit Nature Park.

There are also smaller caves and pits, as well as many important geomorphological (Kuta, Tuine greke, luk Stipina etc.) and hydrological constructions (source and flow of the Zrmanja). The National Park Administration is to be notified for any visits to the caves.

Eating Out

Tavern JURE, Krasno, Tel.: +385 (0)53 851-100
Bistro MARJUAN, 109 Krasno, Krasno Polje, Tel.: +385 (0)53 851-014
Bistro LIBERTAS, Krasno, Tel.: +385 (0)53 851 066

Where to stay

Accommodation in climber’s lodgings

PD ZAVIŽAN
Contact person - superintendent Ante Vukubić
Tel.: +385 (0)53 614-209
PO ALAN
Contact person phn +385 (0) 4824-142
Hotel DEGENIJA
Krasno b.b., Tel.: +385 (0)53 851-205
Accommodation in Krasno
Mother of God from Krasno Shrine
Krasno b.b., Tel.: +385 (0)53 851-007
Croatian Forests - Accommodation Building Šumarija Krasno, Tel/Fax: +385 (0)53 851-116
Accommodation TOMAC, Tel.: +385 (0198 162 2772
KRASNA House, Tel.: +385 (0)53 572 335, 872-131
www.krasno-kuca.com

Velebit Nature Park Public Institution
4b Kaniža gospićka, 53 000 Gospic
Tel.: +385 (0)53 560-450
Fax: +385 (0)53 560-451
www.velebit.hr
North Velebit National Park Public Institution
Krasno b.b., 53274 Krasno
Tel/Fax: +385 (0)53 655-380, 665-390
www.np-sjeverni-velebit.hr
npv@np-sjeverni-velebit.hr
Paklenica National Park Public Institution
14a Dr. Franje Tuđmana, 23244
Starigrad-Paklenica.
Tel.: +385 (0)53 369-155, 369-202, 369-803 (Reception entrance to the park)
www.paklenica.hr
Perušić

Kosinski Bridge, Lika River
Krušćica Lake, Grabovača Cave Park
A1 - Exit 11, Perušić

The Wealth of the Cave World

Perušić and its surroundings are located in the center of Lika, northeast of Ličko polje and 12 km from Gospić. Perušić was first mentioned in 1487. It was founded by brothers Dominik and Gašpar Perušić, a noble family that came from Dalmatinska Zagora (Dalmatian hinterland). The locality was named after them, and upon a hill they built their defense tower that has various names in literature - the old town of Perušić, Gradina, but most often called Turha kula (Turkish tower) built in the 16th century. The tower had three floors and is encircled by a thick drystone wall whose remains appear in mere outline.

Park Grabovača (770 m), a very unique cave park is located 2.5 km from the center of Perušić. It consists of six caves and one pit: Samograd, Medina Cave, Amidžina Cave, Velika Kozarica, Tабakuša and Slipica-pit/ Japaga.

There is a priceless wealth of underground karst structures in Grabovača, even ¼ of all the protected cave structures in Croatia. Even though the town of Perušić is situated in the interior of the region, it is gaining all the more touristic importance, particularly with those who love peace and the beauty of nature.

Did you know?

A short time after the printing machine was invented, the Frankopan princes founded the first printing house in the Kosinj area where the Glagolitic breviary was printed in 1491, the oldest book known to have been printed on Croatian ground.

Useful Information:

What to See

Remains of the old town of Perušić dating from the 16th century.

The church of the Holy Cross from the 17th century is situated on the road from Perušić to Klanac.

Samograd Cave, Grabovača Cave Park

Upper picture: Lake Krušćica
Lower picture: Kosinj Bridge

Eating Out

Restaurant ALBATROS, Perušić, 22 Varoš
Tel.: +385 (0)53 679-759, Cell.: +385 (0)98 497-407
www.albatros-perusic.hr

Where to stay

There is no hotel accommodation in Perušić. It is possible to get information on private accommodation at the Perušić Tourist Office.

Perušić Tourist Office
53202 Perušić,
2 Trg popa Marka Mesića
Tel./Fax: +385 (0)53 679-233, 679-188
www.tz-perusic.hr
tzperusic@gmail.com

“Grabovača Cave Park” Public Institution
Perušić, 2 Trg popa Marka Mesića
(Town Hall building)
Tel.: +385 (0)53 679-233
Cell.: +385 (099) 212-7587
pp.grabovaca@pt.t-com.hr
www.pp-grabovaca.hr
Croatian Culture and Art Society Perušić
www.hkud-perusic.hr

Upper picture: Lake Krušćica
Lower picture: Kosinj Bridge

Getting there: Perušić can be easily reached by taking Exit 11 from the motorway.

Tour Plan: The main attractions for tourists are Samograd Cave in Grabovača Park, the Lika River and Krušćica Lake. Perušić is the center for starting the climb on Velabšt “Klanac, Donje Pazarište – Štirovaca”, as well as hunting in the local hunting - grounds and game fishing in the Lika River.

We Recommend

The viewpoint is the highest point on Grabovača, at 770 m above the sea level. Panoramic view from there extends over the Lika karst plateau with the Lika River Canyon, the artificial lake of Kuščica and the green wall of the Velabšt in the distant horizon.

The parish church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross from the 17th century is a late Baroque church. The bell tower holds the cross from the Turks again into a Catholic church with a Gothic facade, 28 protected elements of the interior, during Turkish times it was converted into a mosque, and after the liberation from the Turks again into a Catholic church. The bell tower holds the cross from the old Zagreb cathedral restored in 1988, organ dating from 1888 that was restored in 2005 and is still played at various concert events in the county.

Lika Krušćica, situated in Ličko polje was created in 1966 as an artificial accumulation lake with an eighty-meter-high dam whose depths hold a sunken village and the church of St. Elijah.

Activities

Besides walking, hiking, cycling and other outdoor recreation, in the summer months you can bathe in the Lika River or go rafting on Krušćica Lake. Hunting with a licence is permitted in the surrounding hunting-grounds and game fishing in the Lika River.

Events

A great celebration with cultural and entertainment program on the day of the town, September 14, is organized next to the church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Perušić.

Canoe races, rowing regattas on the Rijeka River: in May.

Donje Pazarište – Štirovaca”, as well as hunting in the local hunting-grounds and game fishing in the Lika River.

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The Center of Lika-Senj County

Through history, the city of Gospić had the role of traffic and military center. It was only in the 19th century that its influence in Lika started strengthening and today it is the administrative and cultural center of Lika-Senj County and the center of the newly founded diocese. The city and its surroundings are mostly known for their natural beauties. On a small area and at about 500 m above sea level, there are three national parks (Plitvice Lakes, Paklenica Canyon and North Velebit), a nature park (Velebit), and woods - parks (Laudonov Grove and Jacobus), the vicinity of the Adriatic coast and areas under special ecological protection.

Nikola Tesla - A brilliant scientist who invented the wheel of the modern age and "lightened the world" was born in 1856 in Smiljan, the village near Lika River canyon. He grew up and acquired his first knowledge in Gospić. The Nikola Tesla Memorial Center that opened in 2006 on his 150th birthday united science, art and tourism and cultural center of Lika-Senj County and the center of the newly founded diocese.

Ante Starčević (1823 - 1896) - a "teacher of the Homeland" lawyer and representative of the people, was born near Gospić. Exalting the Homeland", lawyer and representative of the Ante Starčević (1823 - 1896) - in one place.

Did you know?

Miroslav Kraljević (1885 - 1913), born in Gospić, is one of the creators of modern Croatian painting and the most universal artist from the beginning of the past century.

Upper picture: Gospić Lower picture: Monument dedicated to Nikola Tesla, author Mlot Blažević

Getting there: From motorway A1, Exit 12, turn for Gospić. In the city there are signposts for Smiljan (about 6 km from the center of Gospić) where Nikola Tesla Memorial Center is situated.

Tour Plan:
In the old city nucleus of Gospić you can see the statue of a young girl named Marta made by sculptor Frangeša-Mihanović in remembrance of the introduction of the water system in 1914. There is also the cathedral of the Annunciation of the Holy Virgin Mary built in 1873. Higher Teacher’s School building built in 1869. Murkovića Mill (an old water-mill on Novica River), the house where the painter Miroslav Kraljević was born.

We Recommend:
A visit to Lika Museum in Gospić a permanent ethnographic exhibition situated inside the museum yard, in the special and traditional Lika House, a log-cabin covered with a shingle roof and interior arrangement that follow the traditional events during the seasons of the year. Visit Nikola Tesla Memorial Center Smiljan where the house where Tesla was born is situated, and a replica of the construction of the testing station from Colorado Springs from 1899 - 1900. Tesla’s turbine in the stream Vagane and the prototype of a boat at remote control that Tesla made in 1899.

The visit - climb to the home of Ante Starčević in the locality of Velki Žitnik at the very end of the village near Lika River canyon.

Activities
- game fishing
- organized hunting in the surrounding hunting grounds
- team building
- excursion to Velebit Nature Park

Events
- "Day of the City of Gospić" on July 22nd, the feast of St. Mary Magdalen, the patron of the city
- "Gospić Musical Summer": from the beginning of June to the beginning of July, a rich choice of classical music played by nationally and internationally acclaimed artists.
- "Autumn in Lika" - at the beginning of October, representative performance of exhibitions, their artefacts show the wealth of the fruits, tradition and autochthonous Lika climate and the climate of the exhibitors from the remaining parts of Lika-Senj County.
- Manifestations connected to children’s programs: First Applause, All on Rollskates, Children Dance

Useful Information:

What to See

Ante Starčević Memorial Home
Tel.: +385 (0)53 560-440

Adventures - Excursion Center Rizvan City is situated in the small Lika village of Rizvanuša. A unique combination of team building on the sea and mountain, paintball - the terrain is a unique forest/wood adventure park in Croatian Brudane ibi. Cell.: +385 (098) 245-769

Eating Out

Restaurant ZLATNA POTKOVA
Gospić, Smiljanska b. b., Tel.: +385 (0)53 573-692

Where to stay

Motel MAXI
200 Budućka, Gospić, Tel.: +385 (0)53 575-510
www.motel-maksi.hr

Hotel ANA
18 Zagrebačka, Gospić, Tel.: +385 (0)53 560-360

Gospić Tourist Office
Bana Ivanca Karkovica 1, 53000 Gospić
Tel.: +385 (0)53 560-752,
Fax: +385 (0)53 574-784
tz.gospica@ktp.com.hr / www.tz-gospic.hr

Tourism Information Center, (TIC)
Bana Ivanca Karkovica 1, +385 (0)53 560-754
 ticinfogs@gmail.com

Lika Museum
Working hours for visitors: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Visits possible by appointment: Tel.: +385 (0)53 572-051

Groups visits are asked to take appointments earlier at Tel.: +385 (0)53 572-051 or Fax: +385 (0)53 560-545, working days from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Nikola Tesla Memorial Center
Information and appointments: Tel.: +385 (0)53 746-530,
Fax: +385 (0)53 746-538
mcnikolatesla@mcnikolatesla.hr
www.mcnikolatesla.hr

Did you know?
Miroslav Kraljević (1885 - 1913), born in Gospić, is one of the creators of modern Croatian painting and the most universal artist from the beginning of the past century.
Karlobag - Ideal Connection of Mountain and Sea

Travelling along the Adriatic coast, south of Senj, one reaches Karlobag. A Roman colony built as an important transport port it was called Vagium, Skrisia and Rigi-Bag. In 1525, the Turks have completely destroyed it by burning it to the ground. Duke Karlo had it rebuilt and thus, the city got its name. Karlobag can be reached from Gospić, across Baške Oštarije. It is an unavoidable tourist destination and an occasion for a break from a long trip. Due to its Mediterranean climate and the combination of sea and mountain, it is the best way for experiencing summer heat and Velebit hinterland freshness, all in one day.

The Velebit Foothill Coast

Sveti Juraj is 9 km south of Senj. Ribarica and Velebit Foothill Coast of Mountain and Sea

The Capuchin monastery in Karlobag where Miroslav Hirtz Climber’s Lodgings is located. Miroslav Hirtz Climber’s Lodgings is located in Jablanac. Mary Theresa, the parish priest in Karlobag for almost half a centuy (1814 - 1859) was unveiled in front of the church in 2008. He was the writer of the first Croatian grammar in the Croatian language and a parish priest in Karlobag for almost half a century (1814-1859). You can take panoramic pictures of the Velebit foothill coast from vKubus viewpoint on Mount Velebit representing the monument to the building of the road Gospić - Karlobag at the time of Emperor Francis Joseph. Events

Did you know?
The Capuchin monastery in Karlobag with the church of St. Joseph from 1710, of which only the bell tower is left from the II World War, giving the entire place a particular mark. The monument to Sime Staničev, the writer of the first Croatian grammar in the Croatian language and the parish priest in Karlobag for almost half a century (1814 - 1859) was unveiled in front of the church in 2008. He was the writer of the first Croatian grammar in the Croatian language and a parish priest in Karlobag for almost half a century (1814-1859).

Getting there: To reach Karlobag from the motorway exit at Gospić, then across the Velebit and Oštarija viaduct (327 m) as you descend to the sea.

We Recommend
Stop in Jablanac when travelling from Senj to Karlobag where Miroslav Hirtz Climber’s Lodgings is located. Miroslav Hirtz Climber’s Lodgings is located in Jablanac. Mary Theresa, the parish priest in Kalrobag for almost half a century (1814 - 1859) was unveiled in front of the church in 2008. He was the writer of the first Croatian grammar in the Croatian language and the parish priest in Karlobag for almost half a century (1814-1859). You can take panoramic pictures of the Velebit foothill coast from vKubus viewpoint on Mount Velebit representing the monument to the building of the road Gospić - Karlobag at the time of Emperor Francis Joseph.

Events
- the International Art Colony is traditionally held every year: July Karlobag Carnival: January - February - concerts and cultural - entertainment evenings in the church of St. Joseph: July - August - automobile mountain races: June

Activities
- sports activities, five-a-side soccer (Atlantida Diving Club with diving training, basketball, bowling, mini-golf), Hotel Zagreb outdoor swimming pool and activities on or under the sea, hiking on the Velebit, paintball in Ronovlje Recreation Center near Gospić and walking in the woods.

Useful Information:
What to See

Remains of the church of St. Karlo Boromejski built in 1710.

Eating Out
Lounge bar and apartments LIFE
Obala Vladimira Nazora bb, Karlobag
Tel.: +385 (0)53 694-517, www.life-hr.com

Restaurant OK
At the end of Hotel Zagreb beach.
Tel.: +385 (0)53 694-185

Pizzeria ŠuŠANi,Vladimira Nazora 15, Karlobag,
+385 (0)53 694 126, +385 (0)91 564 8779,
Tavern RIBAR, Trg Dr. Franje Tuđmana 1, Karlobag
Tel.: +385 (0)53 694 008

Where to stay
Accommodation in Karlobag is available in hotels and private apartments.

Hotel ZAGREB ***
Karlobag, Naselje Bana J. Jelačića b.b.
Tel.: +385 (0)53 694-777 (open only for the season)

Hotel VELINAC (Youth hostel)
Karlobag, 1 Trg dr. Franje Tuđmana
Tel.: +385 (0)53 694-008, www.hotel-velinac.hr
Hostel VAL (open only for the season), Karlobag, Vladimirna Nazora 13, e-mail: hostel.val@hep.hr
Hostel BAŠKE OŠTARIJE, Balske Oštarije b.b.,
Tel.: +385 (0)53 674 003, mob.: +385 (0)99 392 7127, e-mail: n.bakeostarije@gmail.com

Karlobag Tourist Office
2 Trg dr. Franje Tuđmana, 53288 Karlobag
Tel./Fax: +385 (0)53 694-251
www.tz-karlobag.hr
tzokarlobag@gmail.com
MADI Tours Tourist Agency
2 Trg dr. Franje Tuđmana, 53288 Karlobag
Tel.: +385 (0)53 694-195
www.madi-tours.hr

Did you know?
The Capuchin monastery in Karlobag with the church of St. Joseph from 1712 has a rich library. “The Last Supper of Jesus Christ” painting by an unknown author is particularly interesting.

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www.madi-tours.hr

Did you know?
The Capuchin monastery in Karlobag with the church of St. Joseph from 1712 has a rich library. “The Last Supper of Jesus Christ” painting by an unknown author is particularly interesting.
The municipality of Lovinac is situated in the south of Lika, on the edge of the Lika basin that is naturally connected to the fields of Gradac, in the Gospić - Udbina - Gradac triangle. A singular geographical boundary in the sub-Mediterranean area from the south, southeast and west is marked by the Velebit massif. Remains of Japodi hillforts such as Rukavinska, Vrkljanske, Cvituša and Razvala; remains and the reconstructed Roman road under Cetina and the remains of the medieval hillfort in the region of Lovinac such as Novak grad with Stubić Tower, Vranik, Budak, Zagor, Lovinac and Velebit are witnesses of the century-long settling of the Lovinac region.

Today the municipality of Lovinac is best known for its preserved and protected natural values: attractive natural landscape, thick and intact woods, numerous karst phenomena, clean rivers and streams. The area of the municipality of Lovinac covers the highest peaks of Paklenica National Park such as the special reserve Lovinac covers the highest peaks of Paklenica National Park such as the special reserve Lovinac covers the highest peaks of Paklenica National Park such as the special reserve Lovinac covers the highest peaks of Paklenica National Park such as the special reserve.

Today it is one of the biggest tourist attractions in Lovinac. The “Travić” mill in Lovinac was built in the 19th century and has been completely restored and in function as the regional center for traditional wheat grinding. The mill and the wooden bridge were restored during 2004/2005 by the inhabitants of Lovinac through the activities of the nongovernmental association “Banica”. Today it is one of the biggest tourist attractions in Lovinac.

Mystical and Beautiful

The municipality of Lovinac is situated in the south of Lika, on the edge of the Lika basin that is naturally connected to the fields of Gradac, in the Gospić - Udbina - Gradac triangle. A singular geographical boundary in the sub-Mediterranean area from the south, southeast and west is marked by the Velebit massif. Remains of Japodi hillforts such as Rukavinska, Vrkljanske, Cvituša and Razvala; remains and the reconstructed Roman road under Cetina and the remains of the medieval hillfort in the region of Lovinac such as Novak grad with Stubić Tower, Vranik, Budak, Zagor, Lovinac and Velebit are witnesses of the century-long settling of the Lovinac region.

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**Novalja - Island Pag**

**A1 - Exit 9, Žuta Lokva, Prizna - Žiglen ferry**

A1 - Exit Posedarje

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**Novalja - the Island Part of the Region**

Northwestern part of the island of Pag with its town of Novalja and other localities (Stara Novalja, Lun, Jaklićina, Vidići, Kustići, Zubovići, Metajna and Gajac) are part of the Lika-Senj County as well. Novalja as the tourist center on the island of Pag has been a favorite tourist destination for decades, thanks to the natural features of the area and the diversity of its tourist offer. It is well connected to the mainland with its favorable geographical position with road and sea connection have made attractive tourist destinations closer - the islands of Rab and Lopud, the city of Zadar and the national parks of Krka, Kornati, Paklenica and North Velebit that can be visited as daily trips from Kvarner Bay.

**Towns and Localities**

- Novalja
- Lun, Jakišnica, Vidalići, Zubovići, Metajna and Gajac
- Stara Novalja
- Metajna
- Lun, Jakišnica, Vidalići, Kustići, Zubovići
- Novalja, Lun, Jakišnica, Vidalići, Metajna

**Getting there**

The island of Pag can be reached in 15 minutes from the north by the ferry line Primara - Žiglen, it is then just a 10 minute drive to Novalja. The southern traffic direction, the shortest way across Pag Bridge: from exit Posedarje to Novalja is 65 km away, or an hour drive by car.

**Tour Plans**

With its contents and activities, the town of Novalja is the central cultural institution. It has a rich ethnographic collections and exhibitions. Teljinova buza (Teljian's hole) - antique underground water system, about 1 200 m long and up to 70 cm wide. The entrance is through the museum and only the initial part can be visited. It was built in the 1st century B.C. during the Roman period and is completely carved out of stone.

**The Caska area**

Archaeologically very interesting and recent excavations of the Roman settlement of Cissa have been taking place. According to a legend, it was destroyed during an earthquake in the 4th century. The archaological collection Stomorica preserves many objects and remains of sacral objects from Novalja's past.

**In the 5th century Novalja was the center of the diocese with three big basilicas.**

The remains of a floor mosaic in one of them can be seen inside the Gothic church of the Mother of God from Ružaria in the center of the town.

**Activities**

- Cycling competition Novalja - Lun - Novalja and mini marathon around Novalja
- We recommend the attractive locality of Stogos near Metajna for climbing lovers, and those who like to hike should visit the Pag Triangle in Novalja's hinterland.

**We Recommend**

- ZRĆE Beach located 2 km from Novalja and it disposed of an arranged parking. During the summer season there are local bus connections with Novalja.
- Privljaka (Svinjak) Beach is situated north of Novalja, along the southeastern coast of the bay of Stara Novalja.
- Stralko Beach (blue flag) with an auto camp bearing the same name is located south of Novalja, while Branculevac is right next to Stralko. There is an amphora site in the bay of Vlaška Mala in the Velebit foothills canal: a shipwreck of a Roman merchant ship with a cargo of amphorae from the 1st century B.C.

**Events**

- Easter Breakfast - held in the morning hours of Easter Monday.
- The May Feast (May) - held on the eve of May 1st, visitors are offered domestic specialties prepared by the Novalja caterers.
- The Cultural Summer of Novalja - starts on the eve of the feast of St. Anthony - feast day of Novalja on June 13th and is marked by cultural and artistic, entertainment and sports performances and lasts until September.
  - Farm performances - the exhibition of Pag sheep and Pag cheese is held in the first weekend in July. Visitors are invited to taste the famous Pag cheese.
  - The Lun maslinada (olive tasting) - held in the first weekend in July. Visitors are invited to taste the famous Pag cheese.
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**Useful Information:**

**What to See**

Visit Lun and the olive groves at the end of the island of Pag and along the way to the near localities - Jaklićina, Dudići, Vidići and Potosića, situated in picturesque coves.

**Eating Out**

There are many restaurants and taverns in Novalja where you can taste the specialties of the Mediterranean cuisine.

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**Did you know?**

Zrće is the most beautiful and world-known beach in Novalja with disco clubs Aquarius, Kalyópsys, Papaya as well numerous small café bars for daily and night entertainment. Zrće has a blue flag which means that it satisfies high ecological standards and is equipped with various facilities that comply with the strict international criteria.

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**Upper picture: Zrće Beach**

**Lower picture: Novalja**
butter. One cream added to boiled milk, and once it hardens sheep cheese is Lika basa, which is sour milk or cow cheese made from skimmed milk is a very and cream cheese. Lika škripanac, a semi-hard milk (consumed fresh or sour varenika or kiseli- bread under the baking lid became a specialty. Bread, as basic food, was once baked by mill where one can see how wheat was once

The continental and coastal part of the region have different gastronomic features and recipes, but areas within the region have their own recipes with similar or identical ingredients used in food preparation. The difference lies in skills and preparation methods.

In the continental region, dried and smoked meat such as Lika prosciutto, wether mutton, boar meat or paprika flavored sausages, blood sausages and meat sausages are usually prepared and eaten as hors-d’oeuvres or added to various dishes such as cabbage stew, stuffed sour kraut (sarma). Various processed meats such as sausages, veal thymus or cracklings are also made, as well as fillers, or, as the inhabitants of like call it - dželadija. In fish-pond Leko in Sinac near Otočac, one can find an entire variety of trout products, smoked or marinated filet, and an trout caviar, which is an excellent variety of trout products, smoked or marinated fillet, and an trout caviar, which is an excellent variety of trout products, smoked or marinated fillet, and an trout caviar, which is an excellent variety of trout products, smoked or marinated fillet, and an trout caviar, which is an excellent variety of trout products, smoked or marinated fillet, and an trout caviar, which is an excellent variety of trout products, smoked or marinated fillet, and an trout caviar, which is an excellent variety of trout products, smoked or marinated

LAMB. Lamb from Lika and Pag is known by far for its taste and smell. It is traditionally prepared on an open fire or in a pot combined with various other meats. Well-known dishes: spit-roasted lamb, cabbage and meat stew or boiled lamb, Lika pot.

FISH. Trout from clean rivers and lakes in Lika (Gacka) and sea fish from the island of Pag are excellent specialties for the lovers of a “light” cuisine. Well-known dishes: baked and boiled trout, trout pâté, marinated fish from Pag.

DRINKS. According to tradition, a sip of homemade grappa is welcome before every meal. Elinovica (plum, juniper or grape brandy), and, depending on the region, the meal usually ends with Viebelit beer or a glass of Pag wine - žutica.

A somewhat modest offer of vegetables is compensated by their excellent quality. Those are oven-baked potatoes (Ličke pole) boiled potatoes, sour kren, beans, turnip and kohlbabi. Cakes are traditional, and the best known are makarica (greasy dough filled with cheese, sweet cheese with raisins, garlic and prosciutto), potato pie, spinach pie, butter-fry, kuglof (pound cake) and strudel. Famous Lika butter-fry (deep-fried dough) is served at the end of the feast.

In the coastal-island area, the tastes and smell of the Mediterranean cuisine prevail and abound in vegetables and fish. Fish and seafood are prepared in various ways: boiled, baked, stewed, marinivated or other, with plenty of spices and vegetables – mostly garlic, parsley. Swiss chord, bread beans, various stuffed cabbages and seasonal vegetables. Asparagus is a specialty prepared in various ways with various foods.

Meat - mostly veal, young beef, chicken, turkey and the particular specialty - lamb from Pag is prepared in various ways and served with an abundance of side dishes.

Maczoroni on a needle is a specialty in Novoja, served at every feast along with larded baby beef or goadish. Among the traditional sweets are plain fritters, brontoli, various cakes according to the old-time recipes, and the particular specialty is strudel with card cheese. However the most famous product from this part of the region is the famous Pag cheese that owns its particular taste to the salt sprinkled grass grazed by the island sheep.

Healthy climate and intact nature offer the possibility of a pleasant vacation away from the city flurry and are another reason to come here again.