



PARKOVI  
HRVATSKE

# PARKOVI HRVATSKE

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Parks of  
Croatia

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**PARKOVI HRVATSKE**

## NAKLADNIK

Ministarstvo zaštite okoliša i energetike,  
Radnička cesta 80, 10000 Zagreb

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## TISAK I UVEZ

Tiskara Grafing i Igepa Plana

## BROJ PRIMJERAKA

500

## GRAD I GODINA

Zagreb, 2017.

## PRVO IZDANJE

Izrađeno u sklopu provedbe UNDP-GEF projekta  
Jačanje institucionalne i finansijske održivosti  
nacionalnog sustava zaštićenih  
područja – PARCS projekt

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ISBN broj: 978-953-58940-3-2

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CIS zapis dostupan u računalnom katalogu  
Nacionalne i sveučilišne knjižnice u Zagrebu  
pod brojem 000977760.

---

**PARKS OF CROATIA**

## PUBLISHER

Ministry of Environment and Energy,  
Radnička cesta 80, 10000 Zagreb

## CO-PUBLISHER

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

## FOR THE CO-PUBLISHER

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## PRINT

Tiskara Grafing and Igepa Plana

## PRINT RUN

500

## CITY AND YEAR

Zagreb, 2017

## FIRST EDITION

Prepared within the implementation of the  
UNDP-GEF project Strengthening the Institutional  
and Financial Sustainability of the National  
Protected Area System – PARCS Project

---

ISBN: 978-953-58940-3-2

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CIS record available in the computer  
catalogue of the National and University  
Library in Zagreb under the number 000977760.

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**PARKOVI  
HRVATSKE****Parks of Croatia**

**MINISTARSTVO ZAŠTITE OKOLIŠA I ENERGETIKE**  
Ministry of Environment and Energy  
ZAGREB, 2017.

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# UVOD

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Očuvanje bioraznolikosti od iznimne je važnosti jer utječe na naše zdravlje, ali i zdravlje budućih naraštaja. Od očuvanih i zdravih ekosustava, među ostalim, dobivamo čistu zrak, hranu, pitku vodu i ostale resurse. Zato se prema prirodi i okolišu moramo odnositi odgovorno i mudro ih koristiti i čuvati, a razvoj zemlje temeljiti na principima održivosti.

Ova je fotomonografija podsjetnik na važnost stavljanja prirode u samo središte. Pri tome čovjek, prihvaćanjem sporedne uloge, dobiva najbolju moguću poziciju za sebe, ali i za buduće naraštaje.

Po očuvanosti prirode, Hrvatska je među najbogatijim zemljama Europe. Gotovo trećina teritorija Hrvatske dio je najveće svjetske mreže zaštićenih područja – ekološke mreže Natura 2000, što je dokaz da živimo na iznimno vrijednom i reljefno čudesno raznolikom području – planinskom, brežuljkastom, krškom, mediteranskom, močvarnom, o čemu svjedoči i ova fotomonografija.

Za očuvanje zdravih ekosustava ključna je zaštićena priroda, a upravo su naših 8 nacionalnih parkova i 11 parkova prirode naša najpopularnija zaštićena područja čija je svrha očuvanje prirode i njezine izvornosti, ali i edukacija i rekreacija posjetitelja. Oni su stalno mjesto interakcije čovjeka i prirode te odličan primjer područja kojima su se ljudi svojim životima prilagodili, svjesni da prirodu niti mogu niti smiju pokoriti.

Uz brojne zadaće koje imaju, parkovi trebaju biti oslonac lokalnim stanovnicima za kvalitetniji život te im pomoći u razvijanju znanja za održive modele življenja poput ekološke poljoprivrede i održivog turizma, koji im mogu osigurati egzistenciju bez narušavanja prirodnih vrijednosti na kojima se temelje.

Istodobno se modeli održivog razvoja trebaju crpiti iz znanja i vještina lokalnog stanovništva. Ljudi koji svojim životima i znanjem prenesenim od svojih predaka uvelike baštine znalačke vještine življenja i preživljavanja u različitim područjima – od planinskih i brdskih do močvarnih i morskih – prava su riznica nematerijalne baštine. Upoznavanje tih vještina i njihovo prenošenje na mlađe generacije pomoći će nam da sačuvamo mudrost življenja u određenom prostoru koja je iznikla iz same potrebe preživljavanja u danim uvjetima.

# INTRODUCTION

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Conservation of biological diversity is extraordinarily important, since it impacts upon human health and upon health of our future generations. Among other things, conserved and healthy ecosystems provide us with clean air, food, drinking water and many other resources. This is why we must treat nature and environment responsibly, using them and preserving them wisely, while ensuring that the principles of sustainability serve as foundation for country development.

This photo monograph is a reminder that we must always keep nature in the focus of our efforts. By accepting a supporting role, mankind thus obtains the best possible position for itself, but also for future generations.

In terms of conserved nature, Croatia is one of the richest countries of Europe. Almost one third of the territory of Croatia belongs to the world's largest network of protected areas – Natura 2000 ecological network. This is a proof that we live in an area characterized by amazing value and magnificent diversity of relief – abounding in mountains, hills, wetlands, karst and Mediterranean areas... This photo monograph is yet another testimony to that.

Protected nature is crucial in order to ensure conservation of sound ecosystems. Our 8 National Parks and 11 Nature Parks are our most popular protected areas, serving to conserve nature and its pristine state, but also to educate people and provide them with recreational opportunities. These areas are places of permanent interaction between man and nature, representing excellent examples of areas where people have adapted their way of life to nature, aware of the fact that nature neither can nor may be conquered.

In addition to their many tasks, Parks should also serve as support to the local community in order to achieve a higher quality of life, helping the local population to develop knowledge for sustainable models of living, such as ecological agriculture and sustainable tourism – models that can ensure livelihoods without threatening the natural values upon which they are founded.

At the same time, sustainable development models should stem from the knowledge and skills of the local population. People whose lives and knowledge, passed from their ancestors as heritage, still maintain

Parkove Hrvatske godišnje posjeti otprilike svaki četvrti strani turist. I dok neka područja, poput NP Plitvička jezera i NP Krka, sve teže podnose pritisak prevelikog broja posjetitelja tijekom ljetne sezone, druga zaostaju u posjećenosti te ih je potrebno dodatno predstaviti, što je jedan od ciljeva ove fotomonografije.

Svaki je naš park poseban i jedinstven i svaki vrijedi posjetiti. Samim time, iskustvo jedinstvenog putovanja ovom fotomonografijom kroz Parkove Hrvatske treba, naposljetku, čitatelja transformirati u posjetitelja, u upornog istraživača, zaljubljenika u prirodu i, prije svega, njezina zaštitnika svakodnevnim načinom življjenja. Očuvanje prirode treba biti naša radosna obveza, privilegirano zanimanje za koje smo se pripremili diveći se njezinim ljepotama i učeći o njezinim vrijednostima.

Fotomonografija Parkovi Hrvatske mjesto je inspiracije za neprekidno otkrivanje prirode te poticaj da postanemo još savjesniji čuvari njezinih vrijednosti.

the unique skills of life and survival in diverse areas – ranging from mountains and hills to wetlands and marine areas – represent a genuine treasure trove of intangible heritage. Conveying and transferring these skills to younger generations will help to preserve the wisdom of living in a given area based on lessons of survival in challenging conditions.

Parks of Croatia are annually visited by approximately every fourth foreign tourist. While some areas, such as the National Parks Plitvice Lakes and Krka, find it increasingly difficult to bear the pressure of a very high number of visitors in the course of the summer season, other areas lag behind in visitation, and should be additionally presented to potential visitors – which is precisely one of the aims of this photo monograph.

Each of our Parks is special and unique, and each well worth a visit. That is one reason why a unique experience of travel through the Parks of Croatia with the help of this photo monograph is expected to transform a reader into a visitor, a persevering explorer and nature enthusiast, but also, first and foremost, into a guardian of nature by the very virtue of one's daily way of living. Nature conservation should be our joyful commitment, and a privileged vocation for which we have prepared by admiring the beauty of nature and learning about its values.

Parks of Croatia photo monograph is a place of inspiration for a continuous discovery of nature, and also an impetus for all of us to become even more conscientious guardians of its values.

# PARK PRIRODE BIOKOVO

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## Biokovo Nature Park

Biokovo – planina s korijenom u moru, a čelom u munjama. Svaki korak do najvišeg vrha, Svetog Jure na 1762 metara visine, bit će nenadmašno nagrađen panoramskim pogledom na more i otoke, Zagoru, bosanskohercegovačke planine i susjednu Italiju. Na biokovskom kamenu podignuto je 87 crkava i kapelica. Planina uz svoje ponosne visine ima i neslućene dubine. Otkriveno je preko 400 jama i špilja. Neke od njih vječno su pune snijega i leda koji odolijevaju i najvrućem suncu. Ljudi su prostor Biokova naseljavali prije pojave pisma. Planina je stari dom koji je uvelike sačuvao svoje drevno lice.

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Biokovo – it is a mountain with roots in the sea, and forehead in the clouds. Every step to the highest peak, Sveti Jure at 1,762 meters above sea level, is immensely rewarded by the panorama of the sea and the islands, the Dalmatian hinterland, mountains of Bosnia and Herzegovina and neighboring Italy. On the stone of Biokovo, 87 churches and chapels have been erected. In addition to its proud heights, the mountain also has surprising depths. Over 400 pits and caves have been discovered. Some of them are eternally filled with snow and ice, resisting even the hottest sunshine. People used to inhabit the area of Biokovo even prior to the invention of the alphabet. The mountain is an old home, which largely preserved its ancient face.





## PLANINA S KORIJENOM U MORU, A ČELOM U MUNJAMA

Što može učiniti prisutnost jednog čovjeka, priča je koju baštini Park prirode Biokovo. Teolog, svećenik, znanstvenik i prirodoslovac fra Jure Radić neumorno je radio na tome da Biokovo i nazivom Parka prirode dobije zaštićeni status. To se i dogodilo 1981. godine.

U biokovskom botaničkom vrtu Kotišina iznad istoimenog sela, u kamenu su uklesane riječi dr. fra Jure Radića: "Oculus mente corde per visibilia ad invisibilia". "Očima, pameću, srcem po onom što se vidi do onoga što se ne vidi". To je Radićev testament onima koji ostaju na Biokovu, uz Biokovo i onima koji su ga došli otkrili. Planina je uвijek mjesto gdje je iskonsko u čovjeku sretno što je maleno.

Botanički vrt iznad sela Kotišina dijelom se nalazi u Parku. Utemeljio ga je fra Jure Radić kako bi se znanstveno proučio biljni svijet Biokova, ali i popularizirao. Nije klasični botanički vrt, već jedan "ograđeni dio prirode" kako bi se zadržao prirodni oblik vegetacije. Tu su, na relativno maloj površini, vrlo raznolika staništa kao što su kamenjari, točila, vrletne stijene, obradive površine te kanjon Proslap s istoimenim slapom, koji je veći dio godine suh, a oživi samo za vrijeme jakih kiša. Utvrđeno je oko 300 samoniklih biljnih svojti, od tipično mediteranskih do planinskih, a na nekim područjima sađene su egzote, poljoprivredno i ljekovito bilje.

U neposrednoj blizini ulaza, uz samu liticu, okamenjena je prošlost burnih vremena. To su zidine velikog Kaštela, fortifikacijskog objekta iz 16.–17. stoljeća.

U Kotišini je i kanjon Proslap – veći dio godine suh, a vodom ispunjen za obilnih kiša.

Biokovo pripada Dinarskom planinskom lancu koji se pruža od Čićarije u Istri do granice s Crnom Gorom. Reljefno, Biokovo stvaraju tri velike



## MOUNTAIN WITH ITS ROOTS IN THE SEA AND ITS PEAKS IN THUNDER

One of the stories relevant for the history of Biokovo Nature Park has to do with what the efforts of one single man can achieve. A theologian, priest and natural scientist, Friar Jure Radić, worked tirelessly on making sure that the Biokovo Mountain obtains protected status, by officially becoming a Nature Park. That wish came true in 1981. The words of Friar Jure Radić are carved in stone in the Biokovo Botanical Garden Kotišina, above the village of the same name: "Oculus mente corde per visibilia ad invisibilia." Their meaning: "By the eyes, the spirit and the heart, from visible to invisible." That is Radić's testimony to those who remain on Biokovo, with Biokovo, and to all those who come to discover it. The mountain is always a place where the primordial in a human being is happy to be small.

The botanical garden above the village of Kotišina is partly located within the Park. Friar Jure Radić founded it in order to scientifically examine, but also to popularize the plant world of Biokovo. It is not a classical botanical garden; rather, it is an enclosed part of nature, aiming to preserve the natural form of vegetation. On a relatively small surface, highly diverse habitats can be found here: rocks, talus cones, steep stone walls, arable plots, as well as the Proslap canyon with the cascade of the same name. The cascade is dry most of the year, brought to life only during heavy rains. Approximately 300 wild plant taxa have been discovered, ranging from the typically Mediterranean to mountain species; in some areas, exotic plants were planted, as well as agricultural and medicinal plants.

In the immediate vicinity of the entry point, right next to the cliff, stands a stony reminder of turbulent times: the walls of Kaštel, a major fortification from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century.



Uz malo posjetiteljske sreće, moguće je susresti divlje konje.

Naviknuti su na posjetitelje i ne bježe od ljudi. Vidjeti krdo divljih konja uistinu je arhetipska slika slobode.

cjeline: južna, primorska strana, vršni dijelovi i kontinentska padina s reljefnim specifičnostima.

Vršni dijelovi Biokova karakterizirani su ponikvama i vrtačama. U pojedinim, prostranijim ponikvama, nalazi se i više manjih. Dna nekih ponikvi početak su jama nevjerojatnih dubina, s obzirom na to da se nalaze iznad 1000 metara nadmorske visine. Pojedine su duboke i nekoliko stotina metara! U središnjem dijelu Biokova pojavljuju se kao gusto pakirane skupine koje dominiraju terenom. Izgledom podsjećaju na Mjesecove kratere i mnoge bi fotografijom s ovog dijela Biokova mogli zavarati za mjesto snimanja. Južna, primorska strana prostor je golih litica i stijena visokih nekoliko stotina metara. Gole kamene litice s jedne strane i zelene flišne zone uz more s druge strane, čudesan su kameno-zeleni kontrast koji se može vidjeti i doživjeti samo na Biokovu. Neke od jama skrivaju vječni led i snijeg. To su jame ledenice.

Taj su led iz biokovskih prirodnih ledenica lokalni ljudi, biokovski ledari, vadili za potrebe makarskih hotela dok još nije bilo hladnjaka. Magarcima i mulama, noću, dogonili su seljaci stoku koja je vukla led iz ledenica. Nimalo bezazlen posao. Trebalо je prvo blokove obložiti bukovim lišćem i omotati u tkaninu od kostrijeti, kozje dlake, potom natovariti na magarce i dovesti u grad. No, tako su zarađivali za kruh, prodajući hotelima led, a gosti su pili pića rashlađena ledom prevezenim s neslućenih im visina.

Sjeverna, kontinentska strana biokovskog masiva bitno se razlikuje od vršne i primorske. Blago se ovdje padine spuštaju u doline i ta je strana zelena i šumovita.

Biokovo je kamena granica dviju klima – mediteranske i kontinentalne. Njihovi blagi susreti, ali i žestoki okršaji, stvaraju posebnu klimu Biokova. Zračne mase s mora prodiru uz njegove primorske strane, preko grebena i planinskih vrhova. Vrhovi planine na sjevernoj strani zadržavaju prodiranje hladnih masa iz unutrašnjosti kontinenta, ali isto tako i mediteranskih strujanja unutrašnjost.

Zračne mase s planine i mora znaju mjesto svojih konačnih susreta i sukoba: to je Biokovo.

Taj sukob ima posljedicu čestih promjena vremena, što u jesenjem periodu dovodi do izlučivanja kišnih i snježnih padalina, a u zimskom periodu do padanja snijega, koji se zadržava i u proljeće. Za klimu je važan i nagib i visina i pravac pružanja planinskih strana, ali i geološki sastav tla i pokrivenost vegetacijom. Šuma je ovdje regulator padalina, vjetrova i topline. Sve to doprinosi raznolikosti klime Biokova.

Snježna planina, Biokovo, svoj je vrh dosegla na Svetom Juri. Krajnje je to ishodište biokovske ceste i kulminacijska točka ljepote koju pruža pogled onima koji su stigli planinarskom stazom ili prijevoznim sredstvom. Panoramski pogled s 1762 metara nadmorske visine znači okrenuti se i vidjeti i more i otoke i Zagoru i bosanskohercegovačke planine i susjednu Italiju.

Na vidikovcu se nalazi i crkva svetog Jure, a sakralni objekt tu je postojao još u 12. stoljeću. Svjedok je kamena ploča koja se nalazila iznad oltara stare srušene crkvice iz 1640. godine. Biokovo je stoljećima hraniteljica, gotovo sveta planina. Ljudi su pronašli plodne udoline, dolce, škrape, koje su oživjeli i iskoristili za preživljavanje. Na Biokovu se boravilo često, poradi uzgoja krumpira i žitarica, lova, vađenja leda, ali ipak najviše radi stočarstva. Početkom 20. stoljeća na Biokovu je boravilo više od 600 pastirica i pastira. Zbog izrazito pogodnog

With a little bit of visitor's luck, one might also come across wild horses. They got used to visitors, and do not run away from people. Seeing a herd of wild horses is truly an archetype image of freedom.

In Kotišna, there is the canyon Proslap – dry most of the year, and filled with water during heavy rains.

Biokovo belongs to the Dinaric mountain chain, ranging from the Čićarija Mountain in Istria to the border with Montenegro. In relief terms, Biokovo consists of three major parts: the southern, littoral side; the peaks; the continental slope with specific relief characteristics.

The peak area of Biokovo is characterized by dolines and sinkholes. In individual, more spacious dolines, one sometimes comes across a range of smaller ones. The bottom parts of some dolines are also a beginning of pits of amazing depth, given the fact that they are located over 1,000 meters above sea level. Some pits are several hundred meters deep! In the central part of Biokovo, dolines appear in the form of thickly packed groups dominating the terrain. In terms of appearance, they resemble Moon craters – at least that is what many would conclude looking at the photographs of this part of Biokovo without knowing where they were taken. The southern, littoral side of the mountain is an area of barren rocks and cliffs several hundred meters high. Bare stone cliffs on one side, and green flysch zones along the sea on the other – that is the majestic stony-green contrast that can be seen and experienced only on Biokovo.

Some pits are hiding eternal ice and snow, the so-called ice pits.

This ice from the natural freezers of Biokovo used to be harvested by the locals for the needs of hotels along the Makarska Riviera back in the times when there were no refrigerators. At night, using donkeys and mules, peasants would extract the ice from ice pits. It was by no means safe work. One first had to wrap ice blocks in beech leaves and cloth made of goat's hair, then load them on donkeys, and bring them to town. However, that is what the locals did, earning a living by selling ice to hotels, and that enabled guests to drink beverages cooled by ice brought down from unsuspected heights.

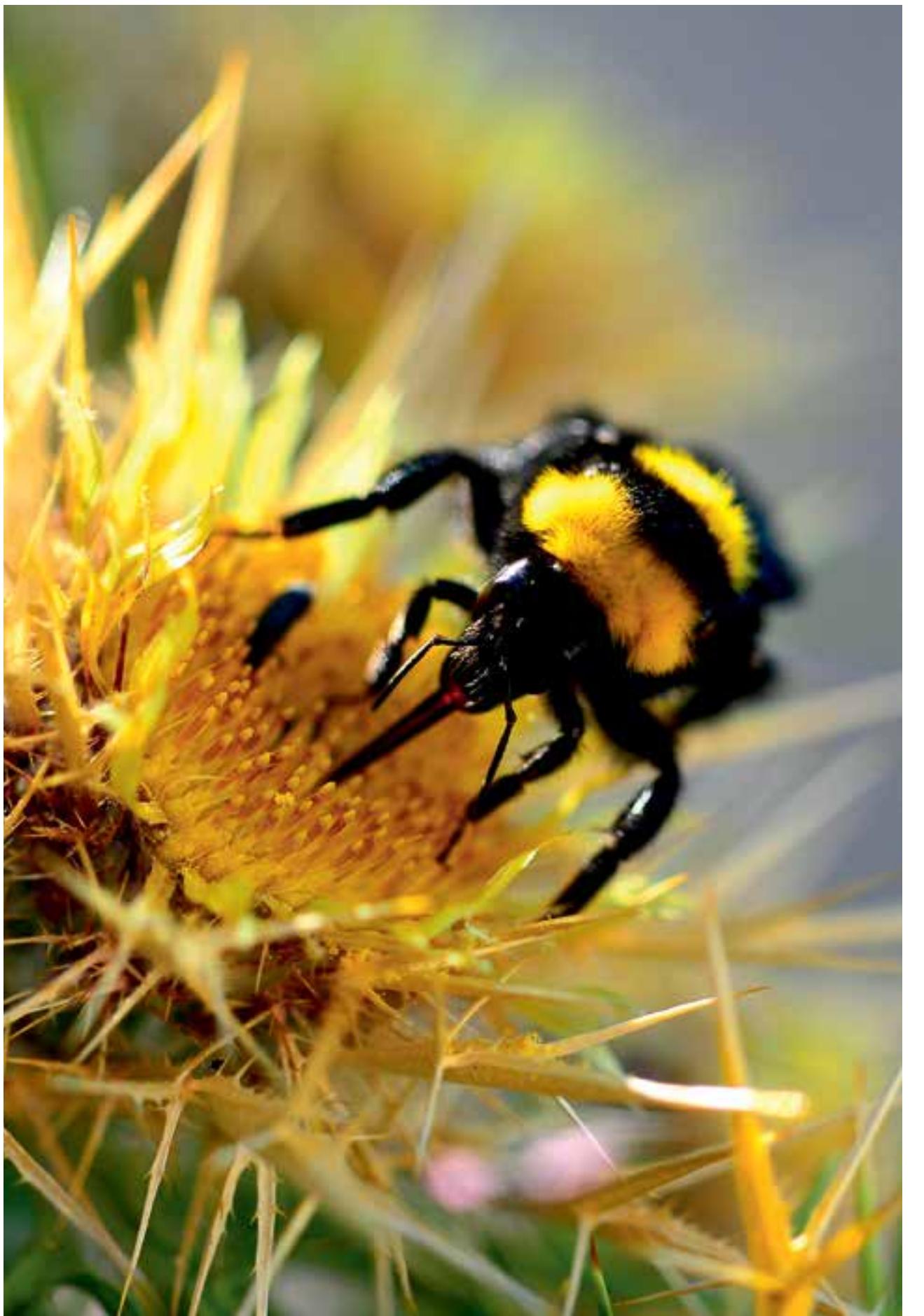
The northern, continental side of the Biokovo massif is quite different from the peaks and the littoral side of the mountain. In that part of the mountain, slopes reach the valleys more gently, and that side is greener and more forested.

Biokovo is a stone boundary between two climates – the Mediterranean and the continental one.

It is their mild interaction, but sometimes tough duels too, that create the special climate of Biokovo. Air mass from the sea penetrates along the mountain's littoral side, across the ridges and mountain peaks. The peaks of the mountain on the northern side prevent the penetration of cold air mass from the continent, but also the Mediterranean air mass from reaching the hinterland.

Air masses from the mountain and the sea already know what will be the place of their final encounter and conflict: the Biokovo Mountain, without doubt.

One consequence of this conflict are frequent weather changes that bring rain and snow in the autumn period, and major snowfall in the winter period, with snow remaining on the mountain in springtime as well. Inclination, altitude, the position of mountain slopes, but also the geological character of soil and vegetation cover, all impact upon the climate. The forest on the mountain is a regulating factor of precipitation, wind and temperature. All these factors contribute to the diversity of the climate of Biokovo.



klimatskog položaja Biokova, ovdašnji su stočari sa svojim stadima selili kroz sušno doba godine na visoke planinske pašnjake gdje su se razvila sezonska stočarska naselja. Značajka tih naselja je u njihovoj općenitoj skromnosti i izvanredno skladnoj uklopljenosti u okoliš. Čuvanje stoke bio je posao koji su radile žene, pa je pastirica bilo dva puta više od pastira, dok su muškarci obrađivali zemlju u biokovskim dolcima. Bili su oskudno odjeveni i većinom su nosili nazuvke, opanke i kaput od domaćeg sukna. Hranili su se uglavnom kupusom, purom (palentom) i krumpirom, a rjeđe mesom i mlijekom. Nakon napornog dana pastirice i pastiri okupljali bi se uz vatrnu i vodili "silo", na kojem bi se sviralo, pjevalo, igrale razne društvene igre te pripovijedalo o vilama i vukodlacima.

Ukupna flora Biokova u širem smislu, od Cetine do Neretve te od Kozice do Zagvozda obuhvaća preko 1500 svojta. Endemizam daje posebnost biokovskoj flori. Najpoznatiji biljni endemi su biokovsko zvonce, slava klisura i modro lasinje, endem šireg dinarskog područja. Životinjski svijet Biokova osebujan je i raznolik, ali i nedovoljno istražen. U brojnim biokovskim špiljama i jamama živi fascinantna podzemna fauna. Do sada je utvrđeno preko 199 špiljskih organizama, od čega je 60 endema Biokova.

Uz malo posjetiteljske sreće, moguće je susresti divlje konje. Naviknuti su na posjetitelje i ne bježe od ljudi. Vidjeti krdo divljih konja uistinu je arhetipska slika slobode.

Budući da na Biokovu nema površinskih voda, već su prisutni rijetki krški izvori i podzemne vode, specifična vodena staništa čine lokve, kamenice i bunari koji su većim dijelom godine puni vode zahvaljujući nepropusnom sloju gline te služe i kao pojilišta za stoku.

Na takvim vodenim staništima javljaju se i neke vrste zaštićenih

The snow mountain of Biokovo reaches its highest peak at Sveti Jure. It is the end-point of the Biokovo road, and a culmination of beauty awarding those who reach that point, either by a mountain trail or vehicle. The panorama from 1,762 meters above sea level allows one to see the sea, the islands, the Dalmatian Hinterland, mountains of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and even neighboring Italy.

There is also the Church of Saint George at the sightseeing point, and an ancient sacral site existed on that spot as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century. A testimony to this presence is the stone plate that was placed above the altar of the old, demolished small church, first mentioned in 1640. For centuries, Biokovo was feeding its population, and the locals perceived it almost as a holy mountain in return. People found fertile karst valleys and karrens, which they brought to life and used for survival. They would come to the mountain in order to plant potatoes and cereal crops, to hunt and extract ice, but most of all to attend to livestock. Towards the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there were over 600 shepherds, male and female, staying on Biokovo. Due to the extraordinarily favorable climatic position of the mountain, the local shepherds would take their herds to high mountain pastures during the dry season of the year, and seasonal shepherd settlements soon developed there, characterized by their overall modesty and extraordinary harmony with the landscape. Taking care of livestock was work done by women back in those days, so there were twice as many female shepherds than male ones; in the meantime, men would work on land in the valleys of Biokovo. Their clothes were modest too, mostly including protection for legs made of cloth, peasant footwear, and a coat made of homemade cloth. They mostly ate cabbage, polenta and potatoes, sometimes also meat and milk. After a hard day's



Biokovo pripada Dinarskom planinskom lancu koji se pruža od Čićarije u Istri do granice s Crnom Gorom. Reljefno, Biokovo stvaraju tri velike cjeline: južna, primorska strana, vršni dijelovi i kontinentska padina s reljefnim specifičnostima.

vodozemaca kojih je na području Parka prirode Biokovo do sada zabilježeno 7 vrsta. Na području Parka prirode Biokovo do sada je zabilježena 21 vrsta gmazova, i to jedna vrsta kornjača, 10 vrsta guštera i 10 vrsta zmija. Najbrojniji su kralješnjaci na Biokovu. Među gotovo 100 vrsta ptica na Biokovu obitavaju i neke rijetke i ugrožene vrste kao orao zmijar, suri orao, vjetruša klikavka koje su strogo zaštićene. Sisavci su na Biokovu zastupljeni su s 42 vrste, od kojih su sve vrste šišmiša strogo zaštićene. Od deset vrsta zvijeri čagalj i medvjed pojavljuju se samo povremeno, a stalno je prisutan vuk – koji se nalazi na listi potencijalno ugroženih vrsta, te divokoza čija se biokovska populacija smatra za najstabilniju i najveću populaciju divokoze u Hrvatskoj. Geologiju područja nužno je promatrati sveobuhvatno. Krajem krede, prije otprilike 65 milijuna godina, započelo je sudaranje Afričke ploče s Euroazijskom. Sužavanje oceanskog prostora izazvalo je jake tektonske poremećaje, horizontalni su se slojevi naborali, razlomili i izdigli iznad mora i stvorili planinske lance, Alpe i Dinaride, čiji je Biokovo dio. Paocean je nestao, ostalo je današnje Sredozemlje. Dolazak na Biokovo znači i mogućnost istraživanja izuzetno daleke povijesti prostora. No, i bez ikakvog znanja, planina časti obiljem doživljaja i impresija ugrađujući trajne slike ljepote u našu memoriju. Blago planine ostaje s posjetiteljem.

Biokovo belongs to the Dinaric mountain chain, ranging from the Čićarija Mountain in Istria to the border with Montenegro. In relief terms, Biokovo consists of three major parts: the southern, littoral side; the peaks; the continental slope with specific relief characteristics.

work, the shepherds would get together and sit around a fire, playing instruments, dancing, enjoying various social games, and telling tales about the fairies and werewolves.

Overall, the flora of Biokovo in a wider sense of the word, ranging from the river of Cetina to the river of Neretva, and from the locality of Kozice to the locality of Zagvozd, includes over 1,500 taxa. Endemism is what makes the flora of Biokovo so special. The best-known endemic plant species are the Biokovo bellflower, *Centaurea gloriosa* and *Moltkea petraea*, the latter being endemic in a wider Dinaric area.

The fauna of Biokovo is distinctive and diverse, but also insufficiently researched. In numerous caves and pits of Biokovo, fascinating subterranean fauna abounds. So far, over 199 cave species have been recorded, including 60 species endemic to Biokovo.

With a little bit of visitor's luck, one might also come across wild horses. They got used to visitors, and do not run away from people. Seeing a herd of wild horses is truly an archetype image of freedom.

Since there are no surface watercourses on Biokovo – only rare karst sources and groundwater instead – specific water habitats include pools of water, solution pans and wells, filled with water most of the year thanks to an impermeable layer of clay, and also serving as watering places for domestic animals.

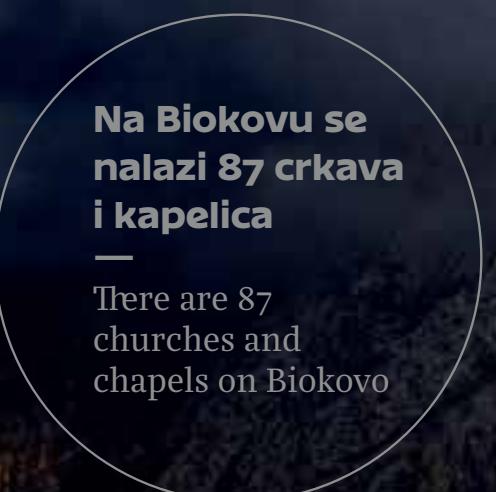
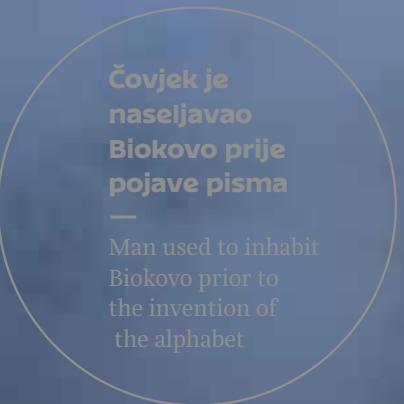
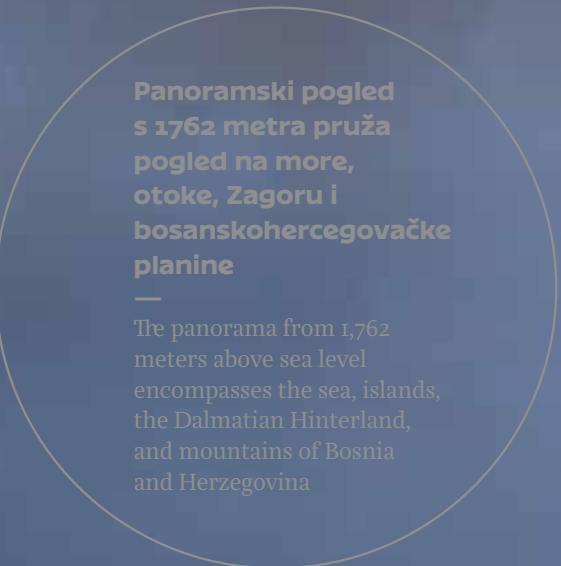
Such water habitats also constitute home for some protected amphibian species, with seven of them recorded in the territory of the Biokovo Nature Park so far.

In the territory of the Nature Park, 21 reptile species have been recorded so far: one turtle species, ten lizard species, and ten snake species.

The most numerous group of species on Biokovo are vertebrates. Among almost one hundred bird species, some rare and endangered species also live on the mountain, such as the strictly protected species short-toed snake-eagle, golden eagle, or Eurasian kestrel.

There are 42 mammal species on Biokovo, with all bat species strictly protected. Out of ten carnivore species, jackal and bear appear only occasionally, and wolf is present permanently. The latter is included on the list of near threatened species. The Biokovo population of chamois, on the other hand, is considered to be the most stable and the biggest chamois population in Croatia. Geology of an area must be treated in a comprehensive manner. Towards the end of the Cretaceous period, approximately 65 million years ago, the African plate and the Eurasian plate began colliding. The narrowing of the ocean space resulted in strong tectonic disorder, with horizontal layers wrinkling, breaking and rising above the sea, creating the mountain chains of the Alps and the Dinarides, with Biokovo as constituent part of the latter. The ancient ocean disappeared, and the Mediterranean remained. Coming to Biokovo is also an opportunity to examine the very long history of the area. However, even without any knowledge of that kind, the mountain's gift to visitors will be an abundance of experiences and impressions, imprinting permanent images of beauty into their memory. The treasure of the mountain stays with the visitor.

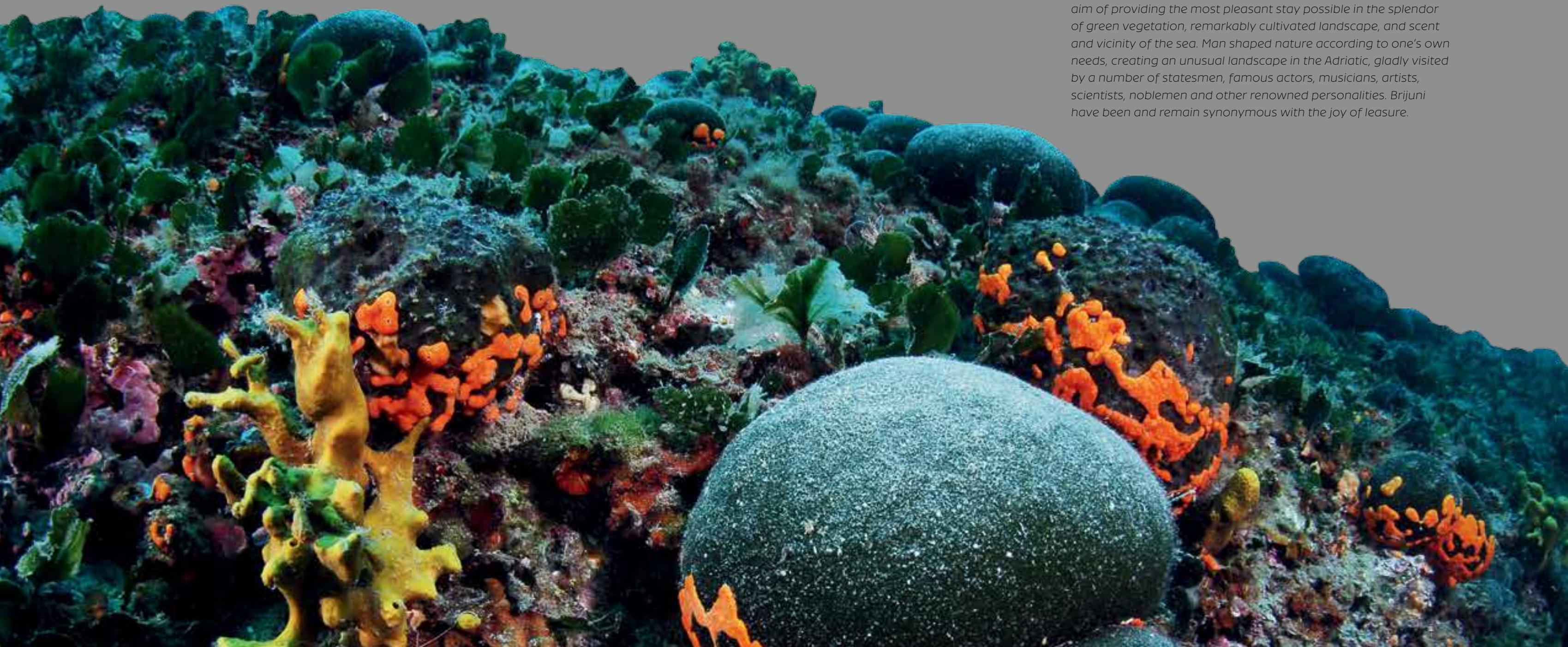




# NACIONALNI PARK BRIJUNI

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## Brijuni National Park



Odvajanjem od nekadašnjeg istarskog kopna, nastali su Brijunski otoci. Nigdje toliko crnike i lovora na jednom mjestu i hлада под кроњама дрвећа широких и dvadesetak metara. Brijuni su prekrasna slika prirode koju je kultivirao čovjek za svoj najugodniji boravak u raskoši zelenila, krajoliku uređenom do krajnje pitomosti te mirisa i blizine mora. Čovjek je oblikovao prirodu prema svojim potrebama i stvorio neuobičajen krajolik na Jadranu koji su rado posjećivali brojni državnici, poznati glumci, glazbenici, umjetnici, znanstvenici, plemići i druge istaknute ličnosti. Brijuni su bili i ostali sinonim za ugodu odmora.

The Brijuni Islands were created by separating from what used to be the landmass of the Istrian peninsula. There is no other place with so much holm oak and bay laurel in one single place, or so much shade under the crowns of trees up to twenty meters wide. Brijuni are a wonderful image of nature cultivated by man, with the aim of providing the most pleasant stay possible in the splendor of green vegetation, remarkably cultivated landscape, and scent and vicinity of the sea. Man shaped nature according to one's own needs, creating an unusual landscape in the Adriatic, gladly visited by a number of statesmen, famous actors, musicians, artists, scientists, noblemen and other renowned personalities. Brijuni have been and remain synonymous with the joy of leisure.



## PARK U KOJEM JE SVAKO POVIJESNO RAZDOBLJE OSTAVILO TRAG

Je li čovjek uspio u svom naumu kreiranja prostora za poseban ladanjski odmor? Zasigurno jest.

Uostalom, tko drugi legitimira prostor nego gosti? A ovdje su dolazili vojvode s vojvotkinjama, prinčevi s princezama, državnici, glumice i glumci, znanstvenici, nobelovci, liječnici, sportaši... A, tako je i danas! Brijuni su zarana prepoznati kao odredište koje pruža udobnost odmora u neposrednosti prirodne ljepote.

Nedugo nakon rata, 1949. godine, Brijuni postaju rezidencija tadašnjeg predsjednika bivše Jugoslavije, Josipa Broza Tita. Slika rata brzo je iščezla uklanjanjem ratnih ruševina. Hoteli su obnovljeni kao i parkovi. Sagradene su vile na zapadnoj obali Velog Brijuna. To su Bijela vila iz 1953. godine i vila Brijunka, sagrađena četiri godine kasnije. Na otočiću Vangi podignuta je prizemna vila, voćnjaci, vinogradi i vinski podrumi. Sam prostor, uvelike drukčijeg lica, naseljen je još u pretpovijesno doba. Rimljani su ga potom osvojili i obožavalni, te na njega donijeli maslinu i vinovu lozu, ali i robovlasički sustav.

I Rimljani su ovdje provodili ladanjske dane o čemu svjedoče ostaci brojnih zdanja. U uvali Verige nalazimo ostatke raskošne rimske vile na tri terase, s hramovima, šetnicom, termama, ribnjakom... stoga i ne čudi da je ova vila za vrijeme cara Vespazijana postala carskom rezidencijom. Povijesna razdoblja mijenjala su stanovnike i karakter prostora, koji se uvelike eksplorirao. Sol i kamen vadili su se od antičkih do mletačkih dana, dok u drugoj polovici 18. stoljeća otoci bivaju gotovo u potpunosti napušteni. Tek povremeno dolazilo se sjeci drvo.

Stoljeće kasnije, Austrijanci grade fortifikacijske objekte zbog obrane važne im luke, Pule.

Jedno je ime direktna veza Brijuna i njegova ponovno rođenog turističkog

## PARK WHERE EACH HISTORICAL ERA HAS LEFT ITS TRACE

Has man finally succeeded in his intention to create space for quite a special vacation dedicated to leisure? Most certainly – yes!

After all, who else legitimizes a space, if not the guests? And the guests visiting Brijuni included dukes and duchesses, princes and princesses, statesmen, actors and actresses, scientists, Nobel prize winners, doctors, sportspersons... And so it goes on until the present day! Since the early days, Brijuni have been recognized as a destination providing the comfort of rest in the immediacy of natural beauty.

Not long after World War II, in 1949, the Brijuni Islands became a residence of the then President of the former Yugoslavia, Josip Broz Tito. The aftermath of the war was quickly overcome with the removal of the war ruins. The hotels were renovated, as well as the parks. Villas were built on the western coast of the Veli Brijun island: the so-called White Villa of 1953, and Brijunka Villa built four years later. A bungalow villa was built on the small island of Vanga as well, and orchards, vineyards and wine cellars found their place in the archipelago too.

The space itself, quite different back then, had been inhabited back in prehistoric times. The Romans conquered it afterwards, and, so fascinated by the area, brought olives and vines to it, but also slavery. The Romans spent their leisure days here too, as witnessed by the remains of many buildings. In the cove of Verige, for example, we come across the remains of a splendid Roman villa on three terraces, with temples, a promenade, thermae and fishpond... It is no wonder, come to think of it, that this villa became an Emperor's residence in the times of the Emperor Vespasian.

Historical periods resulted in many changes when it comes to the inhabitants and the character of the area, which was always used in one



Šetnice su duge i vrlo atraktivne, drvoređe impresivni u svom skladu, kao i otvorene pejzažno-parkovne površine.

i bezbrižnog ladanjskog života. Godina: 1893. Glavni akter tog preporoda je austrijski industrijalac, Paul Kupelwieser, direktor čeličane u Moravskoj. Odlučio je baviti se turizmom svog nauma. I stoga ih je kupio. Usljedilo je krčenje makije, sadnja drveća, građevinski radovi.

Prvi gosti dolaze na odmor već 1896. godine. No, sustiže ih napast koja kvari svako ladanje: komarci. A njihovi ubodi nosili su i malariju.

Napasnici su mogli u potpunosti uništiti ideju o turističkom raju Paula Kupelwiesera. No srećom situaciju rješava bakteriolog Robert Koch, koji dolazi na Kupelwieserov poziv. Danas se može vidjeti kameni spomenik posvećen ovom poznatom bakteriologu. S Kochovim dolaskom kreće novi val radova: zatravljaju se bare i lokve kako bi se uništila legla komaraca, a oboljeli se liječe kininom. Bila je to vrlo uspešna akcija. Oboljelih više nije bilo i ladanjska budućnost ponovno je mogla cvjetati.

Nadalje se grade hoteli i 1913. godine otok Veliki Brijun bilježi više od 300 soba. Nekoliko godina ranije postavila se voda, pošta, telefon... Nastavljaju se uređivati staze i šetnice do mora, parkovi, kupalište s kabinama, otvaraju se zatvoreni bazen s grijanom morskom vodom, kasino, sportski tereni, konjska ergela – sve što je gostima moglo pružiti užitak i razonodu.

Ne zaostaje se ni u raskošima za druga osjetila. Vino se proizvodilo iz najboljih domaćih vinograda, maslinovo ulje iz brijunskih maslinika, mlječni proizvodi i fini sirevi izvor imaju u otočkim pašnjacima. Turistički raj velike izdašnosti i ugode. Od 1910. do 1914. Brijuni su imali i svoju tiskovinu "Brioni Insel Zeitung" o turističkoj, lječilišnoj, kulturnoj i rekreativnoj ponudi otoka i otočnim zbivanjima. Sezona je trajala cijelu godinu.

Ukratko, dolazak na Brijune neoskrnjiva je potvrda društvenog statusa. Brijuni svakako imaju više lica.

Na otočnom kamenu mogu se vidjeti otisci stopa dinosaure, mezozojskih gmazova, pa je ovaj lokalitet paleontološki posebno zanimljiv. Zbirke koje čuvaju brijunski muzeji otvaraju stranice arheoloških i kulturno-povijesnih zanimljivosti, a tu su i kopije fresaka i glagoljaških natpisa. Flora i fauna je, upravo zbog te trajne navade čovjeka da je učini što uređenijom, vrlo specifična.

Glavnina flore ima mediteranska obilježja. I dalje je najviše makije, ali tu su i šume crnike i lovora. Nigdje ih nije toliko u zajednici na jednom mjestu duž Jadranu. Velike su travnjačke i parkovne površine. Na Brijunima je utvrđeno gotovo šestotinjak autohtonih i osamdesetak alohtonih vrsta.

Fauna je ukras brijunskog zelenila. Jeleni lopatari i aksisi, mufloni, pauni i zečevi slobodno šetaju parkom i dio su vrlo poznatog, atraktivnog brijunskog identiteta. U pitanju su stotine jedinki, samo je jelena lopatara preko 700, a muflona preko 200. Na Velikom Brijunu nalazi se Safari park, osnovan 1987. godine, u kojem se mogu vidjeti zebre, slonica Lanka, indijsko govedo, nojevi, ljame... ali tu su i autohton stanovnici Etno parka: istarsko govedo, koza, istarska ovca pramenka i istarski magarac.

Veliki Brijun dići se pejzažnim parkovima i travnjacima. Krčenje makije još za vrijeme Kupelwiesera preživjela su brojna velika stabla i masline. Najstarija je maslina stara oko 1600 godina, a najveća crnica je još i starija. Krošnje stabala stvorene su za opuštanje u hladu njihovih dvadesetmetarskih krošnji. Kakvo odmorište za jelene i muflone!

The promenades are long and very attractive, tree alleys impressive in their grace, and open landscape park architecture leaves one breathless.

way or another. Salt and stone were extracted from the antiquity to the days of the Venetian rule, and the islands became almost completely abandoned in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. People would visit the island only occasionally, in order to fell trees.

A century later, the Austrians built fortifications for defense of Pula, given the strategic importance that the port had for them.

There is a name that constitutes a direct link between Brijuni and the rebirth of its tourist character and its care-free leisure life. The year is 1893. The key protagonist of that revival: the Austrian industrialist Paul Kupelwieser, manager of a steel mill in Moravia. He decided to engage in tourism with a firm idea in mind. And so he bought the islands. What followed next was the clearing of macchia, the planting of trees, and construction works.

The first guests came for vacation as early as 1896. However, a predicament came to them, disastrous for any form of leisure: mosquitoes. And their bites transmitted malaria too.

The pests could have destroyed Paul Kupelwieser's idea of tourist paradise completely. Luckily, however, the situation was resolved by Robert Koch, the bacteriologist who arrived at Kupelwieser's invitation. Today, one can see a stone monument dedicated to this renowned bacteriologist. With Koch's arrival, a new wave of works came on the agenda: ponds and pools of water were filled in, so as to destroy mosquito broods, and the sick were treated with quinine. The action was very successful. Nobody else got ill, and the leisurely future could flourish yet again.

Hotels continued being built, and, in 1913, the Veliki Brijun island had more than 300 rooms. Several years earlier, water, postal service and phone came to the island... Paths and promenades leading to the sea continued being prepared, together with parks and a bathing place with dressing cabins. A closed pool with heated seawater was opened as well, and also a casino, sports courses, a horse stable – anything to provide joy and pleasure to guests.

Luxury for other senses was not neglected either. Wine came from the best home vineyards, olive oil from the olive groves of Brijuni; even dairy products and fine cheeses had their source on island pastures. It was a true tourist paradise, abundant and full of joy. In the period from 1910 to 1914, the Brijuni Islands even had a newspaper of their own, *Brioni Insel-Zeitung*, dedicated to the medical, cultural, recreational and tourist offer of the island and various island events. The season lasted all year round.

Briefly put, coming to Brijuni was an indisputable confirmation of one's social status.

Undoubtedly, the Brijuni Islands have several faces.

The island stone preserves footprints of dinosaurs and reptiles from the Mesozoic era, and these phenomena make the locality interesting even from a paleontological point of view. Collections kept by the museums of Brijuni provide insight into archeological, cultural and historical curiosities, and copies of frescoes and documents written in the Glagolitic script have also been preserved.

The flora and fauna are highly specific, precisely due to that permanent desire of man to put as much order in nature as possible.

The bulk of the flora is Mediterranean in character. Macchia is still predominant, but communities of holm oak and bay laurel are also



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Bez obzira na to što će znaci i znateljnici znati prepoznati, naliče Brijuna, posebna energija koja se tu osjeća, vedra je, mirna i spokojna. Danas je tu svjetski poznato golf igralište iz 1922., sportski tereni za mali nogomet, tenis i odbojku te elektromobili i bicikli kojima se istražuju i najskrivenije lokacije.

U takvoj zaokupljenosti, nerijetko se zaboravlja da osamdesetak posto površine Nacionalnog parka zauzima more. Morska je fauna vrlo bogata i broji mnoge vrste. Posjetitelje osobito raduje kada im se ukaže njezino veličanstvo morska kornjača ili na moru ugledaju "bal" dobrih dupina. Brijunski je akvatorij značajno mrijestilište riba i stanište svih organizama tipičnih za sjeverni Jadran. U ovom su morskom parku staništa periski (*Pinna nobilis*), strogo zaštićene endemske mediteranske vrste, i prstaca (*Lithophaga Lithophaga*). Ima i drugih endemske vrste organizama: smeđa alga jadranski bračić i plaštenjak jadranski ciganin. Podmorje je pravo carstvo spužvi, školjkaša, ježinaca, rakova i riba. U prošlosti je u podmorju Brijuna utvrđen velik broj vrsta koji se po prvi put spominju u Jadranu, a opisane su za znanost i neke nove vrste, poput rožnatog koralja (*Alcyonium brionense*).

Svako je povjesno razdoblje na Brijunima ostavilo svoj trag – od vrlo sačuvanih paleontoloških otiska stopala dinosaure do današnjih dana. No otkako je Kupelwieser oplemenio Brijune, njihovo dominantno ozračje i sadržaji čine najraskošniji odmor u bliskom susretu s karakterističnom florom i faunom, u zajedništvu kulturne i prirodne baštine.

The island stone preserves footprints of dinosaurs and reptiles from the Mesozoic era, and these phenomena make the locality interesting even from a paleontological point of view.

prominent. In fact, no other locality along the Adriatic has such sizeable communities of these species. Grasslands and park surfaces also abound. Almost six hundred autochthonous and around eighty allochthonous species have been recorded on the Brijuni Islands.

The fauna is an additional ornament to the Brijuni vegetation. Fallow deer, axis deer, mouflon, peafowl and rabbits freely roam through the park, and they are a constituent part of the highly recognizable and attractive identity of Brijuni. We are talking about hundreds of animals – over 700 fallow deer and over 200 mouflon, for example. On the island of Veliki Brijun, there is the Safari Park, established in 1987, where one can see zebras, Lankan elephant, zebu, ostriches, llamas... Autochthonous inhabitants of the Ethno Park are there as well: the Istrian cattle, goat, Istrian pramenka sheep, and Istrian donkey. The island of Veliki Brijun prides itself with landscape parks and grasslands. The clearing of the macchia undertaken back in Kupelwieser times spared numerous large trees and olives too. The oldest olive is approximately 1,600 years old, and the oldest holm oak is even older. Crowns of trees are perfect for resting in the shade of twenty-meter high trees. What a resting place for deer and mouflon!

The promenades are long and very attractive, tree alleys impressive in their grace, and open landscape park architecture leaves one breathless. Indifferent to the wanderings of connoisseurs and curious visitors, the flip side of Brijuni – that special kind of energy one can feel in the place – is serene, tranquil and undisturbed. A world-renowned golf course of 1922 is still there, together with sports courses for futsal, tennis and volleyball, as well as electric golf carts and bicycles that one can use to explore even the most hidden locations.

Confronted with such splendor, one could be excused for forgetting that as much as eighty percent or so of the National Park surface pertains to the sea. The marine fauna is very rich, with numerous species represented. The visitors are particularly pleased when her majesty the sea turtle treats them with her presence, or when they see the dance of bottlenose dolphins at sea. The sea around Brijuni includes significant fish spawning grounds, and a habitat for all organisms typical of the northern part of the Adriatic. This sea park is thus a habitat of the noble pen shell (*Pinna nobilis*), strictly protected and endemic Mediterranean species, as well as date mussels (*Lithophaga Lithophaga*). Other endemic species are present too: brown alga *Fucus virsoides* and tunicate *Polycitor adriaticus*. The submarine world is a true empire of sponges, bivalves, sea urchins, crustaceans and fish. In the past, the submarine world of Brijuni was known for a number of species recorded in the Adriatic for the first time, and some new species have also been described for the purposes of science, such as the soft coral *Alcyonium brionense*.

Every historical period left its mark on the Brijuni Islands – ranging from the highly preserved paleontological footprints of the dinosaur to the present day. However, ever since Kupelwieser's efforts brought additional nobility to the Brijuni Islands, their dominant atmosphere and the riches they preserve provide opportunity for the most opulent rest in close contact with the characteristic flora and fauna, coexisting in harmony and balance with cultural and natural heritage.





Ovdje su ljetovale mnoge poznate osobe: Marija Jozefa od Saske, majka posljednjeg austrijskog cara Karla I., austrijski nadvojvoda Franz Ferdinand, slikar Gustav Klimt, irski književnik George Bernard Shaw, skladatelj Richard Strauss... i mnogi, mnogi drugi

This is where many celebrities were spending their summers: Princess Maria Josepha, the mother of the last Austrian Emperor Charles I; Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria; painter Gustav Klimt; Irish writer George Bernard Shaw; composer Richard Strauss... and many, many others

**Uz pomoć poznatog bakteriologa Roberta Kocha riješen je problem napasti komaraca koji su prenosili malariju**

With the assistance of Robert Koch, a renowned bacteriologist, the problem of malaria-carrying mosquitoes was eventually resolved

**U zaštićenom moru Brijunskog akvatorija ima oko šest puta više ribe nego u okolnom nezaštićenom moru**

In the protected sea around Brijuni, there is approximately six times more fish than in the surrounding sea not subject to protection

**Jeleni lopatari i aksisi, mufloni, pauni i zečevi slobodno šetaju parkom i oduševljavaju posjetitelje**

Fallow deer, axis deer, mouflon, peafowl and rabbits freely roam around the park, thrilling the visitors

**Maslina stara oko 1600 godina i danas daje krasne plodove od kojih se pravi ekstradjevičansko maslinovo ulje**

Olive tree around 1,600 years old continues to provide excellent olives, used for making extra virgin olive oil

**Za turističku "renesansu" Brijuna zaslužan je austrijski industrijalac Paul Kupelwieser**

Much credit for the tourist renaissance of Brijuni goes to the Austrian industrialist Paul Kupelwieser

# PARK PRIRODE KOPAČKI RIT

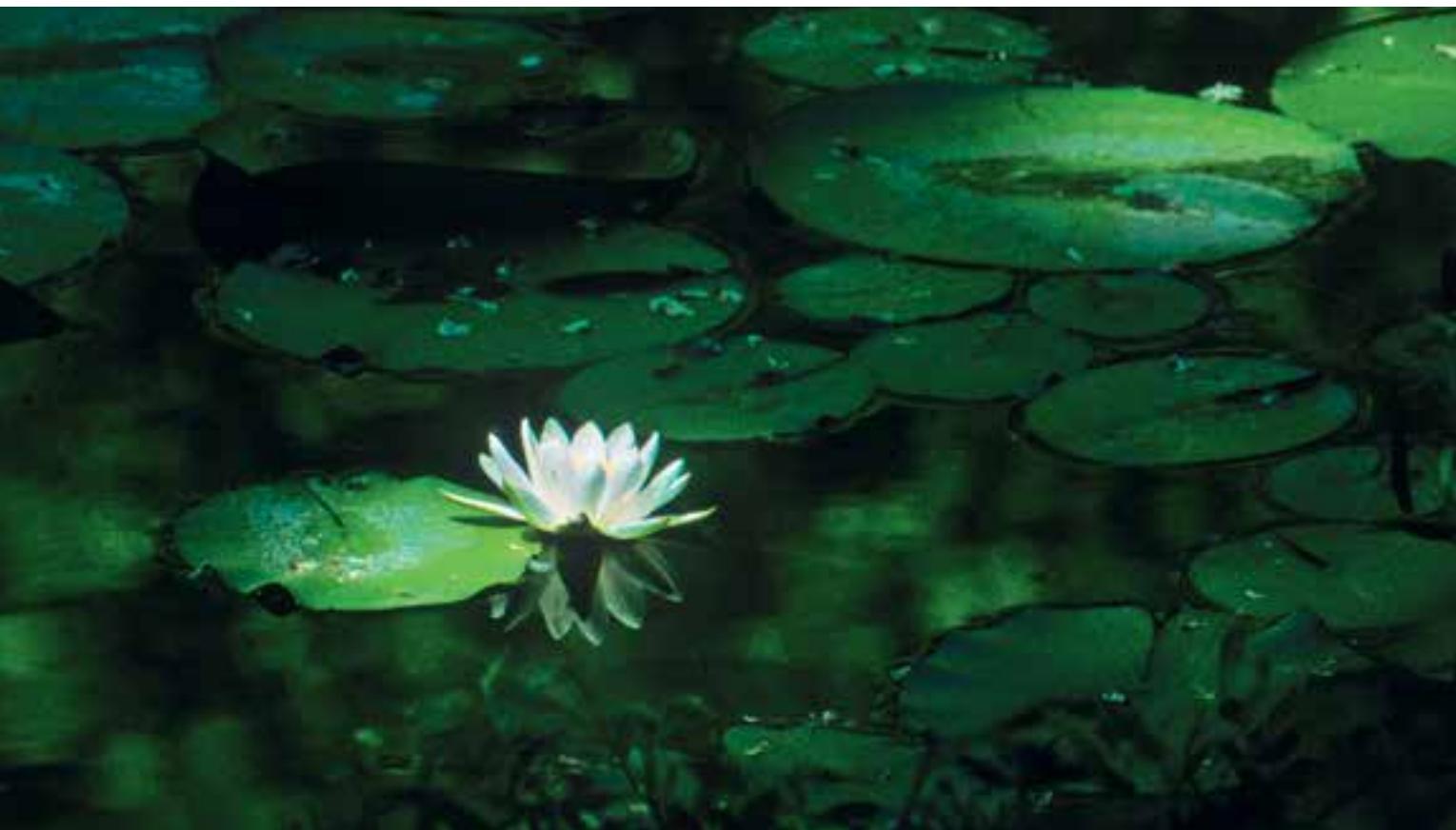
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Kopački Rit  
Nature Park

Kopački rit – močvarni dom tisućama bioloških vrsta. Ptičji raj. Sklonište stotinama ptičjih vrsta. Prirodni trokut Dunava i Drave. Najveća unutarnja delta Dunava. Među najvećim evropskim močvarama. Prostor nikada jednakog izgleda. Svaki novi posjet – novi uvid u prirodu. Mistično mjesto povratka u prostor natopljen životom.

—  
Kopački rit – a wetland home to thousands of species. A paradise for birds, and shelter to hundreds of bird species. A natural triangle between the rivers Danube and Drava, and the largest internal delta of the Danube. This area is one of the largest European wetlands, and it never looks the same, with every new visit bringing a new insight into nature. Kopački rit is a mystical place where one returns to the unhindered fullness of life.





## POPLAVNO PODRUČJE NASTALO DJELOVANJEM DRAVE I DUNAVA

Kopački rit najvredniji je posebni zoološki rezervat u Hrvatskoj. Najveće je rastilište i mrijestilište slatkovodne ribe u Podunavlju. Jedna od najvećih fluvijalno-močvarnih nizina u Europi. Dom za više od 2300 bioloških vrsta. Svake godine u Kopačkom se ritu gnijezdi oko 140 vrsta ptica.

Ovo je mjesto na kojem je moćni Dunav podijelio svoju snagu s jezerima, barama, gredama i ritovima. Park prirode Kopački rit smješten je u istočnoj Hrvatskoj, u Baranji; Osječko-baranjska županija. Ime ovoga Parka dolazi od mađarskih riječi *kapocs*, što znači kopča, i *ret*, u prijevodu s mađarskog livada. Poveznica, kopča, među močvarnim livadama danas su drveni mostovi koji posjetitelju omogućavaju ući duboko u rit – prirodni fenomen bioraznolikosti.

Kopački rit nikada nije isti. Priroda u svojoj mijeni oblikuje "lice" ove velike europske močvare. Izgled cjelokupnog prostora ovisi o intenzitetu poplava i količini nadošle vode iz Dunava.

Kopno i ritske vode u svom prožimanju čine čudesan i jedinstveni prirodni mozaik kojim se zarana počelo upravljati. Godinom početka bilježi se 1699. jer tada je darovnicom ugarsko-hrvatskog kralja Leopolda I. osnovano gospodarstvo Belje. Upravljanje je potom povjereno Eugenu Franji Savojskom. Habsburgovci su bili njegovi zakupci sve do 1918. godine. Burna je prošlost istočnoslavanskog prostora mijenjala i imena upravitelja toga područja.

U Parku prirode nalazi se vrlo zanimljiv primjerak ladanjske arhitekture. To je kompleks Dvoraca Tikveš. Unutar šuma i perivoja smješteni su stari dvorac Tikveš, novi dvorac s aneksom, kapelica i prateći objekti ugostiteljskog tipa.

Tako Kopački rit, kroz Tikveš, nudi i povijesnu dimenziju turizma. Nižemo slojeve te povijesti u sažete retke: nakon međudržavnog



## FLOODPLAIN AREA CREATED BY THE DRAVA RIVER AND THE DANUBE

Kopački rit is the most valuable zoological reserve in Croatia. It is the largest nursery and spawning area for freshwater fish in the Danube region, and one of the largest alluvial wetlands of Europe. Over 2,300 species have found their home in the Nature Park, and approximately 140 bird species are nesting in it.

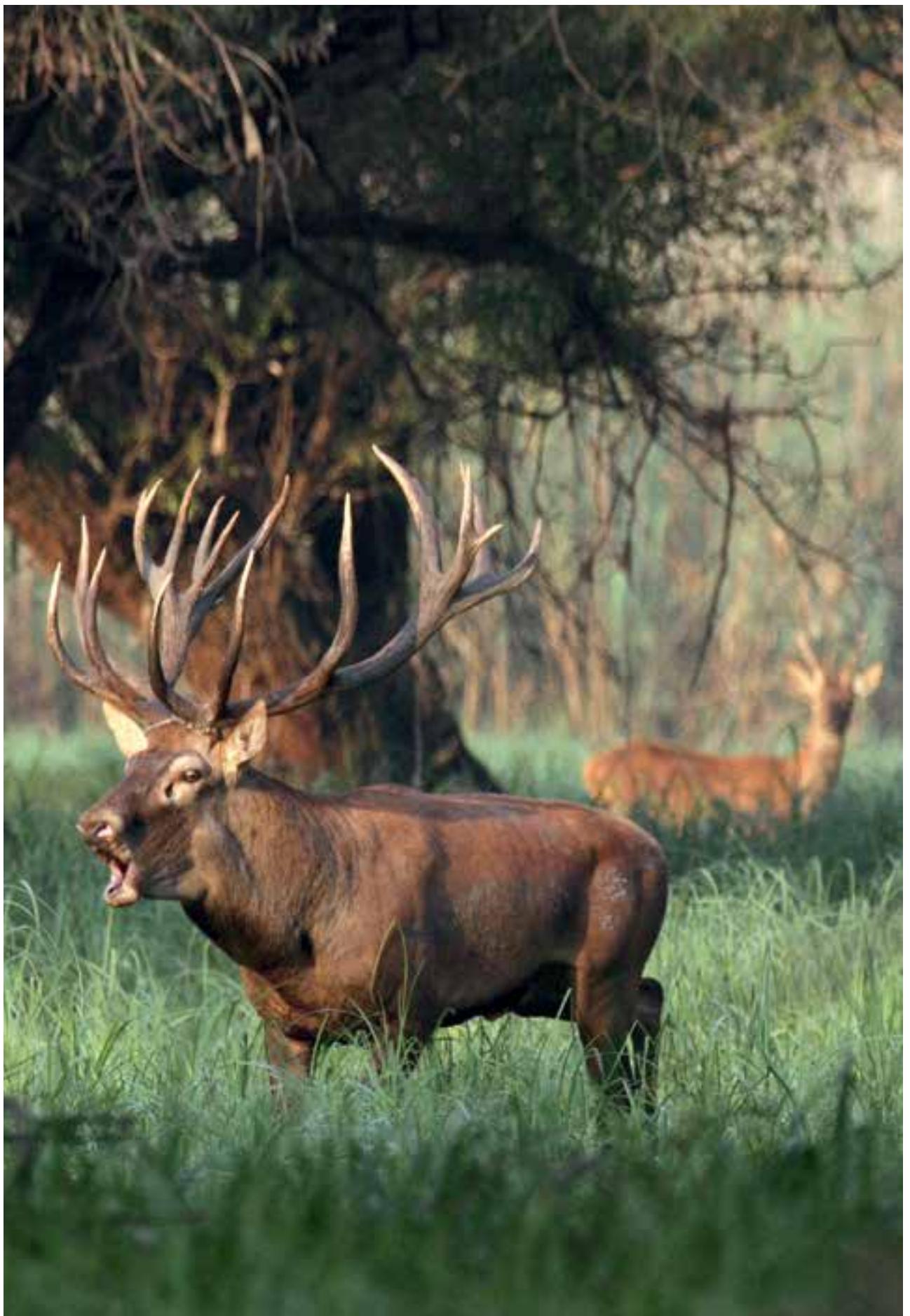
This is an area where the mighty Danube decided to share its strength with the lakes, ponds, elevations and flooded areas. Kopački Rit Nature Park is located in Eastern Croatia, in the Baranja region belonging to Osječko-baranjska County.

The name of the Park stems from two Hungarian words: *kapocs*, which means link, and *ret*, which means meadow in Hungarian. The role of today's link between wetland meadows is played by wooden bridges that allow visitors to enter deep into the area of the Park, which is a natural phenomenon of biodiversity.

Kopački rit is never the same. In its perpetual changes, nature is shaping the face of this major European wetland. The appearance of the entire area depends upon the intensity of flooding and the volume of water brought by the Danube.

The land and waters of Kopački rit merge into a majestic and unique natural mosaic, which people decided to manage a long time ago. As early as 1699, the deed of gift by Leopold I, the King of Hungary and Croatia, led to the establishment of the renowned farm of Belje. Prince Eugene of Savoy soon became entrusted with the management of the property, with the Habsburgs in charge of the lease until 1918. The turbulent history of this Eastern-Slavonian area resulted in many changes to the names of managers of the area over the years.

There is a very interesting example of country architecture in the Nature Park – the Tikveš Castle complex. The complex, consisting of the old



razgraničenja u Versaillesu kompleks postaje imovinom Kraljevine Srba Hrvata i Slovenaca, kasnije Kraljevine Jugoslavije. U vremenu od 1941. do 1944. godine kompleksom upravlja princ Albrecht Habsburg. Po završetku Drugog svjetskog rata postaje nacionaliziran i koristi se samo kao rezidencijalno lovačko središte.

Habsburgovci su sagradili dvorac kako bi imali i raskošne trenutke odmora od carskoga lova. Tikveški dvorac poznat je i kao Titov dvorac. Svi su odreda vladari i državnici prepoznali tikveške hrastove šume kao lovno područje bogato krupnom divljači. Njihovom ugodnom i raskošnom boravku doprinjelo je zasigurno i ladanjsko zdanje.

Park prirode Kopački rit utemeljen je 1976. godine i najstariji je proglašeni park prirode u Hrvatskoj.

Između Dunava na istoku i Drave na jugu, Kopački rit prostire se na 231 četvornom kilometru. Posebni zoološki rezervat površine je oko 70 četvornih kilometara. Ovaj je park prirode uvršten na listu ornitološki značajnih područja – IBA (Important Bird Area). Ramsarskom konvencijom 1993. godine proglašen je međunarodno

castle of Tikveš, together with the new castle with annex, a chapel and catering facilities, is located in the forest and the accompanying gardens. The Tikveš complex provides a historical dimension of tourism to the area of Kopački rit. And here is a short history of the place: after the Treaty of Versailles, the castle complex became property of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, later the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Between 1941 and 1944, Prince Albrecht Habsburg was in charge of the complex. Following World War II, the complex became nationalized, and was used solely as a residential hunting center.

The Habsburgs had built the castle in order to enjoy splendid moments of rest from princely hunting. The castle of Tikveš is also known as the castle of President Tito.

All these rulers and statesmen recognized the oak forests of Tikveš as hunting grounds rich in game. The castle certainly contributed a lot to the pleasant and luxurious nature of their stay.

Kopački rit Nature Park was established in 1976, and it is the oldest proclaimed Nature Park in Croatia.





Kopački rit nikada nije isti. Priroda u svojoj mijeni oblikuje "lice" ove velike europske močvare. Izgled cjelokupnog prostora ovisi o intenzitetu poplava i količini nadošle vode iz Dunava.

značajnim zaštićenim područjem. UNESCO je 2012. godine proglašio prekogranični rezervat biosfere Mura – Drava – Dunav, a Kopački rit je njegov iznimno vrijedan dio.

Jedinstvenost izgleda Kopačkog rita rezultat je neprestanih plavljenja. Uslijed toga, valovi na nekim mjestima produbljuju teren i tako nastaju bare. Na drugim se mjestima istodobno taloži materijal koji nosi rijeka i nastaju uzvišenja tla, takozvane grede. I tako se stvara čudesan prirodni mozaik bara i greda.

Dva su veća jezera u Parku – Kopačko jezero i Sakadaš koji je sa sedam metara najdublja udubina Rita. Prostor Parka popavljen je prosječno 99 dana u godini.

Rit većinom prekriva šuma bijele vrbe, dok se na višim terenima nalaze vrijedne šume hrasta lužnjaka, najplemenitijeg i najcjenjenijeg drveta ovih prostora.

Iznimna je vrijednost i ljepota flore i faune u Kopačkom ritu. Hektari bijelog lopoča prekrivaju ritske vode. Ta ljepota pogledu posjetitelja u svojem je dubokom i sočnom korijenu hrana jelennima zimi.

Iznimna posebnost u fauni Kopačkog rita su i veliki vranci, ptice čiji se opstanak temelji isključivo na obilatosti i kvaliteti ribljeg fonda zato što odrasla jedinka dnevno pojede približno pola kilograma ribe. U Kopačkom ritu ne ostaju gladne i dovoljno ostavljaju prirodi u vibrantnoj mreži složenog ekosustava.

A Rit je upravo to, mozaičan ekološki sustav čiji su elementi visoko vrijedni i rijetki.

Uz to, Kopački je rit i u svojoj turističkoj dimenziji bogato mozaičan. On je mjesto za odmor, rekreaciju, atrakciju i svjetski poznato mjesto za promatranje ptica. Izbor je na posjetitelju. Kroz močvaru turističkim brodom ili čamcem? Odvažiti se na veslanje u kanuu uz pratnju stručnih vodiča Parka? Biciklom kroz Kopački rit? Turističkim vlakom u obilazak kopnenih staza parka? Kopački rit nudi atraktivne izvore. Ovo mjesto, Park prirode Kopački rit, opisuje i sklad.

U svjetskim razmjerima ugroženi orao štekavac ovdje slobodno širi svoja, u rasponu gotovo dvaipolmetarska krila.

U rujnu česte su jutarnje, vrlo guste, magle. Proživjeti trenutke dizanja te magle koja otvara pogled prema Kopačkom ritu gotovo da je mistični doživljaj. A kako se magla diže, postaje doslovna slika otvaranja očiju pred veličanstvenošću močvarne prirode.

Kopački rit is never the same. In its perpetual changes, nature is shaping the face of this major European wetland. The appearance of the entire area depends upon the intensity of flooding and the volume of water brought by the Danube.

Located between the Danube in the east and the Drava River in the south, Kopački rit covers the area of 231 square kilometer. The area of the special zoological reserve includes approximately 70 square kilometers. The Nature Park is listed as an Important Bird Area (IBA), and, in 1993, it became a Wetland of International Importance in the framework of the Ramsar Convention. In 2012, UNESCO established the Mura-Drava-Danube Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, with Kopački rit as its extraordinarily valuable part.

The unique appearance of Kopački rit is a result of constant flooding. Due to that phenomenon, water deepens the terrain in some areas, creating ponds. On the other hand, sedimentation of the material carried by the river results in occasional soil elevations, joining the ponds in creating a fascinating mosaic of submerged and exposed layers of the terrain. There are two major lakes in the Park – Kopačko jezero and Sakadaš.

The latter is the deepest point of the Park area, at seven meters of water depth. On average, the area of the Park is flooded 99 days per year.

White willow forest is the predominant vegetation cover of Kopački rit, and higher terrain includes valuable forests of pedunculate oak, the noblest and the most appreciated tree species of the country.

The value and beauty of the flora and fauna of Kopački rit is extraordinary. Entire hectares of white water lily cover the waters of the Park. They feed the visitors with their beauty, and deer with their deep and lush roots in the wintertime.

One outstanding feature of the fauna of Kopački rit are great cormorants, birds the survival of which is founded upon the abundance and quality of fish stock, given the fact that an adult bird eats approximately half a kilo of fish per day. Great cormorants certainly do not face hunger in Kopački rit, and yet they leave more than enough to nature, in the vibrant network of a complex ecosystem.

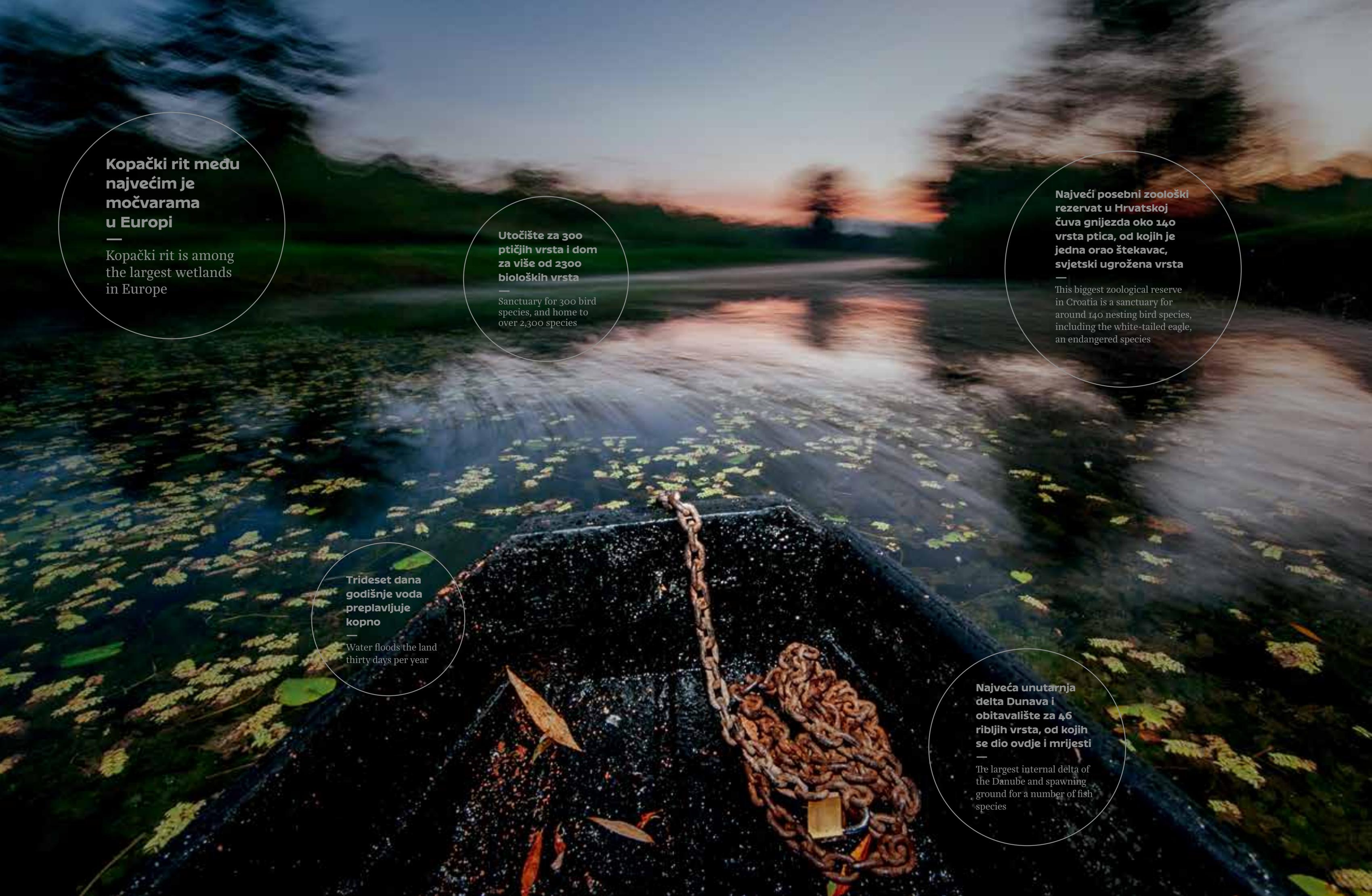
Kopački rit is precisely that – a mosaic ecosystem with highly valuable and rare features.

On top of that, the Park is richly mosaic in its tourist dimension as well. It is a place for rest and recreation, a source of many attractions, and a globally renowned destination for birdwatching. It is up to you, the visitor, to make your choice. Maybe you would like to go for a tourist boat tour through the wetlands, either as part of a group or individually? Or take the challenge of rowing in a canoe, joined by Park staff with their expert guidance? Perhaps you would like to cycle through the Park? Or maybe just sit on a tourist train, and have a look at the Park from that perspective? Whatever the decision, Kopački rit certainly offers attractive choices...

Kopački rit Nature Park is truly a place of harmony.

It is a place where even the white-tailed eagle, a globally endangered species, can freely spread its wings spanning almost two and a half meters. In September, mornings are frequently marked by very thick fog. Watching as the fog rises, the view gradually opening towards the wetlands, is almost a mystical experience. And, as the fog rises, one's eyes open to the magnificence of wetland nature.





**Kopački rit među  
najvećim je  
močvarama  
u Europi**

—  
Kopački rit is among  
the largest wetlands  
in Europe

**Utočište za 300  
ptičjih vrsta i dom  
za više od 2300  
bioloških vrsta**

—  
Sanctuary for 300 bird  
species, and home to  
over 2,300 species

**Najveći posebni zoološki  
rezervat u Hrvatskoj  
čuva gniazda oko 140  
vrsta ptica, od kojih je  
jedna orao štekavac,  
svjetski ugrožena vrsta**

—  
This biggest zoological reserve  
in Croatia is a sanctuary for  
around 140 nesting bird species,  
including the white-tailed eagle,  
an endangered species

**Trideset dana  
godišnje voda  
preplavljuje  
kopno**

—  
Water floods the land  
thirty days per year

**Najveća unutarnja  
delta Dunava i  
obitavalište za 46  
ribljih vrsta, od kojih  
se dio ovdje i mrijeti**

—  
The largest internal delta of  
the Danube and spawning  
ground for a number of fish  
species

Nacionalni park Kornati – kameni labirint osamdeset i devet otoka, otočića i hridi okruženih morem, dio je Kornatskog otočja, najrazvedenije otočne skupine u Sredozemlju. Pogled na kornatske otoke iz zraka, s mora ili s otočnih vidikovaca jednako je dojmljiv – a oku potpuno različit, vrijedan iskustva i proučavanja. Suhozidi na kornatskim otocima nijemo i postojano svjedoče o mukotrpnosti ljudskog rada na škrtoj zemlji u kamenu okruženom kristalno čistim morem. Nacionalni park Kornati ili pak Kornatsko otočje u cjelini kamo su biserje Mediterana.

—

Kornati National Park – a labyrinth of stone, with eighty nine islands, islets and rocks in the sea – is part of the Kornati archipelago, the most indented island group in the Mediterranean. Regardless of whether you look at the Kornati Islands from the air, from the sea, or from viewpoints on the islands, the view is equally impressive – and yet different to the eye every single time, more than worth experiencing and examining. Dry stone walls on the islands of Kornati are silent and steadfast witnesses to hard work on modest soil on stone surrounded by crystal-clear sea. Kornati National Park and the Kornati Islands as a whole are the stone pearls of the Mediterranean.

# NACIONALNI PARK KORNATI

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## Kornati National Park





## KAMENI LABIRINT OSAMDESET I DEVET OTOKA, OTOČIĆA I HRIDI

Kao kakva igra kamena i mora rasuti su otoci i otočići Kornata. Za lijepa vremena, to je nijema igra plavetnila i sivila. Za vjetrovitog i burnog, progovara u zvuku valova... Kornati su, ipak, poznati siguran zaklon nautičarima kada more pokaže bijes i snagu koja se izvljava ne mareći više za gosta – čovjeka...

Kornatsko otoče sa svojih gotovo 150 otoka, otočića i hridi raspršenih na površini od 320 km<sup>2</sup> najrazvedenija je otočna skupina na Sredozemlju. Njih osamdeset i devet s okolnim morem na ukupnoj površini od 216,78 km<sup>2</sup>, zbog iznimnih prirodnih, kulturnih i tradicijskih vrijednosti, proglašeno je područjem nacionalnog parka. Pogled na taj kameni labirint impozantan je prizor iz zraka, s otočnih vidikovaca, a isto tako i s mora, za vrijeme plovidbe podno mnogih kornatskih strmaca.

Otoci su u Nacionalnom parku svrstani u dva niza – Kornatski i Piškerski. Ime su dobili po najvećem otoku, Kornatu. Najveća širina otočja unutar granica Parka jest 6 kilometara.

Život na Kornatima uvijek je bio borba za preživljavanje. Čovjek je svojom ustrajnošću za opstankom mijenjao izgled otoka. Škrto zelenilo u kamenjarskim pašnjacima prehranjivalo je ovce. No, ta današnja golet otoka prošarana tek “zelenim pjegama” raslinja nije slika od davnina. Tisućljetno iskorištavanje tih prostora rezultiralo je obešumljenošću i pretvaranjem otoka u kamenjar.

Na kornatske se otoke povremeno dolazilo i odlazilo. Na otocima je oko 300 kuća. U cijelosti, Kornati su privatni posjed. Devedeset posto vlasnika žitelji su otoka Murtera. Ti su dalmatinski težaci krajem 19. stoljeća od vlastele otkupili otroke i posjede ogradili suhozidima. Suhozidi su spomenici nevjerojatnoj ljudskoj radinosti, umijeću i strpljivosti.



## STONE LABYRINTH OF EIGHTY NINE ISLANDS, ISLETS AND ROCKS

The islands and islets of Kornati are scattered like in a play of sorts between the stone and the sea.

In good weather, it is a silent play of blue and gray. When the winds start blowing, the archipelago starts speaking in the sound of waves... However, the Kornati Islands are a well-known shelter for sailors whenever the sea shows its rage and strength, too strong to even care about man as a temporary guest.

With almost 150 islands, islets and rocks distributed over the surface of 320 square kilometers, the Kornati archipelago is the most indented island group in the Mediterranean. Eighty nine islands and the surrounding sea, with the total surface of 216.78 square kilometers, became protected as National Park area due to extraordinary natural, cultural and traditional values. The view of this stone labyrinth is astounding from the air, from the island viewpoints, but also from the sea, as you watch the archipelago while your vessel passes below many cliffs of Kornati.

There are two groups of islands in the National Park – the Kornat and the Piškera island chains, with the largest island of Kornat giving its name to the archipelago. The biggest width of the archipelago within the boundaries of the Park is 6 kilometers...

Life on the Kornati Islands has always meant struggle for survival. In that persistence for survival, man has changed the appearance of islands. Barren vegetation on rocky pastures was used to feed the sheep. However, the current barren appearance of the islands, covered only here and there by an occasional green spot of vegetation, isn't all that old. Thousands of years of use of these areas eventually resulted in a deforested, rocky landscape of the islands.





Suhozidi su spomenici nevjerljivoj ljudskoj radijnosti, umijeću i strpljivosti. Često se protežu od obale do obale. Razlog je da ovce ne bi prelazile na tuđi posjed. Samo je na otoku Kornatu oko 260 kilometara suhozida, a na cijeloj površini Nacionalnog parka impresivnih 330 kilometara.

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Posebno je to impresivna slika iz zraka, ali i doći do suhozida, položiti ruku na graditeljstvo koje je nastalo isključivo ljudskom rukom, izaziva duboko poštovanje prema mukotrpnom suživotu čovjeka i kamenjara. Razlog zbog kojih su se podizali suhozidi su ovce. I danas se domaći ljudi bave ovčarstvom, ne u tolikom obimu kao nekoć, ali i dalje ovce slobodno pasu na otocima i dio su lanca koji čuva bioraznolikost. Djelatnici Parka pomagači su domaćima kada treba prevesti ovce s otoka na otok.

&lt;/

Kada se misli na Nacionalni park Kornati, misli se na otoke. Park, naime, uključuje i morski akvatorij visoke vrijednosti. Kopneni dio parka je izraziti krš, vapnenac. Zbog toga su ovdje prisutni svi krški fenomeni: škape, kamenice, ponikve i špilje.

mala udaljenost između otoka u kombinaciji s vjetrovima može pružiti neugodna iznenađenja na pučinskim stranama koje nemaju zavjetrinu. Ljepota uvijek izaziva na opis, a opis rijetko može biti ravan toj ljepoti. Kad ponestane moći realnog opisivanja, pribjegava se legendama. Tako su, prema legendi, Kornati nastali iz bijelih stijena koje su Bogu preostale nakon stvaranja svijeta. Bacio ih je u more, pogledao i shvatio da tu nema ništa za popravljati. Kornati većinu oduševljavaju, prije svega vizurom. Znatiželjniji mogu više "iščitati" iz kamena, a u kombinaciji s propitkivanjem lokalnih ljudi čuti osobite priče s otoka koji su relativno udaljeni od obale, smješteni u ribom bogatom akvatoriju koji su često pohodili gusari. Kornati su uvijek sigurno sklonište za ružnog vremena. Kornati su primamljivi u svojoj negostoljubivosti i škrrosti kamena. Silno bogatstvo prirode i veliko siromaštvo dalmatinskog čovjeka kroz povijest. Priča Kornata je tiha priča; okamenjena priča. Za one koji znaju osluškivati i propitkivati kako je život opstajao u oskudnosti.

When one refers to the National Park Kornati, one tends to think of the islands. However, the waters of the archipelago represent a major value as well. The terrestrial part of the Park is an extreme form of karst and limestone terrain. That is why all the karst phenomena can be encountered here: ranging from karrens and solution pans to dolines and caves.

well known, especially among divers, who could tell you many stories about all the colors one can find in depths below the Kornati cliffs.

Above the blue of the sea, there is almost nothing but the barren rock. Even though many visitors have been tempted to describe the area as "lunar landscape", over 650 plant species have, in fact, been recorded in this area. The vegetation is restoring itself slowly and spontaneously. It is certain that the islands will remain devoid of forest cover that used to adorn them for quite some time. However, that is one of the reasons why the area is so interesting, for it reveals so many wonders usually hidden in the relief, such as layered rocks.

However, barren rocks certainly do not imply barren cultural landscape. Life in this area used to pulsate around the Tarca field on the island of Kornat in particular. As it usually happens, life looks for green pastures... The Tureta or Toreta fortification was built in the sixth century. For a certain period of time, the island itself was carrying that name... One other Kornati island is worth particular mention – Piškera. Back in 1824, there were 13 houses registered on it, together with storage houses for salt, fish, barrels and various fishing tools. Until the fall of the Venetian Republic, the owners of the settlement and the fishing trade on Kornati were the fishermen from the settlement of Sali on the nearby island of Dugi otok. The Venetian tax collectors were placed quite nearby, in a small citadel on the island of Panitula. Nowadays, there are only five houses on the island of Piškera, but also a small church from the year 1560 (14.8 x 8 meters).

It was built only for fishermen, and it is the only such church on the Adriatic. The rocks are a pleasant home to rare bird species, mammals are a rarity of sorts, and the only carnivore living on Kornati is the beech marten (Martes foina).

Yachtsmen perceive the Kornati Islands as a genuine treat, providing challenges and a safe shelter at the same time. The sea around the islands is regularly dotted by sails. One must know about the wind and sailing skills, of course, and pay due attention to the weather forecast, because the closeness of the rocks and short distances between the islands, coupled with the winds, can result in unpleasant surprises in those areas that are exposed to open sea, without immediate shelter.

Beauty always invites description, and description can rarely match that beauty. When the power of realistic description fades, there are always legends. According to one legend, for example, God made Kornati out of white rocks that were left unused after the creation of the world. He threw them into the sea, took a look, and concluded that there is nothing he should repair.

Most visitors are thrilled by Kornati, primarily due to the views they provide. Curious visitors can read a lot more from the stone. If they decide to chat a little with the locals, they can also hear interesting stories from the islands relatively distant from the mainland, in the middle of the sea rich in fish, and frequented by pirates in the past. Kornati are always a safe shelter in rough weather...

The Kornati Islands are attractive in their harshness, and in the barren nature of their rocks. They are a testimony to the tremendous wealth of nature, and poverty of the Dalmatian population in times past.

The story of Kornati is a quiet story; it is a story carved in rock, for those who know how to listen, and how to examine the endurance of life in scarcity.





**Kornati su u cijelosti privatno vlasništvo i najveća površina sezonske naseljenosti**

—  
The Kornati Islands are in private ownership, with the largest seasonally inhabited surface

**Strmci, koje Murterini nazivaju "krunama", obrušavaju se u more i stotinu metara duboko**

—  
Cliffs, referred to as “crowns” by the inhabitants of the island of Murter, plunge hundreds of meters deep into the sea in some areas

**Prostor najveće razvedenosti na Jadranu i širem području Mediterana**

—  
The most indented area of the Adriatic and the wider Mediterranean area

**Sigurno sklonište nautičarima i za najgoreg nevremena**

—  
The area is a safe shelter for yachtsmen even under worst weather conditions

**Suhozidi u Nacionalnom parku dužine su oko 330 kilometara**

—  
Dry stone walls in the National Park are approximately 330 kilometers long

# NACIONALNI PARK KRKA

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## Krka National Park

Sedam veličanstvenih: Bilušića buk, Brljan, Manojlovac, Rošnjak, Miljacka slap, Roški slap i Skradinski buk. To su sedreni slapovi Krke. Za mnoge, najljepše plave linije dalmatinskog krša. Divota kaskada i gusti, bogati zvuk života vode. Na многим dijelovima Krka mirnoga toka, a svoje slapove najavljuje "srebrnim ogrlicama"; sve gušćim mreškanjem vode koje poprima boju srebra i izgled nebrojenih po rijeci rasutih ogrlica. Sve će se njihovo srebro razbiti niz slapove i ljepota će se samo pretočiti u novi oblik.

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We might call it the Magnificent Seven: Bilušića buk, Brljan, Manojlovac, Rošnjak, Miljacka slap, Roški slap and Skradinski buk. These are the tufa cascades of the Krka River – for many, the most beautiful blue line of the Dalmatian karst. Gorgeous cascades and thick, rich sound of life given by water. In many of its parts, the Krka's flow is calm, and its cascades are announced by "silver necklaces" – increasingly thick rippling of water, the color of which turns silver, resembling countless necklaces scattered on the river. All that silver will eventually splash over the cascades, and beauty will obtain a completely new form.





## DALMATINSKI KRŠ OKIĆEN "SREBRNIM OGRLICAMA"

Kada se u prostoru dalmatinskog krša, koji zbog svojeg vavnenačkog podzemlja žedno guta vodu, nađe mjesto na kojem doslovno u sekundi "protutnji" i do 500 000 litara vode – onda je to prizor ravan čudu. Nacionalni park Krka prepun je zapanjajućih mjesta.

Krka izvire kod Knina, teče Kninskim poljem i ulazi u kanjon koji je prati najvećim dijelom njezinog toka. Vrlo blizu, šesnaestak kilometara nizvodno od Knina, prvo je mjesto gdje se Krka obrušava i stvara slap Bilušića buk visok preko 20 metara.

Krka je velikim dijelom toka ujezerena rijeka. Brljansko jezero (1300 x 400 m) završava slapom Brljanom. Najviši slap na Krki je Manojlovac. Ukupna visina slapa je 59,6 metara, a najveći se pojedinačni slap ruši u dubinu preko 30 metara. Voden kolos Krke bijesni punom snagom. Tu je i vidikovac s kojega se vidi izrazito strm kanjon dubok impozantnih dvjestotinjak metara. A tu se nalaze i Šupljaje ili Šuplje crkve. Tako se u narodu zovu zidani kameni lukovi, preostali ostaci rimske logore. Za Manojlovcem, nizvodno, preko samo jedne barijere ruši se slap Rošnjak. Upravo zbog toga jedinstven je – slap među slapištima. Kilometar niže je slap Miljacka. Nad Krkom su kod Miljake i dvije srednjovjekovne utvrde, Trošenj (još se zove i Čučovo) i Nečven. Vlasnici Trošenja bili su Šubići, a Nečvena Nelipići i Martinušići. U svojim osvajačkim pohodima zauzeti će ih 1522. godine Turci i do 1686. godine pogled s utvrda pripada osmanlijskim agama, begovima, dizdarima i kadijama.

Tok Krke prirodna je slikovnica s toliko različitih stranica. Od prve do posljednje stranice Krka će promijeniti svoj temperament nebrojeno puta: mirna, ujezerena, raskomoćena u dolinama i stješnjene, zbijene snage vode u kanjonima.



## DALMATIAN KARST ADORNED WITH "SILVER NECKLACES"

When you find yourself in the area of the Dalmatian karst, which gulps water in constant thirst due to its subterranean limestone structure, and you come across a spot where up to 500 thousand liters of water literally rumbles through in a second – it is, indeed, a sight resembling a miracle.

The Krka National Park is packed with such astounding places. The Krka River source is located near the city of Knin, and the river passes through the Knin valley and enters into a canyon that will accompany the river along most of its course. Quite nearby, sixteen kilometers downstream from Knin, is the first place where the Krka River takes a plunge, creating the Bilušića buk cascade over 20 meters high.

Through a large portion of its course, the Krka forms lakes. Brljansko Lake (1,300 x 400 meters) ends with the cascade of Brljan. The highest waterfall on the Krka River is Manojlovac, with the total height of 59.6 meters, and with the highest individual cascade reaching over 30 meters. The water colossus of the Krka is in full force there.

A sightseeing point is there as well, from where you can see an extraordinarily steep canyon, roughly two hundred meters deep. So-called "Hollow Churches", Šupljaje, can be seen there. That's how the folk refers to arcs made of stone, the remains of the ancient Roman camps. Downstream of Manojlovac, one comes across the waterfall of Rošnjak, with water flowing over just one single barrier. That is precisely what makes it unique – a single cascade among multiple cascades. One kilometer downstream – there is the cascade of Miljacka. Above the river at that point, one can see two medieval fortresses: Trošenj (also referred to as Čučovo) and Nečven. The owners of Trošenj were the family Šubić, and the owners of Nečven were the families of Nelipić



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Doline Krke su zelene jer je tlo više laporasto nego vapnenačko. Zbog toga se zadržavala voda, zazelenjela priroda i došli su ljudi. Jedna od dolina je Carigradska draga, pokraj pravoslavnog manastira svetog Arhanđela, poznatijeg kao manastir Krka koji se prvi put spominje još 1402. godine. Arhitektura je zanimljiv spoj bizantskih i mediteranskih elemenata. U istoj dolini, ali visoko nad rijekom ruševine su Vilingrada ili Bogočina koje datiraju također iz 14. stoljeća.

Mirna voda kod Bogočina preljeva se u jezero, a iz jezera dalje putuje kanjonom dubokim 150 metara. Završetak tog kanjona početak je Roškog slapa.

Njegove su dimenzije očaravajuće. Najveća mu je širina 450 metara, dugačak je 650 metara, a rijeka pleše preko sedrenih barijera oku nevjerljivo zanimljiv ples. Roški slap najavljuju "srebrne ogrlice", a radi se o pojavi mreškanja vode koja će uskoro put slapa stvarajući sliku po rijeci rasutih ogrlica srebrne boje. Ubrzo će se razliti niz Roški slap. Kako se rijeka doslovno "rasipa" svojom snagom, čovjek je njome osnažio svoje ruke. Na Krki su podignute mnoge vodenice, a kompleks vodenica baš na Roškom slapi najatraktivniji je etnografski lokalitet Dalmatinske zagore.

Posuđena snaga vode mljela je žito i hranila ljudi Zagore, tu su se ispirala sukna i biljci, prekrivači od ovčje vune. Kako je to u ono doba bio ženski posao, bilo je ovdje i svojevršno sastajalište žena Dalmatinske zagore na koje se dolazilo magarcima. U košarama je ponekad bilo mjesto i za dijete koje se veselilo kupanju na Krki.

Vodenice su spomenici tradicijskog graditeljstva, a u obnovljenima se može doživjeti prezentacija starih zanata. Iznad Roškog slapa nalazi se atraktivna Ozidičana pećina, pretpovijesni lokalitet. U pećinu se može ući i pogledati tragove čovjekove prisutnosti kroz arheološku zbirku iz doba neolitika.

Prostor za posjetitelje Parka osmišljen je za bliski i siguran kontakt s prirodom. Edukativne staze, vidikovci i jedna od najljepših poučno-pješačkih staza u Hrvatskoj Stinice – Roški slap – Ozidičana pećina duga osam i pol kilometara omogućuju puninu doživljaja prostora Parka. Cijela je staza put iznimne bioraznolikosti. Ponajviše je u flori mediteranskih vrsta, a u fauni četraest riba endemski su primjeri jadranskog područja u slatkoj vodi Krke.

Jezero ispod Roškog slapa je široko oko 300 metara, a okolna vegetacija, mahom trske i šaša, zaklon je pticama močvaricama. Jezero potom ulazi u tjesan Među gredama, dug oko 500 metara i širok od 50 do 100 metara. Pogled iz plovila odozdo, prema visokim vrhovima kanjona, užitak je malenkosti čovjeka u vrleti prirode. Kanjonom se Krka opet otvara u jezero Visovac.

Usred jezera nalazi se istoimeni otočić – nadaleko prepoznatljiva slika Nacionalnog parka Krka – jer su na njemu smješteni crkva i samostan, što daje prostoru posebnu vizuru. Taj mali prostor, nešto više od hektara, imao je posvema različite stanovnike. U 14. stoljeću tu su bili eremiti – pustinjaci svetog Augustina koji su podigli samostan i crkvicu. Za vremena osmanlijskih osvajanja napuštaju otok, a 1445. godine dolaze bosanski franjevci. Uz manje prekide zadržavaju se do danas. Samostan se može posjetiti i razgledati vrijedan inventar i povijesne dokumente, u velikom broju i turske.

Kod Skradinskog se buka dolina Krke spaja s dolinom Čikole i nastaje jedinstvena jezerska površina s dva kraka. U nizvodnom dijelu livada

The course of the Krka is a natural picture book with so many different pages. From the first to the last page, the Krka changes its temperament countless times: it can be calm; it can form lakes; it can be wide in the valleys, and narrow and immensely strong in the canyons.

and Martinušić. The Turkish forces took over these fortresses in their conquests back in 1522. From that point until 1686, the view from the fortresses belonged to the various aghas, beys, fortress commanders and qadis of the Ottoman Era.

The course of the Krka is a natural picture book with so many different pages. From the first to the last page, the Krka changes its temperament countless times: it can be calm; it can form lakes; it can be wide in the valleys, and narrow and immensely strong in the canyons.

The valleys of the Krka River are green, because the soil contains more marl than limestone. That is why the water was retained, the nature turned green, and people came along. Carigradska draga is one such valley, located next to the Orthodox Christian Monastery of the Holy Archangel, better known as the Krka Monastery, mentioned for the first time as early as 1402. Its architecture is an interesting mix of Byzantine and Mediterranean elements. In the same valley, but high above the river, there are the ruins of Vilingrad or Bogočin, dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century as well.

At the locality of Bogočin, calm water enters the lake, and proceeds further through a canyon 150 meters deep. The end of that canyon is the beginning of the cascades of Roški slap.

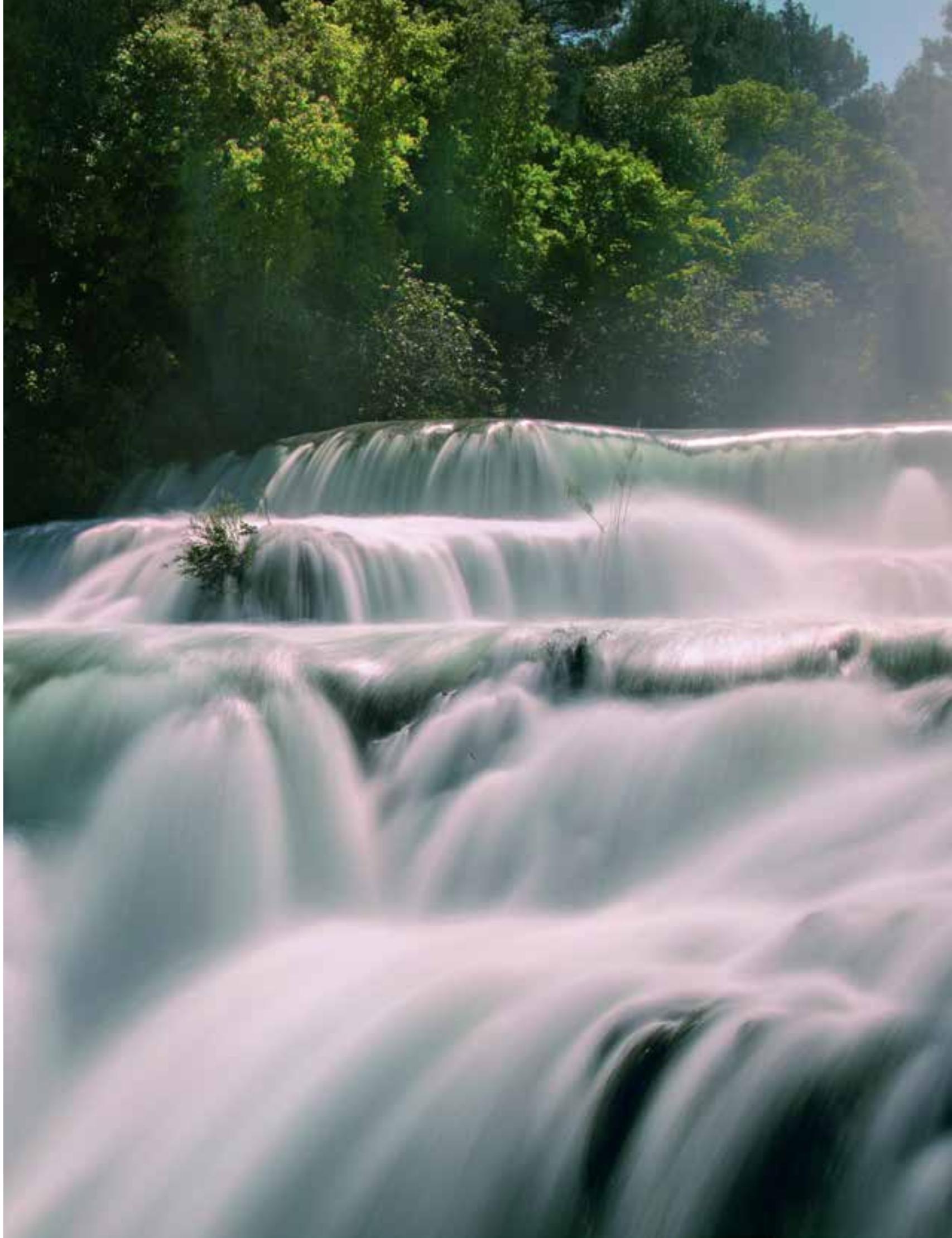
The dimensions of that particular waterfall are astounding. Its maximum width is 450 meters, and it is 650 meters long, with the river dancing its dance over the tufa barriers in a manner incredibly intriguing to the eye. Silver necklaces announce the cascades of Roški slap – the phenomenon of rippling water that will soon head for the cascade, creating an image resembling necklaces in silver color scattered across the river. These necklaces will soon disappear down the Roški slap.

Given the abundance of force in the river, man took advantage of it to increase his strength. Many water mills have thus been built on the Krka River, and the water mill complex on the cascades of Roški slap is arguably the most attractive ethnographic locality of the Dalmatian hinterland. The borrowed force of water was used to grind wheat and feed the people of the Dalmatian hinterland, and to wash the cloth and heavy homespun blankets and rugs made from sheep wool. Since the latter was considered to be women's work at the time, the river used to be a meeting point of sorts for women of the Dalmatian hinterland, with donkeys as means of transport. There would sometimes be sufficient place in the basket for a child, looking forward to bathing in the Krka River.

Water mills are monuments of traditional architecture. Nowadays, revived water mills are used to present ancient crafts. Above the Roški slap, there is the attractive prehistoric locality of Ozidičana cave. One can enter the cave and witness the presence of man in the area by looking at the archaeological collection from the Neolithic times.

The area of the Park is designed in a manner that offers visitors close and safe contact with nature. Educational trails, sightseeing points, and one of the best educational hiking trails in Croatia, Stinice – Roški slap – Ozidičana cave, eight and a half kilometers long, enable visitors to fully experience the area of the Park. The entire trail is a pathway through extraordinary biodiversity. Mediterranean species are particularly prominent in the flora, and when it comes to the fauna, it includes fourteen endemic fish species of the Adriatic area present in the freshwater of the Krka River.

The lake below Roški slap is approximately 300 meters wide, and the



### Prostor za posjetitelje

Parka osmišljen je za bliski i siguran kontakt s prirodom. Edukativne staze, vidikovci i jedna od najljepših poučno-pješačkih staza u Hrvatskoj Stinice – Roški slap – Oziđana pećina duga osam i pol kilometara omogućuju puninu doživljaja prostora Parka.

vrlo je neobična vodena površina, potpuno pravilan geometrijski krug promjera 150 metara. To je krško vrelo Torak površine mirne i glatke kao ogledalo jer voda izvire na dubini od 30 metara.

Skradinski buk za posjetitelje je nerijetko glavni cilj. Najveći je i vodom najbogatiji slap na Krki. Sedamnaest barijera prebacuje vodu i stvara prekrasnu i zvučnu sliku prirode. Slap je širok 400 metara i ukupne visine oko 46 metara. I tu je mnogo vodenica. Starije generacije zvuk slapa sjeća na mlinske žrvnjeve, udaranje stupa i koševa s biljcima ili sukancima. Posljednji vir Skradinskog buka je kraj slatkvodne Krke. Od Visovca do Skradinskog buka ima oko 6 kilometara.

Buka, pretvaranje zelene vode u bučnu bijelu koja se strmoglavljuje niz kaskade, priroda na Skradinskom buku kao da se smije iz svoje najdublje biti. Kipi radost rijeke.

Ovdje su najjasniji svi tonovi zelene boje. Najsvežija hladna plava. Zagrcano je vodom zelenilo. Prštava radost rijeke. Ovdje Krka slavi svaki dan, svaki trenutak i bez obzira na to kad dođete, došli ste na slavlje u najradosnijoj formi prirode – slapu.

The area of the Park is designed in a manner that offers visitors close and safe contact with nature. Educational trails, sightseeing points, and one of the best educational hiking trails in Croatia, Stinice – Roški slap – Oziđana cave, eight and a half kilometers long, enable visitors to fully experience the area of the Park.

surrounding vegetation, mostly reed and sedge, is a refuge for waterfowl. The lake then enters the narrow passage Među gredama, approximately 500 meters long and between 50 and 100 meters wide. The view from the vessels below, towards the high peaks of the canyon, brings joy to visitors, but also awareness of the insignificance of man in the rugged grounds of nature. Following that canyon, the Krka River again opens into the Visovac Lake.

In the middle of Visovac Lake, there is a small island of the same name – a widely recognizable image of the Krka National Park, for it houses a church and a monastery, making the view of the island quite special. This small space, slightly over one hectare, has had quite diverse inhabitants over the years. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the hermits of St. Augustine built the monastery and the church. During the Ottoman conquests, they left the island, with Bosnian Franciscans arriving in 1445. The Franciscans stayed there until the present day, with smaller interruptions. One can visit the monastery and examine the valuable inventory and historical documents, many of them Turkish.

Above Skradinski buk, the valley of the Krka River merges with the valley of the Čikola River, forming a unique lake surface with two extensions. In the downstream part of the meadows, one comes across a highly unusual water surface – a perfect circle 150 meters in diameter. This is the karst well Torak, its surface calm and smooth like a mirror, for the water rises from the depth of 30 meters.

The area of Skradinski buk is most frequently the main aim of the visitors. It is the biggest cascade on the Krka River, and the richest in water, its flow over seventeen barriers creating a wonderful sight and sound of nature. The cascade is 400 meters wide, and approximately 46 meters high in total. Many water mills are built here as well. The older generations will tell you that the sound of the cascade reminds them of the turning of mill stones, and the sound of stamper mills for cloth and baskets full of blankets being washed in the river. The last whirlpool of Skradinski buk is the end of the freshwater course of the Krka. The distance from Visovac to Skradinski buk is approximately six kilometers. All that noise, the metamorphosis of green water into noisy white foam plunging down the cascades, makes one think as if nature is laughing from its very essence on Skradinski buk. The joy of the river is immense. All the shades of green are perfectly clear in this place. The cool blue is as fresh as it can be. The two merge together in the spluttering joy of the river. This is where the Krka River celebrates each and every day, each and every moment. No matter when you come, you are certain to arrive to a ceremony of that most joyful form of nature – the cascade.



**Rijeka u toku mijenja izgled – od mirnog toka do jezera i bučnog prolaska kroz kanjone**

The river changes its appearance throughout its flow – calm up to the lake, loud in its passage through the canyons

**Na jezeru Visovac istoimeni je otok s franjevačkim samostanom i crkvom**

On Visovac Lake, there is an island of the same name, housing a Franciscan monastery and a church

**Krško jezero Torak u dolini Čikole potpuno je pravilnog geometrijskog oblika kruga**

The karst lake Torak in the valley of the Čikola River has a perfect shape of a circle

**Najraskošniji slap na Krki je Skradinski buk, a najviši slap je Manojlovac**

The most magnificent cascade on the Krka is Skradinski buk, and the highest cascade is Manojlovac

**Brojne su sačuvane vodenice u kojima se prezentiraju tradicijski zanati**

The area abounds with many preserved water mills, where traditional crafts are presented

Otiđi tamo gdje je more toliko kristalno čisto da možeš vidjeti dno duboko pedesetak metara. Neka to bude i mjesto za koje postoji pisana zakletva o poštovanju svih običaja otočana. Sretni putem ljudi temperamente i neraskidivo vezane za zemlju i more. Otkrij prostor gdje se nije smio saditi orah, kako na nj ne bi došle vještice i neka to bude mjesto bez zmija otrovnica! Je li moguće naći takvo mjesto? Da, a njegovo je ime – Lastovo. Kada dođete, u mapi vaših sjećanja trajno će ostati zabilježeno mjesto koje je i grčki bog Zeus smatrao jednim od najljepših svjetskih otoka.

—  
What would it feel like to go to a place where the sea is so crystal clean, that you can see the seabed even when the sea is about fifty meters deep... A place where the tradition is so cherished, that written pledges of respect for island customs were once requested of foreigners, and where people are so full of temperament, and so closely attached to the earth and the sea... A place where it was forbidden to plant walnuts, so witches would not come to the island, and where there are no poisonous snakes... Can such a place really exist? Yes indeed, and its name is – Lastovo. If you come here, this island will remain forever engraved in your memory, as the place that even the Greek god Zeus considered to be one of the most beautiful islands of the world.

# PARK PRIRODE LASTOVSKO OTOČJE

Lastovsko Otočje  
Nature Park





## PARK S NAJDUŽNIJIM JADRANSKIM OTOKOM

Na Lastovu prestaje potraga za mjestom s beskrajnim pogledom. S vidikovca Hum, visokog 417 metara, pruža se jedan takav na more i otoke. Beskrajno plavetnilo. S druge strane, pak, brežuljci, usječene morske uvale, plodna polja i nešto niži vrhovi – Mali Hum (415 metara) i Plešivo brdo (400 metara).

Na morskom ulazu u uvalu Skrivena luka nalazi se rt Struga. Još je 1839. godine tu sagrađen istoimeni svjetionik. I tu se nalazi još jedno mjesto za pogled u beskrajno plavetnilo. S devedeset metara, sa samog ruba strme litice pruža se pogled u beskraj. Rijekost za ljudske oči u prostoru u kojem smo navikli da sve ima početak i kraj.

Zapravo, na Lastovu i Lastovskom otočju za mnoge prestaje i potraga za savršenim odredištem. Ovaj je prostor nerijetko konačna destinacija najizbjirljivijih putnika čija čula traže svu zemaljsku ljepotu koja se može zamisliti. Lastovo je među najsunčanijim jadranskim otocima s dugim i suhim ljetima, blagim zimama bez snijega, a zbog pučinskog položaja ne doživljava nagle promjene vremena.

Lastovski arhipelag istinska je rajska oaza Mediterana. Posjet otočkim plažama u memoriji posjetitelja ostaje kao doživljaj otkrića neotkrivenoga prostora. Jedan od njih je, primjerice, Skrivena luka, na južnoj strani otoka Lastova.

Zapadno otočje i otok Sušac te Donji škoji (Lastovnjaci) i Gornji škoji (Vrhovnjaci) – ukupno 44 otoka, otočića i hridi čini Park prirode Lastovsko otočje.

Park prirode dobio je ime po najvećem otoku, Lastovu. Najjužniji je to naseljeni otok u Hrvatskoj.

Još do posljednjeg ledenog doba, prije trinaestak tisuća godina, pripadao je obali dok potonućem nije nastao Jadran kakav danas poznajemo. To je, naime, i razlog zašto se otok uzdiže s plitkog hrpta koji se proteže od



## PARK WITH THE SOUTHERNMOST ADRIATIC ISLAND

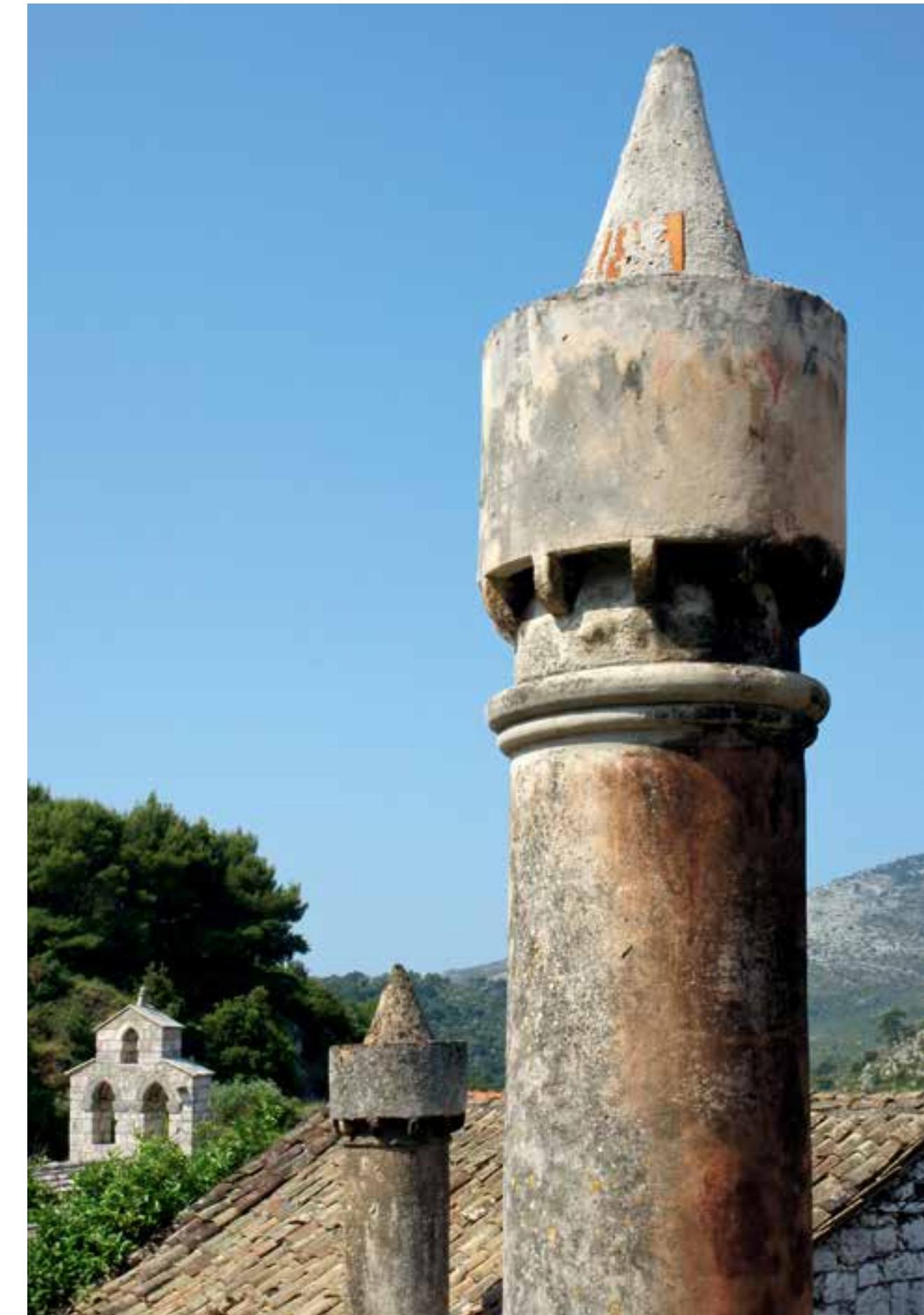
If you are looking for a truly endless view of the surroundings, you'll find it on the island of Lastovo. The view from the sightseeing point of Hum, 417 meters above sea level, is just like that – an endless vision of blue. On the other side, there are hills, deep sea coves, fertile fields, and slightly lower peaks of Mali Hum (415 meters) and Plešivo brdo (400 meters). The sea entrance to the cove of Skrivena luka is guarded by the cape of Struga. A lighthouse of the same name was built here back in 1839 – providing yet another endless blue view, ninety meters above sea level, on the very verge of a steep cliff. It is a genuine surprise for our human eyes, so used to seeing a beginning and an end of everything.

As a matter of fact, the island and the archipelago of Lastovo represent the end of the search for a perfect destination for many visitors. This area has already become the ultimate destination of many a demanding traveler, with all the beauty that the Earth can provide, and that human mind can imagine. There are few islands in the Adriatic with more sunshine than Lastovo, with its long and dry summers, and mild, snow-free winters; in addition, due to its position in the open sea, the island does not suffer from sudden weather changes.

Lastovsko otočje is a true paradise oasis of the Mediterranean. A visit to an island beach easily turns into a unique experience and lasting memory of discovery of pristine space. Skrivena luka is one such beach, located on the southern side of the island of Lastovo.

The Archipelago consists of the western islets and the island of Sušac, together with islet groups of Donji škoji (Lastovnjaci) and Gornji škoji (Vrhovnjaci) – in total, 44 islands, islets and sea rocks.

The Nature Park was named after the biggest island of the archipelago, Lastovo, which is also the southernmost inhabited island in Croatia. Until the most recent ice age, approximately thirteen thousand years



Današnje Lastovo i okolni otoci nastajali su duboko na oceanskom dnu prije oko 150 milijuna godina. Na dnu su se milijunima godina taložili skeleti i kućice morskih organizama dok otoci nisu "izronili" iz mora.

Pelješca do Monte Gargana – Palagruškim pragom. S obje strane toga praga morske su dubine veće – posebice na jugu gdje se dno obrušava na 1350 metara!

Čudesna je otočnost arhipelaga. Plavetnilo mora posuto je zelenim otocima obrubljenima nepristupačnom kamenom obalom. Uzbuđljiv i razigran, a istodobno smirujući pejzaž otočja nudi neprestano otkrivanje kanala, uvala i hridi. Osobito je atraktivan za plovidbu. S istočne strane su Lastovnjaci, a u daljini Vrhovnjaci.

Današnje Lastovo i okolni otoci nastajali su duboko na oceanskom dnu prije oko 150 milijuna godina. Na dnu su se milijunima godina taložili skeleti i kućice morskih organizama dok otoci nisu "izronili" iz mora. Upravo je takvo nastajanje razlog dolomitno-vapnenačkom tlu Lastova i tako brojnim špiljama, jamama i poljima. Ipak, nisu sve površine iste strukture jer otočje ima svoje kamene gorostase, hridi i strmce, među kojima je visinom najatraktivniji onaj u Skrivenoj luci.

Otočnu obalu ne kralji "gostoljubivost". Uglavnom je nepristupačna. Priči otocima zato je najbolje plovilima i ovaj je dio Jadrana nautička meka. Bijela jedra jedrenjaka, debelo plavetnilo mora i sjaj sunca – jer ovo je i brojem sati jedan od najsunčanijih dijelova Jadrana – česta su slika otočja. Izuzetak što se tiče pristupačnosti u akvatoriju su Vejo i Malo lago.

Kontrast nerazvedenoj obali dinamičan je reljef otočke unutrašnjosti. Upravo zbog spomenute geološke prošlosti tu su brojne špilje. Najpoznatija lastovska špilja je Rača u kojoj su pronađeni tragovi života čovjeka. Geomorfološki je spomenik prirode i bogato arheološko nalazište. Dugačka je 70 metara i impresionira bogatstvom špiljskih struktura, "nakita" i stupova iznimnih oblika. Značajna je i špilja Medjedina u kojoj je ne tako davno živio i "morski čovik", kako se uobičava zvati sredozemnu medvjedicu (*Monachus monachus*). Najugroženiji i najrjeđi je to tuljan na svijetu. Rijetkost je vidjeti ga u akvatoriju Parka, no i ti dragocjeni susreti bude nadu u povratak "morskog čovika" u njegov davni dom. Lastovske su špilje dom za najmanje 16 vrsta šišmiša.

Podzemlje otoka Lastova puno je bočate vode jer su tektonska pomicanja napravila napukline i kanale koje je ispunilo more i kišnica iz propusnih tala. Pitka voda na otocima je dragocjenost. Otočani je dobivaju upravo iz tih bočatih voda i uz upotrebu desalinizatora. Lastovo je brdovit otok s pedesetak plodnih polja. Za razliku od ostalih krških, lastovska su puna pijeska i lapora koje je nanosio vjetar. Samo tridesetak posto polja je obrađeno. Većinu krase brojne lokve na kojima uživa čak 12 vrsta vretenaca, najbržih letaća u svijetu kukaca.

Otočko je stanovništvo starije dobi i malobrojno pa plodna polja, naprsto, nema tko obrađivati. Mladi se ljudi još uvijek rijetko odlučuju za život na otoku.

Osamljenost i udaljenost Lastova učinila mu je mnoga dobra. Biološki je to jedan od najočuvanijih prostora na Sredozemlju. Svjetska organizacija za zaštitu prirode (WWF) otok je proglašila prostorom od posebne važnosti za očuvanje ukupne bioraznolikosti Sredozemlja. Gustim otočkim šumama dominiraju hrast crnica (*Quercus ilex*) i alepski bor (*Pinus halepensis*) – to su vrste izuzetne otpornosti na morske utjecaje.

Izobilje sunčeva svjetla i noćne vlage na području Lastova omogućili su život za više od 800 biljnih vrsta, među kojima i 20 endemskih. Pedeset

The island of Lastovo and islands surrounding

it began gradually emerging from the sea bed about 150 million years ago. For millions of years, skeletons and shells of sea organisms were sedimenting on the bottom of the sea, until the islands eventually dived out of the sea.

ago, Lastovo used to be connected with the mainland, until the Adriatic as we know it today expanded due to ice melt. Today, the island is fully separated by the sea, sitting on the shallow Palagruža Sill that extends from the peninsula of Pelješac to Monte Gargano. On both sides of the Sill, sea depths are considerably bigger – especially in the south, where sea bottom dives to 1,350 meters.

The Archipelago is astounding in its nature. Blue sea is sprinkled with green islands, separated from the sea by inaccessible rocky coastline. The landscape of the Archipelago, exciting and vivid, and yet calming at the same time, allows visitors to engage in endless discovery of numerous channels, coves and sea rocks. Yachtsmen will find the area particularly attractive. There are two groups of islands and islets on the eastern side of the island of Lastovo – Lastovnjaci a bit closer to the island, and Vrhovnjaci a bit further away.

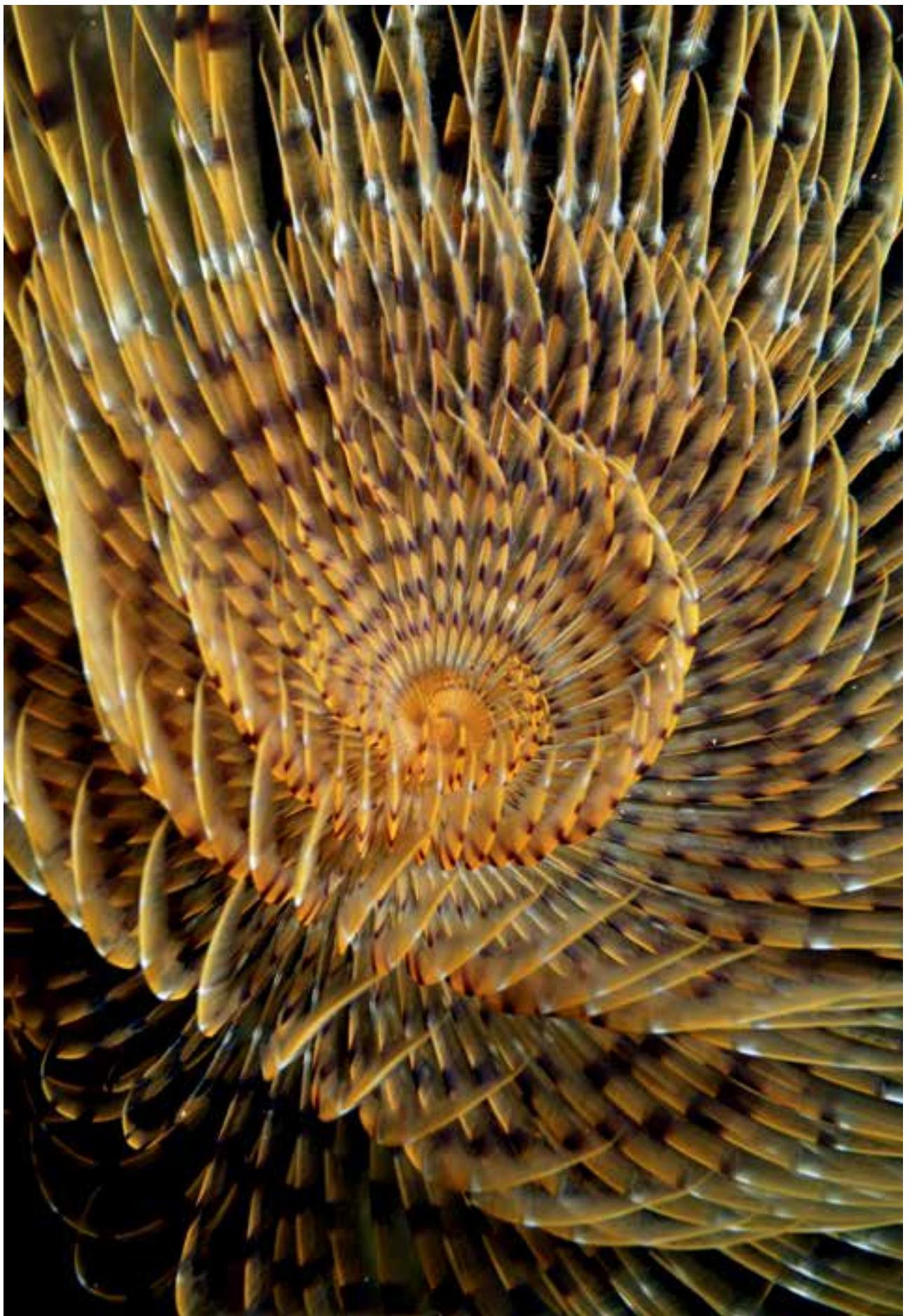
The island of Lastovo and islands surrounding it began gradually emerging from the sea bed about 150 million years ago. For millions of years, skeletons and shells of sea organisms were sedimenting on the bottom of the sea, until the islands eventually dived out of the sea. This explains the dolomite and limestone character of the soil of Lastovo, as well as numerous caves, pits and fields. Not all the surfaces have the same structure, however: the island also has its stone giants, its sea rocks and cliffs, the most imposing of which is the one in Skrivena luka.

The coast is not particularly hospitable, and it is mostly inaccessible. Therefore, the best option to explore the coastline is to hop on board a vessel, as this part of the Adriatic is a favorite spot for yachtsmen. A typical image of the island is one of white sails of sailboats scattered across the deep blue of the sea, with the sun above them – this being one of the sunniest places in the Adriatic in terms of hours of sunshine per year. The coves of Vejo lago and Malo lago are an exception in terms of accessibility when it comes to local waters.

The dynamic relief of the inner part of the island stands in direct contrast to the coastline, which is not particularly indented. Numerous caves can be found on the island, a consequence of geological history we have already mentioned. The best-known cave of Lastovo is Rača, with traces of life and human presence since ancient history. It is a geomorphological monument of nature, and a rich archaeological site. In total 70 meters long, the cave is impressive due to the richness of its cave structures, extraordinary shapes of its pillars, and other geological "jewelry". The cave of Medjedina is also significant – not so long ago, the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) used to live in it, the so-called "sea man" as people frequently refer to it. It is the most endangered and rarest seal species. Nowadays, it is a rare occurrence to see the Mediterranean monk seal in the waters of the Park; however, even these few precious encounters bring hope that the "sea man" would eventually return back to its ancient home. The caves of Lastovo are home to at least 16 bat species.

The subterranean layers of the island of Lastovo are full of brackish water, as a result of tectonic shifts that resulted in cracks and channels, which were eventually filled up by the sea and rainwater seeping through permeable soil. Potable water is a precious commodity on the islands, and the locals obtain it by desalinating this brackish water.

Lastovo is a hilly island, with around fifty fertile fields. Unlike the fields on other karst islands, the fields of the island of Lastovo are rich in sand and marl brought by the wind. Only about thirty percent of the fields are



Izobilje sunčeva svjetla i noćne vlage na području ističe 20 vrsta orhideja.

Lastova omogućili su život za više od 800 biljnih vrsta, među kojima i 20 endemskih. Pedeset je ugroženih vrsta ovdje sigurnog korijenja, a ljepotom se posebno ističe 20 vrsta orhideja.

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Najzapadniji otok arhipelaga je Sušac. Botanički dragulj Jadrana s više od 250 zabilježenih vrsta. Stanište je biljnih vrsta Egeja i talijanskog juga, odnosno najsjevernija točka gdje se mogu sresti. Stoga Sušac ljeti obilježavaju listopadne šikare poput onih rijetke drvenaste mlječike (*Euphorbia dendroides*) koja lista i cvate početkom jeseni, donosi plodove zimi, a krajem proljeća odbacuje listove.

Uz morske raspuklne raste endem sušačka vrvina (*Brassica cazzae*). Bogatstvo i raznolikost ptičjih vrsta iznimna su vrijednost Parka. Lastovsko je otočje zbog svoje udaljenosti važno odmorište i mjesto hranjenja pticama na njihovom godišnjem putu preko Jadrana do Apeninskog poluotoka i dalje u Afriku. Do sada je na području cijelog otočja zabilježeno 145 vrsta ptica. Među njima posebno se ističu ptice grabljivice poput vjetruše (*Falco tinnunculus*), eleonorinog sokola (*Falco eleonorae*) i sivog sokola (*Falco peregrinus*). Na otočićima istočnog dijela Parka gnijezdi se čak 70% hrvatske populacije sredozemnog galeba (*Larus audouinii*), a na otocima i otočićima cijelog arhipelaga gnijezde se i kaukal (*Calonectris diomedea*) te gregula (*Puffinus yelkouan*), što znaju stanovnici Zaklopatica osluškujući gregulino karakteristično noćno glasanje.

Lastovsko otočje ima samo jednu prisutnu vrstu zmije, a ona nije otrovna, pa se bezbrižno možete šetati pješačkim i biciklističkim stazama ukupno dugim više od 200 km.

Sedamdeset posto površine Parka čini more. Podmorje je poznato po ljepoti raznovrsnih koralja. Posebno se ljepotom ističu naselja gorgonija (*Gerardia savaglia*), naselja crvenog koralja (*Corallium rubrum*) te endemični hvarske koralj (*Madracis pharensis*).

U lastovskom moru obitava oko 150 vrsta riba, a ribari su ipak najsrceviji kada ulove skupocjenog jastoga. Podmorje Parka bogato je i spužvama, mukućima, mahovnjacima, bodljikašima, rakovima te mnogim drugim vrstama pa su karike podmorskog životnog lanca vrlo snažne.

Iako udaljen od obale, pučinski otok Lastovo u svom zelenilu skriva brojne crkvice, zavjetne kapelice i građevine. Burna povijesna vremena nisu zaobišla Lastovo zbog njegove udaljenosti. Otočani su se 1252. dobrovoljno podvrgli vlasti Dubrovačke Republike, a zauzvrat su dobili pisana jamstva, zakletvu, o autonomiji odlučivanja o ustroju i odnosima u komuni te da će se poštovati svi običaji otočana. Na javnom zboru u Lastovu, 10. siječnja 1310. godine, tako je donesen Lastovski statut. Anjihov način života ostavio je brojna predanja i nematerijalnu baštinu u kojoj i danas snažno pulsira bilo minulih vremena. Lastovski poklad jedan je od vrednijih običaja u Hrvatskoj. Pokladni je običaj povezan s maurskom opsadom Korčule 1483. godine. Mauri su poslali svog izaslanika na Lastovo. Zadaća poslanika bila je da od otočana ishodi predaju. Lastovci su ga zarobili. To je razljutilo Maure pa su krenuli u napad na Lastovo. No, podiglo se silno nevrijeme i uništilo maursko brodovlje. Lastovci su zarobljenika posjeli na magarca i za porugu ga vodili otokom. Predvečer su razapeli dugačko uže ijadnika spustili s uzvisine koja se i danas naziva Pokladareva grža. Od tih davnih vremena Lastovci su ljubomorno čuvali, oplemenjivali i sačuvali običaj Lastovskog poklada prenoseći ga usmenom predajom s koljena na koljeno. Sve do današnjih dana, svake se godine održava Lastovski poklad, bogatstvom nošnje i šarenilom maškara budi Lastovo iz

The abundance of sunlight and night moisture on Lastovo enable life for over 800 plant species, including twenty endemic ones.

There are also fifty endangered plant species, and twenty strikingly beautiful orchid species.

cultivated, however. Numerous pools of water can be found in these fields, with as many as twelve species of dragonflies, the quickest fliers in the world of insects.

The island population is small and relatively old, which is why there are simply too few inhabitants capable of cultivating the fertile fields. Young people rarely decide to stay and live on the island.

The loneliness and distance of Lastovo did a lot of good to the island. In biological terms, it is one of the best-preserved areas of the Mediterranean. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) declared the island an area of special importance for biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean. Two plant species extraordinarily resistant to the impact of the sea – holm oak (*Quercus ilex*) and Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) – dominate the thick island forests.

The abundance of sunlight and night moisture on Lastovo enable life for over 800 plant species, including twenty endemic ones. There are also fifty endangered plant species, and twenty strikingly beautiful orchid species.

The westernmost island of the Archipelago is Sušac, a botanical jewel of the Adriatic with over 250 recorded species. It is a habitat of plant species common in the Aegean Sea and the Italian South, and the northernmost point where these two groups of species meet. In the summertime, Sušac is marked by deciduous thicket formations, such as those of the rare plant tree spurge (*Euphorbia dendroides*), which flowers and blossoms towards the beginning of autumn, gives fruit in the winter, only to shed its leaves towards the end of spring.

The endemic species Sušac mustard (*Brassica cazzae*) grows in cracks of rocks near the sea.

The abundance and diversity of bird species constitute yet another extraordinary value of the Park. Given its geographical position, the Lastovo Archipelago is an important resting and feeding place for birds during their annual migrations across the Adriatic Sea to the Italian Peninsula and further on to Africa. So far, 145 bird species have been recorded in the territory of the entire Archipelago. They include birds of prey, such as the common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Eleonora's falcon (*Falco eleonorae*) and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). As much as 70 percent of the Croatian population of Audouin's gull (*Larus audouinii*) is nesting on islets of the eastern part of the Park, and the entire archipelago with its islands and islets is the nesting place of Cory's shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*) and Mediterranean shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*), which the inhabitants of Zaklopatica on the island of Lastovo know very well, listening to the Mediterranean shearwater's characteristic night calls.

There is only one snake species on the Lastovo Archipelago, and it is not poisonous, which means that you need not worry as you use any of the walking and cycling trails, over 200 kilometers long in total at the level of the Archipelago.

Seventy percent of the Park's surface consists of the sea. The submarine world is known for the beauty of various corals. Particularly beautiful are the colonies of gold coral (*Gerardia savaglia*), red coral (*Corallium rubrum*), and the endemic star coral (*Madracis pharensis*).

The sea of Lastovo is home to approximately 150 fish species, and the fishermen are particularly happy when they catch the precious lobster. The submarine world of the Park is also rich in sponges, molluscs, moss animals, echinoderms, crustaceans and many other species, making the links of the submarine chain of life very strong.

Even though it is quite far from the mainland, the open sea island of



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zimskog sna. U svijetu nigdje nema običaja sličnog Lastovskom pokladu. Udaljenost i izoliranost tijekom vremena samo su ispisivale lastovske legende. Gotovo da bi svaki otočanin mogao ispričati po jednu. I objasniti zašto se na otoku nije sadilo drvo oraha. Postojalo je duboko vjerovanje da bi se pod istim sastajale vještice, a njih otočani nikako nisu htjeli u susjedstvu. I ljepotu otoka opisuju legende. Grčki bog Zeus poslao je izaslanika da pronađe najljepši otok na svijetu i da tako na Olimpu prestane rasprava je li to Lastovo, Mljet ili Korčula. Glavat je promatrao i promatrao otoke, no nije se mogao odlučiti. Zbog neodlučnosti, bogovi su ga pretvorili u kamen – današnji otočić Glavat. Posebna otočka priča i atrakcija su dimnjaci – *fumari*. Svojom različitošću izazivaju znatiželju posjetitelja – zašto je baš svaki drugičiji? Ne postoje dva jednakata fumara. Upravo to upućuje na teoriju da su građeni kako bi istaknuli razlike, uglavnom imovinske, među kućama odnosno otočkim obiteljima. Svaki novoizgrađeni fumar bio je veći od svog prethodnika i čudnovatijih ukrasa. Lastovci kao da su se natjecali sa svojim susjedima – tko će imati najzanimljiviji fumar – pa se tako na njima mogu vidjeti i rogovi životinja, koji su imali zadaću otjerati od kuće uroke. Smatra se da je najstariji fumar, danas okružen divljim narančama, onaj u sklopu renesansne kuće obitelji Antica-Biza. Ovi neobični, jedinstveni dimnjaci stvorili su jedinstvenu "scenografiju" otoka kojoj ne odolijeva niti jedna turistička kamera ili fotoaparat.

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Lastovo hides many small churches, votive chapels and other interesting buildings in its green vegetation. Turbulent historical times also had an impact on the island of Lastovo, regardless of the distance. In 1252, the islanders voluntarily accepted the rule of the Dubrovnik Republic, and in return they got written guarantees and a pledge that they would have the autonomy to make local decisions and that all the customs of the islanders would be respected. As a result, on January 10, 1310, the Statute of Lastovo was reached at a public meeting on the island.

This way of life resulted in many surviving tales of the past, and intangible heritage that is still alive today, reflecting the intense history of the island. Lastovo Carnival is one such legacy, as one of the most valuable customs in Croatia. The carnival tradition is connected with the Moorish siege of the island of Korčula in 1483. The Moors sent one of their emissaries to the island of Lastovo, with the task to ensure surrender of the islanders. However, the inhabitants of Lastovo detained the emissary. Angered, the Moors attacked Lastovo. A terrible storm then struck the Moorish fleet and destroyed it. The islanders put the prisoner on a donkey and put him to ridicule by taking him around the island. In the evening, they prepared a long rope and used it to lower the poor guy from a hill called Pokladareva grža, or the Carnival Hill. Since these ancient times, the people of Lastovo have been jealously preserving and enriching the tradition of the Lastovo Carnival, transmitting it through oral tradition from one generation to the next. And so the Carnival lives on until the present day, held every year with its rich costumes and masks, the island coming out of its winter sleep. There is no custom anywhere in the world similar to the Lastovo Carnival. The distance and isolation of the island have deeply enriched the legends of Lastovo. Almost every inhabitant could tell you a legend, in order to explain, for example, why nobody planted walnut trees on the island. The reason was a deeply held belief that witches would meet under the walnut tree, and the islanders were very eager not to have witches as neighbors. There are also legends about the beauty of the island. The Greek god Zeus once sent an emissary to find the most beautiful island in the world, so that quarrels on Mount Olympus would finally stop as to whether this title belongs to the island of Lastovo, Mljet or Korčula. The emissary looked and looked at these islands, but could not decide which is more beautiful than the other. The gods finally decided to punish the emissary for his indecisiveness, by turning him into stone – and that stone is the small island of Glavat.

The so-called *fumari*, chimneys of the island of Lastovo, also represent a special story of the island, and its genuine attraction. They are so diverse, that the visitors invariably end up being curious – how come, they ask, that every single chimney is different from the other. There simply are no two chimneys on the island that would be identical. One theory is that the islanders built these chimneys in such a diverse manner in order to point out the differences between households and families on the island, primarily in terms of wealth. As a result, every new chimney would end up being bigger than its "predecessor", and adorned with more elaborate ornaments. Competition among islanders was relentless, it seems, as to who would have the most intriguing chimney; one of the ornaments used, for example, were animal horns that can still be found on some chimneys, due to the belief that they serve as protection against spells. It is believed that the oldest chimney on the island is the one on the Renaissance house of the Antica-Biz family. These unusual, unique chimneys create a unique scenery of the island, too hard for any tourist video or photo camera to resist.

**Nekoć je u lastovskoj  
špilji živjela sredozemna  
medvjedica, "morski čovik"  
— rijetko pojavljivanje u  
akvatoriju budi nadu u njezin  
povratak u stari dom**

—  
Mediterranean monk seal, the so-called “sea man”, used to live in the caves of Lastovo – and its occasional appearance in local waters gives hope that the species would permanently return to its old home

**Zbog fenomena tamnog  
neba i minimalnog  
svjetlosnog zagađenja  
— s Lastova se vidi  
Milječna staza, ali i  
ostale galaksije**

—  
Due to its dark skies and minimal light pollution, the island of Lastovo provides breathtaking views of the Milky Way and other galaxies

**Lastovsko otoče  
čini 44 otoka,  
otočića i hridi**

—  
Lastovsko otoče consists of 44 islands, islets and rocks

**Svjetionik na  
rtu Struga radi  
od 1839. godine**

—  
Lighthouse on the cape of Struga has been in use since 1839

**WWF, Svjetska  
organizacija za zaštitu  
prirode, proglašila  
je Park jednim od 10  
posljednjih riznica  
biološke raznolikosti  
Sredozemlja**

—  
World Wildlife Fund (WWF) declared the Park as one of the last ten paradise gardens of Mediterranean biodiversity

**Lonjsko polje:** jedno od najvećih i najočuvanijih prirodnih poplavnih područja u Europi. Nizinske poplavne šume hrasta lužnjaka i poljskog jasena predstavljaju najreprezentativnije kompleksne šume listača, ne samo u Europi, već u cijelom zapadnom palearktiku. Na europskoj karti "prirodnih posebnosti", Lonjsko polje zauzima prva mjesta: jedno od posljednjih područja u Europi gdje je tradicijsko pašarenje očuvano, a stoka slobodno pase na velikim zajedničkim pašnjacima; prvo proglašeno selo roda u Europi. Pješice, biciklom, kanuom, skelom ili brodom, sami otkrijte jedinstvenosti Lonjskog polja.

—

Lonjsko polje: it is one of the biggest and best-preserved natural flood areas in Europe. Floodplain forests of pedunculate oak and narrow-leaved ash growing in the area are highly representative deciduous forest complexes, not merely at the level of Europe, but throughout the Western Palearctic. Lonjsko polje enjoys a truly special place on the map of European natural wonders: it is one of the last areas in Europe where traditional grazing is still preserved, and livestock still roams freely on large joint pastures; on top of that, it has the first declared "stork village" in Europe...Whether by foot, bike, canoe, river ferry or boat, you are free to discover the uniqueness of Lonjsko polje for yourself.

# PARK PRIRODE LONJSKO POLJE

## Lonjsko Polje Nature Park





## PROSTOR GDJE ČOVJEK PRATI RITAM PRIRODE

Najveći kompleksi prirodnih i očuvanih poplavnih nizinskih šuma u Europi nalaze se na području Parka prirode Lonjsko polje. Već ta atribucija upućuje da je ovo mjesto neprocjenjive i jedinstvene hrvatske, ali i europske bioraznolikosti. Površinom od 50 650 hektara jedno je od najvećih zaštićenih močvarnih područja u dunavskom porječju.

Lonjsko tlo opijeno poplavnom vodom mjesto je rasta cijenjenog slavonskog hrasta lužnjaka i poljskog jasena. Dugotrajnost ovoga drveća sinonim je za izvanrednost kvalitete drveta u cijelom svijetu. I drugi biljni svijet ovaj prostor čini iznimnim, a ishodište svih posebnosti upravo su periodične poplave koje su stvorile poseban prirodni svijet. Ovdje poplavljene pašnjake i muljevito tlo prekriva četverolisna raznorotka. Lonjsko je polje njezin posljednji siguran dom u Europi, jer je zbog isušivanja i nestanka močvarnih staništa ona drugdje nestala. Svoju neraskidivost i povezanost u svoj punini priroda na uvid nudi u Lonjskom polju. Svinje, krave i konji, kada se povuče poplava, izlaze na pašu i tu borave do pojave prvog snijega.

Identitet ovog močvarnog područja čine izvorne životinske pasmine – hrvatski posavac, hrvatski hladnokrvnjak, slavonsko-srijemsko podolsko govedo, posavska guska, posavski gonič i turopoljska svinja, koja ovdje stoji na začelju, a prva je u redu najugroženijih izvornih pasmina.

Lonjsko polje stoga pruža autentičan doživljaj samoravnoteže u prirodi, svijeta u kojem biljni svijet i izvorne pasmine žive u suglasju i uвijek iznova obnavljaju ciklus života.

Svoje domove ovdje ljudi nisu istrgnuli iz naručja prirode. Graditeljska baština, ovdašnje kuće, danas potpuno sačuvana rijetkost, svjedoče nedjeljivost suživota ljudi i prirode u Lonjskom polju.

Kuće su građene od hrastovine i podizane su intuitivnim i godinama

## WHERE PEOPLE FOLLOW THE RHYTHM OF NATURE

Lonjsko polje Nature Park is home to biggest complexes of natural and preserved floodplain forests in Europe. That fact alone is sufficient to sense the importance and uniqueness of this area for Croatian, but also for European biodiversity. With the surface of 50,650 hectares, it is one of the biggest protected wetland areas in the Danube basin. The soil of the area, rich in floodwater, provides good conditions for growth of highly valued Slavonian pedunculate oak and narrow-leaved ash. The durability of these trees is synonymous throughout the world with the extraordinarily high quality of timber it provides. There are other plant species too, making this a truly special place – all of it originating in periodic flooding that creates a unique natural world. Four leaf clover is one of the plants that covers flooded pastures and silty soil. Lonjsko polje is the last safe home of that species in Europe, since it already disappeared in other areas due to the reclamation and disappearance of wetland habitats.

Nature is inseparable and intertwined, and there are few places where that is clear as vividly as in Lonjsko polje. When a flood recedes, pigs, cows and horses return for grazing, staying in the area until the first snow. Autochthonous breeds are what gives the identity to this wetland area – the Posavina horse, Croatian cold-blooded horse, Slavonian-Syrmian Podolian cattle, Posavina goose, Posavina pointer, and the Turopolje pig, the latter being the most endangered autochthonous breed.

Lonjsko polje provides an authentic experience of self-regulatory balance in nature. It is a world where plants and autochthonous breeds live in harmony, constantly renewing the cycle of life.

When people in this area built their homes, they didn't impose them violently on nature. Building heritage and the local houses, rare but also



Kuće su građene od hrastovine i podizane su intuitivnim i godinama taloženim iskustvom koje je postajalo znanje lokalnih graditelja. Uklopili su ih u okoliš na najbolji mogući način.

U selu Krapje, povijesnom građevinskom području, očuvana je izvornost graditeljstva u svoj svojoj cjelini. U svijetu je to jedinstven primjer tradicijske drvene arhitekture u okolišu poplavnih nizina karakteristične linijske prostorne organizacije sela. U Krapju se, osim drvenih kuća koje šutke, dubinom svoje povijesti i ruku koje su ih podizale mame naobilazak, mogu vidjeti i povijesni objekti koji su oduvijek javne namjene: crkva, vatrogasni dom, općinska zgrada, mlin, groblje, gostonica.

Krapje je jedino selo u Hrvatskoj koje ima status sela graditeljske baštine i u njemu se od 1995. godine tradicionalno obilježava Dan europske baštine.

Kućama ovog prostora približili smo se kao svjedocima naravi ovoga kraja. A njegova je narav – poplava. Vode rijeke Save, Lonje, Struga, Une i Kupe ovdje gostuju kada im se prohtije. Stanovnici ovoga kraja, izmireni s tom naravi, baš svojim kućama dali su poplavi miroljubiv, a za ukućane siguran odgovor: kuće katnice. Zidove su gradili debelim planjkama, na koje se oslanja stropna, na kraju krovna konstrukcija.

I uzgoj stoke prati ritam prirode.

U vrijeme poplava i u zimskom razdoblju, seljaci životinje drže u toplim i suhim štalama i brinu o blagu. Kada dođe proljeće i vrijeme je povlačenja vode, seljaci stoku puštaju u polja na ispašu. To je tradicijsko pašarenje, a Lonjsko polje jedino je područje u cijeloj Europi na kojem se održao taj način uzgoja stoke.

Tradicionalno pašarenje arhaični je način pašarenja i znači da se na pašnjaku drži više vrsta životinja. Vlažna se staništa upotrebljavaju na najučinkovitiji način. Iskustvom su to naučili ovdašnji stočari i shvatili

These houses were made from oak, built on the basis of intuition and many years of experience that gradually turned into knowledge of local builders, who fitted the houses into the environment in the best way possible.

In the village of Krapje, a historical building area, the originality of traditional architecture has been preserved in its totality. This is a globally unique example of traditional wood architecture in a floodplain environment, with a characteristic linear spatial organization of the village.

There are many wooden houses in Krapje, silent in their deep and long history, still remembering the hands that built them, inviting visitors to have a look at them. However, other historical facilities can be seen in the village as well: the church, building of the firefighters' association, municipal building, water mill, cemetery, and a local inn.

Krapje is the only village in Croatia with the status of an architectural heritage village. Since 1995, the European Heritage Days are traditionally marked in the village.

Houses of this area are witnesses to the character of the land. And that character boils down to – the flood. Waters of the rivers Sava, Lonja, Struga, Una and Kupa do what they please on this terrain. Inhabitants of the area, reconciled with that character, came up with a response to it, placid towards the flood, and yet providing safety for the households: two-storey houses. They built the walls using thick planks, followed by the ceiling and roof construction.

Livestock breeding is in touch with the rhythm of nature as well. In the flooding season and during the winter period, farmers keep their





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logični slijed ishrane. Svinje pripreme pašnjak na način da preruju zemljište što poslije pridonosi kvalitetnijem rastu trave za krupniju stoku koja dolazi. Takav je sustav neophodan za održavanje krajolika i zaštitu biološke raznolikosti.

Rijeka Sava ovdje je vladarica i odrednica života.

Njezine naplavine odredile su životinjski svijet. U Lonjskom polju gnijezdi se velik broj ptica močvarica. Bijele i crne rode, žličarke, razne vrste čaplji, štekavci i orlovi kliktići hrane se na barama i pašnjacima Lonjskog polja.

Dva područja unutar Parka, Krapje Đol i Rakita, proglašeni su posebnim ornitološkim rezervatima. Krapje Đol prvi je proglašeni rezervat u Hrvatskoj.

Tu je i selo znano po rodama, to je Čigoč. Na inicijativu Zaslade za europsku prirodnu baštinu – EURONATUR – dodijeljen je Čigoču naziv prvog europskog sela roda. Na velikom broju kuća ili štala rode svijaju svoja gnijezda. U tridesetak aktivnih gnijezda prebiva gotovo stotinu roda. Brojne etnografske zbirke čuvaju tradicionalno pokućstvo, alate i tekstile. Tradicija živi i kroz nematerijalnu baštinu; ples, pjesmu i brojne usmene predaje.

Ovo je graničarski prostor i njegov se duh prenosi s generacije na generaciju; teče kroz godine naraštaja kao i Sava. Priča priče s granice Istoka i Zapada. Nekadašnje Habsburške Monarhije i Osmanlijskog Carstva. Sava je, za svaku od strana, početak i kraj priče, ali i mjesto na kojem je život ljudi različitim nasljeđa nalazio mostove suradnje. Poplavne nizine. U Europi izumrla, a ovdje svakog proljeća živa, sočna raznorotka koja će nahraniti ugroženu turopoljsku svinju. Više roda nego mještana u jednom selu. Dodir Istoka i Zapada u povijesnoj Krajini. Mudrost i vrijedne ruke domaćih graditelja koje su ostavile ostavštinu za divljenje; to je zov iz Lonjskog polja.

The soil of the area, rich in floodwater, provides good conditions for growth of highly valued Slavonian pedunculate oak and narrow-leaved ash.

The durability of these trees is synonymous throughout the world with the extraordinarily high quality of timber it provides. There are other plant species too, making this a truly special place – all of it originating in periodic flooding that creates a unique natural world.

animals in warm and dry stalls, taking care of the livestock. When the spring comes, and the water recedes, farmers let their livestock on grazing fields. That is traditional grazing, and Lonjsko polje is the only area in entire Europe where such an approach to livestock breeding has survived.

Traditional grazing is an archaic approach to grazing, with several animal species kept on pasture. Wetland habitats are used in the most efficient manner possible, as a result of experience that taught the local farmers about the logical course of animal feeding. Pigs prepare the pasture by routing up the soil, which contributes to better subsequent growth of grass for livestock grazing. Such a system is indispensable for landscape maintenance and biodiversity protection.

The Sava River is the ruler and the defining principle of life in this area. Matter deposited by the river defined the animal world. A number of wetland birds are nesting in Lonjsko polje. White and black storks, the Eurasian spoonbill, various heron and egret species, the white-tailed eagle and the lesser spotted eagle feed on ponds and pastures of Lonjsko polje.

Two areas within the Park, the localities of Krapje Đol and Rakita, are special ornithological reserves, Krapje Đol being the first such reserve established in Croatia.

There is also the village known for its storks – Čigoč. At the initiative of the EuroNatur Foundation dedicated to the protection of European natural heritage, Čigoč was awarded the title of the European Stork Village. Many houses and barns have stork nests, with almost one hundred storks in around thirty active nests.

Numerous ethnographic collections include traditional furniture, tools and textiles. Tradition also lives on through intangible cultural heritage: dance, songs and the rich oral tradition.

This is a border area, with the spirit that passes from one generation to the next, flowing through the years like the Sava River. It brings many tales from the boundary between the East and the West, or what used to be the Habsburg Monarchy and the Ottoman Empire. Regardless of empires, Sava is both the beginning and the end of the story, but also a place where life of people with diverse heritage would always find bridges of cooperation.

Lonjsko polje is calling us. It has the four leaf clover, extinct in Europe, and yet coming alive in this area every spring, its abundance feeding the endangered Turopolje pig. It has more storks than villagers in one village. It is a meeting point between the East and the West in the historical region of the Croatian Military Border. It has wisdom too, with valuable hands of domestic builders leaving behind a legacy worth admiring...



**Izvorne pasmine  
na slobodnoj ispaši,  
poput turopoljske  
svinje i posavskog  
konja**

—  
Autochthonous breeds  
such as the Turopolje pig  
and Posavina horse in  
natural grazing,

**Krapje – jedino  
selo graditeljske  
baštine u  
Hrvatskoj**

—  
Krapje – the only  
declared architectural  
heritage village in  
Croatia

**Čigoč – prvo  
proglašeno  
europsko selo roda**

—  
Čigoč – the first  
declared European  
stork village

**Najreprezentativnije  
nizinske poplavne  
šume u Europi;  
sedamdeset posto  
površine Parka je  
pod vodom**

—  
The most representative  
floodplain forests of  
Europe; seventy percent  
of the Park surface is  
under water

**Poplavne  
livade  
i pašnjaci**

—  
Floodplain  
meadows and  
pastures

# PARK PRIRODE MEDVEDNICA

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Medvednica  
Nature Park

Zelena planina koja čuva leđa gotovo milijunskom gradu. Čovjek je na Medvednici ostavio trag još prije 45 000 godina, kada su neandertalci obitavali u špilji Vaternici. Danas je ona dom za 18 vrsta šišmiša. Ime planine čuva sjećanje da su ovdje u mnoštvu živjeli i medvjedi. A tisuću godina staro drvo tise možda u sjeni skriva crvenu gljivu – vještičje srce. Jer nekoć su se ovdje uistinu sastajale vještice, a kada su pale na tlo, na tom je mjestu iznikla crvena gljiva. Samo je ona mogla razgraditi smjelo vještičje srce.

A green mountain is watching over a city with almost a million inhabitants. The presence of man on the mountain of Medvednica goes back 45 thousand years, back to the time when the Neanderthals lived in the cave of Vaternica. Today, the mountain is home to 18 bat species. As the name of the mountain says, with the Croatian word for bear in its root, bears once used to live on the mountain in large numbers. A thousand-year old yew tree might hide a witch heart mushroom somewhere in its shadow. Indeed, witches used to meet here once upon a time, and when they would touch the ground, a red mushroom would grow on that spot. A fitting reminder of tales from times past.





## ZELENO ZALEĐE MILIJUNSKOG GRADA

Medvednica je planina pobjednica u odolijevanju pritiscima urbanog okruženja koje je danas milijunsko. Zagreb je grad u koji se može ući kroz zaštićeno područje – Park prirode Medvednicu.

Razloge dolaska na Medvednicu vremena su mijenjala. Nekoć su preko Medvednice zagorski težaci nosili plodove svog rada na zagrebački plac, dok je danas Medvednica odmorište i zeleni izvor snage svima, a ponajviše gradskim ljudima.

U "klimi bukve" – kakva vlada na Medvednici – moguć je istinski doživljaj razlike svih godišnjih doba. Gole ili snijegom pokrivenе zime. Zeleno svježeg proljeća. U zelenilu dozrelog ljeta. Najsnažnijih boja jeseni u šumskom buketu. Sve su to impresivne medvedničke mijene u bojama.

U Parku živi 91 strogo zaštićena biljna vrsta. Među strogo zaštićenima je i tisa (*Taxus baccata*), koja je na izvornim staništima u Europi pred izumiranjem. Na Medvednici ne samo da se mogu vidjeti pojedinačna stabla tise, već i cijela šuma tise i lipe. Osobito je impresivna ona na lokaciji Krumpirište, stara više od tisuću godina.

Postoji vjerovanje da rijetko drvo tise ima velike moći, što se ogleda i u suvremenoj fantastičnoj literaturi. Zli čarobnjak Voldemort iz serijala knjiga o dječaku Harryju Potteru ima čarobni štapić napravljen od tisovine.

Biljni pokrov Medvednice najvećim su dijelom očuvane i vrlo različite šumske zajednice zbog razvedenosti reljefa i različitih geoloških podloga i tipova tla.

Podnožje planine pokrivaju šuma hrasta kitnjaka i grabove šume koje okružuju planinu. Tu su i šume pitomog kestena i bukove šume. Iznad 800 metara visine dolazi se do panonskih šuma bukve i jele.

## GREEN HINTERLAND OF A CITY WITH MILLION INHABITANTS

The mountain of Medvednica successfully survives despite the pressures of urban environment with one million inhabitants in its immediate surroundings. Zagreb, the capital city of Croatia right underneath the mountain, enjoys the luxury of having a protected area on its doorstep – Medvednica Nature Park.

Throughout history, there have been many reasons why people would come to the mountain. In the past, farmers of the nearby Zagorje region would carry the fruits of their labor to the fruit and vegetable market of Zagreb. Today, on the other hand, Medvednica is a place for leisure and rest, and a green source of strength for all those who visit the mountain, particularly city folk.

In the "beech climate" that dominates on the mountain, it is possible to truly experience all the differences inherent in various seasons. Winters are frosty or covered in snow. Spring seasons are green and fresh. Late spring brings lush, ripe vegetation with it. Potent colors come next, with the forest bouquet of the autumn. Color changes that the mountain provides are truly impressive.

There are 91 strictly protected plant species in the Park, including yew (*Taxus baccata*), facing extinction in its original habitats in Europe. On Medvednica, however, not only is it possible to see individual yew trees, but even an entire forest of yew and linden. One particular yew tree on the location of Krumpirište is truly special and impressive, over thousand years old.

There is a belief that yew tree is endowed with major powers, and this belief is reflected in modern fantasy literature too. The magic wand of the evil magician Voldemort from the Harry Potter series is made from yew, for example.



Medvednička špilja  
Veteronica okamenjena  
je povijest. U njoj  
je zabilježen život  
prije 45 000 godina  
kada je bila sklonište  
neandertalcima, a  
danас u njoj obitavaju  
upravo šišmiši.

U hladnim i vlažnim udolinama šume su gorskog javora i jasena. Na južnim padinama planine nalaze se šume hrasta medunca i crnog jasena kao i šuma hrasta kitnjaka s crnim grabom. Nevjerojatna je raznolikost šume na Medvednici i upravo je ona razlog da je 1963. godine proglašeno čak osam posebnih rezervata šumske vegetacije u kojima je zadaća upravljanje održavanjem prirodne ravnoteže. Životinjski svijet nekoć je bio daleko raznolikiji. Samo ime planine izgovara svoju povijest. No, medvjedi već stoljećima ne žive na Medvednici. Urbanizacija je uzrok nestanka i drugih životinjskih vrsta: risa, vuka, jelena, tetrijeba i vidre. Da su oni itekako bili prisutni, dokazuju i imena okolnih sela i predjela: Medvedski breg, Vučja jama, Vukov dol ili Risovo polje.

Planina koja se vidi s gotovo svakog gradskog prozora koji gleda na sjever stanište je malih životinja, glodavaca, ali i velikih papkara kao što su srna i divlja svinja. Ima i manjih zvijeri poput divlje mačke, lisice, kune i lasice. One su pravi noćni lovci Medvednice.

Posebni stanari Medvednice su šišmiši. Tu ih je u Parku 24 vrste, od kojih je 7 na popisu vrsta Natura 2000, a jedna je nacionalno važna. Njihov su dom špilje, napušteni rudnici, kamenolomi, duplje drveća i potkovrlja kuća. U jednoj noći jedan šišmiš pojede do šestotinjak komaraca. Njihova korist uvelike premašuje mitove koji ih znaju koštati života jer ih se ljudi boje.

Medvednička špilja Veteronica okamenjena je povijest. U njoj je zabilježen život prije 45 000 godina kada je bila sklonište neandertalcima, a danas u njoj obitavaju upravo šišmiši.

The mountain cave  
of Veteronica is history  
turned into stone.  
Life was first present  
here 45 thousand  
years ago, when it was  
used as shelter by the  
Neanderthals, and bats  
live in it today.

The vegetation cover of Medvednica includes mostly preserved and highly diverse forest communities, growing on varied relief with diverse geological layers and types of soil.

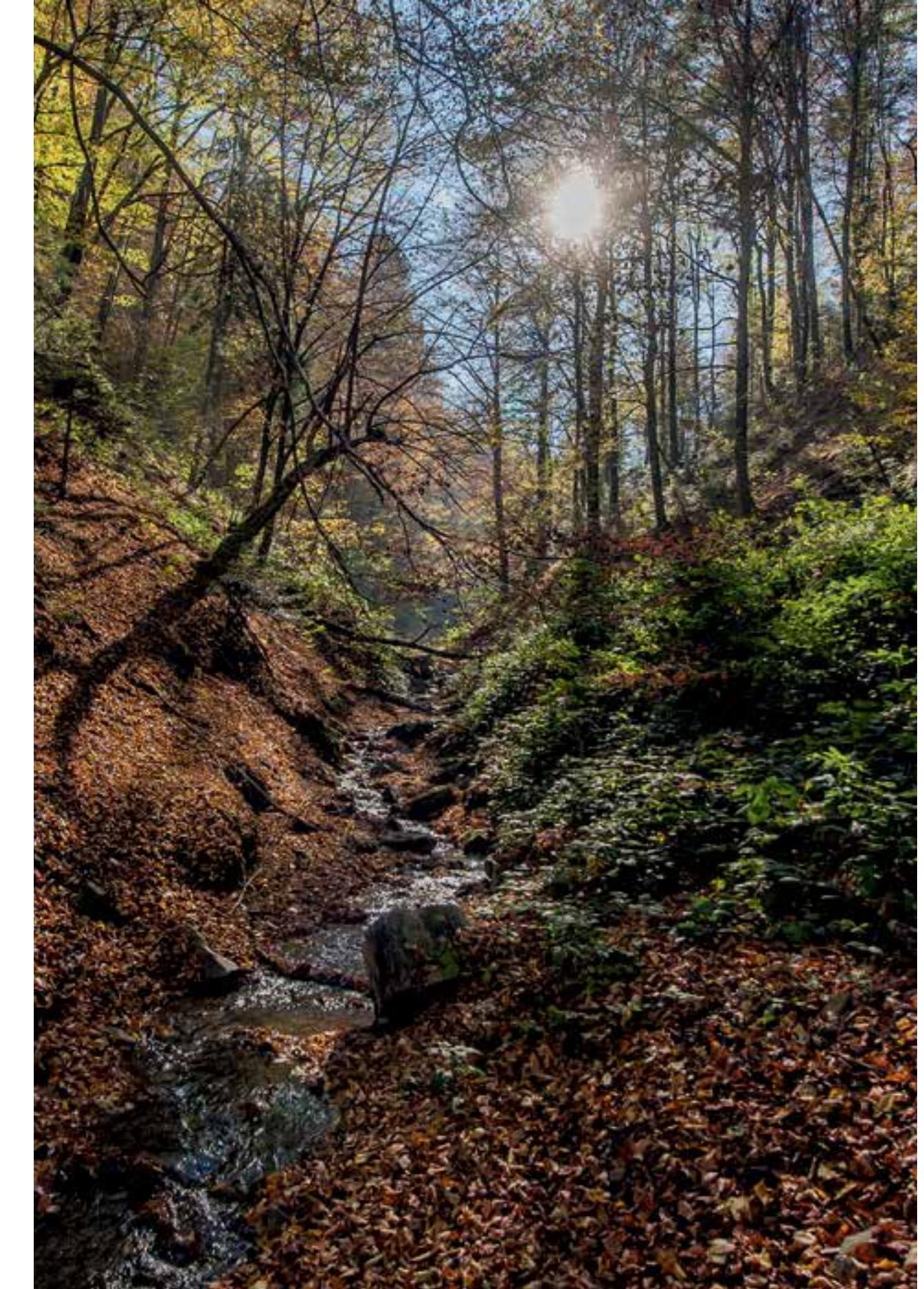
The base of Medvednica is covered by sessile oak and hornbeam forest, which envelops the mountain. Forests of sweet chestnut and beech are there as well. Above the altitude of 800 meters, one reaches Pannonian beech and fir forests. Cold and wet mountain valleys are home to sycamore maple and ash forests. The southern slopes of the mountain are covered in pubescent oak and manna ash forests, as well as sessile oak forests with black pea.

The diversity of forests on Medvednica is incredible. It resulted in as many as eight special forest vegetation reserves declared in 1963, with the aim of properly managing the natural balance.

The animal world used to be a lot more diverse in the past, and it once included even bears, as the name of the mountain testifies. However, there have been no bears on Medvednica for centuries. Urban development has resulted in the disappearance of many other animal species too: lynx, wolf, deer, grouse and otter. Many of these animals have given their names to surrounding villages, which speak of their presence in the past: Medvedski breg (bear), Vučja jama (wolf), Vukov dol (wolf), Risovo polje (lynx).

The mountain that can be seen from virtually every window in the city facing north is a habitat to small animals, rodents, but also hoofed animals such as roe deer or wild boar. Smaller carnivores live on Medvednica too, such as wildcats, foxes, martens and weasels. They are





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Geolozi obožavaju Medvednicu. Njezine su stijene dijelom nastale na dnu davno isparenih mora. Geološki ona je stara dama koja je kroz vrijeme izmjenila mnoga lica. U stijenama Medvednice pronađeni su fosili morskih organizama.

Glavni trup planine izgrađen je od metamorfnih stijena među kojima se ističe zeleni škriljavac. Taj je kamen postao svojevrsnim simbolom Medvednice te krasiti pročelja mnogih medvedničkih objekata među kojima i Tomislavova doma.

Planina je puna iznenađenja. Mnoge će iznenaditi i prisutnost krških polja. Krške su pojave skrivene gustom vegetacijom, ali poznatelji planine znaju da na Medvednici ima i jama i vrtića i krških dolina i ponikava. Najveće je krško polje Ponikve koje je poput velike spužve u kojoj izviru i poniru medvednički potoci. Poniranjem voda s područja Ponikvi duž pukotina u stijenama formirana je i špilja Veternica koja se sa svojih više od 7000 m otkrivenih kanala ubraja među najduže špilje u Hrvatskoj.

Medvednica je išarana potocima brdskoga tipa. Strmi gornji tok spušta se u ljepoti zvuka žive vode prema dnu planine. Fauna potoka ima i endemičnih vrsta, a ribe su, osim nekih potočnih vrsta, rijetke. Potok je mjesto života i zaštićenim vrlo sićušnim planktonskim rakovima: zagrebačkom rakušcu i rakušcu iz potoka Dolje i Bliznec.

Medvednica je planina koja je dijelila, a i dalje zemljopisno dijeli, urbani život od ruralnog, i oduvijek je bila put prožimanja života grada i sela. Rijetki se pogled iz vrela prirode pruža na velegrad s Medvedgradom, staroga grada na 593 metara visine izgrađenog u 13. stoljeću.

Za mnoge, mjesto koje podsjeća da u svakoj prilici pogled s gradskog prozora prema Sljemenu i Medvednici treba – obrnuti. I s Medvednice gledati Zagreb.

Bats are undoubtedly special tenants of Medvednica. There are 24 bat species living in the Park, and seven of those are listed as Natura 2000 species, one of which is designated as nationally important. They have found their home in caves, abandoned mines, quarries, tree hollows and attics. In one night, a bat can eat up to six hundred mosquitoes. The benefits brought by these animals very much overturn the myths that sometimes result in the killing of bats, because of the fear that people feel towards them.

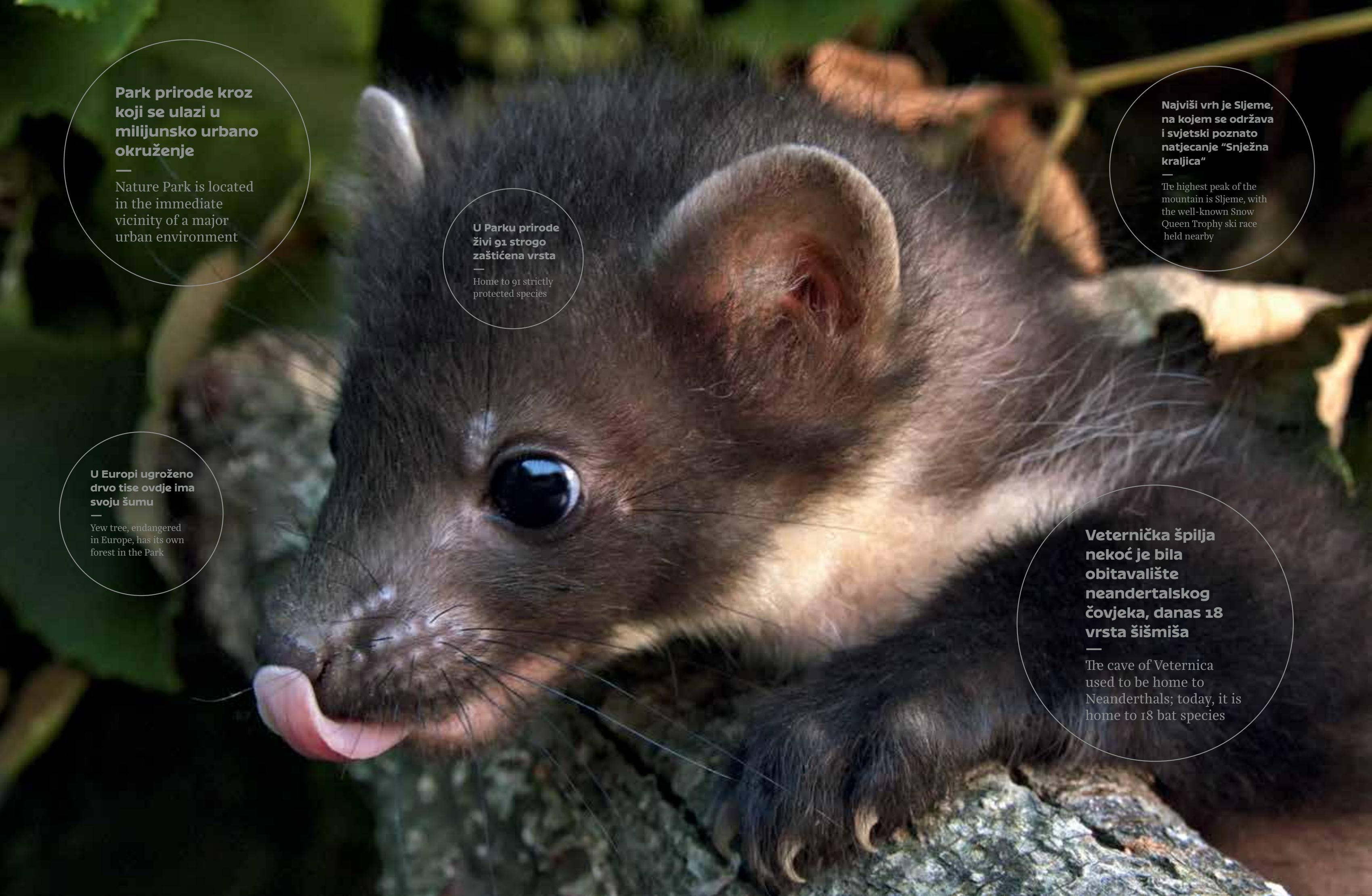
The mountain cave of Veternica is history turned into stone. Life was first present here 45 thousand years ago, when it was used as shelter by the Neanderthals, and bats live in it today.

Geologists simply love Medvednica. Mountain rocks have partly arisen from the bottom of the seas that evaporated a long time ago. Geologically speaking, the mountain of Medvednica is an old lady that has changed many faces over the years. Fossils of sea organisms have even been found in the rocks of the mountain.

The main body of the mountain is made of metamorphic rocks with particularly prominent green shale. That stone has turned into a symbol of sorts of Medvednica, and it adorns the facades of many buildings on the mountain, including the hotel Tomislavov dom.

The mountain is full of surprises. Many will be surprised by the presence of karst fields. It is true that karst phenomena are hidden by dense vegetation; however, those who know the mountain also know that there are pits, sinkholes, karst valleys and dolines scattered on it. The biggest karst field is called Ponikve. It resembles a large sponge from which the creeks of Medvednica spring and into which they disappear. It is precisely the waters from the area of Ponikve diving into the underground through cracks present in rocks that eventually formed the cave of Veternica, one of the longest caves in Croatia with over 7,000 meters of discovered channels.

There are many mountain creeks on Medvednica. Steep upper courses descend towards the base of the mountain, accompanied by the beauty of the sound of fresh water. The fauna that can be found in creeks includes endemic species; fish species are rather rare, with the exception of certain riparian species. Several species of extraordinarily small and protected plankton shrimps live in creeks: the Zagreb niphargid shrimp and shrimp living in the creeks of Dolje and Bliznec. Medvednica is a mountain that has always represented a division between urban and rural life in geographical terms, and it retains that role today. However, it has also always constituted a path through which city and village life connect and merge. There are few panoramas that can compare to the one from Medvedgrad, an old town above Zagreb built on a hill 593 meters above sea level in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, providing a spectacular view of the capital city from above the mountain forest. Many visitors coming here are reminded that it is sometimes good to reverse the usual perspective – instead of looking at the mountain of Medvednica and its peak of Sljeme from a window of one's flat in the city, it is worth taking every opportunity to come here, and enjoy the sights of the city of Zagreb watching them from the mountain.



### **Park prirode kroz koji se ulazi u milijunsko urbano okruženje**

Nature Park is located in the immediate vicinity of a major urban environment

### **U Evropi ugroženo drvo tise ovdje ima svoju šumu**

Yew tree, endangered in Europe, has its own forest in the Park

### **U Parku prirode živi 91 strogo zaštićena vrsta**

Home to 91 strictly protected species

### **Veternička špilja nekoć je bila obitavalište neandertalskog čovjeka, danas 18 vrsta šišmiša**

The cave of Vaternica used to be home to Neanderthals; today, it is home to 18 bat species

### **Najviši vrh je Sljeme, na kojem se održava i svjetski poznato natjecanje "Snježna kraljica"**

The highest peak of the mountain is Sljeme, with the well-known Snow Queen Trophy ski race held nearby

Mljet - zeleni otok. Homerova Ogygia. Legenda kaže da je ljubavnica grčkog junaka Odiseja, nimfa Kalipsa, upravo ovaj otok izabrala za svoj dom: jedino je njegova ljepota nadmašila njezinu i tako je privoljela vječnog putnika, Odiseja, na višegodišnji ostanak. Ima li u legendi i činjenica? Dio povjesničara uvjeren je da je Homer opisujući Ogygiju pisao o Mljetu. Drugi su sumnjičavi. Romantičari bi rekli – samo more zna odgovor. A kakav god on bio, u kamenu je ostala špilja koja nosi ime grčkog pustolova, Odiseja.

—

Mljet – the green island. The Ogygia of Homer's Odyssey. According to legend, the nymph Calypso, lover of the Greek hero Odysseus, chose this island as her home. The beauty of the island was the only beauty surpassing hers, making Odysseus, that eternal traveler, stay there for years. Are there any facts in the legend? Some historians are convinced that, by describing Ogygia, Homer actually wrote about the island of Mljet. Others doubt that. The romantics would say that only the sea knows the answer. Well, whatever the answer may be, a cave bearing the name of Odysseus, that Greek adventurer, still stands there carved in stone.

# NACIONALNI PARK MLJET

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## Mljet National Park





## NAJZELENIJI OTOK MEDITERANA

S morske pučine, jedva vidljivim tjesnacem, more oštro zasijeca u kopno. To je Solinski kanal kojim more prodire u tijelo otoka, otvara ga i stvara Veliko jezero. More putuje dalje, još užim kanalom te stvara i Malo jezero. Tako su nastala "jezera" na južnodalmatinskom otoku Mljetu, osmom po veličini u Hrvatskoj.

Kroz Solinski se kanal odvija stalna izmjena vode između "jezera" i otvorenog mora, a ovisno o plimi i oseki, more mijenja smjer strujanja svakih šest sati. Svjetski je to fenomen. Takva dinamika izmjene morske vode pogodovala je razvoju najveće sredozemne kolonije busenastog koralja (*Cladocora caespitosa*) na ulazu u Veliko jezero.

Malo jezero posebno je zbog gustoće populacije plemenite periske (*Pinna nobilis*) i pojave koloidnog bijeljenja (izlučivanje aragonita). Toga nema nigdje na Sredozemlju, već samo u velikim tropskim i subtropskim sustavima, primjerice, na Bahamima.

Mljet je prvi jadranski nacionalni park koji svojom ljepotom ostavlja trajni poziv putniku za ponovni povratak na mjesto koje se trajno i iznova doživljava kao otkriće.

Ovaj najzeleniji mediteranski otok Iliri su naselili prije više od četiri tisuće godina.

Sveprisutno zelenilo i pet različitih tipova šuma ovdje rastu praćeni brigom stručnjaka. Za izgled otoka zasluzni su i benediktinski redovnici koji su se, kao višestoljetni feudalni gospodari Mljetra, pomno za njega brinuli. Svake su godine redovnici birali šest težaka i šest pastira s otoka koji su samo te jedne godine živjeli na području Parka. Samostanska zabrana stalnog naseljavanja vrijedila je do kraja 18. stoljeća. Tek 1793. godine benediktinci dopuštaju stalno naseljavanje nekim težacima iz Babinoga Polja (obitelji Milić i Stražićić-Basto), kako bi za potrebe samostana čuvali stoku. Mjesto je po stoci – govedima – i dobilo ime: Govedari.



## THE GREENEST ISLAND OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

As one looks from the open sea, there is a barely visible narrow passage cutting into the island. It is the channel of Soline, letting the sea enter into the island, opening it and creating first Veliko jezero, larger of the two "lakes", and then Malo jezero, smaller "lake" separated by an even narrower channel from the larger one. That is how the so-called "lakes" of the south-Dalmatian island of Mljet, the eighth island in Croatia in terms of size, were created.

The Soline Channel permits permanent water exchange between the "lakes" and the open sea. Depending on changes between high and low tide, the sea current changes direction every six hours. It is a phenomenon of global relevance. Such dynamics of seawater exchange resulted in the biggest Mediterranean colony of cushion coral (*Cladocora caespitosa*) at the entry to Veliko jezero.

What is special about Malo jezero, the smaller lake, is the density of the population of the noble pen shell (*Pinna nobilis*), and the phenomenon of whiting (suspension of aragonite). There is no other place in the Mediterranean where one could encounter such a phenomenon, which typically occurs in major tropical and subtropical systems, for example on the Bahamas.

Mljet is the first Adriatic national park, the beauty of which keeps inviting the passenger to return to this place of permanent and constantly renewed discovery.

The Illyrians first settled on this greenest Mediterranean island over four thousand years ago.

Omnipresent vegetation and five different types of forests grow here under the watchful eye of experts. Benedictine monks added to the beauty of the island, taking great care of it as feudal masters of Mljet over the course of several centuries. Every year, the monks would



Zelenilo ovdje ne posustaje u svojoj svježini – ono je sočni plašt i krškim poljima i naseljima izgrađenima od otočkoga kamena, koji zbog prohodnosti otoka možete sami otkrivati.

More, jezera, krške jame i špilje – sve to prisutno je na Mljetu. Svaki djelić otoka, koji je i najstariji morski park Mediterana, vrelo je života. Nacionalnim je parkom kopneni dio zaštićen 1960. godine zajedno sa Solinskim kanalom te Velikim i Malim jezerom, a okolni je akvatorij dodan 1997. godine. Iznimnost prirode Mljeta iziskivala je proglašenje Nacionalnog parka.

Dugi je niz vrijednih razloga: očuvane šume hrasta crnike i alepskog bora, kulturno-povijesna baština koja seže od ilirskih vremena, Rimskog Carstva i Dubrovačke Republike, slana "jezera", jedinstveni biljni i životinjski svijet, razvedene obale, klifovi, hridine i otočići.

Panoramski izgled razvedene obale i uvijek zeleno raslinje okolnih brda koja se izdižu iznad mora i zaklanjavaju brojna krška polja i naselja izgrađena rukom dalmatinskog čovjeka u kamenu djelić su krajolika koji poziva na posjet, pa tek onda kakav zapis ili svjedočanstvo kroz riječ. Zelenilo ovdje ne posustaje u svojoj svježini – ono je sočni plašt i krškim poljima i naseljima izgrađenima od otočkoga kamena, koji zbog prohodnosti otoka možete sami otkrivati.

Južna obala otoka je strma. Krase je brojne urušene pećine. Mjesto je to i rasta velikog broja endemičnih dalmatinskih biljki od kojih je najatraktivnija dubrovačka zečina. Tu su i savitljiva mrižica, jadranska rumenica i šiljati lastavičnjak. Na otoku raste i tridesetak vrsta orhideja; najviše je talijanskog kačuna i liburnijske kokice.

Makija je posebno bujna, u mediteranskim granicama. Crnika je najzastupljenija, a tu su korijenje pustile i ostale listače poput planike (*Arbutus unedo*), zelenike (*Phillyrea media*), velikog vrijesa (*Erica arborea*), mirte (*Myrtus communis*), a ima i rogača (*Ceratonia siliqua*), divljih maslina (*Olea oleaster*), lovora (*Laurus nobilis*) i brojnih četinjača.

Čovjek je gotovo svakoj vrsti našao primjenu. Rogač daje jestive plodove, od ploda planike kuhala se rakija i pekao pekmez, a tršlja se upotrebljavala za zaštitu ribarskih mreža. Od mladica mirte izrađivale su se vrše i košare.

Krajolik je krški i punokrvno mediteranski. Ispresijecan je mrežom šetnica koje omogućuju i najstrastvenijim znatiželjnicima pomno istraživanje i dostupnost Parka pješice ili biciklirajući.

Dva "jezera" s početka ove mljetske priče, koja su nastala usijecanjem mora u tijelo otoka, svjetski su geološki i oceanografski fenomen. Veliko je jezero površine 145 hektara, duboko do 46 metara. Malo jezero ima površinu od 24 hektara, a dubinu do 29 metara. Još uvijek nisu u potpunosti istražena, još uvijek njihove dubine i poseban sustav tih slanih "jezera" krije mnoge nepoznanice i stoga su privlačna prirodoslovčima i tragačima izvorne prirode.

U središtu Velikog jezera turistička je nezaobilazna točka, živopisni otočić Sv. Marije s crkvom i benediktinskom samostanom iz 12. stoljeća. Građeni su u romaničkom stilu, no samostan je u razdoblju Dubrovačke Republike dograđivan i pregrađivan i tako je dobio izgled monumentalnog renesansnog ljetnikovca s vidljivim obilježjima romanike. I samostan je kroz stoljeća mijenjao izgled, ali nikada svoj značaj. Uvijek je bio mjesto s kojeg su se širili kulturni utjecaji jer su tu dolazili učeni ljudi i pjesnici, poput pjesnika i povjesničara Ignjata Đordića.

U Parku su i vrijedni ostaci rimske palače. Sagrađena je u 5. stoljeću poslije Krista na ostacima tri stoljeća ranije podignutog naselja i to za potrebe rimskog velikodostojnika na carskom posjedu. Obuhvaćao je cijeli Mljet sve do 12. stoljeća. Složeni arhitektonski objekt ima središnju

Vegetation never ceases being fresh in this area. It wraps the karst fields and settlements built of island stone in a majestic atmosphere, and allows you to freely explore it due to the fact that the island is passable.

choose six farm hands and six shepherds from the island, who would spend one year in the territory of the current Park. Prohibition of permanent settling, issued by the monastery, lasted until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was only in 1793 that Benedictine monks permitted several farmers from the settlement of Babino Polje to permanently settle near the monastery, in order to take care of livestock for the purposes of the monastery. They were the families of Milić and Stražić-Basto. It was cattle, and the Croatian term govedo used for it, that gave the name to the new settlement: Govedari.

The sea, lakes, karst pits and caves – all that is present on the island of Mljet. Every small part of the island, which is the oldest marine park of the Mediterranean, is a source of life. With the establishment of the National Park, the terrestrial part of the area was protected in 1960, together with the channel of Soline, Veliko jezero and Malo jezero. The surrounding sea was added to the area of the Park in 1997. The exceptional quality of nature of the island of Mljet demanded the establishment of the National Park.

There are many other reasons as well: preserved forests of holm oak and Aleppo pine; cultural and historical heritage ranging back to the times of the Illyrians, the Roman Empire and the Dubrovnik Republic; salty "lakes"; unique plant and animal life; well-indented coast; numerous cliffs, rocks and islets.

The panorama of the indented coast and perennial green vegetation of the surrounding hills that rise above the sea hides numerous karst fields and settlements built of stone by the hands of the Dalmatian man. These are just some landscapes inviting visitors to come; writings and oral testimonies about them come second.

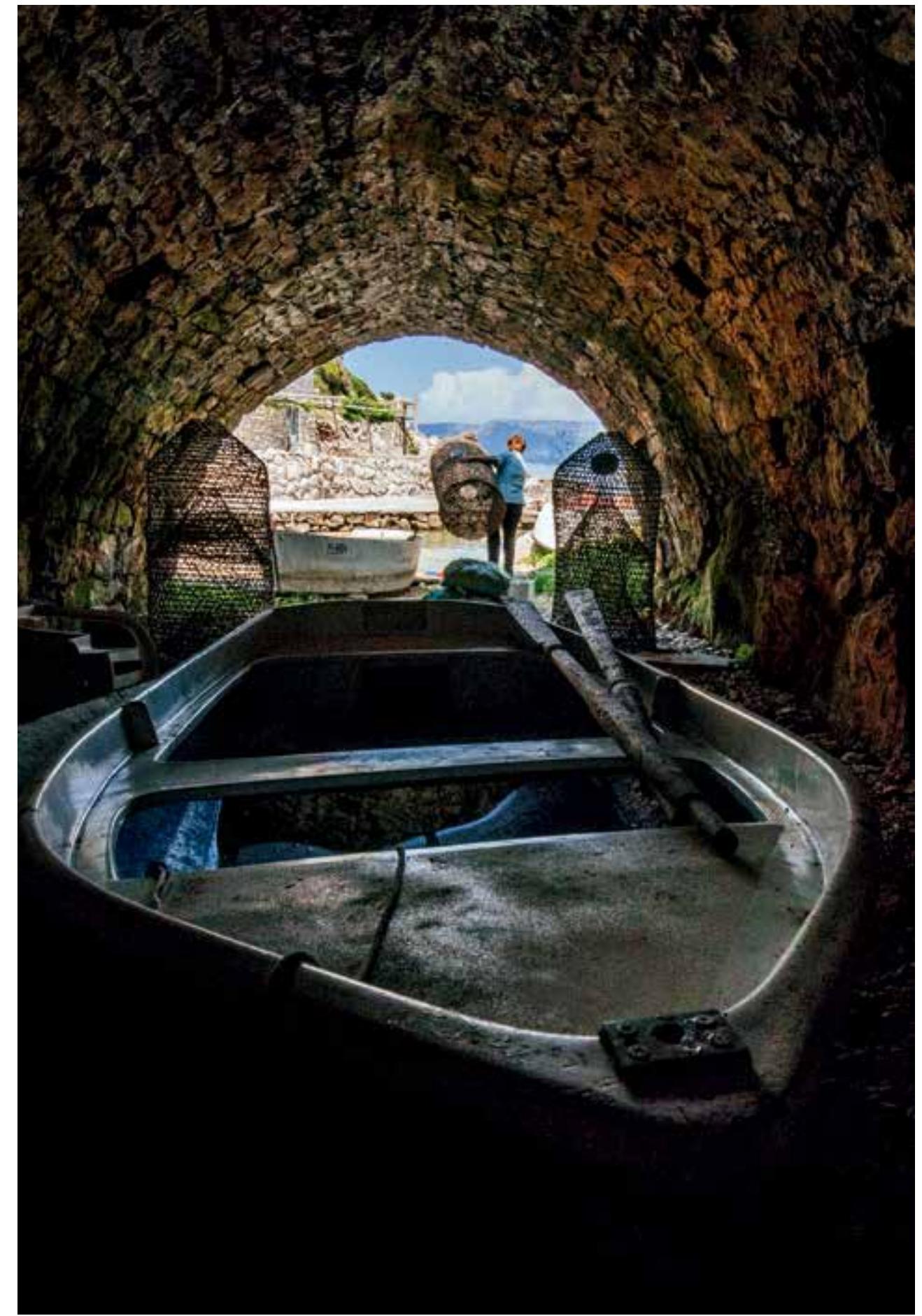
Vegetation never ceases being fresh in this area. It wraps the karst fields and settlements built of island stone in a majestic atmosphere, and allows you to freely explore it due to the fact that the island is passable. The southern coast of the island is steep, and marked by a number of caved-in caves. Many endemic Dalmatian plants grow here, the most attractive being the Dubrovnik knapweed. Other endemic species include *L. anfractum*, *Aurinia leucadea* and *Cynanchum acutum*. Approximately thirty orchid species also grow on the island; the most widespread are the Italian orchid and *Ophrys liburnica*.

The macchia is particularly dense for a Mediterranean region. Holm oak is dominant, but one also comes across other broadleaved plants: strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*), mock privet (*Phillyrea media*), tree heath (*Erica arborea*) and true myrtle (*Myrtus communis*). Carob tree (*Ceratonia siliqua*) also grows on the island, as well as wild olive (*Olea oleaster*), bay laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) and many conifers.

People found a way how to use almost every species. Carob tree gives edible fruits; fruits of the strawberry tree were used to prepare grappa and jam; mastic was used to protect fishing nets. Myrtle shoots were used to make fish traps and baskets.

This is a karst terrain, a full-blooded Mediterranean area. The area is covered by a network of walking trails, allowing even the most passionate and curious visitors to thoroughly investigate the area and the accessibility of the Park, either on foot or by cycling.

The two "lakes" cut into the island by the sea, that we mentioned at the beginning of this story about the island of Mljet, are globally relevant geological and oceanographic phenomenon. The surface of the bigger



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monumentalnu palaču smještenu na obali. U neposrednoj blizini su terme, takozvani "Sjeverni kompleks", gospodarske zgrade zvane Lazarei, dva sakralna kompleksa – Istočna i Zapadna bazilika, utvrda (Kaštilo) i pristanište za brodove. Sva su naselja na otoku povezana cestom. Vrijedno je istražiti svaki mljetski put, jer je otok prepun zanimljivosti. Na južnoj se obali nalazi Jama, poznatija kao Odisejeva špilja – krška šupljina čiji se strop urušio. Zbog toga izgleda kao jama; bunar s širokim otvorom. Dno je povezano s morskom pučinom, a posjetitelji uvelike budu iznenadeni prisustvom ribarskih čamaca u Jami. Vlasnici su ljudi iz obližnjeg i najvećeg naselja na Mljetu, Babinoga Polja. Domaći su vještici u spuštanju do čamaca, a gosti će se zadovoljiti pogledom prema dnu Jame. Pustolovi smatraju da je grčki junak Odisej nakon brodoloma ostao na ovom otoku, koji ga je zadržao svojom prirodnom ljepotom, a špilja nosi naziv upravo po njemu. Sedam ga je godina u toj špilji zatočenog držala nimfa Kalipsa, kći boga Atlanta, sve dok ga, po Zeusovoj naredbi, nije oslobođila. Mljet je uspio nadmašiti i njezinu ljepotu, no u ovom slučaju na Kalipsinu sreću i pomoć jer je tako vječitog putnika zadržala na otoku. Brojni stručnjaci ne dvoje da je otok Ogygia iz Homerove Odiseje neupitno Mljet. "Čaroban otok zelenih šuma..." "Četiri tečahu vrela po redu bistricom vodom, jedno uz drugo blizu bjehu, al svako na stranu svoju..."

Na Mljetu su četiri izvora vode koja nikad ne presušuju. Detalji opisa odgovaraju od svih otoka Sredozemlja tek – Mljetu. Kako opise ljepote nerijetko ponajbolje "upijaju" legende, spomenimo i onu o mladom Rimljaninu prognanom na otok Mljet. Na pristigli upit zabrinutog oca za sina prognanog u nepoznatu zemlju, "Kako ti je na Mljetu, sine?", dobio je simboličan odgovor. Umjesto pisma, poslana mu je grančica s ptičjim gnijezdom na vrhu, a školjkom na dnu grane. Otac je znao da za sina ne treba brinuti.

The two "lakes" cut into the island by the sea, that we mentioned at the beginning of this story about the island of Mljet, are globally relevant geological and oceanographic phenomenon. The surface of the bigger "lake", Veliko jezero, is 145 hectares, and it is up to 46 meters deep. The surface of the smaller "lake", Malo jezero, is 24 hectares, and it is up to 29 meters deep. They are not fully researched yet, and there are still many unknowns regarding their depths and the underlying system of salty "lakes", which is why they are attractive to natural scientists and visitors looking for true nature.

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In the center of the larger "lake" lies a must-see tourist spot, the picturesque St. Mary's Island with the church and the Benedictine monastery dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. They were built in Romanesque style; however, during the period of the Dubrovnik Republic, alterations and additions to the monastery gave it the appearance of a monumental Renaissance villa with visible Romanesque elements. While the monastery changed its appearance over the centuries, it never lost its significance. It remained a source of cultural influence, with renowned scholars and poets visiting it, such as the poet and historian Ignjat Đordić. Valuable remains of a Roman palace can be seen in the Park as well. It was built in the 5<sup>th</sup> century on the remains of a settlement built three centuries earlier, for the needs of a Roman dignitary on the property of the Empire, which encompassed entire Mljet until the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The center of this complex architectural site is the monumental palace located on the coast. In the immediate vicinity are thermae, the so-called Northern Complex, commercial facilities of Lazarei, two sacral complexes – the Eastern and the Western Basilica, Kaštilo citadel, and an ancient port.

All the settlements on the island are linked by road. Every road of Mljet is worth exploring, because the island is packed with interesting sites. On the southern part of the coast, one can find Jama, better known as the Odysseus Cave – a karst cavity the ceiling of which caved in. That gives it the appearance of a pit, or a well with a wide opening. The bottom of Jama is connected with the open sea, so visitors can get quite surprised when they see fishing boats in it. The owners come from the nearby settlement of Babino Polje, the biggest on the island. The locals skillfully descend to the boats, as the guests look on towards the bottom of the "pit".

According to adventurers, the Greek hero Odysseus stayed on this island after the shipwreck, mesmerized by its natural beauty, and the cave is named after him. For seven years, the nymph Calypso, daughter of Atlas, held Odysseus captive in the cave, until she finally set him free upon the order of Zeus.

The island of Mljet managed to surpass Calypso's beauty – luckily for her, because that is how she kept the eternal traveler on the island.

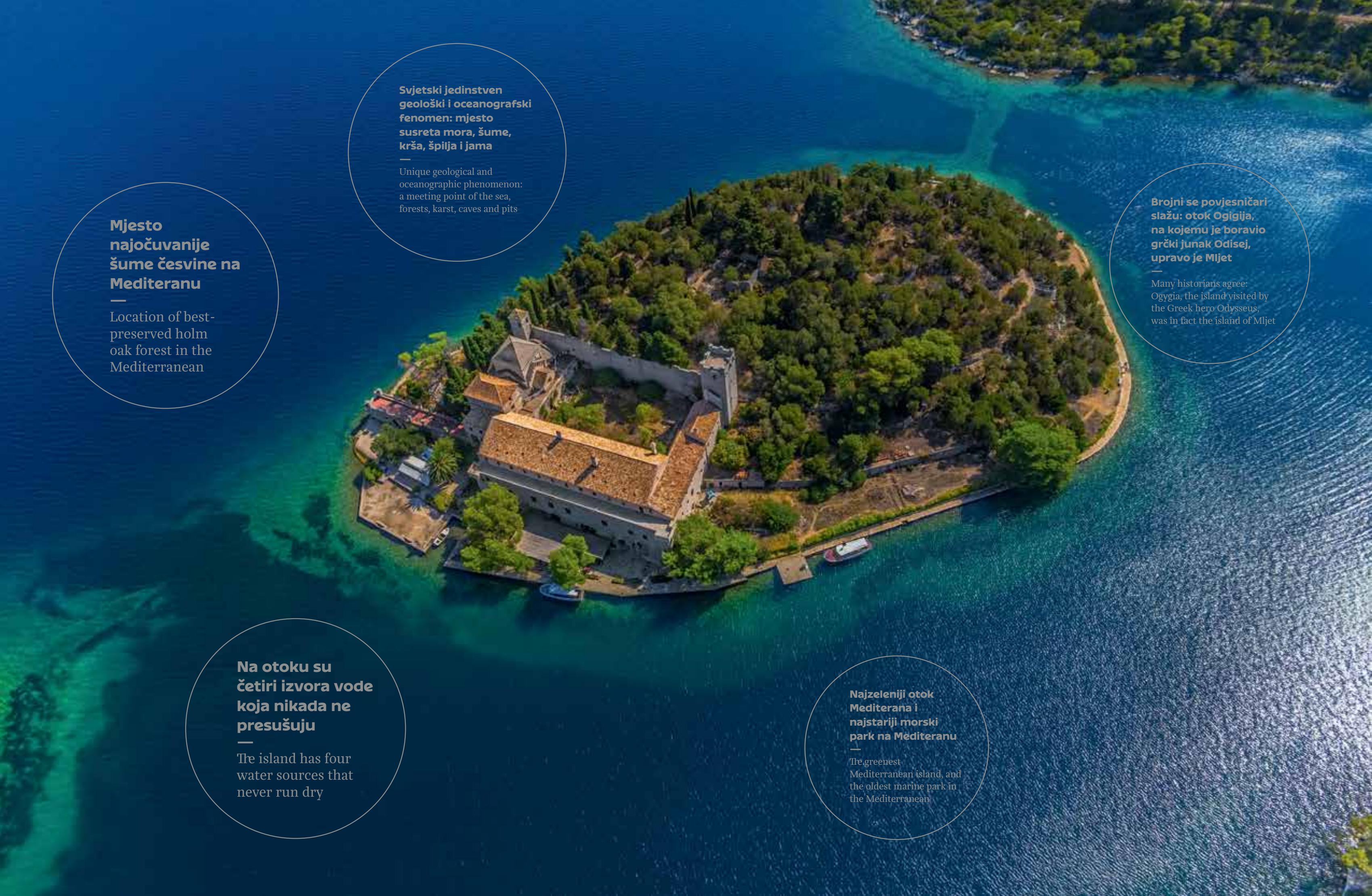
Many experts have no doubts that the island of Ogygia from Homer's Odyssey is Mljet, that magical island of thick forests... [...] there were also four running rills of water in channels cut pretty close together, and turned hither and thither..."

*Odyssey V, 59*

There are four water sources on Mljet that never run dry. Out of all the islands of the Mediterranean, details of the description correspond only to Mljet.

Descriptions of beauty are frequently best seen in legends. Let us mention, therefore, the one about a young Roman exiled to the island of Mljet. Upon receiving a question by his father – "How are you doing on Mljet, my son?" – he sent a symbolic answer. Instead of a letter, the father got a branch with a bird's nest on top, and a shell on the bottom of the branch. Father knew he needn't worry about his son.





### Mjesto najočuvanje šume česvine na Mediteranu

Location of best-preserved holm oak forest in the Mediterranean

Svjetski jedinstven  
geološki i oceanografski  
fenomen: mjesto  
susreta mora, šume,  
krša, špilja i jama

Unique geological and  
oceanographic phenomenon:  
a meeting point of the sea,  
forests, karst, caves and pits

Brojni se povjesničari  
slažu: otok Ogygia,  
na kojem je boravio  
grčki junak Odisej,  
upravo je Mljet

Many historians agree:  
Ogygia, the island visited by  
the Greek hero Odysseus,  
was in fact the island of Mljet

### Na otoku su četiri izvora vode koja nikada ne presušuju

The island has four  
water sources that  
never run dry

### Najzeleniji otok Mediterana i najstariji morski park na Mediteranu

The greenest  
Mediterranean island, and  
the oldest marine park in  
the Mediterranean

# NACIONALNI PARK PAKLENICA

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## Paklenica National Park



Orijaški klanci Velike i Male Paklenice ne ostavljaju mesta ravnodušu nad malenkosti čovjeka podno planine. Snaga prirode ovdje nije sustezala svoju nadmoć, ali i dobrostivost prema onima koji je poštiju. Ovde se nalaze najviši velebitski vrhovi. Paklenica je alpinistička izazovna poslastica. Ime je dobila po smoli crnoga bora, takozvanoj paklini. Planina je autohton dom šumama crnoga bora podno kojih teku bistri planinski potoci, snagom vode usječeni u duboke kanjone Paklenice.

Giant ravines of Velika Paklenica and Mala Paklenica leave no place for indifference due to the insignificance of man below a mountain. The force of nature did not hesitate to show its superiority in this place, but also its mercy towards those who respect her. This is where the highest peaks of the Velebit Mountain are located. Paklenica itself is a challenging rock-climbing treat. Its name is derived from black pine sap, the so-called "paklina". The mountain is the autochthonous home to black pine forests and clear mountain creeks flowing beneath them, cut into the deep canyons of Paklenica by the force of water.



## PLANINSKI KLACI OD MORA DO NAJVIŠIH VRHOVA VELEBITA

Njezino veličanstvo – planina. Nema ljubitelja prirode, bez obzira na to imaju li penjačkih iskustava, ili onih koji su vješti alpinisti, koji se tišinom zahvalnosti neće pokloniti pred ljepotom i izazovima Paklenice. Ovdje se nalaze najviši i najčudesniji vrhovi Velebita. Vaganski vrh (1757 m) i Sveti brdo (1753 m). Do njih stižu tek iskusni planinari. No, Nacionalni park Paklenica nagrađuje doživljajem posjet i onih koji nemaju baš nikakvih planinarskih iskustava osim želje boraviti među planinama.

Orijaški klanici Velike i Male Paklenice za mnoge su posjetitelje jedan od najatraktivnijih dijelova Parka. Kad se nad čovjekom izdignu četristometarske litice sa svojim surim sivim naboranim licima teškima desetke tona, iščezne svaka emocija do poštovanja moći i nadmoći prirode.

Kamena lica klanaca na nekim su mjestima tako blizu kao da su spremna na susret koji im je povijesno poznat. Ostaje samo u hodu kroz klance zamišljati silinu vode koja je nekoć tu prolazila. Posjetitelji, naime, danas uglavnom idu kroz suhe klance, iako i danas potoci teku u gornjim tokovima, a u donjem dijelu toka presuše u ljetnim razdobljima. Za vrijeme zadnjeg ledenog doba najviši su vrhovi Velebita bili prekriveni ledenjacima. Bilo je to vrijeme raspadanja stijena, a tada nije bilo šumskog pokrova koji bi ublažavao eroziju. Zbog velike količine kršja i različitih materijala koje je nanijela erozija, snaga vode koja je tada protjecala bila je ogromna. Tako su potoci, jedini na primorskoj strani Velebita, uspjeli probiti put do mora. Ostala su usječena dva impresivna kanjona s početka ovog geološkog "inserta" iz mnogo složenije povijesti.

More je nadomak planini. Silna je ljepota pogleda s mora na planinu



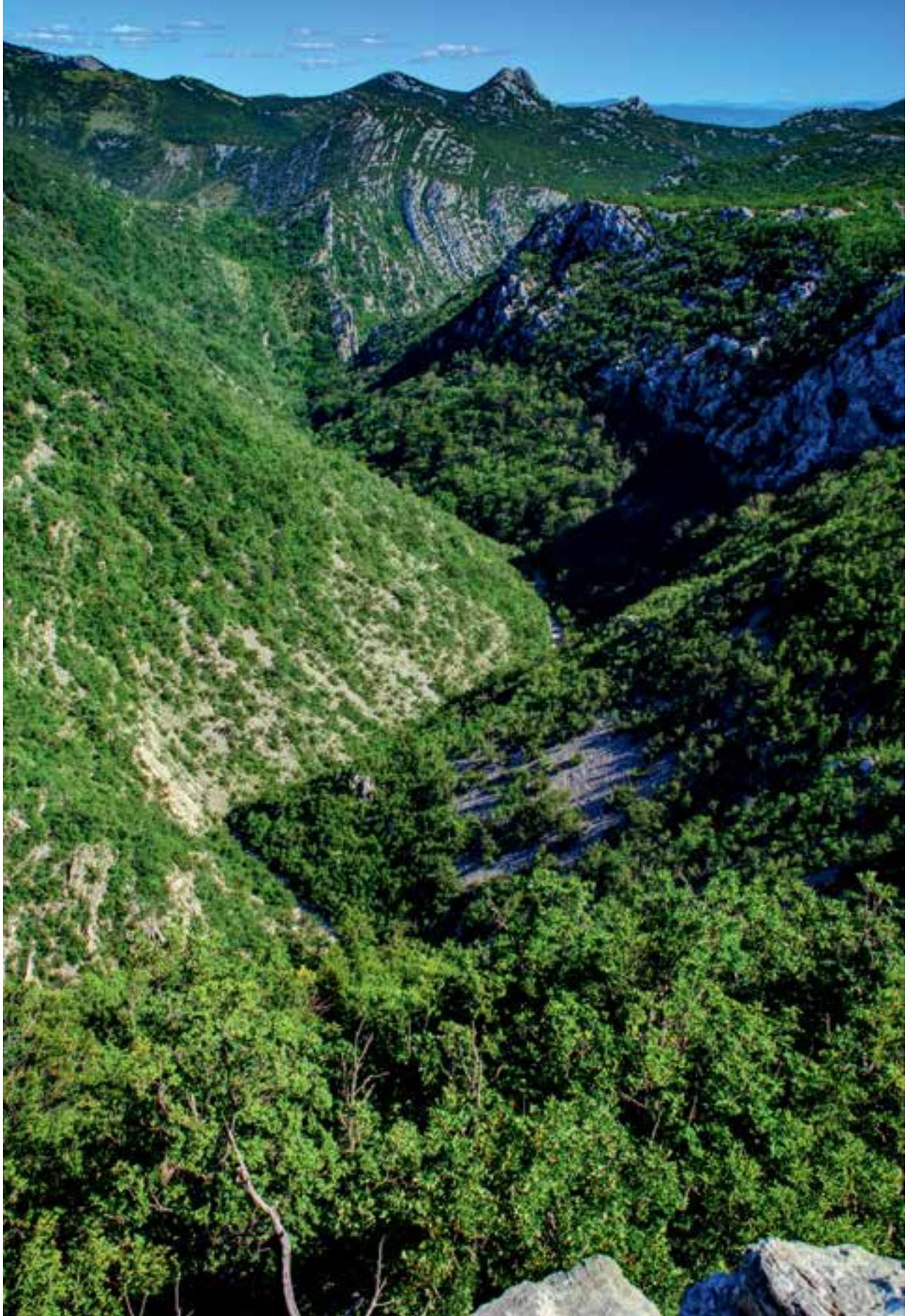
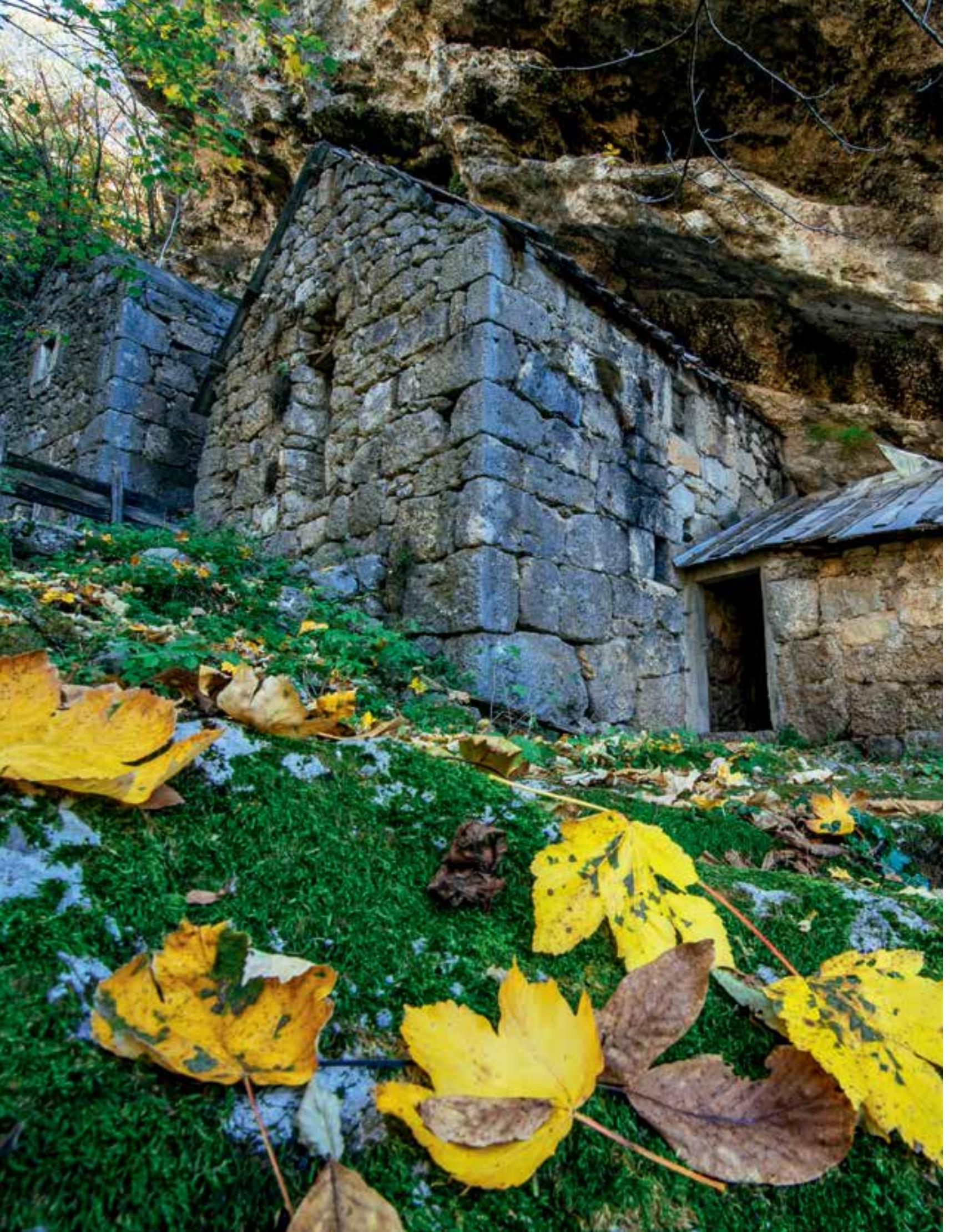
## MOUNTAIN CANYONS LEADING FROM THE SEA TO THE HIGHEST PEAKS OF VELEBIT

Her Majesty – the Mountain. There is no nature lover, regardless of the level of his or her mountain-climbing experience or rock-climbing skills, who will not bow to the beauty and challenges of Paklenica in the silence of gratitude.

This is where the highest and the most magnificent peaks of Velebit are located: Vaganski vrh (1,757 meters) and Sveti brdo (1,753 meters). Only experienced mountain climbers can reach that high. However, even those without any mountain-climbing experience whatsoever, tourists with a simple desire to spend some time in the mountains, will be richly rewarded during their stay.

For many visitors, the giant ravines of Velika Paklenica and Mala Paklenica are perhaps the most attractive parts of the Park. When facing four hundred meters of ash-grey, wrinkled cliffs dozens of tons in weight, one has no emotion left other than deep respect for the force and superiority of nature.

The stony faces of ravines are so close to each other in some places, as if they are ready to meet after so much history between them. In walking through ravines, one can only vaguely picture the immense force of water that used to flow through them. Nowadays, the ravines are mostly dry, although some creeks still exist in the higher parts of the Park area, drying up in the lower part of their courses during the summer period. During the last ice age, the highest peaks of the Velebit Mountain were covered in glaciers. That was the time when rock formations were disintegrating, without forest cover that would mitigate the erosion. Due to a large quantity of karst material and various substances brought by erosion, the power of water flowing in those times was enormous. Thus creeks, the only ones on the littoral side of Velebit, managed to



More je nadomak planini. Silna je ljepota pogleda s mora na planinu i obrnuto. Najveći dio Nacionalnog parka pripada slijevu Velike Paklenice koji je vrlo dostupan posjetiteljima.

i obrnuto. Najveći dio Nacionalnog parka pripada slijevu Velike Paklenice koji je vrlo dostupan posjetiteljima. Klanac Velike Paklenice potpuno je prohodan i u donjem dijelu dug dva i pol kilometra. Na njegovom gornjem kraju je najveća okomica na Velebitu – Anića kuk. Stijena visoka 400 metara na karti svakog alpinista itekako je poznata i popularna; zapravo najpoznatija alpinistička točka u Hrvatskoj kojoj u svibnju, na alpinistički slet, hrle penjači iz cijelog svijeta.

Kilometar po kilometar, Velika Paklenica seže do srca Velebita. Na 500 metara visine nalazi se dolina bez imena – Brezimenača. U tom se koritu nalazi i dio šuma Parka pa uspon do te doline pruža još jednu ljepotu pogleda na kontrast šume i stijena.

Mala Paklenica je, kako sam naziv upućuje, manjih dimenzija. Bujica je tu bila slabija. I dok Velikom Paklenicom prolazi lijepo utabana staza, podastrta i običnim šetačima, Malom Paklenicom treba znati vješt kročiti. Potrebne za probijanje kroz šipražje su i ruke, a najuputnije je ići ljeti kada je klanac suh. Divljina Male Paklenice ipak je rezervirana za planinare. Na samom ulazu u Malu Paklenicu стоји ploča s natpisom "samo za iskusne planinare" – dakle, ulaznica je iskustvo i poznavanje planine. To je prostor i netaknute divljine vrlo koristan za područje Parka, njegove flore i faune gdje okoliš pulsira u ritmu vlastite izvornosti. Park je kroz vrijeme, zbog zaštite, proširivao svoje granice. Sa zapadne strane tako su mu svojedobno pripojeni stjenoviti kukovi, Bojinac (1110 m) i masivi Debelog brda ili Višerujna (1632 m) i Badanj (1638 m). Između Bojinca i Višerujna nalazi se najveće "polje" na primorskoj padini Velebita – Veliko Rujno.

Veliko Rujno je krška depresija, a za Rujansku se kosu kaže da je ostatak prave *morene* – ledom zdrobljeni materijal različitih veličina koji je pred sobom nekoć nosio silni ledenjak kroz Ribnička vrata. Jedan od najljepših proplanaka Male Paklenice su Velika Močila prekrivena šumom crnoga bora na visini od 850 m.

Šume, posebice crnoga bora, veliko su bogatstvo Paklenice. Siromašno stanovništvo nekoć je uvelike eksploriralo drvo, prije svega za ogrjev i obradu, a mnogo je drveća uništeno za potrebe obnove nakon Drugog svjetskog rata. Proglašenje nacionalnog parka spriječilo je daljnje uništavanje te vrijednosti.

Pod šumama se nalazi pola područja Parka. Najviše je bukove šume, a druge po zastupljenosti upravo su šume crnoga bora (*Pinus nigra ssp. Illyrica*). Biljka je to koja raste na visinama od 700 do 1100 m. Do Drugog svjetskog rata iz crnog se bora vadila smola iz koje se dobivala luč za svjetlo i premazivanje drvenih brodova. Ta se luč u narodu zvala *paklina* pa postoji mišljenje kako je Paklenica upravo po tome i dobila ime.

Na velikim visinama, iznad 1450 m, preživljavanje je teško i za biljke. Od šumskih vrsta nalazi se tek grmoliki bor krivulj (*Pinus mugo*), no i on je prorijeđen. Kako bi stvorili pašnjake, stočari su krčili teren i tako je smanjeno područje ovog grmolikog bora.

Vegetacija stijena i točila posebna je priča. Plava boja prozorskog zvončića (*Campanula fenestrellata*), bijeli cvijet alpskog likovca (*Daphne alpina*) i mnoge endemične planinske vrste mirisom i izgledom oplemenjuju izgled i bioraznolikost planine. U proljeće posjetitelji u klancima Velike i Male Paklenice mogu pronaći bijele cvjetice endemične okruglolisne pjeskarice (*Arenaria orbicularis*).

The sea is within easy reach of the mountain.

The intensity of beauty of the view is immense, from sea to mountain and vice versa. The bulk of the National Park belongs to the Velika Paklenica basin, which is highly accessible to visitors.

force their path to the sea. As a result of this geological "episode" from a highly complex history, two impressive canyons remained cut into the mountain.

The sea is within easy reach of the mountain. The intensity of beauty of the view is immense, from sea to mountain and vice versa. The bulk of the National Park belongs to the Velika Paklenica basin, which is highly accessible to visitors.

The ravine of Velika Paklenica is fully passable, and its lower section is two and a half kilometers long. Towards its upper end lies the highest vertical wall on the Velebit Mountain – Anića kuk. This rock, 400 meters high, is more than well known and popular on the map of every alpinist: in fact, it is the best-known location for rock climbing in Croatia. In May, climbers from all over the world rush to it, as part of a rock-climbing gathering.

Kilometer by kilometer, Velika Paklenica reaches all the way to the heart of Velebit. At 500 meters above sea level, one comes across Brezimenača – a valley "without a name", as its Croatian name suggests. Park forests also grow in this area, so a climb to the valley brings with it yet another beautiful view of the contrast between the forest and the rocks. Mala Paklenica, literally "Small Paklenica" in Croatian, is not particularly big, as its name suggests. The torrent here was weaker. And while even leisurely walkers can enjoy the nicely beaten path that runs through Velika Paklenica, passing through Mala Paklenica requires some skill. One even needs hands in order to break through the thicket, and this part of the Park is best explored during the summer, when the ravine is dry. The wilderness of Mala Paklenica is reserved for mountain climbers, after all. At the very entrance to Mala Paklenica, there is a sign informing the visitors that they are entering the area "for experienced mountain climbers only" – in other words, on top of the entry ticket, experience and knowledge of the mountain are also required. This is an area of pure wilderness, highly beneficial for the area of the Park and its flora and fauna, where the environment is pulsating in the rhythm of its own originality.

Over time, due to the increasing level of protection, the Park has been expanding its borders. At one point, the rocky peaks of Bojinac (1,110 meters) and massifs of Debelo brdo or Višerujna (1,632 meters) and Badanj (1,638 meters), located on the western side, became constituent parts of the Park. Between the localities of Bojinac and Višerujna, there is the largest "field" on the littoral slope of the Velebit Mountain – Veliko Rujno.

Veliko Rujno is a karst depression, and the locality Rujanska kosa is a remnant of true *morene* – an accumulation of material of various sizes that a mighty glacier once crushed and carried along through the passage of Ribnička vrata. One of the most beautiful parts of Mala Paklenica is the locality of Velika Močila, covered by black pine forest at the height of 850 meters.

Forests, in particular black pine forests, are a major asset of Paklenica. In the past, hard-living population used to exploit wood to a large extent, primarily for heating and processing, and many trees also ended up destroyed for the purposes of reconstruction following World War II. The establishment of the National Park prevented further destruction of that treasure.



Pod šumama se nalazi pola područja Parka. Najviše je bukove šume, a druge po važnosti upravo su šume crnoga bora (*Pinus nigra ssp. Illyrica*). Biljka je to velikih nadmorskih visina i čini se da raste iz kamenja. Do Drugog svjetskog rata iz crnog se bora vadila smola iz koje se dobivala luč za svjetlo i premazivanje drvenih brodova. Ta se luč u narodu zvala paklina pa postoji mišljenje kako je Paklenica upravo po tome i dobila ime.

Fauna je vrlo različita s obzirom na to da se radi o prostoru tako velikog raspona visina. Živa voda koja teče doslovno znači život vrstama. Utvrđeno je 258 vrsta ptica, među kojima i rijetke grabljivice poput surog orla (*Aquila chrysaetos*), orla zmijara (*Circaetus gallicus*), sivog sokola (*Falco peregrinus*), a i bjeloglavog supa (*Gyps fulvus*) ovo je područje naseljavao do 1999. godine, a nadamo se da će kao rezultat uspostave hranilišta ponovno letjeti pakleničkim klancima. Ako je impozantnošću i rasponom krila suri orao kralj neba, onda su u svijetu zvijeri na tom mjestu smeđi medvjed (*Ursus arctos*), vuk (*Canis lupus*), ris (*Lynx lynx*) i divlja mačka (*Felis sylvestris*). Podzemlje je mistično i privlačno. Među 115 speleoloških objekata, u kojima je skriven cijeli jedan svijet mnogobrojnih endemskih vrsta životinja, posjetitelje najviše privlači špilja Manita peć u donjem dijelu Velike Paklenice koja pljeni velikim brojem siga. Istraženo je 175 metara špilje. Dimenzije podzemnih dvorana su zadržavajuće. Najveća je duga 65 m, široka 40 m, a visoka 32 m. Stalagmiti su visoki i preko 20 metara. S vidikovca ispred špilje, smještenog pokraj stijena Zuba Manite peći i Manitog kuka, uživa se u pogledu na najviše vrhove Velebita. Paklenica nije prostor alpskih vrtova, ali svojim vrhovima, kukovima, položajem i prirodnim obilježjima u samom je vrhu alpinističkih i turističkih odredišta. Velebit je iznimna planina. Alpinisti koji imaju iskustvo drugih svjetskih planina i vrhova i dalje svrstavaju Velebit u svoja najživopisnija iskustva. Izazovan, prekrasan, surov i okutan, zastrašuje oduševljenjem, traži poštovanje i znanje o planini, iznimno domaćin onima koji ga cijene, prostor nezaboravnog iskustva i fascinirajućih pogleda, Velebit je u cijelosti Park prirode, a Paklenica je vila koja s najviših visina nudi svoje vrhove na izazov i poštovanje čovjeku.

Forests cover roughly one half of the Park area. Beech forests are the most prominent, with black pine forests (*Pinus nigra ssp. Illyrica*) second in representation. This plant grows at altitudes between 700 and 1100 m.a.s.l. Until World War II, sap was extracted from black pine, providing substance for lighting the houses and for coating wooden vessels. People used to call this substance "paklina", and some believe that Paklenica got its name precisely because of that. At high altitudes, above 1,450 meters, survival gets tough even for plants. When it comes to forest species, only bushy mountain pine (*Pinus mugo*) is present, but not so densely as at lower altitudes. In order to create pastures, livestock farmers used to clear the terrain, thus decreasing the area covered by this pine species. The vegetation of rocks and talus cones is a story in itself. The blue color of the Adriatic bellflower (*Campanula fenestrellata*), white flower of *Daphne alpina* and many endemic mountain species enrich the landscape and biodiversity of the mountain by their scent and appearance. In spring, visitors to the canyons of Mala Paklenica and Velika Paklenica can come across small white flowers of sandwort (*Arenaria orbicularis*), an endemic species.

The fauna is quite diverse, since this area is marked by a considerable scope of altitudes. The running water flows literally give life to various species. In total, 258 bird species have been recorded, including rare birds of prey such as the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), short-toed snake-eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) used to inhabit this area too until 1999. One can only hope that, with the establishment of feeding spots, this bird will also fly above the ravines of Paklenica again. If the golden eagle is the king of the skies, with its striking appearance and impressive wing span, the role of the kings among carnivores would surely belong to brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), wolf (*Canis lupus*), lynx (*Lynx lynx*) and wildcat (*Felis sylvestris*).

The underground is mystical and attractive. Among 115 speleological sites, hiding an entire world of numerous endemic animal species, the visitors are particularly attracted to the cave Manita peć in the lower section of Velika Paklenica, which captivates with a large number of dripstones. So far, 175 meters of the cave have been researched. The dimensions of underground halls are impressive. The biggest one is 65 meters long, 40 meters wide, and 32 meters high. The height of stalagmites exceeds 20 meters. At the sightseeing point in front of the cave, located next to the rocks Zub Manite peći and Maniti kuk, one can enjoy the view of the highest peaks of Velebit.

Paklenica is not a space of alpine gardens; however, with its pointed and rounded peaks, its position and natural characteristics, it is most definitely one of the top rock-climbing and tourist destinations.

Velebit is an extraordinary mountain. Experienced rock climbers, who scaled various mountain peaks of the world, continue to consider Velebit one of their most vivid experiences.

It is challenging, wonderful, unforgiving and harsh; it terrifies and thrills, asks for respect and knowledge of the mountain; and yet, it is an extraordinary host to those who respect it. A space of unforgettable experience and fascinating views, Velebit Mountain is a Nature Park in its entirety, and Paklenica a fairy offering her peaks as challenge and object of admiration to man.

**Utočište ptica grabljivica**  
– surog orla, orla  
zmijara, sivog sokola  
i bjeloglavog supa

The Park is an important shelter for birds of prey – including the golden eagle, short-toed snake-eagle, peregrine falcon and griffon vulture

**Svjetski poznata  
alpinistička destinacija**  
– Anića kuk; najveća  
velebitska okomica

Anića kuk is a world-renowned rock-climbing destination – it is the highest vertical rock of the Velebit Mountain

**Bukove šume Paklenice i  
Sjevernog Velebita 2017.  
godine svrstane su na  
listu svjetske baštine  
UNESCO-a**

Beech forests of Paklenica and Northern Velebit became part of the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2017

**Manita peć, podzemna  
špilja ima dvoranu  
impresivne veličine  
sa stalagmitima  
visokim preko 20  
metara; otvorena je za  
posjećivanje 1937. godine**

The underground cave Manita peć has an impressively sized hall, with stalagmites over 20 meters high, and it was opened for visits in 1937.

**Grmoliki bor krivulj  
jedina je drvenasta  
šumska vrsta koja  
preživljava na  
surovim vrhovima  
planina**

Bushy mountain pine is the only wood forest species surviving on stern mountain peaks

**Mjesto najviših  
velebitskih vrhova**  
– Vaganski vrh i  
Sveto brdo

The highest peaks of the Velebit Mountain – Vaganski vrh and Sveti brdo – are constituent parts of the Park

# PARK PRIRODE PAPUK

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Papuk  
Nature Park

Slavonska planina – Papuk. Iz dubina nekadašnjeg Panonskog mora izdižu se na gotovo tisuću metara nadmorske visine vrhovi Papuka. Ovo geološki najraznolikije područje Hrvatske prvi je i jedini UNESCO svjetski geopark u Hrvatskoj. Njegovi slojevi otkrivaju povijest koja je u potpunosti mijenjala lica prostora – od Panonskog mora do raskoši stabala stoljetne bukve. Promijenjeno lice u svojim dubinama ipak priča sva proživljena iskustva prostora spremno ih dijeleći sa znatiželjnicima!

Papuk – a Slavonian mountain. The peaks of Papuk rise from the depths of the former Pannonian Sea, up to almost one thousand meters above sea level. This geologically most diverse area of Croatia is the first and only UNESCO Global Geopark in the country. Mountain layers reveal a history that has completely changed the appearance of space – from the Pannonian Sea to the splendor of beech trees hundreds of years old. Despite so many changes in its depths, the mountain still speaks of all the experiences lived through, readily sharing them with visitors.





## PLANINA IZDIGNUTA IZ PANONSKE RAVNICE

Ogromni su se morski valovi lomili i odbijali od Papuka. Iznad valova zapjenjenih od siline udaraca o papučko tlo izvirivali su divovski morski psi, kitovi i graciozni dupini. U sigurnom zaklonu kopna, lovci su dizali svoje logore i čekali na plijen, mamute i bizone.

Slika je to Papuka dok je bio otok u Panonskom moru, prije više od desetak milijuna godina.

Priroda je sačuvala dokaze o tom vremenu. Brojni fosilni ostaci milijunima godina kasnije pričaju nekadašnju morskiju priču Slavonije. Papuk je prvi i jedini UNESCO svjetski geopark u Hrvatskoj. Sadrži formacije stijena izuzetnog geološkog interesa. Stijene su stare i preko 400 milijuna godina i među najstarijima su u Hrvatskoj. Papuk je izgrađen od metamorfnih, magmatskih i sedimentnih stijena, a smatra se da su izdanci Tisijske tektonske ploče, koje nalazimo na Papuku, najvredniji primjeri panonskog bazena. Prvi hrvatski geološki spomenik prirode, Rupnica, nalazi se na Papuku.

Rupnica je fenomen nastao iz vulkana. Prirodni mozaik stijena poslaganih poput ogromnih kamenih stupova koji su posloženi poput stepenica. Jedinstveni fenomen u svjetskim razmjerima. Geološka je važnost Rupnice u jedinstvenoj morfološkoj pojavnosti vulkanskih stijena koje su stupastim lučenjem stvorile pravilne četverokutne, peterokutne, šesterokutne i slične pravilne, kao izlivene oblike.

Za obilazak lokaliteta uređena je poučna staza, a vrijedi obići i kamenolom Trešnjevicu, udaljen tek nekoliko kilometara od Rupnice. Prizor ostavlja bez daha. Rasječeni prikaz unutrašnjosti Papuka otkriva "utrobu planine".

Obilježje Papuka nepregledne su šume, većinom bukve. Ovdje žive

## MOUNTAIN RISING FROM THE PANNONIAN PLAINS

Gigantic sea waves hit Papuk, breaking and bouncing off. From the waves splashing with foam released by the force of water pounding the Papuk soil, gigantic sharks, whales and gracious dolphins jump out every now and then. In the safe shelter of land, hunters erect their camps and wait for their prey: mammoths and buffalos.

That is what Papuk must have looked like, back in the days when it was still an island in the Pannonian Sea, over ten million years ago.

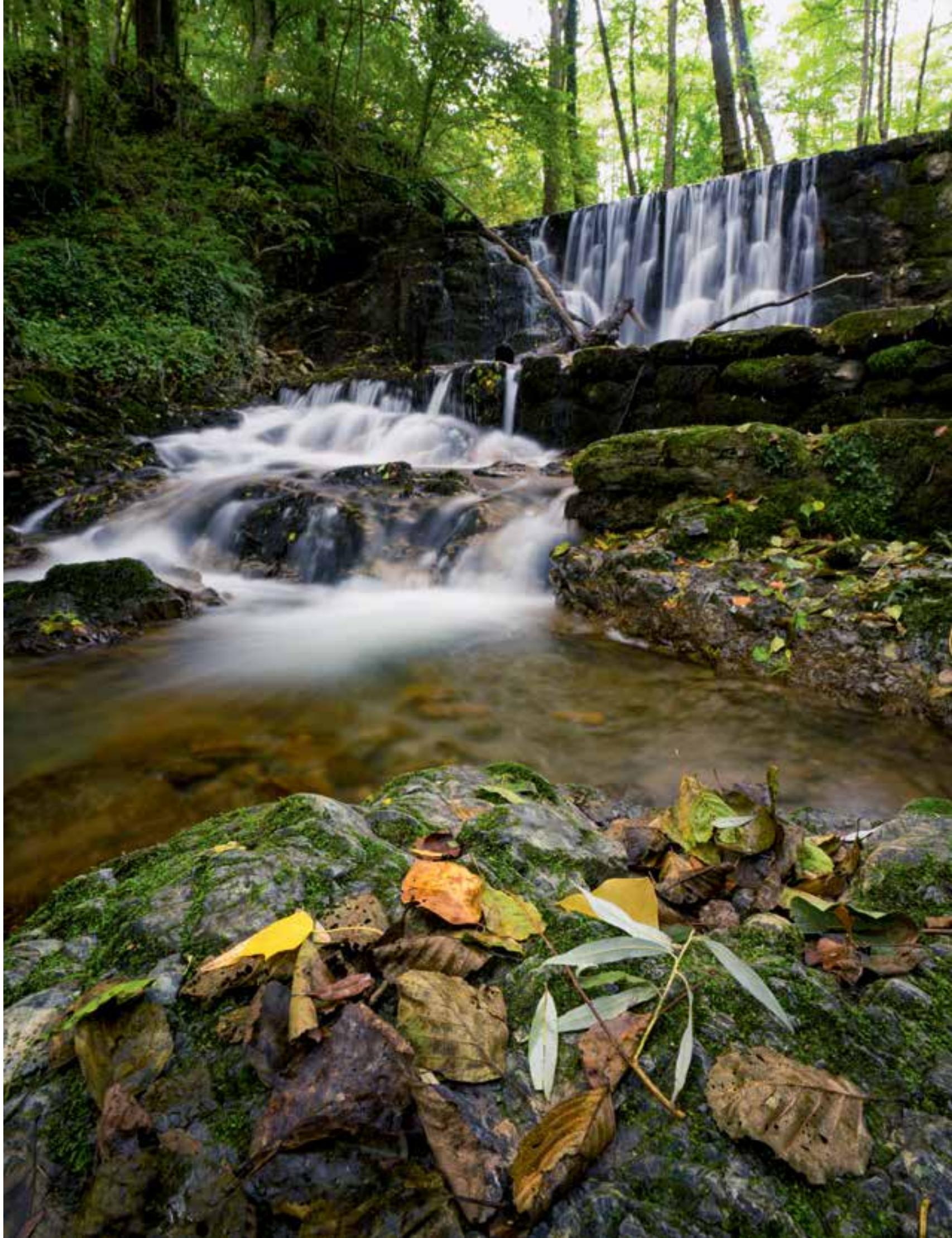
Nature preserved the evidence of those times. Millions of years later, numerous fossil remains tell the story about the ancient marine history of this Slavonian region in the continental part of Croatia.

What used to be islands in the Pannonian Sea are mountains today – and there is no mountain in Slavonia more beautiful than Papuk. In the lowlands of that region, peaks ranging up to one thousand meters above sea level seem like true giants.

Papuk is the first and the only UNESCO Global Geopark in Croatia. It contains rock formations that are remarkably interesting from a geological standpoint. Some rocks are over 400 million years old, and they belong to the oldest rocks in Croatia. The mountain is built of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks; it is believed that parts of the Tisza tectonic plate located at Papuk constitute the most valuable geological phenomenon in the Pannonian basin. The first Croatian geological monument of nature, called Rupnica, is located on the mountain.

Rupnica is a phenomenon that was formed by a volcano. It is a natural mosaic of rocks resembling enormous steps made of piled stone pillars, and a unique phenomenon in global terms. The geological importance





Papuk je jedinstven i zbog lokaliteta Svinjarevac. Pozornost privlači neobičnom crvenom bojom mahovina. Do sada je utvrđeno iznimno i na nacionalnoj razini jedinstveno bogatstvo mahovina; 52 vrste, ali i lišaja.

gotovo svi predstavnici srednjoeuropske faune. Guste šume Papuka stanište su i utočište jelena, srna, divljih svinja, lisica i kuna. Šumsko je tlo prekriveno travnjacima koji su vapnenački i suhi. Flora je bogata i specifična – nalazimo rijetke vrste poput orhideje muhine kokice (*Ophrys insectifera*), malog kaćuna (*Orchis tridentata*) te panonske djeteline (*Trifolium pannonicum*). Područje Turjak – Mališćak – Pliš – Lapjak obuhvaća izolirana staništa kontinentalnog krša s pojedinačnim otvorenim travnjačkim staništima unutar kojih se razvila specifična, rijetka i ugrožena zeljasta flora s vrstama kao što su modra sasa (*Pulsatilla grandis*), nježna kockavica (*Fritillaria orientalis*), zečica (*Phyteuma orbiculare*) i kavkaski divokozjak (*Doronicum orientale*). Botanički vrlo vrijedno područje Turjaka stanište je najmanjem gušteru u Hrvatskoj – ivanjskom rovašu (*Ablepharus kitaibelii*). Područje Trujaka, Mališćaka, Pliša i Lapjaka stanište je posebne mikroklime, slične primorskoj. U toj klimi rastu panonske šume hrasta medunca i izolirana su staništa kontinentalnog krša, netipična za istočni dio Hrvatske. Još je to jedna "ostavština" Panonskog mora i razlog specifičnosti vrsta.

Vlažnih je travnjaka u odnosu na suhe vrlo malo. No i njihova nezamjetna površina stanište je jednoj od ugroženih vrsta biljaka u Hrvatskoj – plućnoj sirištari (*Gentiana pneumonanthe*), te močvarnom plavcu (*Phengaris alcon alcon*), vrlo ugroženom i strogo zaštićenom leptiru.

Život tog leptira čudesna je priča o složenosti koja privlači brojne istraživače zbog njegovog dolaska samo na vlažna staništa gdje raste njegova biljka hraniteljica, plućna sirištara. Na tim travnjacima žive i mravi roda *Myrmica*. Leptiri jajašca polažu na biljku hraniteljicu, a mravi, privučeni posebnom tekućinom koju izlučuje gusjenica, odvlače je u svoj mravinjak. Kada je odvuku, ponašaju se prema njoj kao prema vlastitim ličinkama, hrane je i čuvaju. Gusjenice u mravinjaku provedu do osam mjeseci, a potom iz mravinjaka izlijeće leptir.

Vlažni travnjački ekosustav danas je u velikoj mjeri ugrožen zbog nestanka tradicionalnih poljoprivrednih aktivnosti koje su se bazirale na košnji i ispaši ovih travnjaka.

Papuk je jedinstven i zbog lokaliteta Svinjarevac. Pozornost privlači neobičnom crvenom bojom mahovina. Naime, još 2009. godine istraživačku pažnju privukao je ovaj lokalitet zbog pronađene neodređene vrste maha tresetara. Do sada je utvrđeno iznimno i na nacionalnoj razini jedinstveno bogatstvo mahovina; 52 vrste, ali i lišaja. Čudesan šumski tepih mahovina prekriva tako papučko tlo. Najznačajnija je vrsta tresetar *Sphagnum quinquefarium*. U Hrvatskoj nije zabilježena šumska zajednica, osim u Svinjarevcu, u kojoj mahovi tresetari dominiraju s bjelogoričnim drvećem.

Vode Papuka su živopisne i dinamične. Planinski potoci dom su specifičnim ribljim vrstama, vodozemcima, gmazovima i vodenim beskralješnjacima. Bistra i hladna voda potoka stanište je potočne mrene (*Barbus balcanicus*) i autohtone potočne pstravke (*Salmo trutta*) koja se tu i prirodno mrijeti.

Ovdje živi i ugrožena populacija riječnog raka (*Astacus astacus*), kornjače te više vrsta žaba. Vidre (*Lutra lutra*) ponekad posjećuju papučke potoke. Vodenkos (*Cinclus cinclus*) je neobična ptica koja zaranja i hoda dnem potoka, tražeći vodene kukce, a uz nju i gorske potoke, stanište je pronašla i gorska pastirica (*Motacilla cinerea*).

Papuk is also unique for its site named Svinjarevac, attracting attention with the unusual red color of its mosses. In general, the Park is characterized by an extraordinary abundance of mosses, including 52 moss species, but it also abounds in lichen species, making the area unique at the national level.

of the Rupnica locality lies in its unique morphology of volcanic rocks, with their square, pentagonal, hexagonal and other regular forms of prismatic pillars created by the geological process of columnar jointing. Educational trail is available for tours through the area. Among many sites on offer, it is worth taking a look at the Trešnjevica quarry, only several kilometers away from Rupnica. The sight leaves the visitor breathless, with an open view into the inside of Papuk revealing the heart of the mountain.

Papuk is characterized by endless forest cover, predominantly beech forests. Almost the entire Central European fauna is represented on the mountain. Dense forests of Papuk are a habitat and shelter for red deer, roe deer, wild boar, fox and marten.

The forest soil is covered by dry limestone grasslands. The flora is rich and specific, including rare species such as the fly orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*), three-toothed orchid (*Orchis tridentata*) and Pannonian clover (*Trifolium pannonicum*).

The area Turjak – Mališćak – Pliš – Lapjak includes isolated habitats of continental karst with individual open grassland habitats. Specific, rare and endangered herbaceous flora grows in the area, such as the greater pasque flower (*Pulsatilla grandis*), gentle snake's head (*Fritillaria orientalis*), round-headed rampion (*Phyteuma orbiculare*), and leopards bane (*Doronicum orientale*). A botanically highly valuable area of Turjak is the habitat of the smallest lizard in Croatia – the snake-eyed skink (*Ablepharus kitaibelii*). The habitat of the area of Turjak, Mališćak, Pliš and Lapjak enjoys a special microclimate, similar to the climate of littoral areas. It enables the growth of Pannonian forests of pubescent oak, as isolated habitats of continental karst not typical for the eastern part of Croatia. It is yet another legacy of the Pannonian Sea, and a reason why species have a special character here.

There are very few wet grasslands, as opposed to dry grasslands. However, even the existing negligible surface of wet grasslands provides habitat to one of the endangered plant species in Croatia: marsh gentian (*Gentiana pneumonanthe*). Alcon blue (*Phengaris alcon alcon*), a critically endangered and strictly protected butterfly, can also be found in the area.

The life of that butterfly is amazingly complex, and it attracts many researchers due to the fact that it can be found only in wet habitats that include marsh gentian, the plant crucial for the butterfly's feeding. Ants of the genus *Myrmica* are also present in these grasslands. Butterflies lay eggs on the plant that feeds them, and the ants, attracted by a special fluid secreted by the caterpillar, take it to their anthill. Once there, the ants treat the caterpillar as one of their own larvae, feeding and cleaning it. Caterpillar remains in the anthill for up to eight months, and then a butterfly flies out of it.

Today, the wet grassland ecosystem is threatened to a large degree, due to the disappearance of traditional agricultural activities based on mowing and grazing.

Papuk is also unique for its site named Svinjarevac, attracting attention with the unusual red color of its mosses. In general, the Park is characterized by an extraordinary abundance of mosses, including 52 moss species, but it also abounds in lichen species, making the area unique at the national level.

Papuk waters are intriguing and dynamic. Mountain creeks are home



Iz Parka prirode Papuk ne odlazi se bez posjeta park-šumi Jankovac. I prije nego što je Papuk proglašen Parkom prirode, Jankovac je bio zaštićen prirodni rezervat – park-šuma. Ime je dobio po Josipu Jankoviću, pripadniku slavonske vlastelinske obitelji Janković. Skladna prirodna cjelina sastoji se od doline, obronaka obraslih šumom, potoka, umjetnih jezera koje je napravio Josip pl. Janković. Na kraju doline je 35 metara visok slap Skakavac.

Iznad izvora potoka je špilja koju je isti Janković uredio za svoju grobnicu. Želja mu je ispunjena i 1861. godine tamo je i pokopan.

U osamnaestom je stoljeću tu bila i staklana, jer su bujne bukove šume omogućavale njezin rad. Jedna od sirovina za dobivanje stakla bio je pepeo nastao izgaranjem bukve, uz kvarc i vapno.

Papuk je slavonski planinski raj. Guste šume panonske bukve ovdje zrak čine neprestano svježim i odmaraju ga od vrućine koja ga grije na slavonskim nizinama. Prostor za istraživače i znalce – izazovan i skrovit. Njegovu geološku priču mogu iščitavati samo poznavatelji

to specific fish species, amphibians, reptiles and aquatic invertebrates. Clear and cold creek water is habitat of the southern barbel (*Barbus balcanicus*) and the autochthonous brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), which also spawns in this area.

The endangered population of the European crayfish (*Astacus astacus*), turtles and several frog species also live here. Otters (*Lutra lutra*) sometimes visit the creeks of Papuk as well. White-throated dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*) is an unusual bird diving and walking on the bottom of the creek, looking for aquatic insects. The gray wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) also found its habitat here, in the vicinity of mountain creeks.

It would be wrong to leave the Papuk Nature Park without visiting the park forest of Jankovac. This area used to be a park forest and a protected natural reserve even before Papuk was proclaimed a Nature Park. The park forest got its name after Josip Janković, a member of the noble Slavonian family of Janković. This harmonious part of nature consists of a valley, forest on the surrounding slopes, creeks and artificial lakes



Rupnica je fenomen nastao iz vulkana. Prirodni mozaik stijena poslaganih poput ogromnih kamenih stupova koji su posloženi poput stepenica. Jedinstveni fenomen u svjetskim razmjerima. Geološka je važnost Rupnice u jedinstvenoj morfološkoj pojavnosti vulkanskih stijena koje su stupastim lučenjem stvorile pravilne četverokutne, peterokutne, šesterokutne i slične pravilne, kao izlivene oblike.

geologije. Za njih je to prostor beskrajne znatiželje i neispričanih dijelova geološke i druge povijesti. I arheolozi imaju vrijedne razloge dolaska na Papuk. Park prirode Papuk svjetski je važno nalazište halštatske kulture. Naime, tijekom starijeg željeznog doba (750.-300. pr. Krista) na južnim obroncima Papuka bila su mnoga naselja o čemu svjedoče brojni nalazi halštatske kulture. U grobovima bogatih kneževa pronađene su urne – keramičke posude crne boje, uglavnom premazane slojem grafita i ukrašene životinjskim rogovima. Takve svjedoče o bogatstvu i moći papučkih kneževa. Pronađeni dijelovi ratničke opreme svjedoče o povezanosti s Grčkom, razvijenom kulturom i gospodarstvom. U svežini papučkih šuma ostaci su sedam starih gradova. Većina tih utvrda potjeće iz 13. stoljeća kada je nadirala turska vojska. Posebno su atraktivne ruševine golemog drevnog grada, Ružica grada. Ni danas se ne zna tko je njezin graditelj i kto je uspio dovući teške kamene blokove na 374 metara visine. Ružica grad je najveća utvrda u sjevernoj Hrvatskoj i prostire se na osam tisuća četvornih metara. Kako je njezin nastanak obavljen nepoznanicama, a nepoznanice s vremenom postaju tajne, a tajne odgovor traže u legendama, tako je stvorena i ona o Ružica gradu. I kaže kako je tu nekoć bilo vilinsko okupljaliste gdje su se spravljali čarobni napici.

No, jedan je velmoža upravo na tom mjestu odlučio podići grad. Vile su bile užasnute u što se pretvara njihovo okupljaliste pa su svojim čarolijama kvarile graditeljske planove velmože. Kako bi se gradilo, tako bi vilinskim čarolijama bivalo i porušeno. Što su graditelji obdan sagradili, obnoć su vile srušile. Pobjeđnjeli velmoža odlučio je oko gradilišta razapeti mrežu. U nju se, svojom vilinskom kosom, zaplela najljepša vila – Ružica. Za opomenu svim vilama, velmoža je Ružicu sazidao u temelje svojega grada. No, vilinsko prokletstvo nije time prestalo. Baš kada su trublje objavile završetak gradnje, odronio se kamen i usmratio velmožu – i njegovo ime. A Ružičino i danas imenom stare utvrde živi. Na strmoj sjeni, opkoljen svježinom papučke šume, stoji tako Ružica grad. Kruna Papuka. Svjedok neispričanog vremena. Park prirode Papuk nudi užitak otkrivanja planine i slapa u Slavoniji. Za dolazak je potrebna samo želja jer je prostor pitom i ugostit će vas i bez posebne opreme i vještina. Slavonija je i u svojim iznenađenjima uvijek prvo i prije svega – dobar domaćin.

Rupnica is a phenomenon that was formed by a volcano. It is a natural mosaic of rocks resembling enormous steps made of piled stone pillars, and a unique phenomenon in global terms. The geological importance of the Rupnica locality lies in its unique morphology of volcanic rocks, with their square, pentagonal, hexagonal and other regular forms of prismatic pillars created by the geological process of columnar jointing.

made by Josip Janković. At the end of the valley, one comes across the 35-meter high Skakavac cascade.

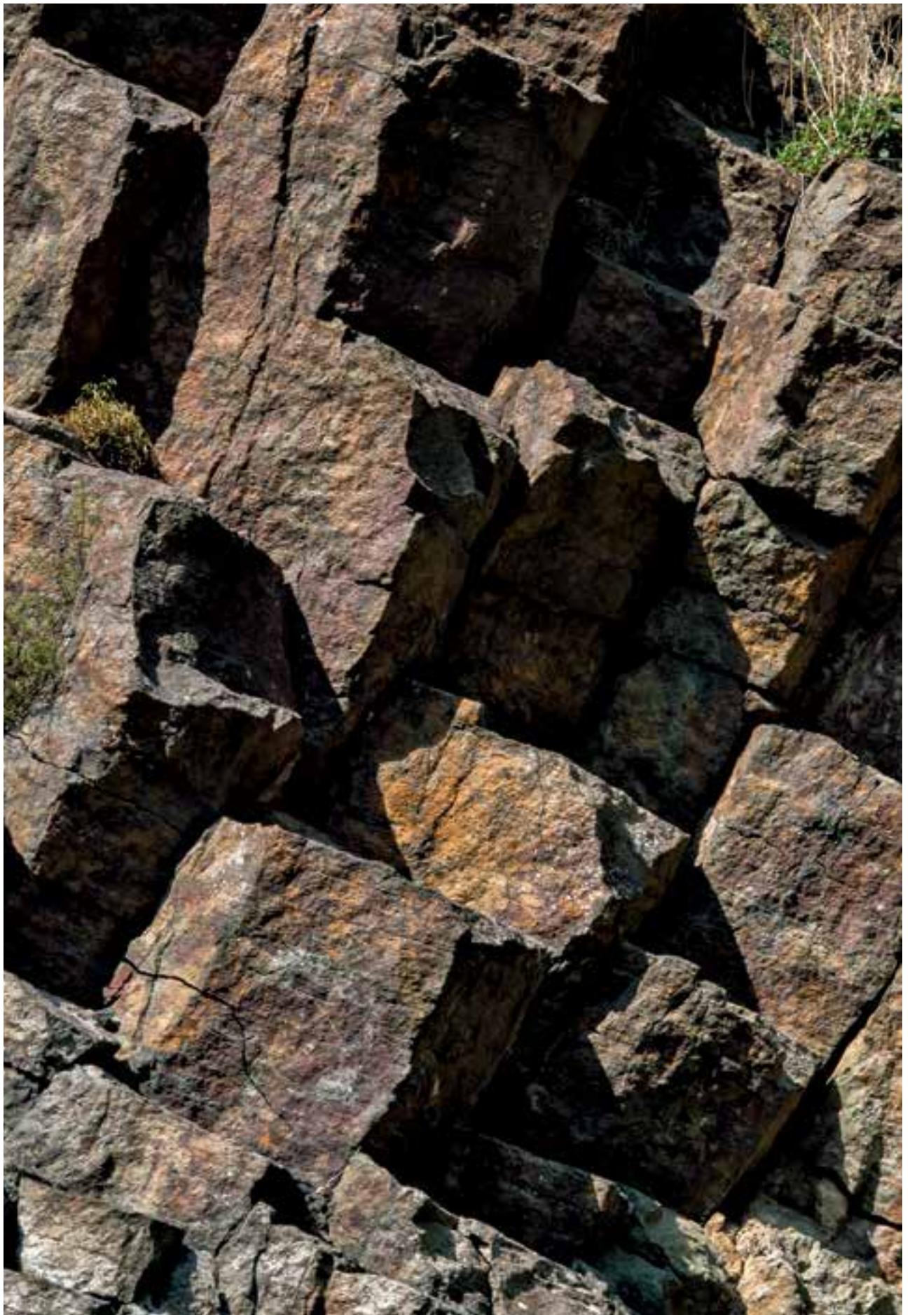
Above the source of the creek, there is a cave that Josip Janković prepared for his burial site. His wish was respected, and he was buried there in 1861.

In the eighteenth century, glassworks operated here as well, the fertile beech forests enabling its work. One of the raw materials for glass was ash obtained by the combustion of beech, combined with quartz and lime.

Papuk is a mountain paradise of Slavonia. Dense Pannonian beech forests make the air constantly fresh here, guarding the area against the heat of the Slavonian plains. It is a wonderful place for researchers and connoisseurs – challenging and hidden. Its geological story can be examined only by those skilled in geology. For them, this is an area of endless curiosity and untold stories about geological history and history in general. Archeologists have plenty of reasons to come to Papuk too. Papuk Nature Park is a world-renowned site of Hallstatt culture. In the early Iron Age (750-300 B.C.), there were many settlements on the southern slopes of Papuk, as witnessed by a number of findings of Hallstatt culture. Urns were discovered in the graves of rich headmen – black ceramic vessels, typically painted by a layer of graphite, and decorated by animal horns. They speak of the wealth and power of the ancient leaders of Papuk. Discovered parts of warrior gear point to links with Ancient Greece, a developed culture and economy. The freshness of Papuk forests hides the remains of seven ancient cities. Most of the fortresses stem from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the period of incursions of the Ottoman army. Ruins of a huge ancient city Ružica grad are particularly attractive. Even today, it remains unknown who the builder was, and who managed to bring heavy stone blocks to the altitude of 374 meters. Ružica grad is the biggest fortress in the northern part of Croatia, with the surface of eight thousand square meters. Since the way how it was built remains unknown, and the unknown eventually turns into a secret, and secrets reveal themselves in legends – one legend was also created about Ružica grad. According to it, this place used to be a meeting point of fairies, where magic potions were made.

However, one nobleman decided to build a city right on that spot. Fairies, horrified at this threat to their meeting place, used their magic in order to ruin the nobleman's construction plans. Whatever was built they destroyed by magic. What the builders would build during the day, fairies would bring down overnight. Angered by this, the nobleman decided to erect a net around the construction site. The hair of the most beautiful fairy – Ružica – got entangled in the net, and she was caught. As a warning to all the fairies, the nobleman built Ružica into the foundations of his city. However, the fairy curse did not end there. Just as the trumpets announced the completion of construction, a stone slid down and killed the nobleman – ending his lineage. Ružica's name, on the other hand, still lives in the name of the old fort. And so Ružica grad still stands on a steep rock, surrounded by the freshness of the Papuk forest. It is the crown of Papuk. A witness of untold times.

Papuk Nature Park offers the pleasure of discovering both the mountains and the cascades of Slavonia. A simple wish to travel is all you need to come here, because the area is gentle, and does not require special equipment or skills. Even in its surprises, Slavonia is, first and foremost, a good host.





**Svjetski važno  
nalazište  
halštatske kulture**

A world-renowned site  
of Hallstatt culture

**Jedini hrvatski  
UNESCO svjetski  
geopark omređen  
sa sedam  
srednjovjekovnih  
utvrda**

The only Croatian UNESCO  
Global Geopark, its borders  
marked by seven medieval  
fortresses

**Stanište leptira  
močvarnog plavca čiju  
gusjenicu čuvaju mravi,  
a leptir u život polijeće  
iz mravinjaka**

Habitat of alcon blue, a  
butterfly species whose  
caterpillars are guarded by  
ants, with butterflies flying  
into life from anthill

**Usred planine  
nalazi se i  
35-metarski slap  
Skakavac**

In the middle of the  
mountain lies the  
35-meter high cascade  
Skakavac

**Rupnica, u svjetskim  
razmjerima rijedak  
fenomen vulkanskih  
stijena koje izgledaju  
kao stupovi**

Rupnica is a phenomenon  
of volcanic rocks that  
resemble pillars, and a rare  
occurrence in global terms

# NACIONALNI PARK PLITVIČKA JEZERA

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Plitvička Jezera  
National Park

*Jezerski vrtovi povezani slapovima i zagrljeni gorskim šumama. Plitvička jezera – veličanstveno i dinamično lice prirode koje se neprestano transformira. Iako znanost nudi neupitan odgovor nastanka Plitvičkih jezera i sedrenih barijera, voda je u kršu uvijek za ljude imala mitska obilježja. Tako legenda kaže da se nakon dugotrajne suše Crna Kraljica smilovala kršu i spustila silnu kišu na tlo, a zaostala je voda stvorila jezera.*

Lake gardens connected by cascades and hugged by mountain forests. Plitvice Lakes represent a majestic and dynamic face of nature in constant transformation. Science may be clear about the origin of Plitvice Lakes and tufa barriers, but water has always had mythical characteristics for people in karst regions as well. According to legend, following a long drought, the Black Queen took mercy on the karst and let tremendous rain fall on the ground, with the remaining water creating the lakes.





## PRELIJEVAJUĆA IGRA VODE, ZELENILA I KAMENA

Samo život može na takav način spojiti kamen, vodu i šumu. Ljepša od bilo kojeg opisa, živopisnija od najbolje fotografije, začudnija od bilo kakvog videozapisa – samo dolazak na Plitvička jezera može ostaviti puni dojam ljepote koja se nalazi na popisu svjetski najpoznatijih imena prirodnih ljepota. Najimpozantnijih. Najočuvanijih. Najposebnijih. Među prvima su Plitvička jezera stavljeni na UNESCO-ov Popis svjetske prirodne i kulturne baštine. Najstariji su nacionalni park u Hrvatskoj. Šesnaest većih, imenovanih, i znatan broj malih jezera kaskadno su povezani slapovima. Visinska razlika između prvoga jezera, Prošćanskog, i posljednjeg jezera u nizu, Novakovića Broda, iznosi 134 metara. Najveću količinu vode jezerima donose Crna i Bijela rijeka koje se spajaju u rijeku Maticu čije vode dotječu u Prošćansko jezero. Jezera se dijele na Gornja smještena na dolomitnoj podlozi, i Donja usječena u vapnenačkom kanjonu. Tako ih je narod nazvao, tako ih je podijelio. Gornja jezera čini 12 jezera, među kojima dva najveća jezera sustava, Kozjak i Prošćansko, na Donja jezera otpada tek manji dio jezerske površine i predstavljena su sa četiri jezera.

Kako je nastala ovakva ljepota, koja je tajna prirode na ovome u svijetu jedinstvenom geološkom i hidrološkom području?

Znanost otkriva kako su za nastanak najzaslužnije bakterije, alge i mahovine. Klimatski uvjeti i mjesta intenzivnog prozračivanja vode stvaraju povoljne uvjete za život tih organizama. Ako voda koja pristiže u sebi nosi dovoljno otopljenog kalcijevog karbonata, što nije rijetka pojava u krškim krajevima, takav se kalcijev karbonat uz pomoć algi, bakterija i mahovine zadržava i učvršćuje na površini već nastalih sedrenih barijera i na biljnoj vegetaciji u jezerima.

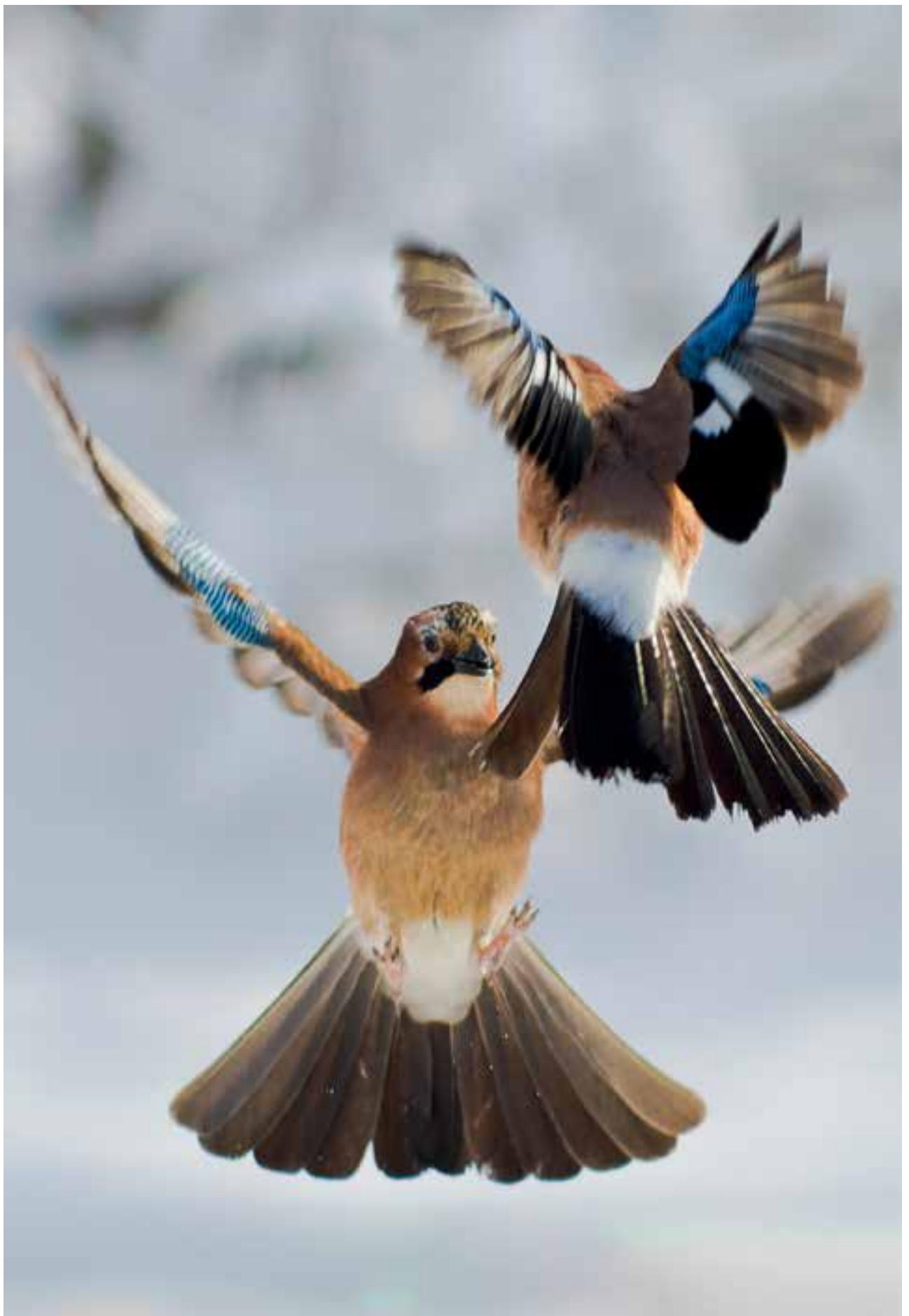
Tako nastaje sedra, bigar ili travertin. Tijekom vremena iz vode se taloži

## CASCADING PLAY OF WATER, VEGETATION AND STONE

Only life can bring together stone, water and forest in this manner. The area is more beautiful than any description, more vivid than any photograph, and more surprising than any video – it is only by visiting the Plitvice Lakes, that one can fully experience this beauty which found its way into the World Heritage List. The Lakes belong to the most impressive, most conserved and most special places in the world. The area of Plitvice Lakes became part of the UNESCO World Heritage List very early on, and it is the oldest National Park in Croatia.

Sixteen named larger lakes and many smaller ones are connected by cascades. The altitude difference between the first lake of Prošćansko and the last lake of Novakovića brod is 134 meters. Rivers Crna and Bijela bring most of the incoming water to the lakes, merging into the Matica River prior to entering Prošćansko Lake. The lake system is divided into the upper and lower lakes; the upper lakes lie on dolomite layers, while the lower lakes are cut into a limestone canyon. That is how people once divided and named the lakes. The upper part of the lake system consists of twelve lakes, including two largest lakes of the system, Kozjak and Prošćansko. The lower part of Plitvice Lakes represents a smaller portion of the total lake surface, with four lakes in that part of the system.

How did this beauty come about? What secret of nature should we thank for this geological and hydrological phenomenon unique in the world? According to science, bacteria, algae and mosses have been crucial for the creation of cascades. Favorable climate conditions, coupled with localities marked by intensive water aeration, create favorable conditions for life of these organisms. When the incoming water contains a sufficient quantity of dissolved calcium carbonate, which is not a rare occurrence in karst areas, this calcium carbonate ends up



Jedan slap na jezerima različit je od svih ostalih.

To je slap visok 78 m i ujedno najviši u Hrvatskoj, a razlikuje se postankom i izgledom od ostalih. On jedini ne dolazi iz jezera i ne pada u jezero.

kalcijev karbonat, slaže poput malih kristala na dno i na te biljke te tako nastaju i pregrade u riječnom koritu koje slojevito rastu stvarajući uzvodno jezera. Zato su Plitvička jezera nastala u tom specifičnom fizikalno-kemijskom i biodinamičkom procesu. Proces je neprestan, jezera se stalno mijenjaju, postoje potopljene barijere u jezerima, kao i one koje će tek izrasti i izdignuti se izvan vodene površine. Sedra aktivno raste između jedan i tri centimetra godišnje. Stoga je izgled Plitvičkih jezera u sadašnjosti uvek samo trenutak u njegovoj budućoj povijesti.

Plitvička jezera i slapovi vrlo su mlade tvorevine. Neka od današnjih slapišta nisu starija od 4000 godina. Smatra se da su jezera u ovom obliku nastala prije 12 000 do 15 000 godina. Također je u nastajanju ovog sustava kakvim ga danas vidimo važan utjecaj klime, odnosno spoznaja da su sedrene barijere rasle i bile aktivne u međuledenim dobima geološke prošlosti Zemlje. Na Plitvičkim jezerima pronađena je i sedra starija od 300 000 godina, što upućuje na negdašnje barijere i vrijeme kada je temperatura bila povoljna za njezino stvaranje.

Topla su razdoblja pogodna za obilnije taloženje kalcijevog karbonata, odnosno nastanak sedre. U hladnim se razdobljima sedra razara. Mekana je i šupljikava i zamrzavanje vode uzrokuje pucanje i uništavanje sedre.

Jedan slap na jezerima različit je od svih ostalih. To je slap visok 78 m i ujedno najviši u Hrvatskoj, a razlikuje se postankom i izgledom od ostalih. On jedini ne dolazi iz jezera i ne pada u jezero. Voda koja dotječe na slap potjeće od potoka Plitvica i obrušava se svom objedinjenom snagom niz okomitu vapnenačku stijenu, dok većina plitvičkih slapova raspoređuje svoju snagu u razgranati pad. Ispod posljednjeg jezera, Novakovića Broda, nastaju slapovi Sastavci. Voda koja se skuplja u podnožju ovih slapova i voda koja dotjeće s Velikog slapa, rađa rijeku Koranu koja dalje nastavlja svoj put pregrađena nekolicinom slapova i prolazeći kroz kanjon vapnenačkih stijena.

Plitvička su jezera smještena na istoku Like, između Male Kapele i Ličke Plješivice. Obgrljena su šumom i nisu na visokoj nadmorskoj visini pa su u potpunosti uklopljena u gorski krajolik.

Pomisao na Nacionalni park Plitvička jezera prije svega su – jezera, koja i jesu najatraktivniji fenomen. Zaštićena površina Parka daleko je veća i prostire se na gotovo tristotinjak četvornih kilometara. Da bi se jezerski fenomen očuvao, potrebno je bilo zaštiti njegovo okruženje i slivno područje.

Vodene veze u kršu su i podzemne i nadzemne. Šuma je veliki "regulator" plitvičkih voda. U vlažnim razdobljima zadržava vodu, a u sušnim "sačuvanu" raspoređuje kako bi se život opskrbio nezamjenjivim elementom, vodom.

Šume na Plitvičkim jezerima u redu su najočuvanijih šuma i prisutno je čak 11 šumskih zajednica. Čorkova uvala najočuvaniji je prirodni kompleks šume u parku. Na osamdeset hektara velikoj površini zabilježena je netaknuta prašumska struktura jelovo-bukove šume na nadmorskoj visini do 1028 metara. Stabla se tamo propinju uvis i preko pedeset metara: impozantno je naći se podno tih gorostasa.

Najpoznatiji šumski stanovnik zasigurno je smeđi medvjed (*Ursus arctos*). Njegovo kretanje godinama je predmet pažnje i praćenja tako da znamo da redovito napušta granice Parka. Zaštićena je vrsta, kao i vuk.

One particular cascade on the Lakes is different from all the other cascades. It is 78 meters high – the highest waterfall of Croatia – and its origin and appearance are also special. It is the only cascade that does not originate in a lake, and does not end in a lake.

retained and attached to the surface of already existing *tufa* barriers and vegetation in the lakes, with the help of bacteria, algae and mosses. This process results in *tufa*. Over time, calcium carbonate settles on the bottom and on plants in the form of small crystals, with layers of barriers slowly growing on the river bed, creating lakes in the upstream part of the course. Plitvice Lakes are the result of this specific physical, chemical and biodynamic process. The process itself is continuous, and the lakes are constantly changing. There are barriers submerged in the lakes, and those that will eventually grow and rise above the water surface. *Tufa* is actively growing by one to three centimeters per year.

In other words, the present appearance of Plitvice Lakes is merely a moment of their future history.

Plitvice Lakes and cascades are very young. Some of the current cascades are no older than four thousand years, and it is believed that the lake system obtained its current form 12,000 to 15,000 years ago. Climate has played a major role in the creation of this system – *tufa* barriers were active and growing in interglacial periods of geological history of the Earth. *Tufa* older than 300,000 years has been found in Plitvice Lakes as well, pointing to the long-term nature of the process, and the major role that temperature plays in it.

Warm periods are favorable for more intensive sedimentation of calcium carbonate and the creation of *tufa*. In cold periods, *tufa* is being destroyed. It is soft and porous, which is why ice results in the breaking and disintegration of *tufa*.

One particular cascade on the Lakes is different from all the other cascades. It is 78 meters high – the highest waterfall of Croatia – and its origin and appearance are also special. It is the only cascade that does not originate in a lake, and does not end in a lake. The incoming water comes from the creek of Plitvice, falling with all its force down a vertical limestone rock. Most of the other Plitvice cascades fall gradually and in branches of connected cascades, such as the Sastavci cascades under the last lake in the system, Novakovića brod. Water at the bottom of these cascades, together with water coming from the cascade of Veliki slap, gives birth to the Korana River, which continues its flow over several further cascades, passing through its limestone rock canyon.

Plitvice Lakes are located in the eastern part of the region of Lika, between the mountains of Mala Kapela and Plješivica. They are covered by forest, and, due to a relatively low altitude, fully immersed in the mountain landscape.

When one thinks of the Plitvička jezera National Park, the first thing that comes to mind are the lakes – as the most attractive phenomenon of the Park. However, the total protected surface is much larger than the lakes themselves, expanding to almost three hundred square kilometers. In order to preserve the lake phenomenon, it was important to preserve its environment and the basin area as well.

Waters in the karst – both groundwater and surface waters – are interconnected. Forests act as a major "regulator" of Plitvice waters. In wet periods, they retain water, and in dry periods, they distribute "conserved" water, thus supplying local nature and life with that essential element.

Forests in the area of Plitvice Lakes are very well preserved, with as many as eleven forest communities. The locality of Čorkova uvala is the



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Plitvička šuma neprocjenjivo je utočište zvijerima. Rijetka vidra također obitava upravo ovdje. U vodama se nalaze riječni rak (*Astacus astacus*) i potočna pastrva (*Salmo trutta fario*). Flora je također zaštićena, među ostalim i brojne vrste orhideja – čak ih je šezdesetak vrsta, među kojima i gospina papučica (*Cypripedium calceolus*). S obzirom na to da su jezera smještena u krškom kraju, uz krške fenomene ponikve ili vrtače, tu su lame i špilje. U vaspnenačkom dijelu Plitvičkih jezera i u kanjonu Korane nalazimo Crnu pećinu i pećinu Vile Jezerkinje.

U skladu sa zaštićenim područjem Parka, u njegovim granicama, živi lokalno stanovništvo u karakterističnim, razbacanim selima dinarskog tipa. Tradicijsko nasljeđe lokalnih ljudi vidljivo je kroz mlinice u Parku i u pokojoj pili za drvo na vodenim pogonima.

Većina će izabrati ljeto za posjet Plitvičkim jezerima kada ona buče snagom vode i moći obrušavajućih slapova. Plitvička su lica nezaboravna bez obzira na kalendarsko razdoblje. Ne postoji najbolji trenutak za posjet Nacionalnom parku Plitvička jezera jer su mijenjajuća lica prirode nepromjenjiva u svojoj ljepoti. Paleta jesenskih boja u svim nijansama ogleda se u jezerima i za mnoge je jesen na Plitvičkim jezerima nezaboravna. Zima je fascinantna. U ledu zaustavljena snaga slapova, tišina ledenih livada ispod kojih je jezerska voda. Zadivljujući pejzaž nebrojenih siga.

Nekoć, na prvim kartama iz 17. stoljeća, cijeli je plitvički kraj bio označen nazivom "Vražji vrtal". U puku isti nije poznat, a kako je prostor povjesno bio nemirna granica prema Osmanlijskom Carstvu, za prepostaviti je da je naziv u skladu s tom činjenicom. Prvu riječ tog naziva danas je progutala povijest. Ostao je vrt kaskadnih jezera. Prekrasna vodena povorka koju možete pratiti šetajući izgrađenim stazama koje ne remete život jezera i stvaranje sedre, tog osjetljivog graditelja koji ostavlja impozantno prirodno graditeljstvo. Kojom god stazom zašli na Plitvička jezera, valja zadržati svijest da ste počašćeni prolaziti kroz najdojmljiviju kršku cjelinu u svijetu. Gost ste jednog od najvrednijih svjetskih zaštićenih područja.

Forests in the area of Plitvička jezera are very well preserved, with as many as eleven forest communities. The locality of Čorkova uvala is the best-preserved forest complex in the Park. It is a pristine virgin fir and beech forest covering eighty hectares of land up to 1,028 meters above sea level. Trees rise over fifty meters high, and finding oneself under these giants is a truly special experience.

Undoubtedly, the best-known inhabitant of the forests is the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*). Research on migrations of this species has been ongoing for quite a while, so today we know that bears regularly leave the boundaries of the Park. Brown bear is a protected species, just like the wolf. The forests of Plitvice are a priceless sanctuary to carnivores. Otter is yet another rare species that lives in the area of Plitvice Lakes. The European crayfish (*Astacus astacus*) can also be found in the waters of Plitvice, as well as the brown trout (*Salmo trutta fario*). The flora is also protected, including numerous orchid species – as many as sixty of them, including the lady's slipper orchid (*Cypripedium calceolus*). Given the fact that the lakes are located in a karst environment, the area includes karst phenomena such as dolines and sinkholes, as well as pits and caves – like the caves of Crna pećina and Vile jezerkinje, located in the limestone part of Plitvice Lakes and in the canyon of the Korana River.

The local population within the boundaries of the Park lives in characteristic, scattered Dinaric villages, in harmony with the protection granted to the area. The traditional heritage of the locals is reflected in water mills in the Park, and in occasional water-powered sawmills.

Most visitors will choose the summer for their visit to Plitvička jezera – a time when the area bursts with the power of water, marked by the might of the diving cascades. The faces of Plitvice are unforgettable regardless of the season, however. There is no single best time of year to visit the Plitvička jezera National Park, because the changing faces of nature never lose their beauty. Come autumn, the entire palette of that season is reflected in the lakes, in all of its hues, providing an unforgettable experience to those who visit the Park in that season. Winter is fascinating too. The power of cascades is frozen in ice, and icy lake meadows with water still alive underneath create an impressive landscape sprinkled by icicles.

A few hundred years ago, on the first maps of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the entire area of Plitvice was referred to as the "Devil's Garden". There are no indications that it was an old folk name for Plitvice; however, as the area used to be a turbulent frontier with the Ottoman Empire back in those times, one can assume that the origin of the name is based on that specific historical fact. The first word of that old name has been swallowed by history. What remains is the Garden – one full of cascades and lakes. It is a magnificent show of water, on display to visitors who can observe it up close as they walk along the well-built paths that do not disturb the life of the lakes and the creation of *tufa*, that sensitive builder leaving amazing natural constructions behind it. Whichever path you take through Plitvička jezera, do remember that you have the honor of passing through the most impressive karst phenomenon in the world. You are a welcome guest of one of the world's most valuable protected areas.





## Svjetski hidrološki fenomen stvaranja jezera u kršu

Globally relevant hydrological phenomenon of lake creation in the karst

## Sedrene barijere godišnje rastu 1 do 3 cm

Tufa barriers grow one to three centimeters each year

## Plitvički se kraj u prošlosti nazivao "Vražjim vrtlom" zbog granice s Osmanlijskim Carstvom

The area of Plitvice used to be called "Devil's Garden" in the past, due to its border with the Ottoman Empire

## Visinska razlika između prvog jezera, Prošćanskog, i posljednjega, Novakovića Broda, iznosi 134 metra

Altitude difference between the first lake of Prošćansko and the last lake of Novakovića Brod is 134 meters

## Dva najveća i najdublja jezera, Prošćansko i Kozjak, zauzimaju tri četvrtine od svih vodenih površina u parku

Two biggest and deepest lakes, Prošćansko and Kozjak, represent three quarters of the total water surface in the Park



Iz šumskog prostranstva Gorskog kotara izdižu se dva planinska ogoljela masiva – Risnjak i Snježnik. Udaljeni jedan od drugoga samo tri kilometra, kamenim licem o lice gledaju se kao planine blizanci. U najnižim dijelovima Parka na svoj dugi riječni put kreće za mnoge najljepša hrvatska rijeka – Kupa. Risnjak je šumsko kraljevstvo i upravo su mu gустe šumske zajednice osigurale "kartu" za ulazak u društvo nacionalnih parkova.

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In the forest expanses of the region of Gorski kotar, two barren mountain massifs are clearly visible – Risnjak and Snježnik. Only three kilometers apart, they watch one another with their stony faces, as mountain twins of sorts. In the lowest parts of the Park, the river Kupa – for many, the most beautiful Croatian river – starts its long voyage. Risnjak is a forest kingdom, and it is precisely its dense forest communities that have presented the mountain with a "ticket" for entry into the exclusive society of national parks.

# NACIONALNI PARK RISNJAK

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## Risnjak National Park



## BIJELE STIJENE IZDIGNUTE NAD ZELENILOM GORANSKIH ŠUMA

Risnjački je masiv ujednačenijeg krajolika, što se može iščitati iz naziva njegovih vrhova – Sjeverni Mali Risnjak (1434 m) i Južni Mali Risnjak (1248 m). I njihovi su vrhovi bliski susjadi, udaljeni tek 1,8 kilometara. Snježnik, pak, pripada izduženoj gorskoj kosi s nižim vrhovima: Međuvrhi (1460 m), Guslica (1490 m) i Planina (1426 m).

Vidici koji se pružaju s vrhova tih masiva čudesno su mjesto za promatranje Gorskog kotara, Kvarnerskog zaljeva i Alpa u Sloveniji. Gusto i nepregledno zelenilo goranskih šuma osiguralo je Risnjaku ulazak u društvo nacionalnih parkova Hrvatske. Na svega šezdesetak četvornih kilometara četraest je šumskih zajednica, trideset biljnih, a sedamdeset posto površine Parka zona je stroge zaštite.

Priroda je ovdje sama sebi gospodarom. U tišini vlastite mudrosti život je potpuno održiv. Stoga je za znanost i istraživače Risnjak od neprocjenjive vrijednosti jer ovdje istražuju prirodu bez ljudskih tragova.

Najveći je dio Parka, više od polovice, obrastao mještovitom šumom bukve i jele (*Abieti-Fagetum dinaricum*). Obuhvaća visinski pojas od 600 do 1200 metara. Iznad te visine, jele je sve manje, bukve ima, ali znatno manjih dimenzija. To je već pojas preplaninske bukve (*Homogino alpinæ-Fagetum sylvaticæ*). To je prostranstvom druga šumska zajednica u Nacionalnom parku Risnjaku. Uz ove, visinskim granicama određene šumske zajednice, postoje još neke azonalne, razbacane. Takva je "šuma jele s milavom" (*Calamagrosti Abietetum*), poznata i pod nazivom "šuma jele na kamenim blokovima".

Opisivati sve u njihovim osobitostima i punom florističkom opsegu zahtijevalo bi prostor znanstvenoga rada, no ovome nizu dodajmo šumsku zajednicu "jele s rebračom" (*Blechno Abietetum*), šume s paprati koja raste na kiselom tlu u dolini Leske i uz potok Bijela vodica jer

## WHITE ROCKS RISING ABOVE THE GREEN EXPANSE OF GORSKI KOTAR FORESTS

The landscape of the massif of Risnjak is more balanced, which is also reflected in the names of its peaks – Sjeverni Mali Risnjak or "Northern Little Risnjak" (1,434 meters), and Južni Mali Risnjak or "Southern Little Risnjak" (1,248 meters). These peaks are close neighbors too, just 1.8 kilometers apart.

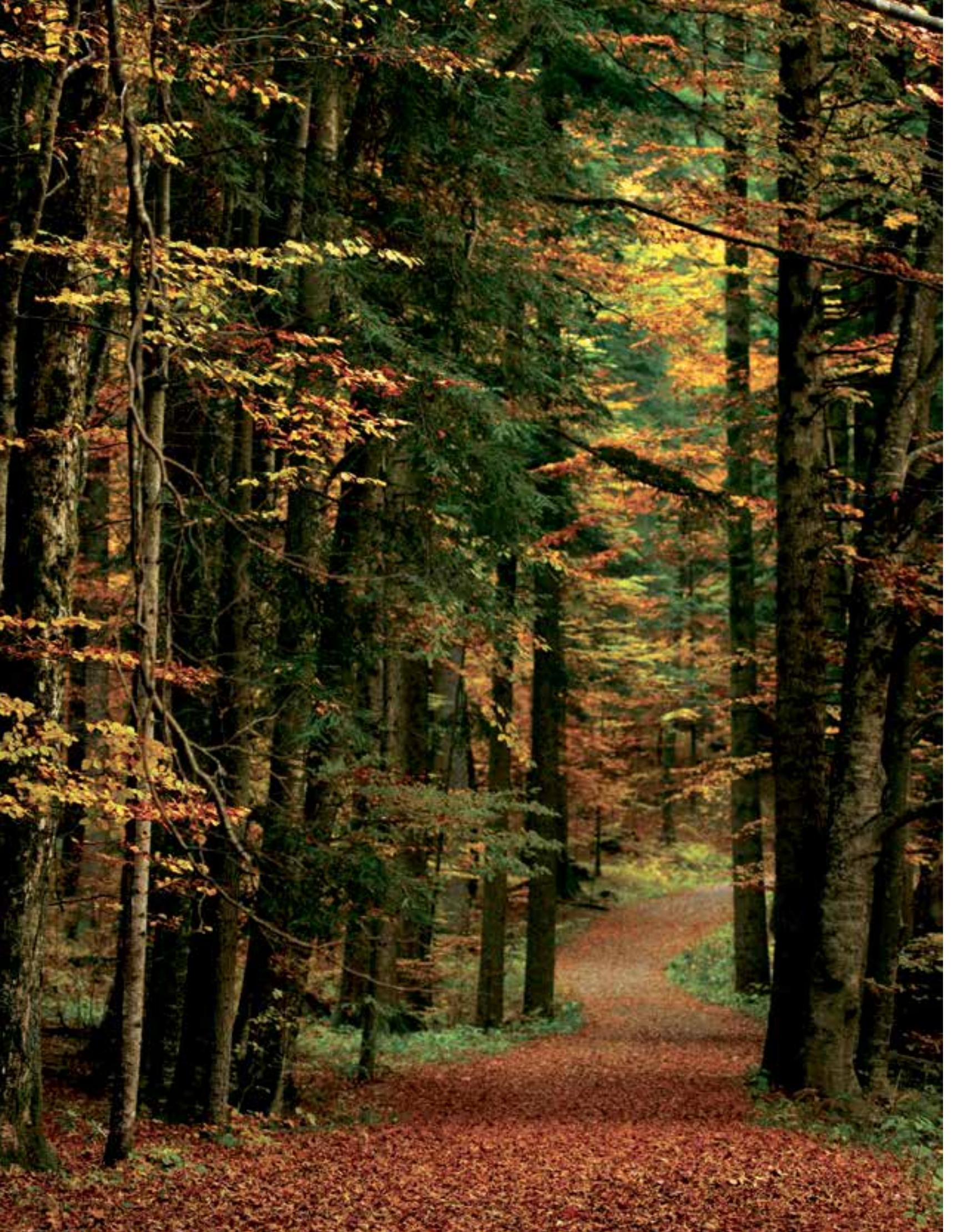
Snježnik, on the other hand, is an elongated mountain spur with lower peaks: Međuvrhi (1,460 meters), Guslica (1,490 meters) and Planina (1,426 meters).

The peaks of these massifs offer amazing sights, and they are a wonderful place to observe the region of Gorski kotar, the Kvarner Bay, and the Alps in Slovenia.

The thick and endless greenness of the forests of Gorski kotar has ensured the entry of Risnjak into the "society" of national parks of Croatia. On the surface of only sixty square kilometers or so, there are fourteen forest communities and thirty plant communities, and seventy percent of the Park's surface is strict protection zone.

The nature here is her own master. In the silence of its own wisdom, life is fully sustainable. In general, for science and researchers, the value of Risnjak is priceless, for this area allows them to examine nature without human traces.

The largest part of the Park, over one half of it, is covered by a mixed forest of beech and fir (*Abieti-Fagetum dinaricum*) in the altitude span of 600 to 1,200 meters. Above that altitude, there is less and less fir, and while beech is still present up to an extent, the dimensions of trees are significantly smaller. We have already entered the belt of subalpine beech forest with alpine coltsfoot (*Homogino alpinæ-Fagetum sylvaticæ*), the second-biggest forest community in terms of territorial distribution



Vidici koji se pružaju s vrhova masiva čudesno su mjesto za promatranje Gorskog kotara, Kvarnerskog zaljeva i Alpa u Sloveniji.

upravo se tu nalaze najviša stabla Risnjaka; mnoge su jele više i od impresivnih 45 metara. Po dolini Leske nazvana je i atraktivna poučna staza – Leska. Prvi je to zaštićeni objekt takve vrste u Hrvatskoj i projektiran je na način da svakom omogućuje samostalni prelazak 4,2 kilometara koji nude priliku spoznавanja prirodnog i kulturnog nasljeđa Nacionalnog parka Risnjak. U visinama Risnjaka čovjek ne živi. Neke se risnjačke šume nikada nisu sjekle. Nepristupačnost je uskratila čovjeku eksploraciju drveta. Tako su ostale iskonske šume, prave prašume u pojasu pretplaninske bukve oko najviših vrhova te u području šuma oko Bijelih stijena – zone najstrože zaštite i stoga su mjesto namijenjeno za znanstvena istraživanja.

Dolina Kupe ima ljudske otiske. Pružila je, naime, mogućnost poljoprivredne obrade zemljišta pa samim time i hranu čovjeku. U brdskom su prostoru bez šume samo neki izolirani proplanci poput Leske, Lazca, Šegina i Btovog laza.

U Nacionalnom parku nema mnogo vode. Podloga je karbonatna i oborinska se voda "gubi" u podzemlju.

Ali tu je – Kupa.

Ljepota nema instrument za mjerjenje, no mnogi će reći da je upravo ova rijeka najljepša. Još od 1963. godine izvor Kupe s okolinom uživa status zaštićenog područja.

Vrelo Kupe zasigurno je jedno od najatraktivnijih krških mjesta i još neodgonetnuta zagonetka krša kao jedno od najdubljih hrvatskih vrela. Ispod 100 metara visoke okomite stijene, na nadmorskoj visini od 321 metra, nalazi se jezero iz kojeg kreće snažna i čista rijeka Kupa. U zaleđu su joj poniruće vode krša koje joj donose svoju vodu, a onda ih Kupa objedini. Površina vrela je gotovo mirna. Voda dotječe iz okomitog grotla dubokog 154 metra. Razlog je to i hladnoći vode, od svega 7 stupnjeva Celzijevih.

Kupska je dolina jedini naseljeni prostor Nacionalnog parka. Dvadesetak stanovnika živi u naseljima Dolari, Podgrič, Razloški Okrug, Donji Okrug, Gornji Okrug, Gornja Krašićevica i Razloge. Vrijednost je sačuvati te lokalitete zbog graditeljske i etnografske baštine.

Flora na Risnjaku pravi je buket najspektakularnijih boja. Schlosserova livada pod vrhom Risnjaka doslovno je posuta cvijećem. Dolazak u proljeće i ljeto nagradjuje posjetitelja čudesnim doživljajem rasutog šarenila. Ovdje raste i zvjezdasti ljiljan (*Lilium bulbiferum*) i runolist (*Leontopodium alpinum*) – biljka koja je branjem iznimno ugrožena pa stoga i zaštićena.

U Nacionalnom parku utvrđeno je 1148 vrsta i podvrsta vaskularne flore. Kako je prostor necjelovito istražen, zasigurno je brojka bitno veća.

Risnjak je dobio ime po životinji risu (*Lynx lynx*). No, kako se tu životinju nekoć moglo loviti, posljednji su ustrijeljeni početkom prošlog stoljeća. Današnji i ne tako brojni risovi doselili su se sa susjednih, slovenskih planina.

I dok je autohtonji ris doživio sudbinu nestanka, smeđi medvjed (*Ursus arctos*) ovdje je u prirodnoj gustoći. Na području parka živi i vuk (*Canis lupus*), ni blizu tako brojan kao medvjedi, a tu je i divlja mačka (*Felis silvestris*). Na vrhovima planina može se vidjeti divokozu (*Rupicapra rupicapra*). Njezina pojавa na kamenim vrhovima ponos je planine.

Zabilježeno je 114 vrsta ptica od kojih se u parku gnijezdi 78 vrsta.

The peaks of these massifs offer amazing sights, and they are a wonderful place to observe the region of Gorski kotar, the Kvarner Bay, and the Alps in Slovenia.

in the Risnjak National Park. In addition to these forest communities, delineated by altitude, there are also azonal, scattered communities. One such example is the fir community *Calamagrosti Abietetum*, also known as the "Dinaric fir forest on limestone blocks".

It would require a full scientific paper to describe all the species, with all their characteristics and in the full scope of the flora. However, let us just briefly mention the forest community of fir and hardfern (*Blechno Abietetum*), forest with ferns growing on acid soil in the valley of Leska and along the creek Bijela vodica, for it is precisely here that the tallest trees of Risnjak are found: the height of many fir trees exceeds even the impressive threshold of 45 meters.

The attractive educational trail – Leska – also got its name from the valley of Leska. It is the first protected facility of its kind in Croatia, designed in such a way that it allows anyone to independently pass 4.2 kilometers of the trail, and offering the visitors a chance to get better acquainted with the natural and cultural heritage of the Risnjak National Park.

There is no presence of man in the heights of Risnjak. In fact, some Risnjak forests have never been subjected to felling. Inaccessibility made it impossible for people to exploit timber. Pristine forests thus remained intact, and true virgin forests still exist in the belt of subalpine beech around the highest peaks and in the area around the rocks of Bijele stijene – a strict reserve, and a place intended for scientific research. Human fingerprints are visible in the valley of the Kupa River, on the other hand. The valley gave the opportunity to cultivate land, and thus gave food to the people as well. In the hilly terrain, only some isolated glades remain without forest cover, such as Leska, Lazac, Šegina and Btov laz.

There isn't much water in the National Park. Due to carbonate layers, precipitation water ends up "lost" in the underground. However – there is the Kupa River.

There is no instrument that could be used to measure beauty, but many will say that precisely this river is the most beautiful one. Ever since 1963, the source of the Kupa River and the surrounding area enjoy the status of a protected area.

Vrelo Kupe, the source of the river, is certainly one of the most attractive karst locations, and a still unresolved riddle of the karst. It is one of the deepest Croatian water sources.

Below a vertical rock 100 meters high, at an altitude of 321 meters, there is a lake from which the strong and clean Kupa River starts her path. In the hinterland, waters of the karst disappear underground, allowing the Kupa to bring them together in the form of a river. The surface of the source is almost completely calm. The water rises from the vertical abyss 154 meters deep. It is also a reason why the water is so cold – merely 7 degrees Celsius.

The Kupa valley is the only inhabited area of the National Park. Around twenty inhabitants live in the settlements of Dolari, Podgrič, Razloški Okrug, Donji Okrug, Gornji Okrug, Gornja Krašićevica and Razloge. It is worth preserving these localities, given their traditional building and ethnographic heritage.

The flora in the Risnjak area creates a true bouquet of the most spectacular colors. Šloserova meadow under the Risnjak peak is literally



Vrelo Kupe zasigurno je jedno od najatraktivnijih krških mesta i još neodgovornata zagonetka krša kao jedno od najdubljih hrvatskih vrela.

Važna je i fauna vodenih staništa, speleofauna te entomofauna sa čak 89 vrsta danjih leptira.

Za posjetitelje, Risnjak je vrlo dostupno područje. Do svih atrakcija dolazi se jednostavno i bez posebnih priprema ili opreme, doli izletničke značajke i žudnje za boravkom u prirodi. Tako se do izvora Kupe, krškog fenomena, stiže pješačkim stazama iz sela Razloge, Hrvatsko ili Kupari. Do Schlosserova doma na Risnjaku vodi nekoliko planinarskih staza čiji je završetak otkriće prirode. Putem je moguće vidjeti divljač na atraktivnim lokalitetima. Moguć je i sportski ribolov, dakako, uz dozvolu. Sve što se ulovi, vraća se u rijeku.

Posjet Risnjaku posjet je prostoru gdje se panonski i peripanonski prostor najviše približio Jadranu. Ovdje su najljepši proplanici Gorskog kotara. Znati uživati u risnjačkim ljepotama znači imati pravi osjet za prirodu. I valja poći na mjesta koja prva biraju prirodoslovci, a u manjem broju turisti. Jer to je hod za tragovima znalaca koji će vas sigurno odvesti na mjesta nedoživljene ljepote i mira.

Vrelo Kupe, the source of the river, is certainly one of the most attractive karst locations, and a still unresolved riddle of the karst. It is one of the deepest Croatian water sources.

covered with flowers. A visitor who arrives in the spring and summer is awarded with a majestic experience of vivid colors as far as the eye can see. Among the plants growing here are orange lily (*Lilium bulbiferum*) and edelweiss (*Leontopodium alpinum*) – a plant that is highly threatened due to picking, and therefore protected.

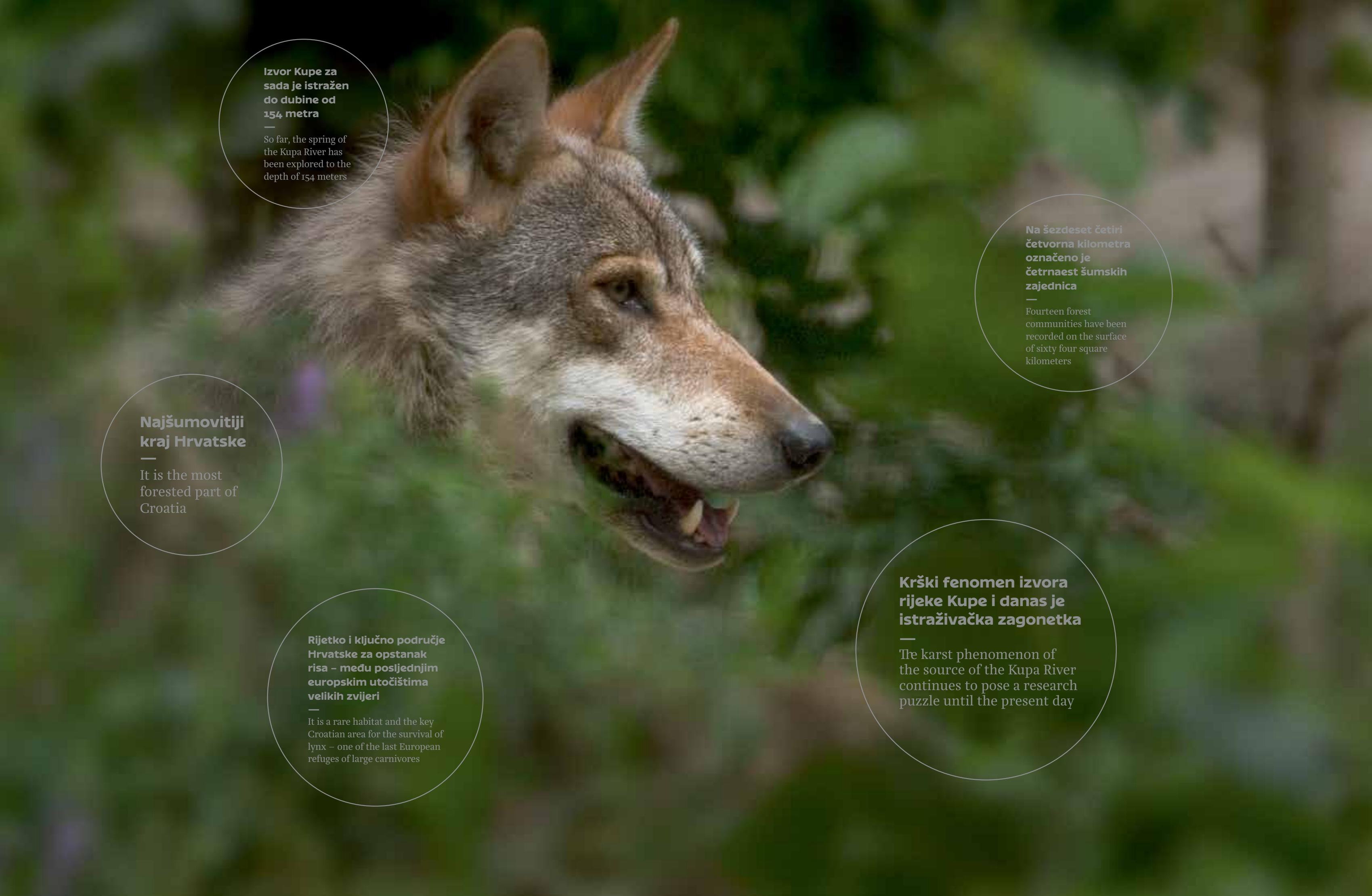
In the National Park, 1,148 species and subspecies of vascular plants have been discovered so far. Given the fact that this area is not comprehensively researched, the actual number must be significantly higher.

Risnjak got its name after the animal ris – lynx (*Lynx lynx*). Unfortunately, given the fact that the hunting of lynx was permitted in the past, the last remaining lynxes were shot towards the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Lynxes present today, not particularly numerous, came from the neighboring Slovenian mountains.

While the autochthonous lynx saw the fate of disappearance, the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) is present in the area in the species' natural density. Wolf (*Canis lupus*) is also present in the territory of the Park, although not nearly as numerous as the bear, and there is also the wildcat (*Felix silvestris*). On mountain peaks, one can also see chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*). Its appearance on stone peaks is the pride of the mountain. There are 114 recorded bird species, and 78 of them are nesting in the Park. Other important types of fauna include the species living in water habitats, speleofauna and entomofauna, with as many as 89 species of butterflies.

When it comes to visitors, Risnjak is a highly accessible area. All attractions can be reached simply, and without any special preparation or equipment – all that is needed is excursion-style curiosity, and a desire to spend some time in nature. For example, the source of the Kupa River, that remarkable karst phenomenon, can be reached by walking trails from the villages of Razloge, Hrvatsko or Kupari. Several mountain climbing trails lead to the Schlosser Mountain Hut on Risnjak, and completing the walk along these trails is a genuine discovery of nature. Along the way, it is possible to see wild game on attractive locations. Recreational fishing is also possible – naturally, only subject to a license. Everything that is caught must be given back to the river.

A visit to Risnjak is a visit to the area where the Pannonic and the Peripannonic space come closest to the Adriatic. This is where one can find the most beautiful glades of the Gorski kotar region. Enjoying the beauty of Risnjak means having a true feeling for nature. It is also worth visiting the places that are the top choice of natural scientists, and perhaps less so of tourists. For that means walking in the footsteps of connoisseurs, and arriving with certainty to places of beauty and tranquility never before experienced.



### Najšumovitiji kraj Hrvatske

It is the most forested part of Croatia

### Rijetko i ključno područje Hrvatske za opstanak risa – među posljednjim europskim utočištima velikih zvijeri

It is a rare habitat and the key Croatian area for the survival of lynx – one of the last European refuges of large carnivores

### Izvor Kupe za sada je istražen do dubine od 154 metra

So far, the spring of the Kupa River has been explored to the depth of 154 meters

### Na šezdeset četiri četvorna kilometra označeno je četrnaest šumskih zajednica

Fourteen forest communities have been recorded on the surface of sixty four square kilometers

### Krški fenomen izvora rijeke Kupe i danas je istraživačka zagonetka

The karst phenomenon of the source of the Kupa River continues to pose a research puzzle until the present day

# NACIONALNI PARK SJEVERNI VELEBIT

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Sjeverni Velebit  
National Park

"Malo je jedan život za Velebit" – tako u nekoliko riječi ponajbolji poznavatelji planine opisuju raskoš raznolikosti Velebita. Iako ne najviša hrvatska planina, svakako je najpoznatija. Velebit je kralježnica koja spaja sjever i jug Hrvatske. Kao dio nacionalnog ponosa, Velebit je planina opjevana vilinskim moćima i ljepotom. Usjeci planina kao da su okamenjene bore lica ljudi koji su živjeli u planini s njene morske ili kontinentalne strane. Sloboda je njezino glavno obilježje – kažu svjedoci, koji dolazak u planinu nazivaju "povratkom kući". Nacionalni park Sjeverni Velebit, najmlađi u Hrvatskoj, samo je jedan u niski velebitskih bisera. Poznat odavno, još uvijek ne sasvim otkriven.

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"One life is simply not enough to get to know Velebit" – that is how people who know the mountain best describe its amazing diversity. Velebit may not be the highest Croatian mountain, but it is certainly the most renowned. It represents a spine connecting the northern and southern part of Croatia. It is also a source of national pride, an area of tales about fairies and immense beauty. The cuts in the mountain landscape resemble the wrinkles on faces of people who once lived on the littoral and continental slopes of the mountain. Freedom is the key characteristic of the mountain, say the witnesses who refer to their visits to the mountain as "coming home". Sjeverni Velebit National Park, the youngest National Park in Croatia, is simply yet another pearl in the necklace of Velebit. Known for a long time, but still not fully discovered.





## POSEBAN SVIJET KRŠKIH OBLIKA

Veliki, naizgled goli blokovi stijena s mnoštvom pukotina, teško prohodne šume, maleni i veliki doci, travnate krške doline, jame, ponikve, sniježnice, lokve i škape. Prostor sjevernog Velebita pravi je mozaik sastavljen od najrazličitijih staništa koja su dom mnogim biljnim, gljivljim i životinjskim vrstama čije smo bogatstvo tek počeli otkrivati. Upravo je ova raznolikost krških oblika, živoga svijeta i krajobraza bila razlogom proglašenja Nacionalnog parka Sjeverni Velebit. Još davne 1930. godine to je na dosad nenadmašen način predočio veliki planinar i zaljubljenik u Velebit dr. Ivan Krajač riječima: "U veličanstvenoj povorci tu su za vječnost sabrana najdostojnija alpinska veličanstva kao nigdje drugdje na Velebitu, u tolikoj množini, a na takvoj visini i na relativno malom prostoru."

Sjeverni Velebit nije posve netaknuta divljina, nego i prostor dubokih ljudskih tragova. Njegovu je krajobrazu poseban pečat utisnuo čovjek. Stvorio je i održavao travnjake i lokve, gradio pastirske "stanove" i suhozide. Danas nas na to podsjećaju zarasli tradicionalni putovi i ruševine starih građevina. Stvaranjem novih staništa – pašnjaka, lokava i suhozida – čovjek je ujedno omogućio život brojnim biljnim i životinjskim vrstama kojih inače ovdje ne bi bilo. Tako je obogatio biološku raznolikost Nacionalnog parka.

Čitav je prostor Nacionalnog parka obilje raznolikosti. Šume, travnjaci, stijene, točila, vodena staništa... Njihove granice nisu oštре, već se međusobno pretapaju. Zbog te je raznolikosti, iako malen, Nacionalni Park Sjeverni Velebit važan dio ekološke mreže kao područje očuvanja značajno za čak 10 biljnih i životinjskih vrsta i osam različitih tipova staništa – travnjaka, šuma i stijena.



## UNIQUE WORLD OF KARST FORMS

All around, there are big, seemingly bare blocks of rocks with numerous cracks, impenetrable forests, small and big karst valleys covered by grass, pits, dolines, snow-filled cracks, ponds and karrens. The area of Northern Velebit is a true mosaic created out of the most diverse habitats, constituting home to many plant, fungus and animal species, the abundance of which we have only begun discovering. It is precisely this diversity of karst forms, life and landscapes that led to the establishment of the Sjeverni Velebit National Park. Back in 1930, Ivan Krajač, a renowned mountain climber who fell in love with Velebit, provided the following unmatched description: "As if in a majestic procession, the most dignified alpine majesties are assembled here for eternity as in no other area of the mountain of Velebit, with so many of them in one relatively small place, and at such high altitudes."

Northern Velebit is not a completely untouched wilderness; it is also a space where people have left lasting traces. Man has left a special mark on the landscape of this part of the mountain. It was man who created and maintained grasslands and ponds, who built shepherd's huts and dry stone walls. Today, we are reminded of that presence by overgrown traditional paths and ruins of old constructions. By creating new habitats – pastures, ponds and dry stone walls – man also enabled life for a number of plant and animal species that would have otherwise never appeared in the area, thus enriching the biodiversity of the National Park.

The entire area of the National Park is a spectacle of diversity. Forests, grasslands, rocks, talus cones, water habitats... the boundaries of these phenomena are not strict; instead, they merge into one another. Due to



Divlje lice Sjevernog Velebita su zvijeri – medvjed, vuk i ris. Ovaj im prostor još uvijek pruža mogućnosti za opstanak, a mnogi će posjetitelji za svoga boravka na planini vidjeti barem tragove njihova prisustva.

Ma kako nam se na prvi pogled činilo nevjerojatnim, kukovi – kamene glave Sjevernog Velebita – kao i čitava planina stvarani su u moru. Područje Nacionalnog parka Sjeverni Velebit izgrađeno je od sedimentnih stijena stvaranih u dugim razdobljima geološke prošlosti, u pradavnom plitkom moru, dubokom svega nekoliko do par desetaka metara. Tu su se taložili karbonatni muljevi, pijesci i komadići skeleta morskih organizama. Stvrdnjavanjem tih taloga nastajale su stotine pa i tisuće metara debele karbonatne naslage današnjeg Velebita.

Osamdeset posto površine Nacionalnog parka čine šume. Prirodnih je travnjaka, rudina, vrlo malo, a postojeći su nastali ljudskom rukom zbog ispaše stoke. Prestankom ljudskih aktivnosti ponovno ih polako preuzima šuma, čime nepovratno nestaju brojne biljne i životinjske vrste. Divlje lice Sjevernog Velebita su zvijeri – medvjed, vuk i ris. Ovaj im prostor još uvijek pruža mogućnosti za opstanak, a mnogi će posjetitelji za svoga boravka na planini vidjeti barem tragove njihova prisustva. Ipak, najveće osobitosti i vrijednosti Nacionalnog parka kriju se, većini ljudi nevidljive, ispod nogu posjetitelja. To je sasvim poseban svijet krških podzemnih oblika, a najposebni od njih su jame – tipični uglavnom vertikalni krški podzemni oblici nastali kemijskim i mehaničkim trošenjem stijena u tektonski razlomljenom terenu.



Sjeverni Velebit nije posve netaknuta divljina, nego i prostor dubokih ljudskih tragova.

Njegovu je krajobrazu poseban pečat utisnuo čovjek. Stvorio je i održavao travnjake i lokve, gradio pastirske "stanove" i suhozide.

planinarskog doma na zavižanskih 1594 metra. Održava meteorološku postaju, ugošćuje planinare i posjetitelje. Iako ponekad od snijega i desetak dana ne može otvoriti vrata, a prođe i 40 da ne vidi čovjeka, ovaj velebitski čovjek ističe kako ne bi mijenjao planinarski za urbani dom. U neposrednoj blizini planinarskog doma ugnijezdio se među tri zavižanska vrha Velebitski botanički vrt. Osnovan 1967. godine, već gotovo 50 godina vrt je nezaobilazna točka za posjetitelje Parka i mjesto na kojem se može promatrati i učiti o bogatoj raznolikosti velebitskog bilja.

U potrazi za najljepšim velebitskim mjestima ucrtava se krška dolina Veliki Lubenovac, na samom rubu rezervata Hajdučki i Rožanski kukovi. Ostaci ljetnih stanova, suhozida i šterni sjećaju na dane kada su ovdje, u ljetnim mjesecima, obitavali ljudi jer je to bio prostor ljetnog stočarenja, ali i okupljaliste lokalnog stanovništva. Svjedok ljudskog boravka na Lubenovcu je i sačuvana lokva – Lubenovačka ruja.

Vršnim dijelom Parka, spajajući područje Zavižana i Alana, vrlo vješto i s tek neznatnim usponima, vijuga poznata Premužićeva staza. Građena u suhozidu još početkom 30-ih godina prošloga stoljeća, protežući se kroz Rožanske kukove, otvorila je put najkrševitijim i najnepristupačnijim dijelovima Parka. Imena nekih kukova su potekla iz naroda – Gromovača, Čepuraš, Varnjača, Crikvena i Vratarski kuk, a neka imena vežu se uz znanstvenike i planinare – Pasarićev kuk, Novotnijev kuk, Poljakov toranj, Krajačev kuk.

Prolazak Premužićevom stazom je poput posjeta galeriji na otvorenom – staza s lakoćom vodi posjetitelja kroz različite šume, travnjake, i kamenjare, a s nje se odvaja nekoliko uspona na vrhove kukova. Tu je i omiljeno sklonište – Rossijeva koliba, koja ime nosi po jednom od prvih istraživača Velebita, botaničaru Ljudevitu Rossiju.

Ima li posjetitelj samo jedan dan za posjet Sjevernom Velebitu,

Northern Velebit is not a completely untouched wilderness; it is also a space where people have left lasting traces. Man has left a special mark on the landscape of this part of the mountain. It was man who created and maintained grasslands and ponds, who built shepherd's huts and dry stone walls.

All the invested effort, sweat and an occasional blister caused by mountain shoes is soon forgotten by a tired visitor upon climbing to any of the peaks of Velebit.

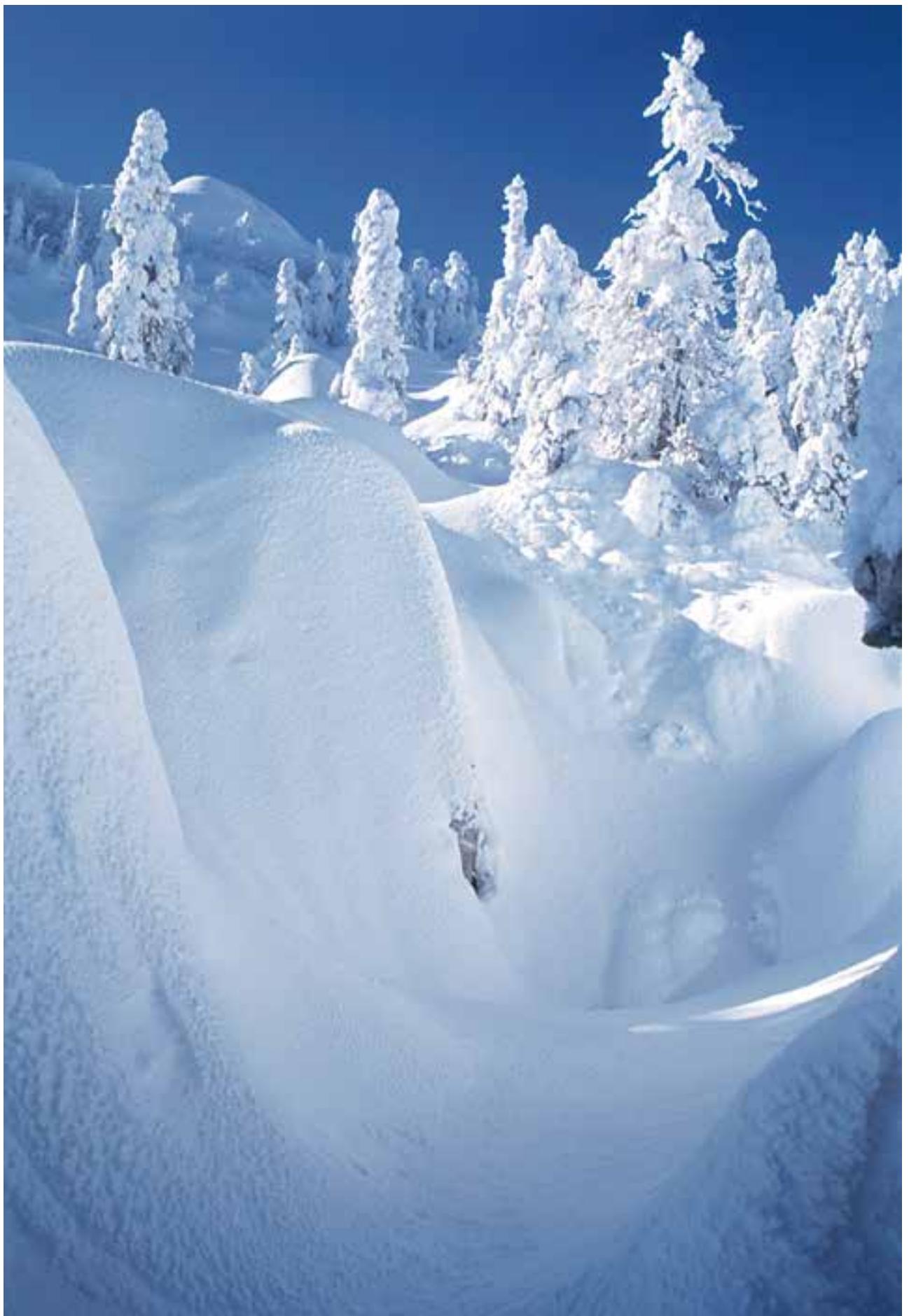
The area of Zavižan certainly belongs to the best-known localities of Northern Velebit, with numerous peaks ranging from 1,600 to 1,676 meters above sea level: Veliki Zavižan as the highest peak of Northern Velebit, Zavižanski Pivčevac, Zavižanska kosa, Balinovac, Vučjak... Each of these peaks is also an impressive sightseeing point.

This is where a well-known meteorological station is located as well, recording all the calm and turbulent encounters of the continental and the Mediterranean climate. It is impossible to separate the story about the station from the story about its faithful chroniclers serving the station for decades. Members of the Vukušić family have been doing the work of meteorological observers on this location for three generations already. Ante Vukušić is a legendary caretaker of the mountain lodge on Zavižan located at 1,594 meters above sea level. He takes care of the meteorological station, and plays host to mountain climbers and visitors. Even though he sometimes cannot open the doors for ten days in a row on account of major snowfall in the area, and knows what it feels like not to see a living soul for full forty days, this inhabitant of Velebit likes to point out that he wouldn't change his mountain home for any urban area.

The botanical garden of Velebit is situated in between three peaks of Zavižan, in the immediate vicinity of the mountain lodge. Established in 1967, the botanical garden has been an indispensable point of interest for visitors of the Park for almost 50 years, and it is a place where one can observe and learn a lot about the rich diversity of Velebit plants.

As we look for the most beautiful locations on Velebit, one place we are certain to take note of is the karst valley of Veliki Lubenovac at the very border of the reserve Hajdučki i Rožanski kukovi. The remains of





Područje Parka, a osobito strogi rezervat

Hajdučki i Rožanski kukovi, po velikom broju dubokih jama,

njih više od 400, među najzanimljivijim

je speleološkim lokalitetima svijeta.

Unutar Parka otkrivene su i tri jame dublje od 1000 m: jamski sustav Lukina jama-Trojama

(-1431 m), Slovačka jama (-1320 m) i jama

Velebita (-1026 m).

Premužićeva staza i Rožanski kukovi na najbolji će mu način pokazati svu njegovu raskoš.

U južnom dijelu Parka smjestilo se područje Alana. To je prostor planinskih travnjaka, duliba i padeža iznad kojih su planinski vrhovi. Pogled koji se s Alana pruža na more i otoke ulazi u trajnu memoriju posjetitelja. Vrlo blizu je Mirovo, mjesto koje je također nekoć bilo veliko ljetno planinsko naselje, a danas tamo nalazimo tek ostatke kuća, štala, suhozida i šterni.

Velebitska cesta koja preko prijevoja Velik Alan spaja Liku i more, geografski razdvaja sjeverni od srednjeg Velebita.

Velebit nije kroz povijest bio pusti prostor bez vibracija ljudske svakodnevice. Iako njegova surovost ne ostavlja takav dojam, posjet Štirovači, zelenoj dolini na samom jugu Parka, mijenja predodžbu o planini. Tu se nalazi i izvor pitke vode i potočići koji natapaju livade. Ta živa voda, kao i bogatstvo šuma, vukla je ljeti ljude u planinu. Ovdje je, u srcu šume, još 1866. godine izgrađena pilana čije temelje i danas možemo vidjeti. Nekoć je ovdje ljeti radila i trgovina, a radničke nastambe i danas se koriste. Jednako kao nekoć stanovnicima Velebita, danas je ovaj zeleni i potocima premrežen dio Velebita omiljeno odredište posjetitelja.

Nacionalni park Sjeverni Velebit ima mnoga lica. Nemoguće ih je upoznati tek za jednoga posjeta. Ali jedan posjet osigurava dolazak za drugi jer ovo je prostor zaljubljenika. Nerijetko ostaje neizreciv u svojoj ljepoti. Ni riječi pred veličanstvenošću prirode. A istodobno, sve neizrecivo u hodu planinom moguće je reći.

The area of the Park, in particular the Strict

Reserve Hajdučki i Rožanski kukovi, is one of the most interesting speleological localities in the world, given the considerable number of deep pits – over 400 of them. Three pits deeper than 1,000 meters have been discovered within the Park: the pit systems

Lukina jama – Trojama (-1,431 meters), Slovačka jama (-1,320 meters) and Velebita (-1,026 meters).

shepherd's huts, dry stone walls and cisterns remind us of the days when people spent their summer months here taking care of livestock. This used to be a seasonal transhumance area in the summertime, but also a meeting point of the local population. A preserved livestock pond Lubenovačka ruja is one testimony to human presence on the locality of Lubenovac.

The well-known Premužić Trail runs through the peak area of the Park, connecting the areas of Zavižan and Alan, skillfully built with only mild inclinations. Built in a dry stone wall technique back in the 1930s, it passes through the area of Rožanski kukovi and opens the path to the most rugged and inaccessible parts of the Park. The names of some peaks stem from the tradition of the area – such is the case with the peaks of Gromovača, Čepuraš, Varnjača, Crikvena and Vratarski kuk. Some peaks, on the other hand, have been named after scientists and mountain climbers – Pasarićev kuk, Novotnijev kuk, Poljakov toranj, Krajačev kuk. Walking along the Premužić Trail is like visiting an open gallery – it leads visitors with ease through diverse forests, grasslands and rocky areas, with several climbs towards the local peaks starting from the Trail. A favorite shelter of mountain climbers, Rossijeva koliba, is located there. It bears the name of one of the first explorers of Velebit, the botanist Ljudevit Rossi. For a visitor who cannot spare more than a day to visit Northern Velebit, the Premužić Trail and the area of Rožanski kukovi are the best choice to get a glimpse of the splendor of the Park in a short period of time.

The area of Alan is located in the southern part of the Park. It is a place of mountain grasslands, dolines and cascades with mountain peaks above. The view from Alan towards the sea and the islands is bound to remain engraved in the memory of every visitor. The locality of Mirovo is close by, a place that used to be a major mountain settlement in the summer, and now includes only remains of houses, barns, dry stone walls and cisterns.

The Velebit road connecting the region of Lika and the sea over the mountain pass of Veliki Alan also represents a geographical boundary between the northern and the central part of Velebit.

Throughout its history, Velebit has not been merely an empty space without vibrations of everyday human life. The mountain may seem stern at first sight, but a visit to the green valley of Štirovača on the very southern side of the Park may easily change one's perception of the entire area. It has a source of potable water, and small creeks that bring water to meadows. This live water, together with rich forests, is what once attracted people to the mountain in the summer. In this area, right in the heart of the forest, a saw mill was built back in 1866, with its foundations still visible today. Once upon a time, there was a small store here as well, and workers' quarters are still in use. Just like the previous inhabitants of Velebit were once attracted to this green part of Velebit crisscrossed by creeks, today the valley attracts visitors as one of their favorite destinations.

Sjeverni Velebit National Park has many faces, and it is impossible to get to know them all in one single visit. However, one visit is likely to ensure the second one, for it is easy to fall in love with this place. Its beauty can easily leave one speechless, for sometimes no words are suitable to describe the magnificence of nature. And yet, at the same time, a walk through the mountain will render the words unnecessary.



**Tri najdublje jame u Hrvatskoj, sve preko 1000 m dubine, nalaze se u strogom rezervatu Hajdučki i Rožanski kukovi**

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Three deepest pits in Croatia, all exceeding 1,000 meters in depth, located in the Strict Reserve of Hajdučki i Rožanski kukovi

**Park ima čak četiri najviša vrha – visinu od 1676 m imaju Veliki Zavižan, Vratarski kuk, Zavižanski Pivčevac i Gromovača**

—  
The Park has as many as four highest peaks – Veliki Zavižan, Vratarski kuk, Zavižanski Pivčevac and Gromovača, all of them at 1,676 meters above sea level

**Bukove šume Sjevernog Velebita i Paklenice 2017. godine svrstane su na listu svjetske baštine UNESCO-a**

—  
Beech forests of Northern Velebit and Paklenica became part of the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2017

**Kroz Park se dijelom proteže Premužićeva staza – najpoznatija planinarska staza u Hrvatskoj**

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Premužić Trail – the best-known mountain-climbing trail in Croatia – passes through the Park

**U Parku se nalazi meteorološka postaja u Hrvatskoj, koja od 1953. godine radi bez ijednog dana prekida, po svim vremenskim uvjetima**

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Meteorological station in Croatia is located in the Park, operating since 1953 without a single day of interruption, regardless of weather conditions

**Većinu travnjaka u Parku stvorili su ljudi koji su na ovom prostoru ljeti boravili sa svojom stokom davši osobit pečat krajobrazu Sjevernog Velebita**

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Most grasslands in the Park have been created by people who once took care of livestock in the area during the summer periods, thus leaving a special mark on the landscape of Northern Velebit

Mjesto gdje bijeli, najstrmiji jadranski strmci od 161 metra uranjuju u morsko plavetnilo. Dobri dupini, posljednji morski sisavci Jadrana, izabrali su Telašćicu za svoje najomiljenije mjesto gdje dolaze u jatima i pružaju posjetiteljima fotozabilješku ionako nezaboravnog trenutka. Možda će vam u istom trenutku promaknuti da je upravo, sa "stena", poletio sivi sokol. Nemoguće je uhvatiti svu ljepotu naše najljepše i najveće jadranske uvale, Telašćice. Bezbrojne uvale, rtovi i hridi te najsigurnija luka onima što plove – to je Telašćica.

—

Welcome to the place where the steepest white Adriatic cliffs 161 meters high dive into the blue sea. Common bottlenose dolphins, the last marine mammals of the Adriatic, have chosen Telašćica as their favorite gathering place, swimming in flocks and providing visitors with a splendid photo opportunity on top of what is an unforgettable moment anyway. Just as you watch them, you might miss a peregrine falcon that flew off from the cliff at that very moment. It is impossible to capture the totality of beauty of Croatia's most beautiful and largest Adriatic bay, Telašćica. Numerous coves, capes and rocks, and the safest harbor for those who sail – that is Telašćica.

# PARK PRIRODE TELAŠĆICA

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## Telašćica Nature Park





## NAJISTAKNUTIJI STRMCI JADRANA

Ne može se reći koji je pogled impresivniji sa strmaca Telašćice. Onaj odozgo, kada sa "stena" ponire pogled 161 metar duboko u more, ili s mora prema vrhu litice. Postojani kameni stražari, strmci Telašćice, stvaraju jednu od najsigurnijih jadranskih luka i mjesto posebne vizure. Nautičari znaju vrijednost njezinog položaja. Promatrate li strmce s mora, iz plovila... ugasite motore. Moguće je da će upravo iz mora izroniti dobri dupin, posljednji morski sisavac Jadrana. Rijetku životinju ugrožava zagađenost bukom koju stvaraju motori plovila. A dobri su dupini česti gosti vanjskog akvatorija Parka.

Procjenjuje se da u Jadranu živi oko 220 jedinki dobrog dupina. Ostale vrste dupina i kitova rijetko dolaze u akvatoriju.

Uvala Telašćica za mnoge je neupitno najljepša jadranska uvala. Park prirode po njoj je i dobio ime i uključuje akvatorij od 13 otočića. Sama se uvala nalazi na jugoistočnom dijelu Dugog otoka. U kopno je uvučena otprilike 8 km, a na svojem južnom, najširem dijelu široka je oko 1,6 km. Sam je zaljev vrlo razveden te sadrži 25 uvala, rtova i 5 otočića.

Ime Telašćica vjerojatno potječe od latinskog naziva "tilagus", riječi koja opisuje izgled uvale s tri jezera. Sastoji se od tri dijela koja su međusobno odvojena suženjima. To su Tripuljak, Farfarikulac i Telašćica. Uvale su, zapravo, krške ponikve koje su pod more dospjele prije desetak tisuća godina u vrijeme odleđbe.

Za mnoge najimpresivnije mjesto s vanjske strane uvale Telašćica su okomite hridi, najistaknutiji strmci na Jadranu. To su poznate dugootočke "stene". Na Grpaščaku dosežu visinu od 161 metra, a najveće dubine dosežu do 85 metara. Tu se gnijezdi i svoj let započinje i sivi sokol (*Falco peregrinus*), a Telašćicu preletava i eleonorin sokol (*Falco eleonore*). Zbog prisutnosti velikog broja jedinki ovih dviju zaštićenih

## THE MOST FAMOUS CLIFFS OF THE ADRIATIC

It is difficult to decide which view is more impressive, as you find yourself on *Stene*, the cliffs of Telašćica. Is it the one from above, as you watch the sea directly beneath you from the altitude of 161 meters? Or is it, perhaps, the view from the sea towards the cliff peak? Steadfast stone guardians, these cliffs of Telašćica, have created one of the safest Adriatic harbors, and a place with a truly special view. Yachtsmen know the value of that harbor. If you observe the cliffs from a vessel, approaching from the sea... do turn your engine off. It is quite possible that a bottlenose dolphin will emerge from the sea, that last marine mammal of the Adriatic. The rare animal is threatened by noise pollution created by boat engines. Bottlenose dolphins are frequent visitors to the surrounding waters of the Park.

According to estimates, approximately 220 bottlenose dolphins live in the Adriatic. Other dolphin and whale species rarely visit the local waters. To many visitors, Telašćica is, beyond dispute, the most beautiful Adriatic bay. The Nature Park was named after it, and it includes local waters with 13 small islands. The bay itself is located on the southeastern part of the island of Dugi otok. It is immersed approximately 8 kilometers into the land, and in its southern, widest part, it is approximately 1.6 kilometers wide. The bay itself is very indented, and it includes 25 coves and capes, and five small islands.

The name Telašćica probably stems from the Latin word "Tilagus", denoting the appearance of a bay with three lakes. Telašćica consists of three parts mutually separated by narrow passages. These are Tripuljak, Farfarikulac and Telašćica. The coves are, in fact, karst depressions that got submerged and settled below the sea level around ten thousand years ago, during the melting period.



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vrsta Telašćica je uvrštena u ornitološki značajna područja (Important Bird Area – IBA područja).

Na stijenama, pod morem, žive koralji među kojima i već vrlo prorijeđen crveni koralj. Žuti cvijet dubrovačke zečine šara stijene, a raste po njima rasuta i drvenasta mlječika.

Mediterska vegetacija ovdje buja kroz 500 biljnih vrsta. Podmorje Telašćice pjeskovitog je dna i prošarano je kamenim oazama i livadama morske cvjetnice posidonije.

Jezero Mir smješteno je u uskom dijelu kopna između zaljeva i otvorenog mora. Za vrijeme plime lako je uočiti izvore mora. Jezero je dugačko oko 900 m, široko oko 300 m, a najveća mu je dubina 8 metara. Voda je u njemu višeg saliniteta od okolnog mora zbog izražene evaporacije i zatvorenosti jezera.

Razina mora u Jezera Mir uвijek je podjednaka zato što su pukotine koje spajaju jezero s morem male propusnosti. No, ako zapuše olujno jugo, na jugoistočnom dijelu, more se počinje prelijevati u jezero.

Ljeti je jezero toplije od mora. Zimi je hladnije, jer je jezero plitko.

For many, the most impressive location on the external side of the Telašćica Bay are vertical cliffs, the most prominent cliffs on the Adriatic. These are the well-known Stene of the island of Dugi otok. At the locality of Grpaščak, they reach the height of 161 meters, with the maximum sea depth of up to 85 meters. This is where the nesting and initial flights of peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) take place, but Eleonora's falcon (*Falco eleonore*) can also be seen flying over Telašćica. Due to the presence of high number of birds belonging to these two protected species, Telašćica became part of the Important Bird Area (IBA) program. Corals live on rocks below the sea, including a rather rare occurrence these days: the red coral. The yellow flower of the Dubrovnik knapweed makes its "drawings" on rocks, joined by scattered specimens of tree spurge. The Mediterranean vegetation is abundant here, with over 500 plant species. The submarine world of Telašćica is marked by sandy bottom, with scattered stone oases and *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass meadows. Lake Mir is located in a narrow band of land between the bay and the open sea. During high tide, it is easy to see the sources of the incoming sea. The



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Ekstremni su to uvjeti i stoga je bioraznolikost osjetno manja, neznatna u odnosu na druge prostore Parka.

Uvala Mir ima svoje vrlo posebne stanovnike. To su dalmatinski ili primorsko-dinarski magarci, hrvatska autohtona pasmina. Izvorna je to i zaštićena pasmina, u životu dalmatinskog čovjeka oduvijek suputnička životinja. No tehnologija je prekinula zajedničko putovanje kroz život čovjeka i magarca. U prošlosti tovarna životinja, iznimno spretna na krškom terenu, danas je više radost turistima koji ga imaju prilike vidjeti, a lokalni stanovnici koji više nisu trebali magarca naprsto su ga doveli na Telašćicu.

Itako je Park prirode postao svojevrsno utočište za narušene magarce na Dugom otoku. Lišeni vuče tereta, ovdje obitavaju u oboru i uveseljavaju svojom pojmom posjetitelje.

Neobičan otočić privuće pogled svakog posjetitelja. Smješten prema Kornatima, taj otočić zapravo je mala kamena ploča promjera šezdesetak metara, a visok je svega tri metra. Izgleda poput tanjura, i moreplovci su otočić nazvali mletačkim dijalektom tagliero, po čemu je nastala umanjenica i naziv otočića Taljurić. Za nevremena, otočić je zatrpan morskom pjenom.

Otok je i dalje prostor istraživanja i otkrivanja. Prije deset godina, u dnu polušpilje na otočiću Garmenjaku Veliom, na pučinskoj strani otoka, u uskom procjepu na 24 metra dubine pronađena je mesojedna sružva vrste *Asbestopluma hypogea* (*Bakran-Petricioli i Petricioli*) koja se hrani račićima. To je drugi nalaz u svijetu i vrijedan podsjetnik na potrebu čuvanja ovog staništa koje je bogato ribom.

Ribari su ovdje sastavnica života s morem. Zapis koji poimence spominju ribare iz Telašćice datiraju iz 10. stoljeća.

Moguće je s valovima Telašćice, gotovo u lako, zamisliti tu sliku prošlosti. Ribare koji od mreža raspucanih ruku vuku mreže potegače. Metež u mreži ulovljenih lokardi, skuša, šaruma, trljii, fratar... bogatstvo prirodne hrane za stolove dalmatinskih obitelji.

U uvalama gdje su brodice, i danas se vide tragovi usuho zidanih mulića; onih koji su znali da je more bogomdana oranica koju ne treba sijati, već samo razumno žeti.

Lake Mir is located in a narrow band of land between the bay and the open sea. During high tide, it is easy to see the sources of the incoming sea. The lake is approximately 900 meters long and 300 meters wide, and its maximum depth is 8 meters. The salinity of water in the lake is higher than in the surrounding sea, due to considerable evaporation and closed nature of the lake.

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The sea level in the Lake Mir is always roughly equal, because the permeability of cracks connecting the lake with the sea is relatively low. However, when the strong south winds begin blowing, the sea begins to overflow into Lake Mir in the southeastern part of the lake. In the summertime, the lake is warmer than the sea. In the wintertime, the lake is colder, due to the fact that it is shallow. Due to these extreme conditions, biodiversity in the lake is significantly lower, almost negligible compared to other areas of the Park.

The cove of Mir does have its rather peculiar inhabitants, however. These are Dalmatian or Littoral-Dinaric donkeys, an original and autochthonous Croatian breed. Nowadays protected, donkey has always been a close companion of the Dalmatian man. However, technology eventually interrupted this joint voyage of man and donkey through life. Serving as pack animal in the past, and extraordinarily skillful in the karst terrain, donkey is more of a joy for tourists these days – which is why the locals who no longer needed donkeys for work simply brought their animals to Telašćica.

And so the Nature Park became a refuge of sorts for abandoned donkeys on the island of Dugi otok. No longer forced to carry cargo, donkeys live in pens in this place, making the visitors happy simply by being there. There is also an unusual small island that makes every visitor curious. Situated in the direction of the Kornati Islands, this particular small island is in fact a small stone plate some sixty meters in diameter, and only three meters high. It looks like a plate, so seafarers referred to it by using the word "tagliero" from the Venetian dialect, eventually resulting in the diminutive Taljurić as the island's name. In rough weather, this small island is completely immersed in sea foam.

The island of Dugi otok is still an area of research and discovery. Ten years ago, at the bottom of a half-cave on the small island of Garmenjak Veli, on the open-sea side of Dugi otok, in a narrow gap at 24 meters below sea level, a carnivorous sponge species *Asbestopluma hypogea* (*Bakran-Petricioli and Petricioli*) was found, feeding itself on shrimp. This is the second finding of the type in the world, and a valuable reminder of the need to conserve this habitat rich in fish species.

The fishermen are a constituent part of living with the sea in this place. The first documents specifically mentioning fishermen from Telašćica date back to the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

Watching the waves of Telašćica, it is possible, even easy, to imagine the way things looked in the past. The fishermen pulling drift nets with their hands cracked from hard work... Just think of all the turmoil caused by the fish caught in the nets – chub and Atlantic mackerel, striped red mullet, common two-banded seabream... quite an abundance of natural food for dinner tables of Dalmatian families.

And in the coves where the boats are anchored, you can still see the remains of little dry stone wall piers – made by those who knew that the sea is a God-given field that doesn't have to be sown, but only reasonably reaped.



**Najstrmiji strmci na  
Jadraru – visoki i  
161 metar**

—  
Area of the steepest cliffs  
in the Adriatic – up to  
161 meters high

**Utocište napuštenih  
magaraca, autohtone i  
zaštićene hrvatske  
pasmine**

—  
A refuge of abandoned  
donkeys, autochthonous  
and protected  
Croatian breed

**Najveća i među  
najsigurnijim  
uvalama Jadrana**

—  
The largest and one of  
the safest bays of the  
Adriatic

**Omiljeno mjesto  
dolaska jata  
dobrih dupina**

—  
A favorite meeting  
place of bottlenose  
dolphin flocks

**U Parku prirode  
nalazi se i jezero  
Mir, davno morem  
potopljena krška  
ponikva**

—  
The Nature Park also  
includes a lake called  
Mir – karst depression  
submerged by sea in  
ancient times

# PARK PRIRODE UČKA

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## Učka Nature Park

Najviša istarska planina, Učka, prostor je brojnih otisaka života čovjeka na planini i s planinom. Stoljećima se ovdje preživljavalo od stočarstva, ratarstva i šumarstva. Ljudske su ruke ostavile samo dobre tragove, a to znači da su izgled izvornom krajoliku ljudi mijenjali samo onime što je bilo potrebno za skladno preživljavanje u prirodi – i ništa više. Suhozidi, pastirski stanovi i poljska skloništa danas su nijemi i postojani svjedoci jednog novog, drukčijeg ekosustava Učke. Planina je kroz vrijeme mijenjala svoje lice, ali zadržala bioraznolikost.

Učka is the highest Istrian mountain and an area with many reminders of how man can live on the mountain and with the mountain. For centuries, people survived here by tending to domestic animals, cultivating land and using the forest. Human hands have left only good traces – changing the landscape only to the extent that was necessary for harmonious survival in nature, and no more than that. Dry stone walls, shepherd's huts and field shelters are silent and steadfast witnesses of a new and different ecosystem of Učka. The mountain has been changing its faces over time, but its biodiversity remains preserved.





## DIVLJINA S POGLEDOM NA MIRNI ZALJEV

Reljefno različite planine, Učka i Ćićarija, stvorile su jedinstven planinski lanac. Odvaja ih prijevoj Poklon. Smještena uz obalu sjevernog Jadrana, Učka spaja Istru i kontinentalnu Hrvatsku. Razdjelница različitih krajolika, planina kojoj porijeklo imena do danas nije razjašnjeno, omiljeno je i cijenjeno putničko odredište.

Najviši vrh planine i istarskog poluotoka je vrh Vojak (1401 m). Tjeme mu je goli travnati hrbat strmih strana, a na vršnoj je točki kamena kula. Sagrađena je još 1911. godine, što je upisano i na njezin prag.

Kula je vidikovac koji vodi do impozantnog pogleda na Istru, Riječki zaljev, sjeverni Jadran s otocima, Gorski kotar, Velebit i Ćićariju, a nakon bure, kad je zrak čist, vide se Venecija, Tršćanski zaljev, Julijanske Alpe i Dolomiti u Italiji.

I dok Učka ima izraziti planinski hrbat, Ćićarija ima reljef planinske visoravni. Pučka vjerska tradicija nadjenula je ime njihovom prijevoju, Poklonu. Na hodočašću Gospi Trsatskoj vjernici iz Istre, kada bi došli do prijevoja, poklonili bi se na mjestu s kojeg se vidi grad Rijeka na 922 metra nadmorske visine.

Dvije planine, Učka i Ćićarija, poput luka okružuju istarski poluotok i jasno i gorostasno razdvajaju taj kraj od kontinenta. Prirodna posebnost Učke i Parka prirode u njezinim je geološkim, reljefnim i biološkim obilježjima.

Na malom prostoru Parka prirode Učka buja bioraznolikost. Ovo je jedino mjesto na svijetu odakle u fotografiji možete ponijeti uspomenu na stenoendemski učkarski zvončić (*Campanula tommasiniana*) – jer raste samo na Učki. Strpljivost pogleda prema nebu može biti nagrađena time da doživite vidjeti let bjeloglavog supa (*Gyps fulvus*) ili surog orla (*Aquila chrysaetos*).



## WILDERNESS OVERLOOKING A CALM BAY

The mountains of Učka and Ćićarija are different in terms of relief, but they form an integral mountain chain, separated by the mountain pass of Poklon. Rising along the coast of the northern Adriatic, Učka brings together the peninsula of Istria and the mainland of Croatia. A separation line between diverse landscapes, a mountain with the origin of its name still shrouded in mystery, it is a loved and appreciated destination.

The highest peak of the mountain and the Istrian peninsula is Vojak (1,401 meters). On its top, the mountain is marked by exposed grasslands growing on steep slopes. A stone tower was built on the very peak back in 1911, its year of construction still visible on the doorstep.

The tower is a sightseeing point providing a majestic panorama of Istria, the bay of the city of Rijeka, the northern part of the Adriatic and its islands, the Gorski kotar region, and mountains of Velebit and Ćićarija. When bora wind clears the air, one can also see Venice, the bay of Trieste, the Julian Alps, and the Dolomites in Italy.

While Učka has a pronounced mountain ridge, the Ćićarija Mountain's relief resembles a mountain plateau. The key mountain pass of the region is called Poklon, or Bow – a result of religious folk traditions of the area. When the faithful of Istria would go to a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Trsat, they would bow to the Church of Our Lady in the city of Rijeka, seen from the highest point of the pass located at 922 meters above sea level. The two mountains, Učka and Ćićarija, circle the Istrian peninsula like an arc, clearly and imposingly separating that region from the mainland. What makes Učka and the Nature Park special are geological, biological and relief characteristics.

Although the area of the Učka Nature Park is small, its biodiversity is considerable. This is the only area in the world where you can take



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S obzirom na svoj položaj, Park prirode Učka prostor je osebujnog susreta kontinentalnih i mediteranskih vrsta. Flora Parka broji oko 1300 vrsta. To je iznimno velik broj u odnosu na površinu Parka. Floristička istraživanja imaju dugu tradiciju na ovom prostoru. Prvi znanstvenici koji su posjetili Učku bili su baš botaničari. Učku su istraživali većinom stranci; godine 1838. na Učki je boravio veliki zaljubljenik u biljni svijet, saski kralj Friedrich August II. Pratnja su mu bili botaničar Tommasini i Josip Jelačić, kasnije hrvatski ban. Vrijedne su doprinose dali i naši botaničari Ljudevit Rossi (1853.–1932.) i Dragutin Hirc (1853.–1921.).

U prošlom stoljeću objavljen je veliki broj istraživanja o bogatstvu flore zaštićenog prostora, no zaključak je da je prostor istraživanja i dalje otvoren za nova otkrića jer je prostor nepresušan izvor novih spoznaja o biljnem svijetu. Šume prekrivaju sedamdeset posto površine Parka. Najveći dio bukovih šuma pripada u primorske koje pokazuju izrazite značajke Mediterana što su bliže morskoj strani. Samo je najviši vrh Učke obrastao pretplaninskom šumom bukve. Od manje zastupljenih šumske zajednice tu je, među ostalima, submediteranski pitomi kesten, nadaleko po ukusnosti i popularnosti poznat marun.

Dojmio se ukusni marun i putopisaca prošlih stoljeća. Primjerice, Johanna Weikharda Valvasora, koji je zabilježio da na obroncima Učke "leže mnogi vinogradi, a njihovo grožđe je puno dobra vina", a za lokalne stanovnike kaže i da "[...] se nemalo njih uzdržava i drugim plodovima, kao što su maruni, a to su veliki i vrlo debeli kesteni (ili kostanji) koje također izvlažaju u daleke zemlje, budući da tu rastu cijele šume tih kostanja."

Nepotpuno je istražen i biljni i životinjski svijet. Očuvane bukove šume i prostrani travnjaci dom su mnogim životinjama, a zabilježena je i prisutnost velikih zvijeri poput medvjeda, vuka i risa. Područje Parka stanište je i najveće europske sove, sove ušare.

Ptica je 167 vrsta. Ugroženi grabežljivci gnijezde se na nepristupačnim stijenama Parka. Među njima su suri orao (*Aquila chrysaetos*) i sivi sokol (*Falco peregrinus*).

Život na Učki, star tisućama godina, formirao je krajolik koji danas ima lice lijepog i korisnog suživota. Stočari su krčili guste planinske šume kako bi napravili ispašu za stada. Tako su nastali pašnjaci Gospin dol i Sapačica, po kojima je Učka i danas znana. Pastiri, koji nisu uzgajali stoku samo zbog mesa, već i prerade mlijeka, njegovali su polunomadski način života koji je među ovčarima preživio do danas. Urazdoblju od srednjeg vijeka do modernog doba, Učka i Čićarija dobivaju svoj završni obraz. S američkog kontinenta stižu krumpir i kukuruz, biljke koje će odigrati veliku ulogu u gorskoj poljoprivredi i prehrani lokalnih ljudi. Sela su imala i po 600 stanovnika i bila gospodarski vrlo aktivna. Za potrebe podnožja i priobalja gorsko je poljoprivredno stanovništvo proizvodilo sir i dostavljalo šumske plodove.

Takav je život ostao ovjekovječen kroz krajolike terasastih vrtova, gorske dolce i pašnjake i građevinsku tradicijsku baštinu, pastirske stanove i zaklone. Među naseljima u Parku po izvornosti ambijenta ističu se Lovrantska Draga i Mala Učka.

Raste interes za Učku – planinari je dobro poznaju, ali i sve više "običnih" izletnika otkriva planinu.

Učka je uistinu poklon posjetitelju. To je i naziv prijevoja koji dijeli Učku od Čićarije. Postoje mišljenja da joj ime potječe od riječi vuk. Toponimi na planini potječu iz slavenskog pretkršćanskog vremena.

Although the area of the Učka Nature Park is small, its biodiversity is considerable. This is the only area in the world where you can take a photo of the stenoendemic plant *Campanula tommasiniana* – for it grows only on the mountain of Učka.

a photo of the stenoendemic plant *Campanula tommasiniana* – for it grows only on the mountain of Učka. If you are patient when looking towards the sky, you can be rewarded by seeing the flight of griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) or golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).

As a result of its position, Učka Nature Park includes an interesting mix of continental and Mediterranean species.

The flora of the Park includes approximately 1,300 species. That is a considerable number, compared with the Park surface. Research of the flora has a long tradition in this area, since botanists were the first scientists who visited Učka. Mostly foreign scientists were researching the mountain; in 1838, a major enthusiast for the world of plants, the King of Saxony Frederick Augustus II, visited the Učka Mountain. He was accompanied by the botanist Tommasini and Josip Jelačić, who later became the viceroy of Croatia. Croatian botanists, Ljudevit Rossi (1853–1932) and Dragutin Hirc (1853–1921), also gave valuable scientific contributions.

In the last century, considerable research was dedicated to the rich flora of the protected area. However, one can only conclude that the space for research is still open for new discoveries, because the area itself continues to represent a major source of new knowledge about the plant world. Forests cover seventy percent of the Park's surface. Beech forests are predominantly littoral, with pronounced Mediterranean characteristics in areas closest to the sea. Subalpine beech forest grows only around the highest peak of Učka. When it comes to less represented forest communities, we should mention the sweet chestnut *marron*, its fruit being a very popular and tasty local treat.

This chestnut impressed some experienced travelers from previous centuries as well. Natural historian Johann Weikhard von Valvasor was one of them. He noted that there are many vineyards on the slopes of Učka, and that "the grapes are full of good wine." He also commented on the locals: "... many of them eat other fruits too, such as *marrons*, and these are big and very thick chestnuts that they also export to distant lands, since entire forests of these chestnuts are growing here."

Both plant and animal life are not fully researched. Preserved beech forests and wide grasslands are home to many animals, and the presence of large carnivores such as bear, wolf and lynx has also been recorded. The area of the Park is also a habitat of the Eurasian eagle-owl, the biggest owl species of Europe.

There are 167 species of birds. Endangered birds of prey are nesting on inaccessible rocks of the Park. They include the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).

Life on Učka, thousands of years old, has formed a landscape that clearly points to a beautiful and useful coexistence. Livestock breeders used to clear dense mountain forests, in order to obtain grazing areas for their herds. The pastures Gospin Dol and Sapačica were created in such a manner, as recognizable localities of the mountain in present times. Shepherds did not tend to domestic animals only for meat, but also for milk, and the semi-nomadic lifestyle that characterized them in the past has survived among sheep and goat breeders until the present day. The formation of landscapes of Učka and Čićarija was completed in the period from the Middle Ages until the modern era. Potato and corn came from the American continent, as plants that would play a major role in mountain agriculture and nutrition of the locals. Villages used



Vrh Perun dobio je ime po slavenskom bogu Perunu. Prema slavenskoj mitologiji, Perun je gromovnik, bog groma i munje, vrhovno božanstvo u panteonu slavenskih bogova.

Planina Učka – a neupitno svjedoči tome i Perunov vrh – odavna uživa poštovanje čovjeka.

Svijet je u slavenskoj mitologiji prikazivan kao sveto stablo na čijoj je najvišoj grani sjedio Perun, vladar svijeta, i promatrao svijet. Pogled s najvišeg vrha planine, Vojaka, obećava takav poseban trenutak, a silazak s planine zahvalnost za doživljaj.

to have up to 600 inhabitants, who were very active economically. Agricultural activities of the mountain population produced cheese and various forest fruits, to meet needs of the regions at the foot of the mountain and on the coast.

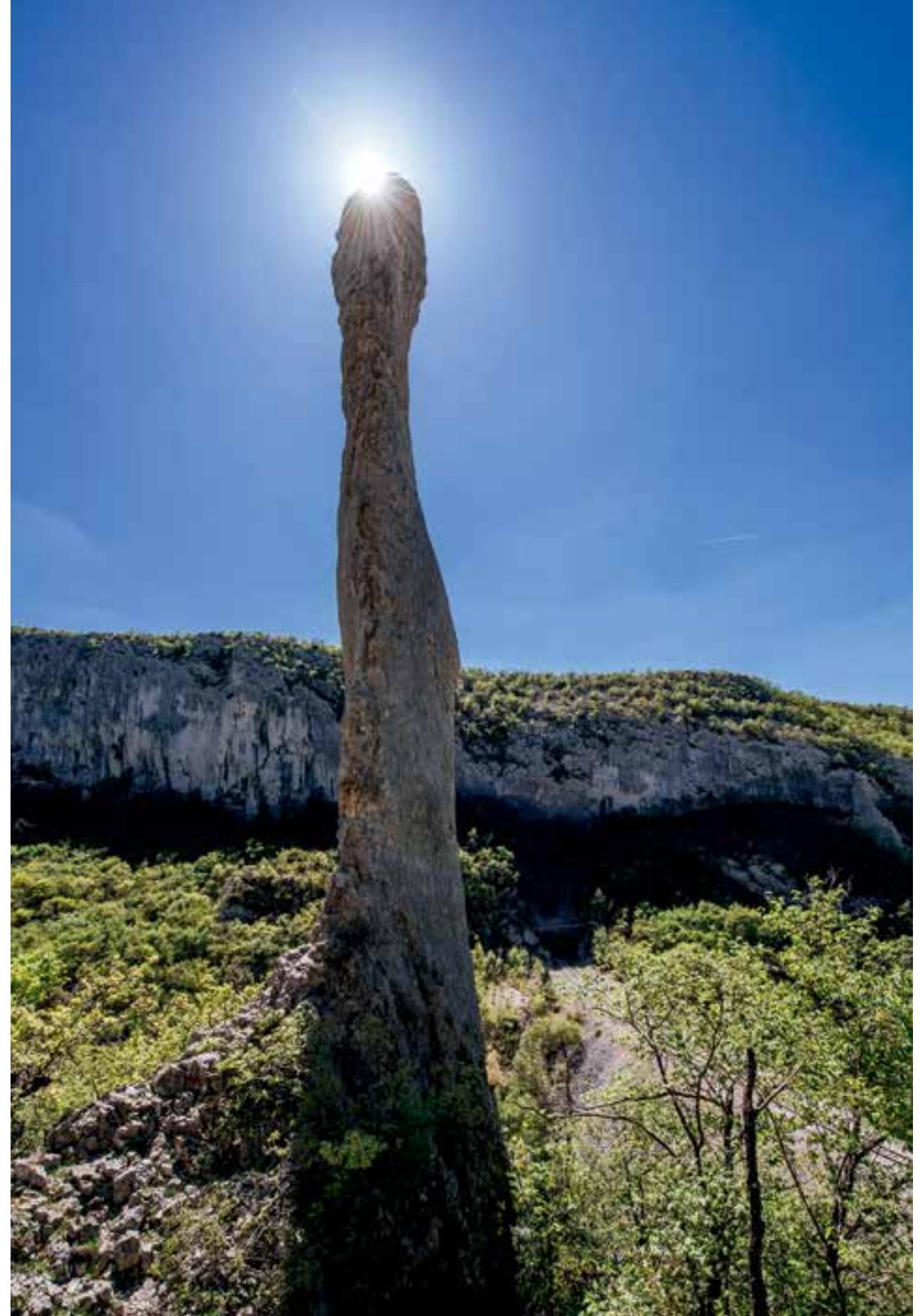
The memory of that way of life lives on in the landscapes of terraced gardens, karst valleys, pastures and traditional architectural heritage, from the shepherd's huts onwards. The settlements of Lovrantska Draga and Mala Učka in the area of the Park are particularly interesting in terms of the originality of their ambience.

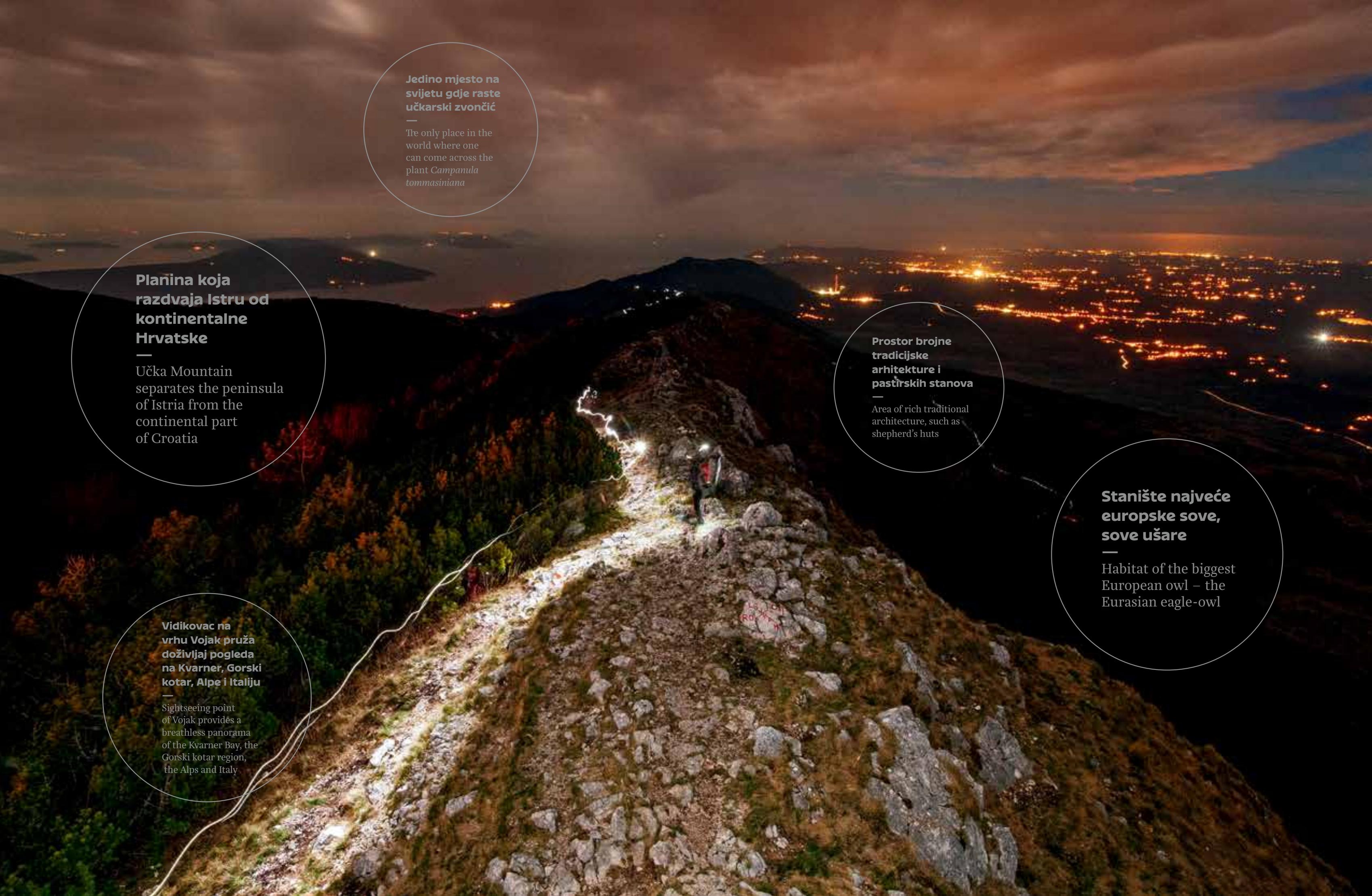
The interest for Učka is growing – mountain climbers already know it pretty well, but more and more "ordinary" visitors are discovering the mountain too.

Učka is truly a *bosilj* to the visitor, just like the Croatian name of the mountain pass separating Učka from Čićarija suggests. According to some, the name of the mountain itself actually stems from the word used for wolf. Names of various localities on the mountain stem from the pre-Christian Slavic heritage, on the other hand. For example, the peak of Perun got its name after the Slavic deity Perun. According to the Slavic mythology, Perun is a thunderer, the god of thunder and lightning, and a supreme deity in the pantheon of Slavic gods.

The Učka Mountain – as the peak of Perun undoubtedly testifies – has been enjoying the respect of man for quite some time. According to the Slavic mythology, the world is portrayed as a holy tree, with Perun, the ruler of the world, sitting on its topmost branch and observing the world. The view from Vojak, the topmost peak of the mountain, promises such a special moment. One can only feel gratitude for that experience while descending from the mountain.







**Jedino mjesto na svijetu gdje raste učkarski zvončić**

The only place in the world where one can come across the plant *Campanula tommasiniana*

**Planina koja razdvaja Istru od kontinentalne Hrvatske**

Učka Mountain separates the peninsula of Istria from the continental part of Croatia

**Prostor brojne tradicijske arhitekture i pastirskih stanova**

Area of rich traditional architecture, such as shepherd's huts

**Vidikovac na vrhu Vojak pruža doživljaj pogleda na Kvarner, Gorski kotar, Alpe i Italiju**

Sightseeing point of Vojak provides a breathless panorama of the Kvarner Bay, the Gorski kotar region, the Alps and Italy

**Stanište najveće europske sove, sove ušare**

Habitat of the biggest European owl – the Eurasian eagle-owl

Velebit je, gledajući iz zraka, gorostasni kameni bedem međaš kopna i mora. Splet krševitih ponikava, grebena, kukova, dolina, hrptova i vrhova koji plijeni bioraznolikošću i ljepotom. Mnogi će, ipak, planinu opisati rječnikom koji nema veze s biologijom, geografijom ili speleologijom. I reći da ih je planina pozvala, i da je to najsnažniji zov koji su doživjeli, a od nijemog je kamena.

—  
When looking at it from the air, the mountain of Velebit resembles a stone giant, a huge boundary between the land and the sea. It is a mix of karst dolines, mountain crests, sinkholes, ridges, rounded and sharp peaks, marked by captivating biodiversity and beauty. However, many will describe the mountain in a manner that has nothing to do with biology, geography or speleology. They will say that the mountain has invited them, and that it is the most powerful invitation they have ever received, made of silent stone.

# PARK PRIRODE VELEBIT

Velebit Nature Park





## PLANINA KOJU JE NEMOGUĆE "OSVOJITI"

Biti na Velebitu znači skočiti preko svoje sjene. Planinu je, naime, nemoguće "osvojiti". Ona je više od onoga što čovjek svojom fizičkom snagom i sposobnošću može doseći. I oni koji su se popeli na najviše velebitske vrhove znaju reći da su tek na početku puta spoznaje o planini. Za mnoge je upravo Velebit mjesto susreta sa sobom u planini. Istinski doživljaj slobode i suglasja s prirodom. Planina nije samo put od kamena; ona je – put duše.

Iako je Velebit raskoš bioraznolikosti, često ćete kao odgovor na pitanje o planini prvo čuti riječi koje pokušavaju pronaći pravi opis za *doživljaj* planine. Neupitno da je dio tog doživljaja u zajedništvu i prožimanju ljepote biljnog i životinjskog svijeta, vrhova, podzemlja, kulturne i povijesne baštine.

Park prirode Velebit najznačajnije je endemsko čvorište flore i kopnene faune u Hrvatskoj. Na Velebitu su zabilježene 1854 biljne svojte, od kojih je 79 endema. Baš zbog toga, prostor se nerijetko naziva i "centrom endemizma". Njihova su staništa stijene i točila na zapadnoj padini Velebita, špilje i predio uz rijeke Krupu i Zrmanju te planinski travnjaci i pašnjaci.

Najpoznatija među endemima svakako je velebitska degenija (*Degenia velebitica*), ali ljepotom ne zaostaju ni hrvatska sibireja (*Sibiraea altaiensis ssp. Croatica*), velebitski zvončić (*Campanula velebitica*), prozorski zvončić (*Campanula fenestrellata*), kitajbelov jaglac (*Primula kitaibeliana*) ili velebitski klinčić (*Dinthus velebiticus*).

Prevladavaju šumska staništa. Livade i pašnjaci posebno su važni jer su čuvari biološke raznolikosti. Najviše je bukovih šuma s velikom mrtvom koprivom (*Lamio orvalae – Fagetum*) i to na područjima ispod 900 metara.

## A MOUNTAIN THAT CANNOT BE TRULY CONQUERED

Being on Velebit is the same as trying to jump over one's own shadow. Namely, it is impossible to conquer the mountain. It exceeds anything that man could possibly achieve by physical strength and capability. Even those who have scaled the top peaks of Velebit will tell you that they are only just beginning to learn about the mountain. For many, Velebit is the place of encounter with oneself, and a genuine experience of freedom and harmony with nature. The mountain is not merely a path made of stone – it is a path of the soul.

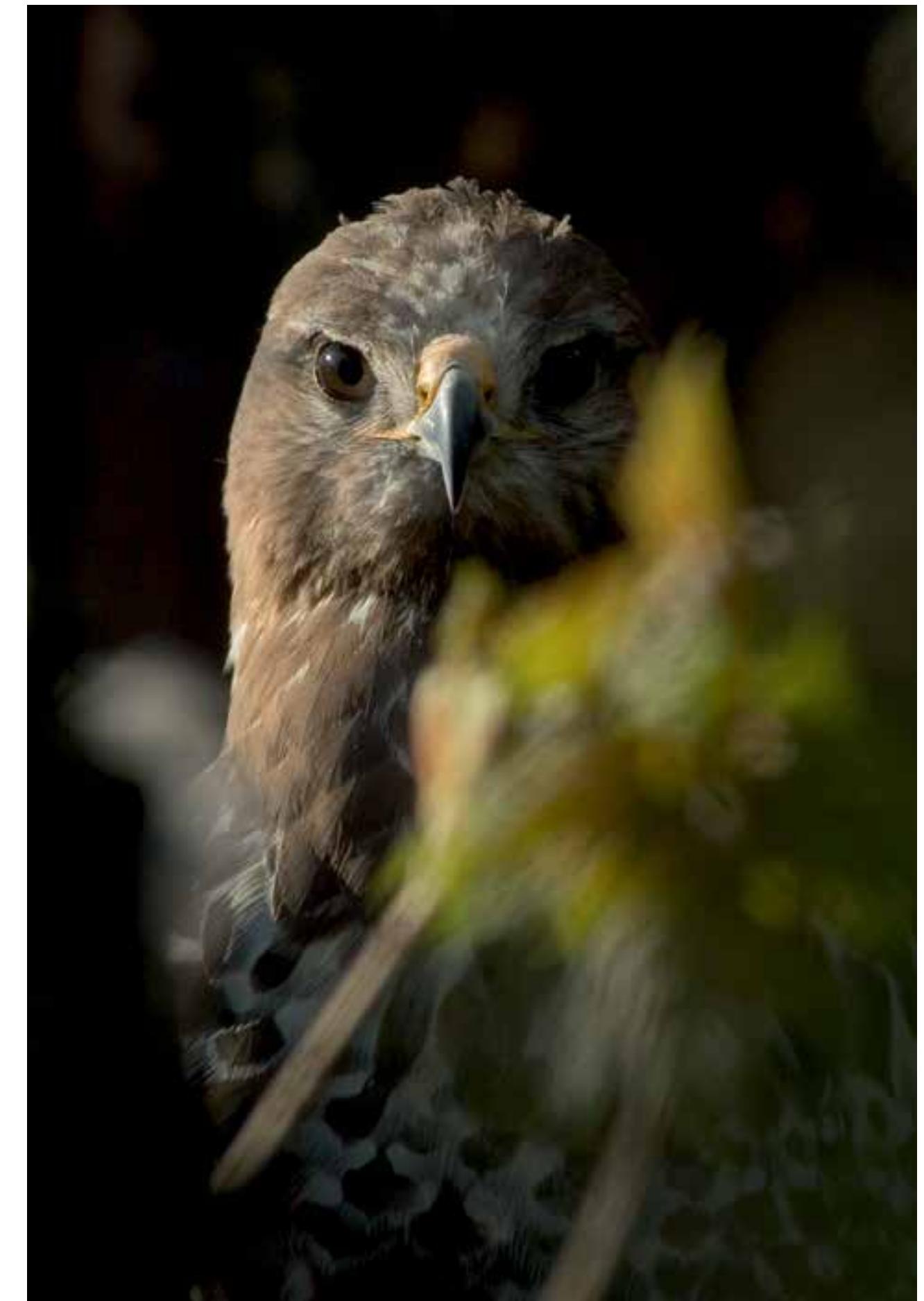
Even though Velebit is astonishing in its biodiversity, when you ask people about the mountain, the first words you'll hear them say will likely be about the *experience* of the mountain. It is beyond dispute that one part of that experience has to do with the beauty of unity and interaction of the plant and animal world, mountain peaks, the underground, cultural and historical heritage.

Velebit Nature Park is the most significant endemic focal point of the flora and terrestrial fauna in Croatia. There are 1,854 plant taxa recorded on Velebit, 79 of them endemic. That is precisely why this area is frequently referred to as a "center of endemism". Habitats of these species include rocks and talus cones on the western slopes of Velebit, as well as the caves and the area around the rivers Krupa and Zrmanja, and mountain grasslands and pastures.

The best-known endemic species is certainly the Velebit degenia (*Degenia velebitica*). However, equally beautiful are the Croatian sibbirea (*Sibiraea altaiensis ssp. Croatica*), the Velebit bellflower (*Campanula velebitica*), the window bellflower (*Campanula fenestrellata*), Kitajbel's primrose (*Primula kitaibeliana*), and the Velebit dianthus (*Dinthus velebiticus*).

Forest habitats are predominant. Meadows and pastures are particularly





Velebit je dom velikih zvijeri: mrkog medvjeda (*Ursus arctos*), vuka (*Canis lupus*) i risa (*Lynx lynx*), kao i obitavalište vidre (*Lutra lutra*).

Na nadmorskim visinama iznad 800 metara dinarske su bukovojelove šume (*Omphalodo Fagetum*). Iznad 1000 metara primorska je bukova šuma s jasenskom šašikom (*Seslerio autumnalis-Fagetum*) i raste na kamenim platoima. Od tih visina do vrhova na 1650 metara pretpelaninske su šume bukve i gorskog javora (*Polystycho lonchitis-Fagetum*). To su prostori pod snijegom, gdje je snažni vjetar povio stabla svojom težinom.

Velebit je dom velikih zvijeri: mrkog medvjeda (*Ursus arctos*), vuka (*Canis lupus*) i risa (*Lynx lynx*), kao i obitavalište vidre (*Lutra lutra*).

Ornitološki je zavod Hrvatske akademije znanosti i umjetnosti izdvojio ovo područje za uključenje u europsku mrežu Natura 2000 jer čak 18 vrsta ptica zadovoljava stroge kriterije. Tu su gnijezdilišta vrtne strnadice (*Emberiza hortulana*), tetrijeba gluhana (*Tetrao urogallus*), malog čuka (*Glaucidium passerinum*), planinskog čuka (*Aegolius funereus*) i planinskog djetlića (*Dendrocopos leucotos*).

Park prirode Velebit ima i svoju posebnu, podzemnu priču. Uz budljivo je zamijeniti danje svjetlo špiljskim, nadzemne pejzaže podzemnima. Cerovačke su špilje najveće u Hrvatskoj. Kompleks se sastoji od 3 špilje, Donje, Srednje i Gornje, a istraženo je 5,5 kilometara.

U špiljama vrijedi pravilo "gledaj, ali ne diraj". Neprocjenjiva i nenadoknadiva šteta nastala bi ako bi se nemarom uništilo sigu koju je priroda izgradila strpljivim konstantnim kapanjem vode tijekom tisuća godina.

Čudesno je ući u davni dom špiljskog medvjeda (*Ursus spelaeus*). Ušli ste u svojevrsni arheološki vremeplov i u trenu pogled na vrhove Velebita i sadašnji trenutak možete zamijeniti putovanjem trideset tisuća godina u prošlost!

Špiljski je medvjed bio pravi gorostas. Uspravljen na stražnje noge dosezao je tri metra visine, a nerijetko je težio i tonu. Živio je u ledeno dobu, kada je nadzemni svijet Velebita izgledao posvema drugčije: vrhovi su bili okovani ledom, razina mora niža za stotinjak metara. Gdje je danas more, tada je bilo kopno, otoci su bili vrhovi planina, a travnatim velebitskim kanalima pasla su divlja goveda i konji.

Po špiljskom je medvjedu ime dobila i jedna špiljska dvorana – Medvjeda dvorana.

Donja špilja, među mještanima zvana Turkaljeva, nalazi se petnaestak metara ispod željeznice. Duljina svih dosad istraženih kanala u Donjoj špilji iznosi preko 4000 m, a duljina turističke staze je oko 700 metara. Na oko 800 metara duljine špilja se dijeli u dva kraka. Jedan se krak pruža prema sjeverozapadu. U tom se kraku nalazi glavno nalazište ostataka špiljskog medvjeda – Medvjeda dvorana. Drugi se krak pruža prema jugozapadu i predstavlja glavni kanal kojim je tekla voda iz Gračačkog polja u doba kada je špilja imala aktivnu hidrogeološku funkciju ponora.

Između Gornje i Donje špilje je Srednja. Duboka je 92 metra, a ukupna duljina svih kanala je 390 metara. Vrlo je razgranat speleološki objekt. Gornja se špilja nalazi tridesetak metara iznad željezničke pruge. Lokalno ju stanovništvo naziva Kesića špiljom. Istraženo je 1290 metara, a turistička je staza duga 700 metara. I ovdje je pronađeno mnogo kostiju špiljskog medvjeda (*Ursus spelaeus*) i tragovi kretanja medvjeda u mraku špilje, takozvana "medvjeda brušenja".

Začudna je ljepota špiljskih dvoran. Jedna je nazvana Dvoranom

Velebit is home to large carnivores: brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), wolf (*Canis lupus*) and lynx (*Lynx lynx*), and it is also a habitat of otters (*Lutra lutra*).

important, as they safeguard biodiversity. Beech forests with large red dead nettle (*Lamio orvalae – Fagetum*) are the most widespread, and they are located in areas below the altitude threshold of 900 meters.

At altitudes exceeding 800 meters above sea level, one finds Dinaric beech and fir forests (*Omphalodo Fagetum*). Exceeding the 1000 meter altitude mark is the coastal beech forest with autumn moor grass (*Seslerio autumnalis-Fagetum*), growing on rocky plateaus. From that altitude, and all the way to the peaks at 1650 meters, there are subalpine forests of beech and hollyfern (*Polystycho lonchitis-fagetum*). These areas are covered in snow, with strong winds pounding the trees with considerable force.

Velebit is home to large carnivores: brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), wolf (*Canis lupus*) and lynx (*Lynx lynx*), and it is also a habitat of otters (*Lutra lutra*). The Ornithological Institute of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts has singled out this area for the purposes of inclusion into the European Natura 2000 network, with as many as 18 bird species satisfying the strict criteria. The area includes nesting grounds of the ortolan bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*), capercaille (*Tetrao urogallus*), the Eurasian pygmy owl (*Glaucidium passerinum*), boreal owl (*Aegolius funereus*) and the white-backed woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos*).

Velebit Nature Park has its special underground story as well. It is truly exciting to replace daylight with cave complexes, usual landscapes with those hidden in the underground. The locality of Cerovačke Caves represents the largest cave complex in Croatia. It consists of three caves – the lower, middle and upper cave – with 5.5 kilometers of caves researched so far.

There is a simple rule that must be observed in caves – "look, but do not touch." Priceless and irreparable damage would occur by negligence, if one were to touch the dripstone built by nature and patient dripping of water over a period spanning thousands of years.

It is astonishing to enter the ancient home of the cave bear (*Ursus spelaeus*). One feels as if entering an archaeological time machine of sorts; one moment, you are observing the peaks of Velebit, and in the very next moment, you travel back in time by thirty thousand years!

The cave bear was a true giant, reaching three meters in height when standing on rear feet, frequently at over one ton in weight. This bear species lived during the Ice Age, when the surface of Velebit looked quite different: the peaks were covered in ice, and the sea level was lower by roughly one hundred meters. What is covered by sea today used to be land; the islands were once mountain peaks, and wild cattle and horses were grazing the channels of Velebit covered in grass.

One cave hall actually got its name after the cave bear – Medvjeda dvorana.

The lower cave of the Cerovac complex, that the locals refer to as the cave of Turkaljeva, is located approximately fifteen meters below the railway line. The length of all the channels researched within it exceeds 4,000 meters, and the tourist trail is about 700 meters long. After roughly 800 meters, the cave divides into two branches, one of which heads northwest. The key site of cave bear remains – Medvjeda dvorana, or the Bear Hall – is located in that part of the cave complex. Another branch heads southwest, and represents the main channel that carried the water arriving from the field of Gračac back when the cave was an



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paleolitskog lovca gdje su pronađeni vrijedni paleoantropološki ostaci ljudskih kostiju i koštanih šiljaka. Stalaktiti, stalagmiti, stupovi, zavjese, saljevi, kaskade i špiljski biseri fascinantni su ukrasi podzemlja koji ne mogu ostaviti ravnodušnim. I kad izadete iz špilje, još dugo ostajete dojmom unutra, u začudnom podzemnom svijetu Parka prirode Velebit. Morski dragulj Parka je uvala Zavratnica. Uvijek na vrhu popisa najljepših uvala Jadrana. Kao da je djelić obale sjevernih mora zalutao u Hrvatsku – Zavratnica oblikom podsjeća na fjord, mada ovdje nikada nije bilo ledenjaka. Bujice su brazdale padine Velebita i jedan takav bujičnjak postglacijalnim dizanjem morske vode naprsto je potopljen. Tako je nastala kršna Zavratnica. Dužina drage je oko 800 metara. Početkom 20. stoljeća izgrađene su gornja staza s vidikovcem te šetnica uz more. Negdje u to vrijeme Zavratnica postaje skrovito ljetovalište bečke i praške elite. Ova je uvala za mnoge bila otkrićem. Dolazili su poznati umjetnici, znanstvenici, zaljubljenici u Velebit. Među njima i hrvatski književnik Vjenceslav Novak koji je upravo ovdje napisao mnoge stranice hrvatske književnosti. Plavetnilo mora, sivilo velebitskog kamena, oskudno zelenilo i debele sjene stabala na pojedinim dijelovima čudesne su boje privlačnosti Zavratnice. Ni ovo mjesto nije zbog neobjašnjive ljepote umaklo legendi. Ona kaže da se dogodio strašan potres i da su u jednoj noći potonula tri starorimska grada: Ortopla, Cissa i Lopsica. Od potopljenih gradova nastala je Zavratnica. Park prirode Velebit mjesto je gdje se može visoko u oblake i duboko u čudesno podzemlje.

Velebit Nature Park has its special underground story as well. It is truly exciting to replace daylight with cave complexes, usual landscapes with those hidden in the underground. The locality of Cerovačke Caves represents the largest cave complex in Croatia. It consists of three caves – the lower, middle and upper cave – with 5.5 kilometers of caves researched so far.

abyss carrying water, with an active hydrological and geological role. The middle cave is located between the upper and the lower cave of the Cerovac cave complex. It is 92 meters deep, with the total channel length of 390 meters. It forms a very diverse speleological network. The upper cave of the Cerovac complex is located approximately thirty meters above the railway line. The locals refer to it as Kesića Cave. So far, 1,290 meters have been researched, and the tourist trail is 700 meters long. A number of bone remains of the cave bear species (*Ursus spelaeus*) have been found here as well, together with other traces of bear presence in the darkness of the cave, such as the so-called bear “grinding”.

Cave halls are startlingly beautiful. One hall is referred to as the Paleolithic Hunter Hall, with anthropologically valuable remains of human bones and fragments from the Paleolithic period found in it. Stalactites, stalagmites, pillars, curtains, flowstones, cascades and cave pearls are fascinating ornaments of the underworld, leaving no one indifferent. Long after you leave the cave, the strong impression remains, caused by the stunning underground world of the Velebit Nature Park.

One sea jewel of the Park is the cove of Zavratnica. It always manages to find its place on various lists of the most beautiful coves of the Adriatic. It feels as if a small part of the coastline of the northern seas ended up in Croatia. The shape of Zavratnica reminds of a fjord, even though there have never been any glaciers here. Instead, torrents once rushed down the slopes of Velebit, and one canyon ended up submerged following the post-glacial rise of the sea water level. That is how the karst phenomenon of Zavratnica came about.

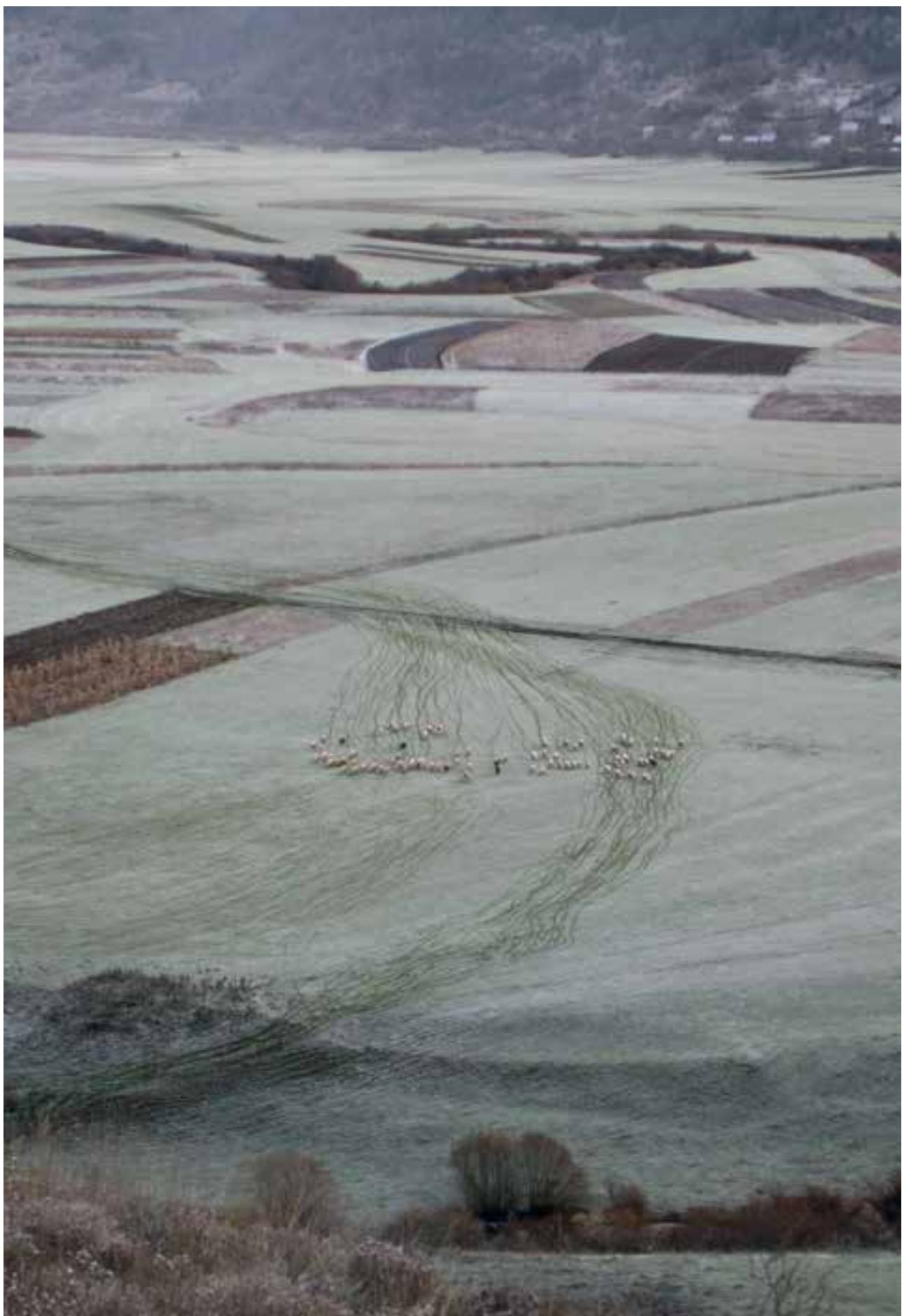
The length of the cove is approximately 800 meters. Towards the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a path with a sightseeing point was built above the cove, together with the walking path along the coastline. Roughly around that time, Zavratnica became a hidden resort of the Viennese and Prague elite.

Many renowned people discovered the cove over the years. Well-known artists and scientists visited this area, and many who did so fell in love with Velebit. They include the Croatian writer

Vjenceslav Novak, who wrote many pages of the Croatian literature precisely in this cove. The blue of the sea, the grey of the Velebit rocks, sparse vegetation and thick shades of trees scattered here and there in the cove make Zavratnica and its colors immensely attractive.

Inexplicable beauty made this place the stuff of legends too. According to one legend, a horrible earthquake once struck the area, and three ancient Roman cities ended up submerged under the sea in one single night: Ortopla, Cissa and Lopsica. And Zavratnica was created out of these submerged cities.

Velebit Nature Park is a place where you can simultaneously head high into the clouds, and deep into the breathtaking underworld.





**Najznačajnije je endemsko čvorište flore i kopnene faune u Hrvatskoj**

The most significant endemic spot of Croatian flora and terrestrial fauna

**U špiljama su nađene brojne kosti izumriog špiljskog medvjeda**

Bones of the extinct cave bear have been discovered in the caves of Velebit

**Cerovačke špilje najveće su špilje u Hrvatskoj**

Cerovačke Caves on the mountain are the largest caves in Croatia

**Park prirode Velebit je od 1978. godine rezervat biosfere UNESCO-a u programu Čovjek i biosfera (MAB)**

Since 1978, Velebit Nature Park is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve within the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)

**Park je dom velikih zvijeri – medvjeda, vuka i risa**

The Park is home to large carnivores – bear, wolf and lynx

**Uvala Zavratnica, morski dragulj Parka, uvijek je na popisu najljepših na Jadranu**

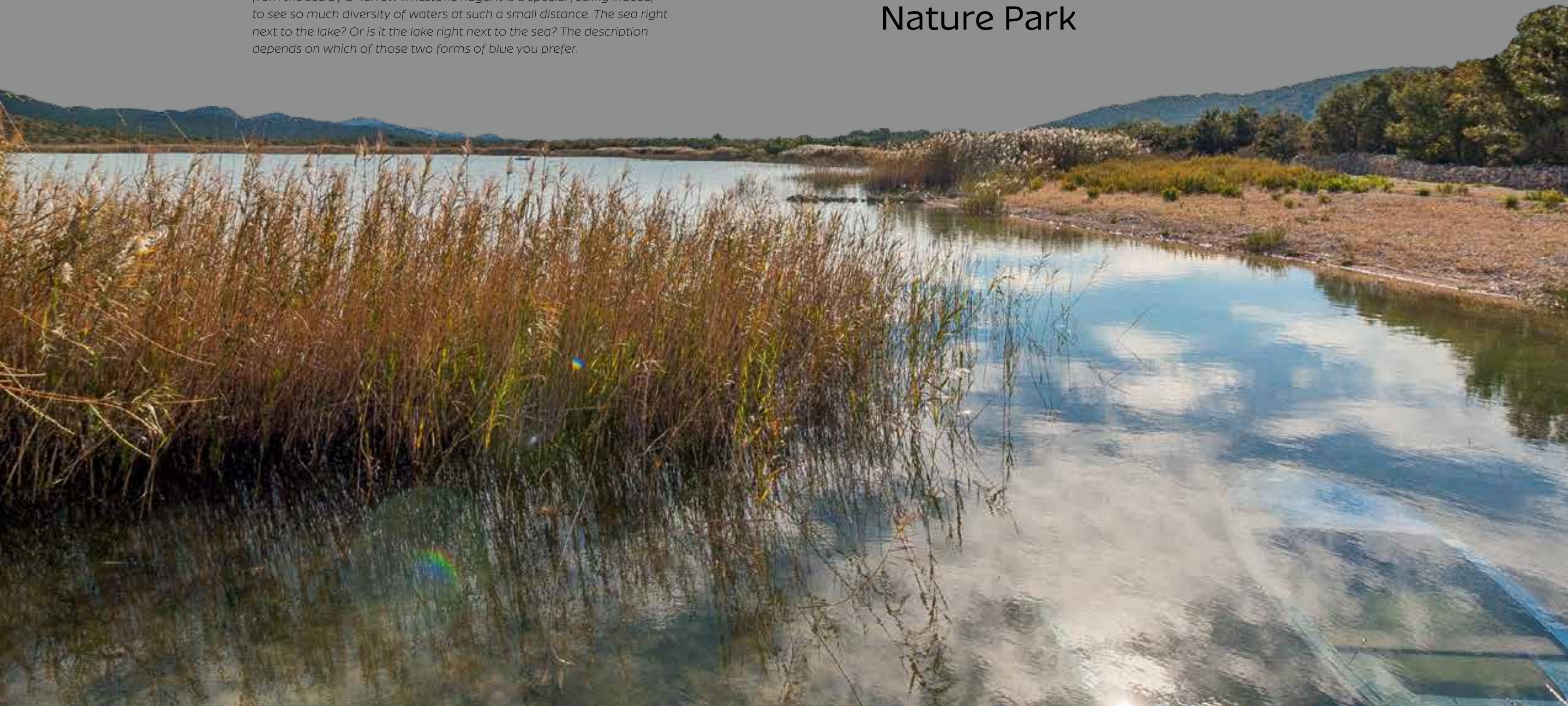
The cove of Zavratnica – a sea jewel of the Park – always finds its way to various lists of the most beautiful coves of the Adriatic

*Jezero s mediteranskom klimom. Najveće prirodno jezero i jedno od najvećih močvarnih područja u mediteranskoj Hrvatskoj. Utočište ugroženim pticama, zimovalište za oko 100 000 ptica vodarica. Jezerski raj sportskih ribolovaca i biciklista od mora dijeli vapnenački greben. Poseban doživljaj različitosti voda na tako maloj udaljenosti. More uz jezero? Ili jezero tik do mora? Opis lokacije ovisi samo o tome koje vam je plavetnilo draže.*

*A lake with Mediterranean climate. The largest natural lake and one of the largest wetland areas in the Mediterranean part of Croatia. A refuge of endangered birds, and a wintering site for approximately one hundred thousand water birds. A lake paradise for anglers and cyclists, separated from the sea by a narrow limestone ridge. It is a special feeling indeed, to see so much diversity of waters at such a small distance. The sea right next to the lake? Or is it the lake right next to the sea? The description depends on which of those two forms of blue you prefer.*

# PARK PRIRODE VRANSKO JEZERO

Vransko Jezero  
Nature Park





## MEDITERANSKA KLIMA NA JEZERSKIM VODAMA

Jezero i more u najbližem susjedstvu, tako bismo opisno mogli locirati Vransko jezero – najveće prirodno jezero u Hrvatskoj. Uronjeno u mediteransku klimu, ali ne i veliku dubinu, jer jezero je duboko od dva do najviše pet metara, Vransko je jezero prirodni fenomen potopljenog krškog polja krcat životom.

Po položaju i brojnim obilježjima ovo je jezero posebnost u Hrvatskoj, ali i širem europskom prostoru. Prirodni je fenomen kriptodepresije koja stvara jedinstvenu pojavnost jezerskog života.

Radi se, naime, o zemljopisnoj pojavi u kojoj je površina vode jezera iznad razine mora, a dno ispod nje. Ispod velike nakupine mulja, koja na nekim mjestima prelazi i preko 20 metara, nalazi se nepropusni flišni sloj stijena. To je nepropusna barijera i voda ne može oticati u krško dno. Uski krški greben, pak, prirodna je barijera između jezera i mora, no zbog svoje poroznosti more ulazi u jezerske vode i zaslanjuje ju.

Život se ovdje bučno glasa i to u zvuku ptica. Poseban je ornitološki rezervat u kojemu prezimljuje preko 100 000 ptica vodarica.

Zbog očuvanosti velike površine tršćaka i ugroženih vlažnih staništa, jezero je ornitološki raj. Uvršteno je u listu važnih ornitoloških područja u Europi (Important Bird Areas in Europe) te na Ramsarski popis močvarnih staništa od međunarodne važnosti.

Ekološka vrijednost prostora je neizmjerna i bezrezervno nudi sve potrebno za život biljaka i životinja bujajući u raznolikosti.

Prostor Parka prirode Vransko jezero obrastao je dijelom rogozom, šašem i trskom pa podsjeća i na travnjak premrežen plitkim barama i cvijećem koje oblijjeću leptiri. Tu su i vretenca i mnogobrojne vrste kukaca i sav prisutan život ovdje je tkivo ekosustava koji je jednako dinamičan kroz cijelu godinu.



## LAKE WATERS IN MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE

Lake and sea in closest vicinity – that is how we might describe Vransko Lake – the largest natural lake in Croatia. Immersed in the Mediterranean climate, but by no means deep – for the lake is two to five meters deep at the most – Vransko Lake is a natural phenomenon of a submerged karst field full of life.

In terms of its position and characteristics, the lake is truly a special phenomenon in Croatia, but also in a wider European area. It is a natural cryptodepression, a phenomenon creating a unique lake life.

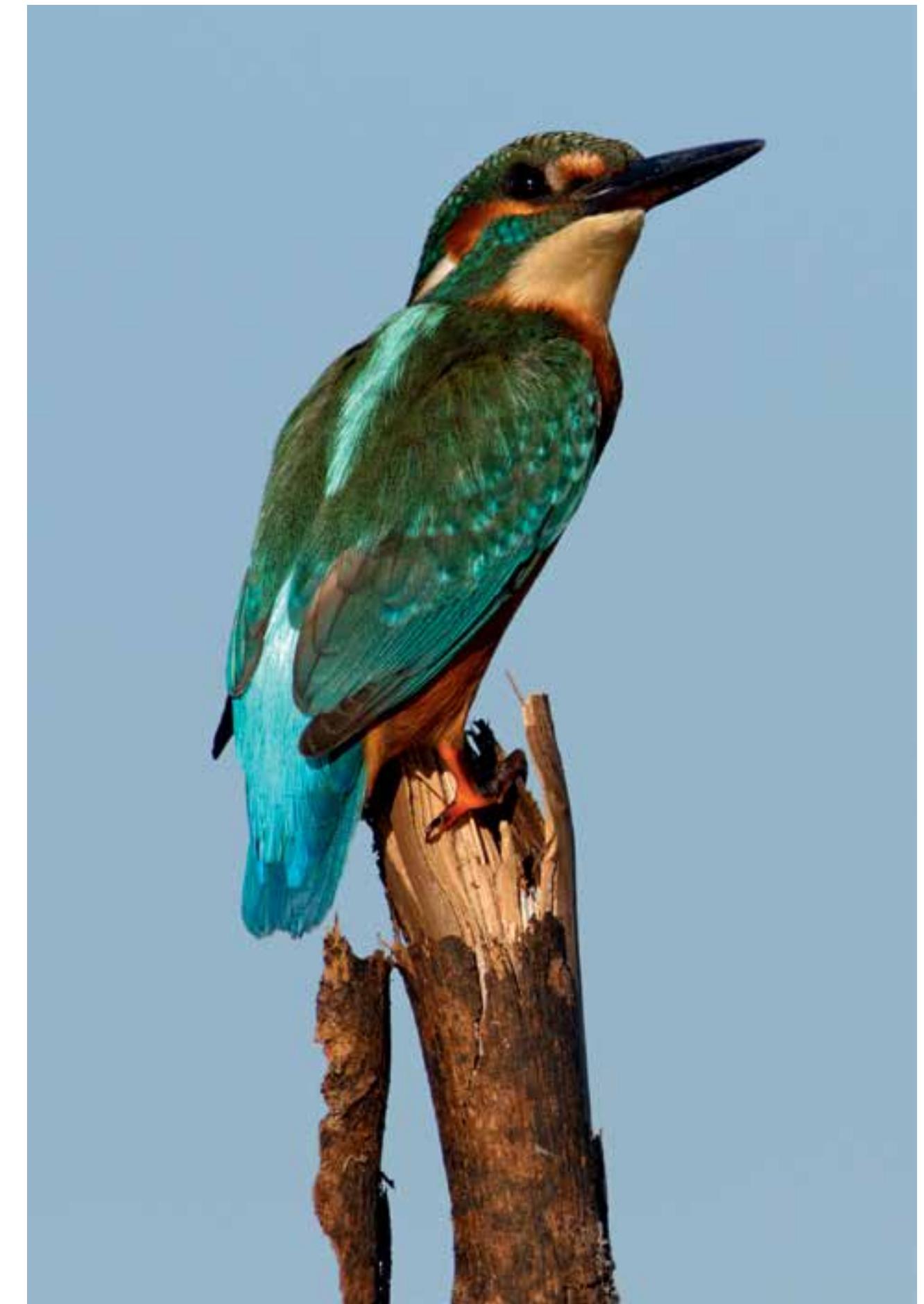
Essentially, it is a geographical phenomenon in which the surface of water in the lake is above the sea level, while the bottom of the lake is below the sea level. Underneath a considerable deposit of sludge, which exceeds 20 meters in some areas, there is an impermeable flysch rock layer. It serves as a barrier preventing water from disappearing into the karst soil. A narrow karst ridge between the lake and the sea is another natural barrier protecting the lake. However, due to the porous nature of the ridge, seawater enters the lake and increases the salinity.

Life can be pretty noisy here, and you can clearly hear it in the sound of birds. The lake is a special ornithological reserve, after all, with over one hundred thousand water birds wintering in the area.

Due to the conservation of a substantial area of reed surfaces and endangered wetland habitats, the lake is an ornithological paradise. It is included in the list of Important Bird Areas in Europe, and the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

The ecological value of the area is immense, abundantly providing everything necessary for the life of plants and animals, which can thrive in diversity.

The area of the Vransko jezero Nature Park is partly covered by bulrush,



Život se ovdje bučno glasa i to u zvuku ptica. Poseban je ornitološki rezervat u kojemu prezimljuje preko 100 000 ptica vodarica.

Ljubitelji ptica ovo mjesto upisuju u mapu nezaboravnih iskustava. Ovdje se iz skrovišta može promatrati njihov život, gniježđenje i briga za mlade. Cijeli životni ciklus. Vransko jezero vrelo je ornitofaune i do sada je zabilježeno 256 vrsta ptica od kojih se više od 100 gniježdi na području Parka prirode. Među pticama gnjezdarcama četiri su ugrožene vrste na europskom području, a sedam u hrvatskom prirodnom okruženju. Za ugrožene vrste čaplju dangubu i malog vranca ovo je jedno od rijetkih gnjezdilišta u Hrvatskoj.

Najvredniji dio Parka, u biološkom i ekološkom pogledu, upravo je ornitološki rezervat. U njemu se odmaraju i hrane brojne ptice preletnice u vrijeme seljenja iz hladnih europskih krajeva u tople afričke (i nazad).

Zabilježen je i veliki broj jedinki pojedine vrste, a razlog njihovom velikom broju jest sve veća ugroženost takvih staništa u Europi.

Močvare su uništavane, doživljavane nepoželjnim i njihova je površina u Europi jako smanjena. Stoga je Vransko jezero i europska oaza. I samo je Vransko jezero u prošlosti imalo veću površinu. No, močvarni su dijelovi pomalo pretvarani u plodne poljoprivredne površine, isušivalo se zbog sadnje povrća i ratarskih usjeva. Ta je zemlja dobrim urodima nagradila rad ravnokotarskih ljudi. Veliki broj nepresušnih izvora vode, sunce, blagost mediteranske klime pružile su poljodjelstvu idealne uvjete.

Voda je bogata ribom. Nema tog sportskog ribolovca koji ne poznaje ove vode. Zna se da se ovdje dolazi zbog šarana, soma i štuke – vrsta koje ove jezero čine ribičkom mekom.

Jegulja, koja je uz riječnu babcu jedina autohtonija riblja vrsta jezera, strogo je zaštićena na području Parka prirode Vransko jezero. Ova je životinja pravi prirodni fenomen. Mrijesti se u dalekom Sargaškom ili Sjevernoatlanskom sargaškom moru. Mlade i male jegulje s tih mjeseta putuju potom toplojem Golfskom strujom prema našoj obali i stižu i do Vranskog jezera. Spolno zrele vraćaju se opet u sjeverne vode gdje i ugibaju nakon mriještenja.

U bočatoj vodi jezera živi jedinstvena kombinacija morskih i slatkvodnih vrsta što lokaciju čini svjetski atraktivnom za ribolovce. Vransko je jezero s morem povezano umjetnim kanalom Prosika, koji je probijen još 1781. godine i spaja jezero s Pirovačkim zaljevom.

Prokop je napravljen kako bi višak vode u kišnim razdobljima mogao otjecati, a to je bilo važno jer se tako sprečavala poplava Vranskog polja. Prosika je, ipak, unijela u jezero biološke i ekološke promjene. U razdobljima nižeg vodostaja u jezero dotječe više morske vode koja mijenja kemijska i biološka svojstva vode, što mijenja i biljni i životinjski svijet.

Vodu jezero dobiva iz nekoliko izvora; najvažniji su Škorobić, Vrilo, Biba i Pećina. Izvori Pećina i Škorobić nalaze se u mjestu Vrana, po kojemu je i Vransko jezero dobilo ime.

Ako jezero opisujemo kroz brojke – ovo je njegova slika. Dugo je više od 13 kilometara, duboko prosječno do četiri metra, a površina mu je oko 30 četvornih kilometara. Vodostaj se godišnje koleba maksimalno dva metra, a prosječno metar.

Četrdeset kilometara duga je panoramska staza oko jezera tako da je Vransko jezero često birano odredište biciklista. Oni koji uživaju u šetnjama iskoriste lučiću Prosika za stanku u prirodi, barem za

Life can be pretty noisy here, and you can clearly hear it in the sound of birds. The lake is a special ornithological reserve, after all, with over one hundred thousand water birds wintering in the area.

sedge and reed, and it reminds of grasslands interspersed by shallow pools of water and flowers with butterflies flying around. There are also dragonflies and numerous insect species. The entirety of life present in the area is constituent part of the ecosystem that is equally dynamic throughout the year.

Bird lovers will undoubtedly cherish their visit an unforgettable experience. From hiding places, one can observe the life of birds, their nesting and care for the nestlings. The entire lifecycle is on display, for everyone to see. Vransko jezero is a treasure of ornithofauna, with 256 bird species recorded so far, over one hundred of them nesting in the territory of the Nature Park.

When it comes to nesting birds, four species present in the area are endangered at the European level, and seven species are endangered at the level of Croatia.

The lake is one of the few nesting sites of endangered species purple heron and pygmy cormorant in Croatia.

Ornithological reserve is the most valuable part of the Park in both biological and ecological terms. Many migrating birds rest and feed in the reserve during the period of migrations from cold European areas into warm African lands (and back).

Some bird species are present in the Park in large numbers, which is an indication of the fact that wetland habitats face increasing threats throughout Europe.

Subjected to destruction, perceived as undesirable, wetlands in Europe have decreased considerably in terms of surface. That is why Vransko Lake is a European oasis as well. The surface of Vransko jezero itself used to be larger in the past, with some wetland areas gradually transformed into fertile agricultural land by reclaiming, in order to plant vegetables and field crops. This land awards the efforts of people in the region of Ravnici Kotari with good yields. A number of constant water sources, the sun and the mild nature of the Mediterranean climate provide ideal conditions for agriculture.

The water is abundant with fish. There is hardly an angler not acquainted with these waters. It is general knowledge that people come here to catch carp, catfish and pike – species that make this lake a fishing Mecca. Eel, which is the only autochthonous fish species of the lake together with freshwater blenny, is strictly protected in the area of the Nature Park. This fish is a true natural phenomenon. It spawns in the distant Sargasso Sea in the North Atlantic. Small young eels travel towards our coast from that part of the world, using the warm Gulf Stream, eventually reaching Vransko jezero. Once they reach sexual maturity, they return to the northern waters, where they die upon spawning.

Brackish water provides habitat to a unique combination of marine and freshwater species, which makes the area highly attractive for fishermen globally. Vransko jezero is connected with the sea by a man-made channel of Prosika, which was dug out back in 1781, and connects the lake with the bay of Pirovac.

The passage was made in order to enable drainage of surplus water during the rainy periods, which was important in order to prevent flooding of the Vransko polje area.

However, the construction of the channel of Prosika brought certain biological and ecological changes to the lake. In the periods of lower water levels, for example, seawater flows into the lake to a higher extent,



Jegulja, koja je uz riječnu babicu jedina autohtona riblja vrsta jezera, strogo je zaštićena na području

Parka prirode Vransko jezero. Ova je životinja pravi prirodni fenomen. Mrijesti se u dalekom Sargaškom ili Sjevernoatlanskom sargaškom moru. Mlade i male jegulje s tih mjesta putuju potom topлом Golfskom strujom prema našoj obali i stižu i do

Vranskog jezera.

prikupljanje energije za produžetak šetnje do vidikovca Kamenjak koji nagrađuje pogledom kakav se rijetko pruža – i na jezero i na dalmatinske otoke.

Položaj Vranskog jezera, smještenog uz more, izvor je svih njegovih atrakcija i bogatstva bioraznolikosti. U neposrednom je okruženju uzvisina Kosovac, prema moru prostire se greben visine do 110 metara, a u širem okruženju je i Velebit koji ima svoj, nedovoljno istražen utjecaj na hidrologiju Parka prirode.

Jedinstveni položaj jezera oduvijek je privlačio ljudе. I u kulturama Liburna, Rimljana, Hrvata, Turaka i Mlečana, na što nas upućuju arheološki nalazi, Vransko jezero je bilo cijenjeno i važno.

Ono je u svom spoju jamstvo posebnog doživljaja. Potpuno različiti, a dobrosusjedski krajolici ovđe se prostiru za užitak boravka u prirodi. More i otoci, mediteranska močvara i ruralnost Ravnih kotara. Možda je moguće reći da je Vransko jezero nepogrešivo odredište za izbirljive. One koje je teško zadovoljiti, jer na malom prostoru žele različite doživljaje. Neće pogriješiti. Moguće je reći da je Vransko jezero i mjesto za one neodlučne. Jer je neobično zahvalna točka iz koje u najkraćem vremenu možete do dalmatinskog otoka, ali se i brzo vratiti ribičkom štapu u iščekivanju morske ili riječne ribe, ili uživati u izobilju poljodjelstva Ravnih kotara.

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species of the lake together with freshwater blenny, is strictly protected

in the area of the Nature Park. This fish is a true natural phenomenon.

It spawns in the distant Sargasso Sea in the North Atlantic. Small young eels travel towards our coast

from that part of the world, using the warm Gulf Stream, eventually reaching Vransko jezero.

changing chemical and biological properties of water, and affecting the plant and animal world as well.

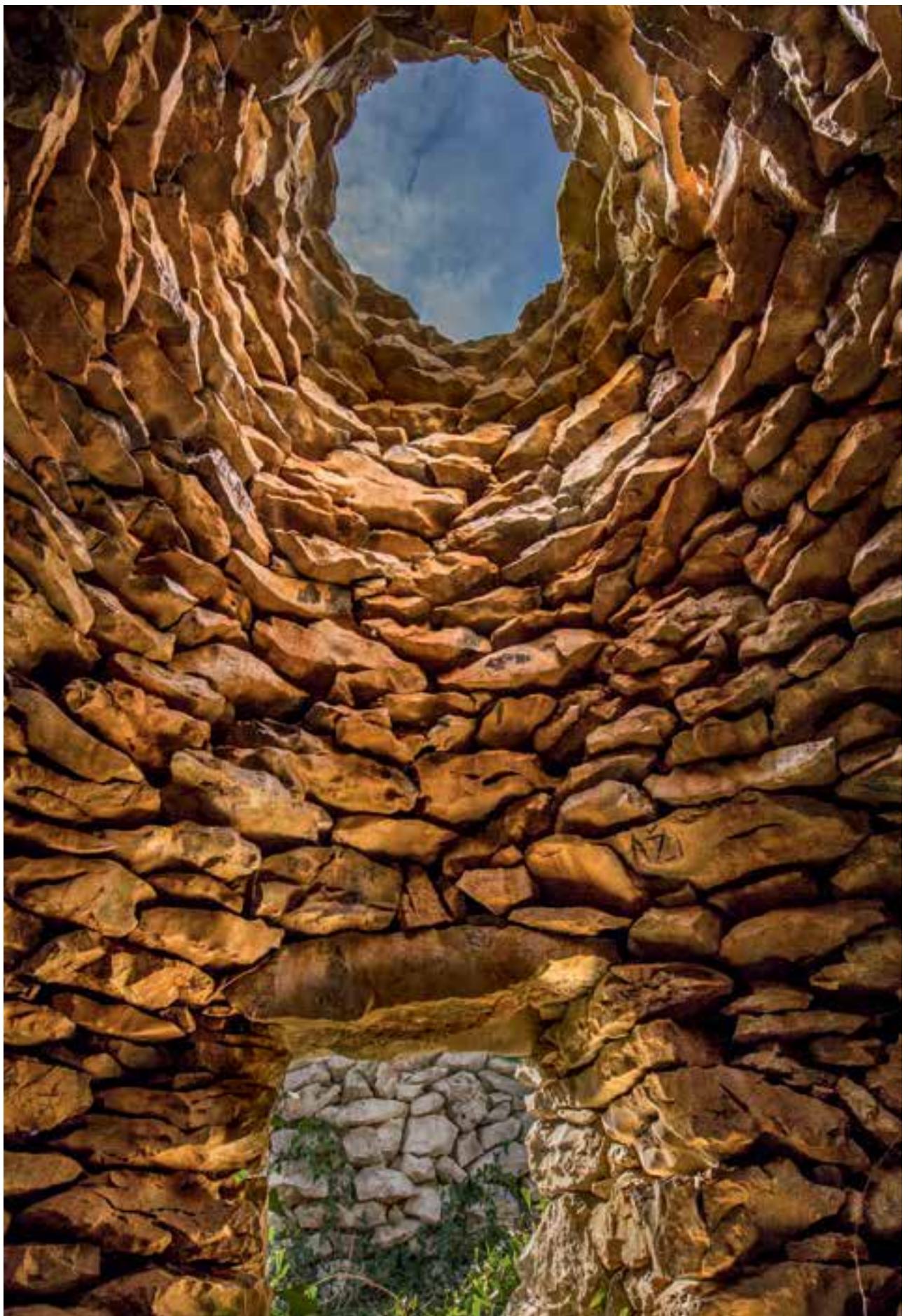
The lake receives its water from several sources. The most important ones are: Škorobić, Vrilo, Biba and Pećina. The sources of Pećina and Škorobić are located in the settlement of Vrana, which gave Vransko Lake its name.

Description of the lake in terms of numbers would be as follows: it is over 13 kilometers long, on average four meters deep, and its surface is approximately 30 square kilometers. The annual water level fluctuation does not exceed two meters, and the average fluctuation is one meter. The panorama trail around the lake is forty kilometers long, which is why Vransko Lake is a destination of choice for many cyclists. Visitors who decide to enjoy a walk frequently stop at the little port of Prosika, enjoying the opportunity to rest in nature and gathering the energy to walk to the sightseeing point of Kamenjak, which awards visitors with a rare opportunity – a spectacular panorama of both the lake and the Dalmatian islands.

The specific position of Vransko Lake right by the sea is the source of all its attractions and its abundant biodiversity. The lake is surrounded by the Kosovac plateau, the ridge up to 110 meters high dividing it from the sea, and, a bit further away, there is also the Velebit Mountain, with its as yet insufficiently researched impact on the hydrology of the Nature Park.

The unique position of the lake has been attracting people since ancient times. It was appreciated and respected by the cultures of Liburnians, ancient Romans, Croats, Ottomans and Venetians, as can be seen in archaeological findings.

The lake, with everything that it offers, guarantees a special experience. Completely different and yet compatible landscapes are there for visitors who wish to experience the joy of spending time in nature. The sea and the islands, Mediterranean wetlands, rural heritage of the region of Ravní Kotari... It would not be wrong to conclude that Vransko Lake is a safe bet for demanding visitors, those who are hard to please, and who want to enjoy as many experiences as possible in one single, relatively small area. Such visitors will not make a mistake by coming here. However, Vransko Lake is also a good destination for those who do not like to plan everything in advance, because it is an unusually rewarding place, and a great starting point for exploration of surrounding areas. In a moment, one can visit a Dalmatian island, go back to fishing, with both marine and freshwater fish available – or take a break and enjoy the abundance of agricultural production of the area of Ravní kotari.





### Najveće jezero u Hrvatskoj

The largest lake  
in Croatia

Jedno od najvećih  
močvarnih  
područja u  
mediteranskom  
dijelu Hrvatske

One of the key  
wetland areas in the  
Mediterranean part  
of Croatia

Život na ovom  
prostoru prisutan  
je od 2000 godina  
prije Krista

Human presence in the  
area since 2000 B.C.

Poseban ornitološki  
rezervat s najvećom  
gnijezdećom  
populacijom malog  
vranca u Hrvatskoj

Special ornithological  
reserve with the biggest  
nesting population of  
pygmy cormorant  
in Croatia

Preko 100 000  
jedinki ptica  
vodarica ovdje  
prezimljuje

Over 100,000 water  
birds wintering in  
the area

Gorsko-planinski masiv Žumberačkog i Samoborskog gorja jedan je od najrjeđe naseljenih prostora u Hrvatskoj. Život ovdje nikad nije bio lagan. Jedini način bilo je živjeti u skladu sa zakonima prirode. Kroz tisućje prisutnosti ljudi su ovdje uspjeli očuvati tu ravnotežu – vizure tradicionalnih sela, pašnjaka i polja još uvijek skladno nadopunjaju nepregledna šumska prostranstva. Upravo taj mozaik očuvanog tradicionalnog krajobraza uz veliko bogatstvo flore i faune, geološke osobitosti te vrijedne arheološke nalaze ono je što danas privlači izletnike, planinare i zaljubljenike u prirodu.

The mountain area of Žumberak and Samobor is one of the least inhabited areas in Croatia. Life here has never been easy, and the only way to live it was to adjust to the laws of nature. Over thousands of years of their presence, people living in the area have managed to preserve the balance – as seen in the vistas of traditional villages, pastures and fields, that still merge harmoniously into the background of endless forests. It is precisely this mosaic of preserved traditional landscapes, coupled with the rich flora and fauna, geological characteristics and valuable archaeological findings, that attracts hikers, mountain climbers and nature lovers to the area today.

# PARK PRIRODE ŽUMBERAK – SAMOBORSKO GORJE

Žumberak – Samoborsko Gorje Nature Park





## DUGA TRADICIJA PLANINARENJA UPISANA U 350 KILOMETARA STAZA

Prve obronke Parka prirode Žumberak – Samoborsko gorje “čuvaju” zidine samoborskog i okićkog Starog grada, a na zapadu obližnji ozaljski Stari grad. Na sjeveru mu doseg određuje državna granica sa Slovenijom, a na jugu kontakt gorskog područja s niskim Pokupljem. U prostoru se prožimaju dinarska, alpska i panonska obilježja. Krški su oblici dinarsko “lice” Parka, alpski su strmi i oštiri planinski grebeni, a panonski izgled daju mu valovita pobrda. Najviši se planinski greben nalazi uz sjevernu granicu Parka. Zbog teže pristupačnosti tu je bilo i najmanje ljudskog utjecaja pa je ovaj dio Parka tako ostao najbliži svom izvornom obliku.

Središnji se dio Parka stepeničasto spušta prema jugu. Izmenjuju se u tom dijelu brežuljci, zaravnjena polja i usječene doline vodotoka, kao što su kanjon Kupčine i Slapnice. Ovdje nalazimo najveći broj seoskih zbijenih naselja koja su jednoliko raspoređena po cijelom prostoru. Tradicionalni način života i korištenje prostora stvorili su kroz vrijeme poseban krajolik prepoznatljiv po isprepletenosti sela i zaseoka s oranicama, livadama, pašnjacima i šumama.

Samoborsko gorje čini istočni dio Parka i svojim krajolikom iskače iz cjeline strmim i duboko usječenim dolinama. Ovdje teku potoci bogati vodom. Plešivički kraj gušće je naseljen i s mnogo vinograda. Vivodinski je kraj blago valovit brdski krajolik s brojnim vinogradima i otvorenim vizurama. Zapadni dio Parka najslabije je naseljen i u njemu dominiraju šume.

Mozaični krajobraz u kojemu vizure livada, voćnjaka, polja i tradicijskih sela skladno nadopunjaju nepregledna šumska prostranstva nisu samo vizualne vrijednosti, nego i biološke. Otimajući od šume prostor za sela, pašnjake i livade, čovjek je osigurao prostor raznim nešumskim



## LONG TRADITION OF HIKING INSCRIBED IN 350 KILOMETERS OF TRAILS

The initial slopes of the Žumberak – Samoborsko Gorje Nature Park are guarded by the walls of the Old Town of Samobor and Okić, and by the Old Town of Ozalj to the west. To the north, the Park's boundaries are defined by the border with Slovenia, and to the south, it borders the lowland region of Pokuplje.

The area is marked by an interplay of Dinaric, Alpine and Pannonian characteristics. The Dinaric face of the Park can be seen in its karst formations; its Alpine side is visible in the steep and sharp mountain ridges, and the Pannonian appearance is provided by undulating hilly areas. The highest mountain ridge is located close to the northern boundary of the Park. Due to its relative inaccessibility, human impact has been kept to a minimum, which is why this particular part of the Park remains closest to its original form.

The central part of the Park is gradually descending towards the south, with interchanging landscapes of hills, fields and valleys with watercourses cut into the terrain, such as the canyons of Kupčina and Slapnica rivers. This is where we come across many compact settlements evenly distributed in space. Over time, the traditional lifestyle and use of space have created a characteristic, recognizable landscape, marked by villages and hamlets intertwined with arable land, meadows, pastures and forests.

Landscape of the eastern side of the Park is different from other areas, with its deeply cut, steep valleys, and many creeks with abundant water. The area of Plešivica is more densely populated, and marked by numerous vineyards. The landscape of the area of Vivodina is characterized by mildly rolling hills, yet more vineyards, and open views. The western part of the Park is the least inhabited part, and it is dominated by forests.



U povijesti planinarstva ovaj je prostor zapisan

kao mjesto prvog alpinističkog uspona kada se prije stoljeće i pol ilirka Dragojla Jarnević uspela južnom stjenovitom stranom na vrh Okića. Prvi organizirani planinarski uspon također se dogodio ovdje, davne 1875. na Oštrc i Plešivcu.

staništima, što je uvelike pridonijelo današnjem bogatstvu biljnih i životinjskih vrsta.

U tom su smislu osobito važne travnjačke površine gdje se na metru četvornom može pronaći i do četrdeset biljnih vrsta. Značajan lokalitet je vlažno stanište uz potok Jarak – cret s čak 74 biljne vrste među kojima vrijedi spomenuti 6 rijetkih vrsta orhideja te biljku mesožderku planinsku tusticu (*Pinguicula alpina*). Na području cijelog Parka zabilježeno je čak 38 vrsta orhideja. Šumskim prostorom dominiraju bukove šume, dok na toplijim dijelovima obronaka raste i hrast medunac te crni grab. U Parku je zabilježeno čak 377 vrsta gljiva među kojima je i sivosmeđa puževica (*Hygrophorus camarophyllus*), koju nalazimo na Crvenom popisu gljiva Hrvatske i na popisu globalno ugroženih vrsta.

Mogućnost susreta s velikim zvijerima, medvjedom ili vukom, zanemariva je. No, brojni su mali sisavci, vodozemci, gmazovi i beskralješnjaci. Među brojnim vodozemcima prisutan je i rijetki crni daždevnjak (*Salamandra atra*). Zabilježeno je 110 ptičjih vrsta, između ostalih i grabiljvice kao jastreb kokošar te ptice koje obitavaju uz potoke – vodenkos i gorska pliska.

Krš zahvaća čak 90 posto površine Parka. Susreću se razne krške forme: ponikve, uvale i slike doline. Zanimljivo je i podzemlje Parka. Do sada je istraženo oko 140 speleoloških pojava. Prema sadašnjim podacima, najdublja špilja Dolača duboka je 155 metara, a dugačka 1262 metra. Najduža špilja je Provala s topografski snimljenih 1862 metara kanala. Duboke erozijske doline strmih strana, planinski vrhovi i grebeni te doline glavnih vodotoka Bregane, Lipovačke i Rudarske Gradne, Kupčine i Slapnice daju Parku karakterističnu kršku vertikalnu dinamiku prostora.

Dolina potoka Slapnice posebno je atraktivna. Potok je dobio ime po brojnim slapištima i kaskadama niz koje se voda spušta uskom i duboko usječenom dolinom duž deset kilometara. U neposrednoj blizini su i dva slapa. Prvi, Vranjački slap, optočen je sedrom – "živom" stijenom koja i danas nastaje. Nešto uzvodnije nalazi se slap Brisalo – jedan od najviših slapova Parka prirode niz koji se voda obrušava u bistro jezerce. Najviši slap u Parku je Sopotski slap u Sošicama s padom od 40 metara.

Najviši vrh sjeverozapadne Hrvatske žumberačka je Sveta Gera (1178 m). Šumski proplanak na njezinom vrhu mjesto je nekadašnjih stočnih sajmova, a danas je poznato odredište planinara i hodočasnika. Japetić je, sa svojih 879 metara nadmorske visine, najviši vrh Samoborskog gorja. Za vedrih dana vidik odatle seže od vrhova gorske Hrvatske do Triglava. Alpinisti, ali i zaljubljenici u povjesna zdanja, nerijetko za svoje putničko odredište biraju vrletni Okić, na čijem vrhu nalazimo jedan od najstarijih srednjovjekovnih plemićkih gradova u Hrvatskoj. U povijesti planinarstva ovaj je prostor zapisan kao mjesto prvog alpinističkog uspona kada se prije stoljeće i pol ilirka Dragojla Jarnević uspela južnom stjenovitom stranom na vrh Okića. Prvi organizirani planinarski uspon također se dogodio ovdje, davne 1875. na Oštrc i Plešivcu. Uz tako dugu tradiciju ne čudi da je Park preuzezen s oko 350 kilometara planinarskih staza. Za ljepote krajolika i atraktivne ture nisu prikraćeni ni biciklisti jer ima preko 200 kilometara biciklističkih staza. Poštovatelji povijesti posjećuju nalaze Arheološkog parka u Budinjaku – ostatke starih utvrđenih gradova kao što su Okić, Tuščak, Lipovac

This area has become part of mountain climbing history, as the place where Dragojla Jarnević, a member of the Illyrian Movement, became the first woman to scale the peak of Okić from its southern, steeper side a century and a half ago. The first organized mountain climbing ascent to Oštrc and Plešivica also took place here, back in 1875.

Mosaic landscape with meadows, orchards, fields and traditional villages, harmoniously connected with endless forests, is not merely a visual value, but also biological one. By taking away space from the forest in order to build villages and create pastures and meadows, people of the region have ensured space for various non-forest habitats, which have significantly contributed to the current abundance of plant and animal species.

In this sense, grassland surfaces are particularly important, with up to forty plant species per single square meter. A significant locality is the wet habitat along the Jarak creek, which forms a bog with as many as 74 plant species, including six rare orchid species – and a carnivore plant alpine butterwort (*Pinguicula alpina*). As many as 38 orchid species have been recorded in the territory of the entire Park. Beech forests dominate the forest vegetation; pubescent oak and hop hornbeam also grow on warmer parts of the slopes. As many as 377 fungus species have been recorded in the Park as well, including the dusky waxy cap (*Hygrophorus camarophyllus*), a globally endangered species included in the Red List of Fungi of Croatia.

The possibility of coming across a large carnivore in the Park, such as a bear or a wolf, is negligible these days. However, there are numerous small mammals, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates that one can encounter. When it comes to a substantial number of invertebrates living in the area, we should mention the rare alpine salamander species (*Salamandra atra*). There are also 110 bird species recorded in the Park, including birds of prey such as the northern goshawk and birds living along creeks – the white-throated dipper and grey wagtail. Karst covers as much as 90 percent of the Park surface. Various karst formations can be encountered as a result: dolines, karst valleys and blind valleys. The underground structures in the Park are interesting as well, with approximately 140 speleological phenomena researched so far. According to current knowledge, the deepest cave of Dolača is 155 meters deep and 1,262 meters long. The longest cave is Provala, with 1,862 meters of its canal topographically recorded. Characteristic vertical dynamic of space in the karst terrain is clearly visible in deep erosion valleys with steep sides, mountain peaks and ridges, and valleys of key watercourses in the area of settlements of Bregana, Lipovačka Gradna, Rudarska Gradna, Kupčina and Slapnica.

The valley of the creek of Slapnica is particularly attractive. The creek got its name, stemming from the Croatian word for cascade, precisely due to numerous single and multiple cascades letting the water descend through a narrow and deeply cut valley ten kilometers long. Two cascades in the area are worth mentioning: Vranjački slap is one of them, a cascade covered in tufa – a "live" rock that keeps developing over time. A bit more upstream, there is the cascade of Brisalo – one of the highest cascades in the Nature Park, with the water diving from it into a small clear lake. The highest cascade in the Park is Sopotski slap in Sošice, 40 meters high.

The highest peak of the northwestern part of Croatia is the peak of Sveta Gera (1,178 m) in the hills of Žumberak. A forest glade on top of the mountain used to be a venue of livestock fairs in the past; today, it is a popular destination for mountain climbers and pilgrims. Japetić is the highest peak of the hills of Samobor, with its 879 meters above sea level. On clear days, it provides a view of various peaks of the mountainous



i Stari grad Žumberak, uskočku povijest kraja ili očuvane primjerke tradicionalne seoske arhitekture.

Za razliku od nekih drugih zaštićenih područja koja imaju prostorno jasno definiranu glavnu atrakciju – vidikovac na vrhu planine, špilju ili slap kamo se većina i posjetitelja upućuje, ovdje je glavna atrakcija mozaični krajobraz.

Tek cjelodnevno “krstarenje” Parkom zaokružuje dojam o njegovoj atraktivnosti – mozaičnom krajobrazu. Dinamične izmjene različitih vizura, kulturno-povijesna baština i osebujan prirodni svijet čine ovaj prostor dovoljno zavodljivim za ponovno vraćanje.

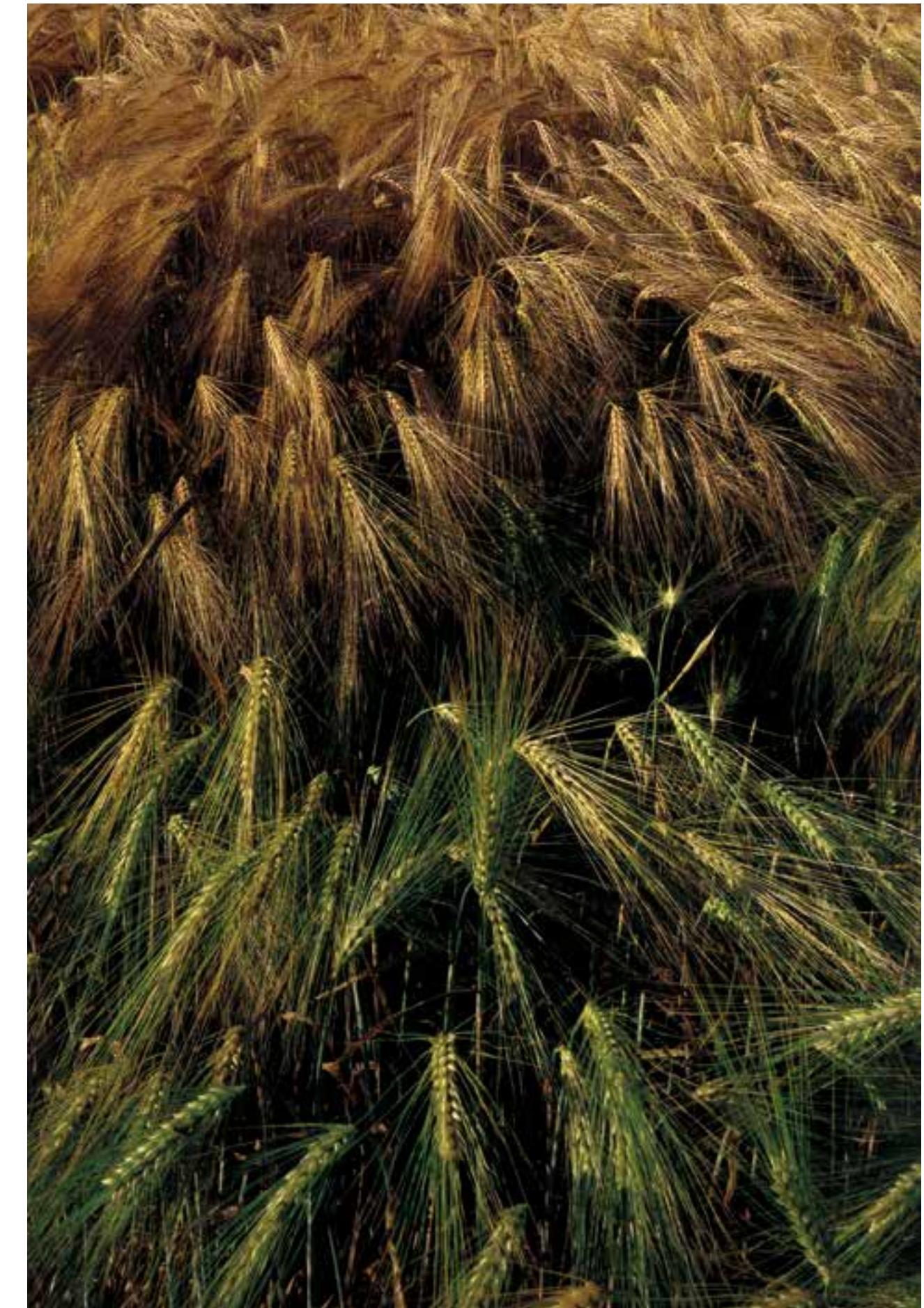
part of Croatia, all the way to the Triglav Mountain in the Slovenian Alps. Rock climbers, but also fans of historical buildings, frequently choose the mountainous area of Okić as their destination, with one of the oldest medieval noble cities in Croatia located on the peak of that mountain. This area has become part of mountain climbing history, as the place where Dragojla Jarnević, a member of the Illyrian Movement, became the first woman to scale the peak of Okić from its southern, steeper side a century and a half ago. The first organized mountain climbing ascent to Oštrc and Plešivica also took place here, back in 1875. Given such a long tradition, it is no wonder that there is a network of around 350 kilometers of mountain climbing trails in the Park. Cyclists have nothing to worry about either, with over 200 kilometers of cycling trails giving them the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of landscapes and attractive tours.

History lovers can examine the findings kept in the Archaeological Park in Budinjak – remains of ancient fortified cities such as Okić, Tuščak, Lipovac and the Old Town of Žumberak, the local history of Uskoks, the rebels against the Ottoman Empire, or preserved examples of traditional village architecture.

Unlike some other protected areas with a clearly defined main attraction in the area, that most visitors are eager to visit – a sightseeing point on top of the mountain, for example, or a cave, or a cascade – the main attraction of this particular Nature Park is its mosaic landscape.

It is only after a full day of “cruising” the Park, that one gets a comprehensive impression of the attractiveness of the area – the mosaic landscape. Dynamic changes of various perspectives, cultural and historical heritage, a unique natural world – these are the things that make this area more than seducing enough to make the visitor eager to return.







**Više od tisuću biljnih vrsta**  
—  
Over one thousand plant species

**Park broji najveći broj naselja smještenih na nadmorskoj visini od 400 do 700 metara**

There is no other Park with so many settlements between 400 and 700 meters above sea level

**Oko 350 km planinarskih te više od 200 km biciklističkih staza**

—  
Approximately 350 kilometers of mountain trails and over 200 kilometers of cycling trails

**Krško bogatstvo**  
— više od 140 speleoloških objekata i više od 800 izvora

—  
Abundant karst phenomena – over 140 speleological sites and over 800 water sources

**Slap Sopot spušta se s četrdeset metara visine**

—  
Sopot cascade forty meters high

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