

I FEEL
SLOVENIA

WORLD OF WONDERS

*For never-ending
surprises*



Green  karst



☞ THERE ARE MORE THAN **15 THOUSAND** KARST CAVES IN SLOVENIA. **22** ARE OPEN FOR TOURISTS. THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ONES ARE FOUND IN THE GREEN KARST. WITH ITS SPELEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, POSTOJNA IS THE GLOBAL CRADLE OF KARSTOLOGY – THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF KARST PHENOMENA.

☞ THERE ARE 22 LARGER SUBTERRANEAN LAKES IN KRIŽNA CAVE, BUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL THE SMALLER HIDDEN WATER-FILLED DEPRESSIONS, THE CAVE BOASTS **MORE THAN 40** SMALL LAKES IN TOTAL. IT IS ALSO HOME TO SLOVENIA'S 7TH LARGEST ISLAND AND THE LARGEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF CAVE BEAR REMAINS IN SLOVENIA.

☞ THE GREEN KARST BOASTS A LARGE NUMBER OF SEASONAL LAKES. VISIT THE SEASONAL LAKES OF PIVKA AND LAKE CERKNICA – THE LARGEST INTERMITTENT LAKE IN EUROPE. WHERE THERE ARE MEADOWS TODAY, A LAKE AS LARGE AS **26** SQUARE KILOMETRES AND AS DEEP AS **10** METRES CAN APPEAR JUST TWO DAYS LATER.

☞ POSTOJNA CAVE, SLOVENIA'S MOST VISITED AND LARGEST TOURIST CAVE, IS PART OF A CAVE SYSTEM CONSISTING OF MORE THAN **24 THOUSAND** METRES OF EXPLORED CAVE PASSAGES. SINCE 1872, IT HAS BEEN THE HOME OF A UNIQUE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY FEATURING THE FIRST TOURIST CAVE TRAIN IN THE WORLD!



WHERE **FACTS** SURPRISE, *wonders* *amaze*



BEHIND PREDJAMA CASTLE, **THE LARGEST CAVE CASTLE** IN THE WORLD, WHICH IS IN THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS, LIES SLOVENIA'S SECOND LARGEST TOURIST CAVE SPANNING ACROSS FOUR LEVELS.



THE AREA OF MT. SNEŽNIK IS HOME TO THE RESERVE OF PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS UNDER UNESCO PROTECTION. THE GREEN KARST ALSO ENCOMPASSES A PART OF THE ŠKOCJAN CAVES PARK WHICH HAS BEEN ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST SINCE 1986.



THE JAVORNIKI AND SNEŽNIK FORESTS REPRESENT THE **LARGEST DENSE FOREST COMPLEX** IN THIS PART OF EUROPE. THEY ARE HOME TO BEARS, LYNXES AND WOLVES.

A photograph of a river flowing through a rocky canyon. The water is white and turbulent as it flows over dark rocks. The canyon walls are high and rugged, with some greenery visible on the left side. Sunlight filters through the trees on the left, creating a lens flare effect. The sky is visible through the opening of the canyon.

NATURE THAT IS DIFFERENT AT FIRST SIGHT

To wonder is human. Being surrounded by wondrous processes can seem almost extraterrestrial. As water disappears into the swallow holes of Lake Cerknica, it feels like you are surrounded by craters on an alien planet. Where does all this water go? When will it come back and why? What kind of secret life does it have?



Get up close to

The Green Karst is a treasure trove of natural wonders of global importance. The impact area of the **Reka River**, the longest sinking river in Slovenia, is part of the Škocjan Caves system. **Rakov Škocjan**, a valley of natural bridges near Postojna Cave, is one of Slovenia's oldest nature parks. **Snežnik**, the tallest mountain outside of the Alps standing at 1796 m, boasts a wealth of botanical peculiarities.



SEASONAL LAKES AND RIVERS THAT SINK UNDERGROUND ARE THE MOST PROMINENT SURFACE ELEMENTS OF THIS LANDSCAPE. TREKKING ALONG THE HUNTERS' TRAILS, EXPLORING THE PATHS OF THE NOBILITY ON HORSEBACK AND OTHER EXPERIENCES ALL LEAD YOU TO THE SURPRISINGLY VIBRANT MEADOWS AND FORESTS OF THE GREEN KARST. WITH THE HELP OF A GUIDE, WE REACH THE SAFETY OF A HUNTING BLIND IN ORDER TO OBSERVE LARGE BEASTS. INCLUDING THE BEAR!

the wonders of the karst

Very few places are as rich with lakes as the Seasonal Lakes of Pivka Nature Park. The largest of the 17 lakes can reach the size of 300 football fields, and one of the lakes can retain water for up to nine months a year. Hundreds of plant and animal species that are endangered or already extinct elsewhere still live in this area.

Biodiversity is a big part of the Notranjska Regional Park as well. Its heart is **Lake Cerknica** – the largest intermittent lake in Europe. This is where you will find half of Europe's bird species, a third of Europe's butterfly species and a quarter of Europe's amphibian species living in a special symbiosis with people. Lake Cerknica, Rakov Škocjan and Križna Cave are also important Ramsar sites and represent wetlands of international importance which only account for 0.5% of the Earth's surface.



The coldest place

It is said of Babno Polje that it is cold there for six months and the other six is winter. This is where the lowest temperature in Slovenia was measured: -34.5°C . Nearby lies the Bloke Plateau – the cradle of skiing in Central Europe.

POSTOJNA CAVE, THE MOST VISITED TOURIST CAVE IN EUROPE, IS PART OF A CAVE SYSTEM THAT FEATURES OVER 24 KILOMETRES OF UNDERGROUND PASSAGES! THESE ALSO LEAD TO THE PIVKA CAVE, WHICH WE CAN ENTER BY DESCENDING 65 METRES DOWN 317 STEPS, AND THE BLACK CAVE WITH ITS LARGE DARK DRIPSTONES IT IS NAMED AFTER. THE SUBTERRANEAN WORLD IS INHABITED BY THE FAMOUS “HUMAN FISH”. YOU CAN SEE IT IN POSTOJNA CAVE’S VIVARIUM, WHICH ALSO SHOWCASES OTHER MYSTERIOUS CREATURES OF THE UNDERGROUND WORLD.



Explore the world underneath the surface

The Cave under Predjama Castle is Slovenia’s second largest cave and it stretches across four interconnected levels. **The Križna Cave with more than 40 subterranean lakes** offers an underground boating experience. **The Planina Cave is the largest water cave** in Slovenia. It is where you will find the largest confluence of subterranean rivers in Europe. It is also the largest natural habitat of the “human fish”, the only cave vertebrate in Europe.

Apart from caves that have been attracting tourists for ages, the Green Karst offers a wide variety of other underground secrets which you will be able to uncover with the help of experienced guides or as part of guided themed programmes and special experiences.



By train, boat or in a more adventurous way, just like the first cave explorers?

A legendary cave train takes you inside the Postojna Cave. The Križna and Planina Cave offer a cave boating experience by prior arrangement. Treks and adventure tours with experienced guides offer a more intimate experience of the underground world.





CAVES TOO BIG TO FULLY EXPLORE

How big is the Green Karst actually? Who knows! It makes no sense to measure such a unique land merely on its surface while its depths are so mysterious. In the land of limestone rock, water is still creating new subterranean worlds.



STORIES THAT CAPTURE THE IMAGINATION

Why would anyone look at the 123-metre-high vertical rock cliff and think about building a castle there? You will not find the reasons for this in the famous Predjama Castle, but rather in the caves hidden behind it.



ERAZEM OF PREDJAMA, THE KNIGHT WHO WAS ABLE TO ENDURE A YEAR-LONG IMPERIAL SIEGE THANKS TO THE SECRET TUNNELS BEHIND HIS AMAZING CASTLE, IS STILL TO THIS DAY THE BEST INSPIRATION FOR ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES AT THE LARGEST CAVE CASTLE IN THE WORLD. PREDJAMA CASTLE IS LOCATED ONLY A FEW KILOMETRES FROM THE POSTOJNA CAVE.

experience castle fairytales your own way!

Apart from the **Predjama Castle**, the unconquerable medieval miracle, other castles and mansions also offer numerous stories. Keep your eyes peeled on your travels for the ruins of numerous mighty buildings of the past!



You can find out which castle fortifications witnessed the bygone days of the Green Karst at the exhibition inside the halls of the more than 700-year-old **Prem Castle in Brkini**. This castle has its own story of secret underground passageways that supposedly run under the Reka River.

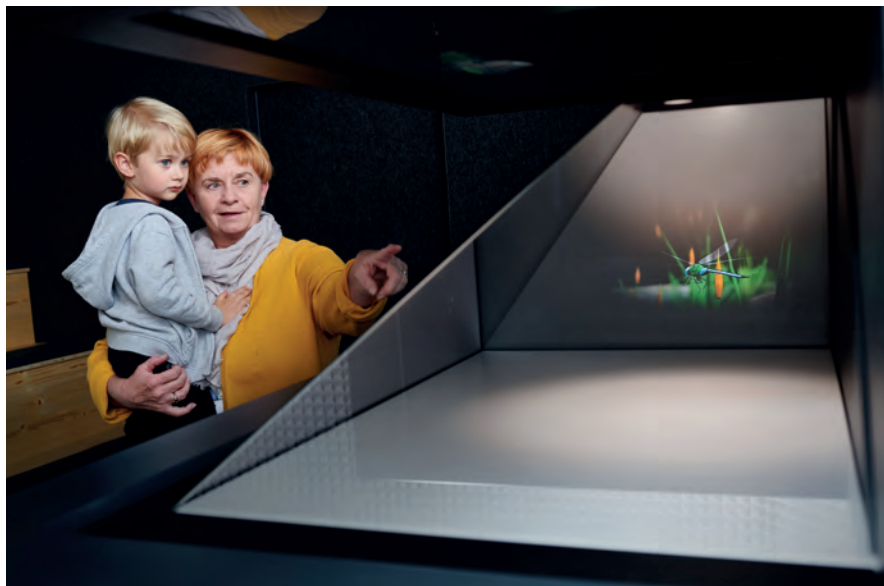
Nature and culture are connected in a unique way by the **Renaissance Snežnik Castle**. It still has the original interior dating back to the time when it was used as a country hunting manor. The paths leading to the castle are shaded by the mighty linden, chestnut and maple avenues, and the castle grounds are populated by various species of trees typical for the forests of Snežnik. When in bloom, we can also smell the revived Snežnik rose.



The search for the Snežnik rose

The opulence of the castle gardens at Snežnik Castle can best be experienced with local guides. They will also tell you the story of a white rose with large fragrant petals, which was cultivated by the estate's gardener at the end of the 19th century and was later almost lost for good. Now, it once again blooms at the castle in early summer and you can also find it in the Green Karst in the form of a unique souvenir.

INNOVATIVE MUSEUMS THAT PRESENT THE PECULIARITIES OF THE GREEN KARST AMAZE US WITH THEIR INTERACTIVE DISPLAYS OF THE POWER OF WATER, ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES, JOURNEYS THROUGH THE GEOLOGICAL PAST, AND EXCITING HISTORICAL STORIES. THEY EMBED US INTO THE LIFE OF THE LOCALS WHO LIVE IN A LANDSCAPE THAT HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING UNIQUE CREATIVITY FOR AGES.



enter different times

Surprising stories in the **Visitor Center Lake Cerknica** take you all the way back to the creation of this world wonder. Experience the transformation of the meadows and the lake, the karst landscape and scythe mowing, life with too much or too little water. Discover interesting facts about the life of the wolf, the lynx and the bear in the atmosphere of the enchanted forest at 10 interactive stations in the **Large Carnivores Center DINA Pivka**.

Visit the **Ecomuseum of the Seasonal Lakes of Pivka** and learn about the lives of people who have, through the different stages of history, adapted to live in a landscape that alternates between a shortage and an abundance of water. **Spin the special mill wheel** for the presentation of the formation of the 17 lakes! Visit the Museum of Lake Cerknica and admire the **living model of the lake**, which realistically demonstrates how the lake bed is filled and drained. Visit the ornithology classroom as well! Experience the **hunting heritage** of the Green Karst and the time of the First World War by visiting the exhibitions in the "At the Old Lady" museum in Predjama.

The **Park of Military History** in Pivka offers a different type of experience. The largest museum complex in Slovenia is also the only European military museum that exhibits everything from ancient bows to tanks, airplanes, a military locomotive from the Second World War, and even a submarine! You can also test the MiG-21 flight simulator and experience flight at supersonic.



In the world of the submariners

*The Green Karst does not have a sea, but it has one of only six Yugoslav commando submarines! In the land of different waters, you can **enter a submersible** from 1985 and experience the stories of the submariners, many of which, interestingly, were Slovenes.*



KNOWLEDGE THAT BECOMES AN EXPERIENCE



The Green Karst is a unique world full of seemingly strange phenomena. When we understand how they are formed, we experience them in a different way. When we learn how people live in this sort of landscape, our interactions with them are enriched!

A LANDSCAPE FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



When venturing into the magical nature of the Green Karst, one wants to see everything from up close. That is why we travel on foot, by bike, by boat and on horseback. After a few days of discovering the land, we can barely keep track of all the plants and animals we have seen, and how many peculiarities, not found in other areas, we have come across.



WHEN VISITING THE GREEN KARST, THE DAYS ARE ALWAYS VARIED. WE TAKE GUIDED TOURS TO PLACES WE WOULD STRUGGLE TO FIND OURSELVES. WE REACH INTERESTING DESTINATIONS ON OUR HIKING OR BIKING TRIPS. WE PADDLE ACROSS LAKES, WHICH MIGHT NOT BE THERE WHEN WE COME BACK NEXT TIME. WE HOP FROM ONE POINT OF INTEREST TO ANOTHER.

Choose your way of exploring the Green Karst

Enter the karstic **Wondernature** as curious explorers and combine the area's attractions into several days of experiencing natural wonders. Go rowing or head off for a horse riding, hiking or cycling trip. Together with experts and locals, acquire the knowledge and skills of karstology, speleology, ornithology, forestry, coexistence with large beasts, hiking and outdoor survival.

Become rowers and boatmen. If you take to the lake with your own boat, kayak or paddleboard, make sure to respect the boating regulations and restrictions due to the extremely fragile ecosystem. Always check the water level, which can change very quickly! You can also rent a vessel or go on a boat trip with a guide.

Lovers of horse riding can embark on trail riding across an interesting landscape and on guided trips between castles.

Bikers can use a map with 23 bike trails to reach viewpoints, secret spots and hospitable villages. You can explore the land of the bear with a bike guide. Bike across hills and valleys and visit Brkini or do the Bloke Bike Loop.

Hikers are attracted by the stage tours of the long-distance Via Dinarica trail which connects the entire Western Balkans and is considered one of the most interesting long-distance trails in Europe. It starts in Slovenia, in the Green Karst, where you can complete seven stages of this trail in seven days. Day hikes are possible to Snežnik, Nanos, Slivnica and other hills. Interesting circular trails and themed trails are especially popular. Many hiking events are associated with the most popular local trails.



Along the trails of Martin Krpan

The Green Karst is the land of Martin Krpan, one of the most famous Slovenian literary heroes. A singular rebel, who smuggled salt, surprised the Emperor and his wife with his cleverness and resourcefulness, and used his incredible strength to defeat the mighty Brdavs and save the Empire from a Turkish attack. There are two trails that follow the footsteps of the legendary folk hero – the Great Krpan Trail (91 km) and the shorter Krpan Trail on Bloke (19 km).

A photograph of a brown bear sitting in a forest. The bear is the central focus, looking towards the right. The background is a dense forest with green foliage and some brown leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

WHEN WILD NATURE BECOMES HOSPITABLE

The Green Karst is a land of unique experiences. It is here, in the home of the bear and where the primeval Snežnik forests provide a refuge to the wolves and lynxes, that we can experience how people learned to coexist with nature. No matter the location, bird-watching is always possible.



THE GREEN KARST OFFERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT AN UNINHABITED DEN OF EUROPE'S LARGEST BEAST, THE BEAR, WHILE SHOWING RESPECT TO THE HABITAT OF NUMEROUS ANIMAL SPECIES. WE LEARN TO IDENTIFY ITS TRACKS. WE CAN TAKE PHOTOS OF BEARS FROM HUNTING BLINDS. WE LEARN TIPS AND TRICKS FROM EXPERIENCED NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO ALSO SHOW US OTHER ANIMALS AND INCREDIBLE VIEWPOINTS.

Listen to a night-time concert of the wild!

The night has its power. The forests live differently then. You can experience this by spending the night in one of the hunting blinds in Gornje Poljane or when you and your experienced guide go searching for different sounds into the starry sky and among the different sounds of nature.

Go on a **night-time guided hike** near the lakes and experience a frog choir concert. Learn to distinguish the sounds of different types of frogs. With a bit of luck, you can spot bats flying low above the water's surface. With sharp hearing and with the help of detectors, you can also catch their calls!

Lake Cerknica is where an ornithologist can help you explore a habitat in which more than 300 species of birds have been spotted so far, which is more than half of all the bird species in Europe!

Exploring the Green Karst also includes discovering the coldest places in Slovenia. Babno Polje, known as "Slovenian Siberia", is a place of meteorological records and fascinating stories. It is best experienced together with the locals – experienced guides.



In the land of the brown bear

Approximately one thousand bears live in Slovenia! Most of them can be found in the Green Karst. You are sometimes more likely to encounter a bear than a human being on your walk through the forest. That is why you should follow the trails of large beasts with real experts and experienced guides.



AUTHENTIC TASTES THAT CONNECT NATURE AND PEOPLE

The primeval nature of the Green Karst can be tasted in the food and drinks that have been prepared by the locals for ages. Their ingredients can be found in nature and cultivated at home!



Discover the origin of good

You can try game in many places, but here, amidst the mighty forests, it connects you to the wilderness you have just been hiking through. With a bit of luck, you can experience the autumnal dormouse hunt with a bowl of dormouse stew! You can get fish anywhere, but in the land of diverse lakes, the pike caught just for you definitely tastes differently. Out of all the Slovenian spirits, *kraški brinjevec* and *brkinski slivovec* are especially respected.



THE GREEN KARST IS A BRAND THAT IS PROUDLY REPRESENTED BY CERTIFIED LOCAL PRODUCE AND PRODUCTS ONLY. WE VISIT INNS WITH LOCAL DISHES, CHEESE, BEE AND FRUIT FARMS AND MARKETS WITH LOCAL DELICACIES. MOST OF THEM ARE MADE IN AN ECO AND SUSTAINABLE MANNER. THE BRAND IS ALSO PROUDLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE HAND-MADE PRODUCTS OF LOCAL ARTISANS, WHICH MAKE FOR A GREAT SOUVENIR FROM YOUR TRIP ACROSS THE GREEN KARST!

Among the delicacies with the Green Karst designation, you should also try albumin cottage cheese, sheep and goat cheese, and other excellent **dairy products**. Visit the beekeepers and try the **different types of honey** and honey products. When visiting the fruit-bearing Brkini, try the different **juices and spirits**. Try out the dried meats and local dishes at friendly farms.

In the Green Karst, you can try the often forgotten **kohlrabi!** Traditional stews with varying local names (*trojka*, *kavra*, *kaura* or *kavla*) combine kohlrabi with potatoes and beans.



Excellence with geographical designation

Brkinski slivovec and *kraški brinjevec* are famous strong alcoholic drinks with geographical designation. *Slivovec* is made from an indigenous type of plum, while *brinjevec* is made from juniper berries. They are made in a typical Brkini still with a special copper cap. After a very slow second distillation, *brinjevec* gets the right aroma after a maturing process of at least six months.

CITY STREETS, VILLAGES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, INVITING TRAILS, SPOTS IN FORESTS AND NEAR WATER, AND HALLS IN KARST CAVES REPRESENT PLACES THAT HOST EVENTS AND TRADITIONAL CELEBRATIONS WHICH PRESERVE THE CULTURAL AND ETHNOGRAPHIC HERITAGE OF THE GREEN KARST.



Join the locals!

In summer, the Green Karst offers diverse events at its castles and the streets of Postojna, where one can attend numerous free concerts, shows and other performances. Many of these events present an opportunity to learn about the local traditions, such as *furmanstvo* (cart driving) in Postojna or grass cutting in the Lož Valley. You can also learn about the local stories at events such as the **Krpan Trail Hike**. Autumn in the Park of Military History begins with the “**Zgodovikend**” event in September, which brings an enriched museum programme and driving demonstrations of the museum’s vehicles. In winter, you can enter the Postojna Cave and experience the Christmas spirit by visiting the **living Nativity**. We celebrate the end of winter by organising the famous Pust celebrations.

Pust v Cerknici is the second largest carnival festival in Slovenia. The parade features witches, the water man, the large pike and other creatures from the lake. The Pust parade **Pust je pršu** in Ilirska Bistrica also features Slovenia’s oldest masks – *škornjati*. These Pust characters have been scaring away winter for more than 700 years!



The beautiful and the ugly

Škornjati, who do door-to-door rounds visiting every house, consist of different characters: the ugly and the beautiful, who wish you good health and a good harvest with their symbolic appearance and actions, bring plenty and protect the farm’s herds.



Since winter is long and harsh, we drive it away with Pust masks. Since spring is promising, we welcome it with gatherings and nature hikes. Since summer is beautiful, we celebrate it with unique festivals.



EVENTS THAT FOLLOW THE BEAT OF NATURE

One of the most interesting events is the summer festival that transforms Snežnik Castle and its surroundings into magical venues for unusual stages hosting performers from all over the world. It is accompanied by events that the locals host in their front yards or in their homes.

PECULIARITIES YOU WANT TO SEE UP CLOSE

THE PLATEAUS OF THE GREEN KARST ARE HOME TO ANCIENT SKIING, WHILE THE VALLEYS ARE WHERE SPECIAL HAYSTACKS – OSTRNICE – CAN STILL BE FOUND TODAY.

The undulating landscape offers great views of the valleys from plateaus that are full of special stories. One of these plateaus is **Bloke**, where the first skis in Central Europe were invented. Visit the **Bloke Skier Museum** and discover the unique skiing style that was first recorded as early as 1689! The plateau also features Lake Bloke with a park of interesting wooden sculptures, and the winding Bloščica River with its wet grassland, fen and sites populated by interesting carnivorous plants.

BLOKE



Visiting Bloke in winter, you can go cross-country skiing along the prepared trails or take part in the traditional **Bloški teki** race. You can experience the Bloke creativity at the autumnal **Michael's Fair**, the history of which can be traced back to the 14th century. Today, the fair is where locals present traditional crafts of this interesting plateau. You can also try your hand at crafting wooden spoons and wicker baskets! Hiking across the plateau, you can discover where a **Roman wall** was built to prevent barbaric tribes from entering the Roman Empire.



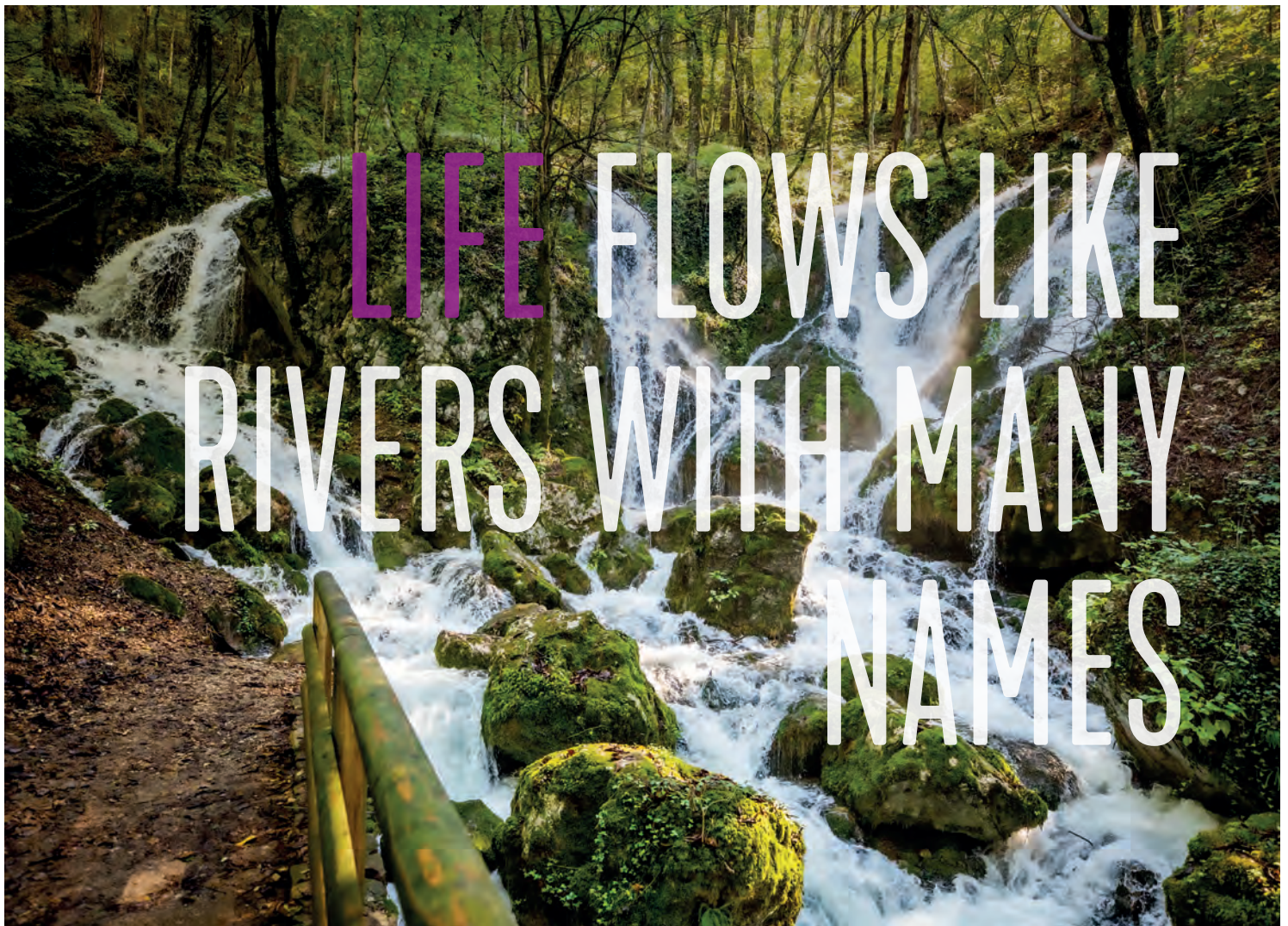
When you are visiting one of the more remote parts of Slovenia, you are also visiting a **bear-friendly land**. You can uncover its secrets on guided hikes and themed trips, climb hunting blinds and get close to the bear and other wild animals through the lens of your camera, or walk a themed education trail near Snežnik Castle that will guide you along the trails of animals and can also be admired by the blind and the visually impaired. The Lož Valley is developing **accessible tourism** adapted for the mobility impaired. There is a hostel here that was the first in Slovenia to be fully adapted to the needs of the mobility impaired.

visit places of original creativity

Even in the middle of summer, the people of the Green Karst are thinking of winter. One of the preparations is the storing of hay, clovers and beans. In the **Lož Valley (Loška dolina)**, they are dried in a special way – placed on the lopped tops of spruce trees. These drying structures are called **ostrnice**. To learn how to prepare them, visit the traditional event **Ob košnji**. **Dežela ostrnic** is also a brand of local produce and products of the Loška dolina.

LOŠKA DOLINA





LIFE FLOWS LIKE RIVERS WITH MANY NAMES

ILIRSKA BISTRICA

THE GREEN KARST IS THE DRAINAGE BASIN OF THE LONGEST KARSTIC SINKING RIVER – THE REKA RIVER, WHICH CREATED THE ŠKOCJAN CAVES. THE PIVKA RIVER ALSO SPRINGS IN THIS TERRITORY, SINKS INTO POSTOJNA CAVE, TRAVELS THROUGH PLANINA CAVE, WHERE IT IS JOINED BY THE RAK STREAM FROM RAKOV ŠKOCJAN, AND EVENTUALLY RESURFACES ON THE PLANINA PLAIN AS THE UNICA RIVER.

The centre of the valley of the Reka River, also called the Great Water, is **Ilirska Bistrica**. A path leads from the old town centre to the seasonal Sušec Waterfall, which captivates with its fan-like shape and white foamy waters cascading down green moss. Bistriško – the area between Mt. Snežnik and the Brkini Hills – is famous for many natural attractions and an interesting cultural heritage. Visit the **Zalesje Partisan Hospital** with its hidden underground bunker and surprising stories of wartime village solidarity.



Visit the town centre in Ilirska Bistrica and learn about **old trades**. Meet the cobbler at the information point and cross the road to visit the Hodnik Mill. The Vencin House is where you can see the bee and beekeeping exhibition. When you arrive in Bistriško, do not forget to use a bike and visit the many attractions. Head along the **Kette Trail** to Prem, where you will find one of the oldest castles in Slovenia. Continue your trip along the **Brkini Fruit Trail**. Using an e-bike makes navigating the hills and valleys of Brkini, including the lakes Mola and Klivnik, even easier!



When exploring the diverse heritage of the Pivka Basin, make sure to visit the stonemasons' village of Kal. Here, you will hear interesting **stories from the times of the cart drivers and Martin Krpan**. You will listen to these stories over a glass of brkinski slivovec or sadjevec. In September, you will be able to explore the local gastronomy and the handcrafts at the event **The Tastes of the Pivka**. After visiting the Park of Military History in Pivka, head off to the **Circular Trail of Military History** which will take you past the remnants of war and the underground fortification of the Alpine Wall to the viewpoint on Šilentabor.

Follow beautiful stories

The Pivka River, which shaped the Postojna Cave, travels across the surface for 26 kilometres and adorns the Pivka Basin with its picturesque bends. **The Pivka area** has the most lakes in Slovenia, but they can only be seen at certain times of the year due to their seasonal nature. The largest one is **Lake Palčje**, while the longest-lasting is **Lake Petelinje**. Travelling through the valley, you will come across many stone crosses – *pils*, special markers found in villages, near paths and in fields.

PIVKA





TOWNS THAT ARE IN TOUCH WITH NATURE AND TRADITION

THE GREEN KARST HAS ALWAYS BEEN PART OF IMPORTANT ROAD CONNECTIONS SINCE THIS IS WHERE YOU FIND THE EASIEST NATURAL PASSAGE BETWEEN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND CENTRAL EUROPE. AS THE BORDERS KEPT CHANGING THROUGH HISTORY, THIS WAS ONCE ALSO A VERY IMPORTANT BORDER REGION. TRAVELLERS ALWAYS ENJOYED STOPPING IN HOSPITABLE SETTLEMENTS WITH UNIQUE TRADITIONS. YOU SHOULD STOP HERE AS WELL!

Apart from Postojna Cave, Predjama Castle and the Notranjska Museum, the town of **Postojna** also offers – hospitality! This area has always presented the most favourable natural passage between the Mediterranean and Central Europe and has always been a stopover along these important roads. Today, the town is more famous as **the centre of the Classical Karst** and as **the cradle of speleology**. The famous SAZU Institute is based in the mansion on the main square, where you can feel the buzz of town life.

POSTOJNA



Walk through **Majlont**, the oldest part of town, and head towards **Sovič – the town hill** featuring the ruins of a medieval castle, walking paths and viewpoints. Only a few minutes from the town centre, you will find the **Adventure Park**, which offers exciting walks among the treetops. There are several interesting hiking and biking trails that take you to the hills surrounding the town. Head towards the cultural and natural attractions found along the **Castle, Cave or Erazem's bike trails**. The Via Dinarica long-distance hiking trail begins in the Municipality of Postojna, on the Nanos Plateau.



For a walk among the karstic wonders of Cerknica and the Notranjska Regional Park, follow the **Drvošec Education Trail**, which was declared the best Slovenian themed trail of 2020. Marked with a picture of the solitary great bittern bird, the trail offers incredible views of the unique intermittent lake from viewing platforms, including the 10-metre-high Otočec tower. The life of the area is presented with information and didactic points along the trail.

You're welcome in any season!

Cerknica – a town that became world-famous after Lake Cerknica was scientifically researched by Janez Vajkard Valvasor was once one of the more heavily fortified villages in Slovenia. Towering above the settlement is **Mt. Slivnica**, which is full of witch-related stories. Slivnica (1114 m) is also a very popular hiking destination. Apart from the **week-long Pust celebrations**, Cerknica also offers many other **experiences connected with folk traditions**. You can learn about the local lake boats – *drevaks*, the tradition of flax processing, blacksmithing and other crafts.

CERKNICA



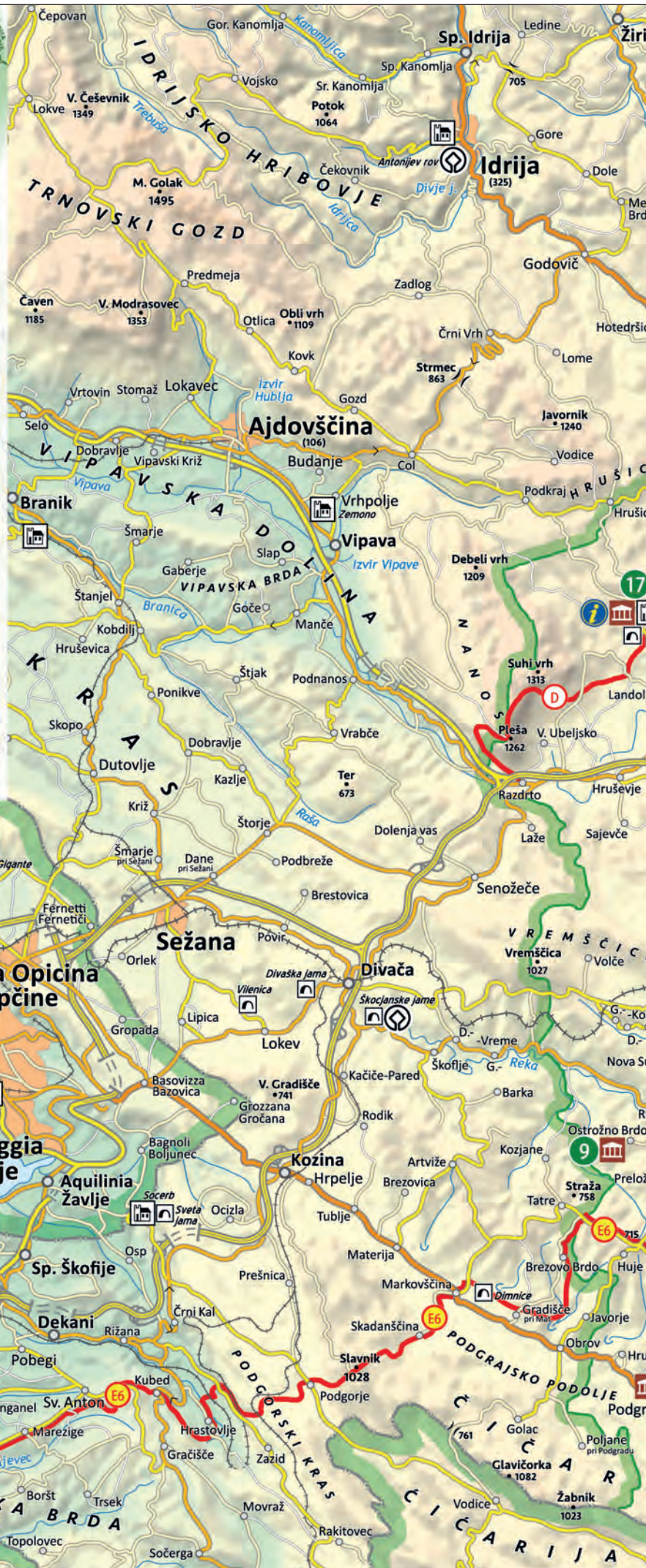


LEGENDA / LEGEND

- Turistične informacije / Tourist information
- Jama / Cave
- Muzej / Museum
- Razvalina / Ruin
- Grad / Castle
- Evropska pešpot E-6 / E6 European long-distance path
- Evropska pešpot E-7 / E7 European long-distance path
- Via Dinarica / Via Dinarica
- Velika Krpanova pot / Great Krpan Trail
- Dediščina Unesco / Unesco Heritage
- 1** Bloke Skier Museum
- 2** Bloke Lake
- 3** Cerknica Lake / Notranjska Regional Park
- 4** Jezerski hram - Museum of Cerknica Lake
- 5** Visitor Center Cerknica Lake
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- 14** Postojna Cave / Vivarium / Expo Cave Karst
- 15** Planina Cave
- 16** Pivka and Black Caves
- 17** Predjama Castle / At the Old Lady Museum
- 18** Notranjska Museum - Karst Museum

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Merilo / Scale 1: 230 000

KARTOGRAFIJA
Tel. 0590 71 886 www.kartografija.si





WWW.ZELENIKRAS.SI

INFORMATION:

RDO Postojnska jama – Zeleni kras / DMC Green Karst
Prečna ulica 1, SI-6257 Pivka, Slovenija
T: +386 5 721 22 46, E: info@zelenikras.si

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER BLOKE

Nova vas 4a, SI-1385 Nova vas, Slovenija
T: +386 (0)31 326 158, E: tic.bloke@gmail.com

VISITOR CENTER LAKE CERKNICA

Dolenje Jezero 68, SI-1380 Cerknica, Slovenija
T: +386 (0)31 688 223, E: tic@notranjski-park.si
www.notranjski-park.si

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER ILIRSKA BISTRICA

Gregorčičeva 2, SI-6250 Ilirska Bistrica, Slovenija
T: +386 (0)59 966 278, +386 (0)40 787 178, E: info@tic-ilbistrica.si
www.visitilrskabistrica.si

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER LOŠKA DOLINA

Cesta Notranjskega odreda 24, SI-1386 Stari trg pri Ložu, Slovenija
T: +386 (0)81 602 853, E: tic.loz@zavod-sneznik.si
www.loskadolina.info

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER PIVKA

Krpanov dom, Prečna ulica 1, SI-6257 Pivka, Slovenija
T: +386 (0)30 644 799, E: info@visitpivka.si
www.visitpivka.si

VISITOR CENTER POSTOJNA

Trg padlih borcev 5, SI-6230 Postojna, Slovenija
T: +386 (0)40 122 318, E: info@visit-postojna.si
www.postojnsko.si

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