



# Explore, feel, enjoy

Tourist Guide

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## Sustainable tourist destination **Rogla-Pohorje**

Dear visitors, for the past couple of years, the Rogla-Pohorje tourist destination has been focussing on developing the type of tourism associated with experiences and sustainability. Our destination is also striving to comply with the standards of "green tourism": we are proud recipients of the **Slovenia Green Destination** certificate, which proves that here, sustainability and commitment to nature are more than just words. To help you understand our efforts related to the sustainable management of our destination, **we** have prepared some **"ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS AND TRICKS"** for you. We would appreciate it if you took to heart these 10 tips for your visit to the Rogla-Pohorje tourist destination, and help us preserve the environment.

Thank you!



## 10 tips for visiting our destination

- 1 Upon entering the area of the Rogla-Pohorje tourist destination, don't forget that **you are entering a world of pristine nature and genuine tradition** that we have been persistently cultivating for centuries with lots of love.
- 2 Our green nature will provide countless opportunities for unforgettable experiences. Do not forget to return the favour by keeping the nature clean and unspoilt. **Admire its beauty** and make sure to keep it that way.
- 3 Do not pick flowers or destroy the fruit of hard work. The locals will be more than happy to offer you some home-made treats.
- 4 **Enjoy the purity of our water and take advantage of the luxury of being able to drink tap water.** In Rogla and Pohorje, forget about plastic bottles and renew your water supply from one of our many providers.
- 5 **Be responsible when it comes to water and other natural resources,** and only use as much as you really need.
- 6 **Visit the vast stretches of the Pohorje forest** and understand that you are only a short-term visitor, sharing them with their natural inhabitants, including certain plant and animal species.
- 7 **Practice green travel.** Whenever possible, visit a place on foot, by bike or using electrical means of transport.
- 8 **Get to know our genuine life style,** take part in domestic and farm activities, and help us to preserve our way of life.
- 9 **Choose and consume locally cultivated food,** prepared using traditional methods and pursuant to the local customs following the seasonal rhythms of nature.
- 10 **Local guides** who are familiar with every single landmark and who know the stories of their provenance, **who know how to reach even the most remote corners,** and who can also introduce you to our culture **are the best choice to discover the Rogla-Pohorje tourist destination.**

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# Explore, feel, enjoy

The Rogla-Pohorje tourist destination extends from the mighty mountain range of Pohorje with Rogla, its highest peak, to wine-growing hills where it descends into the comforting embrace of the Dravinja Valley. The hidden pearl of Vitanje, the tourist resort of Zreče, the white landscape of Oplotnica and the picturesque nature of Slovenske Konjice are all magical places where the energy of Pohorje, the jewels of nature, and the venerable history meet their biggest treasure: the friendly locals who definitely know why they are inviting you to come visit them using the motto **Explore, feel, enjoy.**

# Oplotnica



Oplotnica, previously a "white town", is a real treasure trove of unique natural and cultural experiences. The ravine of Oplotnica and cizlakite merely scratch the surface of its rich heritage. Oplotnica is a little town where the wine-growing and rural landscapes meet, as well as a real treasure trove of unique natural and cultural experiences. The statues of the Pagan gods Jupiter and Mitra testify to the previously vast white town which, as the locals will tell you, was swallowed whole by the ground.

## Legend

Centuries ago, the area surrounding the spate river of Oplotnica running through a town square with the same name was crawling with people. Lumberjacks and foresters who were rafting timber from Pohorje, as well as sawmakers, stone haulers and glassworkers often came to Oplotnica. With the Windischgrätz family, clerks moved to the castle and started managing the brick factory and the surrounding forests. In the past, the settlement of Oplotnica is said to have been surrounded by a picket fence. Not to protect the locals from the Turks who used to ravage around these parts, but from the river which often flooded. This is also where Oplotnica is said to have obtained its name: "ob plotu", which literally translates to "next to the fence".



## Top 5

1. Educational Trail of Oplotnica Gorge
2. Oplotnica Manor
3. Natural biotope of Partovec
4. Black kitchen next to the Church of St Barbara
5. Laundry washing place and presentation of the old laundry-washing method



## Legacy of the Carthusians and remnants of the Middle Ages

The Oplotnica Manor is also known as the Žiče Manor, as it used to belong to the monks from the Žiče Charterhouse. This magnificent building, surrounded by a small park and the public laundry washing place, is a monument hosting some of the most beautiful examples of Baroque stuccowork. Due to the time of its construction and its name, the origins of the extraordinary Church of St John the Baptist is also connected to the Carthusians. The authentic image of the Middle Ages opens with the black kitchen next to the Church of St Barbara.



## Sawmills and gorges: The Oplotnica ravine

Abundant water resources, particularly the wild Oplotnica stream, have carved a narrow ravine into the bedrock located in the lower-lying forest of Pohorje with an increasing number of leaf oaks and beech trees which are a real treasure trove. In addition, these water streams also ran at least 30 sawmills and mills, the last of which only closed its doors in the 1990s. In Oplotnica, the strong connection between the locals and nature is evident: nowadays, they still love to visit the ravine to relax, and find fun experiences for their children. An educational path has also been established in the Oplotnica ravine.



## Cizlakite – rich autochthonous rock

Another special particularity of Oplotnica is Cezlak, a small settlement that would barely exist on the map if it weren't for the rock that cannot be found anywhere else in the world: the sparkling green cizlakite, an intrusive igneous rock similar to tonalite and granite.

1/2



# Slovenske Konjice



Visit Slovenske Konjice, a town wrapped up in the noble histories of the inimitable Old Square, the wine growing hills of Zlati grič and the mysterious Žiče Charterhouse. "You must love someone," wrote Ivan Minatti, a Slovenian poet born in Slovenske Konjice; who knows whether the town wrapped up in noble histories was on his mind as he was writing these lines.

## Legend

Once upon a time, a dragon lived in the cavern of the Konjiška gora mountain, roaring and raging around the lake. The people who lived at the foot of the mountain were afraid that the tumultuous dragon would cause the mountain to split in two, causing the water to flood their homes and fertile fields. Worried, they turned to a rich lord of the manor overlooking their village for advice. The lord told them to try and strike some kind of a deal with the horrible dragon. "I will calm down," agreed the dragon, "but only if you bring me six virgins from Konjice every year, on St George's Day!" Year after year on St George's Day, the vicious dragon pulled the young girls into the cavern and devoured them. But when the daughter of the lord of the manor was next in line to be sacrificed, he started worrying, and thinking about the previous victims only softened his heart even further. He kept thinking about how to save his daughter from the dragon, but nothing came to mind. On St George's Day that year, the sad inhabitants of the Dravinja Valley once more brought six innocent girls in front of the dragon; this time around, the long procession also included the lord's daughter. Another thunderous warning sounded forth from the mountain, as the dragon was preparing to devour

six beautiful girls from the Dravinja Valley. At that very moment, St George himself rode by on a horse, cut the dragon's throat, and saved the girls from Konjice and the inhabitants of the Dravinja Valley. Grateful that St George had saved his daughter, the lord of the manor erected an eponymous church at the foothills of the mountain. For many years afterwards, the inhabitants of the Dravinja Valley commemorated these events. As a reminder, they also selected a coat of arms depicting a white horse. They named their square Konjice, and the mountain that the hideous dragon used to live in was called Konjiška gora. The lake spring reminiscent of the innocent young girls was called Gospodična ("young lady"). ”



## A town at a fairy-tale location

Slovenske Konjice is safely nestled between the hills of the illustrious Konjiška gora mountain, dominated from afar by the Old Castle, and picturesque, carefully cultivated wine growing hills of the "Zlati grič" wine cellar, home to the finest wines. The picturesque old town centre of Slovenske Konjice is peppered with little pastel-coloured houses, and split in half by a babbling brook.



## Gifts of a rich history and scenic nature

While the Dravinja River was providing water to the Dravinja Valley for centuries, breathing life into these places, humans were slowly, yet persistently, shaping a history that would give goose bumps even to the most laid-back visitors. Here, the aristocracy of Konjice was dominating the Old Castle even before the infamous Tattenbach family. On the other side of the green mountain, in the narrow valley of St John the Baptist, another monument beyond compare saw the light of day: the Žiče Charterhouse, imprinting its mark all over the valley. The wind from the charterhouse even blows through the old town square in Konjice: after the wooden houses on the square had burned to the ground several times, the stones used to finally rebuild them in a permanent manner came from the monastery. Nowadays, the inhabitants of Konjice can enjoy a rare sight: a magnificent urban environment, based on a powerful historical background, which is located mere minutes away from extensive walking paths, century-old trees, the scent of grass, various hiking trails, and unforgettable views.

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## Top 5

1. Old historic centre
2. "Zlati grič" wine cellar in Škalce
3. Little Dragon's Forest Educational Trail
4. Žiče Charterhouse and Gastuž Inn (1467)
5. Mini ZOO Land

Foto: Vid Ponikvar, www.slovenia.info



1

Foto: Tomo Jasničnik, www.slovenia.info



2

Foto: Janez Kotar



3

4



5

# Vitanje

Vitanje is completely different to anything you've ever seen before: far away from the hustle and bustle, silent, earnest and, at one time, nearly forgotten. Not far away, say the inhabitants of Vitanje. The spotlight turned back on the town when an unusual installation, reminiscent of a space ship, was erected in the centre of the distinguished old market centre of Vitanje: the Noordung Centre.

## Legend

There was once a lake where the settlement of Vitanje is located today, and the hill of Hriberca used to be an island. Only the mountain peaks of Stenica and Paški Kozjak peeked out of the water. This lake used to be the home of a merman who was constantly playing tricks on local farmers, even by requesting the prettiest girls for himself every month. The farm of one of these farmers was situated in close proximity to the lake, and one morning, he realised that two of his oxen were wet. When this happened again, two times in a row, he hid in the barn the following evening to watch what was going on. Imagine his surprise when he found out that the merman was using his oxen to lug water! The night after that, he gathered some of the farmers and together, they waited, to no avail, for the merman to arrive. He ran off to the settlement of Rogla where he had been lugging his water beforehand. It is also said that farmers themselves used to lug water to Rogla, where you can still find small lakes, and used their own

tricks to lure the merman there as well. Rumour also has it that those same farmers broke through a rock in order to build the current road leading towards Celje, which is how the water was finally drained off. The lake dried up, and the merman was gone for good. After that, people started moving into the lake basin. ”



## Experience the space in this town

With its Noordung Centre, Vitanje offers virtual reality experiences, simulators, and screenings providing new, fresh glimpses into the vast infinity of space and the human work situated within. The centre is named after Herman Noordung, a futurist, rocket engineer and pioneer in space exploration and aeronautics, whose family originated in Vitanje.



## The location of historical duos

It is interesting that a certain duality of important historical landmarks can be sensed here. Carved into the rock high above the town, we can see two castles: the Old Castle and the New Castle. Furthermore, the town also has two churches which are a unique example of a duo representing two equal halves of one parish: the Church of the Holy Mother of God at Hriberca is used in summer, while the Church of St Peter and Paul in Vitanje is used in winter. In the vicinity, you can also admire the one and only Beškovnik Granary, an old homestead which will take you to a different time and place.

5/6

## Top 5

1. Noordung Centre
2. Beškovnik Granary
3. Svitanje Villa
4. Skaza Fiddle Studio
5. Brodej Ethnological Museum



1



2



4



3



5

# Zreče

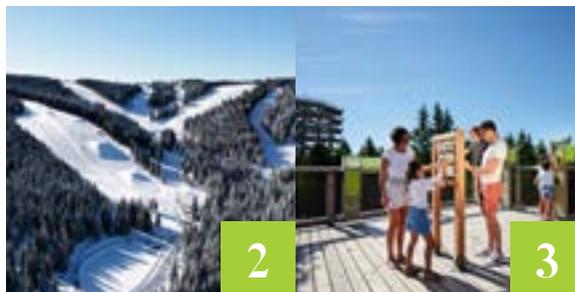
If you wish to relax, Zreče is the perfect well-being area for you, be it in the Terme Zreče thermal resort or in Rogla, the paradise for skiers and hikers. Zreče is a well-known town protected by the mighty Pohorje. This is the home of true Pohorje locals who are genuine and friendly, and whose homes you can never leave hungry—or so they say.

**Legend** “ The town of Zreče was first mentioned in 1206 as “Reče”, and was later referred to as an estate located “under Freudenberg castle in (Z)reče”. The name of Freudenberg originates from a wrong translation of the name Zreče, meaning “watershed”, while the word “river” (“reka”) in Southern Styria always refers to an ordinary stream. Back then, the word “zreče” was translated as “luck” (“Freude” in German), which is also where the German name of Freudenberg Castle comes from.

”

## Top 5

1. Terme Zreče
2. Rogla
3. Pohorje Treetop Walk
4. Skomarje House in Skomarje
5. Pohorje hotpot



## Reasons to visit the well-being area

The Terme Zreče thermal resort is located in the town of Zreče, right next to a spruce forest. The key benefits of this thermal resort are the four healing factors it provides: acratothermal water, Pohorje peat, mid-mountain climate at Rogla and volcanic mud. With its altitude of 1,517 metres, Rogla boasts a beneficial climate. The inspiration for various massages, baths, and spa treatments in different wellness centres strewn throughout these places can be found in nature.



## The real treasure of Zreče is its green nature

This part of the world is criss-crossed by cart tracks and paths winding through the rustling Pohorje forests, inviting hikers and bikers to discover cute little spots. The Lovrenc Lakes are a unique and picturesque gem, and it is simply impossible to soak up all the beauty offered by nature at every turn. You can admire the greatest treasure from a new perspective during the Treetop Walk Pohorje, located at Rogla, which is a truly unique experience in Slovenia. In winter, Rogla is covered by a blanket of snow but does not go to sleep—in fact, it becomes a popular ski resort for families.



## The assiduous and hardworking people of Pohorje

Pohorje locals are also extremely hardworking people. The idyllic village of Skomarje is one of the villages with the highest altitude where people still lead a diligent agricultural lifestyle. If you visit the Skomarje House, you will easily understand how things were done some 200 years ago. The babbling brooks powered mills, sawmills and the characteristic tools of the blacksmith's trade, the image of which is pristinely preserved in the Ošlak Smithery from the 18th century. Even people living among steep hills knew how to pay their respects to their deeply religious heritage by building numerous churches, including the noteworthy pilgrim church at Brinjeva gora.



01

## Explore, **nature** and **culture**

Whenever you find your feet are itchy or you feel like you're being chased by the spirit of adventure, above all, don't stop. Travel far and wide, and explore the richness of the Rogla-Pohorje tourist destination. Find your inner peace among its gems in sacred, buoyant nature. Open your youthful heart—or open the hearts of your children. Comb through the history reflected in the soul of these places.

**On foot, by bike, or otherwise.**



## Museum collections and galleries

Museum collections are temples of culture, guardians of cultural heritage, treasure troves of knowledge, and homes of cultural actors and artists. Their task is to spread the culture among people. A caring attitude towards cultural heritage indicates the awareness of locals and their relationship with the past, while confirming their identity and joint values. This destination will offer you a rich panoply of historical and cultural landmarks, two of which (the Žiče Charterhouse and the Frankolovo Memorial Area) have been declared as cultural monuments of national importance by the Republic of Slovenia.

Explore museum collections and galleries. Discover and feel the pulse of the old town centres, squares, and villages testifying of the soul of their inhabitants and their rich histories, and depicting the unique character of the fabric that the destination consists of.

Discover and explore natural and cultural heritage on your own, or with a licensed destination tour guide who will be able to prepare the best presentation of our destination and also show you all of its hidden gems, landmarks, and stories of how they came to be.

- Black kitchen next to the Church of St Barbara
- Skaza Fiddle Studio
- Riemer Town Gallery and Konjice Museum
- Brodej Ethnological Museum
- Dravinja Valley Firefighting Museum
- Collection of military items from the period of the Austro-Hungarian Empire
- Žiče Charterhouse
- Noordung Centre
- Beškovnik Granary
- Svitanje Villa
- Museum of the Narrow-Gauge Railway Poljčane–Slovenske Konjice–Zreče
- Archaeological site at Brinjeva gora (exhibition of excavations)
- Skomarje House
- Museum of 100 Victims from Frankolovo
- Vodovnik Collection at Skomarje

## ❖ Black kitchen next to the Church of St Barbara

The ethnological museum presenting the black kitchen next to the Church of St Barbara paints an authentic picture of the Middle Ages. The renovated sexton's house is a little cottage extending a friendly greeting in the immediate vicinity of the Church of St Barbara in the municipality of Oplotnica. Even though it currently serves as an **ethnological museum**, the authentic familiarity of the black kitchen next to the Church of St Barbara will inspire you; indeed, it will make you feel as if you have walked directly into the Middle Ages in order to pay a visit to actual sextons, former church caretakers.

Proven to originate from the Middle Ages

“ The black kitchen will tell you that the sexton's house paints an authentic picture of the Middle Ages, as it was built in the 16th century. Another telltale sign is that the main wooden beam in the house does not bear the construction date, as they only began doing so later. As is typical for medieval buildings, this is a very simple house with a "hijša", true peasant room with a hearth oven, a cupboard, a spinning wheel, a sewing machine, and a bed, and a "lujpa", which connects the "hijša" with the black kitchen, as well as the black kitchen and cellar. ”

## ❖ Skaza Fiddle Studio

The Skaza Fiddle Studio is a real treasure trove of various stringed instruments: old, simple, modern, or complicated. In the workshop, you can watch the process of making a new violin. The true countryside of Spodnji Dolič, just a few minutes' drive from the old market centre of Vitanje and surrounded by spruce trees (which are an essential component!), hides the real fiddle studio of Pavli Skaza. Next to the studio is a workshop where the most prestigious fiddles are made based on the models of old Italian masters. In his workshop, Pavli Skaza even repairs the instrument of Luka Šulič, one half of the famous Slovenian duo 2Cellos.

Prepare to be amazed by:

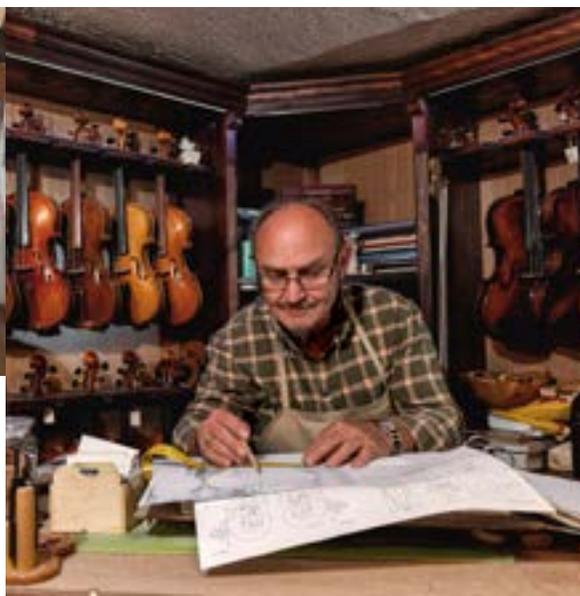
classical music emanating from an old gramophone, a 200-year-old specimen of a fiddle made by Ludwig Fleischmann in 1824 and other museum pieces, and various complex, complicated procedures for making new violins in the workshop.

13/14

Pavli Skaza is a real treasure trove of fiddle knowledge and a truly skilful master. You will immediately feel his love for his craft, be overwhelmed by tradition and impressed by the breadth of his expertise.

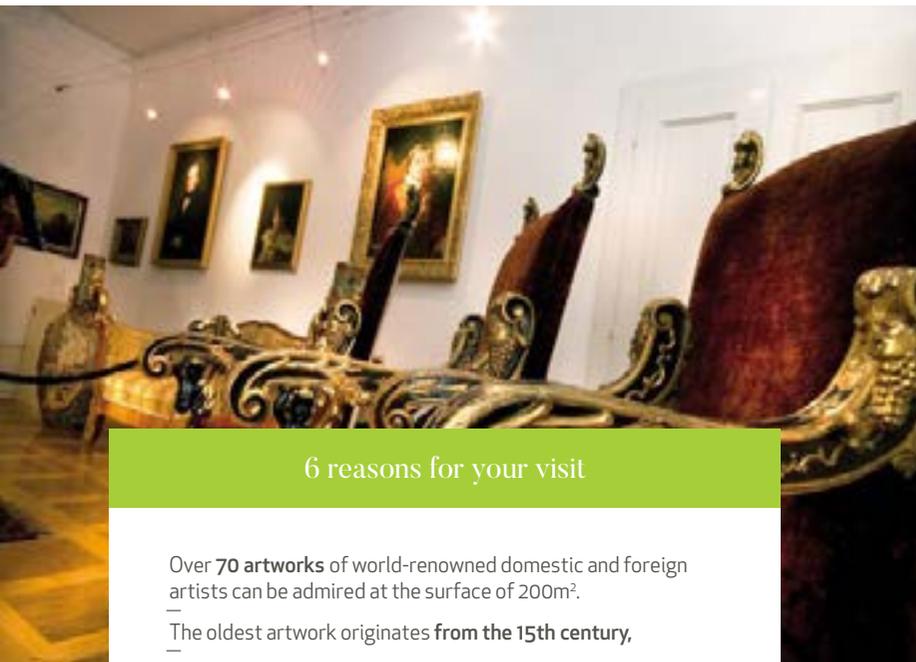
## A destination leading you towards a plastic-free environment

Did you know that municipalities in Slovenia started signing an agreement on promoting the reduced use of plastic cutlery in Slovenian municipalities, which gave birth to the idea of "plastic-free municipalities"?



## ❖ Riemer Town Gallery and Konjice Museum

In the heart of Slovenske Konjice lie two other gems: the Reimer Town Gallery, hosting the works of renowned masters dating from the times of the Leonardo da Vinci art movement onward, and the Konjice Museum. Slovenske Konjice also guards some true artistic treasures that even the greatest art metropolises would be proud to exhibit. The Reimer Town Gallery and the Konjice Museum are located in the renovated town house in the heart of the old town centre. It hosts the permanent exhibition of Franc Riemer, an entrepreneur and collector from Konjice, and other gems testifying to the rich history of Konjice.



### 6 reasons for your visit

Over **70 artworks** of world-renowned domestic and foreign artists can be admired at the surface of 200m<sup>2</sup>.

The oldest artwork originates **from the 15th century**, while the most precious painting was created during the Venetian School Movement.

Among other things, you can also view the works of supreme artists such as: **Paul Cézanne, Ernst Klimt, Dosso Dossi, Auguste Rodin, Ivana Kobilca, Jožef Tominc, France Slana, and Rihard Jakopič.**

You can admire **one of the legends from Konjice** on a large mural painted by **Milan Lamovec Didi.**

Particular attention is paid to antique furniture. One of the prettiest pieces is a writing desk with a hidden compartment, once owned by the great Slovenian poet **Oton Župančič.**

## ❖ Brodej Ethnological Museum

The Brodej Ethnological Museum hosts a collection of old items and folk traditions on a beautiful organic farm that you will not leave with an empty stomach. The museum, as well as the organic farm and the lovely glamping houses in the vicinity of Vitanje, was designed by Jože Brodej. The Brodej farm is really something, so don't hesitate: comb through every nook and cranny, say hi to the farm animals, eat a hearty farm lunch, and visit the museum hosting old farm items and interesting folk traditions.

**Particularities:** Before Christmas, you can order a real Christmas tree at the Brodej farm, thus making your holidays even more magical.



## Konjice Museum, a true temple for history buffs

Continue searching for treasures in the Konjice Museum. This is where you will see the original plague column from the Old Square and mural from the Žiče Charterhouse, as well as stove tiles and clay pipes found at the Old Castle at Konjiška gora.



## ❖ Dravinja Valley Firefighting Museum

The rich history of firefighting in Konjice and its wider area is collected in the Firefighting Museum of the Dravinja Valley containing over 1,000 items. Firefighting is a deep-rooted tradition in Slovenske Konjice. Back when the town of Konjice was just a small square, the old square centre of Konjice was devastated by no less than four different fires, as evidenced by the monuments and murals dedicated to St Florian, patron saint of firefighters. The first fire guard in Konjice was organised in 1873. In 2000, the premises of the Slovenske Konjice fire station started housing the Firefighting Museum of the Dravinja Valley, drawing on the rich firefighting history of these places.

### 2 general collections

#### Collection 1

A collection of professional firefighting literature, chronicles, fire codes, original manuscripts, and other documents testifying to the history of firefighting.

#### Collection 2

A collection of photographs, trophies, awards, calendars, banners, historical monuments, and other objects.



## ❖ Collection of military items from the period of the Austro-Hungarian Empire

One of the town houses on the Old Square in Konjice opens its doors to reveal the home museum collection of military items from the period of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. **Robert Vrečko**, a local, is a passionate collector of antiques and other items that paint a nostalgic picture of what was there before our time. In the core of Slovenske Konjice, in one of the town houses on the Old Square, owned by his family who has also been living there for numerous years, he organised a splendid museum collection of military items from the period of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

**Mostly concentrated on the period of the World War I, the collection consists of:**

sabres, helmets, hats, medals, postcards, photographs, items found after the Battle of the Isonzo, and numerous other military, patriotic, and religious items that take us back to the time of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

This extensive collection has a strong connection with the town of Slovenske Konjice, and will definitely awake the explorer in you, regardless of whether you are a local of this idyllic location or merely a visitor.

17/18

## Foundations of a safe Slovenia

The foundations of the safe and green Slovenia have been brought together in the new **SLOVENIA GREEN & SAFE** certificate, combining responsible travel standards. These also include high-quality hygiene standards and protocols, as well as additional sustainability recommendations for tourist providers. You can feel safe in Slovenia: for several years in a row, we have been **qualified as one of the safest countries in the world**. By acting responsibly, we can maintain our common security.



## Top 5

### ✿ Žiče Charterhouse

The **Žiče Charterhouse** is a **mysterious beauty** that has been intriguing people for centuries. At one point between the now long-forgotten years of 1160 and 1165, the margrave Ottokar III of Styria from the Traungauer family, who loved to visit Slovenske Konjice, ordered that a home for the French Carthusians be built in the remote Valley of St John the Baptist. A special energy has been present in the Žiče Charterhouse ever since: respectful serenity and peace personified resonate from the building. This is a trip for relaxation.

#### Explore the Žiče Charterhouse of the Middle Ages using smart glasses

Now, you can see the Žiče Charterhouse almost like it used to be in the days of Ottokar III. Put on your smart glasses and fold back the fabric of time. You will see parts of the charterhouse that are no longer there today, the mysterious Carthusians, and the legend of the inception of the monastery come to life.

**Particularity:** According to the legend of its inception, the monastery is also called Zajcklošter ("the rabbit monastery"). The legend will be revealed through your smart glasses.

#### Using audio guides, you can explore:

4 permanent exhibitions about the history of the charterhouse.

Ottakar's sparkling wine cellar, full of conditioned sparkling wines from Zlati grič.

A pottery studio (traditionally with a demonstration of a craft or a workshop).

A herbal pharmacy containing herbs from the Žiče Charterhouse's, opulent herb gardens, and the Gastuž Inn from 1467, the oldest functional inn in Slovenia.





## Top 5

### ❁ Noordung Centre

**Vitanje, a tiny rural settlement** nestled between the Vitanje Karavanke and Pohorje, hides a futuristic installation, built according to the idea for a space station designed by Herman Potočnik: the Noordung Centre that will take you to infinity. The Noordung Centre is a centre promoting space technologies and human achievements in space. Through the complex technologies of virtual reality, simulations, and screenings, you will be able to obtain an excellent insight into the mysteries of the infinite space. A visit to the Noordung Centre is also a wonderful way to make space experiences even more attractive to children.

#### Visit one of the permanent exhibitions

**Herman Potočnik Noordung.** Understand the visionary and his most famous design – the habitat wheel.

**Slovenia in space.** Some Slovenians have made quite a mark in space – get to know them!

**Images of the Earth.** Take a look at how the green planet looks from space.

**Life in space.** Find out how astronauts eat in a zero-gravity environment, and see what a vacuum seal soup looks like.

**THE MOON– a big step for mankind.** Find out more about the only Earth's satellite.

**The Solar System.** Get the right idea of the size of planets, and see some meteorite castings.



## ❖ Beškovnik Granary

This old-fashioned homestead from the early 19th century is a living museum depicting the rural life in the past, and a wonderful opportunity for a great trip. The Beškovnik Granary is a part of the old-fashioned idyllic homestead in the remotest part of the Rogla-Pohorje tourist destination, the hamlet of Šentvid, which is located about 7 km from the town of Vitanje, on a hill where time seems to be standing still. It is easy to imagine what rural life used to look like at the beginning of the 19th century.

The homestead is preserved in its original state

“ Time-honoured tradition dictates that an old homestead must consist of the following parts: a plastered wooden house, a "preužitarska" house (the house where unmarried adults lived), commercial premises, and a wooden granary covered with shingles and built above a stone-built cellar. The Beškovnik Granary is also a **museum of antiques**, recalling the old tools of craftsmanship used to sow grain, bake bread, work on the farm, make artisanal items, and sort ant eggs. ”



## ❖ Svitanje Villa

Even though the exact date of construction of the Svitanje Villa is unknown, it is presumed to have been built somewhere between 1937 and 1939. This house which, at the time, would have been considered rather modern and large, was owned by the wealthy Píkl family from Vitanje. During World War II, it was empty. Due to their German origins, the Píkl family left the town but was able to come back after the war. They never lived in the house, however; they only went there to take an afternoon nap or sleep for a night. Next to the villa was also another house, a barn, and a woodworking shop. Due to the size of the house and its special features, the owners themselves started calling it a "villa". It was partially renovated in 2013. In the villa, you can admire a broad range of historic photographs of Vitanje, antique furniture and other rustic equipment from the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, and original cottage industry products.



## ❖ Museum of the Narrow-Gauge Railway Poljčane–Slovenske Konjice–Zreče

In the old days, a train used to chug around the Dravinja Valley. Explore its story in the Museum of the Narrow-Gauge Railway, in the only preserved train station in Zreče. Today, Poljčane is a well-known railway station. Back in 1892, they built a narrow-gauge railway connecting Poljčane and Konjice, and in 1921, the train line was extended all the way to Zreče.

### Zreče: a strong tradition of wood and coal industry

The narrow-gauge railway was built as a response to the emerging wood and coal industry in Zreče, connecting the valley with the Maribor–Ljubljana railway line, thus quickly developing a vibrant freight and passenger transport. After World War II, transport activities started to dwindle, and the railway line was suspended in 1962. Later, they also dug up the tracks and the nostalgic railway trail went cold... well, nearly!

A museum in the  
only preserved  
railway station

“ One vestige still remains of the former narrow-gauge railway of the Dravinja Valley: Zreče railway station which currently hosts the Museum of the Narrow-Gauge Railway. There, you can explore an actual locomotive, a passenger car and two freight cars.

Another locomotive with two cars can also be seen in Slovenske Konjice, next to the Ob Dravinji Elementary School, where the track used to run.

”



## ❖ Archaeological site at Brinjeva gora (exhibition of excavations)

Brinjeva gora, which is a popular spot for hikers, bikers and mountain climbers, is marked by the ancient past of the prehistoric times and by the pilgrim church of the Holy Mother of God. Nowadays, Brinjeva gora is a picturesque location popular for hiking, biking and even mountain climbing, as several paths and hiking opportunities will lead you to the top.

### Brinjeva gora mountain and its ancient history

Brinjeva gora, however, is also marked by its sacred ancient past. The discovery of barrows and other Proto-Slavic burial grounds proved that different people, from the Celts and the Romans to the Proto-Slavic settlements, used to live here in the Copper Age. In the Middle Ages, the Freudenberg Castle dominated the area. An ancient path, used by the holy brothers Cyril and Methodius to go to Rome, also ran nearby. It was probably the monks from the Žiže Charterhouse and their estates in Zreče who created the pilgrim church on Brinjeva gora, seeing as they were devout worshippers of Virgin Mary.

25/26

**An exhibition of prehistoric excavations from Brinjeva gora (coins, vessels, statues, etc.) can be explored in the Atrij Hotel in Terme Zreče.** You can visit the exhibition free of charge during the opening hours of the Atrij Hotel.

### Opportunities for a trip

A paved road you can access by car, as well as a lovely biking path, will lead you to the pilgrim church of the Holy Mother of God.

There are also several hiking trails (our suggestion: start in Oplotnica or in Zreče), as well as a climbing route called Boštjan's Path.

## ❖ Skomarje House

The Skomarje House is a well-preserved cultural monument painting a perfect picture of life lived by the rural inhabitants of Pohorje in the past. The distinctive Skomarje House was built in 1803, right around the time when the famous poet from Pohorje, Jurij Vodovnik, also wandered around these places. The house was built according to what was, back then, a classical tradition of chimney construction. It represents a transitional type between the late medieval smoke house and a more advanced house with a black kitchen. In the Skomarje House, you will find the following ancient rooms: the entrance vestibule (veža), the kitchen (kujhna), the living room (hđjša), the bedroom (štđjblc) and the press (prešnca) with a wooden fruit press.

“ Did you know? Located at an altitude of 924 metres, Skomarje is one of the highest-situated villages in Slovenia with a prevailing rural population. In many ways, life there is close to that of 100 years ago. ”



## ❖ Museum of 100 Victims from Frankolovo

The Museum of 100 Victims from Frankolovo is located at the site of a gruesome Nazi crime in Graben, next to the settlement of Stranice in the municipality of Zreče. It provides a high-quality and vivid depiction of the atrocities committed during World War II.

“ Did you know? ”

The Museum of 100 Victims from Frankolovo is located **directly opposite the two graves** of 100 Slovenians who were hanged towards the end of World War II in an act of Nazi revenge.

The museum was erected in 2005, **on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of this crime**. A commemoration on the date of the anniversary is a long-standing tradition.

**Tone Kregar, PhD**, the author of the collection, received the **Valvasor Award** for the collection a year later. **prejel Valvasorjevo nagrado.** ”

27/28

## Revenge of the Nazis: one of the most horrendous stories of World War II

On 2 February 1945, a Partisan ambush in the Tesno gorge severely injured one of the most important Nazi functionaries, Anton

Dorfmeister, who died at the hospital in Celje the following day as a result of his wounds. Ten days later, the Nazis, seeking revenge, chose 100 of the hostages from the prisons in Maribor, Celje and Trbovlje, took them to the Stari pisker prison in Celje, hanged them on the apple trees at the side of the road for everyone to see, and then buried them in two group graves. Of the 100 hostages, 99 were killed by being hanged on apple trees, and one was shot in the back as he was trying to escape. The escaped prisoner was a man who could not stand the sight of his son being hanged. The youngest victim was only 16 years old, and the oldest victim was 64. Both Communists and Christians were murdered on that day.



## ❖ Vodovnik Collection at Skomarje

The Vodovnik Collection at Skomarje is **the most authentic depiction of the life of people from Pohorje at the turn of the 20th century** who were traditionally organised around religious and educational activities. The collection is located in the parsonage (faruf) of St Lambert's Church in the little village of Skomarje located above Zreče. Located at an altitude of 924 metres, Skomarje is one of the highest-situated villages in Slovenia with a prevailing rural population.

“  
Did you  
know?”

In Vodovnik's time, literacy was an extremely rare occurrence among rural populations. Even though his father taught him how to write, he never actually stopped writing poems in his native dialect, which makes his creations even more outstanding:

**Jez sim Vodovnik Juri,  
per Skomro sem doma  
v reztrgani kočuri;  
štir okenca ima.** ”

I'm Vodovnik Juri, I live in Skomro in a ragged hut which has four windows.



## Stone witnesses of the past

Numerous castles dominate the hilltops. They are worth a visit, if only for the beautiful view and the mysterious stories. In only four municipalities, you can visit a mansion, a manor, castle ruins, or the old castle rising above Slovenske Konjice. Let the stones take you back to time immemorial.

29/30

- Oplotnica Manor
- Trebnik Mansion in the town park
- Old Castle on Konjiška gora mountain
- Old Castle in Vitanje
- New Castle in Vitanje
- Freudenberg Castle in Zreče
- Jamnik Castle in Zreče
- Lušperg Castle in Zreče



## Top 5

### ❁ Oplotnica Manor

**Oplotnica Manor**, located next to a small park in the centre of **Oplotnica**, is a monument to rural opulence and presents one of the most beautiful examples of stuccowork far and wide. The small park in the centre of the equally small town of Oplotnica, next to the babbling Oplotnica brook, will surprise you with a view of the opulent and clearly luxurious manor. Oplotnica Manor is also called **Žiče Manor**, since it was built by the Carthusians from the **Žiče Charterhouse** during their venerable 600-year-old history. In 2010, the municipality of Oplotnica started renovating the manor in its entirety.

### 3 reasons why Oplotnica Manor is worth a trip

The façade of the manor is ornamented with a **Baroque sculpture of St John the Baptist** which is said to have been brought from the **Žiče Charterhouse** after World War I.

One part of the mansion is a **magnificent chapel**, decorated with **the most beautiful ceiling stuccowork** in this part of the country, which is connected to the tomb of Emperor Ferdinand II in Graz.

The once lavishly decorated chapel had an altar dedicated to the Virgin Mary, as well as opulent pieces of furniture and a collection of oil paintings. After its inception, the **wrought fence**, which can still be admired today, became exceptionally famous.



## ❖ Trebnik Mansion in the town park

In the shadow of the Konjiška gora mountain, only a stone throw's away from the ancient square centre of Slovenske Konjice and surrounded by century-old trees, lies Trebnik Mansion which was first mentioned in 1362. Until World War II, its most important owner was the Windischgrätz family, especially Princess Christiana Windischgrätz who loved coming back to Slovenske Konjice. Today, the renowned family is, once again, regularly visiting the town. In front of the mansion, you will see the sculpture entitled "The Horse and the Lady", made by Vasilij Četkovič – Vasko, telling the story of how we must rise back up whenever we fall, and of how important it is to love and to trust life.

Relax and  
practice  
selfness in  
the centre of  
the castle

Nowadays, the picturesque castle with its magnificent arches, central staircase, stucco and coffered ceilings, representative doors, and two marble fireplaces is doing much better than a couple of years ago, when it was left to be ravaged by time after World War II.

### 6 reasons for your visit

The northern wing of the castle was renovated in 2013 by the municipality of Slovenske Konjice, and now hosts:

— lovely rooms which are also accessible for disabled persons,  
— Christiana's Room – a **multi-purpose hall** named after the princess who used to live here,  
— various rooms related to **alternative medicine and wellbeing**,  
— **while the southern wing** now hosts several departments of the Slovenske Konjice Music School.  
— Further renovation is also planned in order to establish more pleasant spaces for exhibiting local art, and hosting creative workshops and meetings.



## ❖ Old Castle on Konjiška gora mountain

The Old Castle on Konjiška gora mountain dominates the town. Due to its special location, you will see it standing out from the lush green background, a couple kilometres before your arrival to Slovenske Konjice. If you listen to its ruins and ignore the rustling of the forest, you can almost hear **the Konjice gentry**, the first owners of the castle, and the infamous **Ivan Erazem Tattenbach**, whose family used to rule the castle for nearly 100 years. Take a look around the Dravinja Valley below you: you would be hard pressed to find a more splendid view.

## 3 particularities

### Particularity 1

The Old Castle on Konjiška gora mountain is one of the oldest castles in Slovenia. Even though it was first mentioned in the establishing charter of the Žiže Charterhouse in 1165, it was definitely built long before that.

### Particularity 2

The Old Castle of Konjiška gora mountain is considered a cultural monument of national significance.

### Particularity 3

This is one of the most eminent and largest buildings of this period in this part of Styria which consists of: the Romanesque core, the Gothic wall, the defensive walls and the five-pointed tower, and later constructions of residential buildings with Renaissance fortifications, which also include a bastion with 4-metre-thick walls.

When the Prince of Windischgrätz became the last owner of the Old Castle (and of Trebnik Manor) in 1828, the building was already in ruins.

“ You will also see the Old Castle if you take the Dragon's Forest Educational Trail. ”

Foto: LITTERA, Borut Brumec



## ❖ Old Castle in Vitanje

The Old Castle in Vitanje is an exceptional building: the way it has been merged with the rock is simply astonishing. This is one of the oldest castles in Slovenia. If you enjoy the feeling of goosebumps that you can only get in the presence of something really impressive, visit the Old Castle in Vitanje.

### Incredible construction undertaking

The ruins of a stone castle rise up from the precarious and inaccessible rocky cone on the left bank of the Hudinja River, right before the entrance to the ravine.

#### 5 particularities

Its first owners made it to the castle using a **trail carved into the bedrock**.

— **The bedrock** has even been included into the defensive wall in a truly ingenious manner, which only increases the mastership of the castle.

— The castle will leave a lasting impression due to the then-characteristic **Roman grouting** of points of contact between the quarry stones.

— The true value of this dangerous construction undertaking will only increase if we consider that the castle was probably already built in **the 11th century**, at the time of Hemma of Gurk.

— Even though a terrible earthquake severely damaged the castle in 1201, it was renovated after that.

### The names of the Old Castle in Vitanje

Originally, the Old Castle in Vitanje was called Castrum Weitenstein, which is said to only be a germanised form of the name with a Slovenian origin. The name is supposed to be derived from the verb "vitati" meaning "to spend the night" or "to linger". The locals also call it the Lower Castle or the Golež Castle, with the latter of the two names being derived from the name of a nearby farm.



## ❖ New Castle in Vitanje

Next to the Old Castle in Vitanje, you can also admire the New Castle; albeit less recent, it is no less magnificent and is definitely an interesting choice for a trip. The Old Castle is located on the left bank of the Hudinja River, while the right bank of the river is marked by the rather more recent **New Castle in Vitanje** which was only built at the end of the 13th century but is also, just like its predecessor, carved into the bedrock.

### New Castle was actually a complex consisting of several buildings:

The castle consists of a mighty and tall residential tower with auxiliary turrets, a defence tower, a small tower housing the chapel of the castle, and a Renaissance fortification wall with five semi-circular turrets.

For around 300 years, both castles were used. Somewhere around the 16th century, the New Castle became the centre of the events attended by the nobility, while the Old Castle was left to the mercy of time.



35/36

### 4 unusual similarities between the Old and the New Castle in Vitanje

The New Castle also has several names. The locals call it the Upper Castle or Krajnik Castle, whereby the latter of the two names is, as is the case with the Old Castle, derived from the name of a nearby farm.

— Just like the Old Castle, the New Castle was also owned by the Counts of Krško; later, the knights of Vitanje took over both castles, and after they died out in 1430, both castles were generally taken care for by the same people.

— The path leading to the New Castle is also hard to reach and is carved into the bedrock.

— The Old Castle was damaged in a strong earthquake, while the New Castle was struck by lightning and destroyed in a subsequent fire in 1748, more than 500 years after the earthquake that damaged the Old Castle. While the Old Castle was renovated after the natural disaster, the New Castle was, unfortunately, not that lucky.

## ☘ Freudenberg Castle in Zreče

Even though Freudenberg Castle is, nowadays, only a vestige of ruins, it still provides an excellent possibility for a trip and the opportunity to explore. Freudenberg Castle which is said to have been built around the 12th century is actually only a vestige of ruins on a steep hill raising towards the Brinjeva gora mountain in the vicinity of the well-known pilgrimage church of the Holy Mother of God. The castle has been in ruins ever since the 15th century; only the stone vestiges and the name of the neighbouring farm (Podgrajšek – pod gradom, meaning "under the castle") bear witness to its existence.

### Exploring or hiking

The imagination of numerous hikers is often stimulated in the vicinity of Freudenberg Castle: coming from Zreče and rising towards the Brinjeva gora mountain, they take a break next to the castle and think about the days gone by. The vestiges will hardly allow you to understand just how big Freudenberg Castle actually was, and what it looked like.

*Or maybe you will be the first one to understand it!*

Lucky or  
unlucky  
castle?

“ The name "Zreče" actually means "watershed"; in the past, however, it was falsely translated as "sreča" ("luck") due to the phonetic similarity between the words. The German word for luck is "die Freude", which is why the castle was called Freudenberg, a name that literally translates to "the lucky hill". Despite all of this luck, the castle unfortunately met its timeless end. ”

### Clean drinking water – the most precious resource

Clean drinking water can be found anywhere in Slovenia. Did you know that we are one of the rare countries in the world to have protected its drinking water at the highest level? The right to benefit from clear drinking water is entered into our constitution. We recommend that you buy a refillable bottle, since you can get clean drinking water at every corner, or with any of the providers of tourist services.



## ☘ Jamnik Castle

Jamnik Castle, also known as Hohenstein Castle (in German), is the largest historical mystery of Pohorje and a true treat for everyone excited by the long-gone Middle Ages. Its exact location is unknown, and it is also not entirely certain if the castle actually existed or not. We can only assume that it was surrounded by a high defensive wall, trenches, and turrets.

What do we know  
about "the Atlantis  
of Pohorje"?

Jamnik (Holenstein) Castle in Zreče was first mentioned in writing in 1342, when Henrik Tanner built St Pancratius' Church under the fortification of Jamnik.

– The castle is said to have been located in the vicinity of an enlarged cave, and was supposedly built as one of the rare cave castles.

– For some time, it was said to have been owned by the Konjice gentry, while a host of other owners is also known.

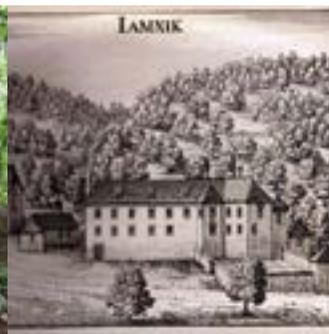
– The castle is last mentioned in 1477.

### Post-castle: Jamnik Mansion

What we know for sure, however, is that a spacious mansion which also bore the name Jamnik or Hohenstein was located next to the Pavlak homestead, at the foothills of Golek in the vicinity of Zreče. It is possible that they began building the castle in 1369 when the brothers Henry and Leopold were granted Jamnik Castle in fee from the Wildhaus gentry. But, what do you know, precious little remains from this mansion as well! It is not known exactly when the mansion fell into disrepair, but the St Pancratius chapel was definitely abandoned in 1783.

The best proof of the existence and the external appearance of Jamnik Mansion is a copperplate engraving made by

Vischer. The reason for the fact that so little is known about the special Jamnik Mansion is the subsequent creation of a quarry. It is known that St Pancratius' Church was detonated to be demolished in 1911 for this reason. Another proof of the existence of the mansion is its garden.



## ❖ Lušperg Castle in Zreče

Lušperg (or Lušperk, Loški grad or Luschberg (in German) Castle is located in Loška Gora, in the municipality of Zreče, at the confluence of the Dravinja and the Ljubnica Rivers. It is graced with a picturesque view of the Upper Dravinja Valley, which is, unfortunately, also the reason for its later insignificance and state of disrepair.

### Lušperg Castle in Zreče – shrouded in secrecy

“ It is not known who constructed Lušperg Castle, and its initial image is also quite unclear. Though not much remains of the castle ruins, it is safe to say that it was once a solid and magnificent building. In certain places, the height of the wall extended up to 6 metres, the walls were about a metre thick, the castle had a moat, and defensive corridors protected it on the defensive wall.

A castle of this name first appears in 1279, when Hainreich von Lusperch was testifying at Maribor Castle. Subsequent documents also prove that Hainreich was one of the knights of Maribor. Nikolaj Lewpacher is mentioned as the last caretaker of the castle in 1430. After that, the importance of Lušperk starts decreasing. In 1502, it is definitely abandoned.

”



## Tradition

Since time immemorial, the places next to the Dravinja River, nestled in the embrace of the forests of Pohorje, have been the home of hard-working and, above all, stubborn people who fought for their survival day after day and year after year. This is why nowadays we have the opportunity to explore the genuine ancient professions of our ancestors and, above all, admire their work. All of these outposts will provide you with an unforgettable opportunity to become familiar with our past in an authentic, interesting manner.

39/40

- Cizlakite deposits in Cezlak
- Park and old laundry-washing place in Oplotnica
- Ošlak Forge
- Šrekl-Zajc Homestead
- Forma Viva Zreče

## ❖ Cizlakite deposits in Cezlak

The settlement of Cezlak, located in the vicinity of Oplotnica, is known for being the only known deposit of cizlakite, a green intrusive igneous rock, in the world. Rising above the town of Oplotnica, Cezlak is a special place which grew from the insides of Pohorje, at the exact same spot where "the gold from Pohorje" had been found twice already: an intrusive igneous rock called tonalite, and autochthonous green igneous rock called cizlakite which has not been found anywhere else in the world yet.

### Cizlakite: the olm of rocks

As a rock, cizlakite is somewhat less resistant than tonalite. It is an igneous rock, composed of light and dark green particles, interrupted by a characteristic pattern of shiny white veins. Since this is an autochthonous rock which can only be found in Cezlak, we jokingly also call it "the olm of rocks".

#### Where does the name cizlakite come from?

Professor Vasilij V. Nikitin named the rock after the settlement of Cezlak in 1939; as for the settlement itself, it was named after a farmer called Cezlak who, in 1891, cleared the slope of the hill and started quarrying stones with the permission of the Windischgrätz family who spent most of their time in these places in Oplotnica Manor and Trebnik Mansion. The quarry has been functioning ever since and is a part of the preserved cottage industry crafts. Currently, however, they only extract tonalite and no longer extract cizlakite.

### Did you know?

The deposit of cizlakite and the abandoned quarry are called "Zeleni pruh" by the locals.

— On the southern side, the deposit continues into a beautiful natural landmark – the Oplotnica ravine.

— Most of the granite cubes you come across in Slovenia come from Cezlak.



*Transporting Cezlak, photo from 1930*

## ❖ Park and old laundry-washing place in Oplotnica

In its centre, Oplotnica is hiding a perfectly preserved laundry-washing place in the middle of a green park, through which flows a very lively stream of the same name. At the time of Lord Windischgrätz, a wood fibre factory used to be located next to the laundry-washing place.

Listen to the babbling brook as you follow it towards the perfectly preserved laundry-washing place, the plans for which were designed by the **Austrian mayor Karber** during World War II. At this once very important meeting place in the village, you will begin to understand and almost see the main craft of Oplotnica: assiduous village laundresses and, if your imagination serves you, people washing pig bowels in the pig slaughter season.





## Top 5

### ❖ Ošlak Forge

The Ošlak Forge is the only preserved specimen of the old blacksmith trade in Zreče, originating from the respectable 18th century. Written sources say that the Ošlak Forge, once the home of a small farmer, blacksmith, and carpenter who lived in the vicinity of Zreče, first appeared around 1770. The year of construction 1789 is engraved above the entrance to this ancient home, which is also when this forge next to the forests of Pohorje assumed its inspiring current appearance. In 1997, it was declared as a cultural monument.

**Blacksmithing  
in Zreče: don't  
miss out on  
this authentic  
experience!**

In the rural area of Zreče, blacksmithing was always a means to make a living, as evidenced by the forge of the Unior company. In the context of the Ošlak Forge, however, the old blacksmithing craft will turn the wheels of time with such genuine authenticity that will astonish you, almost making you feel the presence of the spirits of old, manly blacksmiths who were breaking new ground in Pohorje in terms of this craft.

At the Ošlak Forge, your curiosity will be awoken by:

- the old dwelling house,
- the farm building,
- the forge,
- the Venetian saw with its carpentry workshop,
- the wooden shack, and
- the new dwelling house.



## ❖ Šrekl-Zajc Homestead

If you wish to experience a demonstration of the traditional blacksmithing art in Zreče, visit the Šrekl-Zajc homestead. At one point, Zreče and its rural surroundings were full of smaller blacksmithing workshops. Nowadays, blacksmithing as part of the cottage industry is starting to disappear. In 2007, Ignac Zajc Jr. gave the initiative for joining the small artisanal workshop owned by Ivan Šrekl with the farm homestead of his father Ignac Zajc, a well-known blacksmith in Zreče.

The Šrekl artisanal workshop  
+ the Zajc farm homestead  
= the Šrekl-Zajc homestead

**Particularity:** Once the machines and tools of the Šrekl blacksmith workshop were moved to Zajc farm homestead in Dobrovlje, a useful workshop with a museum collection depicting the blacksmith and technical heritage was born.



## ❖ Forma viva Zreče

Take a walk among sculptural works of art – forma viva, where Zreče brought together academically trained artists and blacksmiths.

From the early seventies (1973) up to 1989, interesting sculptures made of metal were created here, at first as the fruit of the cooperation between the academically trained sculptor **Vasilij Četkovič (Vasko)** and **Marjan Osole**, the then-director of the company Unior which, today, boasts a 100-year-old tradition and has more than 2,000 employees. **Through sculpture symposiums** organised in the framework of Forma Viva Zreče, tradition paved the way for artists to express their imagination using materials which feed the locals of this town at the foothills of Pohorje: iron, steel, and artificial grindstones.

### A union between an artist and a worker

In addition to Četkovič, the sculptures were also made by sculptors Moma Vukovič, Tone Lapajne and Dušan Tršar. The sculptures were not only created by the artists, however: local workers from Zreče, trained blacksmiths whose invaluable experience in metal treating helped to form these sculptures which represent a contribution to this trademark of national importance as a part of Forma Viva, also directly contributed to the project.

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## Sacral heritage

Churches are the oldest and the richest cultural and historical monuments, full to the brim with religious, cultural, artistic, and historical messages. There are a total of more than twenty churches in Pohorje and the Dravinja Valley, most of which are located in the municipality of Zreče. While the sacral buildings were built in different periods, most of them come from the high- and late-medieval period.

- Church of St John the Baptist in Oplotnica
  - Parish Church of St George in Slovenske Konjice
  - Church of the Holy Mother of God at Hriberca
  - Church of the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ on the Mountain at Rogla
  - Church of St Martin above Zreče
- Pilgrim Church of the Holy Mother of God at Prihova
  - Church of St Jacob at Resnik
  - Church of St Lambert at Skomarje

- Church of the Holy Mother of God at the Brinjeva gora mountain
- Church of St Agnes at the Brinjeva gora mountain
- Parish Church of St Giles in Zreče
- Parish Church of St Cunigunde at Gorenje nad Zrečami
- Parish Church of St Laurence at Stranice
- Church of the Virgin Mary's Visitation in Špitalič
- Parish Church of St Peter and Paul in Vitanje
- Parish Church of St Vitus at Hudinja
- Church of St Miklavž at Koritno nad Oplotnico
- Church of St Ana in Slovenske Konjice

### ✿ Church of St John the Baptist in Oplotnica

This church attended by the locals living in the municipality of Oplotnica is actually located in the settlement of Čadram. The first, old church in Čadram, which no longer exists, was erected during the early Gothic period, while the first written records originate from 1487. The new church of St John the Baptist that we know today was built between 1895 and 1899.

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#### Particularities about the church:

Due to its state of disrepair, the medieval church was **demolished in 1937**, and the money obtained through selling the material of the old church was used to build an 8-metre-long chapel at the same spot, which could accommodate up to 50 people. This chapel also met a rather unfortunate end, since it was demolished by the Germans during the war.

Due to the year of its inception, the then-ownership of the land on which it was built, and its name, the origin of the first church is connected to the Žiče Charterhouse.

**The current church of St John the Baptist was not built at the location of its medieval predecessor.**

The layout of the church is designed in the form of a **Latin cross**.

The current church boasts the **medieval stations of the cross and a missionary cross** from the old church.

The church is **one of the largest, most beautiful churches in the diocese of Maribor**.

## ❁ Parish Church of St George in Slovenske Konjice

The parish church of St George in Konjice goes way back in history. The parish of Konjice has a special title of archparish, while its priest is called the archdeacon. The parish of Konjice goes so far back with its venerable history that it is now called a pre-parish. Between 1085 and 1096, the parish of Konjice separated from the parish of Hoče. The evidence of the venerable age of the parish of Konjice is the fact that it was first mentioned in 1146, in the documents of Pellegrinus I, Patriarch of Aquileia. As a result, Slovenske Konjice celebrated the 870th year of its existence a couple of years ago.

“  
The church in Konjice, however, is even older.

”  
The first church in Konjice was definitely built even before the documents of Pellegrinus I, and the church currently standing at the same location is its successor.  
”

### The unusual title of archparish and archdeacon

Owing to one of its locals, Dr Mihael Napotnik, who was a Prince-Bishop of Lavantine Diocese, the parish of Konjice has been awarded the title of archparish. On the basis of the apostolic letter of pope Pius X written in 1910, every archpriest in Slovenske Konjice is entitled to bear the title of the archdeacon, which also allows him to wear certain pontifical emblems.

### What does the Church of St George have to offer?

The main altar was once accompanied by 12 side altars, of which 5 remain visible today.

Four supernatural statues of St Peter, St Paul, St Hieronymus and St John the Baptist will surely attract your attention.

The steps leading to the church choir that one of the supporting beams of the arch of the nave is leaning onto are especially interesting.

On one of the outside walls of the chapel, you will be able to see a sundial.

There are several tombstones built into the wall, including the epitaph of Ortolf de Gonvitz.

The church also holds a holy water font from the late Gothic period with an image of a mermaid, bearing the year 1657.

The initiative for the construction of the church and the establishment of the parish is said to have come from the Konjice gentry who used to live at the Old Castle on the Konjiška gora mountain.

## ❁ Church of the Holy Mother of God at Hriberca

The church of the Holy Mother of God at Hriberca in Vitanje is one of the two parts of the unique tandem of two churches which form a parish together. While the church of St Peter and Paul is the so-called *winter church* in Vitanje, the church of the Holy Mother of God at Hriberca is the so-called *summer church*.

### The outside of the church of the Holy Mother of God does not reveal its interior

Hriberca, as it is called by the locals, is located on a hill rising above the old square centre of Vitanje and represents a real crown above the broad wreath of houses on the square and in the village lying at the foothills. Between 1747 and 1754, it was rebuilt in the Baroque style, even though one could not say so from looking at its exterior.

Inside, the original Baroque architecture will astound you:

The rich murals depicting motives from Mary's life are simply astonishing. The presbytery was brought to life in 1893 by Giacomo Brollo, while the nave was remodelled six years later by Anton Brollo.

The large main altar is an exceptional example of Baroque from 1770, attributed to Janez Jurij Mersi.

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## ❖ Church of the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ on the Mountain at Rogla

The church of the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ on the Mountain is located high on the peak of Rogla. At an altitude of about 1,500 metres, this is the church with the second-highest altitude in Slovenia (right after the church of St Ursula at Uršlja gora). When designing the external appearance of the church, the architect used the cone-like shape of the Serbian spruce, the most common tree in Pohorje, as inspiration.

### A years-old idea comes to life

By building a church at Rogla, the locals not only realised a decades-old idea of erecting a church at this popular skiing and hiking location, but also became one of the rare examples of a situation where business makes an investment into a sacral installation. The church was built in 2010 pursuant to the plans of the architect **Vera Klepej Turnšek**, while the design was also partially influenced by the idea of friar **Marko Ivan Rupnik**.

## 3 particularities

### Particularity 1

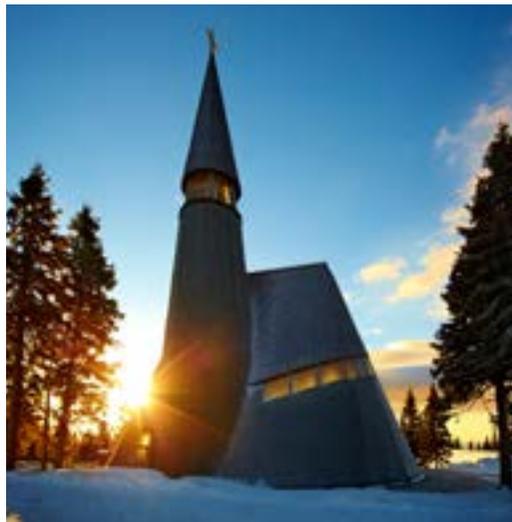
The stone **shrine, tabernacle and baptismal font** are ironshod, which gives the church a hint of artisanal craftsmanship, a centuries-old tradition in the town of Zreče located in the valley. The iron accents were added by the local Milan Očko from Zreče who is an artisanal blacksmith.

### Particularity 2

The striking **organ** in the church is composed of 1816 pipes. The metallic pipes are built out of tin and lead alloy, while the wooden pipes are made out of spruce, pine, maple, pear, prune, oak, ash, hornbeam, and ebony trees. The excellence of their production allows them to play even the most complex and demanding organ music and concerts.

### Particularity 3

The church of the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ on the Mountain has **three bells**, each of which bears a well-thought-out dedication to the life in Pohorje. The first one is dedicated to St Peter, patron saint of blacksmiths; the second one is dedicated to St Roch, patron saint of farmers and shepherds, and the third one is dedicated to St Barbara, patron saint of miners.



## ❖ Church of St Martin above Zreče

The origins of the church of St Martin above Zreče supposedly date back to the 14th century, and its builders are said to be none other than the mysterious monks of the Žiče Charterhouse. The church is also the northernmost milestone of the Škalce wine growing region, located slightly above Kropf Cellar where the wine cellar of the charterhouse was later erected.

## Did you know? Marked with Martin's sign!

The church of St Martin is the fifth cultural monument in Slovenia to be awarded the Martin's sign. In addition to the directional stone, the Martin's sign is a common symbol of the European cultural pathway, just like the scallop shell is a symbol associated with the Camino de Santiago. Martin's sign marks the monuments related to Martin's heritage.





## Green getaways

The Rogla-Pohorje tourist destination is a vast, spacious landscape of inimitable nature. Keeping it intact is of vital importance. The colourful flora and fauna in this part of Slovenia is a gem, which is why it has also been protected in the framework of Natura 2000, a special network of European nature conservation areas. Natura 2000 is a project destined to protect ecologically important areas, such as special types of natural habitats and habitats which are the home of a certain endangered plant or animal species.

### Which locations fall into the Nature 2000 area?

**Pohorje.** The most extensive silicate mountain range in Slovenia is vastly different from the remaining Alpine world. Its particularities:

- plant species found in peat bogs, such as round-leaved sundew at the Lovrenc Lakes marshes,
- spruce forests of Pohorje,
- vegetation growing in rock cracks,
- Alpine rivers and dystrophic lakes,

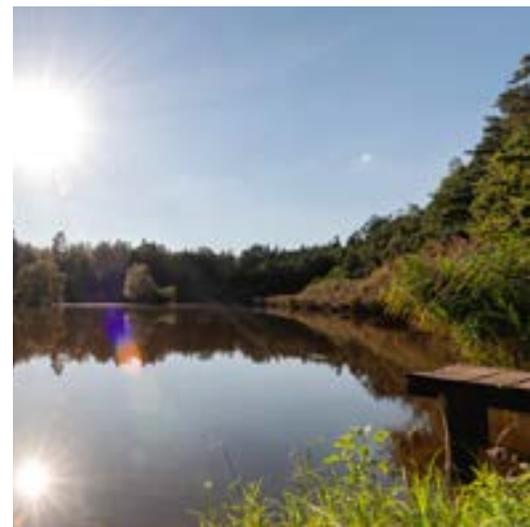
- planes and grasslands with *nardus stricta*, *arnica montana*, blueberries and cranberries,
- areas of solitary Karst (e.g. the Pavlak Cave), and
- the only example of serpentine flora in Slovenia.

### The Dravinja River with the Dravinja Valley (Slovenske Konjice, Prežigal Forest and Petelinjek Marshes).

The watershed of the Dravinja River is a strong lifeline. The steep riverbanks are home to the endangered turquoise-blue common kingfisher, some rare butterfly species, crabs, and dragonflies, while the white stork also lives on the nearby meadows. A special species of bats also lives at the cemetery next to the church of St Anne, where the town of Slovenske Konjice meets the Konjiška gora mountain. The Petelinjek Marshes also hide other bird species and a small number of amphibians, while the Prežigal Forest is a vestige of former pedunculate oak forests.

- Natural biotope of Partovec
- Žički grobeljnik (*Alyssum montanum*)
- Lovrenc Lakes
- Pavlak Cave
- Lake Zreče
- Climate Resort Rogla
- Pohorje peat

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## ❖ Natural biotope of Partovec

The Partovec natural monument is a rare water biotope, home to aquatic and riparian animal and plant species. It covers the area of the pond and the stretch of forest located next to the pond. It is protected with the Decree on the Declaration of Natural Monuments. In the 19th century, the Count of Windischgrätz enclosed a part of Partovec with a fence and opened a stag park. In the vicinity of the pond is an old watering hole where local transporters used to come to provide water for their horses.

## ❖ Žički grobeljnik (*Alyssum montanum*)

Next to the pathway towards the illustrious Žiče Charterhouse, you will notice a botanical rarity: a lovely flower called the Žiče grobeljnik (*Alyssum montanum* subsp. *pluscanescens*), with tiny yellow flowers the colour of the sun which open in April and in May. This is an indigenous species which only grows in Sotenjsko, in the vicinity of the quarry in the village of Žiče, just a couple of kilometres from the town of Slovenske Konjice.

### How can you recognise Žiče grobeljnik?

This beautiful tiny plant is a herbaceous perennial which can grow from 10 up to 20cm. The Žiče grobeljnik has a spindle-shaped root, grey-green branched stalk, egg-shaped and spear-shaped leaves, and yellow flowers which transform into round fruits called "luščki".

“ Above all, never pick these flowers!

In April and in May, when the flowers are in full bloom, visit the site where it grows, and take a photo to remember it by. Don't forget, however, that this is a rare and endangered plant species, and that the site where it grows is protected as a natural monument. Above all, never pick these flowers! It is prohibited to pick and dig up the Žiče grobeljnik; furthermore, we could exterminate this endemic gem by destroying it. ”



## ❖ Lovrenc Lakes

The Lovrenc Lakes are one of the most picturesque hiking points boasting unique nature. In spite of its simple nature, this walking path will richly reward you. Take a walk on the soft rug made of greensward. Endless, lush green nature. Fresh air caressing your skin. The Lovrenc Lakes are the marshes with the highest altitude in Slovenia, and one of the most important marshes in Southern Europe, which is why they form a particularly protected part of the largest forest reserve in Slovenia. These picturesque lakes are definitely one of the reasons that Rogla receives so many visitors in the summer.

### Hiking: one of the most beautiful hiking paths in Slovenia

The Lovrenc Lakes, also known as the Lovrenc pearls, are just that: a gem of natural beauty. The pleasant hiking path leading to the Lovrenc Lakes will guide you past the planes of Rogla and through a silent forest, only to repay tenfold all of your efforts by offering a sight of the dark green bushes, peppered with lakes where white water lilies grow in the summer.

### Inspiring plants and animals

All nature lovers out there are sure to be duly impressed by this trip. The lakes provide a calming spot for a weekend trip or the peak of your active holidays, and who knows, you might even see an interesting creature or two.

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Foto: Tomo Jeseničnik, [www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info)

### The Lovrenc Lakes – basic information

These 20 lakes or "marsh windows" with a maximum depth of 1.2 metres are located at an altitude of about 1,500m.

They were created during the ice age that took place 8,000 years ago, and have a secondary function as erosion surfaces, since Pohorje peat, a unique mud with healing properties, lies at the bottom of all of these lakes.

The entire area does not have a surface water source; these lakes are filled exclusively with rainwater.

## ❖ Pavlak Cave

The Pavlak Cave is an unusual karstic cave in the igneous world of Pohorje where certain prehistoric items have also been found. Going into a cave that only a couple of people know about—doesn't it sound mysterious? The Pavlak Cave gives us the unusual feeling that we have suddenly found ourselves in the middle of the Karst region at Pohorje, even though the well-known town of Zreče is only a couple of minutes away. Let us also add that this is the cave where prehistoric ceramics from the Iron Age were found, and that this is also the location of *Jamnik Castle* which disappeared in unexplained circumstances.

### 5 interesting sights offered by the Pavlak Cave:

— The Pavlak Cave derives its name from the owner of the land.

— It was discovered and explored in 1963.

— Its galleries, decorated with some stalactites, are 54 metres long.

— During heavy rainfalls, the cave turns into a source flowing into the nearby river.

— Bats belonging to a protected species of horseshoe bats spend their winters in the cave.

#### A tip if you are travelling with kids:

the Pavlak Cave is also a part of the Srček Educational Path. Don't miss the opportunity to learn something new!



## ❖ Lake Zreče

Lake Zreče is a pleasant getaway in the heart of nature, and an opportunity to relax and fish just a stone's throw away from the town. On foot, you are only a couple of minutes away from Lake Zreče if you start in the lush green park surrounding Terme Zreče. The lake itself is an artificial body of water, created in 2000 and fed by the Koprivnica stream flowing through Zreče. **Lake Zreče consists of two parts:** fish spawn in the upper, smaller, and more overgrown part, while the lower, larger and more eye-catching part can be used for your activities. Both parts are connected to one another with a quaint bridge.

### 3 TOP lakeside activities:

#### Top activity 1

There is a narrow sandy path leading around the lake. At sunset, in the middle of calming nature, it provides an excellent opportunity to **relax, take a romantic walk, or perform a running training session.**

#### Top activity 2

The ducks which are often waddling among the reed and sedge plants **provide a perfect nature-watching opportunity for curious toddlers.**

#### Top activity 3

The broad range of fish living in the lake (zander, pike, chub, nase, carp, common bleak, and other species of fish), as well as the fact that the lake can quickly be accessed by car, are a true magnet for **fishing enthusiasts.** You can purchase fishing permits at the reception of all hotels in Terme Zreče (the reception of the Klasik, Vital and Atrij Hotels).

### Did you know?

— There is a total of 65,000 cubic metres of water in the lake.

— The deepest point of the lake is 8 metres deep.

— The lake is one of the locations you can visit as part of the popular Srček Educational Path.



## ❖ Climate Resort Rogla

Rogla Sanatorium is renowned for its fresh and clean air, favourable temperatures during the summer, and the possibility for top-ranking athletes to perform their conditioning exercises. Since 1996, when solid particles suspended in the air were not really a well-known topic, Rogla has been a well-known sanatorium.

### Climate as a natural healing factor

The air at the altitude of 1,517 metres which smells like pine trees has numerous healing properties, which is why people with breathing issues and allergies love to spend their time here. Rogla's mild climate thus became one of the four recognised natural healing factors of Pohorje, which are also often used in the medical centre of Terme Zreče.

### Mild summer temperatures

Although most are familiar with Rogla being a ski resort, the influence of the climate is all the more reinforced in the summer. The temperature of the air rarely exceeds 24°C, even during sweltering summer heat. Therefore, it is an ideal and healthy getaway for senior citizens who wish to retreat in nature, children who love to run outdoors, and everybody else hoping for a night of quality sleep.

### “ Did you know? ”

At Rogla, athletes can make use of the possibility of artificial increase of altitude in the so-called **hypoxic rooms**. A device decreasing the quantity of oxygen in the air can be found in 6 rooms of the hotel, as well as in the training room. There, conditions similar to those at an altitude of up to 7,000 metres can be created. ”

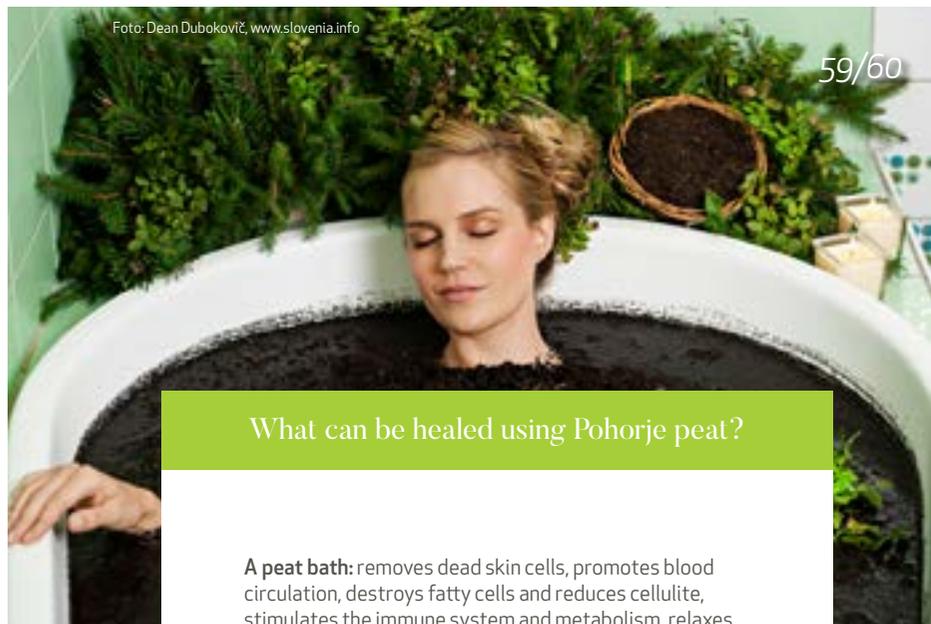
## ❖ Pohorje peat

The Pohorje peat is a unique natural mud which can be used for its nutritional and biologically active ingredients. As such, it is one of the four natural healing factors.

**The peat is rare because it needs 3 conditions to grow:** low temperatures throughout the year, an abundance of rainfall, and an impervious surface.

### What is the Pohorje peat made out of?

It consists of 90% water and 10% decomposed plant material that heat can easily get trapped into. Whenever we add it to our bath or use it in a body wrap and put it into contact with our body, peat (and the humic acid it contains) will slowly transfer heat into our tissue, soothe our pain, and promote the healing process.



### What can be healed using Pohorje peat?

**A peat bath:** removes dead skin cells, promotes blood circulation, destroys fatty cells and reduces cellulite, stimulates the immune system and metabolism, relaxes muscles, and soothes inflammations and pains.

**A mud wrap will help you with:** aching muscles, long-lasting joint pains, rheumatism, acne, and even psychosomatic illnesses.



## With the wind in your hair – bike around "green" pathways

### Oplotnica bicycle trail leading through Gorica and Markečica

This lovely path leading through the genuine rural area at the foothills of Pohorje will guide you through numerous villages and interesting landmarks of Oplotnica. Start in front of the mighty and wonderfully restored Oplotnica Manor, and then turn right, towards an undemanding hill leading towards Gorica which will open a beautiful view of the vineyards of Oplotnica and the valley—if the weather is good, you will even be able to see the Boč and Donačka gora mountains. The narrow pathway along the ridge which is a part of the Pohorje wine route will slowly descend towards the village of Malahorna where you can try local culinary specialities brought together under the "Tastes of Rogla" trademark. From there, the path will turn upwards and, after a somewhat strenuous ascent, you will reach your award: the lovely church of St Barbara with the medieval kitchen located next to it. What follows is a lovely descent towards the village of Markečica, through Dobriška vas all the way to Čadram with its imposing church of St John the Baptist, related to the monks of the Žiče Charterhouse. A couple more minutes, and you will be back in Oplotnica. You will also drive by a wonderful park with a laundry-washing place—don't forget to explore them!



**Starting point:** Oplotnica Manor  
**Trail length:** 11.3km (circular trail)  
**Estimated cycling time:** 2 hours  
(circular trail)  
**Difficulty:** medium  
**Foundation:** asphalt, dirt road

### Visit the Žiče Charterhouse by bike

This path will lead you from the urban centre of Slovenske Konjice at the foothills of the Konjiška gora mountain, through Konjiška vas and Žiče. There, you will turn right and enter the picturesque valley of St John, at the end of which a silent beauty awaits you: the Žiče Charterhouse and the Gastuž Inn (1467), the oldest inn in Slovenia. This former monastery from the 12th century still has some unusual stories to tell...DO NOT MISS THEM! You can walk around the Žiče Charterhouse with VR glasses, thus making the Carthusian story come alive in front of you in all its splendour.



**Starting point:** Old Square in Slovenske Konjice  
**Trail length:** 12.5km (in one direction)  
**Altitude difference:** 131m  
**Estimated cycling time:** 1 hour

### Through Vitanje to the Skaza Fiddle Studio 61/62

Vitanje will pamper you with exceptional views of the lush, green, and peaceful valley, so close and yet so different from anything else. Visit the Skaza Fiddle Studio! Start in front of the unusual building in Vitanje, the Noordung Centre, and you will soon start biking uphill, past the church of St Anthony and towards Spodnji Dolič where you will reach the exceptional Skaza Fiddle Studio after biking for a couple exciting kilometres through green nature. Explore the fiddle studio and the workshop where string instruments are still made, and then quickly continue in the direction of the village of Lepko, bike uphill for a couple of minutes, and then enjoy the picturesque descent towards the old square centre of Vitanje.



**Starting point:** The Noordung Centre  
**Trail length:** 16.7km (circular trail)  
**Estimated cycling time:** 3 hours (circular trail)  
**Difficulty:** medium  
**Foundation:** asphalt, dirt road

## ❁ Bicycle trail Zreče–Slovenske Konjice

The Zreče–Slovenske Konjice bicycle trail is a circular biking trail of medium difficulty, chockful of natural and cultural heritage sites. The trail will take you through the picturesque landscape of the Dravinja Valley, personified by wine growing hills, and will present the gems of local tradition: farmers, mills, forges, wine cellars, the old town centre of Konjice, and mansions. And, of course, authentic locals ...



**Starting point:** Zreče – bus stop

**Length:** 12.6km (circular trail)

**Altitude difference:** 150m

**Estimated cycling time:** 3 hours



## ❁ From Zreče to Zlati grič

A divine cycling route that you simply cannot miss. Follow the path of the former narrow-gauge railway until you reach the inimitable wine growing hills. Leave Zreče, going in the direction of Slovenske Konjice, and then turn left at the roundabout next to the shopping centre. In approximately 500 metres, turn right at the roundabout and continue past the factories. At the intersection, the path will lead you towards Radana vas and next to the trail of the former narrow-gauge railway. From there, you will continue through vast vineyards and past the modern Zlati grič wine cellar. Drive past the cellar and make a stop at the Grič Inn in the heart of Škalce where you can also calm your soul with a glass of good wine. From here, you will have a remarkable and unforgettable view of the golf court, Slovenske Konjice and its surroundings, and the Konjiška gora mountain with the ruins of the Old Castle at the Konjiška gora mountain. You can return to Zreče following the same trail, or opt instead to drive through the village of Gračič, where you can continue to bike upwards and enjoy the wine growing hills and the Dravinja Valley.



**Starting point:** Zreče – bus stop

**Trail length:** 10km (circular trail)

**Altitude difference:** 150m

**Estimated cycling time:** 1.5 hours (circular trail)

**Difficulty:** easy

**Foundation:** asphalt

**Follow the indications:** L353

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Foto: Gašper Pintarič, Pohorje turizem



# 02

## Enjoy the tastes

The Pohorje locals are truly known for their incapability to let you leave hungry. Here, enjoying a good meal is a way of spending time with other people, and the saying "Love goes through the stomach" takes on real meaning. Even though the culinary specialties of Pohorje and its surroundings are influenced by fresh ideas of young locals, they are based on centuries-old recipes of our grandmothers and complemented with the flavours of high-quality vegetable, forest treats, herbs, and delicious wine.

**By enjoying various flavours and discovering the way in which they communicate with one another, you will understand the philosophy followed by the cuisine of Pohorje.**

**To do so, use (at least) one of the following two methods:**

- Comb through the products brought together by the "Tastes of Rogla" trademark if you are looking for sure-fire quality.
- Check the offer of local culinary providers to see who can serve you dishes to your taste.





## Tastes of Rogla

**Tastes of Rogla is a trademark** bringing together local providers of culinary services and producers of agricultural, food, and artisanal products. It allows you to enjoy traditional food prepared using uniform recipes, and admire the most genuine handicrafts. The trademark brings together hard work, crops grown on one's own land, forest and meadow treats, aromatic wines, and love for old, nearly forgotten dishes and products which deserve our attention.

### Basketry

As a very old handicraft or additional activity carried out on a farm, basketry was mostly used to satisfy local needs. Therefore, basketry products were often made by owners of small farms, cottage dwellers, and lodgers. These products were mostly used for storing and transporting products at home or out in the field. This type of crafts includes different basket-weaving techniques since we distinguish from products made of straw, wicker and thin wicker strips, hazel and thin hazel strips, and clematis. It is no wonder that wicker dishes and other equipment have been following the local inhabitants at every turn, throughout their everyday life.

### ❖ Kalšek-Podkrajšek Homestead

The Kalšek-Podkrajšek homestead in Žiče is home to three types of craft: delicious wines from Styria, a whole assortment of fragrant homemade spirits, and lovely basketry products made of wicker with thin, bleached wicker strips which are characteristic for the Dravinja Valley. The latter has earned them the "Tastes of Rogla" quality label, entry in the book "Handicrafts of Slovenia", and a "Cottage Industry Product" certificate awarded by the Chamber of Handicrafts.

At the homestead, they will be more than happy to show you how they go about making lovely baskets, plaits, and handbaskets, and you can even participate in a basketry workshop for 2 to 8 people.

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## Beekeeping

In Slovenia, beekeeping is a craft with a rich tradition. The ancient Slavs were the first people to dwell in it: at first, they only occasionally used the products that came from bee nests, and later, they started harvesting honey. Once they settled in for the long haul, they started the activity of true forest beekeeping. Based on written sources, we can conclude that domestic beekeeping started developing in the 13th century from the initial forms of forest beekeeping that they started to abandon. The development of beekeeping in contemporary times was influenced by the introduction of new cultivated plants, especially buckwheat (from the first half of the 15th century), which was an important additional source of bee foraging. How about apiculture/beekeeping today?

### ✿ Žvikart Beekeeping

In the Dravinja Valley, Žvikart Beekeeping is a synonym for artistry with bees and products made from sweet honey. Love for bees was born in the Žvikart family from Konjice many years ago. In 1956, the father Franci was awarded the prestigious beekeeping title of "qualified worker in the beekeeping sector", which was complemented exactly 50 years later by his son Aleksander who became a "beekeeping master". **Žvikart Beekeeping is the only beekeeping company in Slovenia with these two titles.**

### From humble beginnings to bee masters

#### Surprising bee products

At the Žvikart estate, you will discover a real treasure trove of honey and other bee products having a beneficial effect on our health.

Their forest honey, spreadable cream with cinnamon, and honey blueberry brandy bear the "Tastes of Rogla" quality label.

Their range of products consists of six types of honey: flower honey, acacia honey, chestnut honey, linden honey, forest honey, and fir honey.

They also produce true jewels of the beekeeping world: pollen, royal jelly, propolis, and the melamix mixture.

Have you ever heard of honey with beetroot juice, or cream honey with walnut, vanilla, or cinnamon?

Od nekaj ljubiteljskih čebeljih družin sta oče in sin svoje čebelje poslanstvo razvila na okoli 350 panjev. Njihove čebele se v večini pasejo v neokrnjeni naravi v okolici znamenite Žičke kartuzije.

You can also satisfy your sweet tooth with honey brandy or honey blueberry brandy.

If you wish to give the products as a gift, you can choose between 40 gift boxes using packaging from natural materials.

### ✿ Kamenik Beekeeping and Beverage Processing

The Kamenik beekeeping and beverage processing company is located in the heart of Pohorje, finding the healing properties of nature in its most pristine parts. At its heart, Pohorje hides unknown, authentic villages where people are still in contact with the rural countryside, where tradition has not yet died out, and where the villagers foster deep respect for artisanal handicrafts. One of such villages is Božje nad Oplotnico, where the pristine nature and fresh air at an altitude of 800 metres provide a home to bees of the Kamenik beekeeping and beverage processing company.

#### Taste what the bees have collected for you in the heart of Pohorje

The Kamenik family are known for their delicious honey brandies, such as rosehip brandy, sour cherry brandy, and blueberry brandy. In their wide selection of honey, you can choose between flower honey, acacia honey, chestnut honey, forest honey, and spruce honey (but don't worry, nobody will blame you if you make a stock of one of each).

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**Particularities:** honey with added fruit, and schnapps with various herbs from Pohorje.



## Distillery

The magnificent mounds at the foothills of Pohorje, covered in orchards and vineyards, where the delicious fruits of autumn ripen, are where the inhabitants have been spending centuries fostering the tradition of making fruit brandy.

### ❖ Kejžar Distillery

The Kejžar distillery is a synonym for fragrant homemade fruit brandies, characteristic of the Pohorje mountains. All fruit is grown in their own orchards and gardens. For over a century, the Kejžar distillery at the foothills of the Pohorje mountains has been cultivating fertile orchards, the fruit of which is used to produce fragrant and completely natural fruit brandies, presented in Slovenian bottles made in Steklarna Hrastnik, bottled using high-quality corks, and dipped into beeswax. Every connoisseur of high-quality brandy knows that the really important ingredient is an appropriate percentage of fresh fruit. According to the Kejžar recipe, there is no less than one seventh of fresh fruit in a 700ml bottle.

**Enjoy:** the typical blueberry brandy from Pohorje, honey brandy, pear, apple and prune liquor with added homemade honey, William pear brandy where the pear ripens in the bottle, and a very special strawberry brandy from homegrown garden strawberries.

### ❖ Kalšek-Podkrajšek Homestead (more on pages 67/68)



### ❖ Vahter Distillery

The Vahter distillery prepares slightly different 100% natural homemade brandies such as Kuzjok (homemade whisky), homemade gin and rose liquor.

The Vahter distillery was established by David and Mateja from Zreče who, as they say, created their first herb liqueur containing 28 herbs in 2008, completely by accident. It took the opinion of a friend, who told them that they had actually created a high-quality homemade brandy, and five years later, they opened their own distillery which now contains over ten types of completely natural brandies. And not just any brandies: theirs are so delicious that some of them have even been awarded the "Tastes of Rogla" quality label.

**Enjoy:** rose liqueur, Kuzjok (homemade whisky), homemade gin, liqueur from Pohorje spruce, raspberry liqueur.



## Herbalism

Numerous farms in Pohorje have well-groomed herb gardens allowing them to become familiar with medicinal herbs growing in Pohorje. Two of the most important gardens are located in Vitanje and Žiče, and we must also not forget the store in the Žiče Charterhouse where you can buy various herbs.

### ❖ Majnika Herbal Garden

This is a story of a mother–daughter duo who developed their home garden into a "serious" herb garden with over 160 herbs and some excellent natural products. From a tiny home garden in the village of Žiče, located in the middle of the characteristic rural area of the Dravinja Valley, grew the large organic Majnika herbal garden.

#### **Majnika herbal garden, home to over 160 plants**

The garden is famous for its **herbal teas and sprouts** with enticing aromas. Mother Majda and her daughter Katja demonstrate not only the extensive knowledge in growing over 160 plants but also an in-depth understanding of the beneficial effect they have on the human body.

## Get to know Majda and Katja

Majda and Katja are glad to open the doors of their home and of their lovely garden to individuals and groups who would like to learn more about herbalism. They even organise cooking workshops, nature-related field trips to their garden, and workshops for children.

### Different and special stories

Nearly every single household in the Dravinja Valley is already familiar with the Majnika herb salt, enriched with 18 different types of herbs and mixed with traditional unrefined Piran sea salt, which makes it an indispensable component of sauces, soups, fish dishes, and roasts.

An upgrade of the herbal salt is the Majnika Premium herbal salt which also contains Chinese yam. This is a special tuber with the capacity of introducing light into the human organism. The tuber owes its fame to Usain Bolt's father who said that he attributed his son's success to the fact that he regularly consumes this little medicinal root.

They also manually produce the healing seeds of milk thistle, a task made even more difficult due to its prickly exterior. They believe in the high-quality fruit of human labour.

### ❖ Herbs from the Žiče Charterhouse

The herbs from the Žiče Charterhouse are a trademark reviving the old tradition of medicine in the Žiče Charterhouse. The trademark was awarded numerous "Tastes of Rogla" quality labels. In the golden age of the Žiče Charterhouse, this silent home to the monks, the magnificent building was surrounded by abundant herbal gardens, enriched by the monks' wisdom and knowledge about the power of nature. After numerous years of silence, the tradition of herbalism and medicine was brought to life once more by the Iršič family which created the "Herbs from the Žiče Charterhouse" trademark, as well as the trademark "Meglič Organic Farm". Both have received numerous "Tastes of Rogla" quality labels.

### Herbal tradition in a Carthusian atmosphere

When you visit the Žiče Charterhouse, don't forget that a tempting herbal experience awaits you.

At the entrance to the charterhouse, you can already spot a herbal garden.

The monastery's defence tower hides herbal treats brought together under the "Herbs of the Žiče Charterhouse" trademark, drinks, and spreads that you can also taste by prior announcement.

Pupils and students will be able to expand their horizons during workshops on how to use herbs for herbalism and nutrition purposes.

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## ❁ Meglič Organic Farm

The Meglič organic farm is a high-altitude farm where pinnacles of local cuisine and high-quality products brought together under the "Tastes of Rogla" quality label are produced on 10 hectares. Nestled among the exciting, yet calming panoramic vistas over the hills of Pohorje lies the Meglič organic farm, located so high on the mountain-side of the Steniška gora mountain that it is considered a high-altitude farm. The farm was established by the Iršič family that also created the marvelous "Herbs of the Žiče Charterhouse" trademark. The farm and its herbs alike have received numerous "Tastes of Rogla" quality labels.

**They produce the most exquisite local cuisine: liqueurs, soups and syrups, cider, wines and sparkling wines, organic apple vinegar, herbs and teas, flours, organic soup vegetables, jams, and spreads.**

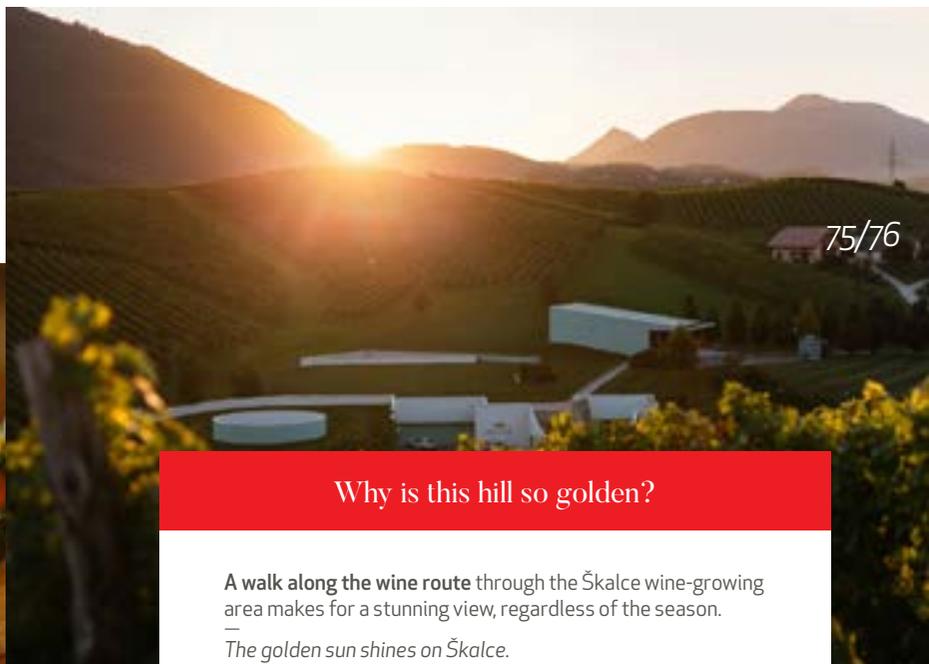
## Feel the beauty of rural life

You can also experience life on the Meglič organic farm through unique experiences. Embark on a culinary experience, peppered with natural and cultural heritage landmarks, or simply discover natural and cultural heritage at the Meglič organic farm.



## Škalce wine-growing area and Zlati grič

The wine-growing area of Škalce is the world of top-quality wines Zlati grič, culinary superlatives, long golf club swings, and endless views over the vineyards. Whenever you think of Slovenske Konjice, you probably imagine the picturesque centre of its square and the hills of Škalce with its noble grapevines—though not necessarily in this order. If wine and the hilly landscape don't ring a bell just yet, the sonorous name of Zlati grič will surely do so.



### Why is this hill so golden?

**A walk along the wine route** through the Škalce wine-growing area makes for a stunning view, regardless of the season.

*The golden sun shines on Škalce.*

The hilly landscape creates a whole panoply of images: landscaped vineyards, a lovely **golf course** and the town right at its edge.

*Grape leaves and juicy grapes glisten with a golden hue in autumn.*

Where **rich culinary experiences and noble wines** come together, you will find the Grič Inn, skillfully inspiring modern ideas with the Tastes of Rogla.

*Catching the last ray of sunshine through a glass of golden wine is a tradition in the region of Konjice.*

## Descendants of the old grapevine from Lent

### In Slovenske Konjice

In the vineyards of Konjice, particular pride and respect are conveyed every year as they harvest the grapes of the aforementioned descendants. A descendant of this great-grandmother of grapevines in the town of flowers and wine grows at the entrance of the wine-growing region of Škalce. Another velvet beauty has also been allocated a special spot in the Žiče Charterhouse where it is called "the Carthusian". The sunrays in the Valley of St John the Baptist would seem to have a beneficial impact on this grapevine that has been growing ever since 2007 when Miran Gorišek, then mayor of Slovenske Konjice, received it as a gift and a sign of friendship between Maribor and Slovenske Konjice. Ever since, the mayor has also been its symbolic owner.

### In Zreče

A descendant of the oldest noble grapevine in the world—modra kavčina (*Vitis vinifera* var. *Sativa*)—grows next to the Zreče bus station. On the last Saturday in April 2010, it was planted by the mayor of Zreče, Boris Podvršnik, MSc, and Andrej Verlič, the deputy mayor of Maribor. During St Martin's Day celebration and other festive occasions, locals and visitors gather at the grapevine. The grapevine grows in the company of a new town clock and the apple tree, which is a symbol of the friendship between the inhabitants of Zreče and Sedbergh, its twin town located in the north of England.



## ❁ Lamperček-Obrul Cheese Farm

The Lamperček-Obrul cheese farm, located in the mountains, has won numerous awards and produces homemade yoghurts and cheeses with an amazing flavour. The Lamperček-Obrul high-altitude farm is located in a beautiful setting of Pohorje, in the village of Koritno nad Oplotnico, at an altitude of 700 metres.

### "Good Food from Slovenian Farms" quality label

Their fruit yoghurt has been awarded the "Good Food from Slovenian Farms" quality label, as well as several gold certificates and the specification "Selected Quality: Milk and Dairy Products – Rural", which proves that their cheeses are made out of homemade raw milk. They also received the "Tastes of Rogla" quality label for their yoghurts and cheeses.

## How can you buy their products?

All their products are produced with a lot of care, effort, and love, which is why many people would doubtlessly like to try their treats. You can find them at the farmer's market in Oplotnica and in the "Kmetič" shop located at the market in Slovenske Konjice.

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## ❁ Farmer's market in Oplotnica

The farmer's market in Oplotnica offers numerous delicious homemade dishes and products from Pohorje. The spacious platform in front of Oplotnica Manor attracts genuine treats from Pohorje, the locals who produce them, and everybody who loves delicious flavours. Visit one of the traditional farmer's markets in Oplotnica, listen to the Pohorje dialect, watch tradition in the making, and let yourself go with the feeling of familiarity inspired by local cuisine.

## ❁ Kmetič Shop

The Kmetič shop is a very special shop which only offers products and crops from local organic farms and producers. In Slovenske Konjice, a beautiful and modern market is located between the picturesque old square centre and the murmuring Dravinja River. The market is also home to the Kmetič shop, an unrivalled example of the excellent organisation of the rural areas and the exploration of primary local cuisine.

## A different approach to fortifying foodstuffs

The Kmetič shop sells treats from farmers who live at different locations in the Rogla-Pohorje tourist destination; they were united by tradition and the principle that nutrition must be approached in a healthy manner, using common sense. In the interest of guaranteeing a high-quality life for its local inhabitants and, of course, its visitors, the shop offers various organic products and crops, numerous of which have been awarded the prestigious "Tastes of Rogla" quality label.

## What can you buy in the Kmetič shop?

As quality obviously depends on the season, the range of produce in our shop is different nearly every day. In any case, we recommend apple juice from indigenous apple varieties and aronia juice, homemade Marvita pasta, yoghurt, cottage cheese and cheese from surrounding farms, charcuterie made from game meat, homemade bread baked in a hearth oven, pumpkin seed oil or a jar of homemade pâté...and so much more!

## ❁ Farmer's market in Zreče

On Saturdays, visit the farmer's market in Zreče and taste the products grown in the soil of the rural Pohorje area. According to an old tradition, an inhabitant of Zreče will always visit the farmer's market on a Saturday, even if they grow an abundance of fresh and healthy vegetables at home, since the Saturday's farmer's market is, above all, a way to spend some time together. Of course, it helps that the market will sometimes entice you with the aroma of cracklings and flat cakes which you will be able to taste, along with charcuterie products, pork buns, and other meat treats from the Styria region.

## ❁ Pohorje market at Rogla

The Pohorje market at Rogla combines the best treats from Pohorje with high-quality products, as most of the providers bear the "Tastes of Rogla" quality label. The Pohorje market at Rogla comes in two variations: the winter market and the summer market. In both cases, their main purpose is to present the work of local farmers who produce high-quality food, and local artisans who create high-quality homemade products. Don't be surprised that most of them have been awarded the prestigious "Tastes of Rogla" quality label.

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03

## Feel the experiences

Don't simply stand on the sidelines: experience the Rogla-Pohorje tourist destination firsthand. Be it through the wind in your hair during your adrenaline escapade, the warm thermal water caressing your skin, the view of the wooded hills, the scent of essential oils in a hot sauna, the flavour of the genuine countryside, or the snow crunching under your snowshoes and skis.



## Young explorers

Here at the Rogla-Pohorje tourist destination, you can visit numerous educational trails which are especially appropriate for children. These are true educational sites where you can discover events that take place in nature, admire the cultural diversity, and explore the harmony of nature and cultural heritage that is definitely not lacking around these parts. And who knows: during one of these explorations, your children might even fall in love with a certain profession.

Imagine finding yourself in a fairy-tale world where a new pristine and breathtaking corner is hiding behind every lovely hill, spruce branch, and babbling brook. This is what the exploration of the Rogla-Pohorje tourist destination looks like: from the Vitanje Karavanke all the way through to Pohorje and the green Dravinja Valley with its wine-growing hills, every day is a new opportunity for you to fall in love with this destination.

- Educational Trail of Oplotnica Gorge
- Little Dragon`s Forest Educational Trail
- The Petelinjek Natural History Educational Trail in Slovenske Konjice
- Prežigal Water Educational Trail in Slovenske Konjice
- Hiking trail to Stenica
- Heart`s Educational Trail
- Water Educational Trail in Zreče
- Dwarf`s Educational Trail
- Hiking trail leading to the Brinjeva gora mountain
- Partovec circular tourist hiking trail
- The literary-tourist trail "Following Minatti's Footsteps"

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### Natura 2000



The total area of **protected nature** in our destination extends over **16.4%**. We pay special attention to the preservation of a specific **bat** species. A colony of this special species of bats, also known as lesser horseshoe bats, lives at the cemetery next to the church of St Anne, where the town of Slovenske Konjice meets the Konjiška gora mountain. Explore, feel, and enjoy the green experience of NATURA 2000 in the framework of the Prežgal Water Educational Trail and the Petelinjek Natural History Educational Trail. Now is the time... **For nature to inspire us.**

## Top 5

### ❁ Educational Trail of Oplotnica Gorge

In its narrow gorge with a lively stream, the Oplotnica ravine hides one of the most beautiful educational trails far and wide. The vibrant Oplotnica stream has cut a deep riverbed into the gorge which has been called a "ravine" by the locals ever since the beginning. The educational trail will lead you along wooden staircases, bridges and forest trails above and along the shining water tumultuously roaring through clear stream pools. This stream used to power over 30 mills and sawmills in the vicinity of the town of Oplotnica, and you will definitely encounter some traces of them throughout your journey. Take a break on one of the clearings with benches, and soak in the energy of the nature around you. Keep your eyes peeled: the rapids have created rocks of magnificent shapes.



#### 1st possibility

**Starting point:** Oplotnica Manor Courtyard

**Trail length:** 3km

**Walking time:** 1 hour (circular path)

**Difficulty:** easy



#### 2nd possibility

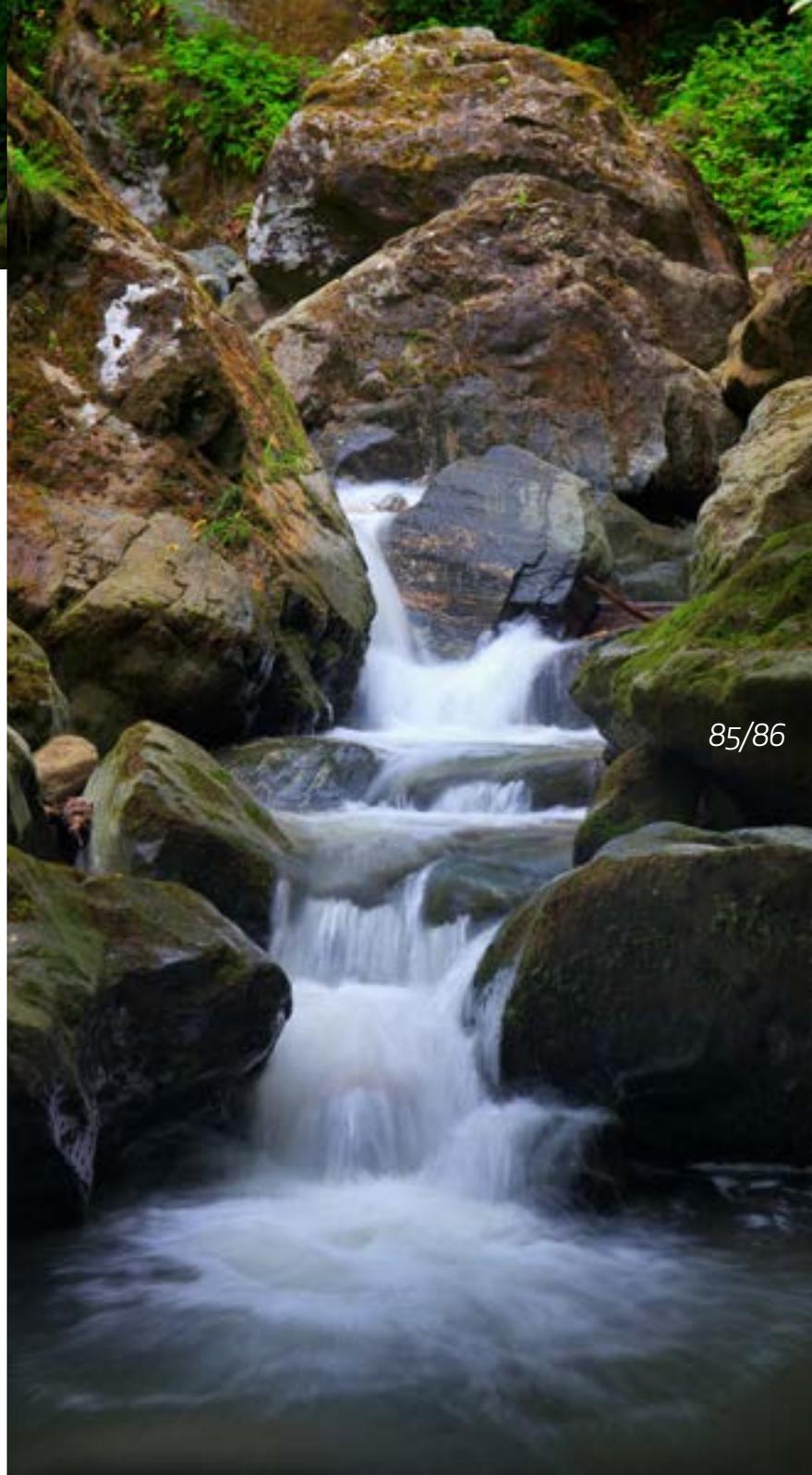
**Starting point:** Javornikov ovinek  
(Javornik bend)

**Trail length:** 2km

**Walking time:** 45 minutes (circular path)

**Difficulty:** easy

**Interesting points:** the mighty natural stone turtle, vestiges of mills and sawmills, the wonderful gorge, waterfalls and rapids.



## ❁ Little Dragon`s Forest Educational Trail

The dragon from the legend of the Slovenske Konjice will take you along a picturesque and mysterious forest path revealing the natural and historical mysteries of Konjice. The dragon used to live in the heart of the Konjiška gora mountain—but he will tell you more about that himself, on the spot. The path begins at the foothills of the mighty Konjiška gora mountain above the town of Slovenske Konjice, captures a view of the Dravinja Valley and the forests of Pohorje in the background, and teaches you more about the colourful flora and fauna. Before entering the forests of the Konjiška gora mountain, you will be greeted by abundant orchards; once you are in the forest, you are sure to be enthralled by its rustling beauty. You will see the once-mighty Old Castle at the Konjiška gora mountain and explore its history, find your way in nature, discover the stream of Gospodična, the quarry, and other mysteries of the Konjiška gora mountain.



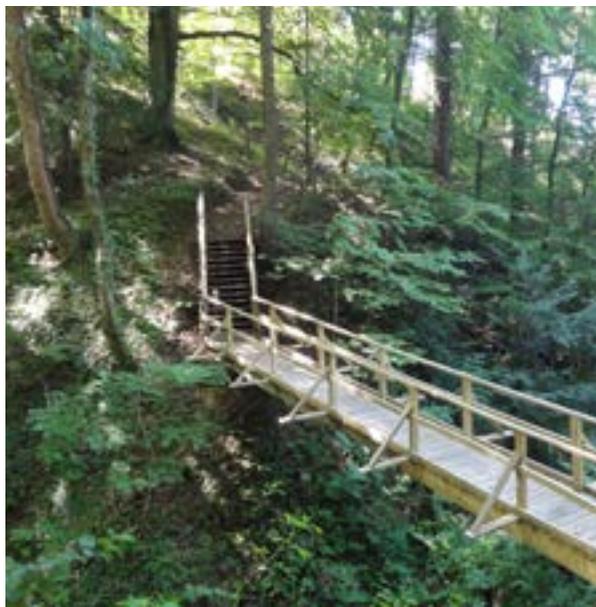
**Starting point:** the Pod goro Elementary School, Slovenske Konjice

**Trail length:** 3km

**Walking time:** 2 hours (circular route)

**Difficulty:** easy

**Interesting points:** little bridge above the "Horse Death" canyon, babbling brook, the Old Castle at the Konjiška gora mountain, Trebnik Mansion, the quarry.



## ❁ Petelinjek Natural History Educational Trail in Slovenske Konjice

The Petelinjek Natural History Educational Trail, primarily intended for pupils and students, was officially inaugurated in mid-September 2007. Through active participation in challenges set on 13 theme boards along the way, they can learn more about life in ponds, on marshes, on wetlands, in alder groves and in the forest. In 2012, the trail was awarded the title of the most beautiful educational trail in the region by the Slovenia Tourist Association.

## ❁ Prežigal Water Educational Path in Slovenske Konjice

The Prežigal Water Educational Trail is an open-air classroom, a field laboratory for different target groups, and a range for explorers. Following the trail, the visitors can discover various water sources, the way they were used in the past, and the potential for their use in the present.

## ❁ Hiking trail to Stenica

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The path to Stenica is extremely popular among the locals, as it offers picturesque views of Vitanje and the surrounding hills. You can reach the path along the marked trail leading from Vitanje and along the Štajnböf Path, past Vodovnik. The path is marked and easily accessible.



**Starting point:** The Noordung Centre, Vitanje

**Trail length:** 8.1km

**Altitude difference:** 636m

**Walking time:** 1.2 hours from Vitanje



## ❁ Heart`s Educational Trail

The Srček Educational Trail was set up in 2012. The trail connects the elements of natural and cultural heritage in Zreče. This circular path is 10.1km long. You can enter or exit the trail at any point. The Srček Educational Trail runs along 13 natural and cultural landmarks in Zreče, meaning it has no less than 13 educational stations with information and educational boards. The educational stations are the following: the introductory station, the bunker from World War II, the lake, the Pavlak Cave, the Ančka tourist farm, the hunting and technical installation, the quarry/Golek, the viewpoint, the Technical Museum, the Forma Viva, the church and the school. The path starts in the vicinity of Terme Zreče with the board explaining the course of the entire trail in the length of 7.2km (10.1km if you also head up to Golek).

## ❁ Water Educational Trail in Zreče

The Water Educational Trail in Zreče reunites the elements of natural and cultural heritage. Through the display of activities performed in the past, it revives the heritage of this place, connecting it to the present. The Water Educational Trail in Zreče represents the connection between the renovated water fountain at the train station, the old mill next to the Dravinja River and its mill streams, the Dravinja River with its tributaries, the Zreče Lake, and the thermal baths. The town of Zreče is located at the source of extraordinary water resources that have already served as the basis for the development of the town in the past. The trail contains eight information and educational boards, starting with the train station. The first board also contains a map including all of the points of the Water Educational Trail in Zreče.



## ❁ Dwarf`s Educational Trail

For several years, the Dwarf`s Educational Trail at Rogla has been one of the most popular activities for children in these parts. Throughout the trail, you will be accompanied by a real talking dwarf that you will be able to see in the midst of nature, using the "Pohorski škrat" application!

Through fun anecdotes and challenges, the dwarf will tell you a lot of interesting facts about nature, which is the most important treasure in Pohorje, and he will also introduce you to his friends.

**The "Pohorski škrat" mobile application can be downloaded FREE OF CHARGE in the Play or App Store.**

**Tip** The dwarf also has a bedtime story written about him. You can buy it at the reception desk of hotels.



**Starting point:** Planja Hotel, Rogla

**Trail length:** 4km

**Walking time:** 1 hour (circular path)

**Difficulty:** easy

**Interesting points:** educational boards along the trail allowing you to discover the climate, the fauna, and the flora, the watchtower, the hunting blinds, the dwarf`s house, the dwarf`s passage, collecting the dwarf`s stamps in exchange for a gift, the virtual dwarf from the mobile application.

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### On the Dwarf Learning Path you can:

— find educational boards,

— explore the area to discover the huge wooden statues of the animals from Pohorje, the hunting blinds, the dwarf`s house and the mysterious dwarf`s passage,

— try to collect 6 stamps depicting the animals from Pohorje, which you can stamp on a wooden board, in exchange for a gift (you can get the board at the reception desk of Planja Hotel, the Zlodejevo adrenaline toboggan, the Uniorček pub and the Rogla Biking and Hiking Centre),

— use the "Pohorski škrat" application to discover six locations where you will be able to see a living, breathing and talking virtual dwarf in the midst of the Pohorje nature through the screen of your mobile phone or tablet computer.

## ❁ Hiking trail leading to the Brinjeva gora mountain

The hiking trail leading from Zreče to the Brinjeva gora mountain is a circular hiking path of medium difficulty. It will take you from the centre of Zreče to the filial and pilgrim church of the Holy Mother of God, located at an altitude of 630 metres, which is the smallest and the best-known in the set of three churches at the 3,5-kilometre-long ridge of the Brinjeva gora mountain, Golika and Brezje. The Brinjeva gora mountain is one of the first high-altitude settlements which already existed in the New Stone Age. Today, it is the most popular pilgrimage spot of the Rogla-Pohorje tourist destination. At the end, you will return to Zreče, passing the church of St Agnes at Golika (altitude of 608 metres).



**Starting point:** Zreče – bus stop

**Trail length:** 6km

**Altitude difference:** 234m

**Walking time:** 2 hours (circular route)

## ❁ Partovec circular tourist hiking trail

This trail will take you from Oplotnica towards Gmajna, until you reach the directional indication towards the hiking trail leading you across a meadow, through the forest, across small bridges, and towards the pond. The path continues around the pond, and will lead you along a lovely forest path and across a meadow to the chapel and the watering hole where merchants and other people used to bring their horses. From there, you will be able to continue towards the pond and the cottage. To go back to Oplotnica, simply follow the marked trail leading you past the farmhouse and towards the road. Follow the road until the Čadramščica stream, and then continue along the stream towards the marked Roman road. Follow the Roman road and you will reach the starting point of your journey.



**Trail length:** 7km

**Walking time:** 45 minutes from the directional indication to the pond, 75 minutes from the pond along the Roman road and to the starting point.

## ❁ Literary-tourist trail "Following Minatti's Footsteps"

Take a walk through the old historic centre of Slovenske Konjice and discover a town which is deeply intertwined with the childhood of the important Slovenian poet, translator, publicist and academic Ivan Minatti. Have a coffee while listening to a couple of verses written by this master of poetry: if you would like to enjoy a cup of Minatti coffee, the waiters in Pub Tattenbach located on Stari trg (The Old Square) would be glad to prepare one for you. They will serve it in a unique way, since the fragrant coffee comes with a paper scroll bearing Minatti's poetry. You will be able to relive the experiences of his childhood. Take a look at where he used to play in the garden behind his house, discover the office and the daily job of Minatti's father, and admire a bronze sculpture of Minatti.



## Sports activities

This tourist destinations calls for visitors who love to live an active lifestyle. The breathtaking nature is a gift that is impossible to replace, and the imagination of the locals is more than vivid enough to be able to turn it into unforgettable stories. Dive into thermal pools, play a round of golf on the most beautiful terrain, explore forests, lakes and other bodies of water, or enjoy one of many snow sports.

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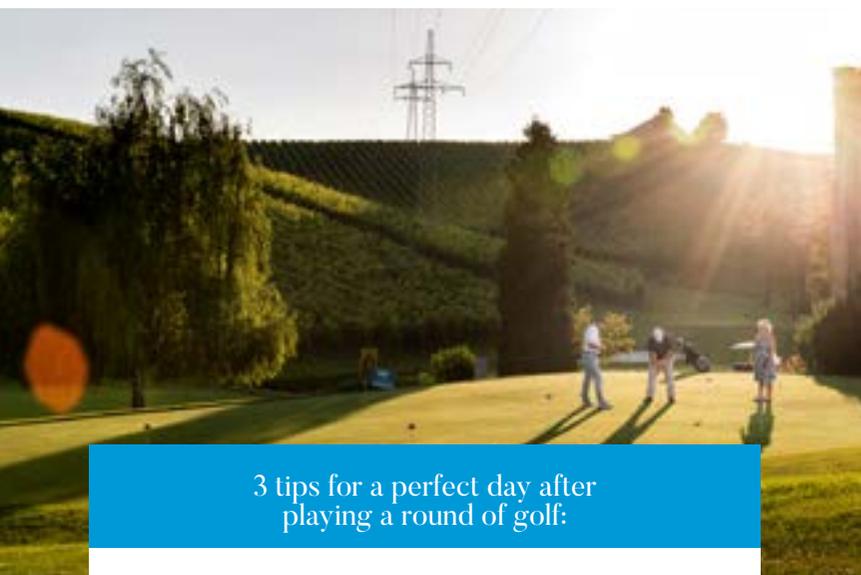
- Zlati grič golf course
- Zlodejevo adrenaline toboggan
- Bike Park Rogla
- Rogla ski resort
- Cross-country skiing at Rogla
- Snowshoe hiking at Rogla
- Water fun in thermal pools of Terme Zreče
- Climbing wall at Rogla
- Sports fishing
- Swimming pool in Slovenske Konjice and Zbelovo

## ❁ Zlati grič golf course

The most beautiful golf course in Slovenia is said to be nestled among the vast and picturesque vineyards of Škalce, on Zlati grič. 9 diverse golf courses with a total length of 2,500 metres that you can visit from March until November blend marvellously with the idyllic landscape surrounding them.

### Are you a professional, a beginner, or someone who has never held a golf club in their life?

Even though the game of golf on the Zlati grič golf course is a rather demanding experience, less experienced players will also be able to relax and challenge themselves. If you have never played golf before, this is an excellent opportunity to try it for the very first time: learn how to play on the practice range at Dobrava, operating in the framework of the Zlati grič golf club.



### 3 tips for a perfect day after playing a round of golf:

At the golf course reception, you can also enjoy a selection of all high-quality wines produced at Zlati grič. You can also visit the modern Zlati grič wine cellar located in close proximity, and take part in a wine tasting.

If your game has left you starving, grab a bite in the Grič Inn, visible from anywhere on the golf course. From there, you will be able to have a clear view of the course and the town of Slovenske Konjice, located just below the hills.

Stretch your game into a field trip and visit the beautiful old town centre of Slovenske Konjice.

## ❁ Zlodejevo adrenaline toboggan

Among the many options for adventures in nature, Rogla also offers one of the most amusing adrenaline experiences: the Zlodejevo adrenaline toboggan which is also open in winter. The convenient toboggan will take you to the heart of the Pohorje forest at the speed of your choice. As your heart rate increases, you will be able to breathe in the pine-scented air all the more deeply. The adventure ends around 200 metres lower, where a ski lift will bring you and the sled back to the top.

### 5 quick facts about the Zlodejevo adrenaline toboggan

This winding toboggan is **1,360 metres long**.

The comfortable sled can seat **two people**.

You can ride at a speed of **up to 40 km/h**.

The speed can be adjusted according to your preferences using **the handbrake**.

Since the toboggan is **completely safe**, this activity is also suitable for children.



## ❁ Bike Park Rogla and the biking and hiking centre

The fresh wind blowing at Rogla will clear your mind as you race amongst the trees along marked forest trails of Bike Park Rogla. This adrenaline park, perfect for true downhill mountain biking enthusiasts, consists of 6 different forest trails. A biking range is also available for beginners and children.

### Background information about Bike Park Rogla

Adrenaline park located at and between the ski slopes of Mašinžaga, Planja, Jasa and Ostruščica

— 7,500 metres of marked trails,

— 6 different forest trails,

— different difficulty levels: from blue to black,

— obstacles and *biking* elements: table, band, drop, step up, etc.,

— Super Flow course with numerous jumps, drops, and high-speed corners.

### And the best part?

There is no need to bike uphill. Catch the Planja ski lift, take your bike (or the bike that you have borrowed) with you, and ride up to the top...again and again.



## ❁ Rogla ski resort

**The Rogla ski queen attracts over 200,000 skiing enthusiasts every winter**, and also entices them with ski experiences and splendid events. It only takes a few steps as you get out of the car, and the adventure begins... Every true skier knows the excitement before heading on to the crisp slopes of Pohorje, letting their eyes feast on the seemingly endless landscape, peppered with tall spruce trees clad in idyllic crystal ice.

### Background information about the Rogla ski resort

altitude: 1,517 metres,

— ski resort extending at 100 hectares,

— 11 ski lifts and 2 four-seat chairlifts,

— night skiing on two slopes from Thursday to Sunday,

— marked slopes with various degrees of difficulty, covered in both natural and artificial snow,

— 100-day snow guarantee,

— Fun Park Rogla: the most popular snow park in Slovenia for snowboarders and freestyle skiers,

— 25 kilometres of marked cross-country skiing trails.



## ❖ Cross-country skiing at Rogla

Cross-country skiing at Rogla will take you far away, where intact corners of glistening, fairy-tale nature of Pohorje stretch for miles. Imagine, if you will, the rising winter sun colouring the sky with pastel tones of blue slowly fading into pink, while you are strapping on your cross-country skis in the pleasant coolness of the morning. And then... off you go, courageously and in a truly active manner, into the snow-covered landscape. Just a few metres away from the Rogla ski resort.

True cross-country skiing philosophy and not just the act of cross-country skiing

At Rogla, you will not arrive at a simple cross-country skiing trail. This is the home of the cross-country skiing philosophy of the **Rogla Skiing and Cross-Country Skiing Centre** located next to Hotel Natura, which consists of:

- a **start-finish line**, especially appropriate for learning and practicing for beginners;
- a cross-country skiing **range** ;
- **24 trails with various degrees of difficulty stretching over 25 kilometres**;
- a **cross-country skiing bar** in Hotel Natura where you can restore your energy with soups, pan dishes, homemade pasta and, of course, the indispensable tea;
- a **place for repairing, storing, and borrowing** cross-country skiing equipment;
- **Hotel Natura and Wellness Natura** offering unforgettable ways to actively spend your holidays while indulging in a panoramic sauna, a nice massage and nutritious natural care.



## ❖ Snowshoe hiking at Rogla

Snowshoe hiking is an ancient method of walking through the snowy landscape. Today, this is one of the most fun and standard methods for spending active holidays in winter. Rogla is a useful starting point for walks through the dreamlike and soft snow-covered landscape, all the way through to the Lovrenc Lakes, where you can watch thousands upon thousands of stars.

What do you need for snowshoeing?

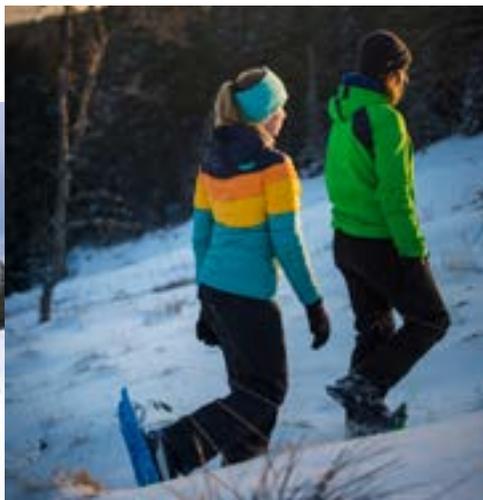
Snowshoe hiking actually consists of walking through snow with specially adapted large-surface shoes which allow the foot to stay on the surface instead of sinking into snow as you walk. You will need:

- **sports snowshoes** made of aluminium, rubber and other hi-tech materials,
- **running shoes** or **lighthiking shoes** – when there is a lot of snow, your shoes must be impermeable,
- **skiing or hiking socks** made of wool,
- recommended: **leg warmers** with a waterproof membrane (e.g. Goretex).

*At Rogla, you can borrow all the necessary equipment.*

### Who knows how to snowshoe hike?

One of the best characteristics of snowshoe hiking is that it can be enjoyed by children who are trying to pass the time and have fun doing so, older people who would like to take a relaxing walk, or sports enthusiasts who wish to enjoy while taking a more demanding walk.



### Snowshoe hiking with a guide

If you are not familiar with the forests of Pohorje, we recommend you hire a guide at Rogla who will be able to guide you during walks and snowshoe hiking trips. The guide will teach you how to walk upwards and downwards with snowshoes, how to walk in an arch, and how to traverse the slope. Furthermore, they will also be able to safely guide you through the seemingly endless forest trails that are not so clearly marked in snow.

## ❁ Water fun in thermal pools of Terme Zreče

Terme Zreče provides you with an excellent opportunity to relax and calm down while enjoying the healing properties of thermal water. In the winter, you can enjoy the warm bubbling pools, and in the summer, the Forest Water Park is there for you. Terme Zreče is famous for its beneficial pools filled with healing acratothermal water, rich in hydrogen carbonate, which promotes the process of regeneration. The water originates in the foothills of the mighty Pohorje. Its temperature at source is 34.5°C, and the temperature of the water in the pools ranges between 27°C and 35°C. Terme Zreče, located at a clearing immediately next to a fragrant spruce forest, offers relaxation with a view of the forest and provide lots of shade, especially in the summer.

All-year  
round

The thermal pools at Terme Zreče cover a surface of 1,600m<sup>2</sup> and are a wonderful opportunity to feel good and relax, regardless of the season. **The indoor pools include:** a recreational pool, a glazed pool with eight water beds and two massage pools, a therapeutic pool, a children's pool, a gallery with loungers, and the "B" Restaurant if you are hungry or thirsty. **The outdoor pools provide a whole other world of opportunities:** a seasonal pool with massage waterfalls which is open throughout the year, a seasonal pool with additional waterfalls which is only open in the summer, an outdoor children's pool which is also only open in the summer, a high sunbathing terrace, a pool cottage which makes the best burgers in the summer, and the Forest Water Park with quick slides and a toboggan (only open in the summer).



Foto: Aleksander Marguč



## ❁ Climbing wall at Rogla

This well-equipped sports hall in Rogla which is a part of the Planja and Rogla hotels consists of two climbing walls:

**the lower climbing wall** with a height of 2.9 metres can be used by children and by climbers who wish to warm up before facing a serious challenge.

**the higher climbing wall** reaches a height of 9 metres.

### Did you know?

Climbing is one of the natural forms of movement which includes the activity of the entire body. It is an extremely efficient method to improve your physical fitness and concentrate your mind; in addition, it has an exceptional impact on mind relaxation, and an excellent influence on fine motor skills, especially in children.

#### The climbing wall at Rogla offers programmes for the entire family

Rogla offers several climbing programmes which are sure to impress the whole family. Check out the climbing programmes at Rogla.

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## ❁ Sports fishing

In close proximity to Terme Zreče lies Lake Zreče with a marked walking route and pleasant spots where you can enjoy sports fishing. Numerous fishermen are often impressed by the abundant yield of fish such as zander, pike, trout, nase, carp, and common bleak. Sports fishing can also be practiced at the artificial lake of Mašinžaga at Rogla, and in the Jernejček pond in the vicinity of Zbelovo. The Jernejček pond is a lovely spot for sports fishing, producing an enviable yield of various fish, and also a convenient spot for a relaxing walk around the lake along a marked path.

## ❁ Swimming pool in Slovenske Konjice and Zbelovo

If you wish to escape the heat of the summer, we recommend the swimming pool in Slovenske Konjice. You can either swim in the large open-air Olympic-size pool, or let your children have fun and play in the lovely pool in the shape of a four-leaf clover. Vast meadows with mighty trees invite you to relax in the shade. Excellent catering is also available to you, and a small and large football field are located in the immediate vicinity.



## Enter the world of family adventures

It takes a clever and crafty mind to turn the available environment into adventures, enthralling visitors to the point where they want more, as often as possible. Success is most honestly measured by looking at the faces of children, since they are not yet familiar with dishonesty. Their broad smiles and sparkling eyes are the standard we strive to achieve no matter what, time and time again; we also consider it our biggest reward. Let the nature be the favourite playground of your child...

- Treetop Walk Pohorje at Rogla
- Mini ZOO Land in Slovenske Konjice
- Intergenerational training park in Zreče
- Ranch Nana's house in Slovenske Konjice
- Jezernik Water Park at Rogla
- Rogla Energy Park
- Rogla Sensory Trail
- Pohorje village at Rogla



### ❁ Mini ZOO Land in Slovenske Konjice

The Mini ZOO Land in Slovenske konjice is a wonderful world of adventure for our children: a small ZOO and theme park provide an unforgettable experience for them. The Mini ZOO Land is not just a small zoo but a real adventure world, passing from one theme park to another.

There, you will be able to see lions, a kangaroo, crocodiles, rabbits, ponies, parrots, coatis, alpacas, mini piglets, a python, a peacock, a turkey, a raccoon, a Himalayan goat, a miniature zebu, and other domestic and exotic animals, and also explore the following worlds and activities: the cowboy village, a monkey zip line, pony riding, a lost island with a pirate ship, an African safari, a mysterious jungle, and so much more.

Your little one can become a zookeeper for a day (accompanied by a professional guide, of course), or celebrate their birthday in our park.

## ❁ Intergenerational training park in Zreče

The purpose of the intergenerational training park in Zreče is to increase the quality of life of various social groups, including children, adolescents, people with a physical handicap, senior citizens, socially deprived individuals, etc. The park is located in a natural environment.

### In order for a good, safe, and efficient practice, we recommend:

to wear appropriate shoes and clothes for practicing in the training park;

—  
to warm up well before your training session;

—  
to not overdo it with the training equipment – only use it if you are feeling up to it and if you are healthy;

—  
to wait your turn if there are several people waiting to use the training equipment;

—  
to come to the training session in a good mood, with a smile on your face.



## ❁ Ranch Nana's house in Slovenske Konjice

The »Nanina hiša« ranch is located in the idyllic area next to the Dravinja river. On the ranch, you will find a real saloon. The heart of the ranch is represented by a rustic bar, connected to three additional rooms: the ranch room or rural living room, the covered patio with a small outdoor room and the large living room with a fireplace. Sitting on the nicely arranged patio under the tree tops directly above the Dravinja river is a very special experience. The ranch gardens which can be a beautiful setting for all kinds of intimate meetings add to the magic of Nana's story: meet in the permaculture garden with a beautiful wooden house and an additional grass area, under the tree tops in the farm garden or on the farm meadow on the banks of the Dravinja river for very special occasions. On the ranch, you can meet some farm animals, such as horses and goats, visit the house gallery of handmade wooden products called Wood Art Gallery and find excellent house specialties and potions in the small pantry-like specialty shop named Culca. And there are also some very pleasant spots for the sleepy ones. He who seeks finds. Welcome to the Nanina hiša ranch!

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### Slovenia green

Did you know that we were the first country in the world to boast the prestigious "Green Destination" certificate, and that we were the best European country when it comes to handling sustainable destinations? This is demonstrated by the prestigious **Best of Europe 2020** award. In our destination, you can benefit from a green retreat, which has justifiably earned us the **Slovenia Green Destination** certificate. No fewer than three accommodation facilities in the Rogla-Pohorje tourist destination also boast the environmental certificate **Slovenia Green Accommodation**, and are therefore internationally recognised as green, sustainable, responsible, and safe hosts.

## Top 5

### ❁ Treetop Walk Pohorje at Rogla

The **Treetop Walk Pohorje** is the first experience of this kind in **Slovenia**, offering you to **discover nature from a bird's eye view**. This unique natural experience is accompanied by an adrenaline adventure: a descent down a 60-metre **winding slide** leading from the top of the tower. This 1,043-metre-long path at an altitude of 20 metres meanders through the forest of various plant species and mighty tall trees. Learn about natural processes in the forest and find out more about how to protect the precious forest ecosystem. Find out why the nature of Pohorje is so unique. From the tower rising to a height of 37 metres, the visitor will be awarded with a breathtaking view. **Lean into the green embrace of nature and look at the sky or towards the Alps.**

#### Can accommodate wheelchairs or baby buggies

There are no obstacles on the Treetop Walk, and the maximum rising gradient is between 2% and 6%, which makes the path truly perfect for baby buggies and wheelchairs. The side nets and fences are transparent, enabling perfect visibility to wheelchair users and small children.

### What will the Treetop Walk Pohorje reward you with?

— A watchtower rising to a height of 37 metres, offering a unique bird-eye view.

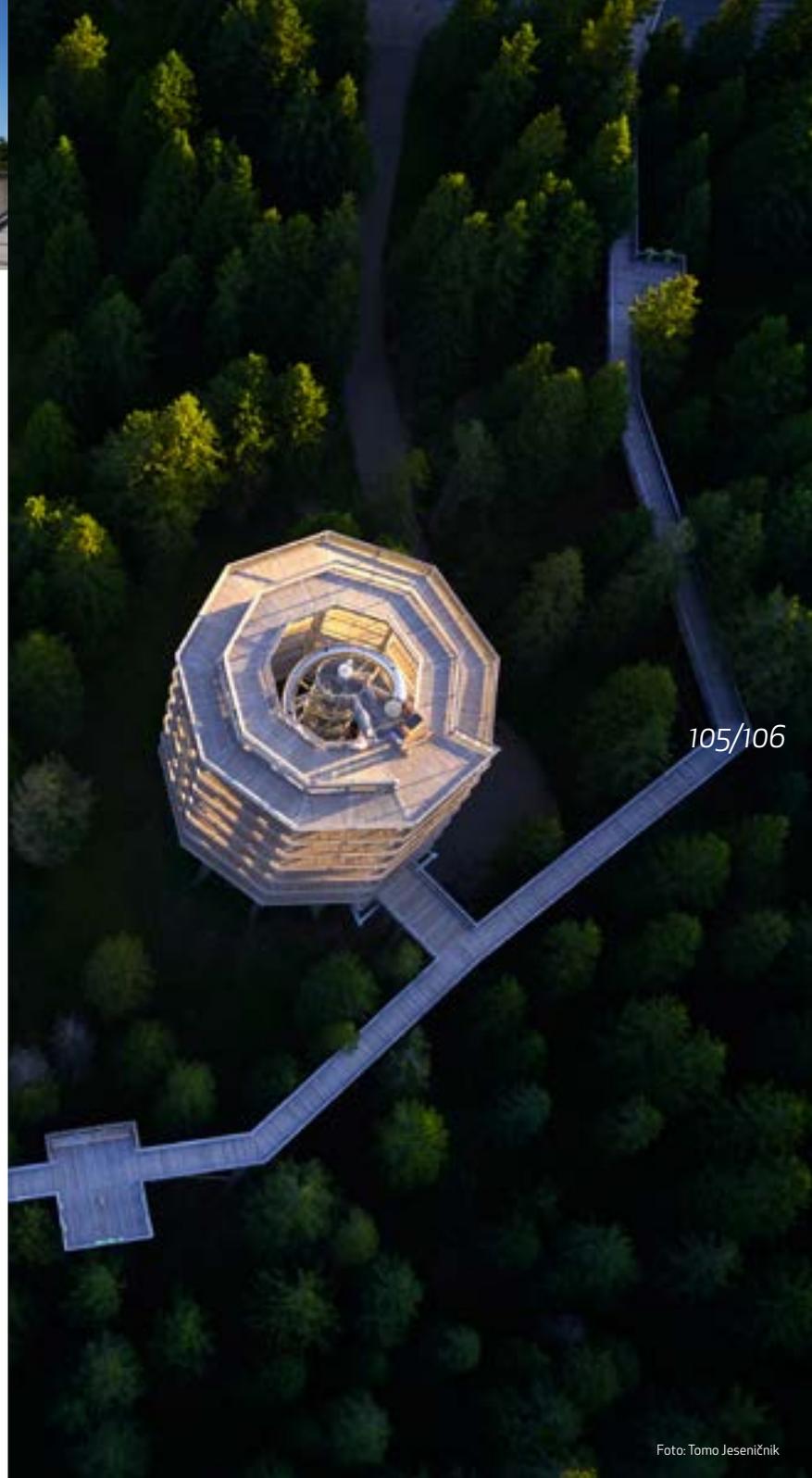
— A 62-metre-long toboggan leading from the top of the watchtower.

— A 1,043-metre-long walking path leading you amongst the treetops.

— A horizontal part of the path located 20 metres above the ground.

— Adrenaline stations, such as a truly scary fictitious abyss which are, naturally, completely safe.

— Educational stops which will take you into the plant and animal world.



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## ❖ Jezernik Water Park and walking trail

The Jezernik Water Park at Rogla is a path with five stops in the middle of the forest, encouraging our children to embrace, see, hear, and feel nature. The path winds through the forest all the way to a clearing, where it expands into the Jezernik Water Park. There, your child will be able to explore little mills, play with the crystal clear Pohorje water, and look for Jera's gold coins. You can buy a sieve and little pouches containing "gold" in the Mašinžaga Restaurant. Then, you can sift through the sand and search for Jera's gold coins. Your hungry explorers will also be able to enjoy the Jezernik kids' menu in the Mašinžaga Restaurant. A perfect weekend or, even better, incredible family vacation.

Before you leave, don't forget to read this story about Jezernik.

“ Once upon a time, at the foothills of Rogla, there used to be a dark lake, the home of a merman called Jezernik. In the vicinity lived a farmer called Smodivnik and his greedy wife Jera who often sent her husband down to the lake to cut the most beautiful spruce trees and sell them. Merman Jezernik, a fierce protector of nature, offered them a bag of gold coins in exchange for the spruce trees. The greedy Jera demanded more and more money, and Jezernik refused to accept it, which is why Jera sent her husband Smodivnik to cut even more trees. Jezernik told them to stop, or else, a disaster would befall them. Jera refused to believe it, and a terrible storm blew up. The lake burst its banks and swept away the house, Smodivnik, Jera, and the logs. Jezernik moved away, deep under the Lovrenc Lakes.

And the moral of this story? Treating nature in a careless manner can leave irreversible consequences. ”



## ❖ Rogla Energy Park

The Rogla Energy Park is located in the immediate vicinity of the Natura Hotel. Its energy points with bionergetic pulsation in the shape of a flower have a beneficial effect and promote regeneration.

The flows of life energy embrace the visitor like gentle flower petals. Through primary energy fields, they restore the primal qualities of ancient patterns of nature.

The area next to the Natura Hotel and the Rogla Energy Park will enable you to internalise your thoughts. The feeling of peace in the park itself is especially outstanding. The park encompasses 7 energy points with healing properties influencing the spine, the kidneys, the bladder, the stomach, the heart, the throat, and the head.

Check the time slots for guided meditation exercises in the Natura Hotel.

## ❖ Rogla Sensory Trail

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Next to the Natura Hotel, you can walk barefoot on natural materials: pine cones, bark, gravel, etc., while listening to birdsong and the rustling of the forest. Feel whether the forest floor is humid or dry... Feel the wind as it caresses your skin and runs through your hair... Smell the flowers and herbs of the forest... Take off your shoes and feel the nature!

## ❖ Pohorje village at Rogla

Next to the Uniorček pub lies a true Pohorje village with a church in the middle, telling the story of the life and work of the original Pohorje locals. The story continues in each of the 9 houses with a lovely game that will provide endless fun and will also encourage little minds to think actively.

In the immediate vicinity of the Pohorje village, your children will also be able to experience tighrope walking and a zipline for children, play a maxi game of Memory using milk churns, or play their favourite tune using a cow with bells. Before you leave Rogla, do not forget to immortalise your best memories in the giant photo frame.



## Traditional destination events

Traditional events represent the local pulse of our destinations. When you want to feel the energy and culture of the locals, quietly mingle among them. Be a part of events organized by authentic Pohorje people.

### ❁ St George's Day and the St George's Culinary and Handicraft Festival (April)

Through music, song, and dance, street artists participating in this traditional spring celebration in the town centre bring to life the story of knight George on a white horse who saved the town from the horrendous dragon living in the Konjiška gora mountain. The celebration is accompanied by the St George's Culinary and Handicraft Festival, bringing together providers from the Rogla-Pohorje tourist destination and the products awarded the "Tastes of Rogla" quality label.

- St George's Day and St George's Culinary and Handicraft Festival (April)
- Oplotnica Municipal Holiday and the 3rd edition of the Folk Music Festival at the Foothills of Pohorje (May)
- "Ropotanje" music festival in the old part of Zreče (June)
- Holiday of the "Pohorje hotpot" (July)
- "Holcerija" festival in Vitanje (August)
- St Martin's Day Celebration in Slovenske Konjice (November)



## ❁ Oplotnica Municipal Holiday and the 3rd edition of the Folk Music Festival at the Foothills of Pohorje (May)

This event lasting several days is dedicated to the celebration of the municipal holiday which is connected to the events which transpired on 22 May 1944. The programme of this event consists of interesting activities, including the ceremonial academy taking place on the day of the municipal holiday, the Folk Music Festival at the Foothills of Pohorje, and the interesting culinary event called the Holiday of Castle Wines and Cuisine in the framework of the "Taste the Flavours of Rogla" project. Traditionally, the event ends on a Sunday with a folk music programme.

## ❁ "Ropotanje" music festival in the old part of Zreče (June)

The "Ropotanje" music festival in the old part of Zreče is a traditional three-day event taking place under a big tent in the old part of Zreče (rock concerts, folk music groups, brass bands, plenty of fun for children, food and drinks, tourist train).

## ❁ Holiday of the "Pohorje hotpot" (July)

The traditional competition in making the only true and genuine Pohorje hotpot. Many people think that the carefully selected ingredients are the winning combination of the tastes of Rogla. In addition to the Pohorje hotpot, the visitors will also be able to explore the market offering Pohorje ingredients, and discover handicraft demonstrations.

## ❁ "Holcerija" festival in Vitanje (August)

A range of events, enriched with different music groups, singers, and a rich programme including various exhibitions and activities (traditional cuisine, agricultural machinery, arrival of standard-bearers, the Vitanje brass band, a demonstration of old rural traditions, forestation skills, a revue of folk music groups, workshops for children, awards for nicely landscaped environment and flowers). Food and drink are always taken care of.

## ❁ St Martin's Day Celebration in Slovenske Konjice (November)

This traditional November holiday celebrates the young wine being poured into wine-tasting glasses during the popular open-air festival in Konjice, offering a rich, ethnologically themed cultural programme, including the blessing of young wine, and a varied selection of food and wine presented on different market stalls.

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## Masthead

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**Las**  
*Od Pohorja do Bohorja*

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[www.rogla-pohorje.si](http://www.rogla-pohorje.si)

**I FEEL  
SLOVENIA**