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**CLAUSTRA**  
ALPIUM IULIARUM

# GUIDE

TO THE LATE ROMAN  
DEFENCE SYSTEM

*CLAUSTRA ALPIUM IULIARUM*



Zavod za varstvo  
kulturne dediščine Slovenije



NARODNI  
MUZEJ  
SLOVENIJE





# GUIDE

TO THE LATE ROMAN

DEFENCE SYSTEM

CLAUSTRA ALPIUM IULIARUM

2<sup>nd</sup> expanded and updated edition



Descriptions of areas with maps and  
interesting hints for trips

Territory of Slovenia and Croatia

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# INTRODUCTION

From the town of Rijeka and its outskirts in the east, over Notranjska region, the outskirts of Vrhnika and all the way to Posočje region in the west, it is possible to notice distinct mounds, either on satellite images or on the spot, crossing diverse and mostly harsh terrain in shorter or longer lines.

The geographers and historians of the antiquity referred to this more or less hilly area by the name of Julian Alps. The area that was mainly difficult to cross, represented a natural obstacle or geographical border, that made the entrance from the east to the ancient Northeast Italy more difficult. In the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century and in the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the Romans fortified all unprotected passages of this hilly area by barriers, built of stone walls, often strengthened by towers, small and larger forts and large towers with doors; roads and major pathways leading through them.

These built barriers are often mentioned in the reports of ancient authors due to their strategic meaning, especially in relation to the events of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Roman historian Ammianus Marcellinus was referring to mid-4<sup>th</sup> century when he wrote that the barriers in Julian Alps (*claustra Alpium Iuliarum*) were conquered – this expression is used in later historiography as the name of the mentioned late Roman constructions.

Three state roads crossed this area: *Aquileia* (Aquileia)–*Emona* (Ljubljana), *Tergeste* (Trieste)–*Emona* and *Senia* (Senj)–*Tarsatica* (Rijeka)–*Tergeste*. In addition, there are other local pathways documented, connecting smaller settlements.

The research of the mentioned large-scale construction project, that was set down by the Roman military and construction strategists and built by the Roman army, showed that the function of the system was rather the control and not really the defence. These walls could not prevent the passage of individuals over the narrow pathways – this was happening in mid-4<sup>th</sup> century, as reported also by the emperor Julian: »You [Constantius] discovered a path unknown to all others and deployed a detachment of hoplites along this route, as effective as an entire army.« In the texts of ancient authors the defence system is mentioned mainly in relation to civil wars, fought by legitimate and self-proclaimed emperors. The most crucial events of the 4<sup>th</sup> century often unfolded in this area and the ancient sources testify that the barriers usually did not stop the hostile army from invading the ancient Italy. Also the

nations from Pannonia never experienced much trouble while entering Italy in search of the new living area.

On the other hand, the barriers proved successful for directing and controlling cargo and passenger traffic, coming from Pannonia to the Roman Italy.

During the early 5<sup>th</sup> century, the whole system lost its function and started to fall apart quickly, since no one was maintaining it.

Lately, there is more and more people interested in this late Roman construction project, but it still remains rather unknown to the general public. This guide was prepared to enhance the possibility of visiting its individual parts, either consisting of mere ruins or exhibiting explored and well preserved architectural remains.

Peter Kos



Attempted reconstruction of Lanišče fortlet



Remains of the wall, Studena



Attempted digital reconstruction of *Ad Pirum* fort, Hrušica

# USE OF THE GUIDE

The guide presents 20 locations, where archaeological remains of the *claustra Alpium Iuliarum* defence system are to be found.

Each location is described on four pages, including the following:

1. **General information – location, municipality, state.**
2. **Location description – description of the area, description of the wall, technical information.**
3. **Tourist information – points of interest in the surroundings, tourist information centres, warning.**
4. **The map.**

The text is accompanied by photos.

The last part of the book presents archaeological explorations and the projects within which this guide was created.



Description of the course of the wall



The length of the Roman wall



Altitude



Access points



Information



Bear area



Warning

## VISIT AND EXPERIENCE!

### Map with locations

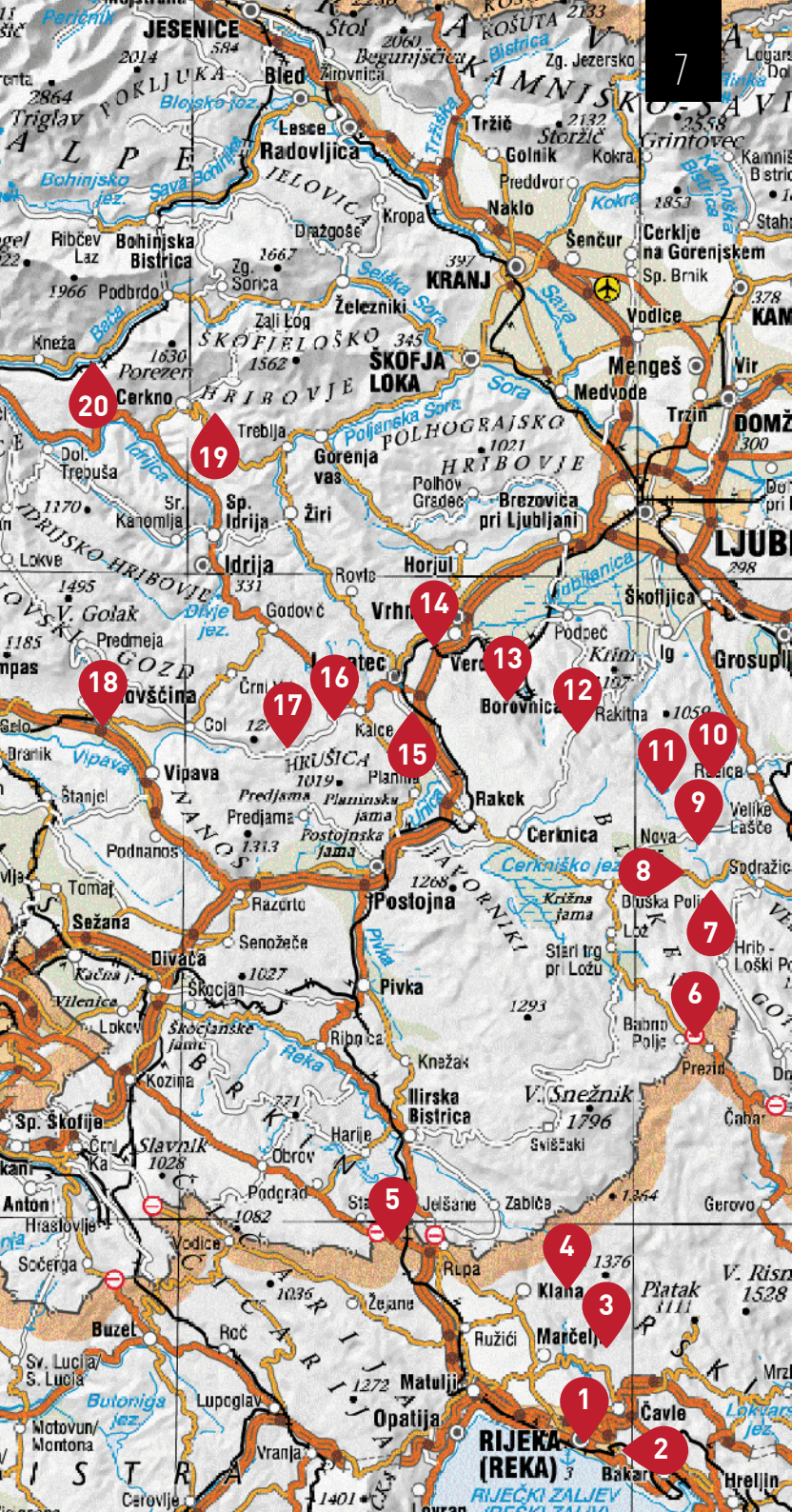
Today, there are 20 known locations, where we can see the archaeological remains of the *claustra Alpium Iuliarum* barrier system. Most of them are difficult to notice, but there are locations where the system is clearly visible, since the archaeological remains are conserved or even reconstructed. The locations are marked on the map.

Start your journey and get to know the *claustra Alpium Iuliarum* defence system in all its greatness with the help of our guide!

1. Rijeka (*Tarsatica*), municipality of Rijeka, Croatia
2. Solin near Kostrena, municipality of Kostrena, Croatia
3. Jelenje on Grobničko polje, municipality of Čavle, municipality of Jelenje, Croatia
4. Studena, municipality of Jelenje, municipality of Klana, Croatia
5. Gradina above Pasjak, municipality of Matulji, Croatia
6. Babno polje–Prezid, municipality of Loška dolina, Slovenia; municipality of Prezid, Croatia
7. Benete, municipality of Bloke, municipality of Sodražica, Slovenia
8. Taboršč, municipality of Bloke, municipality of Sodražica, Slovenia
9. Novi Pot, municipality of Sodražica, Slovenia
10. Gradišče near Rob, municipality of Velike Lašče, Slovenia
11. Selo near Rob, municipality of Velike Lašče, Slovenia
12. Rakitna, municipality of Brezovica, Slovenia
13. Pokojišče, municipality of Vrhnika, municipality of Borovnica, Slovenia
14. Ajdovski zid, municipality of Vrhnika, municipality of Logatec, Slovenia
15. Brst near Martinj Hrib, municipality of Logatec, Slovenia
16. Lanišče, municipality of Logatec, Slovenia
17. Hrušica (*Ad Pirum*), municipality of Postojna, municipality of Ajdovščina, Slovenia
18. Ajdovščina (*Castra*), municipality of Ajdovščina, Slovenia
19. Vrata, municipality of Cerklje, Slovenia
20. Zarakovec, municipality of Tolmin, Slovenia







# 1. RIJEKA (*Tarsatica*)

municipality of Rijeka, Croatia



## DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Rijeka is the largest port in Croatia, the administrative and cultural centre of Primorje-Gorski Kotar County (Primorsko-goranska županija) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> city in the Republic of Croatia according to the number of its inhabitants. Its modern city centre hides the traces of the ancient settlement that used to exist in the area of today's old part of the town, Stari grad. The mentioned ancient remains are timidly exhibited at only a few individual locations, where they remind us of the past importance of the ancient *Tarsatica*. The ancient town by the mouth of river Rječina emerged in the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. and climaxed at the time when it became a part of the *claustra Alpium Iuliarum* defence system. *Tarsatica* was included in the system as an important military point due to its remarkable strategic position in one of the major roads leading from the east towards North Italy and also due to the port, which provided the easiest way to supply the army with food and weapons.





Drawn course of the remains of the Roman walls in the area of Rijeka.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

The remains of the ancient military headquarters (principia) are to be found in the city centre, in the old town of Rijeka - Stari grad, where in the Roman time, *Tarsatica* was set by the coast and the mouth of Rječina river. The walls of the *claustra* system are climbing upwards between the existing buildings - they can be found in Kalvarija street, and then again in the street of Ulica O. Valića. The last part of the wall is situated on the mountain slope of Sv. Katarina, where it extends through the forest, accompanying the natural configuration of the terrain. The walls are only preserved in a few short parts, since they were quite devastated by the intense urbanisation during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. They are preserved in height of 60 to 280 cm, but are sometimes difficult to recognise as they are winding next to the existing buildings or through thick bushes. The whole part of the walls in the area of Rijeka is 180 cm wide and built of partly treated stone on the outside, while the inner part consists of rocks, mixed with plaster.



Principia Archaeological Park, Rijeka

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** Kalvarija 8 m + 60 m + 50 m, street of Ulica Oktavijana Valića 68 m, Sv. Katarina 150 m



**Altitude:** min. 3 m; max. 197 m



### Description of the course of the wall

The remains of the architectural structures, that were a part of *claustra Alpium Iuliarum* system, are mostly found in the modern city centre of Rijeka, except the part of the wall that lies on the tree-covered slope of Sv. Katarina hill. The remains of the principia in Stari grad of Rijeka are well marked and easily accessible, but if you wish to find other parts of the walls, you need detailed instructions, sometimes even geographical coordinates.



### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. Principia of *Tarsatica*  
N45.327356°, E14.443479°
2. Remains of the wall on Kalvarija hill, crossed by road  
N45.331153°, E14.448256°
3. Remains of the wall in Ulica O. Valića street  
N45.334578°, E14.447799°
4. Beginning of the presented walls on the slopes of Sv. Katarina hill  
N45.336765°, E14.451295°



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

**Military fortlets** (bunker) at the locations of Sv. Katarina, Pulac, Veli Vrh, Sv. Križ, Martinščica bay – the Alpine Wall (Vallo Alpino) or the system of defence fortlets, built by the Kingdom of Italy in the 1930s at its borders. The shape of the fortlets was in line with the top-of-the-line military achievements of the time.

**The fort of Trsat** is a strategic viewing point, offering a magnificent view over the remains of the *claustra* defence system on the opposite hills of Sv. Katarina and Kalvarija, and the whole area of the Stari grad of Rijeka. On Trsat, you can also visit the medieval fort of Trsat, the oldest St. Mary's temple in Croatia, a Franciscan monastery etc.

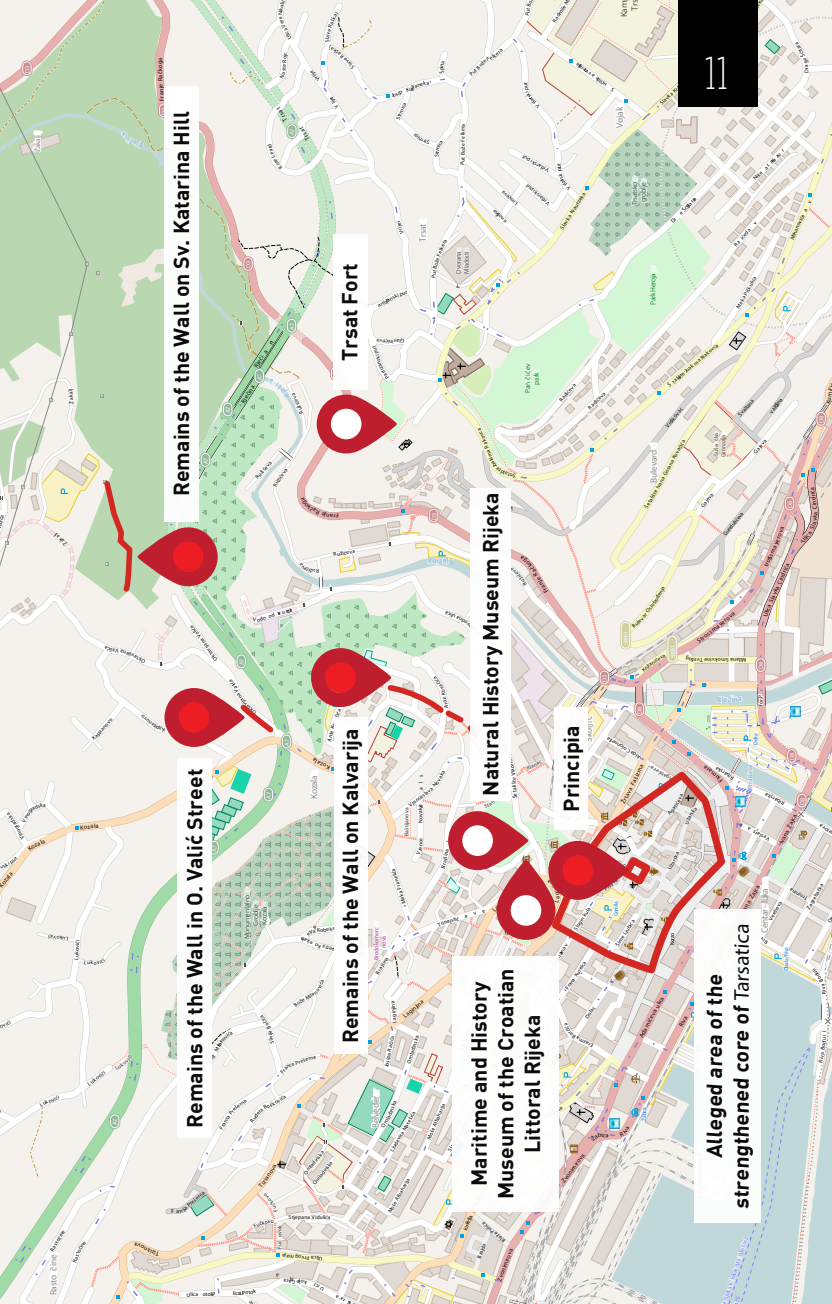
For more than four decades, the **Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka** (Pomorski i povijesni muzej Hrvatskog primorja Rijeka) is one of the most important cultural crossroads in the city. With its permanent collection and numerous exhibitions (either its own or from other Croatian museums) it marks important events, related to the history and culture of Rijeka, Primorje-Gorski Kotar County and Croatia, it also includes a *Claustra* info point, as does also the nearby **Natural History Museum Rijeka** (Prirodoslovni muzej Rijeka), where you can visit the Roman Garden.



## INFORMATION

RIJEKA TOURIST BOARD  
(TURISTIČKA ZAJEDNICA GRADA RIJEKE)  
Užarska 14, 51000 Rijeka  
Phone: +385 51 315 710  
E-mail: [Rijeka@visitRijeka.hr](mailto:Rijeka@visitRijeka.hr)  
Website: [www.visitrijeka.hr](http://www.visitrijeka.hr)





Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka (Pomorski i povijesni muzej Hrvatskog primorja Rijeka)

Fort of Trsat



## 2. SOLIN NEAR KOSTRENA

municipality of Kostrena, Croatia



### DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

About 4 km to the east of the ancient Tarsatica, on the Solin Hill above Martinšćica and the Draga Valley (Draška dolina) in the municipality of Kostrena, a Late Roman fortlet of the same name is located. Its position at 240 m above sea level gave it a good view of the surroundings, especially the land and sea routes to Tarsatica.

The top of the hill, where the Solin fortlet is located, was inhabited already in the Stone Age. On the north side, it is protected with natural precipitous walls and on the more easily accessible south side facing the sea, a barrier wall was built during the Late Roman times, which partly followed the route of the prehistoric drywall and was well adapted to the terrain.



The southern walls of the Solin fortlet



## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

The wall was 2 m wide and had 3 quadrilateral towers. All the towers are located centrally on the axis of the wall and have entrances on the inner, northern side. The middle tower is also passable, as it has a narrow passage for one person also on the outer eastern side, just next to the wall. By the western double tower – such towers can also be found on the Ad Pirum fort and the Gradina above Pasjak fortlet – there is the main entrance to the Solin fortlet with a preserved stone threshold.

Archaeological research of the Solin fortlet has been taking place since 2007. Up until today, the major part of the barrier wall in the length of 130 m and three towers have been researched and conserved. The western part of the wall, which was damaged during the Second World War, was more poorly preserved. Soldiers dug up their positions along the inner part of the wall and this part was also bombarded in the final battles of 1945.



The double tower with the main entrance to the Solin fortlet



## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the excavated part of the walls of the fortlet:**  
130 m



**Altitude:** 240 m



### Description of the course of the wall

The locality of Solin is known for being part of the Kostrena trim trail. The Solin Hill is about twenty minutes of walk from the last houses in Kostrena Sv. Lucia apart. Today, the site shows about 130 meters of excavated walls that extends along the southern slope of the hill.



### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. 45.317507, 14.496130



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

**Svežanj Bay**, with its beautiful nature, partly gravelly and partly rocky beaches, is one of the most attractive parts of the Kostrena coastline. Due to the rare and protected species found in the underwater area, Svežanj Bay is located in the central part of the narrower protected zone of a submarine park area.

**Caves and holes** – Under the stone surface it is hidden an underground world. Numerous cold submarine springs located close to the shore, springs of fresh water under the sea's surface, give the hint of numerous fissures in the underground area where fresh water from the hinterland finds its way towards the sea shore. On its way to the springs, fresh water passes through larger cracks and spaces that are connected by underground channels to the surface.

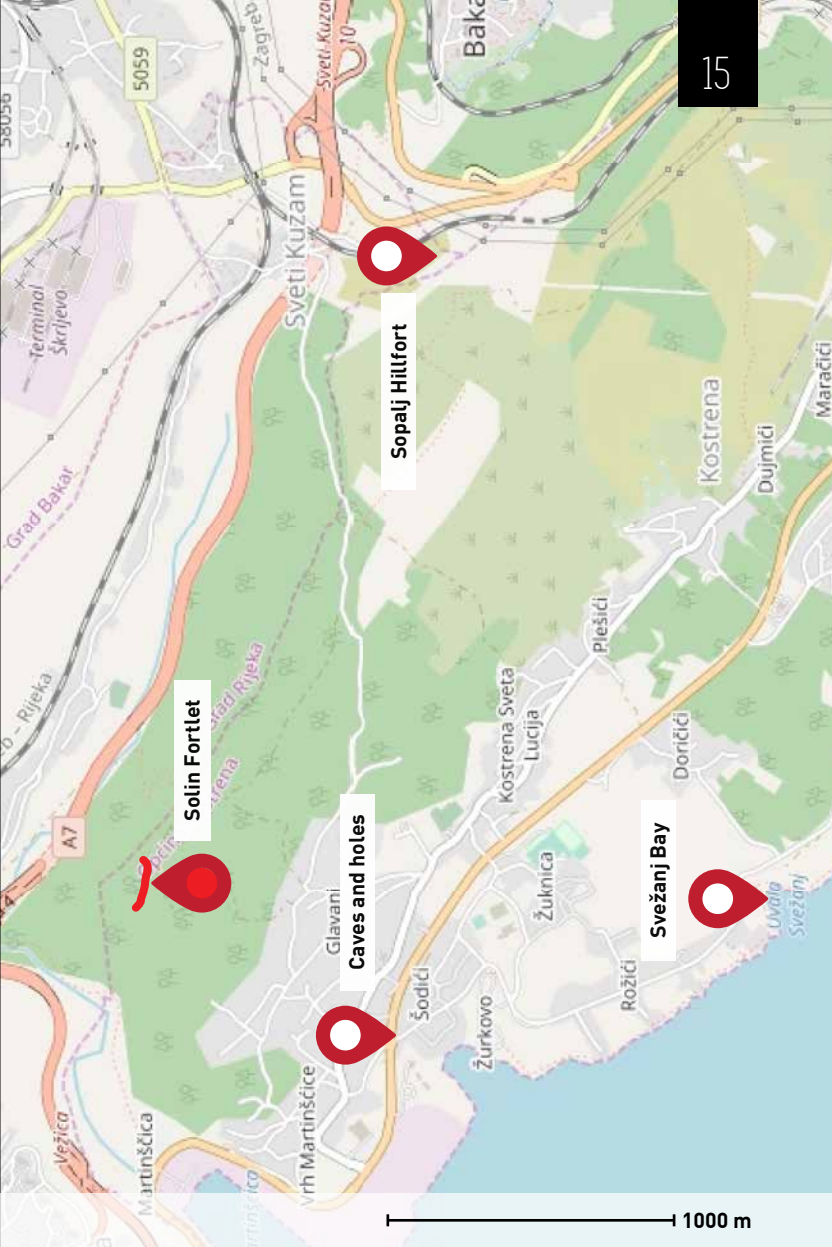
**Sopalj hillfort** – On the eastern edge of the municipality of Kostrena, on the dominant stony Sopalj hill from where a panoramic view extends over the Bakar Bay and Kvarner islands, there is a large prehistoric settlement, the Sopalj hillfort, a spacious area surrounded by two stripes of walls, built during the Bronze Age, in the second millennium BC.



## INFORMATION

TOURIST BOARD OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KOSTRENA  
 (Turistička Zajednica Općine Kostrena)  
 Kostrenskih boraca 1A, 51221 Kostrena  
 Phone: +385 51 289 207  
 E-mail: [info@tzo-kostrena.hr](mailto:info@tzo-kostrena.hr)  
 Website: [tzo-kostrena.hr/en/](http://tzo-kostrena.hr/en/)





Cave near Kostrena



View from the Sopalj hillfort



# 3. JELENJE ON GROBNIČKO POLJE

municipality of Čavle, municipality of  
Jelenje, Croatia



## DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The part of the *claustra* system around Jelenje extends over the western edge of Grobničko polje, north from Rijeka and next to Rijeka - Zagreb highway. According to the preserved written sources, during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century one could follow the traces of the walls from the hill of Lubanj and Lopača or the river Rječina, but today the remains can only be found near Jelenje. At that time, the wall was going through Jelenje itself, next to houses and pens, but these traces are gone because of the new buildings. In this part, the wall extends over the sloping landscape with a beautiful view over the whole field and the edges of the hills around Grobničko polje. This area is well known for its old settlement Grobnik and the battle of Grobničko polje in 1242, when, according to the legend, the Croats defeated the Tatars, and the field itself is named after the graves of the deceased in the battle (»grob« meaning »grave« in Croatian).



Jelenje

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

In Jelenje area, one can recognize the remains of the wall as a stone mound, up to 3 m wide and sometimes more than 1 m high. Some parts of the wall were being explored in the 1960s and they are still visible today. The wall followed the steep terrain and descended to the valleys, closing the easily crossable paths. It has characteristic square stones protruding from the inner side of the wall, positioned in the same sized intervals, which probably carried a wooden construction, used as a pathway for guards and observatory. Parts of the wall are interrupted by steep slopes – a natural obstacle, protecting from attacks of the enemies.



Remains of the wall, Jelenje

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 2236 m



**Altitude:** min. 290 m; max. 439 m



**Description of the course of the wall:** The remains of the wall can be followed from the church of St. Michael the Archangel in Jelenje, where they are visible as a taller mound, overgrown by grass. The following part is visible north from Jelenje, from the location Kaštelin on. The course of the wall can be followed all the way to the quarry, which is the reason

for partial destruction of the remains, but they can be seen again on the slopes of the following hills. At locations of Čelo, Rebar and Kuk we can still see the remains of towers, built as a part of the walls. Hiking next to the walls is difficult because of dense bushes the walls are winding through and due to unmaintained walkways. Major natural obstacle - steep abysses - appears near the end of this part, at the location named Kuba. If you wish to visit the next part at location Skalna, you must climb over the mentioned slope, which is recommended only for experienced and well prepared hikers.



#### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Jelenje  
N45.386514°, E14.450369°
2. Beginning of the *claustra* wall at location Kaštelin  
N45.392011°, E14.451098°
3. Part of the *claustra* wall, intersected by gas pipeline  
N45.404307°, E14.462912°
4. The final point of the Jelenje part of the *claustra* wall at location Borovica  
N45,413842°, E14,470468°



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

**Frankopan fortlet Grobnik** in the settlement of Grobnik originates from around year 1000, but the parts that are visible today were built in the period between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century. The fortlet was built at a strategically incredibly important position, where it protected the whole area of Grobniščina, and today it hosts a museum, a gallery, and various cultural manifestations.

**Gašpar Mill** on the waterfall in Martinovo Selo was renovated in 1992 and it still serves its original purpose, while it is also open for the visitors. Here, cereals are ground in a traditional way, which can be rarely seen.

**Heritage museum** (Zavičajni muzej) in Martinovo Selo exhibits more than 500 items, testifying of the rich history of Grobnik. In the museum, visitors can see traditional bedroom and kitchen, typical for the area of Grobniščina in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, while there are numerous old useful items, tools, national costumes etc. displayed in the exhibition room.



## INFORMATION

TOURIST BOARD OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF JELENJE  
(TURISTIČKA ZAJEDNICA OPĆINE JELENJE)

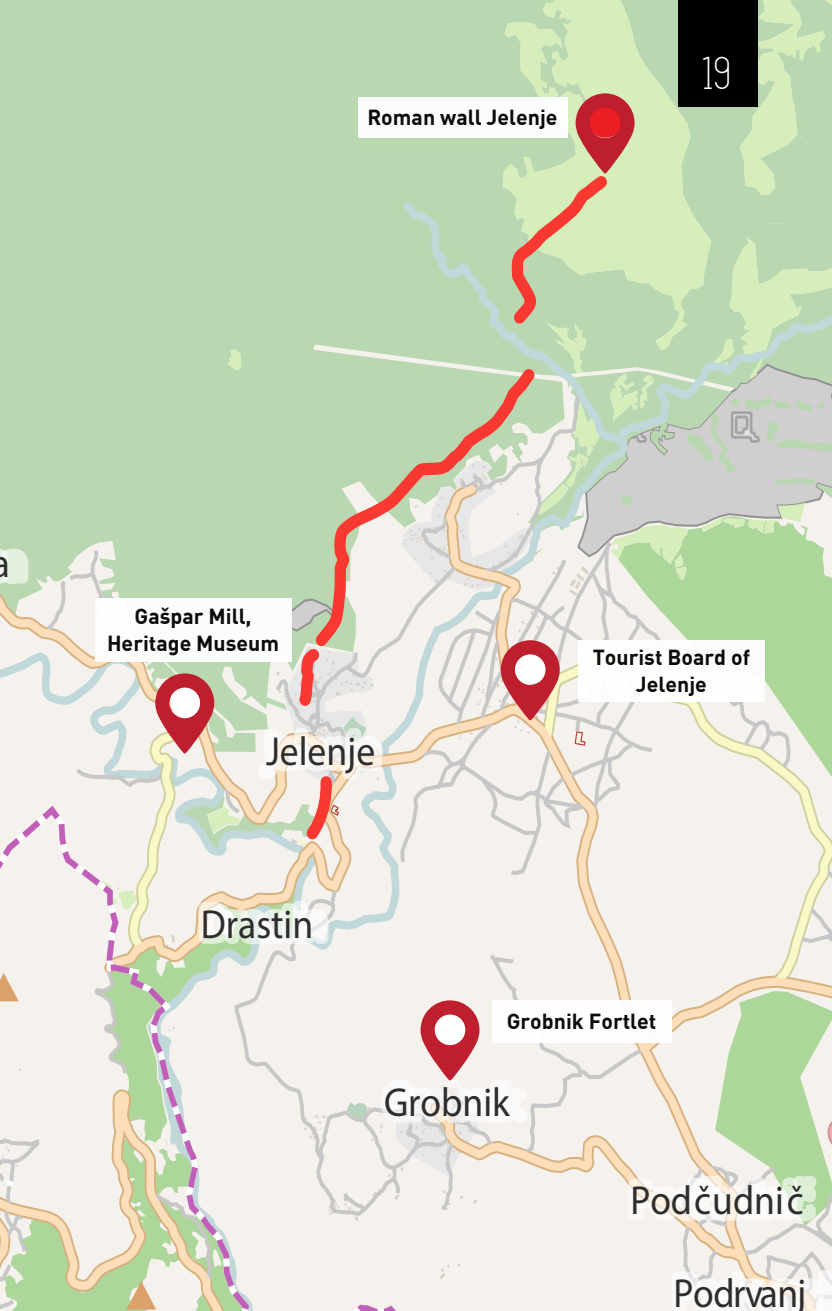
Dražičkih boraca 64, 51218 Dražice

Phone: +385 51 297 152

E-mail: info@tz-jelenje.hr

Website: www.tz-jelenje.hr





Grobnik fortlet



Gašpar mill, Jelenje



# 4. STUDENA

municipality of Klana, Croatia

(from the spring of the Rječina river to Željezna vrata)



## DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Above the high and steep rocks around the spring of Zvir, where the Rječina river springs, we can find the remains of the walls leading towards north, over the area of today's municipality of Klana and all the way to the steep and high mountain edges - the beginning of the mountainous area of Gorski kotar, which is very difficult to cross. The karst area with this part of the walls is an area with beautiful, unspoiled nature, where the sub Mediterranean and the sub Alpine climate meet above the Gumanac, Obruč and Platak peaks, so the precipitation in this area are very abundant.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

In this part, it is possible to trace the *claustra* defence wall in the form of rocky piles, winding over the landscape and following the natural characteristics of the region. In the 1930s, 1960s and the first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century, a few locations have been explored and conserved: Ravno, Za Presikom and Vranjeno. In 1930s, a square tower of 5 x 5 m at location Ravno and the following part of the wall, running over the plateau for a few tens of meters, was conserved. According to the remains visible on the terrain, we may assume that similar towers existed also in some other positions. During the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a part of the defence wall at Vranjeno next to a former building of border post («kara-vla» of the Yugoslav army along the Rapallo border between the Kingdom of Italy and the Kingdom of Yugoslavia) was renovated, and today it is known as a tourist spot and a hunter's cabin. Also the part at location Za Presikom was conserved – the explorations took place in the 1960s, but it was not renovated at that time. The main task of this part of the walls was to prevent invasions towards Klana and through the valley of Mlaka towards west, since this would enable penetration towards the North Italy.



Renovated part of the wall, Za Presikom

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 6000 m



**Altitude:** min. 560 m; max. 1092 m



### Description of the course of the wall

The walls of this part of the *claustra* system begin above the cliffs over the spring of the Rječina river, where we can find a 200 m long wall, which is not proven to represent the defence system. If it actually was a part of the system, it was only as a leading guard of the main part of the walls, which are set in the surroundings, approximately 600 m to the west. The walls are to be found from this position towards the northwest, in the length of 6 km, and they are following the natural shape of the landscape. They extend around the area that would enable passing towards the mentioned Mlaka valley from various sides, later they ascend up the steep slopes of the mountainous edges of Gorski kotar, and finish at the location Štulac. In the course of this part of the *claustra* system, we can find numerous remains of the borderline, which divided the Kingdom of Italy and the Kingdom of Yugoslavia during the two world wars, such as border markings, bunkers or smaller barracks.



### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. Vranjeno  
N45.441980°, E14.410402°
2. Za Presikom  
N45.443115°, E14.411012°
3. Ravno  
N45.443878°, E14.411663°



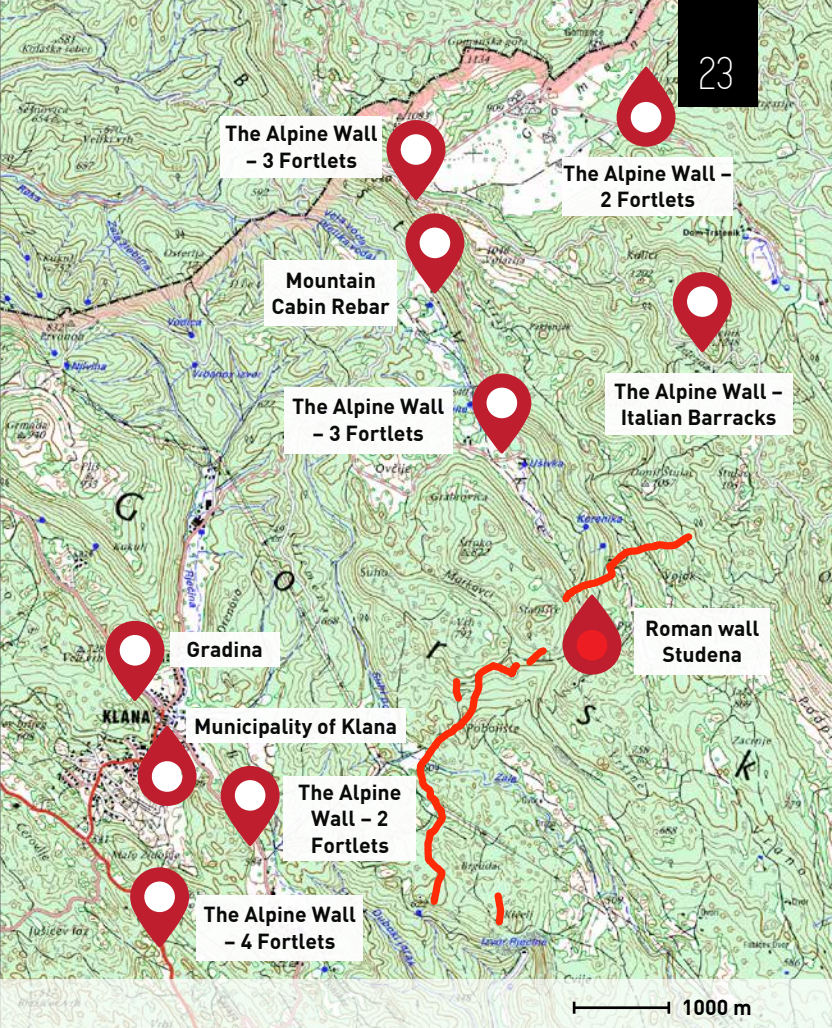
## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

**Mountain cabin Rebar** - In a part of Stara Rebar forest there is a couple of centuries old cabin, and with well maintained surroundings it represents one of the most beautiful and most interesting places in the woods. Today, the cabin is a popular spot for nature lovers and it offers shelter and resting place to hikers and others, enjoying the beauties of the forest.

**Gradina, Klana** - Archaeological location Gradina is set on the top of a karst hill, directly above the centre of the Klana village. The strategic control position was first used during the late Antiquity, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., during the time of building the system of defence walls. The fort was inhabited from the 10<sup>th</sup> century to the half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. When the inhabitants left the fort, life became more intense below the fort itself, and people used the stones from the fort to build new facilities. In the beginning of the 1990s, systematic archaeological and conservation work at the fort of Gradina started.

**Alpin wall (Vallo Alpino)** - 4 fortlets on Petrolejska Cesta near Velo Židovje; 2 fortlets on the road between Klana and Studena; 3 fortlets in the river Mlaka valley between Pilana and Gumanac; 3 fortlets on the east side of Gumanac, location Ravno; 2 fortlets in the north side of Gumanac, road towards Klanjska Polica.





Former Italian barracks near Željezna vrata



Mountain cabin Rebar



## INFORMATION



Bear area

MUNICIPALITY OF KLANA (OPĆINA KLANA)

Klana 33, 51217 Klana

Phone: +356 51 808 205

Website: [www.klana.hr](http://www.klana.hr)



## 5. PASJAK

municipality of Matulji, Croatia



### DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The area of the municipality of Matulji, where the fortlet of Pasjak was built in the late Antiquity, is a border area between the Republic of Slovenia and Croatia, and also the area where the climate and the image of the Mediterranean Kvarner meet the inland area. Due to various political events in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, major changes took place in the area in that period. Between the two world wars, in 1920, the area of the Kastav municipality was, according to the Treaty of Rapallo, divided between the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Free State of Fiume and the Kingdom of Italy, and after the Second World War, it became a part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In a way, this area had a role of a border area also in the ancient times and the remains of the Pasjak fortlet are actually the last remains of the *claustra* system on this important way towards Italy.





View from Pasjak



## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

According to the technique of building and the characteristics of plaster we can suppose that while building the walls of the Pasjak fortlet (they were almost 400 m long, preserved up to 1.75 m of height and up to 3 m in width) the same instructions were followed as with other walls of the *claustra* system - the project was realised during the same time. In one part of the foundations of the Pasjak fortlet hardly preserved coins - antoniniani - were found. They were forged during the reign of Claudius II Gothicus, Gallienus and Quintillus, and buried after the year 260, showing the time of the construction of the fortlet. It was built in the area of an ancient settlement - this is testified by mobile archaeological findings that can be put in the period of the late Copper Age (1100-1000 B.C.).



North entrance to the Pasjak fortlet



## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 400 m



**Altitude:** 600 m



### Description of the course of the wall

The fortlet lies directly above the road leading from Rijeka towards the Pasjak border crossing. It is set at the location Gradina - east of the road and just in front of the border. The outer walls shape an almost rectangular space, but no architectural remains were found inside it. Two entrances are presented - one in the south and one in the northwest, while each of them was protected by two towers. The walls and the towers were built in the same manner, using the *opus incertum* technique. Irregular shape of the walls was corrected by larger quantity of lime plaster, sand and river gravel. The entrances were closing down with solid wood doors, which had wood supports as it can be seen from the remains of the niches on both sides of the entrances.



### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. South entrance to the fortlet  
N45,489749°, E14,226536°



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Prehistoric settlement on the hill of **Sv. Katarina**, named after the saint of a destroyed church. The settlement was created during the Iron Age and protected by strong dry stone walls, which are still well preserved in the northwest and the southwest of the hill. The length of the wall is around 670 m.



## INFORMATION

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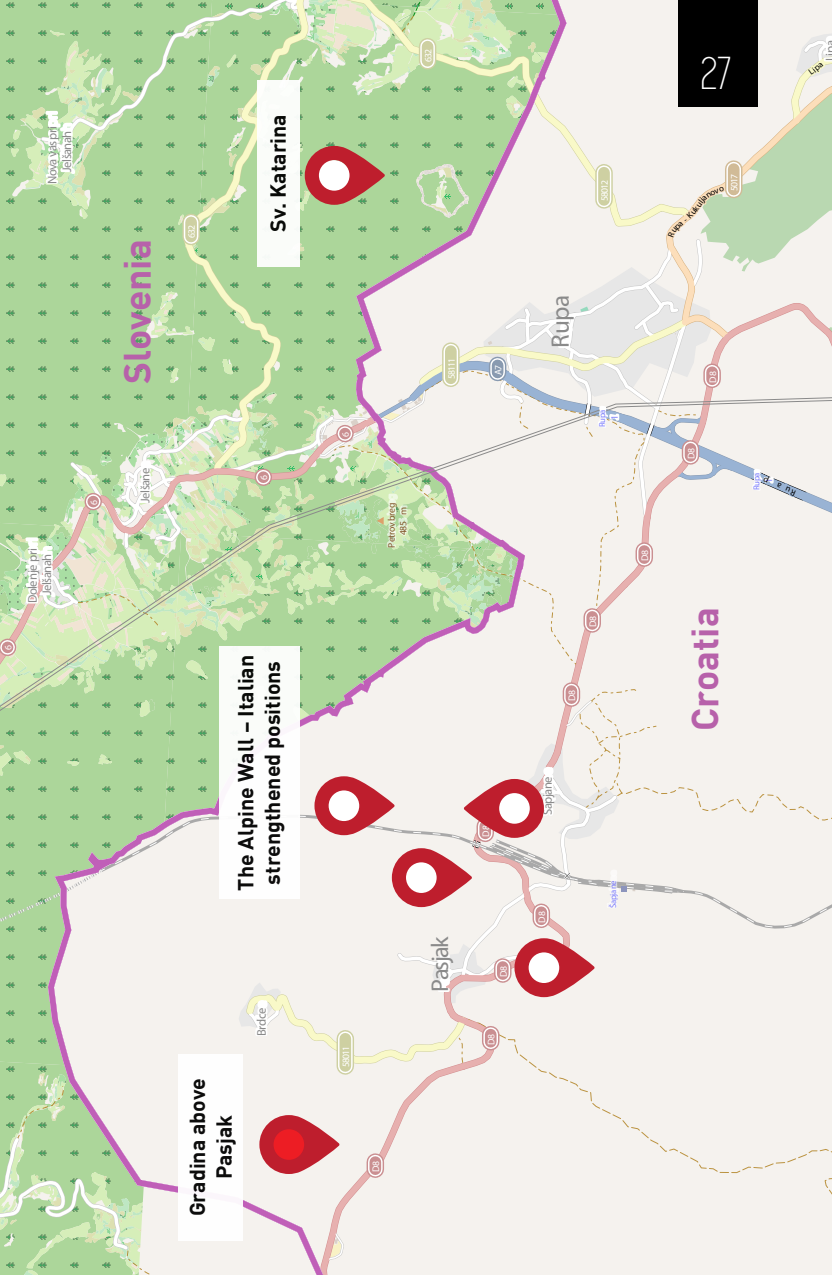


Bear area



State border nearby.





Explored parts of the fortlet, Pasjak

Fort of Sv. Katarina





## 6. BABNO POLJE- PREZID

municipality of Loška dolina, Slovenia;  
municipality of Prezid, Croatia



### DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Babno polje and Prezid - the land of cold weather and warm people. Many people know this area as a Slovenian and Croatian Siberia, where the temperature during the winter plunges even under  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ . During the summer time, this is a wonderful country with mysterious karst phenomena. The middle part of the Roman wall runs along the border between Slovenia and Croatia. The former symbol of separation and distancing represents a symbol of joint cultural and historical heritage today.



Prezid

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

This valley, where Babno polje and Prezid are situated, is the only natural connection that enables free passage from Gorski kotar region to the west. The wall runs perpendicularly to the valley, and continues with two side lines towards east - the walls are forming the shape of the letter U. This part was being explored in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when 3 today unrecognisable towers were discovered. As a part of limited explorations with the help of probe in 2012 it was discovered that the wall in this area was 1.2 m thick. The remains of the central part of the defensive walls run exactly along the present state border between Slovenia and Croatia, between Babno polje and Prezid. On the location of the international border crossing, the remains are completely ruined. Total length of this part of the defensive wall is approximately 2800 m.



Remains of the Roman wall above Prezid



Presented remains of the Roman wall at the location Deuce above Prezid

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 2789 m



**Altitude:** min. 756 m; max. 873 m



### Description of the course of the wall

The barrier runs through the forest and crosses the state border. The landscape is gently sloping, in parts also steep and rocky. The remains of the wall in the area of Vražji vrtec hill are discontinued for 330 m, and they are ruined in the length of 80 m in the area of the state border due to the customs office and the main road. The wall in this area is neither marked nor conserved and it is visible as a mound of soil and rocks, from 0.5 to 1 m high and to 5 m wide.



### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. State border  
N45,645946°, E14,560761°
2. Forrest trail above the hunter's cabin Prezid  
N45,646940°, E14,572072°



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

When visiting **Snežnik castle**, you will experience the atmosphere from more than a hundred years ago, since the rooms in the castle are still furnished with authentic furniture and other equipment from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The magnificent surroundings of the castle are very tempting and perfect for walks and retreat in natural environment. Phone: +386 1 705 78 14, e-mail: grad.sneznik@nms.si.

**Križna jama** is one of the most beautiful karst caves in the world - inside, it hides underground lakes and is also a place, where they discovered bones of cave bear. Water from the south edge of Bloška planota runs through the cave towards the east edge of Cerkniško polje. Society of Friends of Križna Jama, Bloška Polica 7, 1384 Gralhovo, phone: +386 41 632 153, e-mail: krizna\_jama@yahoo.com.

**The collection of cultural heritage** in Prezid includes archaeological and ethnographic exhibit pieces from the area of Prezid, such as pieces of ceramic items of lapodic culture, remains of the wooden water distribution system in Prezid and the items from the history of Prezid. The development of the settlement in the first half of 20<sup>th</sup> century was based on steam machines, exhibited in Prezid. The collection can be found by the west front of the parish church in Prezid.



## INFORMATION

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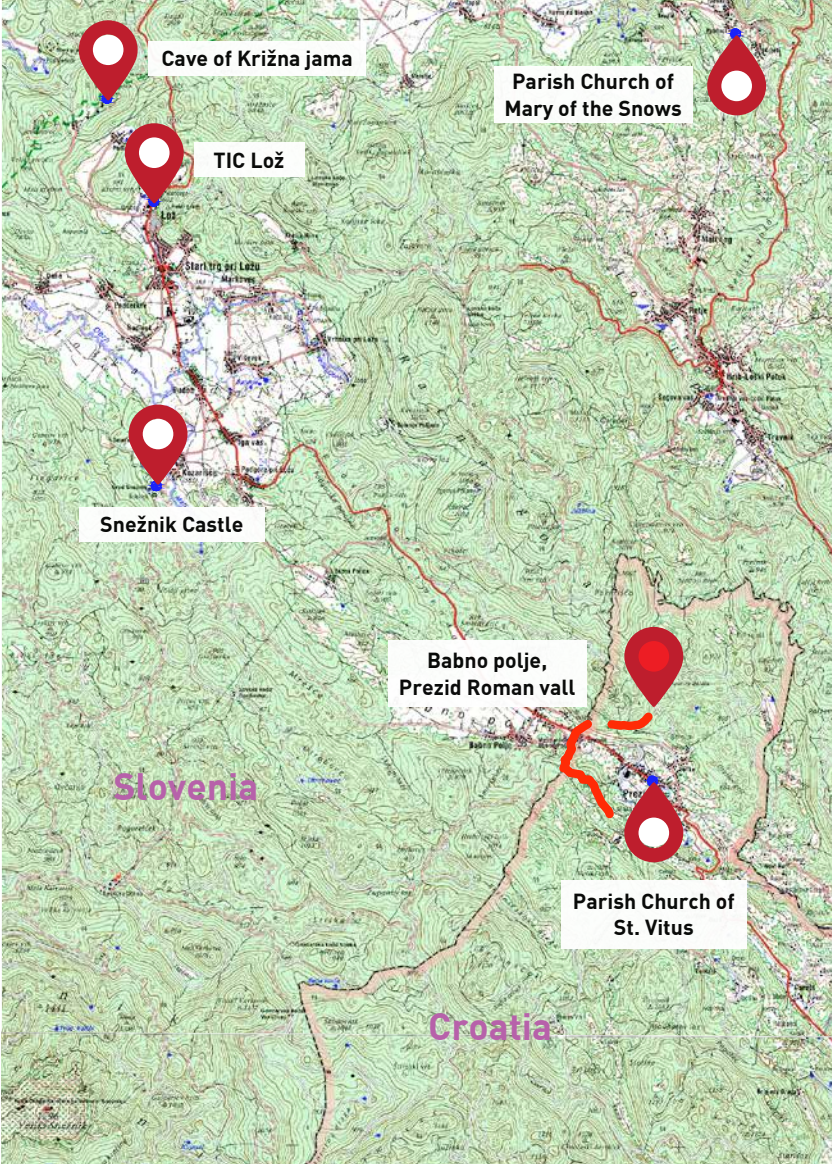


Bear area



Before the visit, report at the state border.





**Cave of Križna jama**

**Parish Church of  
Mary of the Snows**

**TIC Lož**

**Snežnik Castle**

**Babno polje,  
Prezid Roman vall**

**Parish Church of  
St. Vitus**

**1000 m**

Cave of Križna jama

Snežnik Castle





## 7. BENETE

municipality of Bloke, municipality of  
Sodražica, Slovenia



### DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Bloška planota plateau lies at the altitude of 700 to 800 m at the edge of Notranjska region between Cerkniško polje and Loška and Ribniška dolina valleys. The plateau has dolomite structure in the northern part and limestone and karst structure in the southern. It is surrounded by numerous hills and ridges that divide the plateau to Bloščica and Ločica (Farovščica) valleys. During winter, Bloška planota is covered with large quantities of snow, while the temperatures are typically very low.





View from the top of Drnik (827 m)

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

Bloška planota plateau was well protected in the late Roman times. Its eastern margin was controlled by at least five defensive walls. The most southern part was the defensive wall near the village of Benete, approximately 580 m long, reinforced by three towers. Today, the remains of the wall are visible as a mound, since the wall was not conserved.



Remains of the tower and wall at Benete before and after archaeological and conservation work

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 583 m



**Altitude:** min. 720 m; max. 800 m



### Description of the course of the wall

Before the barrier, the landscape is steep, ensuring a good view over the valley towards Ribnica, while after the barrier the landscape is only gently sloping. Only the part on top of Drnik is easy to cross, where the landscape is rather levelled and continues towards Bloška planota.



### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. Cartroad from the village of Benete at the point where it crosses the Roman wall  
N45,764037°, E14,570485°



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Nearby, you can visit churches and **stone bridges** and see a characteristic feature found in the area of Bloška planota - large village wells, made of stone («korita» or »štirne») from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. You can find those in Nova vas and Velike Bloke.

Sports lovers can walk the **Great Krpan Trail** - a group walk is organized every last Sunday in April. The trail is 19 km long, or 23 km long if you include the upper part of river Iška. You need 4 to 7 hours to walk the trail. The Great Krpan Trail passes by natural and cultural beauties, and also the so-called homestead of Martin Krpan (Fajglova kmetija) and the lake named Bloško jezero. If you wish to stay in Bloke for more than one day or if you want to experience local dishes, you can find accommodation facilities, guesthouses and tourist farms nearby.

During winter, you can visit a small **ski resort Izver - Sodražica**. The resort is suitable also for families with children. There is one 400 m long ski lift on the slope. Also, a cross-country skiing track is available. You can find more information at [www.izver.si](http://www.izver.si). You can read about other interesting points in the surroundings under the locations of Taboršč and Novi Pot.



## INFORMATION

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Phone: +386 1 709 88 44

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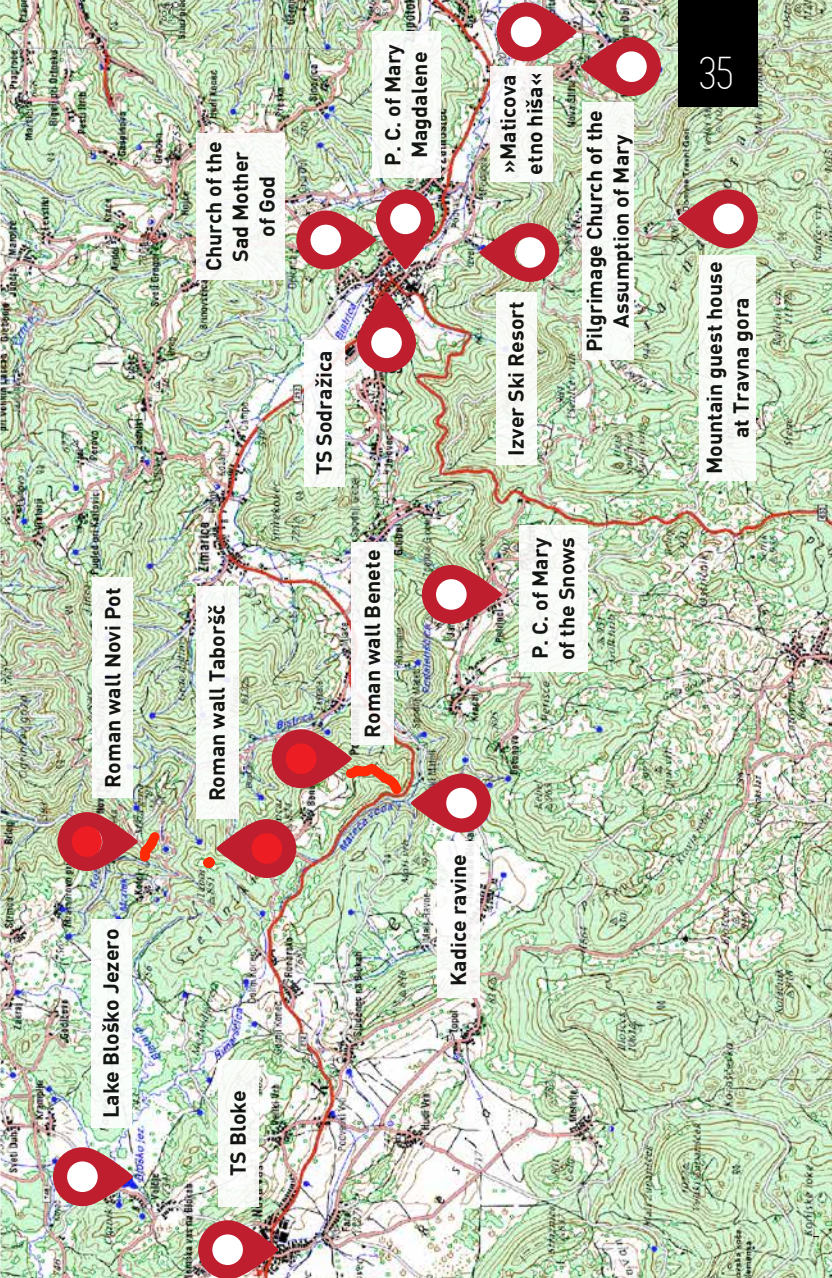
E-mail: [td.sodrazica@gmail.com](mailto:td.sodrazica@gmail.com)

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Bear area





35



Lake Bloško Jezero



Stone bridge



## 8. TABORŠČ

municipality of Bloke, municipality of  
Sodražica, Slovenia



### DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Bloška planota plateau lies at the altitude of 700 to 800 m at the edge of Notranjska region between Cerkniško polje and Loška and Ribniška dolina valleys. The plateau has dolomite structure in the northern part and limestone and karst structure in the southern. It is surrounded by numerous hills and ridges that divide the plateau to Bloščica and Ločica (Farovščica) valleys. During winter, Bloška planota is covered with large quantities of snow, while the temperatures are typically very low.





View towards Travná gora

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

On Taboršč hill, we can see scarce remains of a tower, measuring approximately 6 x 5 m plus a defensive wall of 9 m – in total, 15 m in length. This is the shortest known part of the defence system. It was probably in control of a small road crossing, and as the defensive wall near the villages of Benete and Novi Pot was close by, the experts assume it was not used as an independent barrier.



Remains of a tower, Taboršč

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 15 m



**Altitude:** 830 m



### Description of the course of the wall

The barrier was built on the top of a natural shelf with a valley on one side and a rather level plain, leading to Bloška planota, on the other side.



### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. Tower

N45,778861°, E14,5585521°



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

In the municipality of Sodražica you can visit **Pilgrimage Church of the Assumption of Mary** from the early Baroque period near Nova Štifta. The church was built between 1641 and 1671. Inside the church there are abundant decorations and wooden carvings, typical for the Baroque period.

Woodenware or traditional »suha roba« is an old and still widely present craft from the area of the valley of Sodraška dolina. In Sodražica municipality, you can visit a cultural and ethnological society »**Maticova etno hiša**«, presenting life of a family that was providing for itself with production of woodenware. You can see it after announcing your visit by phone: +386 31 625 194.

You can read about other interesting points in the surroundings under the locations of Benete and Novi Pot.



## INFORMATION

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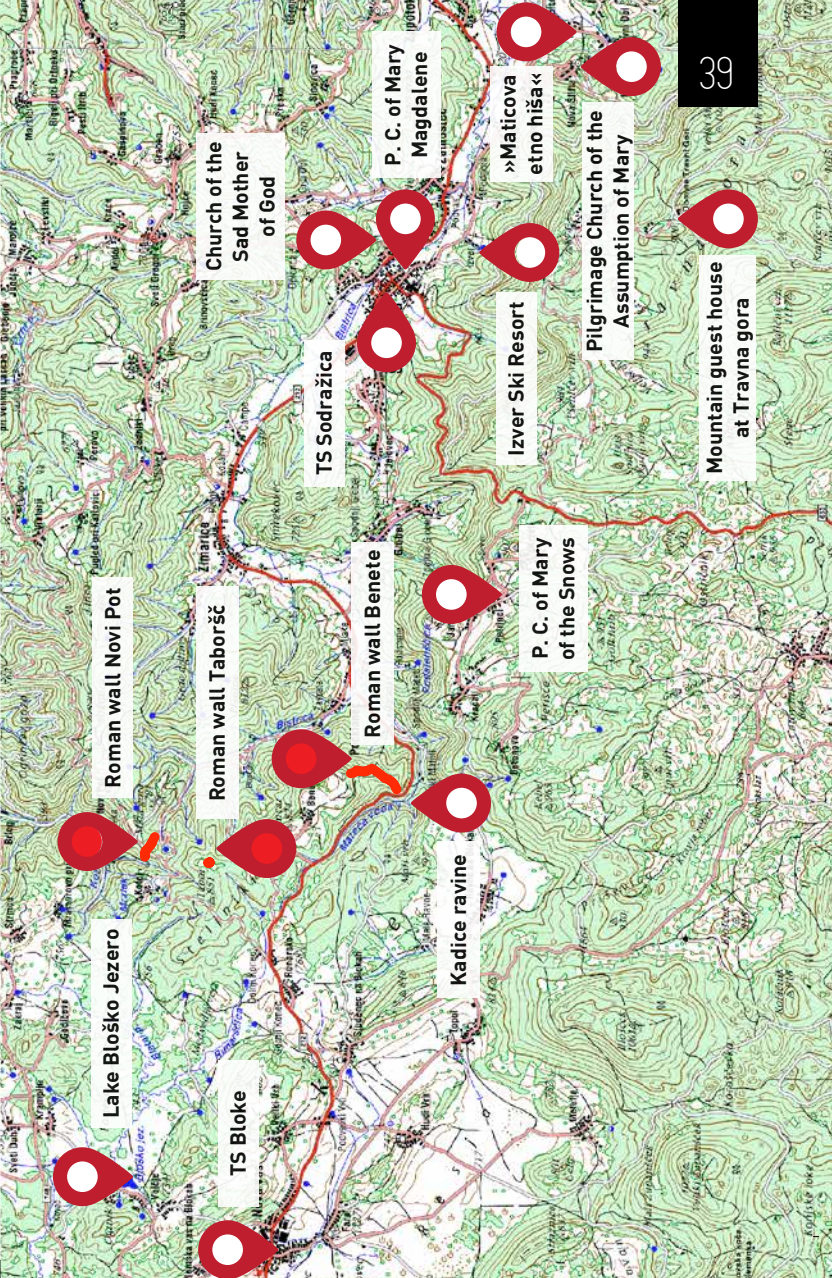
E-mail: td.sodrazica@gmail.com

Website: www.td-sodrazica.si



Bear area





39

Ethnological society »Maticova etno hiša«



Pilgrimage Church of the Assumption of Mary, Nova Štifta







## 9. NOVI POT

municipality of Sodražica, Slovenia



### DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The valley named Sodraška dolina extends over the northwest part of the valley of Ribniška dolina. It begins in the upper part of Bistrica river under Boncar, it continues towards southwest and expands into a karst valley with a flat, levelled bottom and slightly raised edges between Velika and Mala gora. The highest peak of the valley is Travna gora. On the south side, it steeply descends towards Bistrica. The north side of the valley is surrounded by a much less steep landscape Slemena and its surroundings with numerous gorges and ravines.



View from Novi Pot over Bloška planota

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

300 m long defensive wall was discovered by the archaeologists only a few years ago. A mighty, 2 m wide wall was fortified by two towers. Today, the remains of the wall are visible as a 3-5 m wide and 0.5-1 m high mound, mostly covered with forest. Only at the point where the wall is cut across by a road, we can see the profile of the wall above the road.



Remains of the wall, Novi Pot

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 300 m



**Altitude:** min. 730 m; max 760 m



**Description of the course of the wall**

The wall runs over extremely steep landscape, and the best way to cross that area is over the peak of the ridge.



**Access points – coordinates (WGS84)**

1. Tower above a regional road  
N45,784316°, E14,560999°

## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

In the surroundings of Benete and Sodražica, one can find various natural and cultural points of interest. You can visit the **Kadice ravine**, one of the most beautiful natural sights in the area, with the tributary of the Bistrica river, natural waterfalls and amazing flora. You can also climb **Travna gora** (950 m), which is a part of Velika gora range and the highest peak of the Sodražica municipality. Nearby, there are numerous churches (Parish Church of Mary Magdalene, Pilgrimage Church of the Assumption of Mary near Nova Štifta, Church of the Sad Mother of God at Strmca, Parish Church of Mary of the Snows on Gora). You can read about other interesting points in the surroundings under the locations of Benete and Taboršč.

## i INFORMATION

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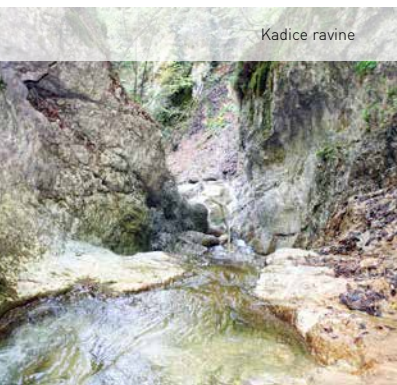
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E-mail: [td.sodrazica@gmail.com](mailto:td.sodrazica@gmail.com)

Website: [www.td-sodrazica.si](http://www.td-sodrazica.si)



Bear area

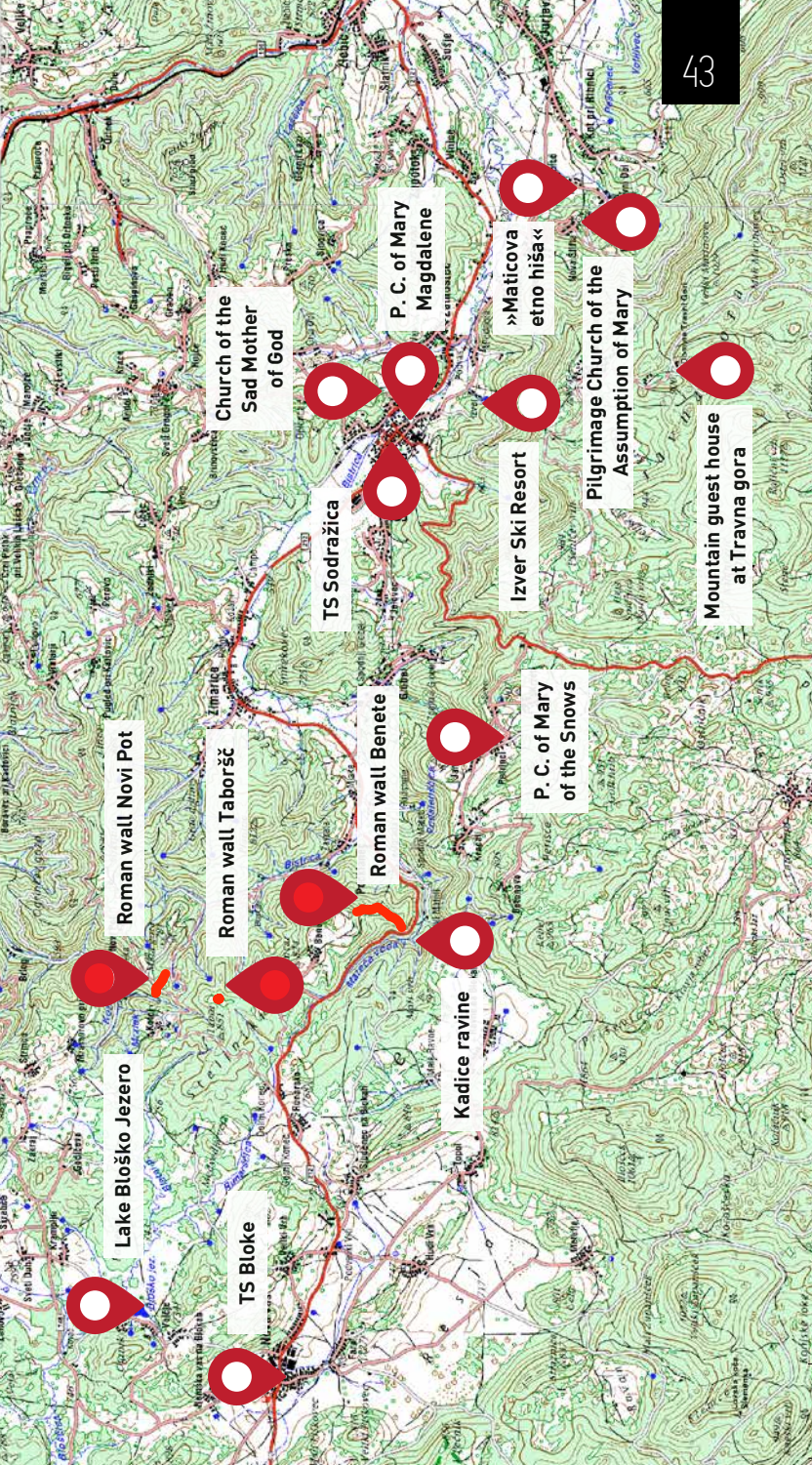


Kadice ravine



Mountain guest house at Travna gora





Lake Bloško Jezero

Roman wall Novi Pot

TS Bloke

Roman wall Taboršč

Kadice ravine

Roman wall Benete

TS Sadržica

Church of the  
Sad Mother  
of God

P. C. of Mary  
Magdalene

Izver Ski Resort


P. C. of Mary  
of the Snows

Pilgrimage Church of the  
Assumption of Mary

»Maticova  
etno hiša«

Mountain guest house  
at Travná gora





# 10. GRADIŠČE NEAR ROB

municipality of Velike Lašče, Slovenia



## DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Due to parts of non-porous rocks and a greater part of dolomites from the Triassic, the landscape around Velike Lašče is a non-porous world in the middle of vast karst surroundings. This is uneven landscape, covered with mixed forests between the hills around Krim above Ljubljansko barje in the north and Bloška planota plateau in the south.



View towards Gradiški vrh

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

Defensive wall in Gradišče near Rob differs from the others due to its ground plan shape. In the middle of this defence section, at the top of the Gradiški vrh, the wall turns by 90 degrees and starts descending down the slope. In antiquity, the wall was protecting two narrow valleys leading to the Bloška planota plateau. Approximately 1550 m long defensive wall used to be fortified with seven towers. At the beginning of the barrier or the wall, a small plateau is visible on a steep slope, which could imply a possible existence of a tower in the past. When the wall reaches the ravine of Kobilji curek, tower no. 1 is visible next to the stream. The remains of the wall and the towers are mostly visible as up to 2 m high mounds.



Remains of the wall at Kobilji curek before and after the archaeological research

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 1547 m



**Altitude:** min. 540 m; max. 687 m



**Description of the course of the wall**

The wall is descending from the slope of Dednik towards the valley of Kobilji curek, climbs up to Gradiški vrh and over the mountain pass to Mali vrh.



### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. Macadam road along Kobilji curek stream at the point where it crosses the Roman wall  
N45,839838°, E14,563333°
2. Macadam road from Bavdek towards Kobilji curek at the point where it crosses the Roman wall  
N45,839219°, E14,569910°



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

You can walk the **cultural trail of Velike Lašče** (Velikolaška kulturna pot), linking the birthplaces of writers - Fran Levstik, Josip Stritar and Primož Trubar, the author of the first printed books in Slovenian language. The trail is approximately 15 km long and you will need 3 to 4 hours to finish it if walking with an average pace. The trail is maintained by the hiking club of Velike Lašče (Planinsko društvo Velike Lašče), Levstikov trg 1, 1315 Velike Lašče, e-mail: planinsko.drustvo@velike-lasce.si.

You can also visit natural beauties, such as Lehnjakov slap (722 m) and Kobilji curek (600 m) falls. Between Naredi and Bošteti villages you will see a marking, leading to the falls.

One of the most prominent cultural features is **Turjak castle**, built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. In 1511, it was damaged in earthquake, but Trojan of Turjak (Trojan Turjaški) (1495-1541) completely renovated it. The castle was owned by the Auersperg family until the end of the Second World War. After the war, it was nationalized, and today it is partly renovated and hosting various cultural events. The Turjak castle is maintained by the public institution Trubarjevi kraji (Javni zavod Trubarjevi kraji), Rašica 69, 1315 Velike Lašče, phone: +386 1 788 10 06, e-mail: info@trubarjevi-kraji.si, website: www.trubarjevi-kraji.si. You can read about other interesting points in the surroundings under the location of Selo near Rob.



## INFORMATION

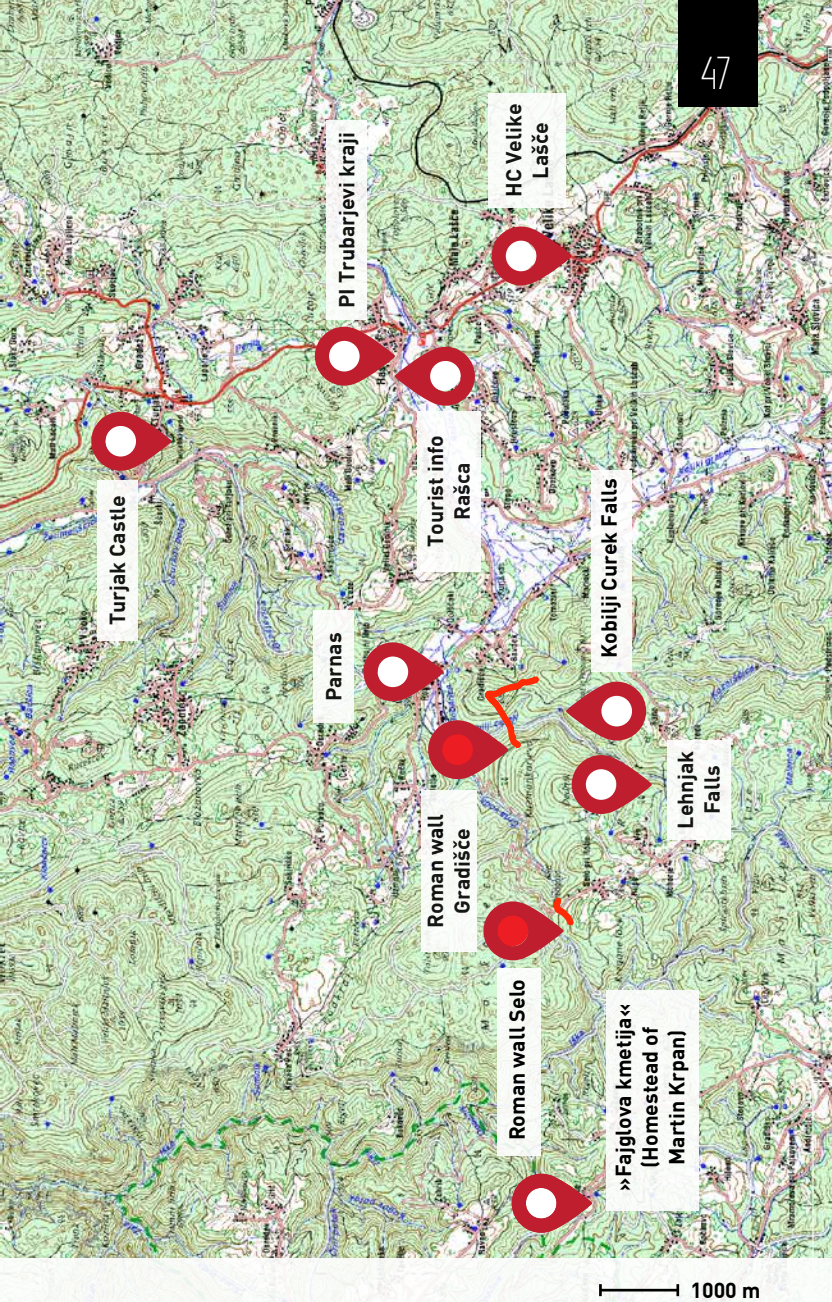


Bear area

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Turjak Castle



Velike Lašče





# 11. SELO NEAR ROB

municipality of Velike Lašče, Slovenia



## DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Due to parts of non-porous rocks and a greater part of dolomites from Triassic, the landscape around Velike Lašče is a non-porous world in the middle of vast karst surroundings. This is uneven landscape, covered with mixed forests between the hills around Krim above Ljubljansko barje in the north and Bloška planota plateau in the south.



The area of the course of the Roman wall near Selo.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

In ancient times, the passage near Selo near Rob village was closed by a defensive wall with two towers. There is 341 m of the wall preserved, and also both towers are preserved - all of these can be seen as mounds, protruding from the landscape.



Remains of the wall, Selo near Rob

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 341 m



**Altitude:** min. 776 m; max. 805 m



### **Description of the course of the wall**

The barrier descends over a steep slope through the forest in the northeast direction, and faces extremely steep landscape, named Prepadi. It reaches its lowest point in a narrow gorge and begins to ascend the opposite hill in the same direction.



### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. Tower by a regional road in Selo hamlet  
N45,834826°, E14,535471°



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

There are two **European long distance paths** going through Velike Lašče: E-6 and E-7. E-6 connects the Baltic Sea with the Adriatic Sea, while E-7 connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Black Sea. At the **homestead of Trubar** you can learn about Primož Trubar and the reformation, miller's trade, sawing and other subjects. Visitors can join educational, cultural, art and tourist programs. The Trubar's homestead is run by the public institution Trubarjevi kraji (Javni zavod Trubarjevi kraji), Rašica 69, 1315 Velike Lašče, phone: +386 1 788 10 06, e-mail: [info@trubarjevi-kraji.si](mailto:info@trubarjevi-kraji.si), website: [www.trubarjevi-kraji.si](http://www.trubarjevi-kraji.si).

You can read about other interesting points in the surroundings under the location of Gradišče near Rob.



## INFORMATION

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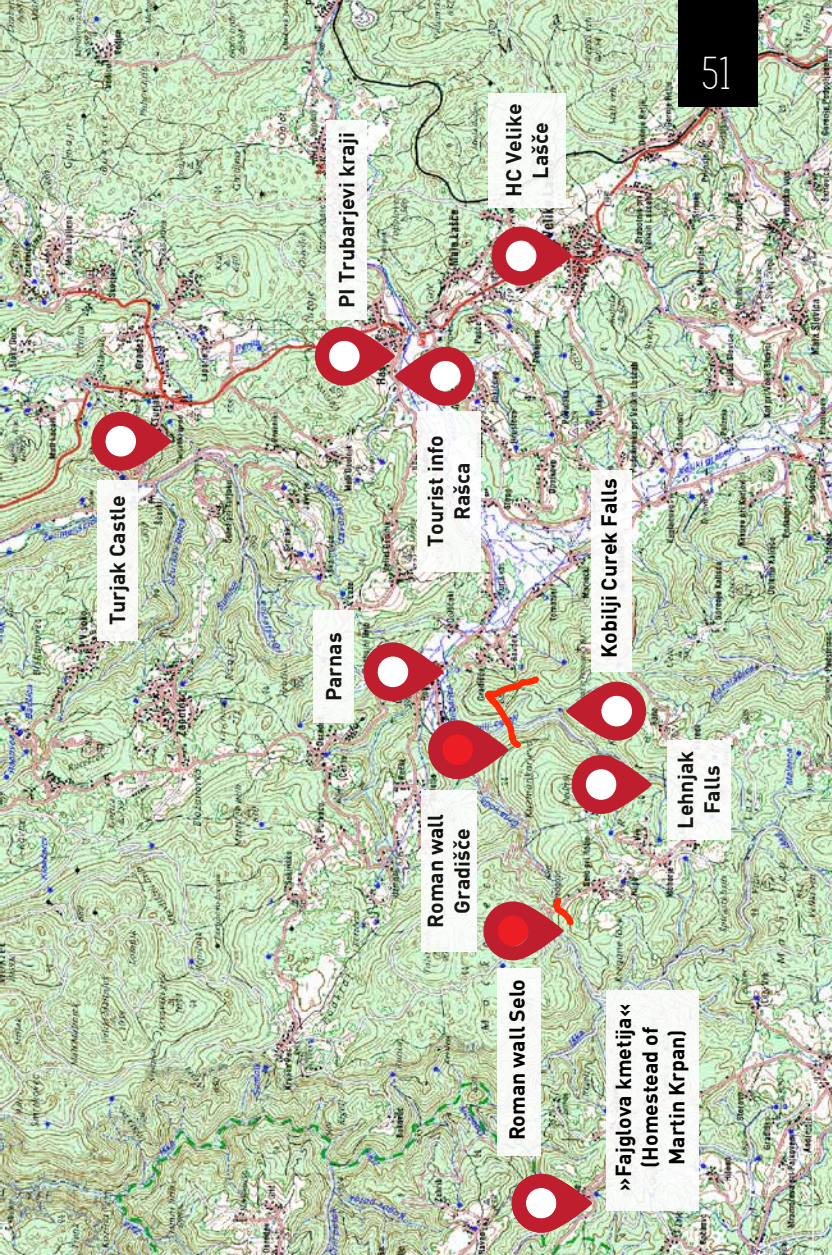
E-mail: [metka@zavod-parnas.org](mailto:metka@zavod-parnas.org)

Website: [www.zavod-parnas.org](http://www.zavod-parnas.org)



Bear area





1000 m

Trubar's homestead, saw by the stream of Rašica



Trubar's homestead, reception, Skedenj gallery and tavern







# 12. RAKITNA

## municipality of Brezovica, Slovenia



### DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Rakitniška planota plateau lies above the south part of Ljubljansko barje. Ljubljansko barje is geographical name of the area between Ljubljana, Vrhnika, Krim and Škofljica. The swampy plains are an infinitive mosaic of meadows, fields, ditches and hedgerows. The swamp was being drained more than once, the first time by the Romans. Ljubljansko barje is best known for so-called crannogs or »koliščarji«, inhabitants of the marshes and the surroundings in the Copper Age. In the area of Ljubljansko barje landscape park there are two groups of prehistoric crannogs, included in the UNESCO world heritage list.



Rakitna

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

The 600 m long defence line on Rakitna, climbing through natural stone walls, used to protect the ancient crossing from Ljubljansko barje towards Cerknica. It had two defence towers, built on opposite slopes, providing good overview of the whole part of the defensive wall. At the south part of the barrier below Avšnik we can see the walls that were dug out in the 1960s and the remains of a tower. The defensive wall can be followed mainly in the form of up to 2 m high mounds.



Remains of the wall, Rakitna

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 602 m



**Altitude:** min. 830 m; max. 893 m



### Description of the course of the wall

The barrier extends in the form of the letter S in the north-south direction, a couple of meters below the peaks of Avšnik and Novaška gora, and is blending into the rocky slopes. The landscape is not very steep, but before the barrier it descends sharply towards Rakitniška planota plateau.



### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. Road from Rakitna to Cerknica at the point where it crosses the Roman wall  
N45,878219°, E14,426793°



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

**Artificial lake in Rakitna** provides a spot to cool down during the hot summer months - swimming is allowed, and during winter it is popular for ice skating. During the months with moderate weather, fishing is possible. **Hotel Rakitna** by the lake offers rooms, apartments, fitness and wellness centre and restaurant. Cyclists can have a ride from Rakitna to the top of Krim, where they can enjoy in a beautiful view over Ljubljanska kotlina. Have a walk around the lake or walk the educational trail, uncovering the rich nature and the history of the area. You can learn more on educational trail at [www.rakitna.si/ucna-pot](http://www.rakitna.si/ucna-pot).



## INFORMATION

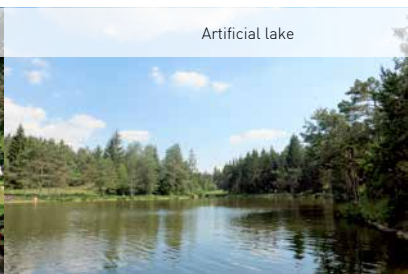
TOURISM SOCIETY OF RAKITNA  
(TURISTIČNO DRUŠTVO RAKITNA)  
Rakitna 66, 1352 Preserje  
Phone: +386 31 754 252  
Website: [www.rakitna.si](http://www.rakitna.si)



Bear area

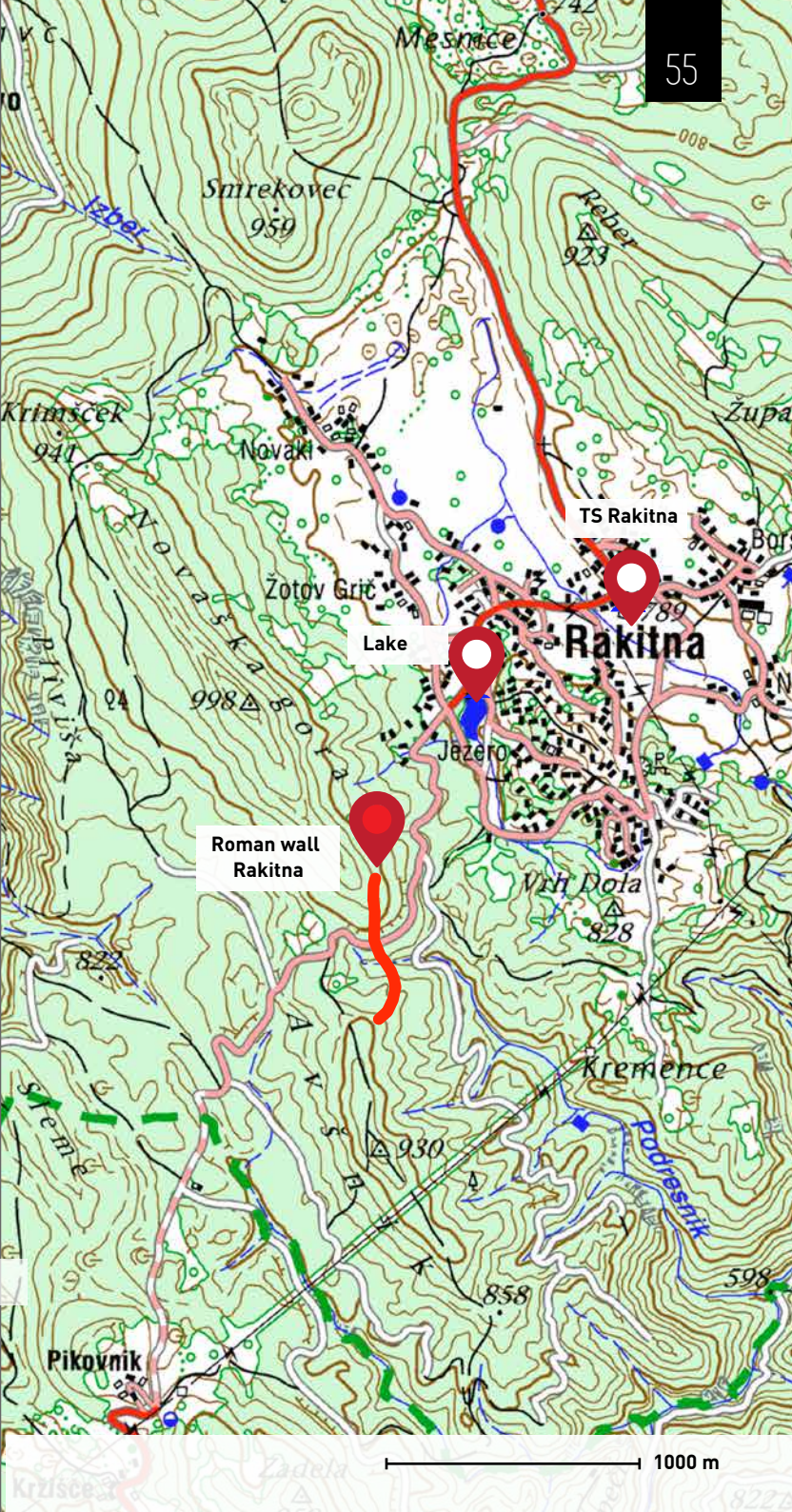


Rakitna hotel



Artificial lake





55

Smrekovec  
959

Reber  
923

Krivšček  
941

Novaki

TS Rakitna

Žotov Grič

Lake

Rakitna

Jezero

Roman wall  
Rakitna

Vrh Dola  
828

Kremence

Pikovnik

1000 m





# 13. POKOJIŠČE

municipality of Vrhnika, municipality  
of Borovnica, Slovenia



## DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Hamlet of Pokojišče lies above the southwest edge of Ljubljansko barje, above Borovnica. Ljubljansko barje is geographical name of the area between Ljubljana, Vrhnika, Krim and Škofljica. The swampy plains are an infinite mosaic of meadows, fields, ditches and hedgerows. The swamp was being drained more than once, the first time by the Romans. Ljubljansko barje is best known for so-called crannogs or »koliščarji«, inhabitants of the marshes and the surroundings in the Copper Age. A few years ago, Ljubljansko barje landscape park was founded. In the area of the Ljubljansko barje landscape park there are two groups of prehistoric crannogs, included in the UNESCO world heritage list.



View from the top of Pokojišče towards Ljubljansko barje

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

In antiquity, the defensive wall over Borovnica in Ljubljansko barje ran above the plain and provided a good overview from *Nauportus* to *Emona*. 675 m long wall was fortified with five towers. Pokojišče barrier is one of the least explored parts, although the remains are not difficult to notice - they are visible in the shape of a mound of soil and rocks, uncovering numerous architectural special features.



Remains of the wall, Pokojišče

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 675 m



**Altitude:** min. 700 m; max. 740 m



### **Description of the course of the wall**

The barrier begins in the south - just before the entrance to Pokojišče, and continues in the northwest direction, leading to the woods. Due to works in the forest, the landscape is very rugged, so the course of approximately 150 m of the wall is not clear.



### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. Wall with a tower near road from Borovnica to Pokojišče  
N45,893617°, E14,358339°



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

In Vrhnika you can visit **memorial house** of Slovenian writer Ivan Cankar. This is a small museum dedicated to the famous writer, and the items from his time represent the life of his family. Memorial house of Ivan Cankar, Na klanecu 1, 1360 Vrhnika, phone: +386 1 755 10 54, e-mail: [tic@zavod-cankar.si](mailto:tic@zavod-cankar.si).

In Bistra near Vrhnika, in a wonderful area surrounded by a park and a lake, **Technical Museum of Slovenia** is located. It hosts comprehensive collections and presentations of technical heritage. Technical Museum of Slovenia (Tehniški muzej Slovenije), Bistra 6, 1353 Bistra pri Vrhniki, phone: +386 1 750 66 70, +386 1 750 66 72, e-mail: [info@tms.si](mailto:info@tms.si), [www.tms.si](http://www.tms.si).

It is also recommended to visit natural features and archaeological sites at Ljubljansko barje. You can read more on Ljubljansko barje at [www.ljubljanskobarje.si](http://www.ljubljanskobarje.si).

Vrhnika and Borovnica also offer a variety of culinary selection and accommodation.

You can read about other interesting points in the surroundings under the location of Ajdovski zid.



## INFORMATION

TOURIST AND INFORMATION CENTER VRHNIKA  
(TIC VRHNIKA)

Tržaška cesta 9, 1360 Vrhnika

Telefon: +386 1 755 10 54

E-mail: [tic@zavod-cankar.si](mailto:tic@zavod-cankar.si)

Website: [www.visitvrhnika.si](http://www.visitvrhnika.si)



Bear area


Ljubljansko barje



Memorial house of Ivan Cankar







Technical Museum  
of Slovenia



Roman wall  
Pokojišče



# 14. AJDOVSKI ZID

municipality of Vrhnika, municipality  
of Logatec, Slovenia



## DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

At the west part of Ljubljansko barje, Vrhnika or the ancient *Nauportus* is located. West from Vrhnika, the landscape begins to rise and transforms into a hardly crossable area, known as the Postojna or Ljubljana Gate, connecting Central and West Slovenia.



Vrhnika

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

Ajdovski zid is so far the longest defensive wall in the *claustra Alpium Iuliarum* system, known to archaeologists. It is over 7700 m long with at least 35 defence towers. It was protecting *Nauportus*, where a fort in Gradišče and a smaller observation post at Turnovšče were also a part of the defence system. Archaeological remains of the walls and towers

are mainly visible as mounds. One of the towers and a part of the wall below Bukov vrh were conserved during the construction of the highway, and are therefore easier to notice. Between 2018 and 2019, a new hiking path was established along the Ajdovski zid with information boards, interactive tools and an archeostereoscope. The path starts above the bus station Cesarski vrh along the Tržaška road and then climbs up to Zaplana. At the beginning of the path, a section of the wall with a tower is displayed. Continuing on the path, you can see displayed a second tower on the Strmica. You can continue your walk to Zaplana, where you can find the thematic trail of the Rupnik Line, along which you will also encounter the remains of the Ajdovski zid.



Conserved remains of a tower below Bukov vrh, Ajdovski zid

Presented remains of the tower and the wall at Cesarski vrh, Ajdovski zid



Presented remains of a tower on the Strmica, Ajdovski zid



## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 7744 m - Ajdovski zid, 670 m [2.8 ha] - Fort of *Nauportus*, 46 m [0.01 ha] - Observation post of Turnovšče



**Altitude:** min. 460 m; max. 819 m



### Description of the course of the wall

Ajdovski zid runs above the west edge of Ljubljansko barje and dominantly encloses Vrhnika below it. It is confined within boundaries of hardy crossable hills of Rovtarsko and Polhograjsko hribovje in the north part, and Menišija and Logaška planota plateau in the south.



### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. North foot of Ljubljanski vrh near Verd train station  
N45,943891°, E14,302337°
2. Conserved tower near highway from Vrhnika to Logatec  
N45,928410°, E14,270663°
3. Tower near a state road from Vrhnika to Logatec  
N45,944292°, E14,246105°

3D view of the barrier wall with towers at the location Cesarski vrh above Vrhnika







## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

In the southwestern part of Vrhnika there is a large square tower or better **late Roman observation post at Turnovšče** (11.5 x 11.5 m). At the Vrhnika cemetery there are displayed the remains of a round corner tower which was part of the **late Roman pentagonal fort**. It stood on the route of the important Roman road *Aquileia* (Aquileia)–*Emona* (Ljubljana), in the area known today as Gradišče (or Hrib).

Numerous archeological finds of the Vrhnika area, which is famous for its outstanding vessels and exceptional prehistoric finds, are on display at the nearby **Ljubljana River Exhibition** (razstavišče Moja Ljubljana) in the Vrhnika Cultural Center (Kulturni center Vrhnika), which also includes a Claustra info point. Another info point Claustra is also in the **Tourist Information Center Vrhnika** (TIC Vrhnika).

Among other attractions of Vrhnika there are also the **springs of the Ljubljana river**, the **Ljubljana moors**, **Vrhnika caves**, the **Cankar Memorial House** and the **Kunstelj Villa**.

A special feature of the nearby Logatec is a row of lime-trees, which is one of the longest rows of trees along a road in Slovenia, as it is 1900 m long. It was planted around 1810 in the memory of the marriage of Napoleon Bonaparte and Marie Louise. Today, it is called **Napoleon tree line**.

In Logatec, you can also visit **military museum** that started from a private collection of Janez J. Švajncer. Different items, testifying about the war for Slovenia and its military history, are exhibited in the museum. A special feature in the museum is a large collection of military awards from all over the world. Opening hours of the museum: Sunday 10 a.m. – noon; group visits: as agreed beforehand, Tržaška cesta 81a, 1370 Logatec, phone: +386 1 754 27 90.

You can read about other interesting points in the surroundings under the locations of Pokojišče, Brst near Martinj Hrib and Lanišče.

The corner tower of the late Roman fort of Gradišče at the Vrhnika cemetery



Late Roman observation post at Turnovšče, Vrhnika





## INFORMATION

### LJUBLJANICA RIVER EXHIBITION -

Vrhnika Cultural Center  
Tržaška cesta 32, 1360 Vrhnika  
Tel.: +386 (0)41 354 203  
E-mail: [info@mojaljubljanica.si](mailto:info@mojaljubljanica.si)  
Website: [www.mojaljubljanica.si](http://www.mojaljubljanica.si)

### MUNICIPALITY OF LOGATEC

Tržaška cesta 50 A, 1370 Logatec  
Phone: +386 1 759 06 00  
E-mail: [obcina.logatec@logatec.si](mailto:obcina.logatec@logatec.si)  
Website: [www.logatec.si](http://www.logatec.si)

### TOURIST AND INFORMATION CENTER VRHNIKA (TIC VRHNIKA)

Tržaška cesta 9, 1360 Vrhnika  
Phone: +386 1 755 10 54  
E-mail: [tic@zavod-cankar.si](mailto:tic@zavod-cankar.si)  
Website: [www.visitvrhnika.si](http://www.visitvrhnika.si)



Bear area

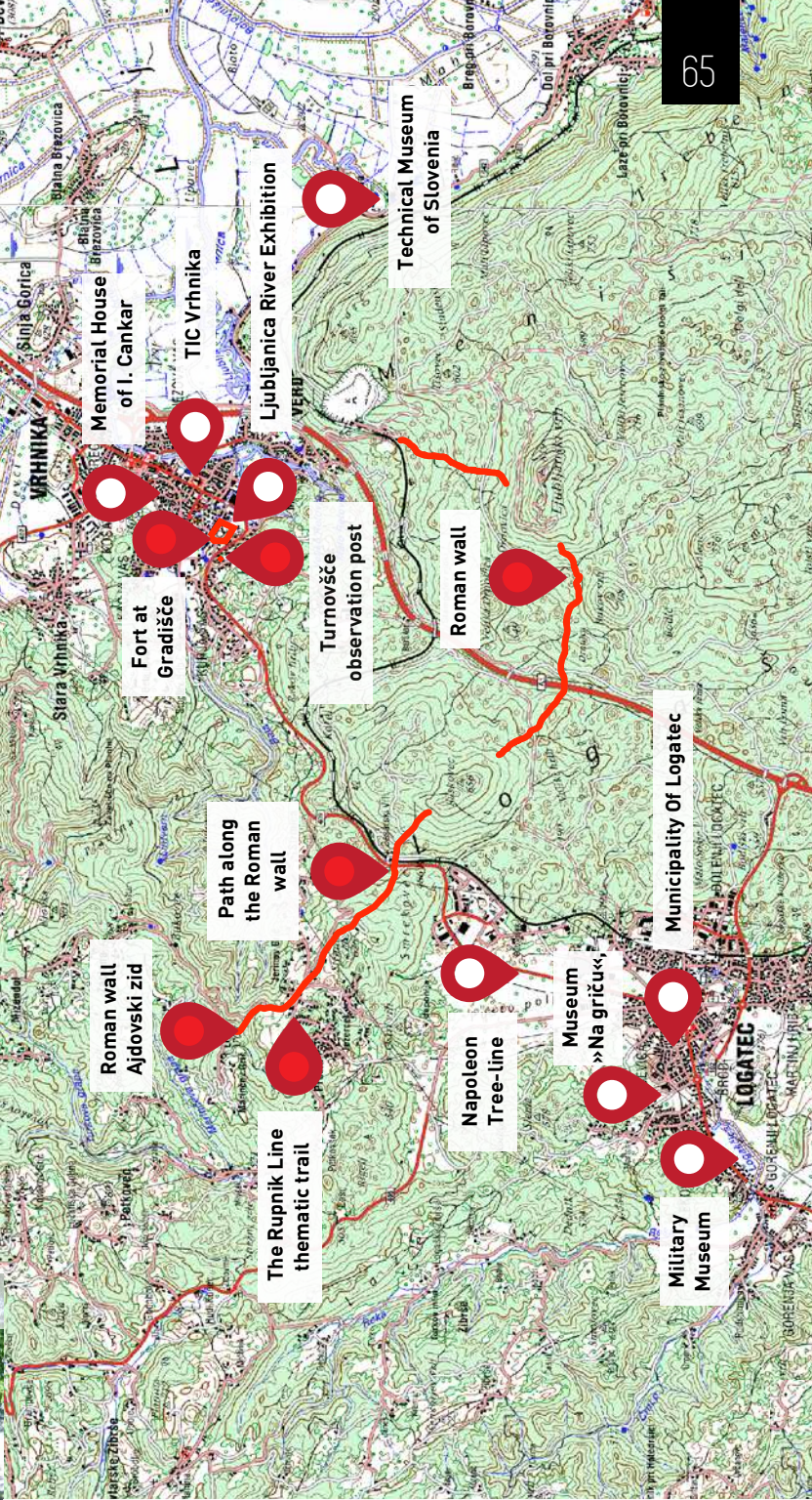


Military museum in Logatec



Napoleon tree-line









# 15. BRST NEAR MARTINJ HRIB

municipality of Logatec, Slovenia



## DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The wavy landscape of Logaška planota plateau, covered with forests, lies between Planinsko polje and Logatec - the ancient *Longaticum*. The karst landscape has scarce water sources, and the proportionate wavy plateau enables relatively easy passage in the east-west direction.



Logatec

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

Defence line with a fortlet and three towers is located near Logatec in the ancient connection *Nauportus-Ocra* (today Razdrto near Postojna)-*Tergeste* (today Trieste) or *Castra* (today Ajdovščina). With 660 m in length, it was closing down the narrow crossing of the Roman road on the hilly terrain of the Logaška planota plateau. Inside the fortlet, the archaeologists discovered a structure with hypocaust - Roman system of underfloor and wall heating. Therefore it seems the army might have been staying here

all year long, also during the cold winter months. On the spot, one can follow mainly the west and south wall of the fort, where the entrance to the fort is visible, and the rest of the wall is visible as a 2 m high mound, protruding from the landscape.



Remains of a fortlet, Brst near Martinj Hrib

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 660 m



**Altitude:** min. 510 m; max. 560 m



### Description of the course of the wall

The barrier extends in the southwest-northeast direction, forming a horseshoe shape inverted to the southeast in the middle. At the tip of this horseshoe, a small fortlet is incorporated into the defence system, which is partly destroyed in the northeast by a rock cutting (known as the »Skalna vrata«), through which a deserted forest path runs today. The south-western part of the barrier can be seen on the eastern slopes of Gradišče, where the first tower is situated.



### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. The old road from Logatec to Laze at the point where it crosses the Roman wall  
N45,894249°, E14,248784°



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

An interesting feature you can visit in Hotedršica, a village in Logatec municipality, are **earth houses** or »zemljanke«. The expression describes grain depositories, built of stone and buried under ground in the east part of the village. They are covered in soil and grass, while they are buried inside slopes, so they can not be flooded. They are still used for storage of various crops.

**The Museum of Old Objects »Na griču«** is arranged in Slovenian »toplar« hayrack, which belongs to a farm in Notranjska region from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The museum exhibits items from everyday life that were used in farm life. On three floors you can see tools for work in fields and crop processing, and also an example of a kitchen and a bedroom. Museum of Old Objects »Na griču«, Blekova vas 34, 1370 Logatec, phone: +386 1 754 11 02.

You can read about other interesting points in the surroundings under the locations of Ajdovski zid and Lanišče.



## INFORMATION

MUNICIPALITY OF LOGATEC

Tržaška cesta 50 A, 1370 Logatec

Phone: +386 1 759 06 00

E-mail: [obcina.logatec@logatec.si](mailto:obcina.logatec@logatec.si)

Website: [www.logatec.si](http://www.logatec.si)



Bear area





Municipality Of Logatec

Museum »Na Griču«

Military Museum

Roman wall Brst near  
Martinj Hrib

1000 m

Earth houses or »zemljanke«



Museum »Na griču«





# 16. LANIŠČE

municipality of Logatec, Slovenia



## DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The landscape starts to rise from Logaška kotlina towards the hills of Hrušica. This is karst, sparsely inhabited landscape with almost no water sources, limited by Postojnska kotlina in the south and Trnovski gozd in the north. The area includes characteristic gorges and caves, also glacier caves. The temperature inside is always very low, since the ice remains unmelted throughout the year.



## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

Defence line with a fortlet ran between Ajdovski zid above Vrh-nika and Hrušica. A fortlet with a square ground plan (20 x 20 m), which is conserved today, was a part of 370 m long defensive wall that was closing down the main Roman road. The defensive wall is visible in the form of an obvious mound, protruding from the landscape.



Attempted reconstruction of Lanišče fortlet

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 78.4 m (0.04 ha) - circumference of the fortlet, 370 m - length of the barrier



**Altitude:** min. 605 m; max 650 m



### Description of the course of the wall

The barrier was running from northwest towards southwest, and its central part was a smaller protruding and partly shifted square fortlet. Southeast of the fortlet, the defensive wall was aligned with the edge of a natural shelf above the road, almost in parallel with it; then it turned towards south and towards the slope of Srnjak (918 m), where it ends in a large pile of rocks.





### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. Fortlet of Lanišče  
N45,888254°, E14,163461°



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

In Logatec, you can still see one of the main milestones of the former Rapallo border. Other milestones are also visible in the area of Hotedršica, where the **Rapallo border** used to extend. The Treaty of Rapallo, signed 12<sup>th</sup> November 1920 in Rapallo by the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and the Kingdom of Italy, defined the border between the countries. The border line between Italy and Slovenian regions was running from Mangart over Triglav, Blegoš, Hotedršica, Planina near Rakek and Snežnik all the way to Rijeka. There are large forests in the surroundings of Hotedršica and Logatec, ensuring good living conditions for forest animals (deer, bear, wild boar, lynx, wild cat and fox). Hunting tourism is widespread, or you can try photo hunting, which is increasingly replacing classical hunting.

Logatec and its surroundings are a paradise for speleologists, as it has around 450 caves registered. Information and arrangements for **cave visits** are available at: [jdl@jdl.si](mailto:jdl@jdl.si).

You can read about other interesting points in the surroundings under the locations of Ajdovski zid and Brst near Martinj Hrib.



## INFORMATION

MUNICIPALITY OF LOGATEC

Tržaška cesta 50 A, 1370 Logatec

Phone: +386 1 759 06 00

E-mail: [obcina.logatec@logatec.si](mailto:obcina.logatec@logatec.si)

Website: [www.logatec.si](http://www.logatec.si)



Bear area





# 17. HRUŠICA

## *(Ad Pirum)*

municipality of Postojna, municipality  
of Ajdovščina, Slovenia



### DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

This is karst, sparsely inhabited landscape with almost no water sources, limited by Postojnska kotlina in the south and Trnovski gozd in the north. The area includes characteristic gorges and caves, also glacier caves. The temperature inside is always very low, since the ice remains unmelted throughout the year.





Hrušica

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

The last defence line on the highest point of the ancient main road *Emona-Castra* is *Ad Pirum* fort with defensive walls running for hundreds of meters north and south of the fort. In total, they measure almost 2 km in length, and the circumference of the fort is more than 600 m. Due to its location, the *Ad Pirum* fort was one of the most important points in the *claustra Alpium Iuliarum* defence system, and, next to *Tarsatica*, it is also the richest archaeological site. The remains of the fort's walls have been conserved and the inside was almost completely explored. You can visit archaeological park or exhibition on the topic of *Ad Pirum* fort, you can walk the 4 km long archaeological route or enjoy in a restaurant.

Conserved remains of *Ad Pirum* fort, Hrušica

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 617 m [1.6 ha] - *Ad Pirum* fort, 744 m - North defensive wall, 1035 m - Southeast defensive wall, 46 m - Southwest defensive wall, 77 m - Polšakovo kopišče barrier



**Altitude:** min. 750 m; max. 918 m



### Description of the course of the wall

*Ad Pirum* fort is located approximately half way between Logatec and Ajdovščina, by the local Kalce to Col road. It stood at the highest point of the course of the Roman

*Emona-Aquileia* road in the late Roman period. The defensive walls ran from the fort towards the north and the south. The surrounding terrain is hilly and densely forested, with few sources of water, thus forming a natural obstacle that is difficult to cross.



#### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. *Ad Pirum* fort  
N45,863678°, E14,112010°
2. Macadam road towards Polšakovo kopišče at the point where it crosses the Roman wall  
N45,859370°, E14,117759°



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

When visiting this area, a stop in the **Postojna Cave** is almost a must, the cave being one of the most grandiose and the most beautiful natural monuments of the Karst region. You will be overwhelmed by the network of tunnels and halls, created by nature, and by the variety of the karst underground phenomena. Postojna Cave is a home of olm or *Proteus anguinus*, a typical cave animal without dark skin pigment and eyes. Postojna Cave, information and booking: phone: +386 5 700 01 00, e-mail: [info@postojnska-jama.eu](mailto:info@postojnska-jama.eu), website: [www.postojnska-jama.eu](http://www.postojnska-jama.eu).

**Predjama Castle** is located only 9 km from Postojna Cave, located in Predjama. It is built-in to a 123 m tall rocky wall – it excites the curiosity of the visitors and brings out a mysterious atmosphere of the ancient times only by its image. Predjama Castle, information and bookings: phone: +386 5 700 01 00, e-mail: [info@postojnska-jama.eu](mailto:info@postojnska-jama.eu), website: [www.postojnska-jama.eu/si/drugi-ogledi/predjam-ski-grad](http://www.postojnska-jama.eu/si/drugi-ogledi/predjam-ski-grad).

You can read about other interesting points in the surroundings under the location of Ajdovščina (*Castra*).



## INFORMACIJE

TIC - TOURISM SOCIETY OF POSTOJNA (TIC – TURISTIČNO DRUŠTVO POSTOJNA)

Jamska cesta 9, 6230 Postojna

Phone: +386 5 720 16 10

E-mail: [info@tdpostojna.si](mailto:info@tdpostojna.si)

Website: [www.tdpostojna.si](http://www.tdpostojna.si)

TIC AJDOVŠČINA

Cesta IV. Prekomorske 61 a, 5270 Ajdovščina

Phone: +386 5 365 91 40

E-mail: [tic.ajdovscina@siol.net](mailto:tic.ajdovscina@siol.net)

Website: [www.tic-ajdovscina.si](http://www.tic-ajdovscina.si)



Bear  
area

## Roman wall Hrušica (Ad Pirum)

## Predjama Castle

## Postojna Cave

## TIC Postojna

## POSTOJNA KREMNICA

Postojna Cave

Predjama Castle





# 18. AJDOVŠČINA

## (Castra)

municipality of Ajdovščina, Slovenia



### DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The fertile valley of Vipava, Vipavska dolina, is situated in the west of Slovenia, close to the passage to Italy and the region of Friuli Venezia Giulia. North of the valley, Nanos and Hrušica plateau and the edge of Trnovski gozd are situated, while in south it is separated from Krast region by the Vipava hills. The climate in the valley is sub Mediterranean. Strong »burja« wind, blowing from the Trnovska planota plateau, is very common. This wind also played an important role in 394 during the Battle of Frigidus between Roman Emperor Theodosius and the Western Ruler Eugenius. The largest town in Vipavska dolina is Ajdovščina, the ancient *Castra*, connected to the *claustra Alpium Iuliarum* defence system.



Vipavska dolina

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

In the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, the ancient town of *Castra* was surrounded by a strong wall, including 14 towers. After descending from the impassable forests around Hrušica, *Castra* was the first town where the terrain opened up towards the plain of the Northeast Italy. Due to its proximity, the archaeologists assume the town provided good logistical support to the defence lines in Hrušica and can therefore be classified as a part of *claustra Alpium Iuliarum* system. The defensive walls with towers were explored during 1989-1991. At that time, it was conserved and is very well seen today, and so are some reconstructed towers (towers 12 and 13, for example). Tower 8 is reconstructed in its medieval form.



Tower, reconstructed in its medieval form, Ajdovščina

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 618 m (2,7 ha)



**Altitude:** 105 m



### Description of the course of the wall

We can include the fort of *Castra* into the *claustra Alpium Iuliarum* system because of its excellent location in Vipavska dolina, which begins in the plain of the river Po and continues to the east, all the way to the natural pass of Razdrto below Nanos. *Castra* was situated approximately in the mid

dle of Vipavska dolina, before the terrain starts to ascend to the passes in the Alps. This fort and the fort of *Nauportus* were the most eastern and the most western point of the so-called ancient Italo-Illirian Gate, today called the Postojna Gate or the Ljubljana Gate.



#### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. Tower by the street of Lokarjev drevored  
N45,887896°, E14,904467°



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

The **Museum of Ajdovščina** hosts an archaeological exhibition and a collection of fossils, owned by Stanislav Bačar. The Museum of Ajdovščina, Prešernova 24, 5270 Ajdovščina, opening hours: Saturday, Sunday and holidays: from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. or according to a prior arrangement. If you want an expert tour of the museum, please call TIC Ajdovščina +386 5 365 91 40. Website: [www.goriskimuzej.si](http://www.goriskimuzej.si). In Ajdovščina, you can also visit the **Pilon gallery**, exhibiting the legacy of a painter and a photographer Veno Pilon. The Pilon Gallery, Prešernova 3, phone: +386 5 368 91 77, e-mail: [pilonova.galerija@siol.net](mailto:pilonova.galerija@siol.net), website: [www.venopilon.com](http://www.venopilon.com). Important natural features are springs of Vipava and Hubelj river, and also others karst phenomena.



## INFORMACIJE

TIC AJDOVŠČINA

Cesta IV. Prekomorske 61 a, 5270 Ajdovščina

Phone: +386 5 365 91 40

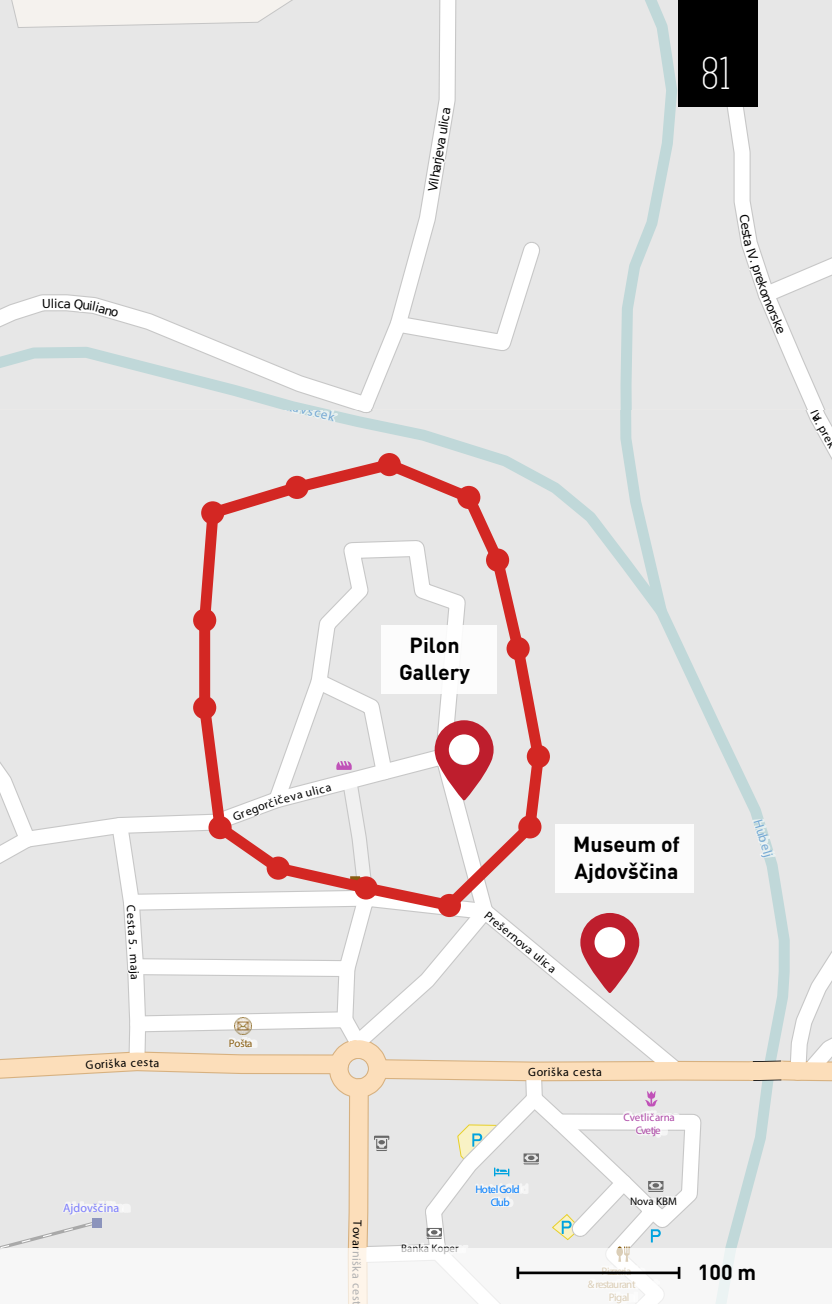
E-mail: [tic.ajdovscina@siol.net](mailto:tic.ajdovscina@siol.net)

Website: [www.tic-ajdovscina.si](http://www.tic-ajdovscina.si)



Bear area

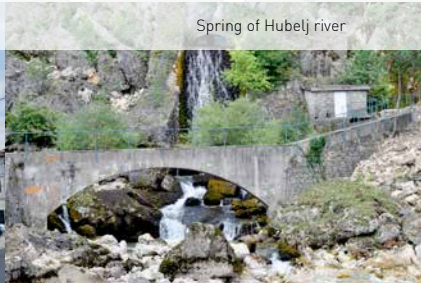




The Pilon Gallery



Spring of Hubelj river



# 19. VRATA

municipality of Cerkno, Slovenia



## DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

On the ridge called Vrata (the "Gate"), archaeologists recently confirmed a new section of the *claustra Alpium Iuliarum* barrier system. On the basis of a lidar record, field research and archival documents, the modest remains of the once mighty barrier wall were documented in the area between Planina near Cerkno and Podpleče in the Cerkno Hills (Cerkljansko hribovje).

The barriers of the *claustra Alpium Iuliarum* system are evenly strung from Rijeka in Croatia towards the north to the most fortified part between Vrhnika and Ajdovščina. From here to the northernmost known barrier at Zarakovec in the Bača Ravine (Baška grapa), there was an empty area at the space of the Cerkno Hills. In the archive sources, a longer Roman wall is mentioned in this area, which guarded the passage from the Poljane Valley (Poljanska dolina) to Cerkno, on the ridge called Vrata (the "Gate"). The toponyms at the ridge ("Vrata" the ("Gate"), "Na vratih" ("At the Gate") and "Za zidom" ("Beyond the Wall")), which most likely indicate a passage, a pass, perhaps even a wall or the gate in the wall, are also significant.



The course of the Roman wall, Vrata

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

The Vrata barrier is located at the pass between the Poljane Valley and Cerklno, the strategic importance of which is also proven by numerous remains of military facilities from other periods. In the antiquity, there was a road in this area connecting the area of Škofja Loka with Posočje. Although the main connection with Italy led through Ljubljana (*Emona*) and Ajdovščina (*Castra*) to Aquileia, it was dangerous in the turbulent times of the Late Roman period and the traffic on it was reduced. The side routes became more important. One of them led through the Cerklno Hills, precisely across the Vrata pass, which is why the Romans established control there by means of a wall. The remains of the wall are today very modest. We can follow them for about 167 metres as an earthen, about 1 metre wide embankment.

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the wall:** 167 m



**Altitude:** 831 m



### Description of the course of the wall

The main part of the wall was destroyed already during the time between the two wars. In the framework of the construction of the Alpine Wall, the Italian army set up a heavy armament there in order to consolidate the border between Italy and the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The wall was also destroyed in the 1990s due to major agricultural interventions. The entire bar-



rier was at least 740 metres long, but today only a 167 metres long segment remains. It can be hardly observed on the forest ground as an earthen, about 1 metre wide embankment, from which stones protrude in some areas.



#### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. N46,123190o, E14,020563o



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

**The Divje Babe archaeological site** is located in the steep slopes above the Idrijca valley. Precious remains of ice-age humans (stone tools) and many bones of cave bears were found in this karstic cave. The most important find is the 55,000-year-old so-called Neanderthal flute, known as the oldest instrument ever found in the world, which is exposed at the National Museum of Slovenia in Ljubljana.

**The Franja Partisan Hospital** is hidden in the picturesque Pasice valley and is one of the rare reconstructed and preserved hospitals from those that were active in Slovenia during WWII. It has been included into the UNSECO World Heritage Tentative List and bears the European Heritage Label.



## INFORMATION

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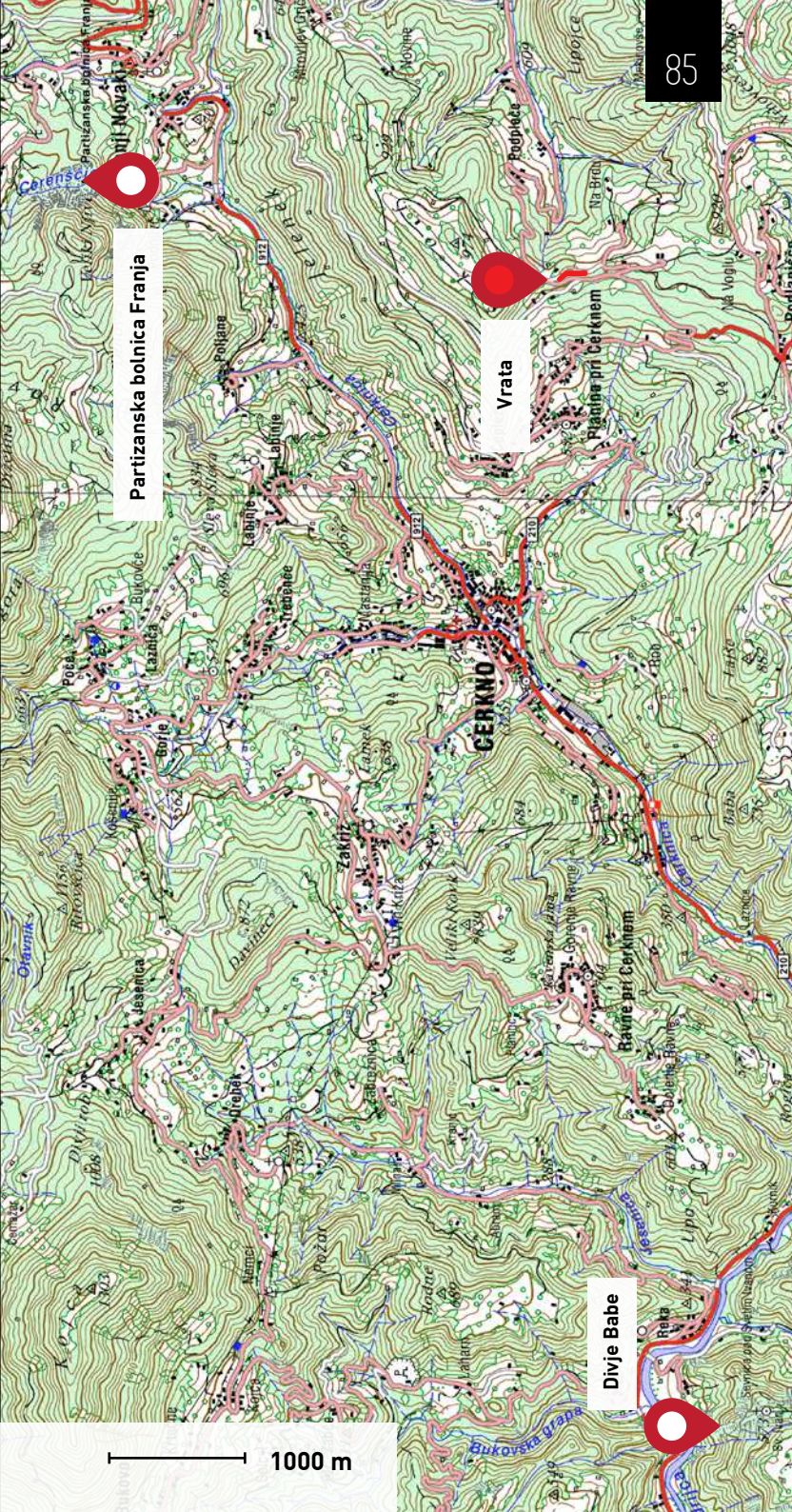
Website: [visitcerkno.si/en](http://visitcerkno.si/en)

Franja Partisan Hospital



Divje Babe Cave





Partizanska bolnica Franja

Vrata

Divje Babe

1000 m





## 20. ZARAKOVEC

municipality of Tolmin, Slovenia



### DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Zarakovec village is situated in a narrow valley of Bače river, bordering the alpine and the subalpine region. North of Zarakovec, the rocky walls of the south edge of the Julian Alps rise, while Šentviška planota plateau, a part of subalpine region, lies in the south. The landscape is difficult to cross and densely forested, but it is nevertheless connected to the region of Tolmin: to Bohinj over the mountain pass Črna Prst and the region of Kranj over the hills of Škofja Loka.





Koritnica

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

The northernmost defensive wall documented to date lies near the village of Zarakovec, under the steep slopes of the Julian Alps. It was protecting the north road to Italy, leading over the hills of Škofja Loka and the Soča river to North Italy. Since the 650 m long defensive wall is quite remote from the other lines of the defence system, the experts believe that this area was covered with even more defence lines in the late Roman Time, but they were not discovered yet. The remains of the wall are not very well seen; a mound, covered with forest, is visible.



Zarakovec

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION



**The length of the Roman wall:** 650 m



**Altitude:** min. 300 m; max. 350 m



### Description of the course of the wall

The Zarakovec barrier is located at a natural border between the alpine and the subalpine region, between the Šentviška planota plateau and Cerkljansko hribovje in the south and the Alps in the north. It was closing Baška grapa near Zarakovec in the southwest-northeast direction and it fit into the natural protection of the steep slopes.



### Access points – coordinates (WGS84)

1. Road from Koritnica to Podbrdo at the point where it crosses the Roman wall  
N45,162831°, E14,883913°



## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Tolmin is a very interesting destination, either for a longer break or a short trip. It is the largest settlement in the valley of Soča and also its administrative centre. The visitors can enjoy various sports activities, relax in beautiful natural surroundings or visit the **Museum of Tolmin**, explaining the history of the whole Posočje region. Museum of Tolmin, Mestni trg 4, 5220 Tolmin, phone: +386 5 381 13 60, website: [www.tol-muzej.si](http://www.tol-muzej.si).

Adventure lovers will enjoy rafting of kayaking down the **Soča river**. With its emerald colour, the river will charm everyone – either they decide for an adventurous sports experience or just a short stop by the river.

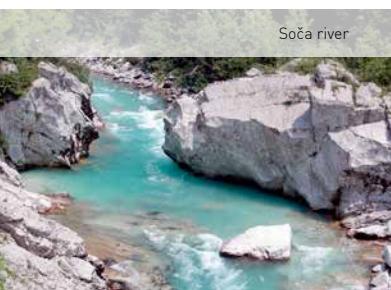


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Bear area

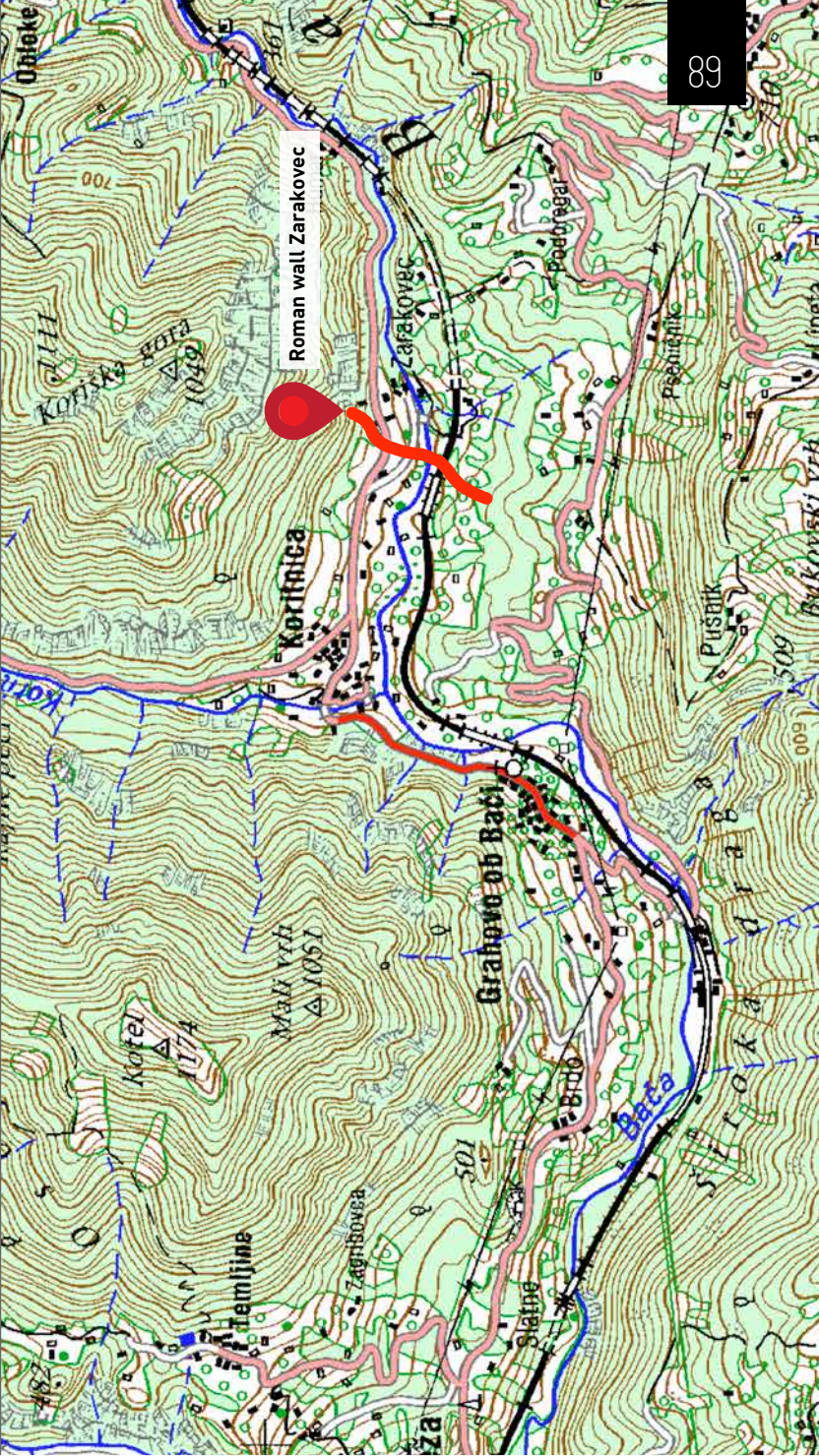


Soča river



Museum of Tolmin





Roman wall Zarakovec



# ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

The mysterious remains of the Roman walls excited the imagination of polyhistorians for centuries. Alfons Müllner, Walter Schmid, Anton von Premmerstein, Simon Rutar, Alberto Puschi, and others started to scientifically explore the remains of the defence system in the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The archaeological research was most intense from the 1950s to the 1970s. At that time, the archaeological excavations were most widespread also in the international level, and for the first time all the material in relation to *claustra Alpium Iuliarum* was gathered systematically. Jaroslav Šašel, Peter Petru, France Leben, Mehtilda Urleb, Thilo Ulbert are just a few of the scientists that largely contributed to the knowledge about the defence system. After this period, the research mostly stopped, and the scientists only began further explorations in the last couple of years.

While the course of the defence system on the terrain is quite well known, minor archaeological findings at the excavation sites are very rare. With the exception of a few locations, where the findings are more numerous, the majority of the sites have no findings at all. The stone remains of the barriers only explain little on their creation, development, function and abandonment. The archaeological findings usually tell us only about life in a fortlet or a fort. The exception are only coin finds, which can be dated and were found in such a context that it is possible to associate them with the defence walls, but such finds are very rare.

Today, the archaeologists use the most modern methodology for their work, such as geophysical measurements, laser surface scanning (so-called lidar) and analysis with geographical information system (GIS) programs. With the simultaneous use of classical methods, such as airplane shots of the landscape, archaeological topographical checking with GPS tracking, communication with the locals and also rare archaeological finds, the archaeologist discovered numerous new features in the last years, for example Novi Pot barrier, that was, according to expert literature, completely unknown before. They discovered almost 800 m long remains of the Jelenje barrier that were also unknown before. During a very detailed examination of the settlement of Jelenje and its surroundings,

at some points they also confirmed the existence of the wall that was believed to be completely ruined. Due to this finds, we now definitely know that the wall extended all the way to the Rječina canyon in the west. Between 2018 and 2019, new archaeological research was conducted by the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia (Zavod za varstvo kulturne dediščine Slovenije) at Benete, Gradišče near Rob and along the Ajdovski zid, which made it possible to display individual sections of the barrier walls. Through the research they gathered new information on the architectural features of the walls. The mosaic is slowly coming together. On the basis of all these findings, the archaeologists were able to prepare digital attempts of reconstruction: the *Ad Pirum* fort, Lanišče fortlet and the principia in Rijeka were followed by the barriers at Pokojišče, Novi Pot and Jelenje and in recent years also by the Ajdovski zid and the barrier walls at Gradišče near Rob and Benete. The archaeologists, enriched with new information, will be able to tell a (new) story about the *claustra Alpium Iuliarum* defence system.

After the archaeological research, that took place in the area of the Croatian part of the *claustra* system in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and was conducted under the supervision of Walter Schmid, Italo Gariboldi and Radmila Matječić, which exposed and documented a large part of the archaeologically recognisable structures of the *claustra Alpium Iuliarum* in the area of the republic of Croatia, a new wave of research was conducted in the 1990s and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These explorations further clarified the perception of the functioning of the system and the material culture in relation to everyday life near the wall. The research was performed by different institutions, such as the Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka (Pomorski i povijesni muzej Hrvatskog primorja Rijeka), directed by Ranko Starac, the Croatian Conservation Institute (Hrvatski restauratorski zavod), directed by Josip Višnjić, the Institute of Archaeology (Institut za arheologiju), directed by Goranka Lipovac Vrkljan, various societies, such as the Society for the History of Klana (Društvo za povjesnicu Klane), and individuals, such as Mario Zaccaria, an archaeologist, that conducted system recognition as a part of his thesis.

For each of the documented parts of the system in the area of the Republic of Croatia, archaeological recognition was conducted again in the mentioned period, and they were documented also with a GPS device. In some parts, also archaeological probing was conducted, for example at the part of the walls near Prezid in 2012.

The most significant new findings are those related to the expansion of the perception of the system as a relatively simple defence area that included the ancient *Tarsatica* and the barriers, extending almost straightforward to the north. The mentioned research proved the existence of the belonging fortlets, especially the ones at Pasjak and Solin, and a control tower at Klana, which formed a unique whole together with the main defensive line.

Very important contribution was given through the research that discovered archaeological finds inside *Tarsatica*, the central defensive point of the southern part of the *claustra* system, from the time when the system was still functioning, especially as the military headquarters of the south sector of the *claustra* system - the pricipia of *Tarsatica*.

When reviewing all the mentioned structures of the system inside a wider picture of the area and geographically strategic circumstances of the time when it was used, it is completely clear that the main goal of this southern part of the defence system was preventing invasions from the east or the region of Dalmatia towards the North Italy. For defence, they chose an area that enabled the use of natural barriers and a possibility of continuous provision of military units and necessities through the port of *Tarsatica*, situated next to the military headquarters of this part of the system. It guarded the crossings of roads that enabled passage through *Tarsatica* towards the town of *Tergerste* and over the valley of Mlaka towards Ilirska Bistrica, where paths towards the main road, connecting the ancient *Emona* and *Aquilea*, continued.

The builders used all natural attributes of the area and built defensive structures into Rječina canyon, which therefore represented a continuous defensive line of 18 km.

Before this line, another part of the walls was built above Grobničko polje to further prevent the passage towards the Mlaka valley. The whole defensive line was also controlled by a few fortlets, which controlled the access to the *claustra* system (Solín) itself and prevented further invasions of hostile troops, which could break through the defensive line (Pasjak).

When we get to the inaccessible areas of Gorski kotar, the defence structures are gone and it seems that the builders of the *claustra* system were not concerned with defence of this area as it was difficult to cross anyway. The purpose of this system was obviously preventing invasions of larger military groups that had to move by road, while smaller pathways were not especially important.

The last part of the defence system in Prezid protected the only natural connection leading from Gorski kotar towards west or towards *Emona*. There is still no answer to the question which pathways were enabling passage from the east to Prezid, but once these pathways will be discovered, also new, so far unknown parts of the system might be discovered.

Jure Kusetič and Josip Višnjić





Gold coin of Valentinian III, forged between 430 and 455



Builder's trowel and its imprint in the mortar of the wall of Lanišče fortlet



Bronze stylized bull skull (*bucranium*) from the principia in *Tarsatica*



Reconstruction of principia, Rijeka



A part of a silver or tin-plated breast-plate of a soldier's parade uniform from the surroundings of *Ad Pirum* fort, the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century



Bronze strap bonds, second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, *Ad Pirum* fort



Bronze fibula from the principia in *Tarsatica*, from the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century



## STONE BARRIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE – CLAUSTRA PROJECT

The guide was created in the frame of the Stone barriers of the Roman Empire – CLAUSTRA project.

### Sources of financing:

The Stone Barriers of the Roman Empire project was co-financed in the frame of Slovenia-Croatia Operational Program 2007-2013 from the European Regional Development Fund and national and own funds.

**Duration of the project:** 1 January 2014 - 17 September 2015

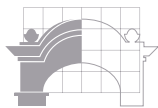
### About the project:

The Stone Barriers of the Roman Empire – CLAUSTRA project was focused on the *Claustra Alpium Iuliarum* defence system, which might have been the largest construction project in the area of today's Slovenia and Croatia during the late Roman time. Because of the poor knowledge on the cultural heritage, the remains of the *claustra Alpium Iuliarum* system are being ruined through forestry, agriculture and urbanisation. The purpose of the project was to present important joint cultural heritage to general public through various activities (website, publication, documentary, exhibition, workshops, etc.), to protect it, make it closer and more accessible.

### Project partners:

- Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia (ZVKDS – Zavod za varstvo kulturne dediščine Slovenije) – [www.zvkds.si](http://www.zvkds.si)
- Croatian Conservation Institute (HRZ – Hrvatski restauratorski zavod) – [www.h-r-z.hr](http://www.h-r-z.hr)
- National Museum of Slovenia (NMS – Narodni muzej Slovenije) – [www.nms.si](http://www.nms.si)
- ŽMERGO – [zmergo.hr](http://zmergo.hr)
- Primorje-Gorski Kotar County (PGŽ – Primorsko-goranska županija) – [www.pgz.hr](http://www.pgz.hr)

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## CROSS-BORDER DESTINATION OF CULTURAL AND GREEN TOURISM CLAUSTRA ALPIUM IULIARUM – CLAUSTRA+ PROJECT

The guide was extended and supplemented in the frame of the Cross-border destination of cultural and green tourism Claustra Alpium Iuliarum – CLAUSTRA+ project.

### Sources of financing:

The Cross-border destination of cultural and green tourism Claustra Alpium Iuliarum project is co-financed in the frame of the INTER-REG V-A Slovenia-Croatia 2014–2020 Programme from the European Regional Development Fund (85%) and own funds.

**Duration of the project:** 1 August 2017 – 31 January 2020

### About the project:

The project provides a set of activities for the development of the tourism product CLAUSTRA. It includes the preparation of guidelines for its development, promotion plan, design of the cultural-touristic route and related itineraries, systematic promotion of the product (including a mobile app) as well as the development and implementation of a varied program for visitors (cross-border public events, experiential tours). In order to develop an integral product and for a stable management of the route it was set up the CLAUSTRA consortium, bringing together all relevant stakeholders and local economic operators. The second set of activities is aimed to improve the attractiveness of the destination CLAUSTRA. This is achieved through active conservation and enriched presentation of the archaeological remains and the implementation of measures to enhance the physical and informational accessibility, including the creation of four didactic info points. The main goal of the project is to establish the cross-border destination of cultural and green tourism Claustra Alpium Iuliarum.

### Project partners:

- Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia (ZVKDS – Zavod za varstvo kulturne dediščine Slovenije – lead partner) – [www.zvkds.si](http://www.zvkds.si)
- Ivan Cankar Institute of Culture, Sports and Tourism Vrhnika (ZIC – Zavod Ivana Cankarja za kulturo, šport in turizem Vrhnika) – [www.zavod-cankar.si](http://www.zavod-cankar.si)
- National Museum of Slovenia (NMS – Narodni muzej Slovenije) – [www.nms.si](http://www.nms.si)
- Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (ZRSVN – Zavod Republike Slovenije za varstvo narave) – [www.zrsvn-varstvonarave.si](http://www.zrsvn-varstvonarave.si)
- Croatian Conservation Institute (HRZ – Hrvatski restauratorski zavod) – [www.h-r-z.hr](http://www.h-r-z.hr)

- Primorje-Gorski Kotar County (PGŽ – Primorsko-goranska županija) – [www.pgz.hr](http://www.pgz.hr)
- Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral (PPMHP – Pomorski i povijesni muzej Hrvatskog primorja Rijeka) – [www.ppmhp.hr](http://www.ppmhp.hr)
- Natural History Museum Rijeka (PMR – Prirodoslovni muzej Rijeka) – [www.prirodoslovni.com](http://www.prirodoslovni.com)
- Kvarner Region Tourism Board (TZK – Turistička zajednica Kvarnera) – [www.kvarner.hr/turizam](http://www.kvarner.hr/turizam)



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## WEBPAGE AND OTHER USEFUL LINKS

- Webpage and mobile app: [www.claustra.org](http://www.claustra.org)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ClaustraPlus](https://www.facebook.com/ClaustraPlus)
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ClaustraPlus](https://www.twitter.com/ClaustraPlus)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/claustra\\_plus/?hl=hr](https://www.instagram.com/claustra_plus/?hl=hr)
- Youtube: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCsjHdMpUyLFIMcom-guCrQ6A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsjHdMpUyLFIMcom-guCrQ6A)
- Pinterest: [www.pinterest.com/alpiumiuliarum/](https://www.pinterest.com/alpiumiuliarum/)

- [Foursquare with CAI locations](#)



- [Google maps with CAI locations](#)



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