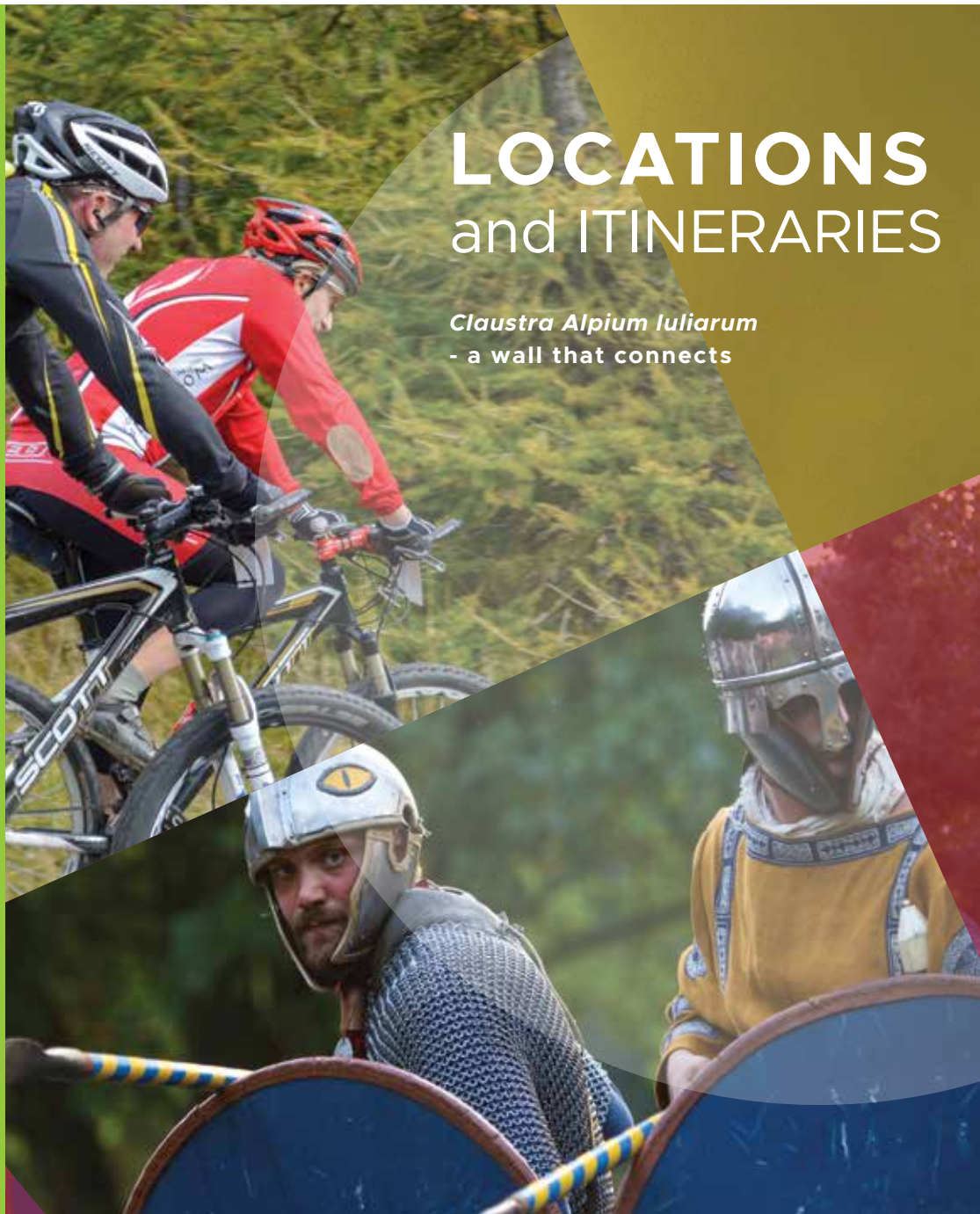


# LOCATIONS and ITINERARIES

*Claustra Alpium Iuliarum*  
- a wall that connects





# CAI - CLAUSTRA ALPIUM IULIARUM

## A wealth of history and nature

The Roman Empire's defence systems were called *limites* and protected its outer borders. At a time when the power of the Roman Empire was beginning to decline and distant borders were becoming increasingly difficult to defend, in the area from the Julian Alps in Slovenia to the town of *Tarsatica* in the Kvarner Bay in Croatia, a series of walls and towers were erected, guarding ancient roads, and at the same time preventing the invasion of enemies that threatened the Empire. The walls and towers were built as additions to natural obstacles such as mountains, rocks or canyons. Through forests and thick vegetation, between settlements and modern roads, one can still find a total of 30 kilometres of visible walls with towers, as well as traces of forts and fortlets.

This is a short guide to the cultural-tourist route, consisting of 20 locations with traces of the late Roman defence system, the *Claustra Alpium Iuliarum*. It was designed as part of the *Claustra+* project, which was in turn part of the development of a tourism product for cultural heritage that connects Croatia and Slovenia, history and nature, recreation and entertainment. It provides you with location descriptions with information on the accessibility and difficulty of trails that visitors need to cross.

The area along which this cultural-tourist route extends is known for its extraordinary diversity of landscapes and well-developed tourist offering with a centuries-old tradition. The possibilities for creating trips along the cultural route are endless and we suggest five examples of one-day and two-day trips that include discovering history and nature, enjoying local cuisine and visiting museums and other attractions. Trips along the route are easy, whether by organized group travel or individual travel. Most of the locations are easily accessible and marked, and offer opportunities for walking, cycling, horseback riding, running, hiking... All this is surrounded by preserved nature and diverse flora and fauna. The ancient *Tarsatica* was located on the site of present-day Rijeka, the 2020 European Capital of Culture, which offers exceptional stories and cultural heritage. Let Rijeka be the starting point of your path of discovery of the history of Kvarner and Slovenia.





## LOCATIONS



### 20 ZARAKOVEC

45°09'46.2"N 14°53'02.1"E

Under the slopes of the Julian Alps, visitors can find traces of solid walls embedded in mountains. It is assumed that there are also unknown, undiscovered traces here that could tell us much more about this ancient civilization. The defence wall near Zarakovec also controlled the old road to Italy, which ran across the Škofjeloške planine (Škofja Loka Hills) and the Soča River.

**Location access point:** 3.2 km from the Grahovo railway station  
**Hiking trail difficulty level:** moderate



### 19 VRATA

46°07'23.5"N 14°01'14.0"E

The most recent discovery of archaeological research is located on the Vrata Ridge. Traces of a powerful defensive wall that has been poorly preserved in particular areas have recently been confirmed. The traces are only slightly visible and very modest, hidden by traces of later agricultural and traffic development in the area.

**Location access point:** 1.7 km from the Kladje pri Cerknem bus station  
**Hiking trail difficulty level:** moderate



### 18 AJDOVŠČINA

45°53'16.4"N 14°54'16.1"E

The fortified settlement, named *Castra* in Roman times, was fortified by mighty walls with 14 towers. For its construction, an excellent position was selected at the foot of the mountains and rugged paths, which is why it served as a logistical hinterland for the defence system, especially the *Ad Pirum* fort. The modern town of Ajdovščina still reveals traces of ancient walls and fortlets.

**Location access point:** 500 m from the main bus station  
**Hiking trail difficulty level:** easy



### 17 HRUŠICA

45°51'49.2"N 14°06'43.2"E

The four kilometre-long archaeological trail is a real attraction for experiencing nature and history in one. The area where the well-preserved remains of the *Ad Pirum* fort, the most important point of defence in this part of the system, are located is incredibly vast. For all history buffs who want to know more, there is a small museum room at the Stara Pošta Inn.

**Location access point:** parking lot next to the Stara Pošta Inn in the fort  
**Hiking trail difficulty level:** moderate (alongside the fort), difficult (along the archaeological trail)





## LOCATIONS



### 16 LANIŠČE

45°53'17.7"N 14°09'48.5"E

The rectangular fortlet, which can be viewed today almost its original form thanks to reconstruction, once served as a lookout for the main Roman road. In other words, from this fortlet, the soldiers could control who was moving along the key road. It's no exaggeration that the fortlet looks a bit like something out of a strategic video game.

**Location access point:** 20 m from the parking lot

**Hiking trail difficulty level:** easy



### 15 BRST NEAR MARTINJ HRIB

45°53'39.3"N 14°14'55.6"E

There was a fortlet here in which soldiers would spend time throughout the year. Here (as on Hrušica), archaeologists have found traces of a Roman system that used wall and floor heating, making the fortlet a comfortable place in the cold winter months. While researching the site, they found coins that were melted together, indicating that there was a fire that led to the fortlet being abandoned.

**Location access point:** 2.5 km from the Martinj Hrib bus station

**Hiking trail difficulty level:** moderate



### 14 AJDOVSKI ZID

45°56'38.0"N 14°18'08.4"E

Something special can be said about each of the 20 locations of the *Claustra Alpium Iuliarum* system, and the Ajdovski zid (Ajdovski Wall) stands out as its longest section. It stretches almost seven kilometres, and every 100 metres of the wall there is a tower. The wall extends over the hills, and in some areas well-preserved parts of the wall can be found, which were about one metre wide. Today you can follow interesting wooden sculptures of Roman soldiers along the wall.

**Location access point:** 200 m from the Cesarski vrh/Zaplana bus station

**Hiking trail difficulty level:** easy (to the first tower), moderate (along the archaeological trail)



### 13 POKOJISČE

45°53'37.0"N 14°21'30.0"E

The Pokojišče village is surrounded by the Ljubljansko barje (Ljubljana Marshes), a wetland area where pile dwellings existed in prehistoric times. The wall that forms part of the Roman barrier system is located in an open area above the plains, northwest of the village.

**Location access point:** 250 m from the Pokojišče pri Borovnici bus station

**Hiking trail difficulty level:** easy, moderate (along the wall)





## LOCATIONS



### 12 RAKITNA

45°52'41.6"N 14°25'36.5"E

The Rakitna Plateau is another location in the Ljubljansko barje (Ljubljana Marshes). While traces of two towers can be found in the forest, the wall can be followed in the form of an embankment that extends in an uneven line. There is an artificial lake in this area that offers swimming and fishing opportunities in the summer and ice skating in the winter.

**Location access point:** 1.5 km from the Hotel Rakitna

**Hiking trail difficulty level:** moderate

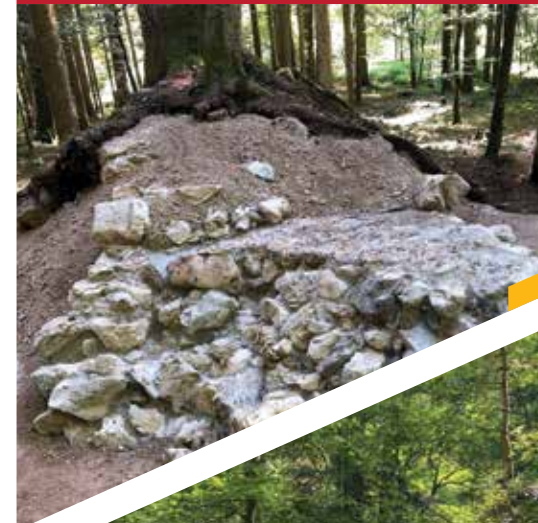


### 11 SELO PRI ROBU

45°50'05.4"N 14°32'07.7"E

Along today's road that goes through the village of Selo pri Robu, you will find the modest remains of a Roman wall hidden among the trees. You will also find the remains of walls and towers in the immediate vicinity of the houses, and you will not need to walk for long through the natural landscapes to find traces of ancient civilizations.

**Location access point:** 600 m from the Chapel of Our Mother of God  
**Hiking trail difficulty level:** easy



### 10 GRADIŠČE NEAR ROB

45°50'23.4"N 14°33'48.0"E

The Gradišče site, located next to the village of Rob, is where the entire line of the *Clastra Alpium Iuliarum* system changes direction. At this section, the wall directly follows the path to the plateau on the Gradiški peak, where it changes direction at a sharp angle, turning southwards and towards *Tarsatica* (Rijeka). Along the paths of this unique 1,300-metre-long wall, you can also explore the rich ecosystem of the Kobilji curek stream and waterfall, surrounded by damp meadows.

**Location access point:** 1.2 km from the Hoja Rod d.o.o. sawmill

**Hiking trail difficulty level:** easy



### 9 NOVI POT

45°47'03.5"N 14°33'39.6"E

Underneath what looked like a simple earth embankment about one metre high, traces of another wall were recently found, which were also a part of the *Clastra Alpium Iuliarum* system. The traces are located in the immediate vicinity of the main road through the village of Novi Pot. More specifically, the wall intersects today's road and part of it was destroyed at the time of the road's construction. The wall located here guarded the Roman road on the Bloke Plateau.

**Location access point:** 300 m from the intersection of Kotel–Novi Pot and Podklanec–Novi Pot  
**Hiking trail difficulty level:** easy





## LOCATIONS



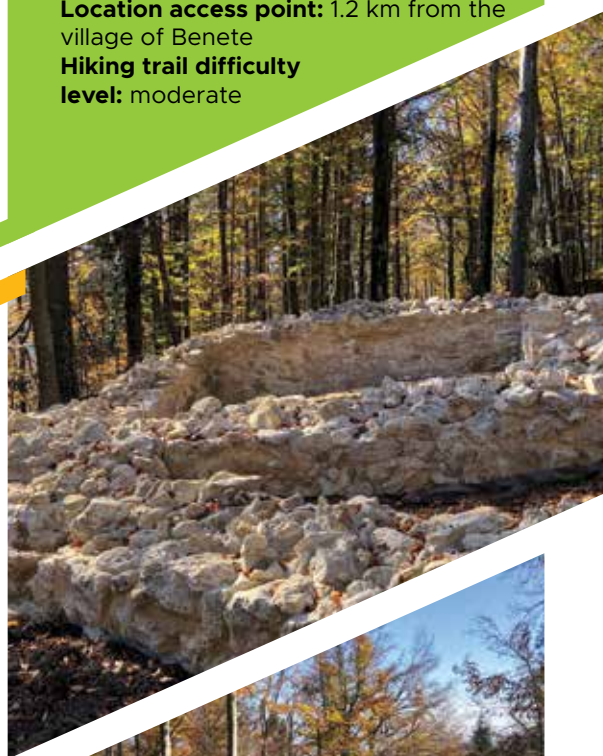
### 8 TABRŠĆE

45°46'43.9"N 14°33'30.7"E

The shortest section of the *Claustra Alpium Iuliarum* system is known to the locals as the "Stari grad pri Kapelici" ("Old Town at the Chapel"). There are a mere fifteen metres of the wall and a small tower in the middle, which provides an overview of the valley below the wall. It is assumed that this modestly preserved fragment of the defence system functioned in conjunction with the nearby Benete or Novi Pot barriers.

**Location access point:** 1.2 km from the village of Benete

**Hiking trail difficulty level:** moderate



### 7 BENETE

45°45'50.5"N 14°34'13.8"E

Traces of the Roman defence system near the village of Benete can be found by exploring the areas of the streams and steep forest roads. From some positions on this part of the system, Roman soldiers could see other sections such as Tabršće, Novi Pot, and some locations on Gradišće near Rob.

**Location access point:** 1 km from the village of Benete

**Hiking trail difficulty level:** moderate



### 6 PREZID

45°38'45.4"N 14°33'38.7"E

Borders change, civilizations change and states change. The Romans once built a barrier wall that protected the centre of the Empire from barbarian invasions, and it is on the location of this wall that the state border between Croatia and Slovenia is situated today. Nearly three kilometres of the defence wall can be observed at the site separating the two regions of the *Claustra Alpium Iuliarum* system and the two states.

**Location access point:** 1 km from the Prezid bus station

**Hiking trail difficulty level:** moderate



### 5 GRADINA ABOVE PASJAK

45°29'23.1"N 14°13'35.5"E

A somewhat mysterious fortlet whose purpose is unclear is located along the Croatian-Slovenian border near the village of Pasjak. The fortlet was located along the ancient road connecting *Tarsatica* and *Tergeste* (today's Trieste), and today it is symbolically located along the modern road connecting Rijeka and Trieste. The preserved parts of the walls reflect the Roman construction technique in which irregular pieces of stone were bound with plaster.

**Location access point:** 800 m from the parking lot on the Croatian side of the border

**Hiking trail difficulty level:** moderate





## LOCATIONS



### 4 STUDENA

45°26'31.1"N 14°24'37.5"E

From the source of the Rječina River to the mountain slopes of the Gorski Kotar region, a continuous system of a natural or built defensive line stretches across 20 kilometres. Five continuous kilometres of wall have been preserved here. The wider area of the region is visible from this position, from Istria to Velebit, from the wall line on Jelenje to the Gradina above Pasjak fortlet.

**Location access point:** 3 km from the Studena bus station

**Hiking trail difficulty level:** moderate



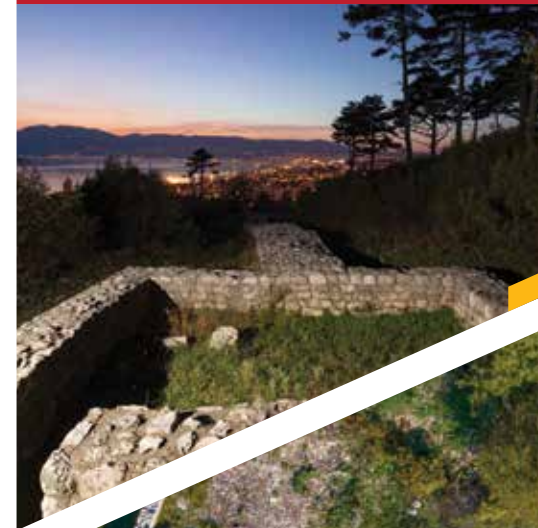
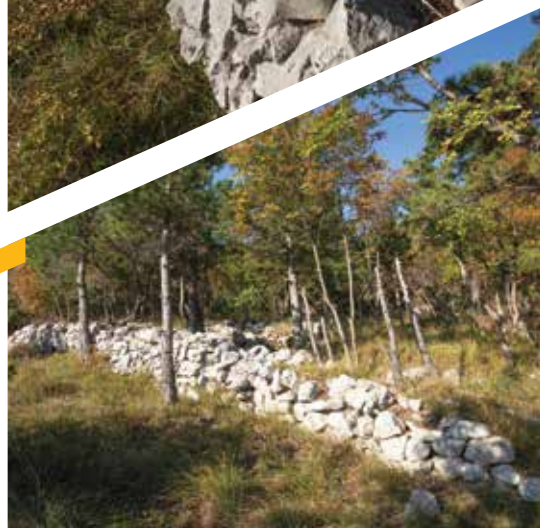
### 3 JELENJE ON GROBNIČKO POLJE

45°23'11.5"N 14°27'01.3"E

The exit from the Roman *Tarsatica* follows the Rječina canyon, and then follows a barrier system that extends across the Grobničko polje (Grobnik Field). Here you can find traces of walls and towers that can be seen from each other, as well as attractive views of the sea and the Grobničko polje. The most accessible traces are located next to the church of St. Michael in Jelenje.

**Location access point:** 1.1 km from the village cemetery

**Hiking trail difficulty level:** easy



### 2 SOLIN

45°19'03.0"N 14°29'46.1"E

A position 240 metres above sea level offers excellent views of the sea and land routes to ancient *Tarsatica*. The first settlements existed here in prehistoric times and the wall that is part of the defence system was erected on the foundations of ancient dry stone walls. Today, a stroll along the ancient wall offers an attractive view of the sea and the eastern part of Rijeka.

**Location access point:** 2 km from the Plodine store (Martinščica Peak)

**Hiking trail difficulty level:** moderate



### 1 RIJEKA

45°19'38.5"N 14°26'36.5"E

The Roman city of *Tarsatica* was located directly along the coast of the Adriatic Sea. It is here that the principium - the headquarters of the military command - was located. Traces of this Roman building can be found today in the old town of Rijeka, while traces of walls can be found in various locations around the city. From the city to the north, the defensive line follows the natural barrier of the Rječina River canyon.

**Location access point:** 300 m from the Jelačić Square bus station

**Hiking trail difficulty level:** easy





## A DAY FOR A BIKE ADVENTURE



**CAI locations:** Solin/Kostrena, Selo pri Robu, Gradišče near Rob

**Other locations:** Kobilji curek stream and waterfall, Turjak castle

**Description:** One-day trip by van for recreational cyclists

**Route length:** 128 kilometres

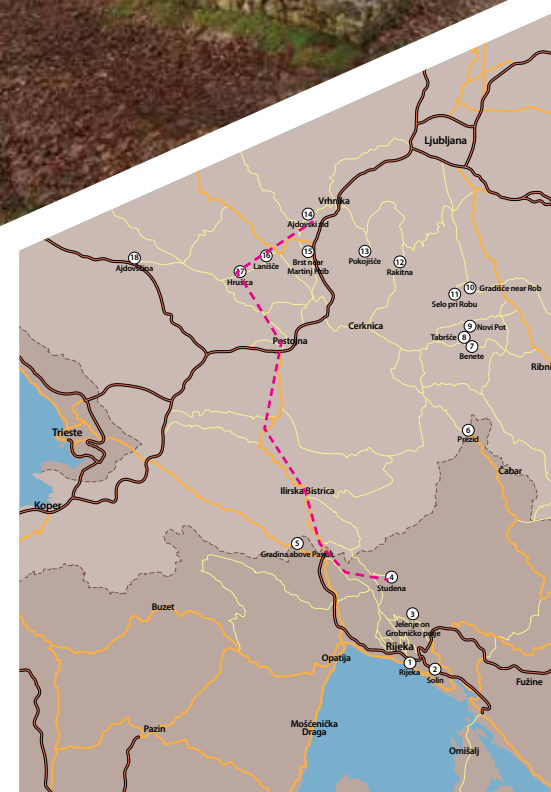
The trip can start with a morning bike ride from Trsat to Solin above Kostrena.

Upon arrival at Solin, participants have one hour of rest while they listen to a presentation on the *Clastra Alpium Iuliarum* system and the interesting underwater life of Kostrena.

This is followed by the departure of the van in the direction of Velike Lašče in Slovenia, where a cycling tour around the Kobilji curek stream is planned, with a guided tour of the traces at the Selo pri Robu and Gradišče near Rob sites and the exceptional natural heritage of the waterfall area.

Lunch at a family farm is followed by a tour of Turjak Castle, before returning to Rijeka.

## HERITAGE OF THE GREAT WARS



**CAI locations:** Ajdovski zid, Lanišče, Hrušica, Studena

**Other locations:** Lipa pamti Memoiral Centre

**Description:** One-day trip by bus with nature hikes

**Route length:** 90 kilometres

Along with a tour of the sites that made up the ancient Roman barrier system, this excursion provides an introduction to stories related to the wars that have taken place in more recent times.

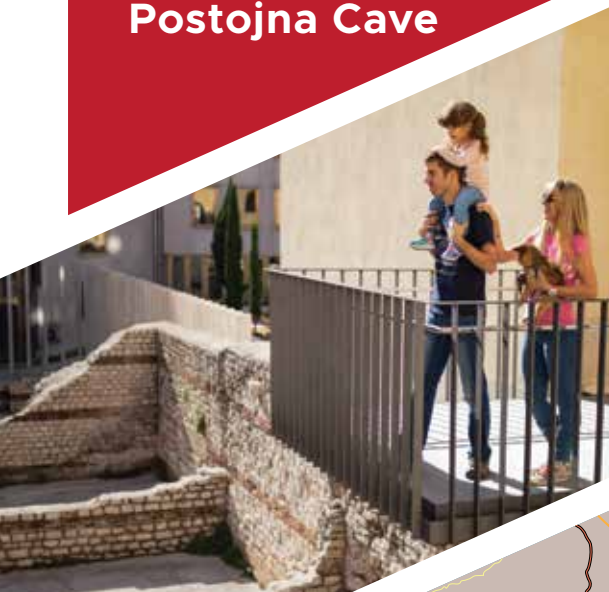
The excursion begins on Vrhnika, from where the participants begin their tour of the Ajdovski zid, Lanišče and Hrušica locations, where they will have the opportunity to hear about the borders and barracks that were established here before World War II.

This is followed by a drive to the Lipa pamti Memorial Centre with sightseeing of the town centre.

Afterwards, the participants can take a tour of the Mlaka-Lipica archaeological site on Studena, where the border established by the Treaty of Rapallo was located.



## PATH FROM CASTRA TO TARSAICA along a passage through the Postojna Cave



**CAI locations:** *Castra* (Ajdovščina), *Tarsatica* (Rijeka)

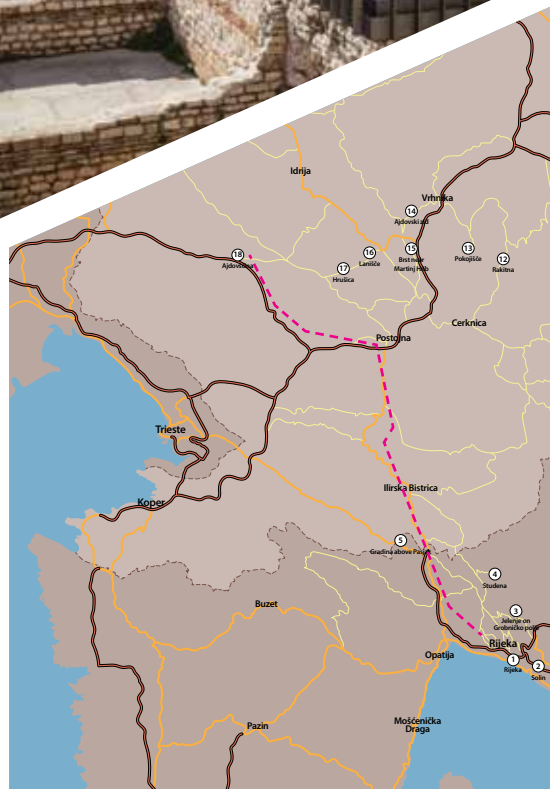
**Other locations:** Postojna Cave

**Description:** One-day trip by bus with walks at the locations

**Route length:** 182 kilometres

The excursion begins with a tour of the ancient city of *Castra* in today's Ajdovščina, after which participants will head in the direction of the Postojna Cave for a visit.

A break and lunch at a local restaurant is followed by departure for Rijeka with a sightseeing tour of the *Claustra Alpium Iuliarum* system part - principium.



## CLAUSTRA'S BEASTS



**CAI locations:** Rakitna, Prezid

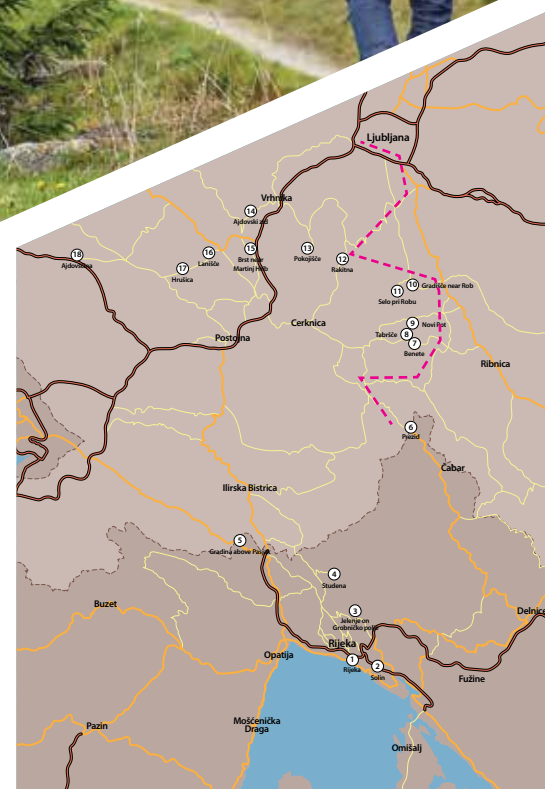
**Other locations:** Ljubljansko barje (Ljubljana Marshes), Stari trg pri Ložu, Prapotna draga, Risnjak National Park

**Description:** Two-day excursion by bus with walks and hiking

**Route length:** 87 kilometres

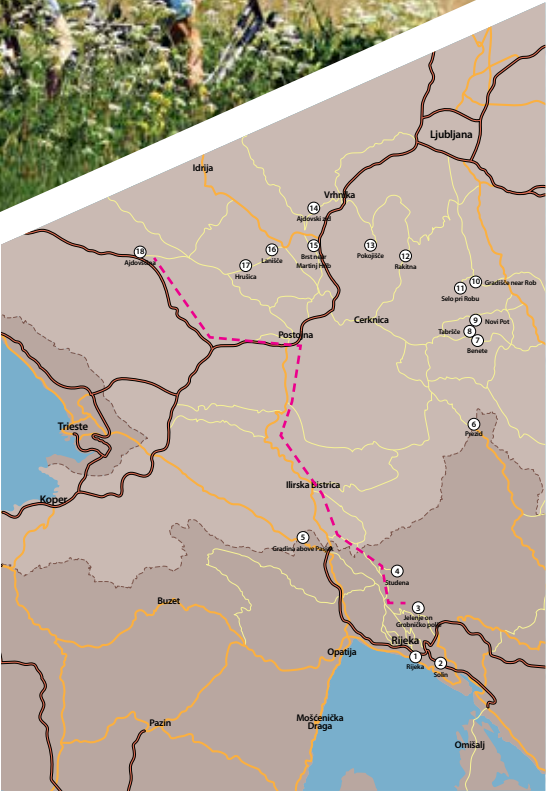
When searching for traces of the structures that made up the Roman defence system, we also come across the enchanting nature.

From the UNESCO-protected wetland area of the Ljubljansko barje (Ljubljana Marshes) to the Risnjak National Park, the participants in this excursion will visit natural attractions of two countries, visit the Roman walls and observe bears from a safe distance.





BIKE & GASTRO  
CLAUSTRA



**CAI locations:** Ajdovščina, Klana, Studena, Jelenje, Grobnik

**Other locations:** Vipava Valley, Klana, Martinovo Selo

**Description:** Two-day excursion by van with bike tours

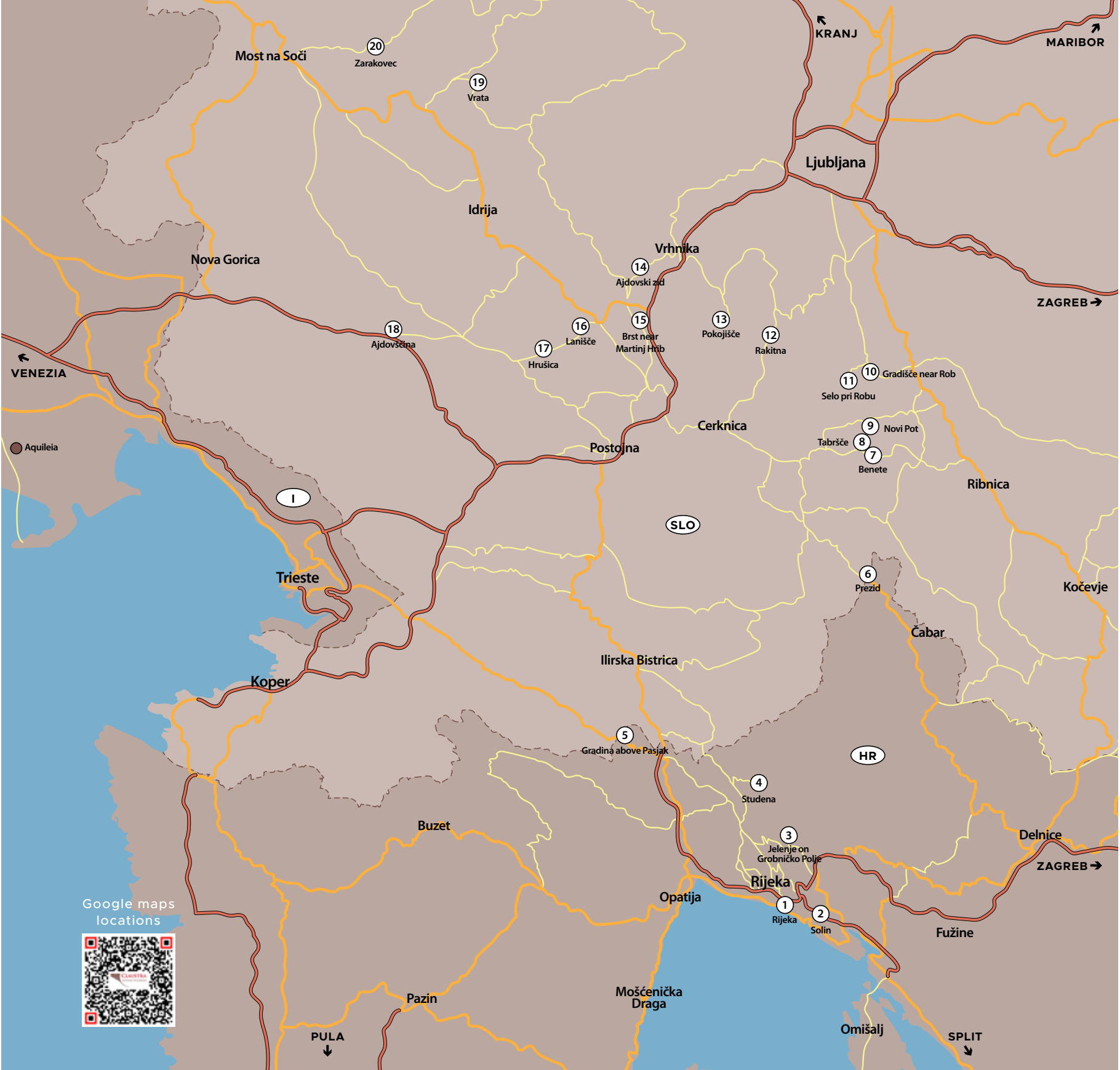
**Route length:** 87 kilometres

A two-day excursion ideal for adventurous travellers offers a perfect combination of sightseeing of nature and culture, sports activities and tasting authentic specialties.

The first day begins with a morning tour of Ajdovščina, followed by a bike tour through the Vipava Valley, an exploration of wine traditions and lunch at a local restaurant.

On the next day, participants will take a van to Klana from where they will continue by bicycle to Studena, Jelenje and Grobnik. Along the way, the participants will stop in Martinovo selo to visit Gašpar's Mill.

The final destination is Grobnik where participants will get the opportunity to taste Grobnik cheese.



CAI - CLAUSTRA  
ALPIUM IULIARUM

**30 km** OF PRESERVED BARRIER WALLS

**105** DEFENCE TOWERS

**5** FORTS AND FORTLETS

- 20 ZARAKOVEC
- 19 VRATA
- 18 AJDOVŠČINA
- 17 HRUŠICA
- 16 LANIŠČE
- 15 BRST NEAR MARTINJ HRIB
- 14 AJDOVSKI ZID
- 13 POKOJIŠČE
- 12 RAKITNA
- 11 SELO PRI ROBU
- 10 GRADIŠČE NEAR ROB
- 9 NOVI POT
- 8 TABRŠČE
- 7 BENETE
- 6 PREZID
- 5 GRADINA ABOVE PASJAK
- 4 STUDENA
- 3 JELENJE ON GROBNIČKO POLJE
- 2 SOLIN
- 1 RIJEKA





CLAUSTRA  
ALPIUM IULIARUM





The Claustra app  
is available on  
Google Play and the  
AppStore

**Claustra info points:**

- Pomorski i povijesni muzej  
Hrvatskog primorja Rijeka  
(Maritime and History Museum  
of the Croatian Littoral),
- Prirodoslovni muzej Rijeka  
(Natural History Museum Rijeka)
- Moja Ljubljana,  
Kulturni center Vrhnika  
(Ljubljana River Exhibition,  
Vrhnika Cultural Centre)
- TIC Vrhnika  
(Vrhnika Tourist  
Information Centre)

The promotional material was co-financed by the CLAUSTRA+  
project as part of the V-A Interreg Slovenia-Croatia Cooperation Programme

Published by: **Kvarner Tourist Board**

Photos: **Archive of the publisher and project partners, and the  
Vespesjan Cultural Association, M. Cammerata, F. Grisoni, P. Kurschner**  
Design and production: **Makol marketing**

Zavod za varstvo  
kulturne dediščine Slovenije



HRVATSKI  
RESTAURATORSKI  
ZAVOD



primorsko  
goranska  
županija



ZAVOD REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE  
ZA VARSTVO NARAVE



PRIRODOSLOVNI  
MUZEJ RIJEKA  
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