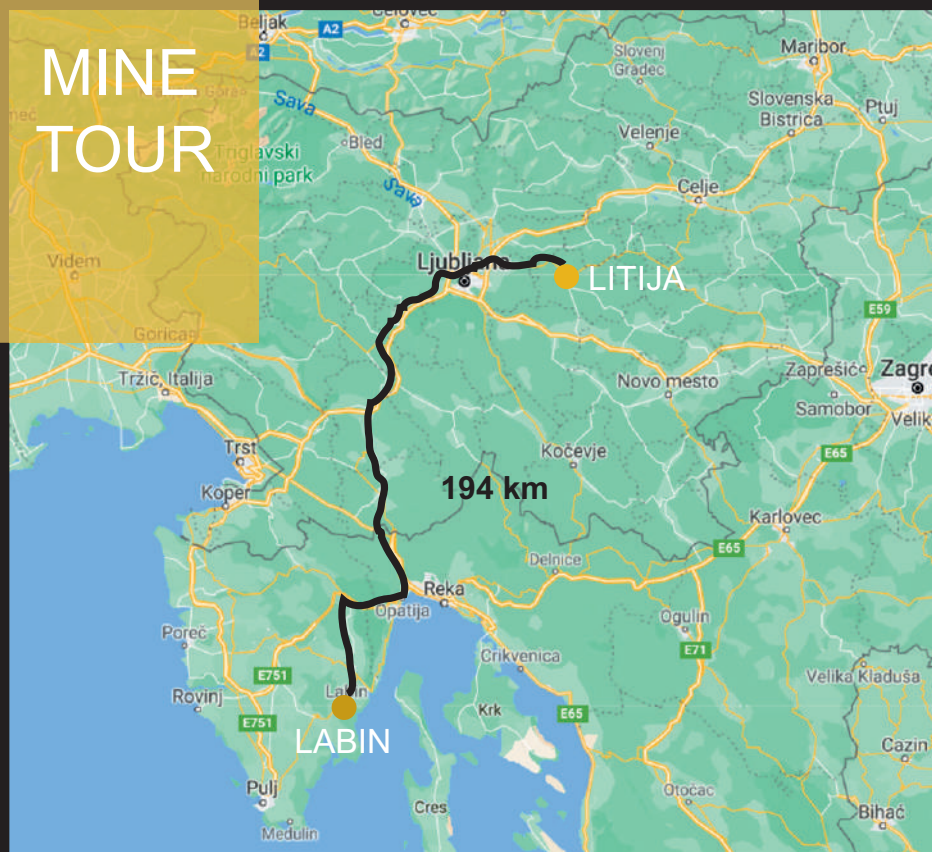




THE STORY OF MINING TOWNS

LABIN & LITIJA

MINE TOUR



The rich mining heritage of Labin and Litija can be learned about through an extensive collection of mining items, geological and mining maps, written documentation, old postcards, photographs and archival films showing the development of mining in both cities.

In Labin, actors will take you back in time. Through the stories of miners, you will get to know their way of life and the historical facts that influenced the creation of this mining town.

In Litija, you will enter the Sitarjevec mine accompanied by a guide, discover the secrets of the underground world and get to know the mine and the work of miners in an authentic environment.

Discover MINE TOUR:

www.mine-tour.eu

[minetourproject](#)

Mobile applications [minetour.app](#)



LABIN

invites you
to learn

In the eastern part of Istria, at a distance of only three kilometres from the sea, lies the medieval town of Labin. It is a town of rich cultural and historical heritage and a unique combination of natural beauty for an active holiday with magnificent gastronomic symphonies provided by numerous local restaurants and taverns. The city is divided into two parts: the old and the new part. The old part of town is located on a hill situated at 320 m above sea level and with a very picturesque appearance. The new part, located at the foot of the hill, is of interesting architecture created as a reflection of centuries of mining. Doors of St. Flora represent the entrance to the Old Town and the inspiring story of the place, its historical and cultural tradition. Imbued with the past, yet looking to the future, the Labin tradition breathes all year round through colourful galleries, studios, traditional crafts, small family hotels, restaurants and wine shops.

History of mining heritage

The population in the southern part of the Labin region started mining almost 400 years ago. Ever since then, mining in these areas has been continuously developing. Not only people from Labin and the surrounding area found employment here, but also people from the whole of Istria. Labin mining reached its peak after the First World War when Labin mines were known as being the most modern in Europe, and employing more than 10,000 workers. Record production was reached in 1942 with 1,158,000 tons of coal. After the Second World War, Istrian coal miners played a very important role in the post-war reconstruction. However, large coal reserves caused a decline in coal production, and in the 1970s the mine began to be gradually closed. Most of the mines were closed in the 1980s, mostly due to unprofitability, while mining production has been continued by the new company, Istrian Coal Mines Tupljak. Unfortunately, in 1999, they also closed the pit, which also resulted in the closure of the last coal mine in Croatia.



The armed uprising of the miners of the Labin region from 1921, known as the “The Republic of Labin”, was the first organized anti-fascist uprising in the world and the first socialist experiment of workers’ self-government in the Mediterranean. After the strike was announced, the miners occupied the mine and organized self-government, continuing to produce and sell coal for themselves, defending themselves with weapons. “The Republic of Labin” lasted 37 days and the people involved were miners of different ethnic groups: Croats, Italians, Slovenes, Czechs, Slovaks, Hungarians, Poles. Workers’ solidarity did not know national origin.



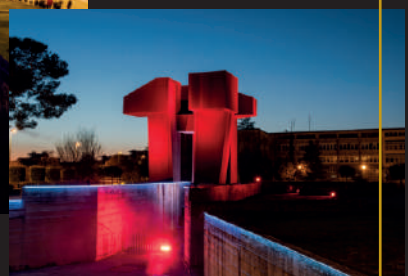
Tour of Labin with the guidance of a miner and an authentic interpretation of the cultural heritage



You will experience the tour of some of the most important points related to the mining heritage of Labin under the guidance of a likeable miner called Mina. Read a snippet of his memories and immerse yourself in a world of rich mining history. You will get to know the brave past of the miners of the Labin region by using a storytelling map, by walking or cycling.

Tour of the Monument to the Miner-Fighter

Hundred years ago, on March 2, 1921, the Labin miners went on strike and founded the Republic of Labin. About six-hundreds of them gathered and started an uprising against the fascists. One of them, Giovanni Pippan (Ivan Pipan), was brutally abused in Pazin, and 600 brave miners gathered and occupied the mines. They managed to mine the entrances to the shafts and thus, without even realizing it, start the world's first anti-fascist uprising. In honour of them, the strikers, but also all the miners who gave their youth and life to the mine, a monument to the Miner-Fighter was erected. Not only in terms of dimensions, but also in terms of significance, it is the largest public monument in the Labin region. It consists of 4 hammers that form a bundle.





Tour of the Labin Miners' Square

At the intersection of the two main streets of Labin, there is an elongated, rectangular town square. The space of the square is actually two-part, with most of the square having a civic function and is primarily intended for trade. This larger part of the square is dominated by a prominent, corner tower that represents the place from which the leaders addressed the masses. The smaller area of the square, slightly elevated compared to the larger one, is separated from it by a porch with four square openings and is entirely carved in stone. As the church and its bell tower are located on it, a smaller part of the square has a sacral purpose. In this mining settlement, we can come across retired miners and listen to the stories they have kept inside even today. An exhibition of ATRIUM posters exploring the tangible traces of totalitarian regimes of the 20th century in Labin and the Church of Sv. Francis erected in honour of St. Francis of Assisi can also be found there.

Tour of the Town Library

The newly renovated town library is located in the IUR (Istrian Coal Mines Raša) administration building where you can visit the POP-UP cinema and watch several documentaries on mining. You will also find there is a modern coworking space of the Town of Labin decorated in the same style above the library. Right next to the library is the Veliko kupatilo (Grand Bath), which was used as a wardrobe, and the Lamparna (Lamp Room), a place where miners took and returned helmets, lamps, tools. More information about "The Republic of Labin" can be found in the open-air exhibition in front of the Town Library.



Tour of Šoht

Today, Šoht is one of the most beautiful monuments of the rich mining past of the Labin area. Šoht is a tall steel tower that over the years has become a symbol of Labin and its inhabitants. Šoht started operating in 1940, when production began in the Labin Pit. At its top it has two very large wheels which moved in synchrony, with one moving forward, and the other backward, and thus raised or lowered the lift cages. The cages, with three levels, transported miners (16 in each cage at each level), full or empty wagons and various other material. The vertical shaft guides were made of a special wood (larch) which proved to be the safest in the event of stopping the lift. The lift rope, made up of interwoven steel threads, was inspected and lubricated daily. The height of the tower is 30.93 meters, and the depth of the vertical shaft is 570 m.



Tour of the Vilete area

From the Italian word villette, meaning "little villa," comes the term for buildings of greater comfort built for mine management personnel. Each building was connected to a central mine hot water system ensuring that the rooms were heated by radiators, which was a very advanced novelty at the time. The interior of the four villas was specially designed for mine managers. The villas originally had two four-bedroom apartments of approximately 100 m² situated on the ground floor and first floor.

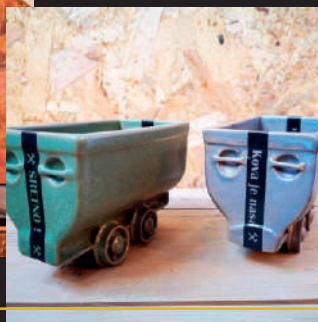
Tour of the Labin National Museum

The Labin National Museum is located in the old town of Labin, inside the baroque palace Battiala - Lazzarini. The most interesting thing about the Labin Museum is the faithful depiction of the 150-meter-long mining corridors located in the basement of the building, which encompasses all the characteristic features of the mine, including the original sounds recorded in the original mine. During the construction of this mine, the dimensions of a real mine were taken into account, which means this reconstruction is easily passable in the first part, but starting from the centre of the construction onwards, the ceiling is lowered, and the passage narrower, which is why it is recommended to wear a protective helmet. The dimensions of the construction of the mining corridors faithfully evoke all the weight and horror of the mining business. At the beginning of 2020, the space of the Mining Information and Interpretation Centre was equipped and arranged, and in which the mining heritage is presented in an innovative way.



Experience of mining heritage and tradition

In order to fully experience the mining heritage, we bring you a list of caterers and craftsmen of the Labin region who offer products related to mining, from black pizza and mining brunch to Karbon gin and works of art and souvenirs that you can take as a memento of your Labin mining adventure.



Cafe Restaurant Velo Kafe, Titov trg 12, Labin – Labinski kراف (ravioli like pasta) and black risotto with cuttlefish

Pizzeria Napoli, Titov trg 7 – Pizza Carbon 1921 and Kovarska marenda (Miner's Brunch)

Caffe bar Karbon, Zelenice 11 – Karbun, Istrian premium gin

Pizzeria Pineta, Zelenice 18 – Kova je naša (The Mine is Ours) and Labinka (Girl from Labin) Pizzas

Hotel Villa Annette, Raška 24, Rabac - 'Carbon story of olive oil' Villa Annette Selection and Miners' pasutice pasta with salted sardines and cod

Alvona Gallery & Vinka Šaina Art Studio, G. Martinuzzi 15, Labin – Graphic sheets "Far Horizons"

Souvenir Shop Merania, 1. maja 4, Labin – Locally crafted mining souvenirs





Tips for VISITING

Rabac is the most important tourist centre on the eastern coast of the Istrian peninsula located only five kilometres from Labin. It is also called the “pearl of Kvarner”.

🌐 www.rabac-labin.com/hr/2-rabac

Mining house “ARSIA”

The rich heritage of mining life is authentically displayed in the Arsia Centre, a small mining museum. The museum is located on Raška Square and directly offers the visitor a unique experience of the former work and life of Raška miners.

🌐 <https://tz-rasa.hr/kovarska-kuca-arsia/>

The Labin region abounds in **bike trails**.

Some of the most interesting are Bella Vista, Teran, Bistrooma, Istarski razvod and Liburnia.

www.rabac-labin.com/hr/176-biciklizam



Raša is the youngest town in Istria, and whose history begins in the 1930s. The town was built for the needs of miners and mining in the valley of the Krapna stream. In this new town, workers’ houses along two parallel streets meet in the square with a church in the shape of an inverted wagon and a bell tower like a mining lamp.

🌐 www.istra.hr/hr/destinacije/rasa

One of the most beautiful Croatian sculpture parks,

Dubrova Sculpture Park, offers unique moments of art and nature in an open gallery which covers 33 hectares and is partly surrounded by a dry-stone wall, with natural valleys and rich and diverse characteristic Mediterranean flora.

🌐 <https://parkdubrova.eu/>

Senton’s Trail, almost two and a half kilometres long, stretches along the main road along the entire length of Rabac, at the foot of the old town, all the way to the Maslinica Cove in Rabac Bay. It abounds in streams and rapids, and the biggest attractions are the multi-meter waterfalls that overflow over the winding travertine barriers.

🌐 www.rabac-labin.com/hr/165-sentonina-staza-labin-rabac

INFO

Labin Town Tourist Board
Ulica Alda Negrija 20, Labin
00 385 (0)52 855 560
tzg.labin@pu.t-com.hr

🌐 www.rabac-labin.com
📱 visitLabinRabac
📷 visitlabinrabac/



LITIJA

invites you
to learn

The world of hills around Litija is rich in ore deposits of metal minerals that have been mined in the past in several places, the most prominent of which is the Sitarjevec mine in the immediate vicinity of the town of Litija. Mining has a rich tradition in this area, as the oldest finds date back to the time of the Celts. The Romans also stopped here, and the first written source on mining dates from 1537.

The polyhistorian Janez Vajkard Valvasor, who lived and worked in the nearby fortress of Bogenšperk, wrote about the importance of the mine in the Glory of the Duchy of Carniola. The mine also played an important role in the 19th century, when mining was mainly focused on the extraction of mercury and lead ore. After the Second World War, until the abandonment of mining in 1965, mostly barite ore was mined. We can connect the situla culture and situla (Latin for bucket) discovered in nearby Vače with mining in the Sitarjevec mine. There is also an extremely interesting silver coin, the Sitarjevec tolar, which was minted from Sitarjevec silver in the mint in Vienna. Litija invites visitors to stop in the town after visiting the mine, to visit the town museum, the Church of St. Nikolaj and Plečnik's monument in the immediate vicinity of the church. The dynamic landscape offers many opportunities for excursions and recreation. The whole area is dotted with hiking, biking and riding trails, and the place is connected by rail.



Sitarjevec Mine

- It is one of the oldest mines in Europe.
- More than 60 different minerals contribute to its exceptional colorfulness.
- It contains unique limonite stalactites.
- There are almost 500m of shafts for sightseeing with rich content and even richer exhibition.
- It is a home to A LESSER HORSESHOE BAT - RHINOLOPHUS HIPPOSIDEROS.



Sitarjevec Underground Mine Museum

The Sitarjevec mine in Litiža is developing into a modern underground museum that offers visitors an insight into the diversity of geological natural heritage, the world of bats, spiders and fungi, as well as the richness of the mining tradition. The museum display stems from the spatial features of the underground architecture, with an emphasis on the details of a stylized cinnabar crystal, which stretches like a red thread from the space in front of the entrance where the information pillar is placed, all the way to the interior of the mine. The visitor experiences its surprising diversity in a humid, cold and dark space, in contact with the environment of rocks and fossils, jewellery, stories about various textile dyeing techniques, and in the lower part of the mine with exceptional limonite stalactite structures, limonite mud and excellent natural pigment.



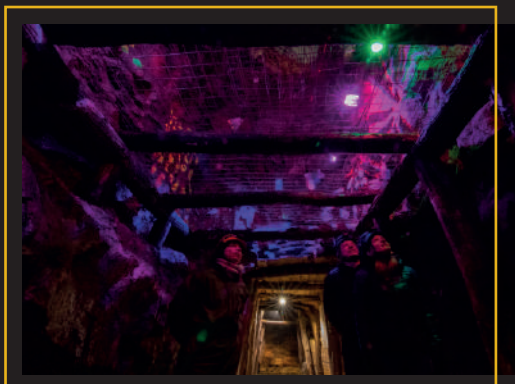
Minerals in the Sitarjevec mine

The Sitarjevec mine is one of the polymineral deposits with exceptional mineral diversity. It contains more than sixty different minerals, among which the most important ore minerals are galena, sphalerite, cinnabarite, chalcopyrite and barite. Cinnabarite crystals up to 6 cm in size and clusters of cerussite crystals up to 10 cm in size and larger were presented in the World Mineral Heritage as the largest crystals of that time. Mineral rarities on a global scale are represented by worms of native lead. Hematite jasper ore, a semi-precious stone that impresses with its red and grey colour, is great for grinding jewellery.



The colours of the Sitarjevec mine

The Sitarjevec mine is extremely picturesque. The warm yellow colour of the iron pigment - natural ochre - can be seen throughout the mine, in the exit shaft sideways and along the ceiling, and in the main shaft also along the bottom in the form of mine mud. The excellent pigment is suitable for painting and dyeing textiles, which the visitor can see at the exhibition in the exit shaft. In addition to ochre, red hematite and white barite are also used in Sitarjevac for painting purposes. Sitarjevac colours create a special atmosphere, which the artists expressed with the light performances of unusual lights and fireflies which they hung under the ceiling of the mine shaft.



Stories from a dwarf in Sitarjevec

Experience the underworld in the company of the mischievous dwarf named Sitarjevček, who accompanied the miners as they worked in the shafts - for better or worse. The youngest will get to know the mine and the interesting stories of the miners in a playful and mischievous way, and get to know its inhabitants - bats and different types of minerals.



Litija Town Museum

Litija Town Museum is a place where visitors can get to know the beauties of the natural environment, the diversity of history and heritage of the municipality and gain insight into the impact of mining on the development of the whole area – the natural environment, social status and culture.



In the multimedia room called "Explore Litija", the tourist offer of Litija is presented in a modern way. In addition to the collection on mining and railways, the only collection on river traffic in Slovenia and the reconstruction of the prison cell are on display.

www.muzejilitija.si

Mestni muzej Litija, Cesta komandanta Staneta 2, 1270 Litija

Impressive cuisine

You can taste dishes that could be found on the menu of miners, rafters and their families. Three local caterers reviewed the culinary heritage of the area and with modern culinary approaches devised three different themed menus that you can try for yourself! You can choose between:

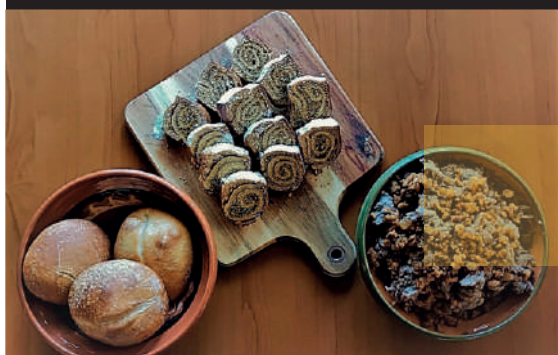


Eatery Kuhla

Spodnji Log 25, 1282 Sava

Sitarjevec brunch, which in modern version contains bread with čvarci pork rinds, bacon in buckwheat dough accompanied by a slice of apple, horseradish mousse and warm apple and plum compote.

Breaded slices consist of two toasted layers of bread with plum jam filling in the middle. Topped with plum mousse, buckwheat biscuits, a pear slice and dried pears in chocolate.



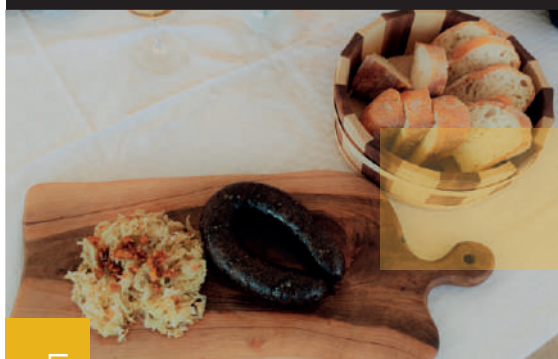
Boarding house Kimovec

Zg. Hotič 15, 1270 Litija

Typical breakfast for the area of Litija and its surroundings: potica nut roll pastry, čežana apple mash or šmarn (imperial crumbs)

Winter version: rabbit stew, buckwheat porridge and pehtranka tarragon roll pastry.

Summer version: fried rabbit, potato salad and seasonal čežana apple mash.



Café and eatery Pri mostu

Ljubljanska cesta 1, 1270 Litija

Pork soup with homemade noodles, blood sausage with sauerkraut and čvarci pork rinds, homemade ocvirovka (čvarci roll pastry). The vegetarian version contains mushroom soup, sauerkraut, buckwheat porridge and vegetarian ocvirovka. The soup is served in an old-fashioned soup bowl, a main course on a wooden board, a potica pastry filled with čvarci with čvarci sauce on a nice wooden board.

Experience of handicrafts

At the Škunder household with a pottery workshop, the hosts are especially proud of their more than two-hundred-year-old granary and large toplar hayloft. Visitors are also delighted by the unusual wooden and stone sculptures associated with the past of the Škunder household. The household is becoming more and more recognizable for its offer of high-quality boutique products made of spelt, chokeberry and lavender.

As a reminder of the experience of handicrafts and a visit to the Sitarjevec mine, you can try painting a clay semi-finished product in the shape of a lantern – a carbide lamp on a clay plate. Several acrylic paints will be available to you, including natural paints from the Sitarjevec mine. The symbolism of the product is related to the mining theme, because the carbide lamp was a typical mining lamp used in the Sitarjevec mine.



Škunder Household

Šlivna 13d, 1252 Vače

www.keramikabarbara.si/index.php/moj-kraj.html



Tips for VISITING

The geometric centre of Slovenia, which is the centre of mass of Slovenia. **GEOSS** (Vače) is the heart of Slovenia, symbolically marked by an obelisk and a symbol of our country.

🌐 <http://geoss.eu/>

Vače situla (Klenik) is one of the most famous excavations in Vače, as well as in Slovenia. The artwork, most likely created at the turn of the 6th to 5th centuries BC, reflects the traditional influences of the Mediterranean world. Only a few found situlas have rich ornaments made in the embossing technique (toreutica), such as situlas from Vač.

THE LAND OF CHARCOAL MAKERS

(Dole pri Litiji)
The tradition of arranging a charcoal kiln and producing charcoal has been preserved in this area for more than 100 years. You can experience the life of a charcoal maker family on their rural households where they are still engaged in this activity and are involved in the charcoal making educational path.

🌐 www.dole.si

GEOSS ADVENTURE PARK

(Slivna) is the largest adventure park in Slovenia.

It is located in the village of Slivna near the Geometric Centre of Slovenia. You can try on seven climbing trails of different degrees of difficulty at a height of 1 to 25 meters, and the bravest can go down a giant descent, 915 meters long. We also offer a forest rhapsody for the senses and unforgettable experiences in the treetops.

🌐 <https://www.pustolovski-park-geoss.si/>

SAVA GRAVEL

In the fire station on Breg pri Litiji you can see more than 300 characteristic and unique specimens of rocks from the rich geological heritage of the Sava River Basin. The exhibited specimens are classified according to the method and environment of origin. Since 2019, the collection is complemented by an exhibition about birds that live along the Sava River. During the sightseeing you can also experience and recognize bird singing.

🌐 <https://www.pms-lj.si/si/razstave/arhiv/savski-prodniki>

INFO

Tourist Information Center (TIC) Litija
Valvazorjev trg 10, 1270 Litija
070 700 484, 059 940 503
info@visitolitija.si

🌐 www.litija.si

 Tourism Litija
Sitarjevec Mine Litija

You can come to Litija:

by car: krajji.eu/city_distance/litija/ljubljana/slo

by train: www.slo-zeleznice.si/sl/ by bike: www.sloveniaholidays.com/kolesarske-poti/ob-savi-od-litije-do-ljubljane

Working hours of TIC Litija:

Monday, Thursday, Sunday: closed,
Tuesday: 10:00 am to 04:00 pm
Wednesday: 09:00 am to 05:00 pm Friday: 09:00 am to 03:00 pm
Saturday: 09:00 am to 12:00 pm

Mine tours:

Thursday and Friday from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm and from 03.00 pm to 06.00 pm, Saturday from 09.00 am to 12.00 pm
Sunday from 03.00 pm to 06.00 pm.

A tour of the mine is possible by prior arrangement at the TIC, for groups it is possible at any time, by prior arrangement.

Information about project:

Project title:
Active preservation and evaluation of the natural and cultural heritage of mines and mining for the development of sustainable tourism – MINE TOUR

Project goals:
The MINE TOUR project addresses the challenge of the untapped tourist potential of the mining heritage, namely the natural monument of the Sitarjevec mine in Litija and the Šoht cultural monument in Labin. The aim of the project is to actively preserve the mining heritage by developing new sustainable cross-border tourism products. The change is reflected in improved accessibility and visibility of mines for a better heritage experience, increased visits and increased attractiveness of monuments. The monuments of mining heritage are valorised with contents that offer a rich experience, and at the same time, through restoration, they ensure the preservation of monuments for future generations.

Project duration: 01.09.2018 – 30.04.2021

Project budget:

1.144.622,45 € (EFRD: 972.929,08 €)

Partnership:

Grad Labin, HR (Lead Partner)
Občina Litija, Slovenija, SI
Razvojni center Srca Slovenije, Slovenija, SI
Zavod za gradbeništvo Slovenije, Slovenija, SI
Turistička zajednica Istarske županije, HR
Labin Art Express XXI, HR
Turistična zveza Slovenije, SI

Associated partners: Turizem Ljubljana, Društvo za razvoj in varovanje Sitarjevca, Turistička zajednica Grada Labina



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 www.mine-tour.eu

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