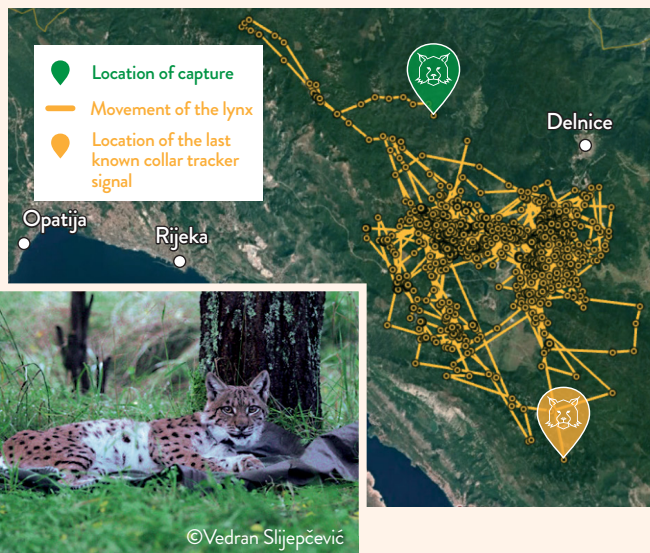


## THE STORY OF RISTA



At the end of September 2019, a group of volunteers organized the activity of clearing up overgrown vegetation along the Leska Educational Path. This volunteer activity was named “For the lynx!”, so it seems very fitting that we came across a fresh lynx kill during our activity! We notified researchers about our find and they rushed to set up traps and a camera for monitoring.

After two mostly sleepless nights of keeping watch and checking the signal, at dawn a lynx was in the trap. It was a beautiful adult male, over two years old, in good physical shape. After he was sedated, we measured and weighed him — he weighed 19 kilograms. Afterwards, he was thoroughly checked, blood samples were collected and detailed photographs were taken. This way, his specific fur pattern, unique and different for every lynx, was documented.

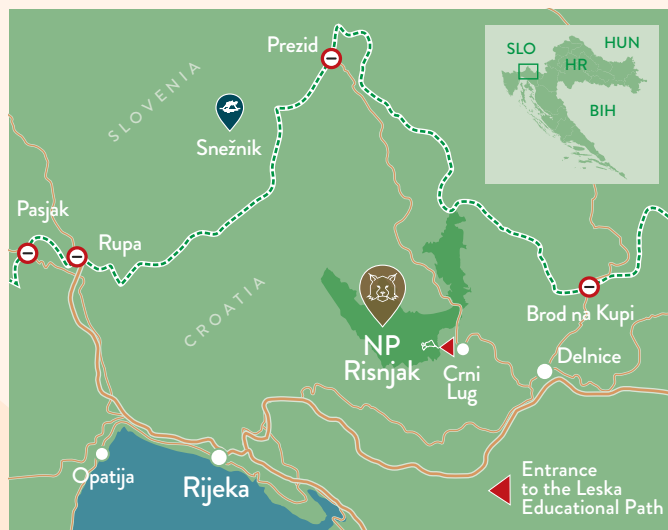
We named our lynx Rista! He was fitted with a collar with a GPS tracker and then set free to be monitored remotely. Over a period of several months, the collar sent out regular information on the lynx's location. Rista roamed around the broader area of Fužine, Lokve and Sunger, over a territory of 360 square kilometres. The lynx really does need a large territory to live in — Rista's territory size is quite common for an adult male! Following his movements allowed us to learn so much about his way of life, how he uses space, the size of his territory and his activities during the different times of day.

Unfortunately, at some point Rista's collar malfunctioned, so we can't follow his movements this way anymore. Luckily, he was caught by the wildlife monitoring cameras multiple times, and he is often sighted by passers-by when crossing the road. That Rista is a real lynx model!

## BASIC INFORMATION:



JU Nacionalni park Risnjak  
Bijela Vodica 48, Crni Lug 51317  
phone: ++385 51 83 61 33  
e-mail: np-risnjak@ri.t-com.hr  
web: www.np-risnjak.hr  
f Nacionalni park Risnjak



**CARNIVORA DINARICA**



Project Carnivora Dinarica was supported by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.



Univerza v Ljubljani



**Interreg**  
SLOVENIJA – HRVAŠKA  
SLOVENIJA – HRVATSKA  
Evropska unija | Evropski sklad za regionalni razvoj  
Evropska unija | Evropski fond za regionalni razvoj



**LEARN ABOUT  
LARGE CARNIVORES  
ON THE LESKA EDUCATIONAL PATH**

Welcome to Risnjak National Park, home of the bear, wolf and lynx, the magnificent large carnivores of Europe!

The area of Risnjak National Park is the natural habitat of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) and Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*).

These charismatic creatures largely depend on large areas to roam and different animal species to feed on, but they also require peace they find deep in the woods that humans seldom venture into.

We are proud that these fascinating animals have found shelter in the protected areas of our park! We do our best to manage it wisely and carefully and to be hospitable to both humans and animals.

Today we are taking you down the Leska Educational Path — take a walk under the giant trees, breathe in the fresh air and bask in the sounds of true wilderness! On the Leska Educational Path, you will get to know the natural and cultural heritage of Risnjak National Park and discover what makes it so unique and special!

4200 m

680 - 720 m

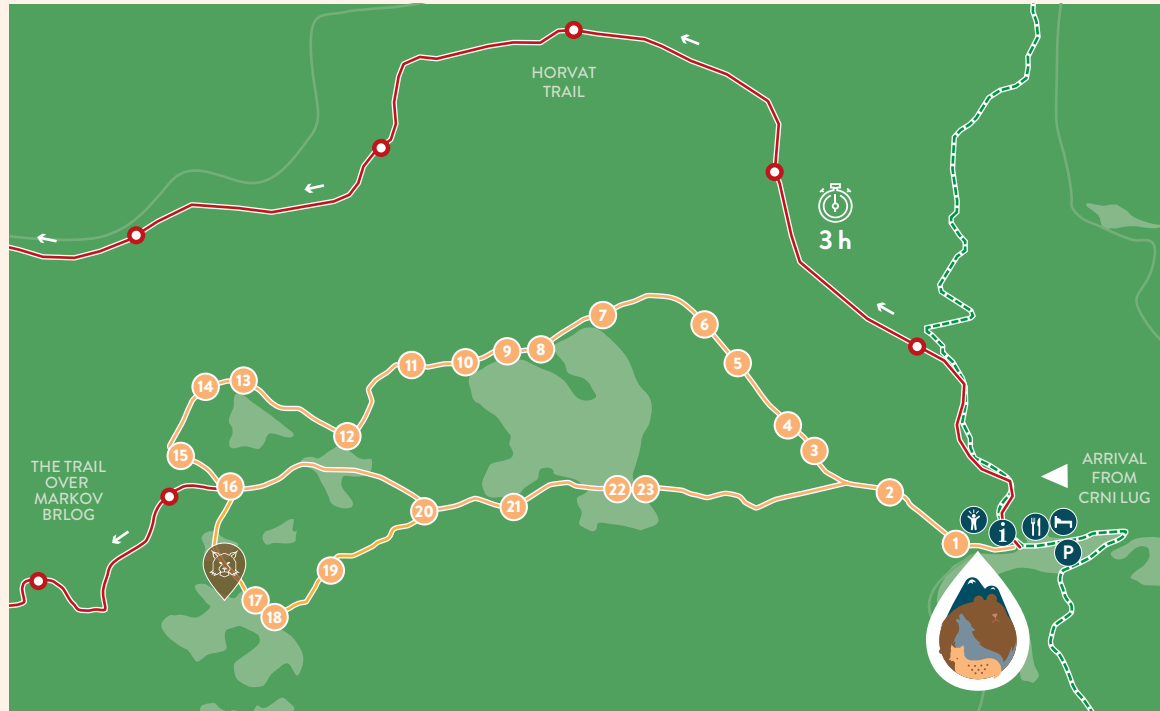
23 educational panels

up to 2 h

You are visiting the path at your own risk!

Path start: the main entrance to Risnjak National Park at Crni Lug, Bijela Vodica 48

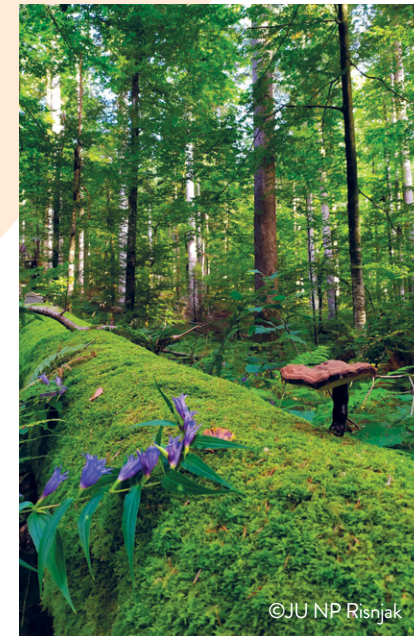
**Difficulty:** the Leska Educational Path is mostly easy to walk along. It is suitable for small children and people with impaired mobility. The surface is asphalt and gravel, so light hiking shoes are recommended.



At the very beginning of the path, there is an **adrenaline park for children** over 4 years old, as well as an **info corner** on large carnivores. Take a break here and learn about the biology of large carnivores, research into them, their protection and their role in the ecosystem. Study their pawprints to discover how to recognize their tracks and learn how to behave in their habitat.

You can walk along the Educational Path by yourself or hire a **professional guide**. Our professional guide will explain some of the less familiar interesting facts about the history of the Park and its flora and fauna, tell you why large carnivores are important, and teach you how to behave in their habitat. The guided tour is suitable for all ages, and it takes about two hours.

**Forest Pedagogy** and **School in Nature** educational programs may be organized on the path. The **"Forest Pedagogy"** program helps you experience the woods with all your senses, and you can play, explore, learn and awaken your curiosity. The program can last from 2 to 4 hours and is suitable for all ages. The **"School in Nature"** program takes place at four meeting points, divided by theme into flora, fauna, cultural heritage and large carnivores. The program lasts for 4 hours and is intended for elementary school students.



©JU NP Risnjak

- forest
- meadow
- Leska Educational Path
- hiking trails towards the Risnjak summit
- park boundary
- 1 - 23 educational panels
- location where Rista was caught
- info corner about large carnivores — project Carnivora Dinarica
- information point /ticket sales
- boarding house (rooms and restaurant)
- parking
- children's adrenaline park



©Marko Vrdoljak