

WE ARE ONLY GUESTS IN NATURE



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SIGNS OF THE PRESENCE OF LARGE CARNIVORES



WHY PRESERVE LARGE CARNIVORES?



Importance for nature:

- > As predators, they are key members of the ecosystem, because they affect the behaviour, health, and abundance of their prey.
- > Wolves and lynxes prevent large herbivores from dwelling in a certain area for longer periods of time and overgrazing the vegetation.
- > Wolves and lynxes are more likely to prey on animals in poor physical condition. Alongside the rest of their diet, bears feed on dead animals. In this way, large carnivores act as »cleaners« for the ecosystem and hence reduce the likelihood of disease spreading among animals.
- > Through its fur and faeces, the bear spreads the seeds of the various plants on which it feeds, and thus helps to spread these plants.
- > Many scavengers feed on the remains of large carnivores' prey, so the presence of large carnivores has a beneficial effect on scavenger populations.



Importance for the local environment and local communities:

- > Due to their charisma and symbolic value, large carnivores bring many intangible benefits. They create opportunities for education, research, aesthetic experiences, inspiration for artistic expression, recreational activities, recognisability of local places, etc.
- > Large carnivores also bring economic benefits. They enable the development of tourism in local communities and increase the value of pristine nature. Local services and products that promote good practices of coexistence with large carnivores are labelled »Bear-Friendly«. They bring added value and enable the development of nature-based tourism.



More at <http://www.discoverdinarics.org>

VISITING THE HOME OF LARGE CARNIVORES

- > Encounters with wolves and lynxes are rare, as both species are generally extremely timid.
- > There are no recorded attacks by healthy wolves and lynxes on humans.
- > If we see a wolf or lynx in the distance, we stay calm and do not approach it. We can observe the animal calmly and quietly.
- > If we surprise a wolf or a lynx and a close encounter occurs, the animal will flee. We try to stay as calm as possible.
- > If we spot a wolf or lynx while the animal is hunting or feeding, we back away as calmly and quietly as possible.



- > Bears are timid animals that generally avoid humans.

- > Attacks on humans are rare. A bear only attacks if it feels threatened. When a bear charges towards us, it is in most cases a fake attack, without physical contact, with the intention of driving us away.

- > When a bear rises on its hind legs, it is not a sign of aggression. It means the bear is checking its surroundings.

- > If we notice a bear is approaching us, we use a calm voice to issue a warning.

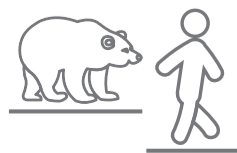
- > If we surprise the bear and a close encounter occurs, we try to stay as calm as possible. Never look a bear straight in the eyes, and back away slowly.

- > If we are accompanied by a dog, we always have to keep the dog under control.

- > In the event of a bear attack, it is best not to defend ourselves, but rather lie on the ground and try to protect our head and neck as best as we can.



If an encounter with a large carnivore occurs, we should stay calm and back away.



Never leave food scraps and packaging in nature, as they attract bears.



In order to avoid an encounter, we should make the animals aware of our presence by using a calm voice, whistling, and hitting trees with a stick, all the while being careful to not disturb the other inhabitants of the forest.



CARNIVORA DINARICA



GETTING TO KNOW LARGE CARNIVORES ON THE TERRITORY OF NOTRANJSKA REGION AND PRIMORJE-GORSKI KOTAR COUNTY

LEARN ABOUT LARGE CARNIVORES IN VISITOR CENTRES AND MUSEUMS:



1. DINA Large Carnivores Centre in the Dinarides Region (expected to open in July 2021): Municipality of Pivka, Krpanov dom Pivka, Prečna ulica 2, 6257 Pivka, T.: +386 (0) 31 775 002, E.: pivskajezer@pivka.si

2. Mašun Forest House: Slovenia Forest Service, Postojna Regional Unit, Vojkova 9, 6230 Postojna, T.: +386 (0) 5 700 06 10, E.: oepostojna@zgs.gov.si

3. Montane House of Knowledge: Risnjak National Park, Bijela Vodica 48, 51317 Crni Lug, T.: +385 (0) 51 836 133/+385 (0) 51 836 261, E.: np-risnjak@rit-com.hr

4. »Large Carnivores« Visitor Centre (expected to open in 2021): »Priroda« Public Institution, <https://centar-velikezvjeri.eu/>, Karolinska cesta 89, 51314 Ravna Gora, T.: +385 51 352 400, E.: info@ju-priroda.hr

5. Ecomuseum of the Pivka Seasonal Lakes: Municipality of Pivka, Slovenska vas 10, 6257 Pivka, T.: +386 (0) 31 775 002, E.: pivskajezer@pivka.si

LEARN ABOUT LARGE CARNIVORES ON EDUCATIONAL TRAILS:



1. Mašun Educational Forest Trail: Slovenia Forest Service, Postojna Regional Unit, Vojkova 9, 6230 Postojna, T.: +386 (0) 5 700 06 10, E.: oepostojna@zgs.gov.si

2. Sviščaki Educational Forest Trail: Slovenia Forest Service, Postojna Regional Unit, Vojkova 9, 6230 Postojna, T.: +386 (0) 5 700 06 10, E.: oepostojna@zgs.gov.si

3. Natural History Educational Trail »Following the Footsteps of Animals«: TIC Lož, Cesta 19. oktobra 49, 1386 Stari trg pri Ložu, T.: +386 (0) 81 602 853, E.: tic.loz@kabelnet.net

4. Leska Educational Trail: Risnjak National Park, Bijela Vodica 48, 51317 Crni Lug, T.: +385 (0) 51 836 133/+385 (0) 51 836 261, E.: np-risnjak@rit-com.hr

5. Path along the Kupa River: City of Vrbovsko, Ulica Hrvatskih branitelja 1, 51326 Vrbovsko, T.: +385 (0) 051 875 115/+385 (0) 51/875 228, E.: info@vrbovsko.hr

6. Drvošec Educational Trail: Notranjska Regional Park. All information about the trail available on: <https://www.notranjski-park.si/obiskovanje/aktivnosti/pohodnistvo/ucna-pot-drvošec>

TOURIST INFO CENTRES: *



1. TIC Notranjska Park: Tabor 42, 1380 Cerknica, T.: +386 (0) 1 709 36 36/+386 (0) 31 668 223, E.: tic@notranjski-park.si

2. TIC Postojna: Tržaška cesta 59a, 6230 Postojna, T.: +386 (0) 64 179 972, E.: TIC.Postojna.Info@zavod-znanje.si

3. TIC Pivka: Kolodvorska c. 51, 6257 Pivka, T.: +386 (0) 5 721 21 80/+386 (0) 31 775 002, E.: tic.pivka@pivka.si

4. TIC Lož: Cesta 19. oktobra 49, 1386 Stari trg pri Ložu, T.: +386 (0) 81 602 853, E.: tic.loz@kabelnet.net

5. TIC Ilirska Bistrica: Gregorčičeva 2, 6250 Ilirska Bistrica, T.: +386 (0) 59 966 278/+386 (0) 30 345 278, E.: info@tic-ilbistrica.si


6. TIC City of Vrbovsko: Ulica Hrvatskih branitelja 1, 51326 Vrbovsko, T.: +385 (0) 051 875 115/+385 (0) 51/875 228, E.: info@vrbovsko.hr

7. Main info centre of Risnjak National Park: Bijela Vodica 48, 51317 Crni Lug, T.: +385 (0) 51 836 133, +385 (0) 51 836 261, E.: np-risnjak@rit-com.hr

8. TIC »Birth House of the Kupa River«: Kupari 8, Hrib, 51304 Gerovo, T.: +385 (0) 51 836 133, +385 (0) 51 836 261, E.: np-risnjak@rit-com.hr

9. TIC Gorski Kotar: Lujzinska 47, 51300 Delnice, T.: +385 (0) 51 812 156, E.: tz-grada-delnica@rit-com.hr

 **CARNIVORA DINARICA PROJECT AREA**

 **HIKING EDUCATIONAL TRAIL – LYNX WALK**
All information about the trail available on: www.lifelynx.eu/lynx-walk-guide/

 **STATE BORDER BETWEEN SLOVENIA AND CROATIA**

