A guide to Kvarner’s natural environment from sea depths to mountain peaks
Dear guests and friends,

It is no accident that the County of Primorje-Gorski Kotar, that is, the Kvarner region, has the longest tradition of any part of Croatia in welcoming visitors. This tradition is primarily a result of its natural heritage, whose attractiveness was recognized already in the 19th century.

The Polish novelist Henryk Sienkiewicz used to write with much poetical enthusiasm about this coast “hemmed” with laurel and cypresses, the turquoise sea, the “transocean” air, and the parks “trebling” with nightingales’ song. The place he stayed in was Opatija — the birthplace of Croatian tourism. The Saxon King Friedrich August II used to climb the velvety green heights of Mount Ucka, eagerly seeking out unusual specimens of the local flora. Rudolf Hansburg, crown prince of Austria, explored the nature of the island of Lošinj and went as high as the peak of Osorčica, where the effort of his climb was rewarded with an exceptional view of the whole archipelago and the scents of the Mediterranean plants.

The emotional enthusiasm of aristocrats and artists was further aroused by scientists. The distinctive features of Kvarner’s flora and fauna soon attracted the attention of many serious researchers. The 19th century marked the first visits here by scientists from the major European cities. But some of the local scientists were just as good: in the hinterland of Crikvenica the great Croatian botanist Josip Pančić was born, whom after a species of spruce was named.

But where does this entire natural heritage come from, a heritage that continues to attract visitors and fill them with enthusiasm? It is a result of diverse natural influences that created the right conditions for the emergence and development of extraordinarily varied flora and fauna considered by many to be among the most interesting and species-rich on the European continent. It is the best possible gift of Mother Earth. But this heritage is to a great extent also a result of the diligent work of human hands. For more than a century and a half, the parks and botanical gardens laid out around holiday villas have continued to provide evidence that people here have always known exactly where and how to change and improve the natural landscape.

Today, Kvarner encompasses a fair number of protected natural areas, including one national park, one nature park, six forest parks, nine special reserves, one strict reserve, and three protected landscapes. Not to forget seven natural monuments, four monuments of park architecture, and dozens of other areas and individual entities that have been proposed for protection in various categories.

This booklet has been prepared with the aim of encouraging you to see some of the enchanting examples of Kvarner’s natural heritage for yourself. However, as with every other beautiful story, this encouragement should be just the beginning of a new and exciting experience. Whether this initial impulse will turn into a passionate exploration of untouched nature, or will your wish to enjoy more tranquil, relaxing strolls through the parks prevail — that is up to you.

But no matter which of the following pages influences your decision the most, we are nevertheless convinced you will still have made a very good choice.

Ivana Petrić Živadinov, M.Sc.
Director of the Kvarner County Tourism Office

Prof. dr. sc. Vedoje Vajić
President of the Kvarner County Tourism Office
The County of Primorje-Gorski kotar abounds in areas of preserved primordial landscapes and natural wonders. The Kvarner hart tongue fern, Dalmatian knapweed, Rijeka thistle, Istrian bellflower, Učka or Tommasini bellflower, Degenia velebitica, karst edelweiss, alpine salamander, olm (Proteus), Horvath’s rock lizard, Eurasian griffon vulture, dolphin, otter, bear, wolf and lynx are just a few of the botanical and faunistic peculiarities that inhabit this area where the Mediterranean, continental Europe and the karstic Dinarides come together.

Some pearls are to be found in the immediate vicinity of human settlements, or even at the very centre of some towns, like the wonderful parks in Opatija, the forest parks on the island of Lošinj, or Komrčar forest park on the island of Rab.

The Priroda public institution that manages the county’s protected natural areas, together with the Risnjak National Park and the Učka Nature Park public institutions, makes every effort to publish various materials aimed at popularising natural heritage and educating readers about it. The goal of these materials is to make our valuable natural areas more accessible to the wider population and to spread the word about their beauty. One such publication is this booklet, written primarily for tourists and visitors interested in learning more about the protected nature of Kvarner and spending some memorable moments in it.

Walking in nature offers many possibilities for recreational activities, widening one’s knowledge and enriching one’s own spiritual world through immediate contact with its valuable natural areas. This booklet contains a selection of eighteen attractive walks through the protected nature of the County of Primorje-Gorski kotar. Each area is illustrated with photographs which should help readers to get a better idea about where they are planning to visit. Also included are basic data about the protected areas, a description of how to get there, the starting point for the visit, and a suggested tour. The tour is additionally explained by a graphic representation on the topographic map and a visualisation of the elevation profile, which also gives the reader a clue about the difficulty of the route and the amount of effort required to complete it.

It is important to emphasise that one of the basic tasks of public institutions for nature conservation is the preservation of nature within the protected areas. This aim, however, cannot be fully achieved without the support of visitors to these areas. Things that we know and love we preserve more easily and conscientiously. For that reason, this booklet serves not only as an invitation to get to know and explore the natural heritage of the County of Primorje-Gorski kotar, but also to encourage every interested person to become more actively involved in protecting it. Responsibility for taking care of and preserving this county’s valuable areas of nature does not rest exclusively with the nature protection inspectors, rangers and members of the supervisory services within the public institutions, or well-meaning local people: visitors too will need to play an active role if we are ever to achieve an effective level of nature protection.

Sonja Šišić,
Director of the Priroda Public Institution
Protection of natural heritage in the County of Primorje-Gorski kotar ...6

HIGHLAND..................................... 8
1. Risnjak ............................................10
2. The Rocks of Samarske stijene and Bijele stijene ............................................. 12
3. Vražji prolaz-Zeleni vir ...................... 14
4. Kamačnik ........................................16
5. Golubinjak ......................................18
6. Japlenski vrh ..................................20

SHORES ....................................... 22
7. Učka Nature Park ............................. 24
8. Lišina ........................................... 26
9. Angiolina Park .................................. 28
10. Margarita Park .................................. 29

ISLANDS ...................................... 30
11. Kuntrep ........................................ 32
12. Dundo ......................................... 34
13. Lopar .......................................... 36
14. Komrčar ..................................... 38
15. Košljun ....................................... 39
16. Kruna ......................................... 40
17. Pod Javori ................................... 42
18. Čikat ......................................... 44

LIST OF TOURISM OFFICES AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS .................46
Every visitor who becomes acquainted with at least part of the beautiful natural environment and valuable natural heritage of the County of Primorje-Gorski kotar will undoubtedly agree that this is a very special and uniquely preserved area. In addition to the unquestionable diversity of its wonderful landscapes, the area also abounds in an extremely rich biodiversity that can hardly be matched. Care for the entire natural heritage comes within the scope of the public institutions that also manage the protected natural areas. In charge of Risnjak National Park and Učka Nature Park are the respective public institutions founded by the Republic of Croatia. In charge of the other protected areas (about thirty in total, including almost all types of protection categories in the Republic of Croatia — from strict reserves to monuments of park architecture) is the county’s Priroda Public Institution (Priroda means “Nature”).

Apart from the “must-see” visit to the Risnjak National Park and the Učka Nature Park, we encourage visitors to see at least some of the other attractive destinations in the protected areas that offer something for every taste: from the wild canyons, ravines and waterfalls in Vražji prolaz, Zeleni vir and Kamačnik, to the somewhat tamer areas of Gorski kotar’s forest parks (Golubinjak, Japlenški vrh), preserved forest ecosystems, such as Dundo forest on the island of Rab, or the unusual coastal areas of sandy coves and pyramids in Lopar. Some individual natural monuments are also worth visiting, such as interesting old trees that defy the march of time, but also some typical underground karst features, such as the Cave of Lokvarka.

Risnjak National Park, situated only 15 km inland from the Adriatic Sea, is the largest protected area in Gorski kotar covering a total of 63.5 square kilometres. In addition to the massifs of Risnjak and Snježnik, the area of the National Park also encompasses a hydrogeomorphological natural monument — the source of the River Kupa with its upper flow. Risnjak forms a mighty climatic and vegetational barrier between the coast and the continental part of Croatia. We recommend entering the park at Crni Lug, a typical Gorski kotar village, where the pension and the National Park Authority are located. There you can find plenty of useful information about the park and follow the Leska Educational Trail that leads through the beautiful forest at the foot of Risnjak. The trail, which only takes about an hour and a half to complete, explains the many natural phenomena of this part of the park to visitors. More ambitious visitors should not miss the walk through the River Kupa valley to the river’s source, a unique karst phenomenon, beneath the village of Razloge. Also worth visiting are the extensive
wild and wooded areas along Horvat’s Path, the rocky peak of Risnjak, and the wide alpine grasslands on Snježnik. Visitors keen on unspoiled, wild nature should visit the primeval forest in the area around the rocks of Bijele stijene — but please contact the Park Authority beforehand, as unguided tours are not allowed.

Učka Nature Park, a protected area on the border between the counties of Primorje-Gorski kotar and Istria, encompasses the massif of Učka and a part of Čićarija. From the Kvarner coast, a network of paths and trails ascends the steep slopes of Učka through rural landscapes, small villages and karst forests of famous sweet chestnuts. This is the area where the best of Učka is offered throughout the seasons: apart from sweet chestnuts, the local gastronomy includes specialities of asparagus and mushrooms, and the famous *medica* honey grape. If you visit the nicely preserved village of Lovranska Draga, the path will lead you through the forest to one of the most beautiful waterfalls in the park. The highest peak of Učka, Vojak (1,401 m), offers magnificent views right across Kvarner Bay, the northern Adriatic, Istria and the distant peaks of Velebit, Gorski kotar, and the Julian and Kamnik Alps.

We encourage you to leave your car behind to fully enjoy the fresh air, the sounds, the scents and the scenes of nature. To help you do this, we started the Učka Outdoor Project and marked out some fifty hiking trails, eight mountain biking trails, some sixty places for alpine climbing, and two take-off ramps for hang-gliders and paragliders.

**Prohibited activities**

<p>| | | | | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Leaving dogs unattended • 2. Driving off-road and outside public roads • 3. Dumping rubbish • 4. Destroying plants and mushrooms • 5. Disturbing animals • 6. Lighting fires • 7. Parking outside marked areas • 8. Camping • 9. Destroying or removing fossils, minerals or calcite formations from the caves • 10. Using speedboats or anchoring beneath the cliffs

Should you notice any disturbance of the environment, please call the supervisory service of the relevant public institution.

In case of an accident, please call **112** - Mountain Rescue Service.
The County of Primorje-Gorski kotar is located in the western part of the Republic of Croatia and comprises an area of 7,990.57 km². The county’s varied landscape encompasses three large geographical parts — islands, coasts and highlands — each with its own specific features.

The mountainous parts of the county include the forest areas of Gorski kotar with the highest peaks and mountain ridges: Bjelolasica 1,534 m, Risnjak 1,528 m, Snježnik 1,505 m, Viševica 1,428 m, and — bordering with the coastline — Obruč 1,376 m. There are 73 peaks in the county higher than 1,250 metres. Gorski kotar is the least inhabited area in the county, but boasts several ancient centres of human dwelling that originated as a result of early activities such as mining and agriculture, or because this was the traffic and transit junction between the coastal and continental parts of Croatia. These are the towns of Delnice, Vrbovsko and Čabar.

The natural environment in Gorski kotar is well conserved and luxuriant. Its varied habitats are home to some very valuable species that are very different to those on the coast and islands. But it is precisely this variety and unusual contrasts that give this region its special status within the wider European context.

This extraordinary biological diversity is a result of the fact that, according to palaeontological findings, this area and its immediate surroundings were refugia for flora and fauna during the last ice age, which explains why there are so many relict and endemic species living in Gorski kotar today. These include rare land mammals, large predators (wolf, bear, lynx and otter), rare and endangered birds (golden eagle, honey buzzard, eagle owl, three-toed woodpecker, capercaillie…), and the valuable fauna of the clear rivers. The Kupa, the cleanest mountain river in Croatia, is home to a number of fish species that have been declared endangered in Europe (grayling, brown trout, huchen…) and several rare and endemic invertebrates.

The famous Croatian botanist, Prof. Dr. Ivo Horvat, called the mountains of Gorski kotar “the Croatian gates” through which in the past many Alpine species arrived in the Dinarides and vice versa. The mountains of Gorski kotar also played a significant role in the spreading of Alpine and Arctic-Alpine flora and vegetation into south-eastern parts of Europe, especially during the ice ages. This vegetation, with many rare plant and animal species — glacial and boreal relicts — and numerous endemic mountain species, has survived right up to the present day on the highest peaks.
of Gorski kotar, such as Risnjak, Snježnik, Bijelolasica, Bijele stijene and Samarske stijene.

Due to the mainly karst features of the region, special attention should be given to particular geomorphological and hydrogeological phenomena, including underground areas, unique endemic cave fauna and water networks. In addition to their species-rich flora and fauna, natural and cultivated karst landscapes are of particular scientific and cultural importance, and also have great economic potential in terms of developing eco-tourism. Karst is significant not only in terms of nature protection, but also as an important drinking water conservation area, and for its valuable fertile agricultural land, which are both indispensable for the continuation of life and further sustainable development of this region.

It is indicative that almost all the protected natural areas in Gorski kotar have to do with the phenomenon of karst and are located in typical karst areas. One fine example of a karst area of extraordinary beauty and diverse landscape with continental, mountain and alpine features is the region’s only strict reserve — the rocks of Bijele stijene and Samarske stijene. All the special natural reserves are also connected to karst phenomena, such as the geomorphological reserve Vražji prolaz and Zeleni vir near Skrad. In the forest vegetation reserves, such as the Debela lipa — Velika rebar reserve above Lokve, the phenomenon of karst is somewhat less obvious, because these areas are distinguished for their recognisable forest vegetation — this is the phenomenon of the so-called “covered” karst.

Forest parks also developed on karst terrain and some of them boast, in addition to typical forest vegetation, some beautiful and well-developed karst features. A typical example is Golubinjak forest park near Lokve, which includes many karst phenomena such as caves, ice caves, rocks, sinkholes, stone bridges, etc. Another fine example, with several nice sinkholes, is Japlenški vrh forest park above Delnice.

The Kamačnik protected landscape near Vrbovsko is a canyon through which the karst stream of Kamačnik flows. Its source is a typical karst vauclusian spring of extraordinary beauty and unknown but definitely great depth. Some of the natural monuments of the region are also nice examples of karst phenomena. One of these is the cave of Lokvarka with diverse calcite cave formations and rare endemic cave fauna. It is therefore expected that the entire area of Gorski kotar will become part of the European network of protected areas — NATURA 2000.
**PROTECTED NATURAL HERITAGE**

**RISNJAK**

**Category of protection:** national park  
**Year of proclamation:** 1953  
**Area:** 6,400 ha  
**Location:** town areas of Bakar, Čabar and Delnice and the areas of Čavle and Lokve municipalities  
**Elevation:** 290 - 1,528 m  
**Flora:** edelweiss, silvery yarrow, Alpine sea holly, daisy star aster, orange lily, gentian etc.  
**Fauna:** bear, wolf, lynx, chamois, red deer, roe deer, wild boar, badger, squirrel, dormouse, capercaillie, hazel grouse, sparrowhawk, eagle owl, horned viper, adder, brown trout, grayling, numerous species of butterflies etc.  
**Vegetation:** forest of beech and fir, sub-alpine beech forest; dwarf mountain pine with honeysuckle; fir forest with hard fern  
**Special features:** The Risnjak National Park encompasses three areas: Risnjak and Snježnik massifs, central part with Leska educational trail, and the upper flow of the River Kupa with its source, a hydrogeomorphological natural monument.
Access and starting point

The area of the Risnjak National Park can be accessed from different directions, depending on which part of the park you want to visit. If you intend a rather short walking tour, we recommend taking the NP Risnjak Pension in Cmi Lug as your starting point. This pension includes a restaurant famous for its game and mushroom specialities. The Alpine hut on Risnjak can be used for longer climbing routes.

Recommended tour from the starting point

From Cmi Lug/Bijela vodica (the Park Administration) follow the path through Leska to Markov belog and further through Medveda vrata and over the mountain pass near Južni Mali Risnjak up to the Josip Schlosser Klekovički Alpine hut and finally to the peak of Risnjak. Return along Horvat’s path that runs past Vučja jama down to the car parking area at the Park Administration.

Length of the tour: 16.2 km
Walking time: 7 hours
Difficulty: demanding
Maps of the area: Hiking map of the Risnjak National Park

Elevation profile of the tour
The rocks of Bijele stijene and Samarske stijene can be accessed by a gravel forest road leading from Vojni Tuk (3 km from Mrkopalj and 18 km from Delnice) across the field of Matić-poljana and further on to Mlečikov lug, where a hiking trail branches off for Samarske stijene. Two kilometres further on, another path branches off for Bijele stijene. The road leads further towards Jasenak, which means that the area of Bijele stijene and Samarske stijene can also be reached from that side.

**Category of protection:** strict reserve  
**Year of proclamation:** 1985  
**Area:** 1,175 ha (a smaller part of this area, around 191 ha, is in the County of Karlovac, in the area of the Town of Ogulin)  
**Location:** in the area of the Town of Novi Vinodolski and the Municipality of Mrkopalj (Gorski kotar)  
**Elevation:** 1,000 - 1,335 m  
**Flora:** edelweiss, dwarf juniper, Alpine sea holly, numerous forest species of plants, ferns, mosses etc.  
**Fauna:** bear and many other forest mammals, three-toed woodpecker, black woodpecker, eagle owl, viviparous lizard, Horvath’s rock lizard, Alpine (black) salamander  
**Vegetation:** mixed beech-fir forest, fir forest on calcareous blocks, vegetation of rocks and tall herbs („mountain gardens“)  
**Special features:** Ratko’s shelter in a halfcave underneath a tall vertical cliff.

**Access and starting point**

The rocks of Bijele stijene and Samarske stijene can be accessed by a gravel forest road leading from Vojni Tuk (3 km from Mrkopalj and 18 km from Delnice) across the field of Matić-poljana and further on to Mlečikov lug, where a hiking trail branches off for Samarske stijene. Two kilometres further on, another path branches off for Bijele stijene. The road leads further towards Jasenak, which means that the area of Bijele stijene and Samarske stijene can also be reached from that side.
The rocks of Bijele stijene and Samarske stijene are the only strict reserve in the County of Primorje-Gorski kotar. It is the area with the strictest protection regime, therefore we kindly ask visitors not to damage or endanger the untouched primordial nature of the reserve.

Recommended tour from the starting point

From the car parking area under the rocks of Samarske stijene (the area is called 13. kilometar) follow the marked path towards Ratko’s shelter. From there, return to the last crossing (5 minutes) and turn left for the peak of Samarske stijene. Beneath the peak you will see the turning to the right that you should use on the way back. From the peak, the path leads steeply downhill (at the crossing after the steep part continue straight on) until you reach the exit to the forest road. After some twenty minutes of moderate walking, the road will bring you back to the car parking area.

**Length of the tour:** 5.2 km  
**Walking time:** 2 hours and 30 minutes  
**Difficulty:** demanding  
**Maps of the area:** SMAND 11a hiking map, Samarske i Bijele stijene, Bjelolasica, SMAND hiking map, Gorski kotar GPP - Goranski planinarski put (Gorski kotar Hiking Trail)
PROTECTED NATURAL HERITAGE

VRAŽJI PROLAZ - ZELENI VIR

**Category of protection:** special reserve – geomorphological

**Year of proclamation:** 1962

**Area:** 200 ha

**Location:** area of the Municipality of Skrad (Gorski kotar)

**Elevation:** 302 – 650 m

**Flora:** spring heath, grey hawkbit, Alpine butterwort, daisy star aster

**Fauna:** stoneflies, caddisflies, fire salamander, brown trout, bullhead

**Vegetation:** interesting thermophile forest of hop hornbeam and winter heath

**Special features:** bridges in the canyon of Vražji prolaz

---

**Access and starting point**

To visit the reserve, start from Skrad, a small town on the old Rijeka-Zagreb road. Skrad has train and bus stations and a narrow, steep, winding and partially asphalt road will bring you to the Alpine hut at the entrance to the reserve. You can also start from Brod na Kupi (the state border!) and reach Zeleni vir along an asphalt road that leads to Skrad. In that case, do not forget to take the turning for Zeleni vir at the hamlet of Planina Skradska.
Length of the tour: 4.6 km  
Walking time: 2 hours  
Difficulty: medium demanding  
Maps of the area: SMAND hiking map
Gorski kotar GPP-Goranski planinarski put

Recommended tour from the starting point

From the car parking area follow the marked path to the Zeleni vir waterfall, and then take the steep, winding path towards Skrad (train station). Follow the railway track southwards up to the crossing with a gravel road. Use that road to head downhill and follow the marked path to reach the canyon (Muževa hiža cave) and continue through Vražji prolaz canyon back to the car parking area.
KAMAČNIK

**Category of protection:** protected landscape  
**Year of proclamation:** 2002  
**Area:** 74.44 ha  
**Location:** the area of the Town of Vrbovsko (Gorski kotar)  
**Elevation:** 370 – 600 m  
**Flora:** yew, butcher’s broom, spurge laurel, Alpine epimedium, nettle-leaved speedwell, forest coltsfoot  
**Fauna:** endemic subterranean crustacean *Monolistra* sp., stoneflies, caddisflies, fire salamander, brown trout  
**Vegetation:** mountainous beech forest with elements of thermophile forest hop hornbeam  
**Special features:** vauclusian spring of unknown depth

**Access and starting point**

The entrance to Kamačnik canyon can be reached on the asphalt road leading from the centre of Vrbovsko in the direction of the train station and continuing straight on (for about one kilometre), across the railway track and up to the restaurant where the Kamačnik flows into the River Dobra.
Length of the tour: 6.3 km  
Walking time: 2 hours  
Difficulty: easy  
Maps of the area: SMAND hiking map, Gorski kotar GPP-Goranski planinarski put

Recommended tour from the starting point

From the car parking area at the restaurant follow the marked path leading up the stream towards its source. At several points, the path crosses the flow of the Kamačnik on wooden bridges. We recommend using the same path to return from the source.
Category of protection: forest park
Year of proclamation: 1961
Area: 51 ha
Location: area of the municipality of Lokve (Gorski kotar)
Elevation: ca. 730 – 800 m
Flora: Alpine rose, Alpine clematis, heartleaf oxeye, Alpine enchanter’s nightshade, Austrian leopard’s bane, rare ostrich fern and other species of ferns
Fauna: dormouse, squirrel, many forest birds, butterflies, coleoptera beetles, spiders
Vegetation: beech forest with fir, fir and spruce forest on calcareous blocks, fragments of vegetation of carbonate forest rocks and vegetation of tall herbs
Special features: fir – the “Queen of the forest” and several interesting microclimatic, karst and cave features (caves of Golubinja pećina and Ledena pećina, frost areas etc.)

Access and starting point

The forest park can be reached by car if you turn right after the sign for Golubinjak from the old Rijeka – Zagreb road, before the junction for Mrkopalj. Lokve railway station is in the immediate vicinity of the forest park and from there an attractive footpath leads towards Golubinjak and further on towards Lokve.
PROTECTED NATURAL HERITAGE

Recommended tour from the starting point

From the car parking area, start towards the restaurant in the centre of Golubinjak. Take the marked path and follow the signs for the amphitheatre and the cave of Golubinja spilja. After passing the cave, turn left towards Paklena vrata and further on to the cave of Ledena spilja (the Ice Cave). From there, return to the first intersection and turn right onto the marked path that leads through the forest park and reaches the track that connects Lokve railway station and Golubinjak. This track will bring you to the so-called “Queen of the forest”, a striking example of a fir tree, and then back to the car parking area.

Length of the tour: 2.5 km
Walking time: 1 hour
Difficulty: easy
Maps of the area: SMAND hiking map, Gorski kotar GPP-Goranski planinarski put
**JAPLENŠKI VRH**

**Category of protection:** forest park  
**Year of proclamation:** 1953  
**Area:** 171 ha  
**Location:** the area of the town of Delnice (Gorski kotar)  
**Elevation:** 700 - 842 m  
**Flora:** dwarf honeysuckle, spurge laurel, martagon lily, cyclamen, blue-eyed Mary, deadnettle, mosses, great variety of mushrooms  
**Fauna:** large number of central-European forest birds and mammals; the bear occasionally visits the area  
**Vegetation:** beech forest with fir, small areas of neglected mountain meadows  
**Special features:** historical ski jump and vantage point offering the view of Delnice

**Access and starting point**

The starting point for the tour to Japlenški vrh is the Lovački dom motel above Delnice, which can be reached following the brown signs from the town. If you are in a car, you can access it most easily if you turn right from the old Zagreb-Rijeka road at the very end of the town. If you prefer walking, you can take the steps that lead uphill from the park in the centre of Delnice.
Recommended tour from the starting point

At the car parking area near Lovački dom, take the path to the nearby ski jump, which offers a magnificent view of the town of Delnice. Continue straight ahead on the maintained marked path up to the turning for the peak. There, turn left and follow the bends uphill until you reach the top. On your way back, it takes several minutes from the top to reach the first intersection, then turn right and continue downhill until you reach a gravel road (along the logging track, straight on). Follow the markings right to the Pijaničevo area and continue on a well-maintained path to Lovački dom (car parking area).

Length of the tour: 4.3 km
Walking time: 1 hour and 30 minutes
Difficulty: easy
Maps of the area: SMAND hiking map, Gorski kotar GPP–Goranski planinarski put

Elevation profile of the tour
The littoral part of the Kvarner region can be roughly divided into Liburnia, the Rijeka coast, and the Crikvenica-Novigrad coast. This is the most densely inhabited part of the County of Primorje-Gorski kotar, characterised by a series of coastal settlements stretching out along the shoreline, including Opatija, Rijeka, Kostrena, Bakar, Kraljevica, Crikvenica and Novi Vinodolski, boasting a rich cultural heritage dating back several centuries and millennia, and many valuable sites of interest in the immediate hinterland. The littoral area is surrounded by a chain of mountain ridges that offer visitors a memorable experience of the mountainous, sometimes even alpine landscape, and magnificent views of the sea and the islands.

In the immediate coastal hinterland rise the mighty Mount Učka, which has been proclaimed a nature park, then the wooded massif of Ćićarija, Mount Obruč, which is proposed for protection as the first regional park in the County of Primorje-Gorski kotar due to its valuable nature, the legendary Tuhobić with its two faces – grassy and wooded, and Mount Velika Kapela, down whose stony littoral slopes the mountain flora made their way to the sea, including some of Croatia’s rarest plants that are unique anywhere.

The picturesque canyon of the only river in the region, the Rječina, connects the town of Rijeka with its immediate mountainous hinterland and the famous plain of Grobnik (Grobićko polje), which is overlooked by an ancient Frankopan castle. The thick gravel sediments in the field are geological reminders of the Ice Age, when the nearby Mount Risnjak was partially covered with small glaciers. When the ice on their edges melted, the torrential streams of Mudna dol, Kacaj and Borovica carried rocks and scree into the basin of Grobićko polje – supposedly a former lake basin. This interesting plain is also connected with the legend of a battle against the Tatars and numerous graves are scattered all around the area.

According to the census, in 2001 the County of Primorje-Gorski kotar had 305,505 inhabitants with an average population density of 85 people per square kilometre. However, most people live on the coast and on the islands, which means that large parts of the region are almost uninhabited, especially along the foothills and in the wooded mountain areas.

Fifty percent of the total population of the County of Primorje-Gorski kotar lives in the city of Rijeka, the county’s main urban centre. Rijeka is the administrative, cultural and university centre of the county, the main Croatian port and an important industrial town. Visitors interested in nature and flora and fauna should visit the city’s Museum of Natural Sciences, which has an aquarium and a botanical garden. In addition, Rijeka
has a fine heritage of great cultural and historical value dating from prehistory and the Roman era to more recent times. This is all displayed and explained in the city’s Maritime and History Museum in the Governor’s Palace.

Old littoral towns scattered across the islands and the coastline are small architectural pearls harmoniously blending with the surrounding landscape. Visitors are encouraged to visit the ancient miniature hilltop settlements, whose origins date back to prehistory – Brseč, Mošćenice, Veprinac, Trsat, Bakar – then the old Frankopan castles in the Vinodol region, where the first Croatian legal document was written down in 1288 (the Vinodol Law), and other valuable cultural and historical heritage.

Coastal karst landscapes also abound in wide networks of picturesque dry-stone walls (“gromače”), terraces and other testimonies to the long rural tradition of the area.

The people of the County of Primorje-Gorski kotar are involved in many different economic activities. In the mountainous areas (Gorski kotar), people mostly live from potato cultivation, forestry and wood processing. The greatest part of industry is concentrated in the littoral area, while the islanders mostly make their living from tourism. Traditional Mediterranean agriculture (sheep farming, olive growing and wine production) has regrettably become rather neglected, especially in the coastal areas.

People living in the coastal regions have strong roots here and have always been oriented towards the sea and seafaring. This is, among other things, a result of the area’s specific climate. Throughout its history, the greatest influence on the life of people was probably the winds that blow on Kvarner, especially the **bura** and **jugo**. Visitors should be warned about their occasionally evil nature!

The **bura** is a cold, dry wind that gusts off the mountain slopes, often with ferocious force and speed, mostly from the north-west. It can start blowing at any time of the year, but is most common in winter. It creates clouds of sea foam and salt. The **jugo** blows from the south, bringing humidity, rain and snow in winter that accumulate on mountain barriers. It blows continuously and creates rather high waves. While the **bura** usually brings bright weather and cheers people up, the **jugo** brings gloomy, rainy weather and usually has a negative effect on people’s mood.

The greatest wind speed ever recorded for the **bura** in the County of Primorje-Gorski kotar was on the 14th November 2004 when gusts of 215 km/h were measured at the bridge connecting the island of Krk with the mainland. Such conditions usually lead to material damage and represent a danger to human life, especially for those who find themselves unprotected out at sea.
Category of protection: nature park
Year of proclamation: 1999
Area: 160 km²
Location: area of the Učka massif and a part of the Ćićarija massif (including parts of the County of Primorje-Gorski kotar — the town of Opatija and the municipalities of Matulji, Lovran and Mošćenička Draga, and parts of the County of Istria — the municipalities of Lanišće, Krišan and Lupoglav)
Elevation: 1,401 m (highest peak Vojak)
Flora: Tommasini or Učka bellflower, Alpine pasque-flower, auricula, Croatian barberry, bladder cherry, yew, Alpine daphne, Balkan peony, Carniolan lily, various species of orchids, etc.
Fauna: karst garden dormouse, wild boar, chamois, roe deer, bear and numerous other forest mammals, golden eagle, eagle owl, peregrine falcon, ortolan bunting, boreal owl, Horvath’s rock lizard, Alpine or black salamander, clouded apollo, underground Coleoptera beetle, many bat species, etc.
Vegetation: forest vegetation: forests of downy oak and oriental hornbeam, sub-Mediterranean forest of sweet chestnut, hop-hornbeam forest, littoral and sub-alpine beech forest, forest conifers: black pine, to a lesser extent spruce and larch, dwarf mountain (mugo) pine in the peak area; grasslands, thickets, vegetation of rocks and screes, weed and ruderal vegetation; vegetation of moist and fresh water habitats.
Special features: Učka Nature Park encompasses the canyon of Vela draga, which was put under protection in 1963 and declared a geomorphological natural monument in 1998.
Access and starting point

The old regional road that connects the counties of Primorje-Gorski kotar and Istria passes through the Učka Nature Park; take this road and follow the brown signs to reach the Park from the direction of Matulji. Alternatively, you can take the motorway that starts in Matulji, passes through Učka Tunnel and continues to the Istrian Y motorway. If you choose this route, then leave the motorway before the tunnel at the exit for Veprinac and follow the brown signs pointing you towards the Učka Nature Park.

Length of the tour: 7 km
Walking time: 4 hours
Difficulty: medium difficulty
Maps of the area: tourist geographical map of the Učka Nature Park

Recommended tour from the starting point

The tour starts on Poklon, a mountain pass that connects the massifs of Učka and Ćićarija and includes the Poklon mountain hut, the Učka pension and the Učka Nature Park information kiosk and souvenir shop. From Poklon, set off towards Učka’s highest peak, Vojak, through a littoral beech forest following the markings and signposts. Once you reach Vojak, you can enjoy a very attractive panoramic view of the surrounding landscape. In addition to being a magnet for numerous climbers and hikers, Vojak has recently become very popular among paragliding and hang-gliding enthusiasts. On the way back down the asphalt road, after some five hundred metres you will reach a display board inviting visitors to take the well-tended Plas educational trail through the forest with several belvederes, places to rest and interpretation boards explaining more about the plant and animal species that inhabit the peak areas of Učka. The Plas educational trail is connected to the trail that leads to Poklon.

Elevation profile of the tour
Category of protection: protected landscape
Year of proclamation: 1997
Area: 1,394 ha
Location: area of the Municipality of Matulji (Ćićarija)
Elevation: 600 – 1,241 m
Flora: autumn moor grass, martagon lily, stemless lousewort, narrow-leaved lungwort, Trieste gentian, cowslip primrose; plenty of mushrooms, especially boletes
Fauna: dormouse, roe deer, foxes, badgers, hares, martens, plenty of forest birds, occasionally deer and boars
Vegetation: littoral beech forest, to a lesser extent forest of hop hornbeam and planted conifers — black pine, fir and spruce
Special features: Lisina is a protected karst wooded landscape in the mountainous areas of Ćićarija, next to the Učka Nature Park. It has a long tradition of being visited by day-trippers. The forest resources of the mountain have always attracted the local inhabitants as well, who were traditionally busy collecting firewood, burning charcoal and hunting edible dormice.
Access and starting point

Take the old road from Matulji that leads to Učka up to the crossing near the villages of Frančići and Rukavac. The road is asphalt up to Rukavac and then continues as gravel for about six kilometres to the Stanko Jurdana mountain hut in Lisina.

Recommended tour from the starting point

Stanko Jurdana mountain hut (644 m) – peak of Lisina (1,185 m) - Stanko Jurdana mountain hut.

The path leads from the Stanko Jurdana mountain hut to the peak of Lisina, which gives its name to the whole area. The peak is a walk of about one and a half hours from the hut. Beneath the peak is an unusual, wonderful, widely branched beech tree. The spot offers a magnificent view of the northern part of the Učka massif. Return to the Stanko Jurdana mountain hut by the same way.

Length of the tour: 6.5 km
Walking time: 3 hours
Difficulty: easy
Category of protection: monument of park architecture
Year of proclamation: 1968
Area: 2.7 ha
Location: area of the Town of Opatija
Elevation: 10 – 20 m
Flora: laurel, oaks, cedars, pines, southern magnolia, coast redwood, California incense cedar, bamboo, various palms and another ca. 150 species of mostly exotic dendroflora.
Special features: camellias that bloom at the end of winter, stalagmites brought to the park from karst caves

Access

The park can be reached within a few minutes’ walk along the Franz Josef coastal promenade or along Opatija’s main street from the town centre in the direction of Slatina, the Hotel Milenij, the church of St. James and the Hotel Kvarner.
**PROTECTED NATURAL HERITAGE**

**MARGARITA PARK**

**Category of protection:** monument of park architecture  
**Year of proclamation:** 1968  
**Area:** 1.8 ha  
**Location:** area of the Town of Opatija  
**Elevation:** 30 – 40 m  
**Flora:** laurel, downy oak, Aleppo pine, California incense cedar, bamboo, palms  
**Fauna:** various birds from the surrounding forests  
**Special features:** interweaving of indigenous and exotic flora

**Access**

The park can be reached within a few minutes’ climb from Slatina, the centre of Opatija. Take Vladimir Gortan Street – one of the entrances to the park is located immediately after the Hotel Opatija. While in the park, one should also visit the nearby area called Vrutki situated in a shaded ravine above Slatina, through which the torrential stream of Vrutki flows. To reach this spatially rather small area, continue uphill from the entrance to the park through the ravine. Vrutki is a series of small springs emerging from the rock, located on a slope of the wooded torrential ravine.
The sea area of the county comprises a large part of the Bay of Kvarner with the Bay of Rijeka, Velebit and Vinodol channels, Kvarnerić and Kvarner as separate parts, and the four large islands — Krk, Rab, Cres and Lošinj with their surrounding small islands.

In addition to these four large islands (Cres 405.78 km², Krk 405.78 km², Rab 90.84 km², Lošinj 74.68 km²), there are some more small islands and a number of islets, rocks and reefs. There are as many as 55 islands in the County of Primorje-Gorski kotar, while the number of rocks and reefs can only be guessed at, but certainly more than sixty rocks and more than a dozen reefs. Each of them is a world of its own and a miniature valuable ecosystem.

The only Mediterranean dolphin reserve is located in the waters off the islands of Cres and Lošinj. This is a unique habitat for the population of bottlenose dolphins, and with a little luck and patience, visitors will have an opportunity to enjoy watching these lovely marine mammals. But dolphins are not the only natural particularity of this area — rare sea turtles also visit here, and the extensive undersea meadows of posidonia flowering plant provide shelter for many fish species and other sea creatures.

The littoral part and the islands in the County of Primorje-Gorski kotar abound in natural wonders, which have in the course of time become intertwined with the area’s distinctive cultural heritage. The long tradition of dwelling in this area and the intensive way of life on the islands and the coast have left permanent traces on Kvarner’s landscape. Some parts of the islands and the coast have remained desolated and deforested down to the rocky ground even to the present day, whereas once upon a time these areas were full of life.

There were more cattle here in the past than today, and many isolated hamlets and shepherds’ huts; today they are all in ruins or even unrecognisable — we can only guess about some of their former locations. Dense networks of terraces and small valleys bordered with dry-stone walls attest to the continuous battle with nature in the attempt to grow vines, olives and other cultures in this area. People worked hard to bring fertile soil into
these terraces and karst valleys literally on their backs, carefully shaping them in harmony with the forces of nature, building stone walls and fighting against erosion, the bura wind, washing soil away, and drought.

Traditional agriculture and its most prominent branch, sheep farming, has survived on the Kvarner islands up to the present day, and contributed to the survival of one of the most endangered European birds – the Eurasian griffon vulture. The specific feature of Kvarner’s population of vultures is that they nest on the cliffs directly above the sea. The cliffs and rocks of Kvarner’s islands are also home to endemic flora and fauna – including the Istrian bluebell, prickly drypis, rare Kvarner fern, Dalmatian knapweed, and some endemic insects and snails.

On the other hand, some parts of the Kvarner islands show their tamer, greener side. The natural reserve of Dundo forest on the island of Rab is one of the most beautiful and well-preserved natural evergreen holm oak Mediterranean forests and is therefore definitely worth visiting. Also worth mentioning are the wooded areas of Tramuntana and Punta križa on the island of Cres, while the forest parks of Čikat and Pod javori, which emerged as a result of afforestation at the end of the 19th century, make Lošinj one of the greenest islands on Kvarner.

In the areas where human hand has left its traces, the landscape was not destroyed but rather transformed over centuries into marvellous rural areas suited to the flourishing people, domestic animals and cultivated plants. Some pearls are to be found in the immediate vicinity of the human settlements, or even at the very centre of some of the towns, like the unique dry-stone walls (“gromače”) and olive groves of extraordinary aesthetic value neatly folded into the landscape near the town of Cres, or the – regrettably – today almost abandoned “box-shaped” cultivated landscape of vineyards bordered with dry-stone walls near Punat on the island of Krk. There are many more such examples of forgotten valuable areas on our islands – they just need to be (re)discovered over and over again.
**KUNTREP - between Cape Glavina and the bay of Mala luka**

**Category of protection:** special reserve – ornithological

**Year of proclamation:** 1969

**Area:** 1,000 ha

**Location:** area of the Municipality of Baška (island of Krk)

**Elevation:** 0 – 475 m

**Flora:** Dalmatian knapweed, Istrian bellflower, Rijeka thistle, Jacquin’s drypis

**Fauna:** Eurasian griffon vulture, short-toed eagle, peregrine falcon, common kestrel, European shag, eagle owl, blue rock thrush, rock thrush, stone curlew

**Vegetation:** endemic communities of rocks and scree, rocky pastures

**Special features:** not far from the peak of Diviška there is a picturesque freshwater pool with rare and endangered water fauna

---

**Access and starting point**

The starting point for this excursion is the small church of St. John (Sveti Ivan) above Baška, which is reached from the bypass road around Baška. At the junction before the entrance to Baška, turn left instead of continuing to the town centre. After approximately one kilometre, turn left again to the cemetery and follow the narrow road leading uphill to the church and the cemetery.
Start from the car parking area near the church and follow the markings along the well-tended path (the “blue footpath”). At first, the path twists and turns as it passes through some pine forest, but then after about an hour’s walk reaches a very nice vantage point locally known as “moon plateau”. The path continues through the rocky terrain beneath the peak of Hlam and past the pool of Kalić, where it branches off in the direction of the sheepfold (locally called mrgari) and the pool of Diviška. This pool can also be reached by a marked track, and is located on the very border of the reserve. The walk from the vantage point to the pool takes about one hour. We recommend returning along the same path.

**Recommended tour from the starting point**

**Length of the tour:** 12.5 km  
**Walking time:** 4 hours  
**Difficulty:** demanding  
**Maps of the area:** Baška tourist map – marked tourist paths
**PROTECTED NATURAL HERITAGE**

**DUNDO**

*Category of protection:* forest vegetation special reserve  
*Year of proclamation:* 1949  
*Area:* 106 ha  
*Location:* the area of the Town of Rab (island of Rab)  
*Elevation:* approx. 0 – 80 m  
*Flora:* holm oak, manna ash, phillyrea, tree heath, mastic, strawberry tree, myrtle, laurustinus, hardy cyclamen, climbing plants – smilax, evergreen rose, asparagus and black bryony, little owl, yellow-necked mouse  
*Fauna:* evergreen forest of holm oak and manna ash  
*Vegetation:* old downy oak trees

**Access and starting point**

Dundo forest is reached on the asphalt road that leads from the town of Rab through Sv. Eufemija and the village of Barčići. At the crossing in Barčići turn left, and then turn right at the next crossing one kilometre further on to reach the entrance to Dundo forest.
Recommended tour from the starting point

From the car parking area take the asphalt road to reach the entrance to Dundo forest. After walking for approximately five minutes, turn left onto a gravel road leading to Kristofor cove. From the cove, follow the well-tended, marked trail through dense forest until you reach the asphalt road. Turn right to return to the car parking area.

Length of the tour: 7 km
Walking time: 2 hours and 30 minutes
Difficulty: easy
Maps of the area: SMAND hiking map 20a, Island of Rab
Category of protection: protected landscape
Year of proclamation: 1969
Area: 100 ha
Location: area of the Municipality of Lopar
Elevation: 0 – 85 m
Flora: myrtle, mastic, rockroses and numerous other species of Mediterranean flora
Vegetation: Mediterranean macchia and garrigue, rare vegetation of shore sand plants
Special features: sand pyramids, fossils and other geological and archaeological items of interest

Access and starting point

The protected landscape is reached on the road leading westwards from the centre of Lopar to the small church of St. Mary (Sv. Marije) and then further along a narrow, at first asphalt and later gravel, road to the very border of the protected area. The road descends near the hill of Veli Baras to the car parking area above Stojan cove.
From the car parking area above Stojan cove follow the marked path seawards to the cove. Continue walking along the coast (at two spots the path cuts short across small peninsulas) to the cove of Dubac and then turn sharp right, on a wide path uphill to the gravel road. Return to the car parking area and enjoy some beautiful views of the peninsula’s coves.

**Length of the tour:** 5 km  
**Walking time:** 2 hours  
**Difficulty:** easy  
**Maps of the area:** SMAND hiking map 20a, Island of Rab
The forest park can be reached in a few minutes from both the old and the new parts of the town of Rab. The quickest way is to take the steps that lead from the main square in the centre of town directly into the park.

**Access**

The forest park can be reached in a few minutes from both the old and the new parts of the town of Rab. The quickest way is to take the steps that lead from the main square in the centre of town directly into the park.

**Category of protection:** forest park

**Year of proclamation:** 1965

**Area:** 10 ha

**Location:** area of the Town of Rab (island of Rab)

**Elevation:** approx. 0 – 40 m

**Flora:** agave, Spanish broom, pittosporum, mastic

**Fauna:** Cleopatra butterfly, many bird species

**Vegetation:** indigenous forest of holm oak, planted forest of Aleppo pine

**Special features:** If you visit the island of Rab in May, do not miss the sight of the Istrian bellflower in bloom covering the defensive walls of the old town of Rab.
KOŠLJUN

Category of protection: forest park
Year of proclamation: 1969
Area: 6 ha
Location: the area of the town of Krk (island of Krk)
Elevation: approx. 0 – 6 m
Flora: holm oak, manna ash, laurel, spiny butcher’s broom and further 389 species of higher plants, 151 mushroom species
Fauna: blackbird, jay; in wintertime kingfisher is present along the coast of the islet
Vegetation: holm oak forest, halophile vegetation along the coast
Special features: Franciscan monastery from the 16th century and its precious collections

Access

The small island of Košljun can be reached by boat from Punat on the island of Krk throughout the day.
PROTECTED NATURAL HERITAGE

KRUNA - between the bay of Fojiška and the bay of Pod Predošćica

Category of protection: special reserve – ornithological
Year of proclamation: 1986
Area: 550 ha
Location: area of the town of Cres (island of Cres)
Elevation: 0 – 370 m
Flora i Vegetation: endemic flora of the cliffs and scree
Fauna: Eurasian griffon vulture, golden eagle, peregrine falcon, short-toed eagle, eagle owl
Special features: nesting of Eurasian griffon vultures on the cliffs immediately above the sea

Access and starting point

Take the road leading from the town of Cres towards Porozina and leave the car at the crossing of Križić (at the turning for Beli), right after the bus station.
Recommended tour from the starting point

From the car parking area follow the marked path along the wall on the road until you reach the stone with the sign “Za Sis - 45 minuta” (Towards Sis – 45 minutes). Continue straight on uphill along the dry-stone wall. Shortly before the top, turn to the left side of the dry-stone wall and after a few minutes a magnificent view opens up. It is worth noting that the whole path offers beautiful views of the eastern coast of the island of Cres and the special ornithological reserve. Return from the top by the same way back to the car parking area.

Length of the tour: 2.3 km
Walking time: 1 hour and 20 minutes
Difficulty: medium difficulty
Maps of the area: Island of Cres tourist map
Tramuntana – Eco-paths and labyrinths

Elevation profile of the tour
**Category of protection:** forest park  
**Year of proclamation:** 1993  
**Area:** 39 ha  
**Location:** area of the Town of Mali Lošinj (island of Lošinj)  
**Flora:** mastic, myrtle, strawberry tree, laurustinus, tangled honeysuckle, tree heath, prickly juniper, olive, cedar, cypress, stone pine and numerous exotic species of dendroflora  
**Fauna:** birds, cicadas  
**Vegetation:** planted forest of Aleppo pine  
**Special features:** diverse vegetation and educational trail near the sanatorium

**Access and starting point**

The forest park is located near the Veli Lošinj Sanatorium and can be reached on the main road either from the direction of Mali Lošinj or Veli Lošinj. To take the proposed tour, we recommend leaving your car at a marked place along the main street immediately before the crossing at the entrance to the Sanatorium.
From the car parking area follow the marked path uphill along the dry-stone wall that forms the western border of the forest park. After walking for about 30 minutes, you will reach the road that runs along the peak ridge of Kalvarija hill. Turn left and head for the small church of St. John (Svetoga Ivana). The marked path goes downhill from the church and soon reaches the dry-stone wall marking the eastern border of the forest park. Continue along that path back to the main road, turn left and end the tour by returning to the car parking area.

Length of the tour: 3 km
Walking time: 1 hour and 30 minutes
Difficulty: easy to medium difficulty
Maps of the area: Mali Lošinj Tourist Map (footpaths and hiking trails)
ČIKAT

Category of protection: forest park
Year of proclamation: 1992
Area: 236 ha
Location: area of the town of Mali Lošinj (island of Lošinj)
Elevation: approx. 0 – 62 m
Flora: mastic, myrtle, strawberry tree, laurustinus, tangled honeysuckle, tree heath, prickly juniper, olive, cedar, cypress, stone pine etc.
Vegetation: planted forest of Aleppo pine
Special features: shallow at the cape of Boka falsa

Access and starting point

The forest park is situated on the Čikat peninsula. It can be reached on the main road from Mali Lošinj and Veli Lošinj. For the proposed tour, leave your car on the main road immediately after the crossing that leads to Sunčana uvala.
Recommended tour from the starting point

Near the monument to the fallen soldiers of World War Two, take the marked path and continue straight on, following the signs for the peak of Vela straža. After the peak, the path descends to the left and connects with a wider path that leads straight to the cape of Boka falsa. From the cape, return by the footpath along the southern part of the peninsula to the cove of Slatina. Continue across the meadow into the forest and follow the signs for Mali Lošinj and back to the monument. For most of this, the tour passes along some beautiful dry-stone walls.

Length of the tour: 5.5 km
Walking time: 1 hour and 30 minutes
Difficulty: easy
Maps of the area: Mali Lošinj Tourist map (footpaths and hiking trails)

Elevation profile of the tour
KVARNER COUNTY TOURISM OFFICES

Telephone Area Codes:
for Croatia: +385
for the Kvarner County: (0)51

KVARNER COUNTY TOURISM OFFICE
51410 OPATIJA, Nikola Tesle 2
www.kvarner.hr
T: 272 988, 272 665
F: 272 909
E: kvarner@kvarner.hr
Kvarner Info – Adriatic Gate
T: 625 333, 628-888, F: 625 334
E: info@kvarner.hr

OPATIJA RIVIERA
TOURISM OFFICE OPATIJA
51410 OPATIJA, Nikole Tesle 2
www.kvarner.hr
T: 272 988, 272 665
F: 272 909
E: kvarner@kvarner.hr

RIJEKA AREA
TOURISM OFFICE RIJEKA
51000 RIJEKA, Užarska 1/4
www.tz-rijeka.hr
E: tz-rijeka@ri.t-com.hr
T: 315 710
F: 315 720
TIC / Tourist Information Centre
51000 RIJEKA, Korzo 35a
E: tic@ri.t-com.hr
T: 335 882
F: 214 706

TOURISM OFFICE KASTAV
51215 KASTAV, Trg Matka Laganje 5
www.kastastouristinfo.hr
E: tz.grada.kastva@ri.t-com.hr
T: 691 425
F: 691 330

TOURISM OFFICE VIŽKOVO
51216 VIŽKOVO, Viškovo 31
www.tz-viskovo.hr
E: info@tz-viskovo.hr
T/F: 257 591

TOURISM OFFICE KOSTRENA
51221 KOSTRENA, Ulica Kostrenskih boraca bb
www.tz-kostrena.hr
E: tzo-kostrena@ri.t-com.hr
T/F: 289 207

TOURISM OFFICE BAKRA
51222 BAKAR, Primorje 39
www.tz-bakar.hr
E: info@tz-bakar.hr
T: 761 111
F: 761 111

TOURISM OFFICE KRALJEVICA
51262 KRALJEVICA, Rovina bb
www.tz-kraljevica.hr
E: info@tz-kraljevica.hr
T/F: 282 078
TIC / Tourist Information Centre
51262 KRALJEVICA, Rovina bb
E: info@tz-kraljevica.hr
T/F: 282 444

TOURISM OFFICE ČAVLE
51219 ČAVLE, Čavle 104
www.tz-cavle.hr
E: info@tz-cavle.hr
T: 549 120
F: 549 120

TOURISM OFFICE JELENJE
51218 DRAŽICE, Dražičkih boraca 64
www.jelenje.hr
E: turisticka.zajednica.opcine.jelenje@ri.t-com.hr
T/F: 297 152

RIVIERA CROATIAN LITTORAL
TOURISM OFFICE CRKVENICA
51260 CRKVENICA, Trg S. Radića 3/2
www.tzg-crikvenice.hr
E: info@tzg-crikvenice.hr
T: 784 101
F: 781 056

CRKVENICA TOURISM SOCIETY
51260 CRKVENICA, Trg S. Radića 1c
www.tzg-crikvenice.hr
E: td-crkvenica@tzg-crikvenice.hr
T: 241 051
T/F: 241 867

DRAMALJ TOURISM SOCIETY
51265 DRAMALJ, Ulica Gajevo šetalište 48
www.tzg-crikvenice.hr
E: td-dramalj@tzg-crikvenice.hr
T: 786 363
F: 786 021

JADRANOVO TOURISM SOCIETY
51264 JADRANOVO, Ivani bb
www.tzg-crikvenice.hr
E: td-jadranovo@tzg-crikvenice.hr
T: 246 160
F: 788 568

SELCE TOURISM SOCIETY
51266 SELCE, Šetalište Ivana Jeličića 1
www.tzg-crikvenice.hr
E: td-selce@tzg-crikvenice.hr
T: 765 165
F: 768 108

TOURISM OFFICE NOVI VINODOLSKI
51250 NOVI VINODOLSKI, Kralja Tomislava 6
www.tz-novi-vinodolski.hr
E: tz-novi-vinodolski@ri.t-com.hr
T/F: 244 306

TOURISM OFFICE OPĆINE VINODOLSKO
51253 BRIBIR, Brbić 1
E: tz-vino-vinodol@ri.t-com.hr
T/F: 248 730

ISLAND KRK
TOURISM OFFICE ISLAND KRK
51500 KRK, Trg sv. Krivina 1
www.krk.hr
Dear guests and friends,

It is no accident that the County of Primorje-Gorski kotar, that is, the Kvarner region, has the longest tradition of any part of Croatia of welcoming visitors. This tradition is primarily a result of its natural heritage, whose attractiveness was recognised already in the 19th century.

The Polish novelist Henryk Sienkiewicz used to write with much poetical enthusiasm about this coast “hemmed” with laurel and cypresses, the turquoise sea, the “translucent” air, and the parks “trembling” with nightingales’ song. The place he stayed in was Opatija – the birthplace of Croatian tourism. The Saxon king Frederick Augustus II used to climb the velvety green heights of Mount Učka, eagerly seeking out unusual specimens of the local flora. Rudolf Habsburg, crown prince of Austria, explored the nature of the island of Lošinj and went as high as the peak of Osoršćica, where the effort of his climb was rewarded with an exceptional view of the whole archipelago and the scents of the Mediterranean plants.

The emotional enthusiasm of aristocrats and artists was further aroused by scientists. The distinctive features of Kvarner’s flora and fauna soon attracted the attention of many serious researchers. The 19th century marked the first visits here by scientists from the major European cities. But some of the local scientists were just as good: in the hinterland of Crikvenica the great researchers were among the most interesting and species-rich on the European continent. It is the best possible gift of Mother Earth. But this heritage is to a great extent also a result of the diligent work of human hands. For more than a century and a half, the parks and botanical gardens laid out around holiday villas have continued to provide evidence that people here have always known exactly where and how to change and improve the natural landscape.

Today, Kvarner encompasses a fair number of protected natural areas, including one national park, one nature park, six forest parks, nine special reserves, one strict reserve, and three protected landscapes. Not to forget seven natural monuments, four monuments of park architecture, and aseries of other areas and individual entities that have been proposed for protection in various categories.

This booklet has been prepared with the aim of encouraging you to see some of the enchanting examples of Kvarner’s natural heritage for yourself. However, as with every other beautiful story, this encouragement should be just the beginning of a new and exciting experience. Whether this initial impulse will turn into a passionate exploration of untouched nature, or will your wish to enjoy more tranquil, relaxing strolls through the parks prevail – that is up to you.

But no matter which of the following pages influences your decision the most, we are nevertheless convinced you will still have made a very good choice.

Irena Peršić Živalinov, M. Sc.
Director
of the Kvarner County Tourism Office

Zlatko Komradina, President
of the Kvarner County Tourism Office