

VIROVITICA-PODRAVINA COUNTY

A UNESCO

designated destination



EXPLORE AND EXPERIENCE

UNESCO Global Geopark Papuk Nature Park

Papuk Nature Park / UNESCO's Global Geopark - Papuk covers an area of 336 km²; it includes the territory of the Virovitica-Podravina County and the Požega-Slavonia County. A special relief feature is the Papuk Mountain towering at 953 m, making it the highest peak in Slavonia. Apart from several brooks and lakes on the territory of the park, there are also natural thermal springs. The extraordinary variety of flora and fauna is accompanied by geological diversity; within the park, there are remnants of seven mediaeval towns and an archaeological site from the Early Iron Age (8th - 3rd century B.C.). The Papuk nature park also encompasses three special

protection areas. These are Rupnica - a geological monument of nature famous for its columnar jointing formation; the Jankovac Park Forest - a mountain valley surrounded by a centuries old beech forest with the Jankovac waterfall karst phenomenon, and Sekulina Mountains - a special forest vegetation reserve, i.e. beech and fir forest of a jungle character some 150 years old.



EXPLORE AND EXPERIENCE

UNESCO's Mura - Drava - Danube cross-border biosphere reserve

UNESCO's Mura - Drava - Danube cross-border biosphere reserve is also an exceptionally attractive area. The area of the Virovitica-Podravina County expands for 70 km along the flow of the river Drava. It boasts a multitude of species and habitats and impressive biological and landscape diversity. A typical feature of this area includes the moist habitats: riparian forests, wet grasslands,

backwaters, dry riverbeds, meanders and steep eroded cliffs. On the territory of the Croatian part of the reserve, 318 bird species have been recorded of which 116 species on the territory of the Virovitica-Podravina County. The river Drava is the richest fishing and ichthyological area in Croatia; more than 65 fish species have been recorded there.



NOSKOVAČKA DUBRAVA

Information and Education Centre Hostel “Dravska priča” (Drava Story)

The Information and Education Centre is located in the former summerhouse of Count Drašković built in the 19th century; it is in the immediate vicinity of the river Drava where you will be taken by the education trail ‘Dravi u zagrljaj’ (Drava hugging). The trail has 20 informative educational boards, a getaway and a watchtower from where you can observe birds on the very river bank. The Information and Education Centre is on the route of well-known

bike paths; in the immediate vicinity, there is a getaway for cyclists. The Centre is intended for all nature lovers and admirers, it is educational in its character, i.e. its areas are organised by topics (The World of Owls, Flora, The Butterfly Corner, Fish, Amphibians and Reptiles, Singing Birds, Drava forests of fairies and elves); the visitors also have the scientific and research point at their disposal. The Centre also operates as a hostel with 34 beds.

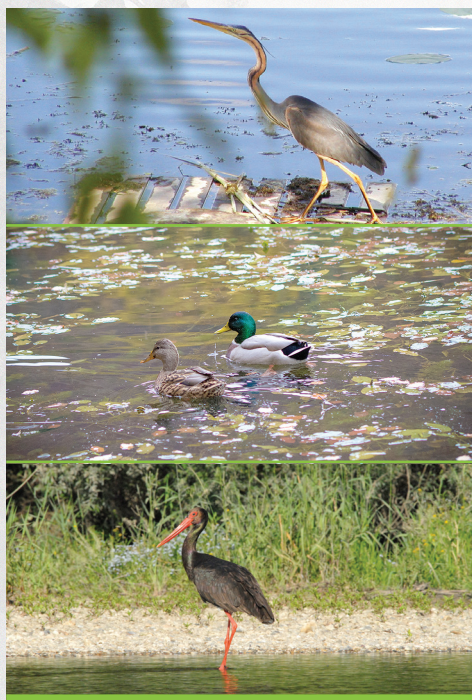


ACTIVITY

Bird Watching

The world of birds in this area is exceptionally rich. Out of a total of 402 bird species recorded in Croatia, 116 of them have been recorded in the UNESCO area of the Mura – Drava – Danube cross-border biosphere reserve in Virovitica-Podravina County, while on the territory of the UNESCO Global Geopark – Papuk Nature Park, 107 species have been recorded. Some of the most important bird species in the lowland area and along the river Drava include the great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*), great egret (*Ardea alba*), black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), common spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) and common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*). Upon making an inventory of the habitat of the European bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*), it was established that there are nine active colonies with 350 – 400 couples. The largest bird of prey is the white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), a heavily protected species; based on its observation, it was established that 10 couples are nesting on the territory of Virovitica-Podravina County. The population of the sand martin (*Riparia riparia*) is the most numerous in the areas along the river Drava where they dig their nests in vertical and sandy banks. Out of a total of 107 bird species inhabiting the Papuk area, 52 of them are forest birds which means that they find the largest amount of

their food as well as nesting places in the forest. The most common nesting birds of all the forests include the common chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) and robin (*Erithacus rubecula*). A large population of the stock dove (*Columba oenas*) also nests on Papuk. Besides Kalnik, Papuk is the only known nesting place of the booted eagle (*Hieraeetus pennatus*) in Croatia. The white-backed woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos*), spotted nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*) and common firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus*) are mountainous bird species for which Papuk is the isolated nesting place in continental Croatia.



RECREATION

Bike paths

On the territory of the Virovitica-Podravina County there is a network of 535 km of marked bike paths divided into 13 thematic routes, a part of which is a physical continuation of two well-known international bike routes: Drava route and EuroVelo 13, the Iron Curtain Route. Visiting the area by bike is one of the best ways to truly enjoy the beauty of nature and cultural heritage.



The Shrine of Our Lady of Voćin

Voćin is situated in a picturesque landscape on the northern side of Papuk. Thanks to the Shrine of Our Lady, it has become the spiritual centre of the diocese, visited annually by approximately 60,000 pilgrims. The Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary was built in the 15th century and represents an impressive example of Gothic

architecture outside of urban centres. After it was destroyed in the Croatian Homeland War, it was fully renovated in 2011. The interior of the church is decorated with the works of art of the most prominent modern Croatian authors. The church is surrounded by a spacious park – an arboretum with plant species originating from five continents.





YOU MUST VISIT

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Ružica town

ORAHOVICA

Ružica grad, a mediaeval and impressive fortress from the 15th century on the territory of the UNESCO Global Geopark Papuk.

Orahovica lake

One of the most famous bathing grounds on the territory of Eastern Croatia

Višnjica desert

VIŠNJICA

Horseback riding, cycling, hunting

Arboretum

LISIČINE

Over 1,000 plant species on the slopes of Papuk

Slatina Regional Museum

SLATINA

Rich collections in a modern setup

The Franciscan Monastery Museum

VIROVITICA

A sacred arts museum

A prayer place

GRADINA

Story on apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gold ear

OTROVANEĆ

An idyllic village property in ethnic style, hunting, cycling, traditional food and local wines

Križnica

Protected landscape on the territory of UNESCO's biosphere reserve, story of a continental island, traditional freshwater fish dishes

Edita Schubert Promenade

VIROVITICA

Visual art visions of the most prominent representative of the Croatian avant-garde art woven into the town's fabric

Jankovac

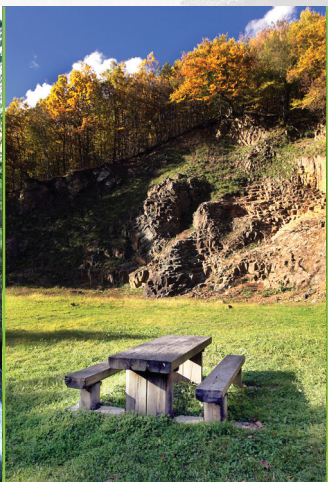
Mountain resort on the territory of the UNESCO Global Geopark Papuk, visitors' centre, mountain lodge, educational trail, game dishes

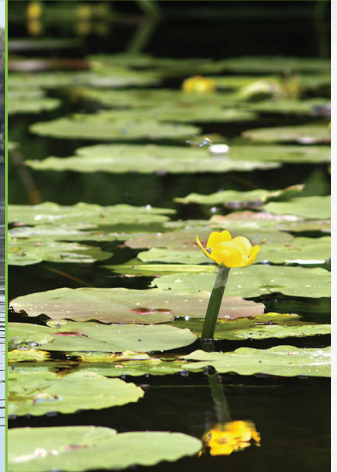
Vineda Wine Cellar

VUKOSAVLJEVICA

Tasting wines from the Virovitica and Pitomača vineyards.

























KOPRIVNICA-KRIZEVCI COUNTY

Biogor a

BJELOVAR-BILOGORA COUNTY

-  castle, manor
-  horseback riding, equestrian club
-  tourist office, info center
-  museum, gallery
-  viewpoint
-  vineyard
-  gastronomy
-  lake, pond
-  park, natural landmark
-  theater
-  accommodations
-  church, chapel
-  recreational airport
-  bike trail
-  excursion site
-  road
-  railway
-  county road



VIROVITICA-PODRAVINA COUNTY

Population (2011) 184,836
Area: 2,024 km²
Settlements: 188

Map made by:
Slobodanka Janeš, dipl. ing. geotech.
Institute for Physical Planning
of the Virovitica-Podravina County

POŽEGA-SLAVONIJA



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OSIJEK-BARANJA COUNTY

BARANJA COUNTY

scale 1:25000

IMPRESSUM

ISSUED BY

Virovitica-Podravina County Tourist Board

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Virovitica-Podravina County
Tourist Board



Virovitica-Podravina County
Doors wide open

