

# Gorski Kotar

A unique experience



Kvarner

GORSKI KOTAR + Risnjak National Park

KVARNER REGION TOURIST BOARD

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*Diversity is beautiful*







## KVARNER Gorski Kotar



# Gorski Kotar

## A unique experience

We proudly present a comprehensive Gorski Kotar tourist catalogue that includes all the types of accommodation available but also a wide range of attractions and sites of interest.

Welcome to Croatia's mountain plateau, which amphitheatrically surrounds the Kvarner Region to which it belongs. Gorski Kotar lies between the Pannonian interior and Mediterranean on the one hand, and the rest of the Dinarides in the south-east and the neighbouring state of Slovenia in the north-west on the other.

Gorski Kotar or Processus montanus, as this area was called by the Empress Maria Theresa, has not changed its name despite different influences throughout history. This is a pronouncedly mountainous area and the most spacious part of the County of Primorje-Gorski Kotar.

This area is famous for its unspoilt nature, natural and biological diversity, and distinctive landscape relief. All these factors result in a special energy and continuous flow of air, which have a beneficial effect on tired visitors. Gorski Kotar has long been known for its bracing climate, and its quaint rural settlements are climatic health resorts whose mountain air has an extraordinary relaxing effect on visitors.

We invite you to find your very own reason to visit Gorski Kotar and to return here at any time of the year.

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Kvarner

# GORSKI KOTAR

*A unique experience*





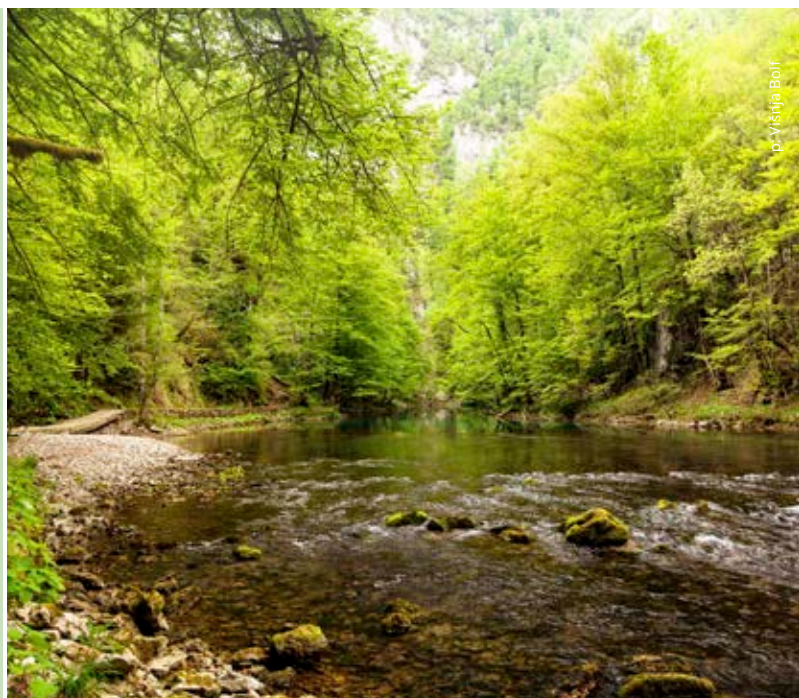
# Risnjak National Park



"Among the rugged rocks of Risnjak and its deep chasms, in the wonderful coniferous and deciduous forests, may the plant and animal life live undisturbed, and may man climb its paths full of respect for the great natural whole which he has entered." (Dr Ivo Horvat)

## TOURISM OFFER

- Wildlife watching
- Forest pedagogy
- Snowshoeing
- Carriage rides
- Guided tours
- Outdoor school
- Sport fishing
- [www.np-risnjak.hr](http://www.np-risnjak.hr)



The part of Gorski Kotar with the most comprehensive tourist offer is undoubtedly Risnjak National Park. The Risnjak mountain massif was declared a national park in 1953.

### FOREST, WOLF, BEAR AND LYNX

Due to its diversified climate, geology, petrography and other factors, Risnjak is distinguished by a variety of flora and fauna. However, the major phenomenon of this national park is its forests. After the return of the lynx, Risnjak's forests are once again home to all three large European carnivores: the wolf, bear and lynx.

### RISNJAK NATIONAL PARK – CLIMB THE PEAK

The white rocks of the Risnjak mountain massif rise above the green forests of Gorski Kotar. The stunning view from an elevation of 1,528 m above sea level of Kvarner Bay, Istria and the Julian Alps in neighbouring Slovenia makes a lasting impression on every visitor.

Below the peak of Veliki Risnjak, you will find the J. Schloßer Klekovski Mountain Hut, which offers refreshments and accommodation. The rocky peak of Snježnik, which is surrounded by mountain meadows, will surprise you with its accessibility and scenic beauty. The plants of this mountain area have adapted to the harshest climate conditions and can easily stand up to the summer heat, great cold and strong gusts of the bura wind.

### VISITOR'S CENTRES

The 'Birth House of the River Kupa' provides information about the River Kupa, its mysterious source and upper reaches, and the rich biodiversity of its surroundings.

The 'Gorski Kotar House of Knowledge' informs visitors about the history of the village of Razlog, rural architecture, the use of shingle as a construction material (typical of Gorski Kotar), handicrafts and basket weaving, pastures, and beekeeping. Visitors can also read more about Natura 2000 protected species in Risnjak National Park.





p: Vanja Bel

Risnjak Nacionalni Park



p: Kvarner



p: Romeo Mance



p: Risnjak



p: Viki Polj

Kupari





# Rivers and lakes

One of the deepest water springs in Croatia is the green-blue source of the River Kupa

## RIVER KUPA

The River Kupa (296 km) springs from a small turquoise karst lake in Risnjak National Park close to the village of Razlog. In its upper reaches, the Kupa is quite untamed, which makes it perfect for rafting with an adrenaline kick. Its crystal clear waters are suitable for swimming in the summer months.

## RIVER DOBRA

The Dobra (108 km) is a subterranean river that springs up from two sources, one at Bukov Vrh and the other close to Skrad. The River Dobra features two water mills that are still operational and two hydroelectric power plants. The Dobra abounds in fish species.



## RIVER ČABRANKA

The Čabranka is the left tributary of the River Kupa. It is only 15 km long and springs up from fissures in the rugged rocks at Veliki Obrh (546 m), which can be reached by a fifteen-minute-walk from the centre of Čabar. Along its entire length, the Čabranka marks the border between Slovenia and Croatia. The Čabranka is attractive right from its headwaters, as it abounds in cascades and rapids. It was protected in 1961.



Source of the River Kupa



Čabranka



## LAKE LOKVE

The depth of this reservoir can reach 40 m in some places. It was created by constructing a dam in 1954, which stopped the flow of the River Lokvarka. The lake traditionally hosts hiking and cycling tours, locally known as the POJ and BOJ events (around the lake on foot and by bike).



River

Kupa  
Dobra  
Čabranka



Lake

Lokve

Bajer

Walking  
Swimming  
Cycling  
Rafting

Walking  
Cycling  
Tourist train  
Excursion boat  
Surfing

## LAKE LEPENICA

Lepenica is the largest reservoir in the Fužine area. Created in 1988, its area and volume by far exceed Lake Bajer. The maximum depth of Lake Lepenica is 18 m. In the summertime, it is suitable for swimming, as its water temperature reaches more than 23 °C. Every year, this lake hosts orienteering diving competitions.

Lepenica

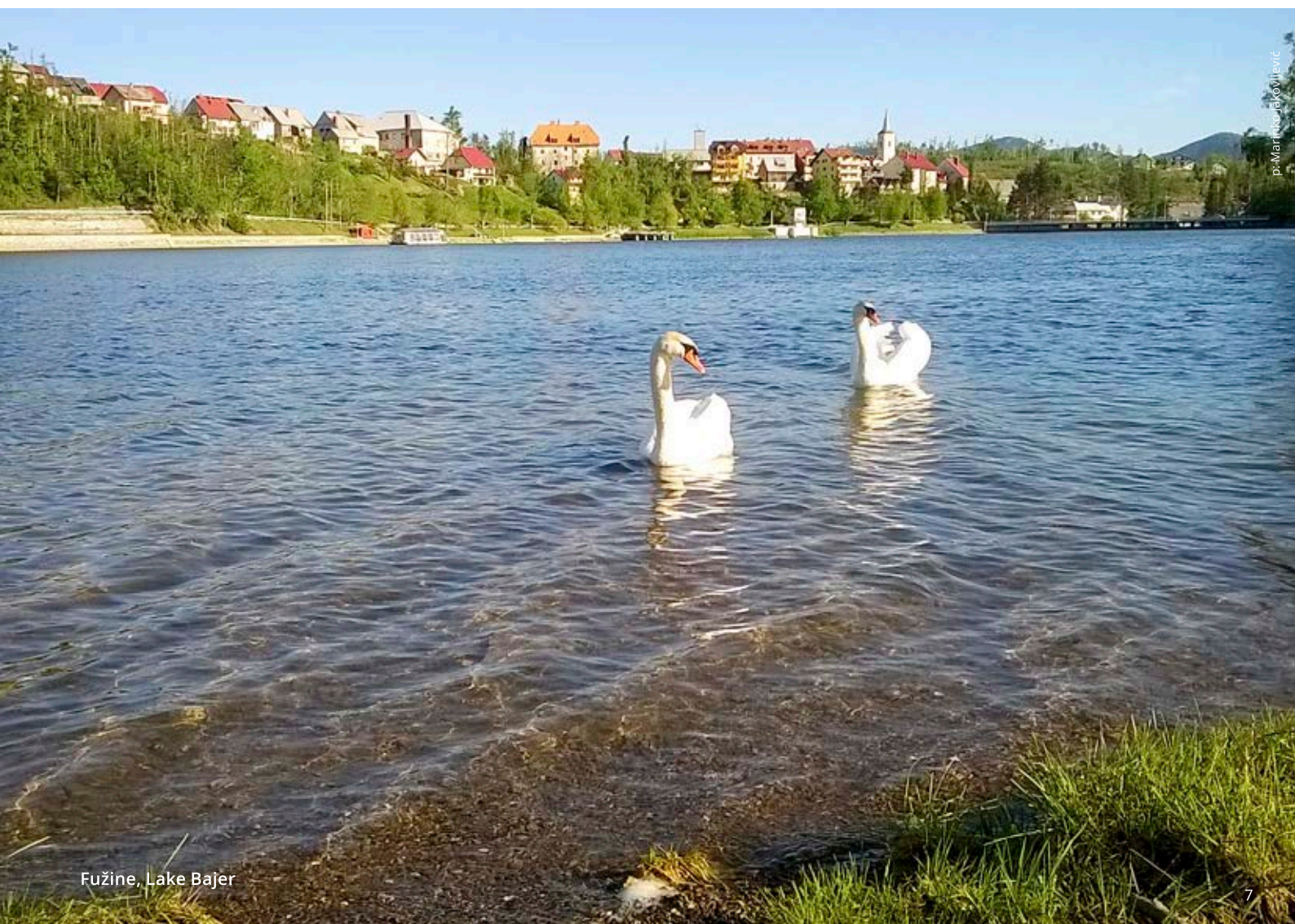
Potkoš

Swimming  
Diving  
Sailing

Excursion area  
Picnic

## LAKE POTKOŠ

This is the newest and smallest lake in the Fužine area. It lies beneath the slopes of Bitoraj between Fužine and Lič. It is a popular excursion destination with many picnic areas.





# Mountains, forests and caves

Ancient Indian medicine attributes the colour green with a soothing effect on the mind, emotions and heart



1179  
m

Length

760  
m a.s.l.

Elevation at the entrance

275  
m a.s.l.

Depth

75  
m a.s.l.

Depth of the part accessible to visitors

## Lokvarka Cave

Discovered in 1911  
Opened to the public in 1912

300  
m

Length

730  
m a.s.l.

Elevation at the entrance

0  
m a.s.l.

Depth

## Vrelo Cave

Discovered in 1950  
Opened to the public in 1998

200  
m

Length

319  
m a.s.l.

Elevation at the entrance

## Muževa Hišica

Opened to the public in 1960

## FORESTS

The Leska Educational Trail is located in the Risnjak National Park at an elevation of 679 m above sea level. With a total length of 4.2 km, the trail provides the opportunity to observe and become acquainted with the local forest and meadow communities with the help of an expert guide. The highest peaks in the national park are Veliki Risnjak (1,528 m) and Snježnik (1,506 m). Due to their important biodiversity, two more areas of Gorski Kotar have been protected. These are the Golubinjak Forest Park near Lokve, which has a variety of caves, and the Japlenški Vrh Forest Park close to Delnice, which abounds in forest paths. Many other sites, like Sungerski Lug between Lokve and Mrkopalj, Veliki Drgomalj near Delnice, or Debela Lipa close to Lokve, are distinguished by their attractive fir forest reserves.

The forests shape the local climate, as they mitigate the winds and absorb UV-light and the heat. Hiking in a natural environment has a beneficial effect on blood circulation and the respiratory system, and can help put you in a better mood.

## LOKVARKA CAVE

The deepest cave in Croatia, Lokvarka Cave, consists of 6 levels, of which the first 4 have been made accessible to visitors. The length of the part discovered so far is 1,179 m, and its depth amounts to 275 m. The temperature in the cave is between 6 and 8 °C.

## VRELO CAVE (FUŽINE)

This cave was discovered by chance in the 1950s. It is estimated to be approximately 3.5-4 million years old. Despite the fact that it is only 300 m long, this is a beautiful cave with numerous cave formations. The cave is very important, because it features a wonderful water source, a lake and a ponor, all of which make it particularly attractive.

## MUŽEVA HIŠICA

This small cave is entered via a spacious 200-metre-long corridor, at the end of which there is a small gallery with a lake. The cave features several stalactites and stalagmites and has a constant water and air temperature of 8 °C.





Golubinjak

p: Đurđa Malnar



Lokvarka Cave

p: Đurđa Malnar



Muževa Hišica

p: Ivana Brišk / Bordevic



Vrelo Cave, Fužine

p: Marinko Jakovljević





# Summer activity holidays

Gorski Kotar abounds in the fragrance of aromatic pines and firs, and its fresh forest air invites hiking and horse-riding tours, rafting and kayaking

## TOP 10

- 1 Cycling
- 2 Hiking
- 3 Hunting
- 4 Fishing
- 5 Horse riding
- 6 Water sports
- 7 Adventure parks
- 8 Nordic walking
- 9 Photography
- 10 Caving



p: Višnja Bolj

## INFO

### CYCLING:

- GORSKI KOTAR BIKE: [gorskikotarbike.com](http://gorskikotarbike.com)
- TOURIST BOARDS:
  - BROD MORAVICE / +38551 817 180
  - ČABAR / +38551 824 110
  - DELNICE / +385 51 811 174
  - FUŽINE / +38551 835 163
  - LOKVE / +38551 831 250
  - MRKOPALJ / +38551 833 225
  - RAVNA GORA / +38551 818 351
  - SKRAD / +38551 810 316
  - VRBOVSKO / +38551 875 984
- BROD MORAVICE:
  - UBR Brod Moravice / +38551 817 180
- ČABAR:
  - DSR Biciklistička avantura / +38598 448 301
- DELNICE:
  - BK Goranin / +38591 182 9892
  - PC Petehovac / +38551 814 901
  - Gorski tok d.o.o. / +38598 177 2585

### FUŽINE:

- ALPI bicycle rental / +38591 315 7777

### LOKVE:

- BK Lokve / +38598 955 4384

### RAVNA GORA:

- Tilurium d.o.o. / +38599 672 2523

### HIKING:

- BROD MORAVICE:
  - PD Vršak / +38591 586 1430
- ČABAR:
  - PD Jelenc / +38551 823 205
  - PD Čabar / +38598 188 4544
- DELNICE:
  - PD Petehovac / +38591 633 2370
- FUŽINE:
  - Goga / +38591 887 8360
- LOKVE:
  - PD Špičunak / +38591 252 8104
- MRKOPALJ:
  - PD Bijele stijene / +38598 447 803
- RAVNA GORA:
  - PD Višnjevica / +38591 511 6278
- SKRAD:
  - PD Skradski vrh / +38591 598 0707





p: Mirsad Vekić



g: M. Golub



p: Kvarner

- **VRBOVSKO:**
- PD Kozarac / +38598 368 984

### **HUNTING:**

- **HRVATSKE ŠUME (CRO. FORESTS) HUNTING ADMINISTRATION**
- Delnice / +38551 829 700

### **FISHING:**

- **ČABAR:**
- ŠRU Čabranka / +38591 217 7430
- **DELNICE:**
- ŠRU Goran / +38591 388 4730
- **FUŽINE:**
- ŠRU Bajer / +38598 698 215
- **LOKVE:**
- ŠRK Lokvarka / +38599 212 2940
- **VRBOVSKO:**
- ŠRD Kamačnik / +38598 633 740

### **HORSE RIDING:**

- **FUŽINE:**
- Vrelo Ranch / +38591 523 2467
- Horse carriage / +38595 549 4365
- **ČABAR:**
- Magušar Tršće / +38598 904 9789

### **WATER SPORTS:**

- **DELNICE:**
- Gorski tok d.o.o / +38598 177 2585
- Foris adventures travel / +38595 519 7472
- Rasta / +38598 170 8195
- **FUŽINE:**
- TZ Fužine / +38551 835 163
- **LOKVE:**
- Čača tours d.o.o. / +38598 982 2718
- **VRBOVSKO:**
- Kupa sports / +38598 917 0709

### **ADVENTURE AND LEISURE PARKS:**

- **RAVNA GORA:**
- Tilurium d.o.o. / +38599 672 2523
- **FUŽINE - VRATA:**
- Paintball and leisure park / +38595 807 1196
- **ČABAR:**
- Tršće adventure park / +38598 461 406

### **NORDIC WALKING:**

- **BROD MORAVICE** / +38591 524 4558
- **DELNICE:**
- Gorski tok d.o.o / +38598 177 2585
- **MRKOPALJ:** / +38591 151 8058



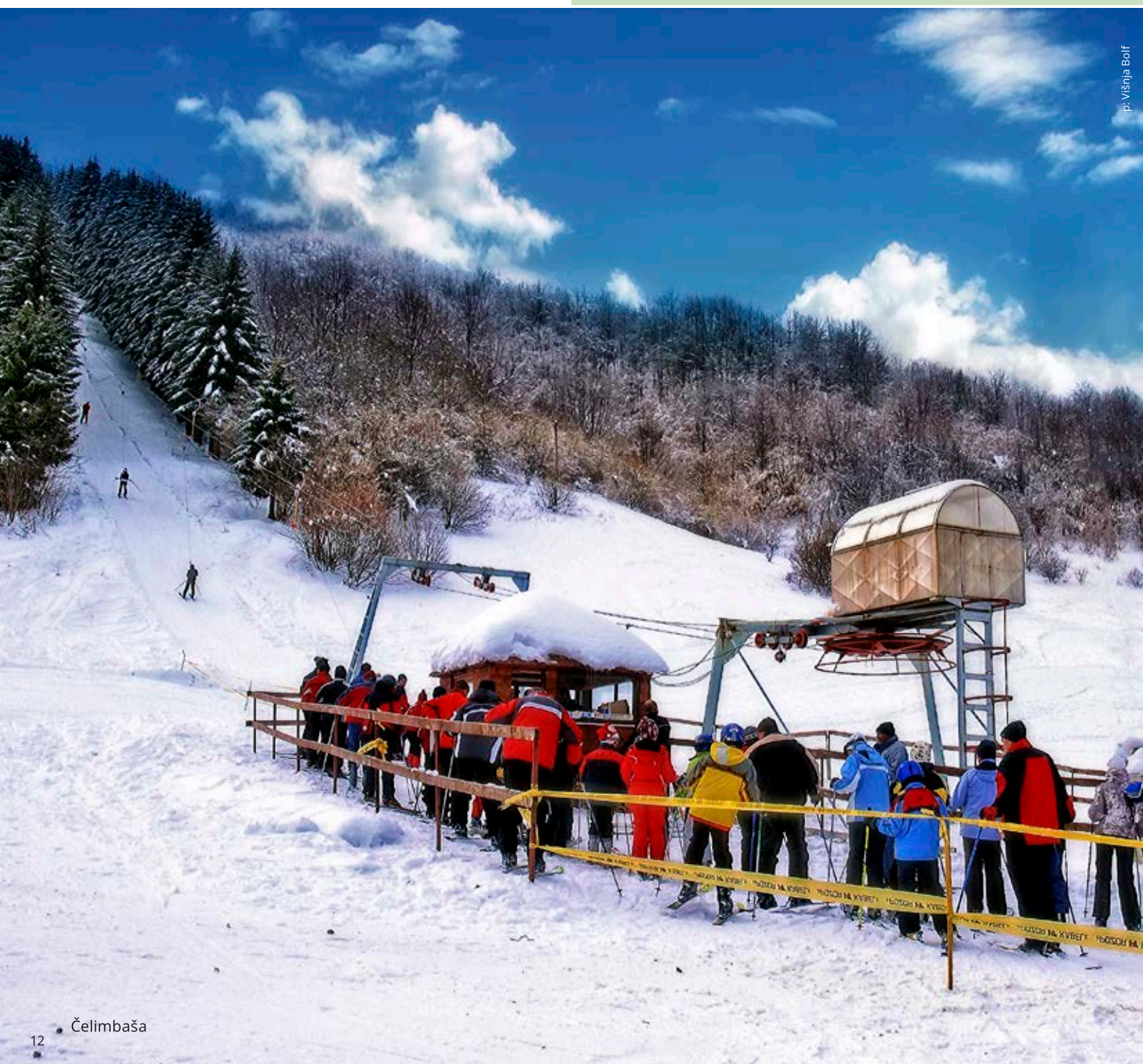


# Winter activity holidays

Gorski Kotar offers plenty of opportunities to enjoy the snow, such as alpine and cross-country skiing, sledging, ice skating, or simply enjoying the fantastic winter landscapes

## TOP 6

- 1 Sledging
- 2 Alpine and cross-country skiing
- 3 Ice skating and hockey
- 4 Sleigh / carriage rides
- 5 Snowboarding
- 6 Snowshoeing



p: Višnja Boif





pr. Zlatko Joknar

Tršće



pr. Višnja Bolj

Delnice



pr. Zlatko Joknar

## INFO

### SLEDGING:

- ČABAR:
  - SK Rudnik / +38598 448 282
- DELNICE:
  - Petehovac mountain centre / +38591 180 0020
- MRKOPALJ:
  - Planinski Raj bistro / +38595 914 0830
- RAVNA GORA:
  - Krčma Gina inn / +38598 324 153
  - Vizjak bistro / +38591 252 9203

### ALPINE SKIING:

- ČABAR:
  - SK Rudnik / +38598 448 282
- DELNICE:
  - Petehovac mountain centre / +38591 180 0020
- MRKOPALJ:
  - Mrzle Drage municipal society / +38551 833 468
- VRBOVSKO:
  - Lovnik Ski Club / +38598 448 462

### HORSE-DRAWN SLEIGH:

- FUŽINE: +38595 549 4365
- CRNI LUG: +38551 836 133

### CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:

- BROD MORAVICE:
  - TSK Budućnost / +38599 316 9053
- ČABAR:
  - SK Rudnik / +38598 448 282
- DELNICE:
  - Gorski tok d.o.o / +38598 177 2585
- MRKOPALJ:
  - SD Bjelolasica / +38598 447 763
- RAVNA GORA:
  - TSK Ravnogorac / +38598 301 460
- SKRAD:
  - SK Polet / +38595 911 4932

### SNOWSHOEING:

- ČABAR:
  - Airsoft klub Veprov / +38598 971 1230
- DELNICE: NP Risnjak / +38551 836 133

### ICE SKATING AND HOCKEY:

- DELNICE - Indoor ice rink / +38551 811 950, +38551 812 488





# Winter in Gorski Kotar

... offers various recreational possibilities in the open air in a fantastic winter atmosphere. If you need a break or refreshment, you can find it in a mountain hut, holiday house or hotel...

## SNOW

The main tourist attraction in any mountain area is the snow. The fact that Gorski Kotar abounds in snow has influenced the appearance of man-made structures (houses with steep roofs and isolated walls, etc.), but it can also make life and transport in the winter rather difficult.

However, just as the mythical King Midas turned everything he touched to gold, so man has the ability to turn any natural phenomenon into a source of entertainment and enjoyment.

As a result, the snow (which is actually nothing more than half-frozen water) has become widely associated with holidays, a warm family atmosphere, and the act of giving presents.

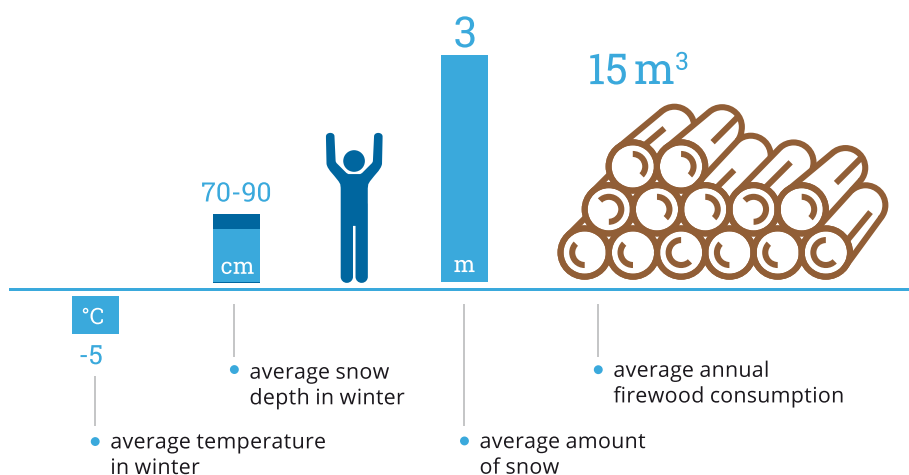
For those of a more adventurous spirit, the snowy season is a period of new activities: walking along forest paths dotted with animal tracks, fantastic ski-runs on snow-covered slopes, or ice skating on frozen lakes.







## Interesting facts



## FREEZING RAIN

Sometimes winter shows its cruel side. A recent example was the freezing rain in February 2014 when Gorski Kotar was ice-bound. Such disasters occur only once or twice a century.



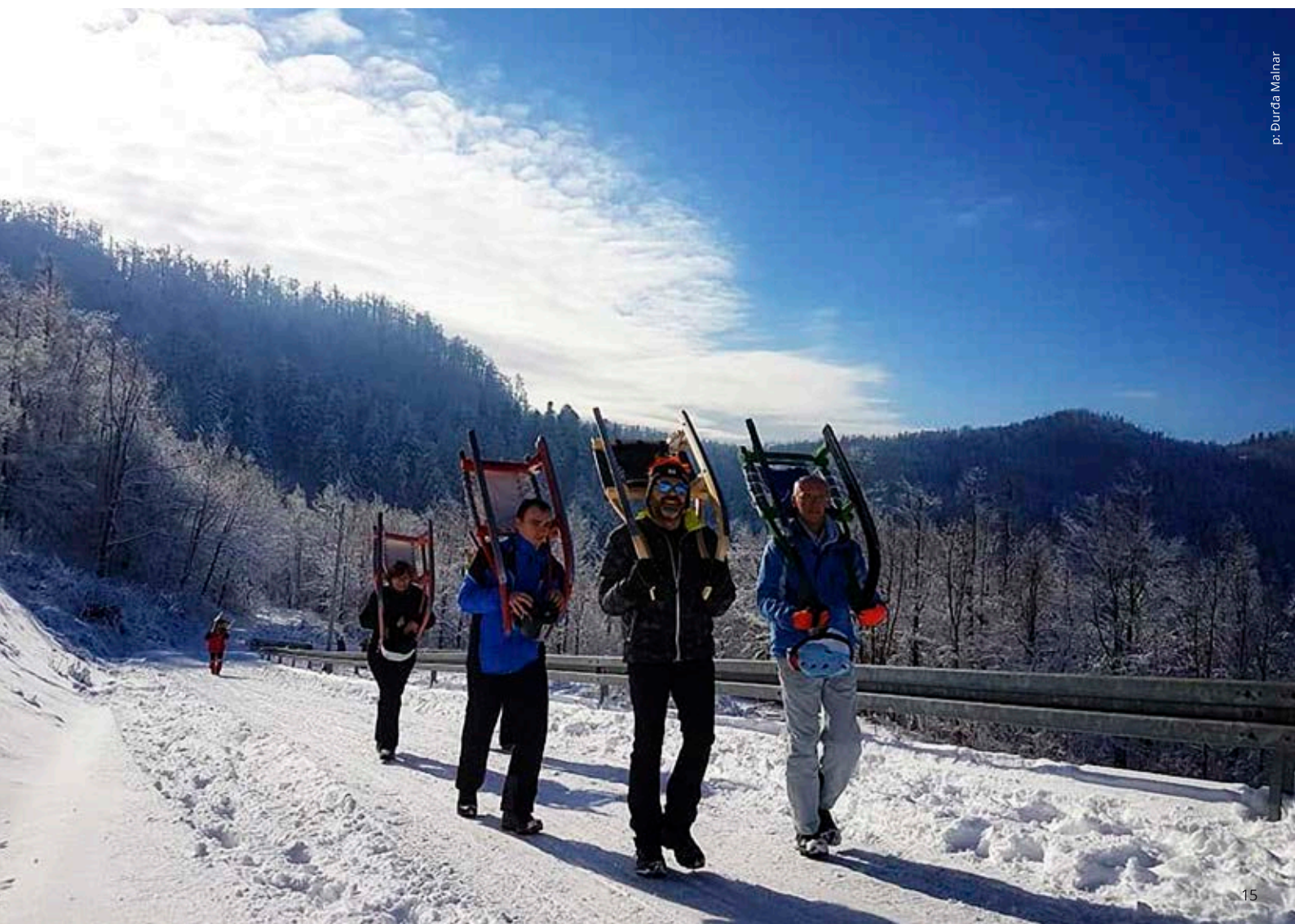
This freezing rain caused great damage to Gorski Kotar's forests, but the long and cold winters have taught local people to be strong and patient. Hope remains that the newly planted fruit and forest trees will soon prosper.

## WINTER SPORT TRADITION

The natural features and long tradition of winter sports in Gorski Kotar make this idyllic area a popular destination for those who enjoy a winter atmosphere and snow-covered paths.

## SLEDGING CUP

The Gorski Kotar Sledging Cup is a very popular sporting competition among sledging enthusiasts of all ages and levels of physical fitness. It is an excellent opportunity to get out into the open air and enjoy the fantastic winter atmosphere.







# Events

Apart from its scenic beauty, good accommodation options and excellent cuisine, Gorski Kotar also offers its visitors a variety of events that will make their stay even more interesting but which also improve the quality of life of the local inhabitants

## SPRING

### MARCH

- Goranovo proljeće (poetry competition) in Lukovdol, Vrbovsko

### APRIL

- Žabarska noć (Frog Night), Lokve
- Dječja Žabarska (Children's Frog Night), Lokve
- Gomirje Flower Parade, Vrbovsko
- Easter tradition: Trkanje jaja, Čabar
- Traditional dishes: Vezamska nadela, Delnice

### MAY

- Antiques Festival: From Grandma's Chest, Ravna Gora
- FILD competition, Čabar
- Spring in Zeleni Vir, Skrad
- Marohlinijada – Morel Festival, Delnice
- Cross-country running in the Kupa Valley, Brod na Kupu
- International Folklore Festival, Delnice
- Traditional sailboat regatta, Fužine
- Traditional May Day music parade, Fužine
- May Day in Kamačnik, Vrbovsko
- Hikers' meeting and cooking competition in Vrbovsko

## SUMMER

### JUNE

- PANfest, Ravna Gora
- Elder Day, Ravna Gora
- Mushroom Festival - Kamačnik, Vrbovsko
- Venison Festival, Mrkopalj
- Wool and Wood Festival, Mrkopalj
- Gorski Kotar Sculpture Workshop, Lokve
- Day of the Town and Parish of Delnice
- St. John's Fire at Petehovac, Delnice
- St. John's Fire, Delnice
- Gorski Kotar Classic Car Rally, Delnice
- Half marathon in Fužine
- Strawberry Day, Fužine
- Night cycling tour, Čabar

### JULY

- Gorski Kotar Bike Tour
- Blueberry Day, Ravna Gora
- Čabar mountain car race
- Fishermen's Night in Kamačnik, Vrbovsko
- Raspberry Festival, Skrad
- Risnjak Mountain Trail, Crni Lug
- Croatia Open, Delnice
- Swimming competition: Kupa Upstream, Brod na Kupu
- Kotar Fest, Delnice
- Walking tour in the park, Delnice
- Lavender Festival, Fužine - Lič
- Summer on Lake Bajer, Fužine
- Razloško Petrovo, Razloge

### AUGUST

- Gorski Kotar Bike Tour
- POJ (walk around the lake), Lokve
- BOJ (cycle around the lake), Lokve
- 3D Adria Cup, archery competition, Čabar
- St. Bernard's Feast Day, Skrad
- Woodrock music event, Skrad
- Pilgrimage to Božji Studenac, Ravna Gora
- Medicinal Herb Day, Ravna Gora
- Carman Day, Crni Lug
- Brod Moravice Bike Tour
- Blueberry Festival, Mrkopalj
- Medicinal Herb Festival, Mrkopalj
- Čabar Bike Tour
- Climb to Risnjak, Lokve
- Delnice Biking Day
- Summer in Fužine
- International brass band meeting, Fužine
- Bicycle Party, Ravna Gora
- Sport Summer in Vrbovsko
- Velika Gospojina (Assumption Day) Gomirje
- Oat harvest festival, Tršće





p: Blažica Sveticki



p: Blažica Sveticki



p: Đurđa Mainar



p: Višnja Bolf





# Events

The events in Gorski Kotar offer visitors a chance to become acquainted with the local heritage but also to enjoy a variety of modern services. They all have in common typical traditions, stunning nature and the hospitality of the local people

## AUTUMN

### SEPTEMBER

- Chamber Music Festival, Ravna Gora
- Mushroom Festival, Ravna Gora
- Severinska Večer, Michaelmas Day in Severin, Vrbovsko
- International meeting of mushroom pickers, Skrad
- Zlatni Kotlić cooking competition, Brod Moravice
- Plum Festival, Brod Moravice
- Cave Night, Lokve
- Delnice Summer is Over, Delnice
- Risnjak National Park Day, Crni Lug
- Underwater Orienteering World Cup, Fužine
- Mushroom and Potato Festival, Fužine
- Fruits of the Čabar area, Čabar
- Mrkopaljsko Proštenje Fair, Mrkopalj
- Wine, Honey, Cheese and Bread Festival - Kamačnik

### OCTOBER

- Mladi Mladima youth festival, Ravna Gora
- Rosehip Day, Fužine - Lič
- Bundevijada pumpkin festival, Vrbovsko
- Dormouse dishes, food festival
- Apple Day in Brod na Kupi

### NOVEMBER

- St. Martin's Day, Vrbovsko
- Goranska riječ u pjesmi i plesu, local songs and dances, Skrad
- Tribute to Franjo Rački, Fužine



p: Ivana Briški Dordević



p: Tatjana Kušić



## WINTER

### DECEMBER

- New Year's Eve in the open air, Fužine
- A Christmas Tale, Ravna Gora
- Gorski Kotar Sledging Cup
- A Winter's Evening in Vrbovsko
- Zlatno Ulište honey festival, Vrbovsko
- Gorski Kotar Fair, Skrad
- An Advent Tale in Delnice
- Ice skating revues, Delnice
- Torchlight procession on Lake Bajer, Fužine

### JANUARY

- Gorski Kotar Sledging Cup
- Skijoring championship
- Alpine and cross-country skiing competition, Čabar
- Mrkopalj Giant Slalom Cup for recreational skiers, Mrkopalj
- Croatian Sledging Championship on natural pistes, Delnice
- Delnice Open for 1-seat and 2-seat sledges
- Gorski Kotar Ski Cup
- Night Slalom at Petehovac

### FEBRUARY

- Gorski Kotar Sledging Cup
- Croatian Sledging Championship on natural pistes, Delnice
- Delnice Open for 1-seat and 2-seat sledges
- Gorski Kotar Ski Cup
- Peace Memorial in memory of 26 partisans who froze to death, Mrkopalj
- Winter climb to Bjelolasica, Mrkopalj
- Carnival events







# Cultural heritage

The Gorski Kotar area abounds in remains from ancient times, important sacred buildings, cultural and historic sites, and local traditions



## VISIT

- **Zrinski Manor in Brod na Kupi**  
t: +38551 629 301  
+38551 629 302  
e: info@prirodoslovni.com  
w: prirodoslovni.com
- **Rački Ethno House in Delnice**  
t: +38595 906 5766  
+38551 812 156  
w: tz-delnice.hr  
visits by prior arrangement
- **Palčava Šiša Ethno Museum in Plešće**  
t: +38551 825 124  
w: tz-cabar.hr  
visits by prior arrangement
- **Lič Local History Museum**  
t: +38551 835 163  
visits by prior arrangement
- **Delač House in Brod Moravice**  
t: +38599 316 9054  
w: brodmoravice.hr  
Mon-Fri: 9:00-14:00  
Sat, Sun and holidays – by prior arrangement
- **Popovićev Mlin mill in Delnice**  
t: +38599 197 1520  
w: popovicev-mlin.hr  
visits by prior arrangement
- **Lokve Local History Museum**  
t: +38598 954 6524  
e: lokvarske.starine@gmail.com  
visits by prior arrangement
- **Zrinski Manor in Čabar**  
t: +38551 824 110  
w: tz-cabar.hr  
visits by prior arrangement
- **Ivan G. Kovačić's birth house in Lukovdol**  
t: +38551 871 295  
w: hismus.hr  
Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat: 10:00-17:00  
Thu, Sun: 10:00-14:00
- **The Juretić Estate in Leskova Draga**  
t: +38598 260 209  
w: tz-ravnagora.hr  
visits by prior arrangement
- **Manastir Gomirje Monastery**  
t: +38551 878 188  
w: tz-vrbovsko.hr  
visits by prior arrangement

Gorski Kotar's varied cultural heritage can be divided into several thematic areas: protected heritage; museums, galleries and collections; ethno houses, villages and zones; sacred buildings; mills and sawmills; the Gorski Kotar Sculpture Workshop; etc. Protected heritage includes the Zrinski Manor, Rački Ethno House, the Palčava Šiša Ethno Museum, Delač House, Lič Local History Museum, and the ruins of the historic King Charles Road (Karolinska cesta) viaduct of 1732, which can be found close to Brestova Draga in the Municipality of Mrkopalj.

The **Zrinski Manor** is a first-category monument, constructed in 1651. Today it hosts Rijeka Natural History Museum's permanent exhibition titled "Wilderness With a Sea View" and interpretive centers "On the Paths of Frankopans" and "High Karst". Other cultural monuments include the following well-preserved ethno houses: **Rački House** (built in the mid-19th century) in Delnice, **Palčava Šiša** (from 1856) in Plešća, and **Delač House** (from 1644) in Brod Moravice.

The area's museums, galleries and collections include **the birth house of the poet Ivan Goran Kovačić** in Lukovdol (today a memorial museum with a gallery and library), the **Zrinski Manor** in Čabar with its collection of paintings, and the **Lujzijana House of Nature** and its gallery in Lokve.

The 180-year-old **Juretić estate** in Leskova Draga features a well-preserved ancient water sawmill on an artificial lake with a dam dating back to 1900, and an electric sawmill from 1926, which is still operational. Lič is home to an interesting local history museum. **The Popovićev Mlin watermill**, the property of the Mihelčić family, was built in 1924 and was one of the first electrified structures in Delnice. In addition to the **twelve churches in the Brod Moravice** area, the local cultural heritage also includes **the westernmost Orthodox monastery in Europe**, the one in Gomirje, which is also one of the oldest sacral buildings in Gorski Kotar. This monastery has always been known as a religious centre and meeting place for the faithful.





p: Prirodoslovni.hr

Zrinski Manor in Brod na Kipi



p: Davorin Jurković

Brod Moravice



p: Tatjana Kušić

Ivan Goran Kovačić's birth house in Lukovdol



p: Renata Brajdić

Delač House in Brod Moravice



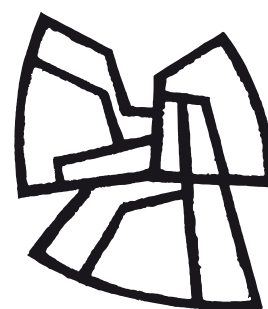
p: Marinko Jakovljević





# Gorski Kotar Sculpture Workshop

Sculptures made of wood can be found in attractive locations across Gorski Kotar. Since the first workshop in 1979, as many as 75 artists have made more than 90 sculptures that have been placed in the open air



G O R A N S K A  
K I P A R S K A  
R A D I O N I C A  
L O K V E



## HISTORY

The Gorski Kotar Sculpture Workshop was founded and led for many years by Professor Nikola Lepinski. The first workshop took place in 1979 with Zvonimir Kamenar, Grga Marjanović and Vesna Popržan. The Gorski Kotar Sculpture Workshop is one of the oldest open-air art colonies in Croatia.

## LOCATIONS

Sculptures made of wood can be found all across Gorski Kotar as original artworks that connect the human spirit and nature. Sculptures can be found in Lokve, Delnice, Fužine, Brod na Kupi, Mrkopalj, Skrad, Crni Lug, Tršće, Mrzla Vodica, Prezid, Brod Moravice, Ravna Gora, Vrbovsko and Lič. In addition, some have been placed outside Gorski Kotar.

By displaying their individual artistic expression over the last four decades in various locations across Gorski Kotar, renowned Croatian sculptors have also created new tourist attractions, as their sculptures successfully fit in with the scenic landscapes and most frequently visited attractions of the area. Thanks to the enthusiasm, hard work and engagement of cultural workers, the Gorski Kotar Sculpture Workshop has outgrown the initial idea of being a small art colony and become one of Croatia's most longest-standing open air sculpture exhibitions.

The basic material used in the workshop is wood. However, the artists have complete freedom with regard to ideas and creativity, including the possibility of combining wood with other materials.



The sculptures from the workshop "are original artworks that unite nature with the human spirit and send artistic and cultural messages in line with the highest artistic standards. The sculptures determine a space, its force and energy points, giving it a dimension that will be recognised as an artistic contribution. Yet this contribution requires care, maintenance and presentation, not only because of its extraordinary creative achievement, but also its aim of including Gorski Kotar on the map of the Croatian and international sculpture scene." (B. Arh)

The GKS Workshop has been attended by 75 artists who have decorated the area's landscapes with more than 90 sculptures.

The list of participants includes the renowned Croatian sculptors: Ivan Kožarić, Zlatko Zlatić, Marija Ujević Galetović, Šime Vulas, Miroslav Šutej, Kuzma Kovačić, Slavomir Drinković, Kažimir Hraste, Ratko Perić, Miro Vuco, Ivan Lesiak, Josip Diminić, Petar Barišić, Peruško Bogdanić, Ljubo de Karina, Zvonimir Kamenar, Mirko Zrinščak, Vojo Radoičić, and others.

During your stay in Gorski Kotar, you will surely encounter artworks created by the participants of the Gorski Kotar Sculpture Workshop. We believe that the combination of natural surroundings and sculptures in the open air will inspire you to experience Gorski Kotar in a different, more intense way.

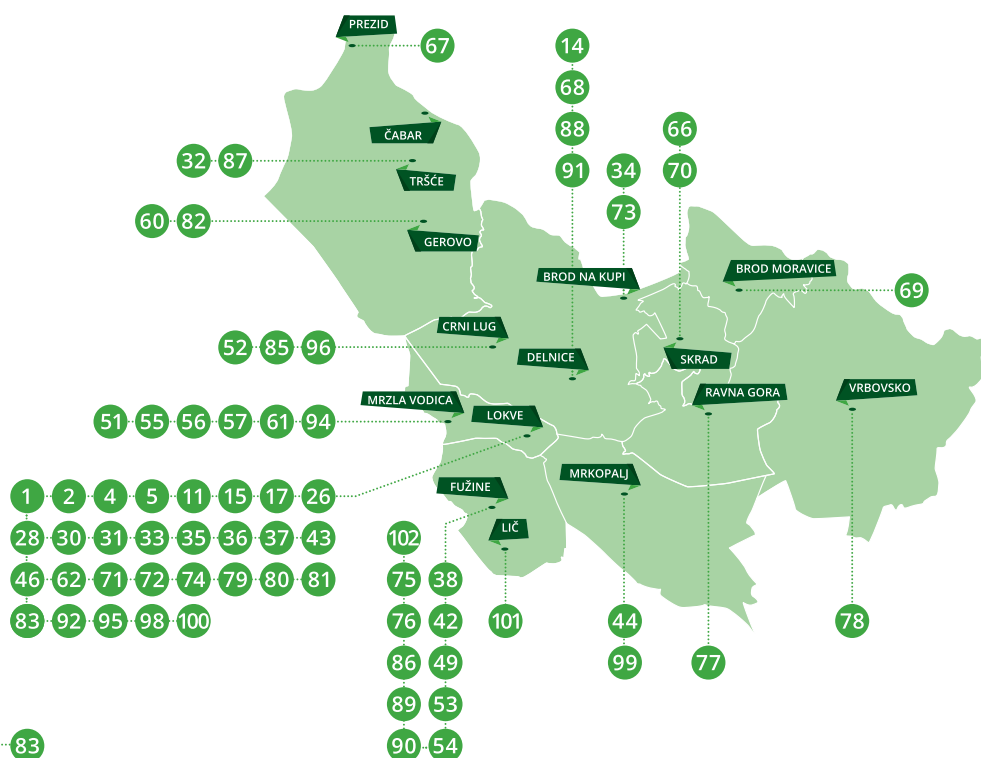






# Gorski Kotar Sculpture Workshop

Wood is less durable as a construction material than other classic sculpture materials. Because of this, some sculptures have become worn over time and had to be removed



+ CITY OF RIJEKA 83



**GORSKI KOTAR SCULPTURE WORKSHOP**

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f: +38551 508 077

e: tzo-lokve@ri.t-com.hr

**WWW.GKR-LOKVE.HR**

**INFO:** Gorski Kotar Tourist Boards

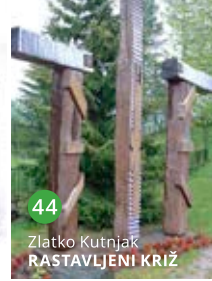




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Vlasta Žanić  
Z

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Vlasta Žanić  
MLIN

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Zlatko Kutnjak  
RASTAVLJENI KRIŽ

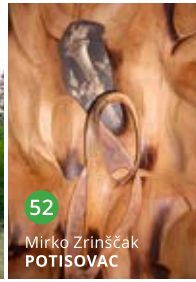
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Vesna Pokas  
OBJEKT-OBLIK-VRIJEME

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Mauro Stipanov  
CAPRICCO

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Marina Banić  
KRALJICA ŠUME

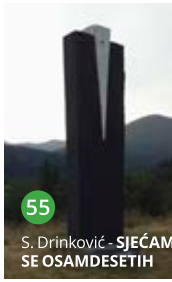
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Mirko Zrinščak  
POTISOVAC

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B. Paladin - RELIQUARIO  
RASTAVLJENI

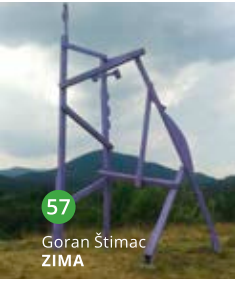
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Želimir Hladnik  
RASPEČE

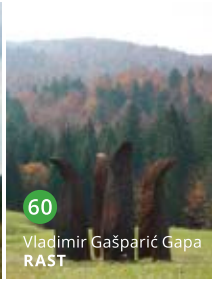
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S. Drinković - SJĘĆAM  
SE OSAMDESETIH

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Žarko Vioić  
NEBO JE ŽUTO A SUNCE JE BLU

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Goran Štimac  
ZIMA

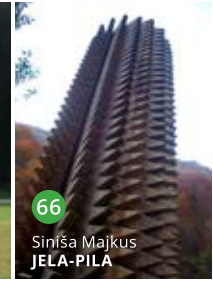
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RAST

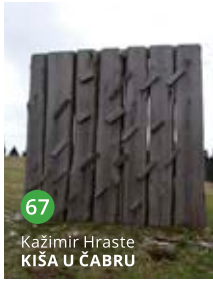
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John D Anton  
DOM

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Zvonimir Kamenar  
DRHTAJ ZEMLJE

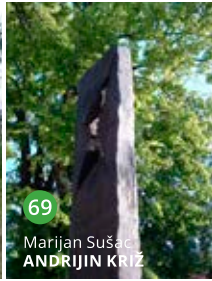
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Siniša Majkus  
JELA-PILA

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Kažimir Hraste  
KIŠA U ČABRU

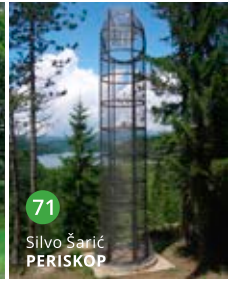
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HRVATSKI SLOG

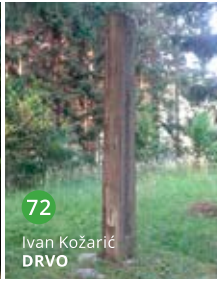
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Marijan Sušac  
ANDRIJIN KRIŽ

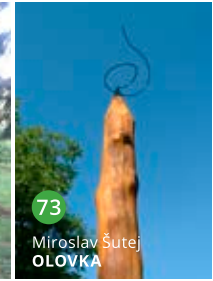
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Danijel Kovač  
TUNEL

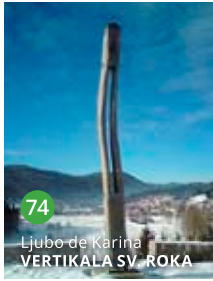
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PERISKOP

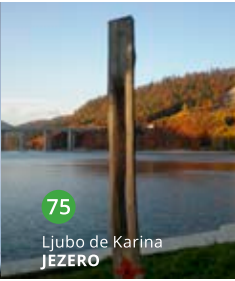
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Ivan Kožarić  
DRVO

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Miroslav Šutej  
OLOVKA

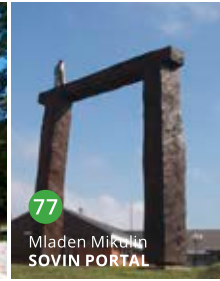
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Ljubo de Karina  
VERTIKALA SV. ROKA

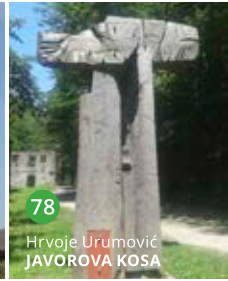
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Ljubo de Karina  
JEZERO

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Petar Barišić - PJEŠAČKI  
MOST MALA LIČANKA

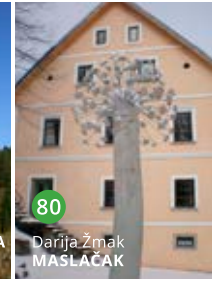
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Mladen Mikulin  
SOVIN PORTAL

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Hrvoje Urumović  
JAVOROVA KOSA

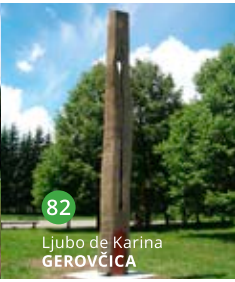
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D. Žmak - PLESNA HALJINA  
ŽUTOG MASLAČKA

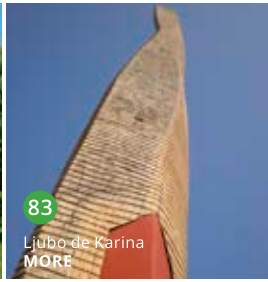
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Darija Žmak  
MASLAČAK

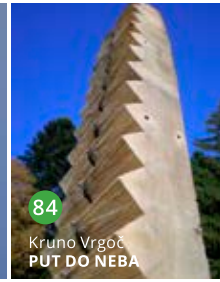
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Neven Bilić  
KUT

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Ljubo de Karina  
GEROVČICA

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Ljubo de Karina  
MORE

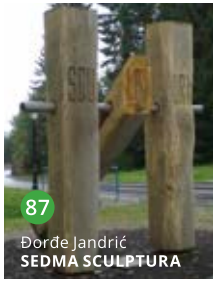
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Kruno Vrgoč  
PUT DO NEBA

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Petar Dolić  
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Đorđe Jandrić  
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Đorđe Jandrić  
HLOJKICA

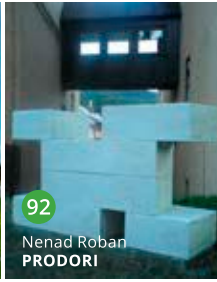
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Marija U. Galetović - DVA  
LICA JEDNOG STABLA

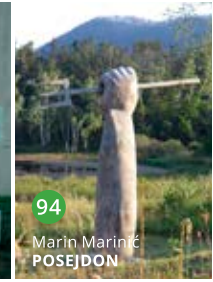
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Šime Vulas  
SVIJEĆA

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Nenad Roban  
PRIRODNI OMJER

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Nenad Roban  
PRODORI

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Marin Marinić  
POSEJDON

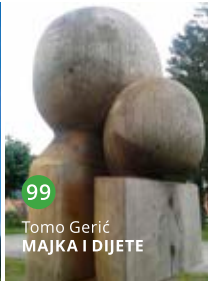
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Marin Marinić - ŠUMSKI  
VILENJAK VILOK

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Peruško Bogdanić  
STUP

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Krešimir Rod  
GLAVA

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Tomo Gerić  
MAJKA I DIJETE

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Tomo Gerić  
KORNJAČA

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M. Blažević - SV. JURAJ  
PROLAZI KROZ LIČ

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Dražen Vitolović  
PRIRODA NA KOCKI





# Traditions and customs

The life of people in Gorski Kotar has always been connected to the forest. Wood is an indispensable element in Gorski Kotar, whether it be for the timber industry, firewood, or as material for making souvenirs



## Did you know?

An almost forgotten local custom is the traditional way of mowing the grass.

Sharpening the scythe, mowing and raking the hay are all parts of the area's agricultural tradition which can still be seen on early evenings in the clearings of Gorski Kotar.



p: Vršnja Bolif

## TYPICAL GORSKI KOTAR HOUSE

The traditional Gorski Kotar house is made of wood and stone; its roof is made of wooden shingles (hand-split fir). In Bijela Vodica, a village in the heart of Risnjak National Park, the tradition of using wooden shingles can be seen at every turn.

## GORSKI KOTAR BRANDY

Another Gorski Kotar tradition is distilling plum, pear or apple brandy, often with the addition of medicinal herbs, which determine its aroma and intensify its effect. An example is the famous Brinjevica juniper brandy.

## TRADITIONAL GORSKI KOTAR MUSIC

A traditional Gorski Kotar musical instrument is the Heligonka accordion. Although already somewhat forgotten, this instrument still accompanies local folklore ensembles when they present the dances of our grandparents. Gorski Kotar is also known for its tamburica music and brass bands, whose tradition dates back more than 170 years.

## GORSKI KOTAR FOLK COSTUME

The woman's costume consists of a white blouse (with or without a collar) with lace-bordered sleeves and front buttoning.

The waist-fitted dress is made of hand-made white linen with wide shoulder straps and without buttons. An apron with a flower pattern and a ruff is worn on top of this. The underskirt is white, with a rich lace border and pleated at the waist. The underwear has an elastic band and lace around the legs, and a belt is tied around the waist. The costume also includes a headscarf with the same pattern as the dress, plus stockings and shoes.

The man's costume consists of five elements: a white shirt, cloth trousers with buttons, and a vest made of the same material with plain-coloured silk on the back. On their head, the men wear a traditional black hat and on their feet shoes adapted to the season.





p: Blažica Sveticki



p: Višnja Boif



p: Željko Loknar





# Almost forgotten tastes

## MUSHROOMS

A variety of mushrooms can be found in Gorski Kotar almost all year round, except in winter. Some of the most sought after are morels, porcini mushrooms, milk caps, parasol mushrooms, and chanterelles. They can be prepared in different ways: as a main course or as a side dish to accompany meat or pasta. Since mushrooms can be deep frozen, pickled or dried, they are available in local restaurants and houses all year round.

## MEAT AND FISH

Gorski Kotar cuisine is based on meat. The vast wooded areas are home to a variety of animals, whose meat is used to prepare excellent specialities. A typical starter is dry-cured bear, boar or deer meat served with homemade bread and typical škripavac cheese. The main course usually includes game goulash with polenta or bread or potato dumplings. Game can also be prepared in other ways, for example boar under a peka baking lid. Fruits of the forest, such as cranberries or dry prunes, are indispensable as a side dish or flavouring. Another typical speciality is dormouse, roasted or in goulash. These animals are much sought after for their meat and fat, which has medicinal properties.

Gorski Kotar's crystal clear streams, rivers and lakes are home to a variety of fish species that are also offered on local menus. Trout is particularly popular. Fish is usually fried or grilled, but can be also used to prepare a thick fish soup. Frogs' legs in breadcrumbs are another culinary treat typical of this region. They can also be stewed and served with snails and mushrooms. Gorski Kotar cuisine is unthinkable without potatoes and sauerkraut. Once a main course but today a side dish, sauerkraut is served with different meat dishes, especially homemade garlic or blood sausage. A typical Easter speciality in Gorski Kotar is stuffed boiled pig's stomach.

## A GOOD DRINK AND A DELICIOUS DESSERT

Every meal should be accompanied by a good glass of wine or some other drink. People in Gorski Kotar today still brew homemade plum, apple, pear and juniper brandy according to old recipes. Liqueurs and syrups made of blueberries, strawberries, raspberries and blackberries are also very popular. Finally, leavened dough stuffed with walnuts or apples, or strudel filled with berries, apples or cheese are typical desserts that are absolutely not to be missed.

## GORSKI KOTAR STUFFING

- 15 eggs  
250-300 g bread without the crust, one or two days old  
250-300 g bacon or ham  
50 g spring onions (including the green part)  
1 tbs. fat, pepper, salt, Vegeta condiment
- Cut the bread and meat into cubes. Fry the meat briefly in fat so that it releases its aroma. Remove from the heat, let it cool, and add the sliced onions and seasoning. Beat the eggs in a separate bowl. Add the eggs and meat to the bread, stir and leave for one hour. Soak the sausage skin in water and fill 3/4 of it with the stuffing (while boiling, the skin shrinks and the stuffing increases in volume). The mixture is enough for 2 sausage skins of 75 mm. Finally, sew up the skin with a thread. Put it to boil in lukewarm water and gradually increase the temperature so that the skin does not immediately shrink. Boil for one and a half hours and occasionally pierce the skin with a needle to prevent it from bursting.

## GAME GOULASH

- 1 kg game  
1 kg onions  
1 tbs. red pepper  
1 tbs. canned tomatoes  
100 g dry prunes  
tomato purée  
red wine, salt, pepper, rosemary, laurel, chives, basil
- Chop the onions and cook in a little oil. Add the diced meat and simmer by occasionally covering it with water or stock. When it is half cooked, add the remaining ingredients and leave to boil until the meat is soft. Serve with bread or potato dumplings or polenta.

## BLUEBERRY STRUDEL

- 300 g blueberries  
400 g flour (type 550)  
200 g melted butter  
200 g sugar and a dash of salt  
ground cinnamon and vanilla beans
- Prepare the dough with flour, butter, salt and lukewarm water (as required) and let it rest. Roll the dough thinly and spread it out. In the meantime, boil the vanilla beans, leave them to cool down and sprinkle the dough with the water. Then sprinkle the dough with the sugar, blueberries and cinnamon. Roll them in and put the dough into a greased baking tin to bake at 190 °C for about 45 minutes. Powder with icing sugar and serve while warm.

[www.plodovigorja-gk.hr](http://www.plodovigorja-gk.hr)





p: Helena Krujiac Tuđa



p: Bojana Mihaela Margitić



p: Željko Loknar



p: Blazica Sveticki



p: Helena Krujiac Tuđa



p: Bojana Mihaela Margitić





# The perfect cycling experience

Get to know Gorski Kotar by bicycle and discover the scenic beauty of the attractive mountains, the silence of the centuries-old forests, the diversity of the karst caves and rocks, the beauty of the rivers and lakes, and the intoxicating scents of the hills

## BIKE TRAILS

In Gorski Kotar, there are numerous marked bike trails that you can choose from depending on the level of difficulty and the surroundings. So different yet always so interesting and stunning!

## THE GORSKI KOTAR BIKE ROUTE

The Gorski Kotar Bike Route is a cycling tour that connects natural, cultural and historical attractions, and introduces you to the culinary specialties of Gorski Kotar. The route follows existing forest and local roads with minimal traffic, and is aimed primarily at nature lovers and mountain bike enthusiasts.

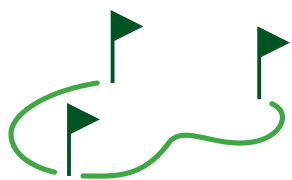
## MORE THAN 400 KILOMETRES

The Bike Route was designed to acquaint you with the entire Gorski Kotar region and to allow you to plan activity holidays that last for several days. It consists of 7 stages ranging from 28 to 43 km out of a total length of 260 km. Individual stages can be shortened, combined or used as a basis to create an individual cycling experience.

Together with 9 links, it offers more than 400 kilometres of pure enjoyment on two wheels. Due to the specific and attractive configuration of the terrain, the route features ascents and descents of more than 5,000 metres.







400

km total



**Gorski kotar**  
**bike**



5000

metres of ascents and descents

Website

[gorskikotarbike.com](http://gorskikotarbike.com)

Mobile Apps







# Children and Gorski Kotar

Gorski Kotar offers children the chance to experience nature and acquire new skills and knowledge through play and action-packed holidays. Adventures in the snow and the scent of the flowers and forests of Gorski Kotar provide lasting childhood memories

## THE PREDATOR TRAIL

Gorski Kotar is home to three large carnivores: the grey wolf, Eurasian lynx and brown bear. The Trail of Predators in Tršće is a tourist and educational trail with life-size animal models. Apart from the wolf, lynx and brown bear, this is a place where you can learn more about deer, foxes, boars and grouse. On the trail, visitors can see wild animal models in natural surroundings. Next to each model, there is an interpretation board that provides information about the respective animal. The trail is circular in shape and 1.7 km long. It is easy to walk along, signposted and provided with benches and information about environmental protection.

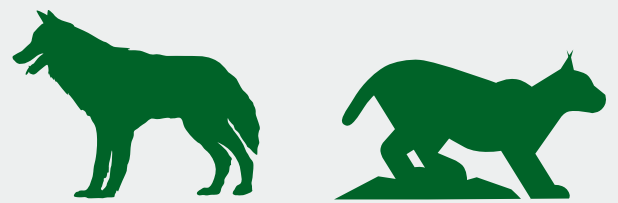
Another trail with interpretation boards about the three large carnivores (the lynx, bear and wolf) is located in Fužine. This trail is particularly attractive for children.

## THE BEAR TRAIL

The Bear Trail is a didactical trail that informs visitors about bears and the characteristics of the Gorski Kotar region. The trail leads through a wonderful fruit garden with indigenous varieties and is located in the vicinity of an elementary school and the small Kupica river in Brod na Kupi. The objective of this trail is not only to provide information about the basic characteristics of the bear and its living habits, but also to change the negative perception some people might have of these animals.

## FRUITS OF THE MOUNTAINS

This 11.5-km-long educational trail dedicated to the fruits of the mountains in Ravna Gora is located on the hill of Suhi Vrh. It features five interpretation boards that provide information about the wild fruits that can be found in the forests of Gorski Kotar. The trail also includes a vantage point and an open-air classroom.



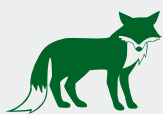
	Wolf	Lynx
Average height:	70 cm	60 cm
Average weight:	31 kg	21 kg

Along the trail, visitors can learn more about nature protection through boards with environmental messages.

## STARA SUŠICA

Stara Sušica is an idyllic locality close to Ravna Gora that is surrounded by hills, forests and meadows. It features a school, a small church and a manor house with a stream flowing beneath it. The main attraction in Stara Sušica is the medieval manor built by the noble Frankopan family. The manor is located at the edge of a coniferous forest and has been restored in the romantic spirit of its time. The Castle has recently been categorized as a mountain lodge so as to become accessible to a wider range of visitors. Only organized groups of 20 up to 110 persons can stay at the Castle. Numerous pupils have spent their vacations here, during which first loves were born and new friendships were made. The joys of life echo throughout Stara Sušica and its beautiful woods, making it even more attractive to visit.

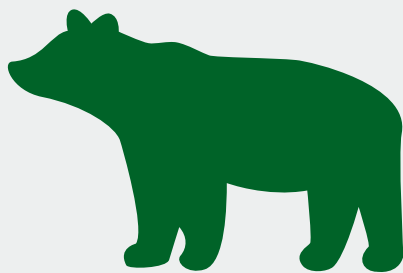




Fox

40 cm

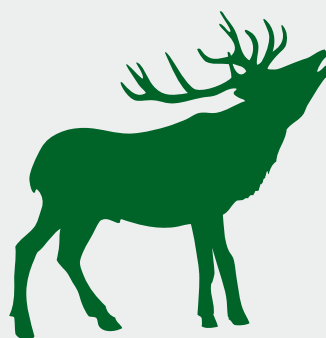
6 kg



Bear

110 cm  
all four paws on the ground

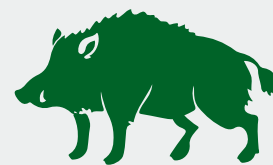
150 kg



Deer

135 cm

200 kg



Boar

85 cm

150 kg







# Protected nature reserves

37% of all protected nature reserves in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County are located in Gorski Kotar. The perfect harmony of the area's scenic beauty and biological diversity provides the perfect rest for body and mind. Listen to your inner rhythm and become one with nature...



## VISIT

- Rocks of Bijele and Samarske Stijene
- Vrajži Prolaz and Zeleni Vir
- Debela Lipa-Velika Rebar
- Golubinjak forest park
- Japlenški Vrh forest park
- Kamačnik gorge
- [www.ju-priroda.hr](http://www.ju-priroda.hr)

## KARST PHENOMENA

Almost all the protected nature reserves in Gorski Kotar are connected with karst features and are located in typical karst areas. For example, the only strict nature reserve in this area, **the rocks of Bijele i Samarske Stijene**, features karst areas of extraordinary beauty and great diversity with continental, hilly and mountainous landscapes.

All the other special nature reserves are also related to specific karst phenomena, most notably **the protected landscape of Vrajži Prolaz and Zeleni Vir** near Skrad. On the other hand, karst features are not so pronounced in **forest reserves** such as **Debela Lipa-Velika Rebar** near Lokve, as these areas are distinguished by their forest vegetation. This is the so-called 'covered karst' phenomenon.

The forest parks in this area also emerged on the karst relief. Because of this, they feature not only forest vegetation, but also a variety of karst phenomena. A typical example is **Golubinjak Forest Park** near Lokve with its caves, rocks, sinkholes, stone bridges and other interesting formations. A few other karst formations, mostly interesting sinkholes, can be found in **Japlenški Vrh Forest Park** above Delnice.

**The Kamačnik protected landscape** close to Vrbovsko includes a canyon with a karst stream of the same name. Its source is a typical Vauclusian karst spring of extraordinary beauty yet unknown depth. Other protected nature areas in Gorski Kotar include **Lokve Cave** (a geomorphological nature monument), the **old yew** in Mededi close to Vrbovsko (an individual tree specimen), and **the park of the castle in Severin na Kupu**, which belongs to the 'park architecture monument' category.





Rocks of Bijele and Samarske Stijene, Mrkobari

p: Višnja Bel



Vraždy Prolaz near Skrad

p: Ivana Briski Bordević



Zelenci Vir near Skrad

p: Ivana Briski Bordević



Kamačnik, Vrbovsko

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