Irresistibly attractive...



Virovitica-Podravina County Croatia



Discover the undiscovered...



Where a mysterious mountain meets a tame valley, idyllic meadows meet long-dormant volcanoes, and a mystical river meets clear streams you will find the Virovitica-Podravina County. Does that sound dreamy and intriguing? That is what the Croatian north-east is, an area where magical nature, hardworking people, and rich tradition harmoniously complement one another, together creating a story you won't want to leave behind... It is the story of sleepy ancient cities and the secrets they hold behind their strong walls, the surprising beauty, unrequited love, and estates where time has stopped.

It is a story of living harmoniously with enchanting nature.
Choose the starting point for your adventure in this part of Podravina and Slavonia, but make sure not to miss out on the following experiences...







1234739 Details from the Podravina and Slavonia area Harvest 5 Skakavac waterfall, Jankovac



■ Rupnica 2 The Jankovac site 3 The Count's educational path, Jankovac 4 Kovačić Stream, Jankovac 5 Mountain cabin, Jankovac 6 Willow Gentian 7 Morimus funereus 8 European serin







On mighty Papuk...







Its forest trails, cold and quick mountain streams, and aromatic meadows will be sure to thrill you at all times of the year with different scenes, aromas, and experiences. Most of the mountain is part of the Papuk Nature Park, a protector of the past, with many natural attractions, interesting features, and legends. Discover them...



At the bottom of the Pannonian Sea

Did you know that Papuk is the first Croatian Geopark? Let it take you four hundred million years back in time and experience a walk along the bottom of the former Pannonian Sea... Explore the geological past of Earth here, where geologists found incredible discoveries such as the remains of a giant shark (Carharodon megalodon), which lived in the Pannonian Sea 14-17 million years ago.

Stop by Rupnica, the first geological natural landmark in Croatia. Feel the strength of the Earth at this site, created by a strong volcanic eruption that left behind impressive columnar deposits of volcanic rocks. Continue your walk accompanied by the sounds of the forest stream to the nearby Trešnjevica quarry. In this range of diverse rocks from various eras of the Earth's geological past you will also notice interesting veins, which bear witness to strong eruptions in the past. Here, in the spring, irresistibly delicious wild strawberries will grab your attention from the nearby woods. A priceless experience.

■ Rupnica ■ Trešnjevica
Quarry ■ Wild strawberries





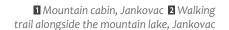
Papuk Geopark is on UNESCO's list of Global Networks of National Geoparks, or sites where parts of the Earth's past over the last four billion years are visible.

In Count Janković's valley

Continue on your journey from the volcanic rocks towards the Jankovac park-forest, and the refreshing surprises it hides. This favorite excursion site of Slavonians, surrounded by centuryold beech trees, is one of the most beautiful mountain valleys. Cold springs, clear streams, caves full of stories, mountain lakes, impressive waterfalls, and tame meadows have made this an incredibly beautiful area where many visitors find peace, relaxation, and inspiration every day. When Count Josip Janković first arrived here and saw the beauty of this area, he didn't hesitate for a second. He decided to cultivate the tame valley, and with incredible ease in 1860 he switched his life at Viennese court for life in the

simplicity of a hunting lodge in the Papuk Mountains. He also had two flow-through lakes made for farming trout and he rerouted the waterway so that the Skakavac waterfall could thrill everyone with its magical water all year long. The park forest was named Jankovac after the great enthusiast, and the attractive educational path that passes through there today bears the name of the "Count's Educational Path". Deservingly so.

Head down this path, discover where the count went, get to know more about the natural landmarks he passed by, and find out many interesting facts about the history of the area, whose first inhabitants were German glassmakers. The path will also take you by the remains of the glassmaker's graveyard, where Papuk's Romeo and Juliet were buried. Her name was Katarina. The rest you will find out here. The story of Papuk's underground world is also exciting, intertwined with many grottos and caves, two of which are the most famous. One houses the sarcophagus of Count Janković, and the other was the hiding place of the famous Papuk hajduk, Maksim Bojanić. Continue your walk alongside the Count's lakes, the two mountain mirrors that reflect the sky above Papuk. If you have a closer look at them, you will also notice many trout, see the fun games played by the grebes, hear the quacking of the ducks...









Under the refreshing waterfall

Feel the call of the wild and head out on forest paths that will reveal incredible views to you. The quiet of the forest will be interrupted by its loud inhabitant - the Skakavac waterfall. Pause in front of this impressive sight, feel the refreshing quality, romance, and energy of this place that will make you want to return...



- Skakavac waterfall, JankovacWild duck 3 Visitor's center, Jankovac





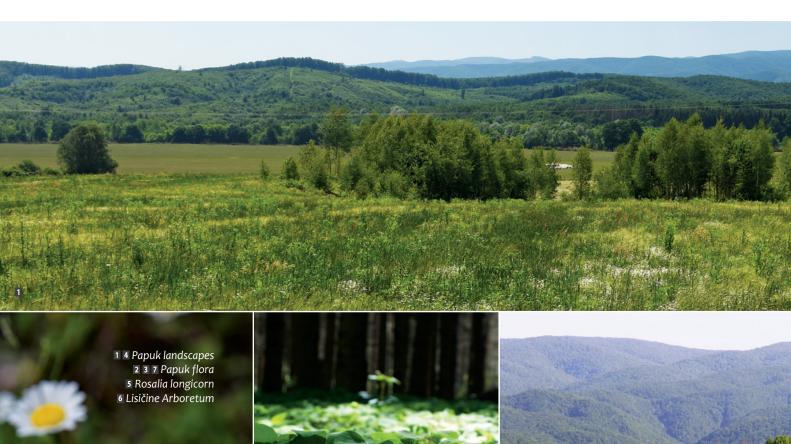


■ Warm and cold venison salad (prepared by Dalibor Kovač) ② ■ Guest's accommodations, Jankovac ■ Count Janković's sabre (prepared by Dalibor Kovač)

Papuk on a plate

The large meadow in front of the Jankovac mountain cabin beckons you to relax, have a picnic, but also be active. You will probably want to spend the most time here. Await dawn at refreshing Papuk in the comfortable, modernly furnished rooms at the mountain cabin or in a nearby suite. Along with the scent of the woods, you will also sense the aroma of many gastronomic delicacies. Although game stew and hunter's bean stew have been on the traditional local menus for decades, why not try a warm and cold venison salad, dishes made of mushrooms and other forest fruits. Count Janković's sabre with a fine herb sauce, or crepes with a sauce made of forest fruits and white pepper?













Through the Papuk virgin forest

Papuk will continue to impress you with its natural attractions, many of which are hidden in the Papuk virgin forest - the Sekulinačka Mountain. Impressive specimens of old beech and pine trees have been proudly posing here for 150 years. Papuk is also the natural habitat of yew and home to the old oak, which rises 33 meters in height, and could surely tell you a lot about life here 500 years ago...

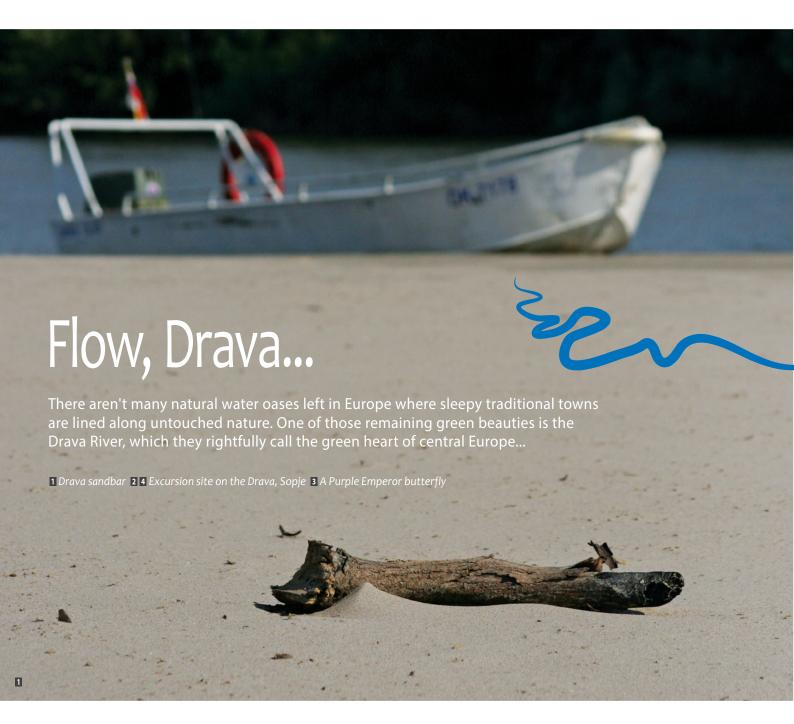
The Lisičine Arboretum, located near the Papuk village of the same name, in the middle of the mountain, also has a special story. More than a thousand different autochtonous and allochthonous species of trees and shrubs regularly attract fans and plant growers, but also many students, scientists, and tourists. Hiking, walking, riding a bicycle or quad, horseback riding? How you continue on your Papuk adventure is up to you.

















When time stops...

Sometimes calm, and sometimes wild. Still, it is always equally impressive, many adventurers, fishermen, cyclists, weekend visitors, and excursionists will say about the Drava, who regularly seek adrenaline, peace, and inspiration on its white sandy beaches and islets, and on the paths that follow it. Amongst the most picturesque places is Križnica, a protected landscape along the Croatian-Hungarian border, which is equally impressive to reach by ferry or wooden pedestrian bridge. Yes, in this settlement, surrounded by a magical meander of Drava arms,

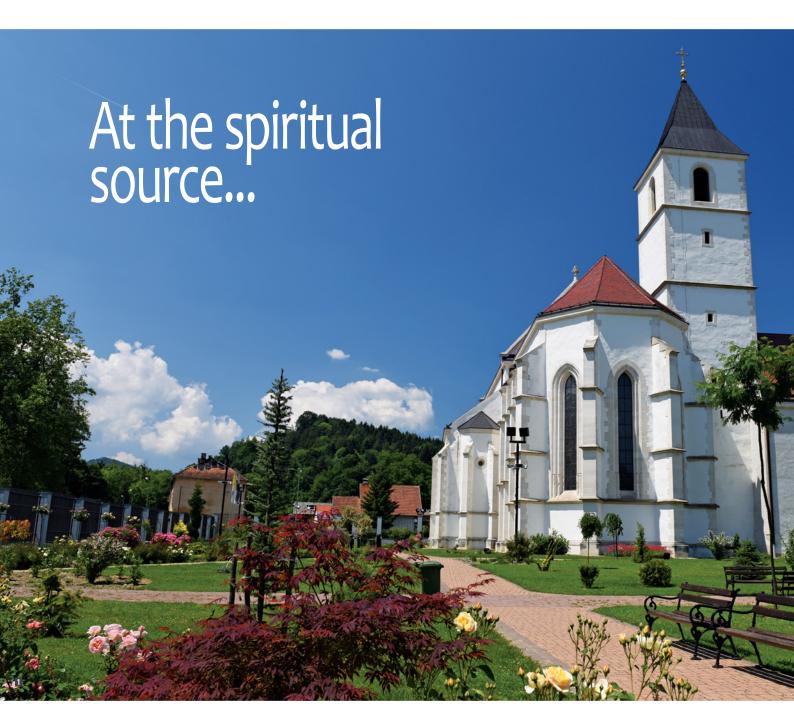
time has nearly stopped... The aroma of freshly grilled Drava fish will awaken you from your Drava dreams, and you can try it, prepared in a delicious local method, in restaurants here. Many cyclists know that, and they regularly pass through on one of the attractive Drava bike trails that run through the area of the former Iron Curtain. From time to time, your attention will be caught by pieces of driftwood the Drava left on the beaches, which local artists will later use for unique sculptures.











1 Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Voćin 2 Church of St. Teresa of Ávila, Suhopolje 3 Detail from Our Lady's rose garden, Voćin

Some of you will be thrilled with their unique interiors, and some of you will be impressed by their exteriors. Some are unique in their simplicity, while others hide true little treasuries. Churches and chapels are scattered like pearls in cities, towns, and villages throughout the entire Virovitica-Podravina County. Explore them...









At Our Lady of Voćin

At the foot of Papuk, you will find picturesque Voćin, a town famous for the shrine of Our Lady of Voćin -Mother of Refuge. Around 60 thousand faithful believers pass through this largest church in the easternmost point of Croatia per year, and how many have passed through it since the parish was established in 1334 can only be guessed. The large church that dated originally back to the late Gothic era faced hard times. It survived the First World War, but not the Second. It was renovated over a long period of time only to be completely destroyed in the Homeland War in 1991. Only a single wall survived the strong explosion... Still, the church in Voćin

rose again, carefully nurturing every detail preserved from its predecessor. Today it awaits you in full glory, surrounded by a park with more than three hundred various types of plants and dotted with the ruins of the former Franciscan monastery.

Today, the church is also a miniature modern gallery, with interesting stained glass windows and mosaics. The votive painting of the Holy Mother that dates back to 1770 has also been preserved here. Although various pilgrimages are held here a dozen times a year, the biggest one is on the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, when this Marian shrine is visited by up to twenty thousand faithful believers.

12 3 4 5 Motifs of the interior and exterior of the Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Holy Mother, Voćin



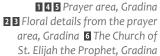


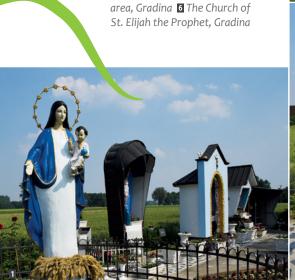




In the silence of Gradina

The locals will tell you the stories of two miraculous events that took place in the small Slavonian village of Gradina in 1939 and 1997, which most people consider to be the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A cross was placed at that site, and Gradina became a place of prayer and contemplation for many believers and the curious. At this incredibly strong inspirational and spiritual place, there is also an area for prayer which believers decorate daily with flowers and candles. A Way of the Cross with stations leads from the prayer area to the nearby Church of St. Elijah the Prophet.















Elaborate, simple, unique...

The churches you must definitely visit include the Church of St. Rocco in Virovitica, special for its Baroque interior, followed by the Gothic Church of Sts. Peter and Paul the Apostles in Čađavica, also the oldest church in this part of Slavonia, and the Classical church of St. Teresa of Ávila in Suhopolje.



This magnificent building was built by the Count Janković family in this small town. The Neo-Gothic church of St. Joseph in Slatina, and the Church of St. Lawrence, located on a glade in the village of Crkvari, built by the crusaders, are also interesting...



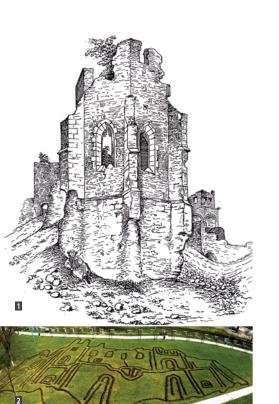












At Princess Ružica's

An estate owner decided to build a city on the slopes of Papuk and Krndija. However, whatever his servants built during the day, fairies would demolish during the night, with the aim of preserving the natural beauty of the area. Not knowing that, one night he decided to set a trap to find out what was going on. He caught the most beautiful fairy, Ružica, and had her enclosed in a wall in his city. However, he was cursed, and on the day construction was completed, the city collapsed... This is just one of the legends of Ružica grad, the ancient sleepy fortress that has been watching over the city of Orahovica since 1228. Today, the "Order of Knights of Ružica

Grad" takes care of the preservation of history, tradition, and legends, and their members participate at many knight's tournaments in Croatia and abroad, and they also participated in the filming of the show that conquered the world, "Game of Thrones". Many items found in this medieval town are now housed at the Orahovica City Museum. The abundant collection includes ancient money, horseshoes, knives, equipment for knights and horses, pottery, various tools and instruments, parts of pottery kilns, etc. The influence of princess or fairy Ružica can be felt in Orahovica at every step: while passing through tunnels of roses along a promenade that bears her



name, and while you walk past the rose gardens in the city parks. You will also notice the aroma of roses near Orahovica's watermill and "Ćiro" locomotive, the only train in the world that has six-wheel drive. The floral pyramid - a living monument made up of 15 twins - eight male and seven female gardens, will remind you of the fact that Orahovica is the city of flowers, but also twins. Along with Ružica grad, the slopes of Papuk are also home to the ruins of another eight ancient cities...

Ružica grad is the best preserved medieval fortress in Croatia and a protected landmark.

■ A print with the motif of Ružica grad, Slatina Local History Museum
■ Ružica grad as a horticultural motif,
Orahovica ■ A knight's tournament at the foot of Ružica grad ■ The 'Ćiro' locomotive, Orahovica ■ Princess
Ružica's rose garden, Orahovica
■ Ružica grad, near Orahovica





In the city of Croatia's first champagne of the Bjelobrdo

The Slatina Local History Museum will take you back in time through the history of the area. At the fantastic exhibit, which is cared for by several expert enthusiasts, have a look at the representative findings: bronze dishes from the 2nd century, more precisely, a pitcher and shallow dish used to wash hands before meals. Especially attractive exhibits include luxurious silver jewelry owned by the Count and his wife that dates back to the 7th century, along with jewelry that belonged to a member

of the Bjelobrdo culture, and a King Matija Korvin silver coin from the 15th century. Here you will also find out that Labor Day, May 1st, was celebrated in Slatina for the first time in 1894, and that the first champagne factory in Croatia was located in this city. The first champagne came from Count Schaumburg-Lippe's factory in 1864, and it was produced from the kadarka wine sort. Production lasted until 1912. An interesting living exhibit can also be found near the museum: a giant seguoia, a protected natural landmark. This tree, one of the symbols of Slatina, was planted by the Counts Pejačević.







■ The Church of St. Joseph, Slatina ■ St. Joseph's Square, Slatina ■ ■ ■ From the collection of Slatina's Local History Museum ■ Slatina's sequoia





The city of the Golden Bulla

Virovitica, the city of the Golden Bulla and seat of the Virovitica-Podravina County will tell you the story of its tumultuous past, preserved in the present. This city was tied to Zagreb, the Croatian metropolis, back in 1242 by King Bela IV, when he issued a Golden bulla in Virovitica whereby Zagreb attained the status of a free royal city. The museum at the old Franciscan monastery, the Franciscan pharmacy, the Church of St. Rocco, and the Baroque-Classical castle of the noble Pejačević family, which stands the test of time in a park in the center of the city, have a lot to tell you...

You will be sure to feel the pulse of the city during the celebration of the day of the city on St. Rocco's feast day (August 16), when visitors from all areas gather in this town dedicated to St. Rocco. Virovitica is also the city of Edita Schubert, an academic artist who left an indelible mark in Croatian modern art. While walking down the main promenade in Virovitica, which bears the name of this first lady of Croatian transavantgarde, you will also notice uniquely painted façades of residential-commercial buildings, inspired by works from the author's opus "Transavantgarde geometry".





■ Pejačević castle, Virovitica ■ Flower park, Virovitica ■ Edita Schubert's Promenade, Virovitica





1 Pejačević palace, Virovitica 2 Local History Museum, Slatina 3 Information-educational center, Noskovačka Dubrava 4 Janković manor, Kapela Dvor 5 Monastery museum, Virovitica 6 Janković castle, Suhopolje

New life of heritage

Although they preserve the secrets and charm of times past, many summer homes, castles, palaces, and manors, scattered throughout this tame county, continue to tell new stories today. They are slowly being returned to their own glory, the locals are transforming them to meeting places where new experiences await: concerts, exhibitions, performances, and various events, while at some you can find cozy hotels and restaurants.







When tradition speaks...





... it creates diverse stories, and one of the nicest will be told in northeastern Croatia. Its story is warm and friendly, infused with various colors, flavors, and aromas, somewhat playful, and fatally attractive... Experience it...







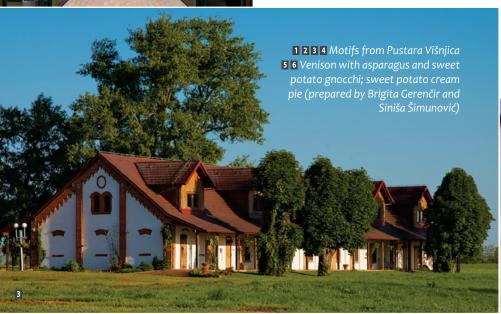




At the gates to Slavonia

Only a few kilometers west of Slatina. in the shade of old poplar, linden, and chestnut trees, surrounded by endless fertile fields, you will find a two-hundred-year-old estate -Pustara Višnjica. Life passes slowly here, and nature and humans have a strong bond. This fairytale corner is home to many fallow deer and mouflon, and the locals are also in the business of breeding cattle and horses. They will gladly take you on a walk through large fields of grain and sweet potatoes, an exotic sweet vegetable (similar to potatoes) which they are famous for, and they will also show you their gardens and

greenhouses full of aromatic herbs and various vegetables. You will find all of that later again during the exciting gourmet tour you will have at the restaurant on the estate. If you would like to tour the estate on your own, you can do so by bike or on horseback, and here you will also find a riding school at your disposal, along with organized oneday excursions to Papuk Nature Park and the Drava River, as well as various workshops. Drift off to sleep in one of the comfortable hotel rooms or suites, wake up to the morning song of roosters, and continue your adventure the following day...











In idyllic Podravina

Imagine this scene - a large meadow surrounded by an orchard with a lake reflecting the image in the middle, and next to it a treehouse, an old, romantic carriage, traditional wooden houses... and while the idyllic image of this scene intoxicates you, the aroma of warm nettle bread and baked štrukli reach you, and your attention is caught by several beauties - thoroughbreds beckoning you to take a carriage ride or go horseback riding. To be sure this isn't an imaginary fairytale, visit the renowned Zlatni klas excursion site in the settlement of Otrovanec, nestled in the calm Pitomača region. Here you will feel all the charm of old,

but not forgotten, times. Do you know how to grind grain using a handoperated millstone? Or how to carve wood and bake bread in an old bread oven? The locals will intrigue you, and the younger members of your families, with a depiction of various old crafts, and they will show you a valuable ethnographic collection that adorns the restaurant on the estate. Try domestic dishes here, whose recipes were written in their grandmother's old cookbooks. Dishes made of nettle, pumpkin, and medicinal herbs, grits with caramelized onions, and delicious soups are just part of the offerings of this unique menu. While you wait for



them to be served on the Podravina spread, try some of the old-fashioned games, tour the old blacksmith shop where horses were given horseshoes, or spend your time in planning your afternoon excursion: walking along the Drava, touring the Bilogora vineyards, riding a carriage through Pitomača, or visiting Petar Preradović's house of birth. Perhaps try all of them together?

■ A traditional lunch from Podravina (black pudding, sausages, cracklings, nettle bread) - prepared by Marija Tkalčec ② Peppers roasted under a pastry lid, prepared by Marija Tkalčec ③ Motifs from the 'Zlatni klas' ethno excursion site. Otrovanec











Try... the sweetest part of Croatia

Here, where the unpredictable Drava meets the Pannonian plains, where the winegrowing hills of Bilogora come down to meet fertile fields, and where clear water springs caress the hills of Papuk, you will experience a magical gastronomic and enological journey. Are you ready?





On the tables of Podravina-Slavonia

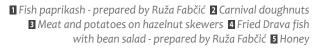
"Here, the portions are abundant, here, the dishes taste divine, here, food can simply be enjoyed", say the people of Podravina and Slavonia about their area, where two regions meet -Podravina and Slavonia. Similar, yet different. Infused with the influence of many generations and cultures, today their cuisine has enriched this part of Croatia, and has become a special motive for a growing number of tourists to visit. The spread in Podravina, closely tied to the Drava River, regularly includes dishes made of freshwater fish: catfish, perch, carp, pike... Fish paprikash, catfish fried in home milled corn flour and carp grilled over an open flame are amongst the most famous specialties

here. An integral part of the spread in Podravina and Slavonia includes homemade bacon, cracklings, black pudding, kulen, and various sausages, along with other kinds of meat that are regularly accompanied by vegetables in various combinations: salty potatoes, broccoli, peppers, onions, beans, peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins... Thanks to the expansive fields of grain, which the people of Podravina and Slavonia have been cultivating since the beginning of time, the aroma of homemade bread or flatbread will waft from every table, often enriched with medicinal or aromatic herbs. Due to the vast forests, in the area next to Papuk, the locals have

become superb chefs in preparing meals from wild game, especially venison. They serve it with sauces made from forest fruits (mushrooms, fine herbs, and berries), or they prepare it as a stew.

As far as sweets are concerned, the tables in Slavonia-Podravina cannot be big enough. The main ingredient in most sweet dishes is honey, which is not unusual considering that the beekeepers in this area are amongst the largest honey producers in Croatia. Here, you will also find honey in wine, spirits, liqueurs, and even in vinegar. You will also regularly find it in crepes, also a popular addition to the spread. Here, especially in the Pitomača region, you will be offered zlevanka, pies made with homegrown apples, and various strudels: with cheese or sour cherries, or pumpkin strudel.













Glasses full of flavor

Before you sit down at the table, the locals will make a toast with you and a glass of homemade spirits, made of plums, sour cherries, apples, or pears. This tradition is also a sign of being welcomed so be sure to join in. The dishes will also be accompanied with superb wines, made in cellars, and on the sun-bathed hills of Bilogora, Papuk, and Krndija. The main sorts include Graševina, Silvanac, Riesling, Frankovka, Chardonnay, and Pinot. Although you have likely heard the story several times on your trip through the region, the locals will remind you of the fact that you are located in the region of Croatia's first champagne.







100% active





Cycling, trekking, hiking, swimming, hunting or fishing? The choice is yours...





- 4 A hunting watchtower on Papuk
- **S** Exploring the Old Drava on Križnica





On two wheels, in the Pannonian Sea...

The scent of forests, the bubbling of a stream, the hum of waterfalls, and the strong colors from floral meadows and fields will best be experienced if you head out on tour by bike. The area of the Virovitica-Podravina County awaits you with attractive and dynamic cycling routes that lead you through picturesque landscapes, forests and fields, and hidden settlements and towns. You will pass by lakes and hunting grounds, so there will also be an opportunity to meet fishermen and hunters, who seek relaxation next to calm lakes and rivers, or in the refreshing forest dynamics. Find out more about the fish fund of the Drava, and Virovitica's lakes and swamps from the fishermen,

let the hunters tell you their stories about seeing wild boars, deer and does, pheasants, quail, rabbits, wild ducks... The game fund in this area is amongst the most abundant in Croatia, and there are some exclusive hunting grounds in the county area. Hunters from many European countries know that and they regularly test their luck in Papuk's forests.

Hiking and trekking are activities that can be enjoyed in almost all parts of the county. If you choose swimming, head over to the Orah excursion site in Orahovica. Take a swim in the mountain lake, which is visited by around 400 thousand swimmers annually, play beach volleyball, badminton, or mini football...







Orah excursion site, Orahovica
 A ski slope, Virovitica
 Javorica
 Lake, Slatina
 Exploring the Drava
 Drava's cycling trail









To the sound of the tamburica

Is there a better way to enrich your stay than enjoying cheerful festivals and events with a traditional flair? In the Virovitica-Podravina County, they will accompany you all year long, and there are few events that aren't enhanced by the sounds of the irreplaceable tamburica. St. Rocco's Day, as the main event, followed by "Songs of Podravina and Podravlje", and "Days of Milko Kelemen", are just a part of the wide range of events organized by these generous people.





Impressum

Publisher:

Virovitica-Podravina County Tourist Board

Text:

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Photographers:

Robert Kunštek, Ante Vučemilović, Kristijan Toplak, Ivan Šemper, Ivan Kršić, Tatjana Arnold Sabo, Boris Kozjak, Mijo Pavelko, Nikolina Tomić, Marika Marić, Damir Bedeković, Željko Šelimber, Marija Lovrenc, Tomislav Saić, Tomislav Pančić, Robert Turkalj, Vladimir Grgurić, Matija Rođak, Josip Mikolčić

Translator:

Marija Crnogaj

Graphic design:

Tip Kreativa d.o.o., Zagreb www.tipTravelMagazine.com

Printing:

Grafiti Becker d.o.o. Virovitica

Circulation:

2000 copies

September, 2015





castle, manor





tourist office, info center



museum, gallery



viewpoint vineyard



gastronomy



lake, pond park, natural landmark



theater



accommodations



recreational airport



bike trail



excursion site



railway

county road

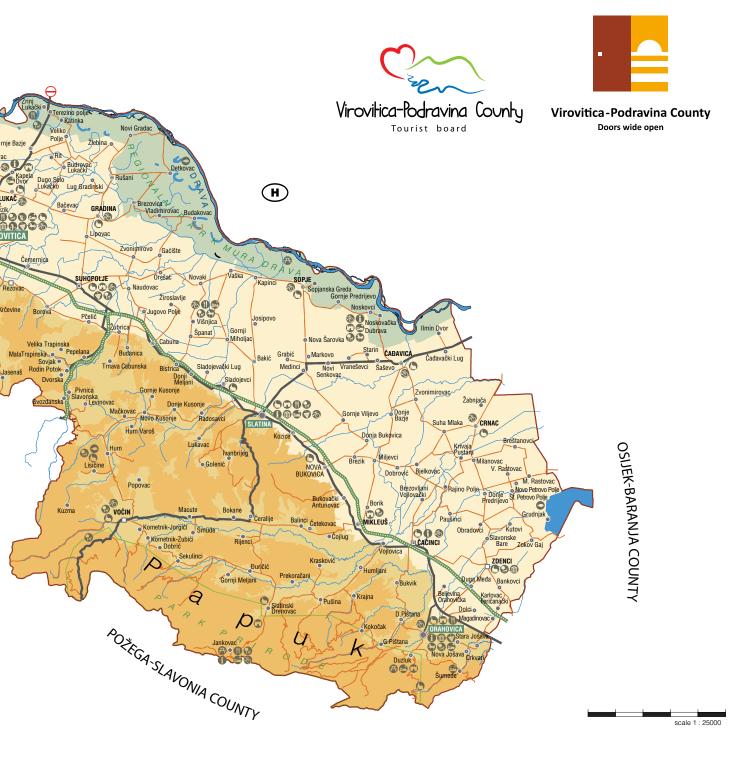


VIROVITICA-PODRAVINA COUNTY

Population (2011.): 84,836 Area: 2,024 km2 Settlements: 188

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







Tourist board

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