



PANNONIAN CYCLING ROUTES

Happiness is riding a bike on a sunny day. Happy are all those who start an unforgettable adventure through the Virovitica-Podravina County – by bike. The cycling routes of the area pass through peaceful landscapes, across hills, through forests and fields, along rivers, brooks and lakes. With a wind on your face and a slow pace of the pedals that suits you, discover the beauties of this part of Slavonia and Podravina and do not miss a thing.

PODRAVINA CIRCLE

PODRAVSKI KRUG

Cycling on the 'Podravina circle' route, you will get to know the Western part of the Virovitica-Podravina County, i.e. its Podravina part. Podravina is a region situated in the north of 'Our Beautiful Homeland', which is a picturesque region bordered with the river Drava on the one side and with the Bilogora hills on the other. On the spacious Podravina fields, one grows vegetables, medicinal herbs, tobacco and other crops, while on the hills of Bilogora there are vineyards and orchards. It is considered that the Odenica brook, passing through Virovitica, is the eastern border of Podravina and the western border of Slavonia. This ride will take you through this beautiful region. The 'Podravina circle' route is 63 km long – the first 20 km of the route are in the immediate vicinity of Bilogora and on this part you will have several easier ascents, while the rest of the route is in the valley. The majority of the route is asphalted, while only a smaller part is macadam. This route, too, starts from Virovitica, in front of the Pejačević castle. The route exits the town towards the town suburb Antunovac and continues up to the village of Sveti Đurađ where it reaches Bilogora, along whose slopes you will ride the next 20 kilometres. Between Golo Brdo and Špišić Bukovica, there is a short macadam part of around 3.5 km. Near Špišić Bukovica, if you deflect from the route, you can visit the excursion site along the Zidine pond. In the Kinkovo area, hidden in the forest, there is also the Mozart hotel where you can rest and refresh yourself. After Špišić Bukovica, there is again a shorter macadam part of the route to Vukosavljevica. Then, through the village of Turnašica and Sedlarica, the ride takes you to Velika Črešnjevica where the flat part of the route begins. Riding on this part of the route, you will pass through the famous Pitomača vineyards and the wine road. Following the designations, you can research this magically beautiful mosaic composed of vineyards, orchards, wine cellars and gazebos. To visit the wine cellars and taste wines, a previous announcement is necessary. The next place on the route is Otrovanec, where there is the rural tourism estate 'Zlatni klas'/Golden ear of corn. Take some time to rest and refresh yourself, and get to know the tradition, gastronomy and oenology of the area. If you are already tired from the bike, here you can treat yourself to horseback riding. The route then continues to pass through Pitomača, where you can rest again and purchase something, if you need, in one of the many shops in the town. The route continues along the road that partly passes through the forest towards the river Drava. We recommend a shorter deflection from the route by passing to the other side of the Drava (on the pedestrian bridge or the pram) and a visit to Križnica – a village in the protected landscape of a most beautiful Drava meander. After Križnica and the return to the southern embankment of the Drava, a ride through the villages of Starogrčki Marof, Okrugljača, Bušetina and Turanovac follows, and back towards Virovitica and the end of this route. Podravina is a region that you must visit; you will get to know its charms and beauties best if you take a ride along the cycle route Podravski krug/ Podravina circle.



DRAVA CIRCLE

DRAVSKI KRUG

The 'Dravski krug' bike route is a 96 km long circular route. The majority will be on asphalt, while a smaller part of the route will take you on macadam along the embankment of the river Drava. Another good news is that on the entire route there are no major ascents. In short, you will have more than sufficient reasons to venture on this 'river' adventure. Like a giant magnet, the Drava attracts all nature lovers, scientists, amateur sportsmen, anglers, hikers and adventurers. For all cyclists wishing to enjoy the beauties of this quiet yet powerful river and its surroundings, there is no better route than 'Dravski krug'. This route passes through the area of UNESCO's cross border biosphere reserve Mura-Drava-Danube, while at the same time this route follows up on the internationally known cycling routes 'Drava route' and 'EuroVelo 13 – The Iron Curtain Route'. The route starts in front of the Pejačević castle in Virovitica and continues through Lukač, Gradina and Brezovica, all the way to Budakovac. Budakovac is dominated by a large swamp that is in fact a remnant of the old course of the river Drava. Namely, through history, the Drava often changed its course and left such water bodies behind it.



EURO VELO 13



Only around 400 m from the last houses in the village, the route exits almost to the very embankment of the river Drava, i.e. to the non-asphalted riverside, along which you will ride the next 12 km up to the village of Kapinci, where the route shortly exits to the asphalted road. At the entrance into the village of Sopje, turn again to the field path that will take you to the embankment. Here you can take the path to the very riverside and you will find an organised excursion site, where you can rest and enjoy the view of the Drava. The route continues along the embankment all the way to the village of Noskovačka Dubrava, where you will exit again on an asphalted road. Here you can view the informative and educational centre and ride for about 2 km on the route of the educational trail 'Dravi u zagrljaj'/'Hugged by the Drava'. On the way back to Virovitica, the route passes through the villages Sopje, Kapinci, Orešac, Suhopolje and Borovo. If you make a stop in any of these ancient Slavonian villages, you will notice that the simple life in them has not changed much compared to the past. There you can meet people who will always warmly greet you and surprise you with their hospitality.



FROM ČAČINCI TO JANKOVAC

Even though the bike route 'From Čačinci to Jankovac' is rather short (only 21 km long), it takes time to master the ascent from Slatinski Drenovac to Jankovac. This is truly one of more beautiful routes that you can take in the Virovitica-Podravina County. The route is, as we have already said, 21 km long; the first 16 km from Čačinci to Slatinski Drenovac are on asphalt, then followed by a 5 km long, occasionally very steep, ascent on macadam towards the Jankovac mountain resort. In order to get to know the entire Virovitica-Podravina County and its beauties in the best possible way, we have selected Čačinci as the starting point for this route. This beautiful town is situated in the southeastern part of the Virovitica-Podravina County, known for its traditional and natural heritage as well as for hunting tourism that developed in the nearby Papuk forests. The route 'From Čačinci to Jankovac', starts from the very centre of Čačinci. After 3.5 km, you will take a turn to the left from the main road and through the villages of Vojlovica, Humljani and Pušina come to Slatinski Drenovac, and thus to the Nature Park Papuk. In Slatinski Drenovac, the 5 km long ascent towards Jankovac starts. This part of the way is also the most beautiful part of this route; you take the macadam trail through the forest and along the gurgling stream of Kovačica, descending the Papuk hills. Even during the summer, you will be revived by the freshness of the Papuk forests; if you truly wish to refresh yourself, stop along the stream and wash your face in its cold water. Soon you will come to the Skakavac waterfall, which is a true attraction, not only of Jankovac and Papuk but rather of the entire Slavonia. With a 36 m high waterfall, the Jankovac stream, through limestone rocks, enters the canyon of the Kovačica stream. Not far from the stream, there is the Mountain lodge where this route ends. However, your Papuk adventure does not end here; on the contrary, the Jankovac mountain resort is one of the most attractive localities within the Nature Park Papuk. The county's educational trail provides many pieces of information to its visitors on geology, climatology, flora, fauna, history, and other wealth of this area. With there being so many interesting things, we recommend that you rent a room in the Mountain lodge and spend several days researching all these places also taking a ride along the bike routes of which there are many on the hills of Papuk.





SLATINA CIRCLE

SLATINSKI KRUG

The best way to get to know the central part of the Virovitica-Podravina County and the town of Slatina is a ride on the 'Slatinski krug' cycling route. This circular route is 39 km long, one rides in its entire length on asphalt and there are no ascents. The cycling route 'Slatinski krug' starts from the centre of Slatina and continues through a part of the Sopje municipality, however, before starting the ride, let us get to know this beautiful region a bit. The area in which you will take the ride is situated in the central part of the Virovitica-Podravina County and is naturally bounded by the river Drava in the north and the hills of Papuk in the south. Slatina prides in its culture and wine tradition. In 1864, the first Croatian sparkling wine was produced there, about which and about many other parts of the rich Slatina history one can find out more in the Slatina Local History Museum. By the way, it is important to know that in Slatina the largest living organism of eastern Croatia resides – this is a 62 m high redwood tree planted in 1807. Near the town, there is the Javorica lake, which is a favourite excursion site of the people of Slatina and their guests. The route of the 'Slatinski krug' trail starts from the centre of Slatina northwards and towards the Bakić village, then through the villages of Gornji Miholjac and Španat towards Višnjica. There you are already on the territory of the Sopje municipality that is known for its rich ethnological, folklore and natural heritage. There is also the Višnjica cattle-breeding land, which is perhaps the most beautiful place that you will visit on this ride; therefore, take your time and stop in this rich green oasis of peace. The route continues through the villages of Novaki, Vaška, Kapinci, Sopje and Medinci, and back to Slatina, where it ends. If you love Slavonia, its old estates and picturesque villages, its scents and colours, take a ride on the long and flat roads of this route and get to know Slavonia first-hand, i.e. by bike.



VIROVITICA CIRCLE

VIROVITIČKI KRUG

If you wish to get to know Virovitica and its surroundings more closely, then select 'Virovitički krug' for your ride that, in its 33 km, will take you from Virovitica across the nearby villages back into the town. 'Virovitički krug' is a circular route, entirely flat and asphalted in its entire length. Since in terms of kilometres this is a relatively short route, before starting the ride in the 'Virovitica circle', we recommend that you do some sight-seeing in Virovitica and get to know what it has to offer. This is primarily the Pejačević castle from where this route starts. Moreover, in the vicinity, there is the recently entirely renovated Pejačević mansion, a baroque building built at the end of the 18th century. Immediately across the street, there is the St. Roch baroque church, the interior of which belongs among the most prominent baroque units in Croatia. Let us start with the ride though. The route starts before the Pejačević castle and the first 5 km are on the main road in the direction of Hungary. In this part of the route, pay attention to traffic. You will turn to the right from the main road towards the village of Lukač and ride on flat roads through the village of Bačevac to Gradina, where you will turn to the right again, this time towards Suhopolje.

In Gradina, after a short deflection from the route, paying attention to the road signals, you can visit the Prayer Place that is at the foot of the church of St. Elias the prophet; it is directly along the local football playground and is devoted to a miraculous event that happened in 1997, and was accepted among the people as the appearance of Our Lady. In Suhopolje, visit the church of St. Theresa of Avila, an interesting structure with two bell towers, built in the classicist style at the beginning of the 19th century. In the nearby park in the centre of the place, there is the historicist Janković castle. The next stage of the route takes you towards the village of Borovo and the slopes of Bilogora along which you will ride for the next 7 km until back in town.



FROM PAPUK TO THE DRAVA EMBANKMENTS

The route starts on the territory of the Nature Park Papuk – UNESCO Global Geopark at the Petrov vrh pass above Orahovica. On Petrov vrh, there is a gazebo from which you can see all the way across Slavonia to Baranja and Hungary. The information tables at the gazebo remind one that in the ancient past there used to be the Pannonian Sea; they also point to the monastery of St. Nicholas of the 15th century located at the foothills of the gazebo on the slopes of Krndija – another Slavonian hill. Making a small deflection from the route, following the road signs, visit the monastery – the sacral, architectural, cultural and historic jewel hidden in the forest. Following the descent up to the village Duzluk from which, following the traffic signs, you will come to the 'Orah' excursion site dominated by the Orahovačko lake – one of the most beautiful bathing sites in this part of Croatia. At the excursion site, the 800 m long educational trail starts that will take you to the well-known mediaeval fort, Ružica grad (Rose city). Your prize for all your effort during the ascent will be delivered in the form of direct contact with the monumental mediaeval architecture and the view of the endless landscape from the gazebo. Then, after climbing uphill a little and descending down the slope much more, you will come to Orahovica. Here we recommend that you visit the Museum collection and take a stroll in its carefully cultivated park. Orahovica is a town of rich gastronomic offer that needs to be researched with a glass of wine from the Orahovica vineyards. The ride is to be continued along the flat roads through old Slavonian villages. We recommend a stop in Zdenci, a place that got its name after the water springs in the very centre of the town, in the park, which is also decorated with a series of wooden sculptures created during the sculpture colonies. We continue through Slavonske Bare – a village in which the legendary hajduk Jovo Čaruga was born, who plundered the valleys and hid in the thick forests of Papuk and Krndija. After the ride through the idyllic Slavonian landscape and getting to know several villages, you will come to

Čađavica in which the route briefly runs along the main road; therefore, pay attention to traffic and your safety. By all means visit the church of St. Peter and Paul from the 15th century. Čađavica is a place rich in folklore and of long horse breeding tradition. Soon you will take a turn to a side road, and after 5 km, you will come to the villages Noskovci and Noskovačka Dubrava where this route ends. In Noskovačka Dubrava, visit the Informative and educational centre 'Drava Story' situated in the classicist aristocratic summerhouse, beside which the educational trail 'Hugging Drava' starts, along which you will come to the banks of the Drava river.



THE DRAVA STORY



THROUGH BILOGORA AND PAPUK TO VOĆIN



















The route of this trail starts in Virovitica, passes Bilogora and partly Papuk and ends in Voćin. The route is a little less than 40 km long; the first 20 km of the route are flat, while the rest is rather hilly with many ascents and descents. The route starts before the Pejačević castle in Virovitica, and then heads to the village of Rezovac and along Bilogora through the villages Borovo, Pčelić, Pepelane and Levinovac. When you climb to the top, in the very village, you will have a wonderful view of Papuk and the hills along which you will continue your ride. Levinovac is the right place for the first short rest and enjoying the view. This is followed by a rather long descent and a short ride up to the crossroads where you will turn to the right towards Hum.

There is a light ascent throughout the village. Immediately after the village, there is the crossroads where, if you deflect a little from the route, you can visit the Lisičine lake and Arboretum Lisičine a little further, that can boast of more than a thousand plant species. Before Voćin, there is another short ascent, and from the top you will have another beautiful view on the village and the impressive Papuk. After the descent, this route ends in the centre of the town. Voćin is known for its pilgrimage church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary built in the 15th century with Gothic architectural features. The interior of the church is decorated by the outstanding works of most prominent modern Croatian artists, and is surrounded by spacious and carefully cultivated park in which there are the plant species from five continents. Only a few kilometres away from Voćin, along the road towards Požega, there is another exceptional place, i.e. the geological nature monument Rupnica, thanks to which the Nature Park Papuk was included in the List of UNESCO Global Geoparks.



KOPRIVNICA-KRIŽEVCI COUNTY

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

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



IMPRINT

Publisher:

Tourist Board of the Virovitica-Podravina County

For the publisher:

Josip Mikolčić

Text:

Tomislav Kolec, Mario Koren, Vedrana Mikić, Ivan Lazić,
Sven Jesenković, Mateja Cah, Josip Mikolčić

Photography:

Matija Rođak, Martin Čotar, Mateja Cah, Kristijan Toplak, Vladimir Grgurić,
Petar Šelimber, Željko Šelimber, Ante Vučemilović, Luka Hrvatić, Damir Bedeković, Ivan
Kršić, Photo archives B.K. Lood, Orahovica, Josip Mikolčić, Marinko Barčan

Graphic design and print:

Grafiti Becker d.o.o.

Virovitica 2017.

CONTACT

Tourist Board of the Virovitica-Podravina County

Trg Ljudevita Patačića 1

33000 Virovitica

Tel: +385 33 726 069, +385 33 730 031

E-mail: ured@tzvpz.hr

www.tzvpz.hr

www.panonske-staze.com



Virovitica-Podravina County

Tourist Board



Virovitica-Podravina County

Doors wide open