

HIKING TRAILS

IN LJUBLJANA AND ITS REGION

Ljubljana

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HIKING TRAILS AND FAMILY ADVENTURES

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HIKING TRAILS in Ljubljana and Its Region



WHAT MAKES LJUBLJANA AND THE LJUBLJANA REGION IDEAL FOR HIKING?

Ljubljana, the enchanting and vibrant capital of Slovenia, is one of the greenest cities in the world. With many green areas and a green character that is consolidated by unceasing efforts for sustainable development (it is one of the most sustainable destinations in the world), the symbiosis of the city with nature is evident at practically every step.

A network of hiking paths begins in the city centre itself, becoming increasingly dense as we move towards the edge of the city and beyond, into its diverse hinterland, into the “green embrace” of Ljubljana – in other words the wider Ljubljana region. Here the pre-Alpine and Alpine worlds meet the karst landscape, with hillocks and hills rising as far as the eye can see until they are halted by the mighty grey walls of the Alps.

The region is criss-crossed by numerous well-maintained and waymarked hiking trails, complemented by educational trails and theme trails, including some that are particularly suitable for families with children.

Below we have selected for you some of the most popular and attractive trails in Ljubljana and the surrounding area.

Enjoy your hike as you explore the diverse countryside around Ljubljana.

***Warning:** Use of hiking trails is at your own risk.

Hiking trails

Slovenia has a dense network of marked hiking trails – and the same applies to Ljubljana and, in particular, the city’s green hinterland.

Hiking trails in Slovenia are divided into the following categories, depending on the level of technical difficulty

- **easy trails:** can be walked using standard hiking equipment (suitable footwear and clothing, hiking poles as necessary), no use of hands is needed;
- **difficult trails:** include more difficult sections where use of hands is needed; exposed sections fitted with protective infrastructure;
- **very difficult trails:** use of hands essential, trails have pegs and cables to enable safe passage in sections that would otherwise be impassable for ordinary hikers; use of full personal protective equipment recommended for additional safety.

Most of the trails that we invite you to try fall into the easy category, while a few are rated difficult. You can find more detailed information about hiking trails (including GPX files) on the website www.visitljubljana.com.

Trail markings

Hiking trails are equipped with waymarks (a red circle with a white dot in the centre) to show the way. Additional help comes from red orientation boards or signposts, signs with broken lines and arrows, signs indicating trail difficulty and indications of direction and walking time at trail junctions, starting points and mountain huts.

Mountain huts

Slovenia has a rich tradition of mountain huts. In the summer season they are open every day, while during the rest of the year they are mostly closed (particularly the higher-lying ones) or are only open on fine weekends. We recommend checking the opening hours of mountain huts at www.en.pzs.si before setting off.

Conditions

Before setting off into the hills, it is always a good idea to enquire about conditions on the trail and the weather forecast (we are also able to advise you on this at the Ljubljana Tourist Information Centre - TIC). Particularly **in winter, in the case of snow**, knowledge of conditions is extremely important, since some peaks can be prone to avalanches!

Note also: the walking time indicated for hikes our tours refers to summer conditions! **Walking time will as a rule increase in the case of snow.**

Equipment

Safe hiking also requires suitable sports clothing that is adapted to the season and the weather, hiking shoes/boots and, if necessary hiking poles. In winter the use of small crampons is recommended – for easier treks. Treks such as Kamniško Sedlo and Grintovec require, in snowy conditions, suitable winter equipment, excellent knowledge of snow conditions and terrain, experience of moving in the mountains in winter, and excellent physical fitness; we recommend hiring a mountain guide!

For more information about necessary equipment and tips for staying safe in the mountains, visit the website www.varneje.pzs.si

Outdoor code of conduct

Respect nature. Take rubbish back down to the valley. Stay on marked paths. Do not startle animals. Do not pick flowers or other plants. Remember that we are only visitors to the mountains.



ŠMARNNA GORA

(FROM TACEN)

669 m

LJUBLJANA'S FAVOURITE VIEWPOINT

Anyone visiting Ljubljana who wants to feel like a local should climb Šmarna Gora (whose name in English means St Mary's Mount). On fine days, particularly at weekends, this very popular hiking destination on the edge of Slovenia's capital city can get quite crowded. In part (or above all) because of the fantastic view and the excellent gostilna (restaurant) at the summit. It is well worth spending time here, especially on a clear day, to relax in the shelter of the little pilgrimage church and enjoy the view of Ljubljana with the river Sava, the surrounding hills and the Alps beyond. And also to indulge in a snack or lunch at Gostilna Ledinek, with a menu consisting of traditional Slovene dishes. Below the church is a children's playground and an open-air fitness area. Before going back down the hill you can ring a bell for good luck – St Anthony's Bell just below the summit is also known as the "wishing bell".

Route description

A dozen routes lead up to Šmarna Gora from various starting points. We have chosen two of them, both starting in Tacen, where there is a large car park (charges apply) and which can also be reached by bus. The first is the route via Spodnja Kuhinja ("Pot čez Spodnjo Kuhinjo"). This is the most popular route up Šmarna Gora, on which you will meet other hikers from early morning until late in the evening. The route is not exposed, but it is quite steep in places, with frequent tree roots on the path and some rocky sections. The second route leads to Šmarna Gora over the ridge of the slightly higher Grmada (676 m), meaning that you can "tick off" two summits in a short space of time. This route is slightly longer, steeper and more exposed than the Spodnja Kuhinja route; part of the route crosses a relatively steep slope, so extra caution is needed here; in some places the path rises quite steeply over rocks.

Descent (both routes): follow the Spodnja Kuhinja route.

	Route via Spodnja Kuhinja	Route via Grmada
 Starting point	Starting point Tacen: - by LPP city bus (line 8), bus stop "Tacen", only on Sundays also line 1B and on Sundays and holidays line 1D - large (pay) car park in Tacen	
 Difficulty	easy marked trail	partly difficult marked trail
 Duration	ascent: 55 min overall walking: 1 hour 30 minutes	ascent: 1 hour 30 minutes overall walking: 2 hours 5 minutes
 Elevation gain	366 m	450 m
 Food and drink	at the summit: Gostilna Ledinek – open all year round from 07:00	



RAŠICA

(FROM GAMELJNE)

641 m

A VARIETY-FILLED TRAMP THROUGH A FOREST ON THE EDGE OF THE CITY

A wide variety of paths, cart tracks and macadam roads in the shelter of forest trees. The highest summit has a mountain hut serving great local food and an observation tower offering an incredible view. An undulating landscape mainly consisting of gentle rises and falls is criss-crossed by numerous paths; some are only known to regular visitors, while other hikers will be helped by waymarks and signposts that ensure you don't get lost while enjoying the pleasant tranquillity of the forest. Once at Stane Kosec Peak it is worth climbing the 17-metre observation tower. The view from its upper platform takes in the greater part of central Slovenia. Afterwards you can enjoy the hospitality of the mountain hut named after the wartime partisans of the "Rašica Company" (Planinski dom Rašiške čete).

Route description

The start of the marked hiking trail to Rašica is by the hiking signpost at the junction of Dunajska Cesta and Gameljska Cesta (opposite the bridge over the Sava). This leads along Gameljska Cesta on the edge of a forested slope. After just under a kilometre, a cart track turns off the asphalt road on the right-hand side and leads into the forest (signpost: "Vrh Staneta Kosca"). From here an initially gently sloping track, that only rises slightly more steeply in a few places and then descends again, leads to the village of Rašica, where the route crosses an asphalt road and continues on a broad macadam road.

Descent: begin the descent on the macadam road, which narrows into a wide cart track at the junction. Continue straight on to the village of Rašica. Find the "Črnuče" signpost among the houses. This leads to a cart track running through pastureland and descends into the valley of the Črnušnica stream. Walk along the valley, which is surrounded by marshy meadows and forest, towards Črnuče.

 Starting point	hiking signpost at the junction of Dunajska and Gameljska (opposite the Sava bridge) -by LPP city bus (line 6 and 8); start at the "Sava" bus stop and end at the "Rogovile" bus stop
 Difficulty	easy marked trail
 Duration	ascent: 2 hours 15 minutes overall walking: 4 hours
 Elevation gain	320 m
 Food and drink	at the summit: Planinski dom Rašiške čete (mountain hut) – open all year round (in summer from Monday to Friday from 08:00 until dark and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 07:00 until dark; in winter from Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 19:00 and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 07:00 to 19:00).



ROŽNIK

CANKARJEV VRH
384 m

A PLEASANT WALK ABOVE LJUBLJANA'S CENTRAL PARK

Rožnik is one of the most popular destinations for walkers and runners in Ljubljana. Part of the Tivoli, Rožnik and Šiška Hill Nature Park, its position in the heart of the capital makes it a unique example of symbiosis of nature and the city. This tree-covered hill above Tivoli Park – Ljubljana's largest park – is criss-crossed by macadam roads, paths and tracks, which lead most visitors to the most popular spot: Cankar's Peak (Rožnik's highest peak is actually Šiška Hill, 429 m). Cankar's Peak is named after Ivan Cankar, Slovenia's greatest writer, who lived here from 1910 until 1917 in the building that today houses the popular Gostilna Rožnik. The gostilna (restaurant) contains a Cankar Memorial Room, while a bust of the writer stands outside. Above the gostilna is the picturesque Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, from where you can enjoy a fine view over Ljubljana.

Route description

The route up to Cankar's Peak is along a wide macadam path starting by Tivoli Castle at the end of the Jakopič Promenade in Tivoli Park. The path rises gently, never too steeply, and is pleasant and comfortable to walk on. **Descent:** either return to Tivoli Park by the same route or follow a circular route. In the latter case, climb up to the church from Gostilna Rožnik, passing it on the left-hand side. Take the narrow macadam path to the signposts where the trail ends and joins a wide macadam road. The "Tivoli" signpost leads to the left along a broad path that descends in curves down to Gostilna Čad, a popular restaurant in Rožna Dolina, and continues parallel to the road (Cesta 27. Aprila) back to Tivoli Park.

Tip

The climb up to Cankar's Peak and learning about the life of Slovenia's greatest writer is part of the unique Ljubljana **Moustache Tour**, chosen by EasyJet Travel Magazine as the best guided bicycle tour of 2018, and the winner of a Sejalec ("Sower") tourism innovation award and a Slovenia Unique Experience award in 2019.

 Starting point	Tivoli Castle: several paths in Tivoli Park lead to Tivoli Castle, but the easiest way to get there is to walk along the Jakopič Promenade from the city centre.
 Difficulty	easy marked trail
 Duration	ascent: 40 minutes overall walking: 1 hour 10 minutes; circular route: 1 hour 40 minutes
 Elevation gain	94 m
 Attractions	Tivoli Park; Jakopič Promenade (open-air art gallery); Tivoli Castle (International Centre of Graphic Arts); Švicarija (creative centre and restaurant); Cankar Memorial Room at Gostilna Rožnik
 Food and drink	at the summit: Gostilna Rožnik open all year round (in summer from 08:00 to 21:00 and in winter from 08:00 to 19:00)



PATH OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMRADESHIP

A WALK ALONG A UNIQUE HISTORICAL MONUMENT

Time heals all wounds... The passing decades have gradually dispelled the darkness of history – but not the memory of it. The Path of Remembrance and Comradeship, a 32,5 km recreational trail encircling Ljubljana, follows the route of the barbed wire perimeter that surrounded the city during the Second World War. The path, also known as the “Path along the Wire” or the “Green Ring” is mainly intended for walking and running, although it is also popular with cyclists. For most of its length it is broad and sandy and comfortable for walking on, although the parts passing through residential districts are asphalted in places. Some sections are very countrified, for example on Golovec Hill or by Koseze Pond, and the path in general has a “green” character, with around 7,400 trees of almost 50 different species planted along it. The path is marked by boards outlining its route, while round metal signs on the ground also help direct walkers. Commemorative stones placed by the path indicate the positions of wartime bunkers.

The most popular sections of the path are those between the following city districts:

- Vič to Šiška (from Dolgi Most to Koseze Pond),
- Bežigrad to Žale (from Stožice Sports Park to Žale Cemetery),
- Fužine to Rudnik (from Fužine Castle to Dolenjska Cesta).

Tip

An organised hike along the Path of Remembrance and Comradeship takes place every year on the first Saturday after 9 May (Ljubljana’s civic holiday) and attracts numerous recreational walkers of all generations. Those looking for a more demanding challenge can take part in the Troika Race over one of three distances (28 kilometres, 12 kilometres and, for children, 3 kilometres). This race also follows the route of the Path of Remembrance and Comradeship.



Starting point

you can start walking on the Path of Remembrance and Comradeship at any point, since there is no set beginning or end point. You can also walk it by sections. We recommend the following starting points:
Vič: LPP city bus (line 6) bus stop “Dolgi most”
Bežigrad: LPP city bus (line 20 or 20Z) bus stop “Maroltova”
Fužine: LPP city bus (line 20), bus stop “Fužine P+R”



Difficulty

easy marked trail



Duration

7–8 hours approx.



Length

32.5 km



Attractions

Žale Cemetery with its complex of chapels of rest designed by the famous architect Jože Plečnik, and Fužine Castle, which houses the Museum of Architecture and Design.



POLHOGRAJSKA GRMADA

(FROM POLHOV GRADEC AND TOPOL)

898 m

A COLOURFUL PRE-ALPINE LANDSCAPE ON THE EDGE OF LJUBLJANA




Polhograjska Grmada is one of the most beautiful and popular hiking destinations in the Polhov Gradec Dolomites, a rugged pre-Alpine landscape practically on the edge of the capital. The climb to the summit already shows some characteristics of high mountain areas – steep rocky slopes, airy ridges and so on. The evergreen vegetation along the route is also a surprise, although the area is part of a protected nature park that is famous for its remarkable flora, particularly in late spring and summer, when it is filled with colourful flowers. The peak of Grmada offers a wonderful view over the Alps, the Krim range, the hills of the Notranjska region and the wetland plain of the Ljubljansko Barje. A circular summit indicator helps visitors interpret the view. One further curiosity: Rudolf Badjura, the legendary author of mountain guides, writes that the French used to refer to Polhograjska Grmada as “Louis Quatorze”, since the unusual shape of its jagged ridge, with its vertically sheared head, recalled the jaw and nose of King Louis XIV of France.

Route description

There are various routes up Polhograjska Grmada from different starting points. We recommend the routes starting from Polhov Gradec and Topol. The former is longer and more difficult, since its second half is steeper and quite rocky, and also somewhat exposed, while the latter is shorter and easy, but also varied.

Descent from Polhov Gradec (through Ravnek): the first part of the descent completes a circle; from Grmada descend to the plateau below the last climb to the peak and instead of turning right (in the direction of the summit), continue straight downhill to the signposted junction and turn right following the sign “Polhov Gradec”. After an easy descent over the rocks, follow the long, almost flat path across the slope as far as the hunting lodge. From here continue by the same route as the ascent.

Descent from Topol: same route as the ascent

	Route via Polhov Gradec	Route from Topol
 Starting point	Polhov Gradec: -car park by the bus stop in Polhov Gradec -LPP city bus (line 51) “Polhov Gradec” bus stop	Topol: - parking along the road that turns into the forest by the hiking signposts for Grmada
 Difficulty	partly difficult marked trail	easy marked trail
 Duration	ascent: 1 hour 30 minutes overall walking: 2 hours 30 minutes	ascent: 1 hour 15 minutes overall walking: 2 hours 15 minutes
 Elevation gain	533 m	247 m

Tip

You can also give your hiking trip a gastronomic twist – Polhov Gradec Manor offers a special “**Bundle of Delights from Count Blagaj’s Land**”, that you can either take with you on the trail or untie and enjoy in the manor house’s beautiful park. Information: Polhograjska graščina, E: info@grad-polhovgradec.si, T: 00 386 1 364 56 94



POLHOGRAJSKA GORA

(FROM POLHOV GRADEC)

842 m

A HILL VISITED BY ROYALTY

This conical, tree-covered hill with the little St Lawrence's Church on its summit is a place of botanical and historical interest, as well as being popular with hillwalkers. In the nineteenth century a hitherto unknown plant – *Daphne blagayana* – was discovered here, prompting Frederick Augustus II, King of Saxony to visit the area. The hill is also an important archaeological site, with evidence of settlement dating back to prehistoric times. In recent years it has become a popular destination for hikers, who enjoy the wonderful view over the hilly landscape, dotted with little villages and churches. It is also worth making a stop at the foot of the hill: the starting point of the most popular route up Polhograjska Gora is also the location of Polhov Gradec Manor, housing the Museum of Post and Telecommunications and the Polhov Gradec Local Museum and boasting a beautiful park with an ancient lime tree, the famous Božnar House of Honey and the Dormouse Adventure Park, a unique outdoor adventure for the whole family.

Route description

The most popular route up Polhograjska Gora is for the most part a pleasant forest trail; it is not exposed but is quite steep in places and requires a certain amount of fitness to reach the summit without too much fatigue.

Descent: same route as the ascent

Tip

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Information: Polhograjska graščina, E: info@grad-polhovgradec.si, T: 00 386 1 364 56 94

 Starting point	-LPP city bus (line 51) “Polhov Gradec” bus stop -parking at Polhov Gradec Manor
 Difficulty	easy marked trail
 Duration	ascent: 1 hour overall walking: 1 hour 40 minutes
 Elevation gain	447 m
 Attractions	Polhov Gradec Manor (Museum of Post and Telecommunications and Polhov Gradec Local Museum); Božnar House of Honey; Dormouse Adventure Park



SVETI JAKOB

(FROM TOPOL)
806 m

THE MOST PHOTOGENIC HILL IN THE LJUBLJANA AREA

Sveti Jakob, an attractive little hill topped by the church that gives it its name, is one of the most attractive photo opportunities in the Ljubljana area and one of the most popular hiking destinations on the edge of the capital – especially in spring and summer, when the meadows below it are carpeted with colourful flowers. Its summit offers a magnificent view over the Ljubljana Basin, the Kamnik–Savinja Alps, the Karavanke/ Karawanken range, the Julian Alps with Mount Triglav, the rest of the Polhov Gradec Dolomites, the hills of the Posavje and Notranjska regions and the Sora Plain.

Route description

There's also good news for those who prefer to avoid lengthy climbs: you can also reach the summit of Sveti Jakob via a relatively short trail (beginning above the car park at the Na Vihri restaurant in Topol) that nevertheless offers fine views and plenty of variety. This is a short and undemanding excursion that charms visitors over and over again.

Descent: same route as the ascent

 Starting point	car park above Na Vihri restaurant
 Difficulty	easy marked trail
 Duration	ascent: 30 minutes overall walking: 50 minutes
 Elevation gain	50 m
 Food and drink	Na Vihri restaurant (at starting point), open all year round (Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 10:00 to 22:00)



KRIM

(FROM LAKE PODPEČ)

1,107 m

THE “LJUBLJANA OLYMPUS” WITH THE BEST VIEW OF THE CAPITAL

No other hill offers visitors as magnificent view of Ljubljana as Krim, wrote Rudolf Badjura, a well-known author of mountain guides, in the middle of the last century. He also dubbed the most prominent hill on the southern edge of the Ljubljansko Barje wetland the “Ljubljana Olympus”. No wonder that hikers love to climb it. Another reason is the mountain hut at the summit, which serves traditional Slovene dishes. A circular summit indicator helps visitors interpret the view, which takes in Ljubljana, the Barje wetland and the chain of the Alps with Slovenia’s highest mountain, Triglav, and extends to the hills of the Posavje, Dolenjska and Notranjska regions. Krim is also the most important trigonometric point in Slovenia; from 1817 to 1828 it was used as a benchmark for the first cadastral measurements in present-day Slovenia.

Route description

The route up Krim from the village of Jezero alternates gently rising sections with slightly steeper slopes, for the most part passing along rocky and stony cart tracks and, in places, forest tracks. At the first fork (signposted), we recommend following the sign for Planinca, where the two paths meet again by the little church dedicated to St Thomas. The route is very well marked but it is important to follow the signposts and waymarks carefully, since other forest paths are constantly branching off the route.

Descent: same route as the ascent

 Starting point	Jezero: -by LPP city bus (line 19B) bus stop “Jezero” -car park by Podpeč Lake
 Difficulty	easy marked trail
 Duration	ascent: 2 hours and 20 minutes overall walking: 4 hours
 Elevation gain	817 m
 Attractions	Podpeč Lake - in summer there is a small bathing area by the lake; St Michael on the Marsh in nearby Črna Vas – church designed by Jože Plečnik
 Food and drink	at the summit: Dom na Krimu – open all year round (in summer from Tuesday to Sunday from 07:00 to 19:00 and in winter from Tuesday to Sunday from 07:00 to 18:00) at the starting point: Gostilnica Jezero – open all year round (Mondays to Fridays from 12:00 to 20:00, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 10:00 to 20:00)



SVETA ANA

(FROM LAKE PODPEČ)
384 m

ASCENT TO A LITTLE CHURCH WITH A VIEW OVER A WETLAND PLAIN

This little hill rises above the Ljubljansko Barje wetland on the southern edge of Ljubljana. On it stands a little church. According to legend, the hill lies atop the head of a dragon that is so big that its body is hidden below Podpeč Lake at the foot of the hill and its tail is under the next hill, Krim! When it waves its tail, the water rises and floods the Barje. This is Sveta Ana, a popular excursion point, since a short and easy climb is rewarded by wonderful views over the Ljubljansko Barje, part of the Ljubljana Basin, the Polhov Gradec Dolomites, the Alps and the forested slopes of nearby Krim. At the top, a circular summit indicator helps interpret the view of the immediate and more distant surroundings of Sveta Ana. The hill is also popular with families with children, who can play in the small playground below the church.

Route description

We recommend hiking up Sveta Ana from the village of Jezero by Podpeč Lake; the route is full of variety and begins by one of the main attractions of the Ljubljansko Barje wetland – Podpeč Lake – where in summer there is a small bathing area. The popular Gostilnica Jezero, serving traditional Slovene food, stands by the lake.

Descent: same route as the ascent

 Starting point	Jezero: -by LPP city bus (line 19B) bus stop "Jezero" -car park by Podpeč Lake
 Difficulty	easy marked trail
 Duration	ascent: 35 minutes overall walking: 1 hour
 Elevation gain	184 m
 Attractions	Podpeč Lake (in summer there is a small bathing area by the lake); St Michael on the Marsh in nearby Črna Vas – church designed by Jože Plečnik
 Food and drink	at the Starting point Gostilnica Jezero – open all year round (Mondays to Fridays from 12:00 to 20:00, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 10:00 to 21:00)



PLANINA NAD VRHNIKO

(FROM BETAJNOVA IN VRHNIKA)

733 m

AN INCREDIBLE VIEW AND A CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE MOUNTAIN CUISINE

Above Vrhnika, the birthplace of Ivan Cankar, Slovenia's greatest writer, is a conical hill that is as popular with local residents as Šmarna Gora is with the residents of Ljubljana. It is a pleasant hiking destination crowned at the summit by a wonderful view from a wooden observation tower and traditional Slovene mountain cuisine – there's no need to visit the high mountains to sample it! A fine view over the valley and surrounding hills can already be enjoyed from the mountain hut itself, but for an even wider view simply climb the 22-metre observation tower next to the hut. The circular summit indicator on the top platform tells you what you can see: all three of Slovenia's mountain ranges (the Julian Alps, the Karavanke/Karawanken range and the Kamnik-Savinja Alps), plus rounded hills covered with forest, settlements and little churches. There is also a fine view over the great expanse of the Ljubljansko Barje wetland.

Route description

There are several routes up Planina from various starting points. We recommend the two most popular and attractive trails: "Pot čez Špico" and "Pot mimo Bukve". A good option is to go up via the former, which is slightly steeper and shorter, and come down again via the latter, which is gentler and slightly longer. Both trails have the same starting point and end point. The former includes frequent sections of rocky path, with roots growing across it, while the latter is "smoother" underfoot.

Once at the summit, it is well worth stopping at the mountain hut to try dishes normally associated with Slovenia's mountain areas: *jota*, *ričet*, goulash, *žganci*, sausages, and so on, and also *štruklji* (boiled strudel) filled with dried plums, a Vrhnika speciality, and a cup of "Cankar's coffee", freshly roasted in the Vrhnika roastery and served in a cup bearing the signature of Slovenia's best-known writer, himself a native of Vrhnika, accompanied by a biscuit in the shape of his famous moustache.

Descent: via the "Mimo Bukve" trail, which eventually joins the beginning section of the route of the ascent.

 Starting point	Vrhnika (Betajnova ulica street) -by intercity LPP bus (line 46) bus stop "Vrhnika Voljčeva" -car park by the road where there are signposts for Planina nad Vrhniko
 Difficulty	easy marked trail
 Duration	ascent: 1 hour overall walking: 1 hour 40 minutes
 Elevation gain	433 m
 Food and drink	Mountain hut on Planina nad Vrhniko – open all year round (in summer from Tuesday to Sunday from 08:00 to 20:00 and in winter from Tuesday to Sunday from 08:00 to 18:00 Mondays closed)



LIMBARSKA GORA

(FROM GRADIŠČE LAKE)
773 m

DEAR ST VALENTINE, GRANT US LOVE!





Limbarska Gora is one of the most enjoyable lengthy but easy hikes to be had in the vicinity of Ljubljana – if the chosen starting point is Gradišče Lake, a popular recreation spot near Lukovica. This route combines two notable attractions, one natural and one cultural: the summit of Limbarska Gora is marked by a pretty little church dedicated to St Valentine, to whom courting couples and newlyweds like to commend themselves. The hike is crowned by a marvellous view that includes Triglav, Slovenia’s highest mountain, gleaming in the sun.

Various trails of different lengths lead up Limbarska Gora (which is a gora or mountain only in name, being in reality a gently sloping hill) from a range of starting points. We recommend starting from Gradišče Lake (*Gradiško jezero*) near Lukovica, an artificial lake or reservoir that is popular with rowers and anglers and also with walkers and runners thanks to the attractive macadam path running round it (4.2 km).

Route description

The marked hiking trail leading from the lake to Limbarska Gora is easy and pleasant to walk on. It rises and falls but is rarely steep and, even then, only for brief sections. Gentle inclines predominate and a lot of the walking is on level ground. For the most part the route follows broad paths and cart tracks, through forest and among grassy meadows. A small section of the route is along asphalt roads, although this does not make the hike any less attractive: there is practically no traffic on the roads (except perhaps at weekends on the brief final ascent to the summit, since this is accessible by car), and the countryside traversed by the roads is beautiful, green and open. Signposts, waymarks and other indications guide hikers reliably to their goal (and back), including at the numerous crossroads and forks; it is, however, important to follow them consistently.

Descent: same route as the ascent

 Starting point	car park by Lake Gradišče
 Difficulty	easy marked trail
 Duration	ascent: 1 hour 55 minutes overall walking: 3 hours 40 minutes
 Elevation gain	430 m
 Attractions	Lake Gradišče; St Valentine’s Church
 Food and drink	at the summit: Urankar – open all year round (from Friday to Monday from 09:00 until dark)



KINGFISHER NATURE TRAIL

(FROM CEROVO)

A WANDER THROUGH THE MYSTERIOUS WORLD OF A FAIRYTALE PEOPLE

When you follow the Kingfisher Nature Trail (*Po sledeh vodomca* – literally “On the Trail of the Kingfisher”) into the extensive forests in Ljubljana’s hinterland, you are almost surprised to find such sylvan tranquillity so close to populated areas and, ultimately, a capital city. You don’t need to go very far before you find yourself deep in the country.

Route description

The Kingfisher Nature Trail is a 5.2 km trail that leads nature lovers and hiking enthusiasts from the village of Cerovo to Log, through the edge of the forest, past wet meadows, to the hamlet of Podlom and the source of the Podlomščica stream. From here it rises up gently through karstified woodland to the Mayor’s Cave (*Županova jama*), one of the most beautiful show caves in Slovenia, and Cerovo Tabor – a rare surviving example of a medieval tabor or defensive compound built to protect the local population against raiding Ottoman Turks. The trail then returns back down towards the starting point.

An information board in Cerovo village centre provides details of the trail, and there are also two boards with photographs and brief descriptions of birds living in the area that additionally enable visitors to listen to examples of birdsong. Log, which is reached via the circular Kingfisher Nature Trail from Cerovo, lies at a point where forest meets meadow, close to a section of European Long-Distance Trail E6. An ornithological/botanical nature trail runs round the ponds and features birdwatching hides, a hedge consisting of various types of shrubs, and a wooden jetty leading into the heart of the wetland. A herb garden, orchard and apiary stand on the slope below the forest. Organised visits for groups of visitors take place here. The trail continues through the edge of the forest, past wet meadows, to the hamlet of Podlom, the “home” of fairytale forest folk known as “Podlomarji”. The trail goes on to the Mayor’s Cave and Cerovo Tabor and then back to the starting point in the village of Cerovo.

	car park in Cerovo
Starting point	
	easy marked trail
Difficulty	
	overall walking: approx. 2 hours (duration will vary depending on time spent at information boards)
Duration	
	5.2 km
Length	
	Mayor's Cave, Cerovo Tabor
Attractions	



VELIKA PLANINA

(FROM THE VALLEY OF
KAMNIŠKA BISTRICA)

1,666 m

EXPERIENCE THE ALPINE WORLD, HERDSMEN'S TRADITIONS AND LOCAL CUISINE



Velika Planina ("Great Pasture") is one of the few still functioning high-mountain herdsman's settlements in Europe and the largest mountain pasture in Slovenia. Here visitors can still experience the traditional culture of Alpine herdsman. The pasture extends across a high plateau that is famous for its remarkable natural beauty. In spring the broad pasture is covered with Alpine crocuses; in summer colourful wildflowers bloom; in winter it glistens white in the snow. The ends of the plateau almost seem to touch the peaks and ridges of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps, wonderful views of which can be enjoyed from Velika Planina.

Velika Planina and the neighbouring Mala Planina ("Little Pasture") offer an attractive and undemanding hiking experience with the added bonus of numerous sights of natural and cultural/historical interest. The latter include Preskar's Hut, today a museum of life on the Alpine pasture, a chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Snows (the destination of a popular annual pilgrimage on 15 August each year), the herdsman's settlement and herdsman's huts that tell of the tradition of Alpine dairy farming. The area is of considerable botanical interest and notable natural features include the Veternica and Dovja Griča caves. We recommend taking the time to visit one of the huts serving traditional local food. If you're lucky you might see them making trnič cheeses – a traditional product of Velika Planina also known as "sweetheart cheeses".

Route description

The best way to spend an enjoyable day wandering across Velika Planina (highest point Gradišče, 1,666 m) is to take the cable car from the lower station in the valley of the Kamniška Bistrica river. A brief ride brings you to the foot of the mountain pasture (1,407 m). Here you can decide whether to continue the final steep ascent (up to 1,612 m) by chairlift or on foot. Close to the upper station of the chairlift you will find the Zeleni Rob restaurant, where in summer you will probably be greeted by a herdsman in traditional dress.

Descent: by chairlift or on foot to the upper cable car station, then cable car down to the valley.

 Starting point	Kamniška Bistrica: -scheduled bus service Ljubljana-Kamnik-Kamniška Bistrica (bus stop "Žičnica Velika planina") -car parking by the lower cable car station
 Difficulty	easy marked trail
 Duration	cable car ride (5 minutes), ascent to Zeleni Rob (by chairlift: 15 minutes or on foot: 45 minutes), time spent walking over the mountain pasture is optional
 Elevation gain	1,126 m (most of it by cable car and optionally also by chairlift)
 Attractions	herdsman's settlement, Preskar Hut (mountain pasture museum), Our Lady of the Snows chapel, Veternica cave
 Food and drink	on the summit: Zeleni Rob restaurant – open all year round (from Monday to Thursday from 08:00 to 16:00 and from Friday to Sunday from 08:00 to 17:00)



KAMNIK HUT ON KAMNIŠKO SEDLO

(FROM THE VALLEY OF KAMNIŠKA BISTRICA)

1,864 m

A CLIMB TO A PANORAMIC MOUNTAIN PASS BENEATH TOWERING PEAKS


Kamniško Sedlo occupies a stunning location in the middle of the magnificent main ridge of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps. It rises up above the broad grassy slope and scree between the towering peaks of Brana and Planjava, both well over 2,000 metres high, and the valley of the Kamniška Bistrica on one side, and above the sheer grey rock faces over the Logarska Dolina valley on the other. Just below the saddle is a mountain hut, which is another reason for its popularity. On fine summer days, especially at weekends, it can get quite crowded up here, with many climbers using it as a base from which to climb Brana and Planjava. Things quieten down in autumn, while in winter an ascent to the saddle is only recommended for experienced climbers with suitable winter equipment.

Route description

The route we propose for a hike up to Kamniško Sedlo is the most popular one, although it is quite long and involves a considerable elevation gain, so a certain amount of fitness is required. A good part of the route is also fairly steep. The first two thirds ascend through forest over roots, rocks and rubble, although for the most part the trail is not exposed. The last section, which begins at the edge of the forest by a wooden herdsman's bivouac ("Pri pastirjih"), winds across more open terrain on a scree-covered track between scrub vegetation and grass meadows.

The route includes a picturesque section beneath overhanging crags and a section that follows a stream bed, where more luxuriant vegetation indicates the proximity of water. Once on the saddle, above the Kamniška kočča hut, you can see the Alpine valley of Logarska Dolina below you, while beyond it the view extends into Austria. On the other side you can see Ljubljana in the distance, while the peaks and faces of this part of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps rise up all around.

Descent: same route as the ascent

 Starting point	Kamniška Bistrica -scheduled bus service Ljubljana-Kamnik - Kamniška Bistrica (last bus stop "Kamniška Bistrica") -car park by the Dom v Kamniški Bistrici
 Difficulty	partly difficult marked trail (requires good physical fitness)
 Duration	ascent: 3 hours 45 minutes overall walking: 6 hours
 Elevation gain	1,263 m
 Attractions	at the starting point: the source of the Kamniška Bistrica river
 Food and drink	at the summit: Kamnik Hut on Kamniško Sedlo – open every day in summer and on fine weekends the rest of the year; at the starting point: Dom v Kamniški Bistrici – open every day in summer and on fine weekends the rest of the year; We recommend checking the opening hours of mountain huts at www.koce.pzs.si before setting off.



GRINTOVEC

(FROM THE VALLEY OF
KAMNIŠKA BISTRICA)

2,558 m

TO THE HIGHEST PEAK OF THE KAMNIKŠKO SAVINJSKE ALPS

Ljubljana is also an excellent starting point for the most demanding mountaineering challenges. On clear days, the peaks and ridges of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps are tantalisingly visible, appearing to rise above the city centre, and they are in fact very close at hand. The two-thousand-metre summits of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps are a popular destination for mountaineers. The tallest of them – and also the tallest peak of this part of the Slovenian Alps – is Grintovec, a 2,558 m mountain that from a distance resembles a pyramid. Its height and its imposing rocky mass are awe-inspiring, but fortunately it is also accessible to less technically skilled mountaineers. Even so, a mountain guide is recommended for the less proficient, while in winter the hike is only suitable for the most experienced mountaineers with suitable winter equipment (ideally accompanied by a mountain guide).

Route description

A trek only suitable for those with plenty of endurance!

Several marked trails lead up Grintovec. We recommend ascending by the technically least difficult trail, which starts by the Alpine lodge in Kamniška Bistrica (*Dom v Kamniški Bistrici*). From here waymarks lead towards the lower station (“V Koncu”) of the freight cableway up to Kokrsko Sedlo (“Kokra Saddle”), where signposts indicate the route to the Zois Hut (*Cojzova kočča*) on Kokrsko Sedlo. To begin with, the route climbs up through the forest, on a path that is frequently stony and rocky. After a while the forest thins out and you will soon find yourself surrounded by rock faces on a scree slope that is traversed by the path in zigzag fashion. Follow it to the hut on the saddle (1,793 m). From here follow the signs for Grintovec, initially on a pleasant path through scrub vegetation (dwarf mountain pine) that occasionally levels out slightly until the landscape changes entirely into a large scree-covered slope. The closer you approach the summit, the better the view. At the summit itself, which is marked by a circular summit indicator, the view opens up in all its magnificence.

Descent: same route as the ascent

HIKING TRAILS in Ljubljana and Its Region

 Starting point	Kamniška Bistrica -scheduled bus service Ljubljana-Kamnik - Kamniška Bistrica (last bust stop “Kamniška Bistrica”) -car park by the Dom v Kamniški Bistrici
 Difficulty	difficult marked trail (requires good physical fitness)
 Duration	ascent: 6 hours 30 minutes overall walking: 10 hours 30 minutes
 Elevation gain	1,957 m
 Attractions	at the starting point: source of the Kamniška Bistrica river
 Food and drink	at the summit: Zois Hut on Kokrsko Sedlo – open every day in summer, closed the rest of the year; at the starting point: Dom v Kamniški Bistrici - open every day in summer and on fine weekends the rest of the year We recommend checking the opening hours of mountain huts at www.koce.pzs.si before setting off.



TOŠČ

(FROM POLHOV GRADEC)
1,021 m

TO THE “ROOF” OF THE POLHOV GRADEC DOLOMITES

The highest peak in the range, which is what makes it attractive. Because it is never completely bare and remains wrapped in a blanket of forest, it is not the summit with the most spectacular views – but that doesn't mean it has no view at all: the Alps may be hidden behind the trees, but there is nevertheless a fine view of the hills surrounding the Barje wetland (aka the Ljubljana Marshes) and on towards the Notranjska region. Not only that, but the route is a varied one that is constantly changing: growing broader and narrower, passing over terrain that is now soft and now rocky, now climbing steeply and now descending.

Begin the climb up to Tošč from Polhov Gradec, passing through Mačkov Graben (Cat's Ravine) with its bubbling brook, following a route that will take you through sheltered forest, along the foot of grassy slopes and past houses and increasingly isolated farms.

To start with, the route climbs gently, following a quiet asphalt road. When the asphalt ends, continue on the macadam road, which then becomes a comfortable track that climbs slightly more steeply. Long meanders across the grassy slopes bring you to the last farm, where you take the rightmost path at the junction to the left of the house. This path descends gently towards the forest as it crosses the typical rocky and sandy terrain of the Polhov Gradec Dolomites. It then re-enters the forest before emerging on to a small area of level ground where the Gonte agritourism farm is located. A signpost to Tošč points off to the left.

Climb the narrow track to a wide, gently ascending forest path, then turn off to the left onto another narrow track that climbs more steeply. Follow this track along the edge of the ridge, over tree roots, well-maintained steps and rocks, as far as Mali Tošč, then descend to the fork, where the trail starts to climb again (to the left) and brings you to your destination.

Descent: same route as the ascent.

Tip

If you wish to extend the excursion, you can return to the starting point via Polhograjska Grmada; from here descend to St Ursula's Church and walk along the ridge past the “Pri Mehačku” gostilna to the car park at the bottom of Mačkov Graben.

HIKING TRAILS in Ljubljana and Its Region

 Starting point

Polhov Gradec – macadam car park by the road at the start of Mačkov Graben (approx. 21 km from the centre of Ljubljana); to reach it, drive through the old part of Polhov Gradec past the manor house (Polhograjska graščina) on the Polhov Gradec–Sv. Ana road; turn right at the sign indicating that you are leaving Polhov Gradec. The car park is a little further on. Set off from here along the asphalt road.

 Easy

Difficulty

 1:50h

Duration

 5921 m


Length

 631 m

Elevation gain

 Attractions

Polhov Gradec Mansion;
Dormhouse Adventure Park, Polhov Gradec;
Božnar House of Honey, Polhov Gradec;

 Food and drink

Rural Holiday House and Tavern Gonte
(open on weekends and public holidays)
Restaurant Pograjski dom, Polhov Gradec




LJUBLJANA TO ŠKOFJA LOKA

898 m

TREKKING IN THE POLHOV GRADEC DOLOMITES

Two medieval towns with enchanting town centres and prominent castles, and between them a varied, hilly landscape. The most exciting route between Ljubljana and Škofja Loka, since the experience takes in a good part of the “Slovenian Dolomites”, known for their sharp peaks, beautiful views and varied flora. The trek itself starts at the Vižmarje bus stop of the number 1 bus operated by Ljubljana city bus company LPP. Follow the road towards the settlement of Gunclje (parallel to the main Ljubljana–Medvode road) and you will soon start to see hiking waymarks that little by little lead you away from the settlement and into the forest – first towards Bormes and Slavkov Dom (a mountain hut that is home to Gostilna Belšak) and then on towards Katarina or Topol, to Polhograjska Grmada and the Gonte agritourism farm and from there to Mali Tošč, from where the route soon veers towards the Mihelčičev Dom mountain hut in Govejek. From there, continue to hike uphill to Osolnik and then descend to Puštal and Škofja Loka.

For the most part the route follows pleasant forest paths and tracks, with occasional sections of macadam or – more rarely – asphalt road. The trek offers beautiful views over hilly Slovenia. It passes through forest, crosses open meadows, rises and falls over ridges and takes you past some of the most popular destinations in the Polhov Gradec Dolomites. The route takes in churches, excellent gostilne, agritourism farms and a mountain hut – so there are plentiful opportunities for refreshments, especially at weekends (during the week, when some of the establishments are closed, it is worth bringing some food in your rucksack and, especially, water or some other beverage).
Return to Ljubljana by bus.

 Starting point	Take the number 1 LPP bus to the starting point (Vižmarje). There you will see the first hiking waymarks. Follow them towards Bormes.
 Difficulty	Difficult
 Duration	7–8 h
 Length	30.000 m
 Elevation gain	1400 m
 Attractions	Medieval town Škofja Loka
 Food and drink	Tavern Belšak (Slavkov Dom) Restaurant Dobnikar, Topol Restaurants in Škofja Loka



POLŽEVO

(FROM VIŠNJA GORA)

630 m

A WANDER ON THE TRAIL OF THE VIŠNJA GORA SNAIL

Broad forests and grassy meadows, pleasant tracks, beautiful views and plenty of cultural, historical and natural heritage – a hike from Višnja Gora to Polževo offers all this.

Višnja Gora, a picturesque little town on an isolated hill not far from Ljubljana, is one of the best preserved medieval settlements in Slovenia. The hike begins above the historic centre of the little town, at the sign for the Jurčič Literary Trail (“Jurčičeva pot”) and a hiking signpost indicating “Stari grad” and “Polževo”.

Walk past the houses and into the forest. This is also where the Višnja Gora Snail Learning Trail (Učna pot po sledeh višnjanskega polža) begins. Along the trail there are 26 boards with information about tree species. Follow the broad forest path uphill to the signpost for the Old Castle (“Stari grad”), which in the eleventh century was the home of the counts of Višnja Gora. You can make a small diversion to visit the castle ruins and then return to the marked trail, which eventually brings you to the hamlets of Pristava and Zavrtače; continue along the trail (partly asphalt and partly wide macadam road) among meadows and through forest until you reach the Hotel Polževo. If you like, you can climb up the grassy slope to the charming Late Gothic church dedicated to the Holy Spirit.

Descent: you can either retrace your steps to the starting point or turn the hike into a loop and continue on through Nova Vas and Kriška Vas and back to Pristava. There are some hiking waymarks at the beginning (although not many), but even after these end the trail is very easy to follow and pleasant to walk on. Once you reach Pristava, retrace the route of the ascent as you descend to Višnja Gora.



Starting point

Višnja Gora (32 km from the centre of Ljubljana): car park below Cesta Dolenjskega odreda above the old centre of Višnja Gora where there is an apiary dedicated to the Carniolan bee. Podsmreka Castle near Višnja Gora was in fact the home of Emil Rothschild (1836–1909), one of the most important beekeeping experts in Europe in his time. From the car park go up the steps next to the apiary, cross the road and you will see the signposts.



Difficulty

Easy



Duration

2 h. 30 Min.



Length

4100 m



Elevation gain

259 m



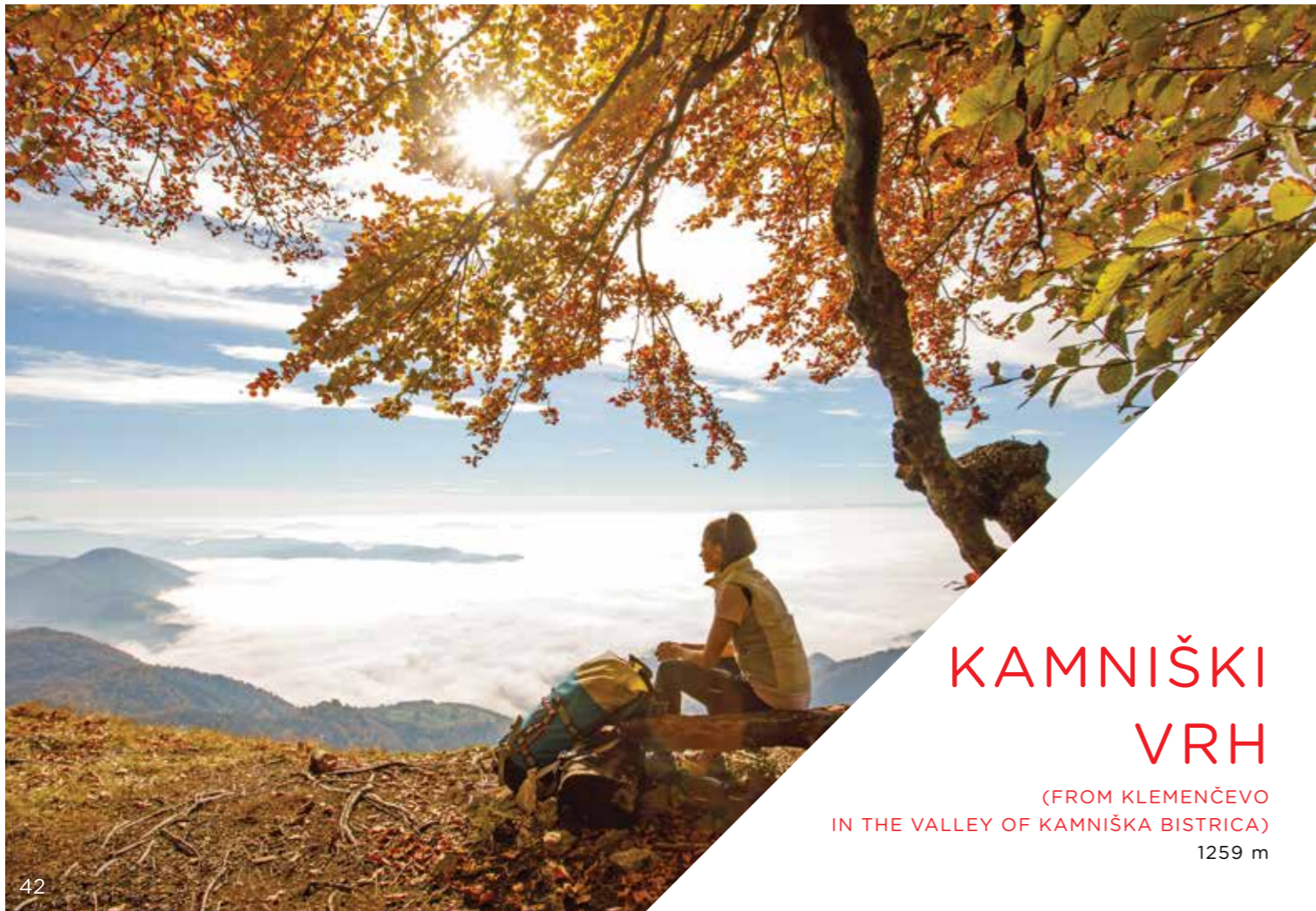
Attractions

Birth house of Josip Jurčič - museum
The House of the Carniolan Bee,
Višnja Gora



Food and drink

B&B and Tavern Polževo (open from
Wednesday to Sunday)



KAMNIŠKI VRH

(FROM KLEMENČEVO
IN THE VALLEY OF KAMNIŠKA BISTRICA)
1259 m

ACROSS PANORAMIC SLOPES TO A POPULAR PEAK IN THE ALPINE FOOTHILLS

Kamniški Vrh, a hill with a rounded summit at the foot of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps, is a pleasant hike that can also be quite demanding owing to its occasional steep slopes, gravelly tracks and exposed nature. The route to the summit mainly follows the marked hiking trail across the Osredek mountain pasture.

The trail (initially unmarked) starts by the Bistričica stream next to a macadam car park in the village of Klemenčevo. A sign reading “Kamniški vrh” and an arrow direct you over the stream and along a cart track through the forest to a meadow. Climb up the meadow to a new cart track behind a wooden fence. At this point, you join the marked hiking trail leading off to the left towards the Osredek mountain pasture. Above you are the slopes of Kamniški Vrh and its neighbour Planjava (1,243 m). Stay on the cart track until the trail directs you into the forest, on a narrow track that rises and falls. When you emerge from the trees you will hear the sound of the Korošak waterfalls, far below and out of sight. As you begin to traverse the slopes above the falls, the terrain becomes more rugged. The path becomes increasingly gravelly as it passes between rocks and crosses two gullies or ravines. The path is mainly well reinforced at the exposed points, with a steel cable for protection.

When you reach the Osredek mountain pasture, walk past the wooden herders’ huts and climb up to the right into the forest. Waymarks lead you over the northern slope to the saddle between Planjava and Kamniški Vrh. From here it is but a short, steep climb to the summit, where on one side you will find almost impenetrable forest and, on the other, grassy slopes and panoramic views.

Descent: same route as the ascent.

 Starting point	Klemenčevo (approx. 37 km from the centre of Ljubljana): macadam car park by the Bistričica stream at the point where the asphalt road ends. To get here, drive from Kamnik to Stahovica, then turn left in the direction of Županje Njive and follow the main road to the starting point.
 Difficulty	Medium
 Duration	3 h 30 Min.
 Length	5090 m
 Elevation gain	659 m
 Attractions	Valley of Kamniška Bistrica river, Kamnik
 Food and drink	Pri planinskem orlu, Stahovica Restaurant in Slovenia Eco Resort, Stahovica



SV. MIKLAVŽ NA GORI

(FROM SNOVIK SPA)
757 m

FROM SPRING TO SPRING, WITH THE SOUND OF RUSHING WATER BELOW YOU. . .

Sv. Miklavž na Gori is a pleasant and popular hiking destination above Tuhinj Valley (Tuhinjska dolina). If you take the trail from Terme Snovik, the route passes several springs and you are almost always accompanied by the sound of rushing water. A wonderful blend of the natural and cultural landscape, with wide forests, extensive meadows and pleasant villages.



From the Terme Snovik car park, take the quiet asphalt road leading towards the centre of the village of Snovik, past forest-fringed meadows. From time to time you will see a waymark, but otherwise you should follow the yellow signposts. At the wayside shrine a signpost reading “Sv. Miklavž” (St Nicholas) points to the right, past a spring and a sign with information about bathing the hands. The asphalt soon gives way to macadam and you will see a collection of wooden signposts, including one to “Sv. Miklavž” which directs you up some wooden steps, across a meadow and on to a forest track. The path rises and falls slightly and the track occasionally becomes a narrow path as it runs through the forest, across grassy slopes and past fruit trees.

A steeper descent leads back to an asphalt road, in the village of Hruševka. At this point you already have a view of Gora and its church. To reach it, you will follow a horseshoe-shaped route – initially along a quiet asphalt road and then on a comfortable macadam road.

It is almost a surprise to find yourself suddenly standing in front of the sacristan’s house that doubles as the headquarters of the local tourism organisation. The church and its freestanding bell tower are slightly higher up, as is the partly renovated surrounding wall built to defend against the Ottoman Turks. Gora also offers a fine view of the Alps (a circular summit indicator is on hand to help you interpret the view).

Descent: same route as the ascent.

Time of year: Suitable at all times of year. In winter trails can be icy in places, especially after snow, making the use of crampons and hiking poles necessary.

 Starting point	Snovik Spa (33 km from the centre of Ljubljana): at the side of the car park you will see a large board showing the relief of the surrounding area, for the purposes of easier orientation; the first signs for Sv. Miklavž are at the car park exit. The red hiking signpost indicates a walking time of 1 hour and 30 minutes, while the yellow sign next to it shows a time of 1 hour and 50 minutes. Depending on how fast you walk!
 Difficulty	Easy
 Duration	2 h 30 Min.
 Length	4860 m
 Elevation gain	272 m
 Attractions	Kamnik
 Food and drink	Snovik Spa, Tavern Repnik, Kamnik



BEVKE LEARNING TRAIL

289 m

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE BLEND OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE - AND PEACE

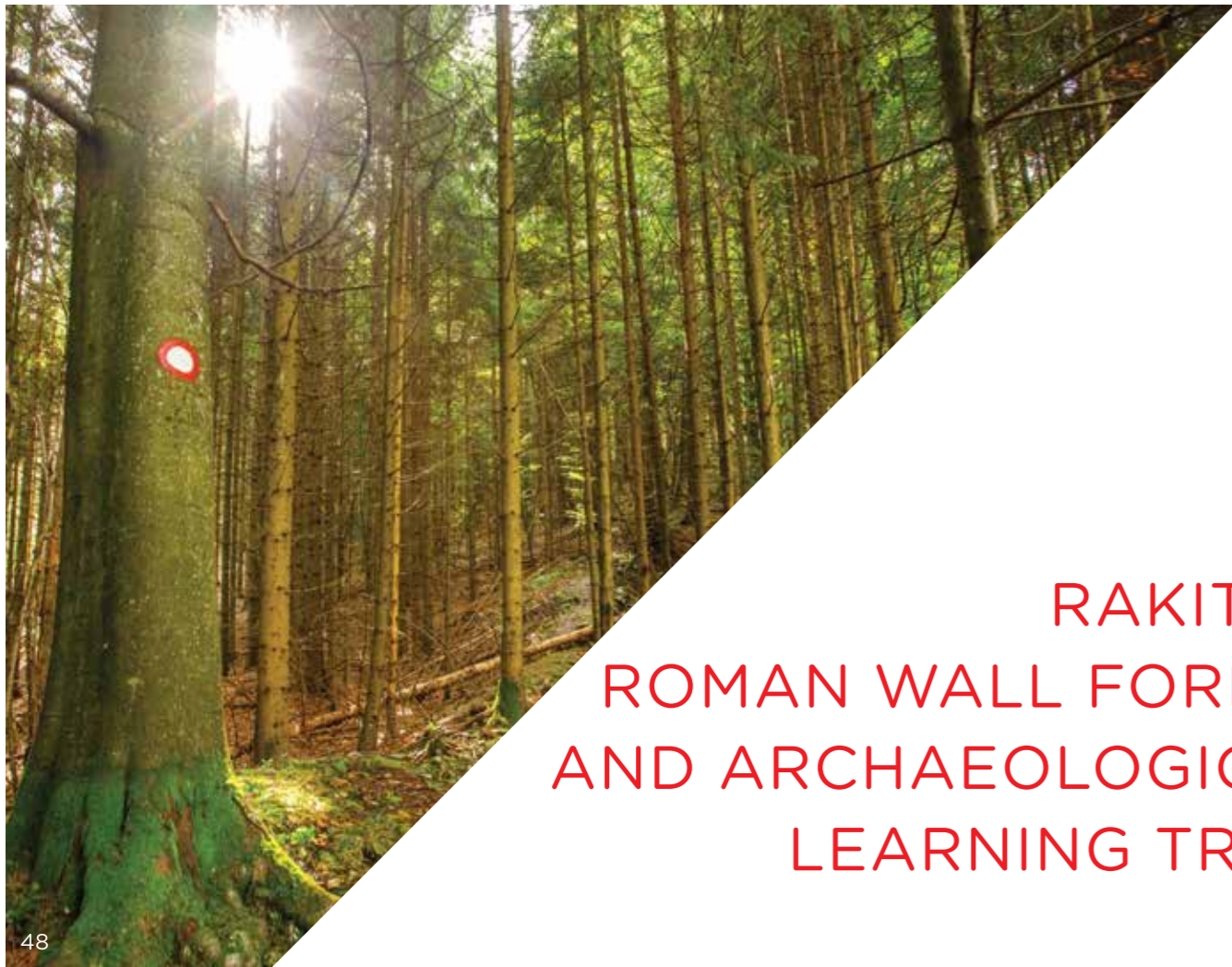
Tranquillity. This is the predominant sensation that fills visitors to the Bevke Learning Trail over the broad marshy levels of Ljubljana's Barje wetland (aka the Ljubljana Marshes). You are surrounded by a wonderful world made up of an unending mosaic of grassland, stands of trees, fields, ditches and hedgerows – home to numerous plants and animals rarely found elsewhere in Slovenia or, indeed, Europe.

The route of the trail is level and mainly follows broad macadam roads, with sections of meadow cart track. It starts to the south of the settlement of Bevke, next to the isolated hill of Gradišče. An information board at the start of the trail offers brief descriptions of the Ljubljansko Barje (Ljubljana Marshes) Nature Park and the learning trail itself, along with a map. Beneath it is an arrow directing you straight ahead along a broad macadam road.

You will soon come to a second information board (there are a total of nine of them along the trail) with information on how people washed clothes in times gone by. The learning trail, in fact, provides information about the area's rich cultural and natural heritage. You will discover that the "Ljubljana Marshes" have long since ceased to be true marshland and that a mill path connecting the inhabitants of Bevke and Podpeč once ran through here. You will also learn about the "river of seven names", the Ljubljanica, along which part of the trail runs, and about its treasures.

The route is very well marked, with arrows or the trail's mascot (a little boy called "Barjanko") ensuring that you don't get lost. The view extends across the wide marshy levels, with the hills of the Krim range on one side and the Polhov Gradec Dolomites on the other.

 Starting point	Bevke (16 km from the centre of Ljubljana). Turn off the regional Ljubljana–Vrhnika road towards Bevke (signposted). Drive to the end of the village, to a fork where the wider road on the right turns towards Blatna Brezovica. Take the narrower, left-hand road and drive past the houses to the start of a macadam road where the Bevke Learning Trail begins (information board). There is a small car park on the left.
 Difficulty	Easy
 Duration	2h
 Length	5125 m
 Attractions	Marsh Pixies Trail Mali Plac, Bevke
 Food and drink	Restaurant Pr Kopač, Brezovica



RAKITNA ROMAN WALL FOREST AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL LEARNING TRAIL

789 m

A VARIED AND EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION THROUGH THE NATURAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF RAKITNA

Green, varied and educational. These are the characteristics of a walk along the Roman Wall Forest and Archaeological Learning Trail in Rakitna, high above the Ljubljansko Barje wetland, in the middle of a large karst plateau in the heart of the hills of the Krim and Mokrica range. Rakitna itself is a popular excursion destination. Visitors come here for the lake, in which bathing is possible in summer, for the pleasant climate, and for the extensive forests that cover the greater part of the plateau.


The learning trail, which runs round the edge of the village at an elevation of around 800 m above sea level, offers an undemanding hike through forests and hay meadows, along cart tracks, forest trails and meadow paths, and an opportunity to discover the natural, cultural and historical heritage of the area.

The trail begins by the lake opposite the Hotel Rakitna, where there is a large board providing basic information about the trail and a map of the trail showing the locations of a further 22 information boards. Also at the start of the trail is a noted curiosity of Rakitna: a 64-metre-long replica of a ship's mast that was made locally for the Slovene-owned barque Beechdale in the late nineteenth century and transported by road from here to Trieste.

The learning trail coincides with a marked hiking trail, so along its length you will see both wooden signposts marked "Učna pot" (Learning Trail) and hiking waymarks. Information boards are frequent. If their content interests you, you will certainly need rather more than the approximately one hour it would otherwise take to complete the trail without stops. You will also see several wooden boards with the names of trees – a good opportunity to learn about the wide variety of tree species in the area.

Time of year

Suitable at all times of year. In winter trails can be icy in places, especially after snow, so it is a good idea to use crampons and hiking poles. Waterproof footwear is recommended after rain and in the colder months of the year, since the trail is wet and muddy in places.

 Starting point
Rakitna (27 km from the centre of Ljubljana). There is a macadam car park by the lake (up to 2 hours: 1 euro; whole day: 2 euros). From the car park, walk towards the hotel, opposite which there is a large information board with a description and map of the Roman Wall Forest and Archaeological Learning Trail (Gozdna in arheološka učna pot Rimski zid) and a hiking waymark indicating the direction to take.

 Easy
Difficulty

 1:30h
Duration

 4200 m
Length

 90 m
Elevation gain

 Hotel Rakitna
Food and drink



TOP
FAMILY
EXPERIENCES

DORMOUSE ADVENTURE PARK, POLHOV GRADEC





The Rowdy Dormouse needs help! They've chased him out of the attics of Polhovgrajska graščina manor for being too noisy and now he's looking for a new home in the nearby forest. He invites you to join him in this magical land of thousands of flowers and fascinating forest creatures at the foot of Polhograjska Gora. Visitors to the Dormouse Adventure Park – which is mainly designed for children but will also be enjoyed by accompanying adults – can meet a bee family, discover the “king's flower”, visit an animal post office, climb into a wildlife observation point and peep into a badger's sett. The park is designed in such a way that through a blend of fantasy and real life it creates experiences that encourage children to get out into the fresh air and, in an unobtrusive manner, teaches them about the nature and culture of Polhov Gradec.

Route description

The path through the park is easily accessible and circular, beginning and ending by Polhov Gradec Manor. A “Dormouse Activity Book”, which children can complete during the adventure, is available to purchase at the manor.

Tip

Every Friday Polhov Gradec Manor hosts a unique historical experience: Tea with Count Blagaj, the most eminent inhabitant of the manor (booking required). You will also receive a “**Bundle of Delights from Count Blagaj's Land**” containing excellent local produce. Information (and booking): Polhov Gradec Manor, E: info@grad-polhovgradec.si, T: 00 386 1 364 56 94

	-LPP city bus (line 51), bus stop “Polhov Gradec” -car park at Polhov Gradec Manor
Starting point	
	up to 2 hours
Duration	
	1.3 km
Length	
	80 m
Elevation gain	
	Polhov Gradec Manor (Museum of Post and Telecommunications and Polhov Gradec local museum); Božnar House of Honey
Attractions	
	Polhov Gradec Manor – open all year round (from May to September from 10:00 to 20:00 and from October to April from 10:00 to 16:00)
Children's activity books available for purchase	


MARSH PIXIES TRAIL TO MALI PLAC, LJUBLJANSKO BARJE WETLAND

Mali Plac is a magical place full of unusual flora and fauna. Here everything bubbles, croaks, rustles and warbles. For thousands of years it has been covered by moss that stretches deep into the forest, into the kingdom of the marsh pixies, who are cunning and sly. They have bewitched Mali Plac and turned it topsy-turvy. Pesky mosquitoes and bothersome midges have taken over. Everything bites, crawls, stings, buzzes and snarls. Who will save it from the pixies' spell? Children, of course! This is the essence of the story of the "swampiest adventure for the whole family", a fantasy-adventure trail in the boggy, marshy Ljubljansko Barje wetland.

Route description

The Marsh Pixies Trail to Mali Plac is an easy walking trail. The trail starts at the Bevke Sports Park, runs through the village of Bevke, climbs to the top of Kostanjevica (an isolated hill or inselberg) and then descends towards the Mali Plac nature reserve before returning to the start. A "Marsh Notebook" for children to complete during the adventure is available for purchase at the starting point.



	Bevke Sports Park (Športni park Bevke): car park at Bevke Sports Park
Starting point	
	up to 2 hours
Duration	
	3.2 km
Length	
	96 m
Elevation gain	
	Bevke Sports Park – open all year round from 08:00 to 18:00
Children's activity books available for purchase	

MAGICAL ŠUMBERK HILL, DOMŽALE

In Domžale there is a mysterious forest called Magical Šumberk Hill. In it, children (and also the grown-ups accompanying them) can discover the rich history and natural heritage of Domžale in a slightly different way, by taking part in a special mission in this Domžale park and helping a little fox find her lost straw hat – an item of great importance to the fox and the other animals living on Šumberk Hill and also to the human inhabitants of Domžale. Along the way they discover the history of straw hats from Domžale (an industry with a 300-year tradition in this area), travel back to prehistoric times and discover the Šumberk forest, full of different trees, animals and caves – home to a gnome called Domželec and a beetle called Simon, who acts as their guide.

Route description

The trail begins by Kavarna Češmin (the café in Domžale's Češminov Park), runs along the Kamniška Bistrica stream to Šumberk and then circles over Šumberk back to the start. For a complete experience, children can buy a Magical Šumberk Hill booklet at Kavarna Češmin.



HIKING TRAILS in Ljubljana and Its Region

	Kavarna Češmin café: car park at Domžale Primary School
Starting point	
	up to 3 hours
Duration	
	3.5 km
Length	
	134 m
Elevation gain	
	Kavarna Češmin café – open all year round (In summer from Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 22:00 and from Saturday to Sunday from 09:00 to 22:00; in winter from Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 20:00 and from Saturday to Sunday from 09:00 to 20:00)
Children's activity books available for purchase	

FANTASY EXPERIENCE TRAIL EMERALD ADVENTURE ALONG THE GIANTS' WALL

Between Vrhnika and Logatec, where the “Giants’ Wall” – the longest Roman monument in Slovenia – winds its way towards Zaplana, you will find a special experience for the whole family: a fantasy adventure trail called Emerald Adventure along the Giants’ Wall.

The Giants’ Wall (Ajdoski zid) is part of the defensive system known as the Claustra Alpium Iuliarum which the ancient Romans built between Rijeka in Croatia and Aquileia in Italy. It is around 7 km long and at one time 35 defence towers stood along its length. The wall has been abandoned for long centuries, yet life along it has never died out. The forest surrounding the wall is home to numerous plant and animal species and is part of a very interesting and diverse landscape.

Children can learn about the ancient Romans and the traces they have left in our present-day landscape, and also about things from Roman times that are still part of life today (such as Roman numerals or Latin sayings), as well as about the unique natural environment of the area. Their guides along the route will be a young Roman boy called Julian and an interesting denizen of these forests, the emerald earthworm. They will have a task to complete along the way: they must carefully observe the nature around and try and find the hidden Latin proverbs, which they must then write into their Emerald Adventure notebooks. They must also locate the stamps



 Starting point	By car or bus (the start of the trail is by the Zaplana bus stop)
 Duration	2:30h
 Length	4000 m (both ways)
 Elevation gain	266 m
 Attractions	Moja Ljubljana exhibition space and other sights in Vrhnika
 Food and drink	Tavern Mesec, Zaplana

at different points along the trail and stamp them into their books.

The Emerald Adventure notebook is available from four starting points (Vrhnika Tourist Information Centre, the Moja Ljubljana exhibition space in Vrhnika, the Kljukec café and cake shop in Logatec and Gostilna Mesec in Zaplana – where a prize awaits them when they complete their task). The trail begins by the old road between Vrhnika and Logatec – by the turning for Zaplana, to be precise.



City of
Ljubljana



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