

EXPLORE THE WONDERNATURE

GREEN KARST & GORSKI KOTAR
SLOVENIA - CROATIA

YOU, who want to see, experience, and understand the power of nature,

EXPERIENCE YOUR WONDERNATURE!

EXPERIENCE THE DINARIC KARST

Embark on a unique adventure among the secrets of the **Green Karst** in Slovenia, and **Gorski Kotar** in Croatia. Discover natural wonders in the company of experienced top experts.

Choose your programme at www.wondernature.eu

When you explore the karst phenomena, you find **YOURSELF**.

NATURE, VERY PERSONAL

There are few places on Earth where you can experience various natural wonders like here, where **WATER, STONE, AND FOREST** have created a landscape like nowhere else in the world.

Here, you become someone who respects and knows nature. Here, you meet people to whom you can entrust your steps into a **WORLD OF INTOXICATION**, different every time - although often sharp, unpredictable, and untameable.

Here, you enter the **KARST CAVES**, which resemble limestone cathedrals.

Here, you are in contact with the mysterious **RIVERS**, the unusual **SEASONAL LAKES**, and with their fish and birds. Here, you walk through **FORESTS** in which the **BEAR, WOLF, AND LYNX** still reign.

HERE, YOU BECOME PART OF NATURE.

THE WORLD OF THE DINARIC KARST

GREEN KARST. SLOVENIA.
GORSKI KOTAR. CROATIA.

The Dinaric Karst, which flirts with the entire Adriatic coast, connects the southern part of Slovenia and the central part of Croatia. Here, where water has shaped the life of the rocky surface and the underground with its traces for **more than 100 million years**, natural wonders have always determined people's way of life, aroused curiosity, and encouraged different encounters with nature.

DEPTHS AND HEIGHTS

Descend into the underground of the karst caves, and ascend to the views of the peaks of Mt. Snežnik and Mt. Veliki Risnjak.

STONE AND WATER

Explore the karst phenomena. Discover the transformation of limestone. Enter the world of seasonal lakes.

FOREST AND AN ABUNDANCE OF LIVING SPECIES

Draw closer to the primeval forest. Discover large carnivores and wild plants.

MAN AND TIME

Discover the natural and cultural heritage; meet with experts in caving, forestry, botany, hunting, and ornithology. Trust the masters of survival in nature.

Experience the **KARST THAT GAVE ITS NAME** to all karst phenomena in the world!

WHERE YOU ARE PART OF NATURE

Kolpa Valley



GET TO KNOW THE FORMATION OF THE KARST LANDSCAPE. DISCOVER HOW IT AFFECTS THE LIFESTYLE OF ANIMALS AND HUMANS. START YOUR JOURNEY DEEP BELOW THE EARTH'S SURFACE. FINISH IT ON TOP OF THE HIGHEST PEAKS, WHERE THE VIEW EXTENDS AS FAR AS THE ADRIATIC SEA.

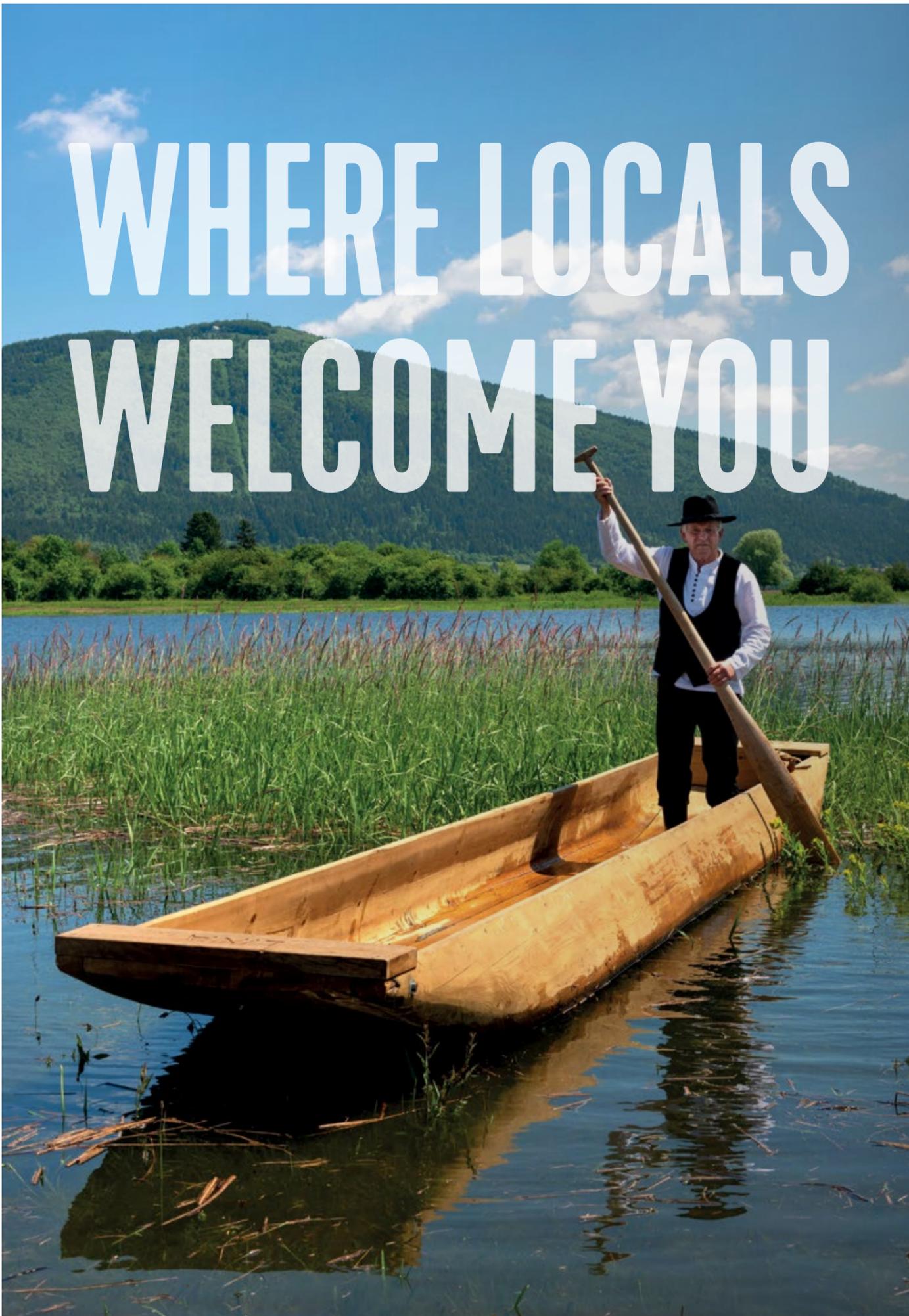


The beauty of nature is a great reason for new discoveries by itself, but the essence of your miraculous days are the experiences! Allow yourself to be surprised and amazed. Acquire skills and knowledge to survive in the unruly wilderness.

- ⊕ Experience karstology and caving in its primitive form.
- ⊕ Spend time with ornithologists and hundreds of birds.
- ⊕ Let yourself be guided by a hunter and find traces of large carnivores.
- ⊕ Experience forestry and acquire wildlife survival skills.
- ⊕ Catch a fish the way they used to.
- ⊕ Discover edible wild plants.
- ⊕ Make your own tools related to life in this amazing landscape.

Experiences sharpen your view of the unusual world. What you really get to know and experience on your own connects you with nature and people, and with yourself.

WHERE LOCALS WELCOME YOU



LET THE DEPTHS AND HEIGHTS, THE WILDERNESS, AND THE PRICELESS HERITAGE OF THE PEOPLE, BE PRESENTED TO YOU BY THE GUIDES WHO ARE AT HOME HERE, WHO LIVE HERE! LIKE OUR ANCESTORS, WE RESPECTFULLY MAINTAIN THE PRIMAL WAYS OF CONNECTING WITH NATURE.



We, who have lived for centuries among caves and mountains, among rocks and waters, among wild animals, large carnivores, and birds, are part of nature.

We, who know and respect its indomitable wildness, bring you safely into the labyrinths of the forests and the underground.

You, who want to explore and get to know the karst, can count on us, as experienced **karstologists, ornithologists, foresters, botanists, hunters, fishermen, and craftsmen.**

We are **cavers** who take you safely underground; we are **mountaineers** who lead you to the views; we are **masters of survival** in unique natural conditions.

Together, we discover and conquer what is hidden from most!

NATURAL WONDERS FACE TO FACE

When you experience your WonderNature, you can recognise traces of wild animals anywhere.

EXPERIENCE THE UNIQUE. OBSERVE RESPECTFULLY.
When you enter nature responsibly and safely, it may allow you to see more than you dare expect. You take with you forever the memories of the bear's lair, the lynx's home, and the wolves' cries.

DESCEND BELOW THE SURFACE. ENTER THE MYSTERIOUS CAVES THE WAY THE FIRST EXPLORERS DARED TO DO.

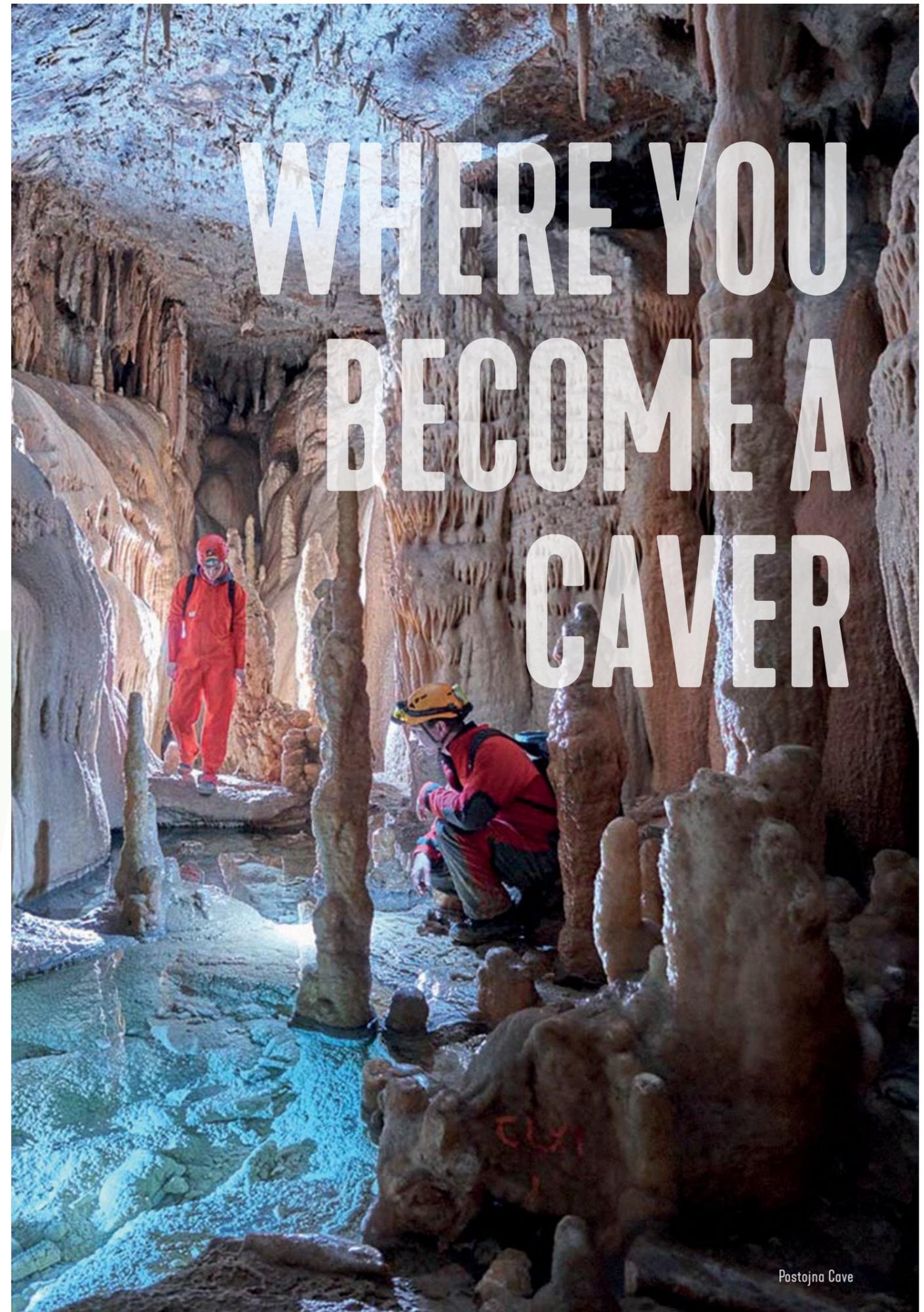


Karst is so special that karstology became its own branch of science, which was born in this windswept region. When you learn the secrets and mechanisms of karst formation, you descend underground in the company of experts, just as the first cavers did.

👉 You embark on a mystical Path of the Caves with torches. The goal of your night hike is to descend among the steep galleries of the Lokvarka Cave.

👉 You enter the world of the emerald underground lakes of the Križna Cave with a lamp and a boat. Here, you pass the bones of ancient cave bears, further and deeper than others.

👉 You enter the hidden tunnels of the Postojna Cave, the most famous karst cave in Europe, in the manner of the first explorers. You descend with a rope, cross a lake and an underground river, and solve fun challenges along the way. And when with a streak of luck you catch a glimpse of dragon babies, your adventure becomes even more extraordinary.



WHERE THE WATERS GUIDE YOU

Planina polje



WHERE THERE IS STILL A MEADOW OF RARE VEGETATION TODAY, TOMORROW THERE IS A LAKE FULL OF FISH LIFE. WATER GUSHING FROM THE MYSTERIOUS SOURCES OF THE KARST UNDERGROUND TRANSFORMS THE IMAGE OF THE LANDSCAPE IN A SINGLE NIGHT. IT ALSO BRINGS WITH IT THE HUMAN FISH - A VERY SPECIAL INHABITANT OF THE UNDERGROUND WORLD OF THE DINARIC KARST. THIS AMPHIBIAN, WHICH CAN LIVE UP TO 100 YEARS, LIVES ONLY IN THE CAVE WATERS OF THIS AREA.



Here, you discover the wonders of unusual life and all forms of water. **Springs, streams, waterfalls, rivers** that sink beneath the earth's surface, **underground lakes**, and lakes that surprise, both by being seasonal and their fullness, await you.

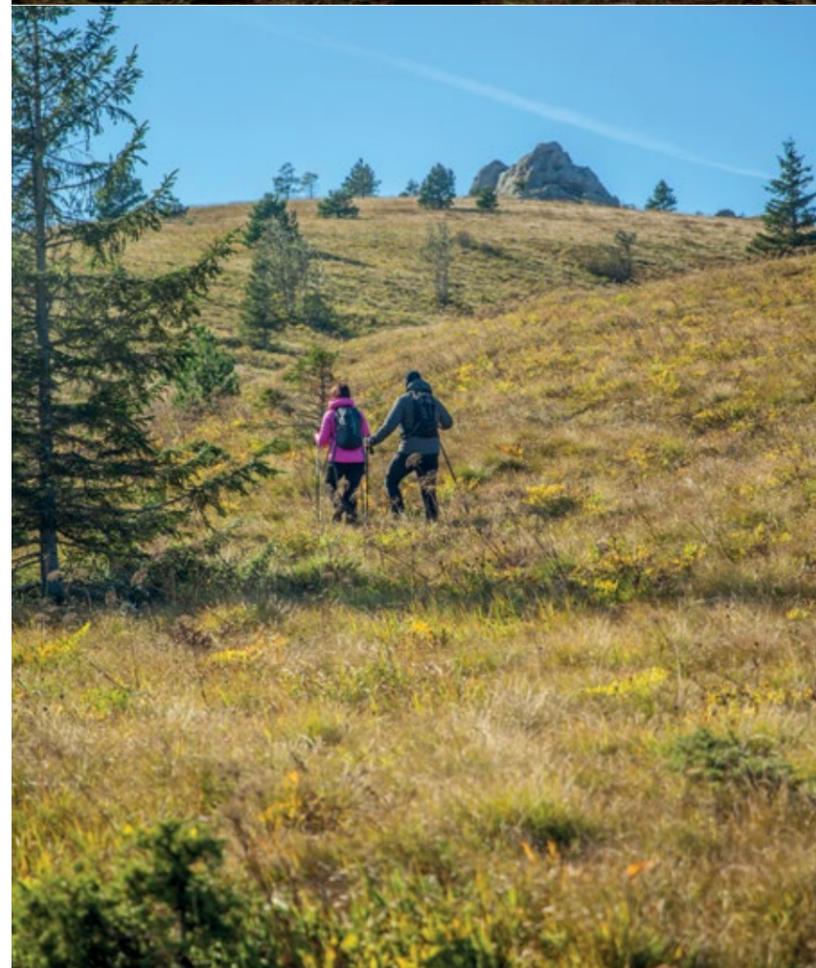
The **Seasonal lakes of Pivka** invite you to a world of plant and animal species that are extinct elsewhere. You will travel across **Lake Cerknica**, the largest seasonal lake in Europe, in a logboat ("drevak") - a special boat, carved using the same centuries-old method. As many as half of all bird species living in Europe can be observed along the lake!

Not far away is the **River Kolpa**. In the place where it can be forded, it has always connected the people of the two countries. We go downstream Robinson Crusoe style, fishing on it like the locals. In addition to its trout, we get to know the fish of the nearby **Lokvarsko Lake**. The largest river trout in the world was caught in this fish treasury!

The 70 m high **Zeleni vir waterfall** offers a magical combination of water and stone, and the **Kamačnik Canyon**, with the Path of Pan of unusual musical instruments, the different sounds of nature.

BECOME ONE WITH NATURE

Deer [Cervidae]



ON YOUR WAY UP TO THE SCENIC HEIGHTS OF THE AREA, YOU WALK LIKE A TRACKER WHO IS AN EXPERT IN DETECTING ANIMAL TRACKS. YOU STEP INTO THE SHOES OF A HUNTER WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH WILD BEASTS. YOU FOLLOW THE BEARS AND LYNXES, LISTEN TO THE WOLF PACK, AND ADMIRE THE MOVEMENT OF THE WILDLIFE.



When you go on a hike, you know that nature here sometimes shows you its unpredictable character, then its grace and barely conceivable beauty, and finally its immeasurable force.

Here, in the company of a guide, you respectfully approach the ancient beech trees of the **primaeval forest reserve**, which is inscribed onto the **UNESCO** World Heritage List. On the way through the mysterious canyons, you sharpen all your senses. When you reach the top of **Mt. Snežnik** or **Mt. Veliki Risnjak**, after experiencing the **Mašun Forest** or the **Golubinjak Forest Park**, your views are marked by a different understanding of nature. When you look at the path you have walked and the sea down below, your world is bigger.

The mighty wilderness flirts here and there with majestic eminence. The fortress of the famous Zrinski family, Snežnik Castle, and the Mašun hunting lodge, are the sites of time travel.

START A FIRE. CATCH A FISH. FORGE A KNIFE. TASTE WILD FOOD. EXPERIMENT WITH OLD CRAFTS. LISTEN TO THE ORGAN OF THE CREEK, PLAY THE HORN, MAKE YOUR OWN NATURAL INSTRUMENT. MEET PEOPLE WHO KNOW HOW TO DO THIS. LISTEN TO THEIR STORIES.

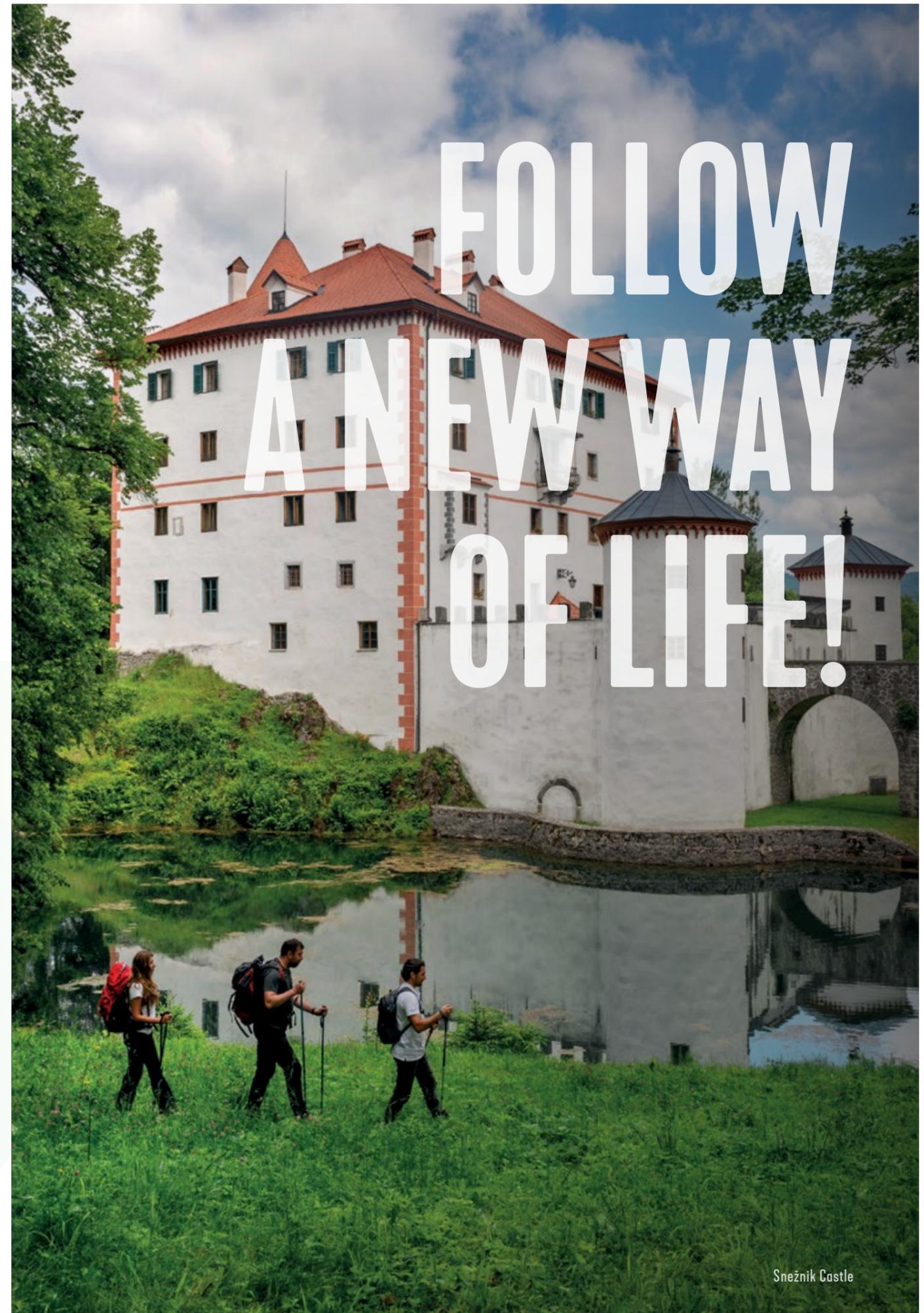


With experts such as cavers, foresters, botanists, ornithologists, fishermen, hunters, boatmen, rafters, and mountain guides, you live in harmony with nature. You understand the laws of karst phenomena. They help you discover your own strengths.

In places of exceptional **handicraft traditions**, where they have always known how to make tools important for survival, you learn new skills with masters of the skills already forgotten elsewhere. Unforgettable experiences are also offered by **local dishes** that strengthen the body and mind. Now you also know where it is worthwhile to taste them, on trips around the karst land.

Connect with people from the land of natural wonders. Choose the surprising nature of the karst world. Conquer the secrets of the Green Karst in Slovenia, and Gorski Kotar in Croatia.

Explore **WONDERNATURE**.



FOLLOW
A NEW WAY
OF LIFE!

Snežnik Castle



Postojna - Ljubljana Airport 70 km
 Postojna - Trieste Airport 74 km
 Postojna - Zagreb Airport 200 km
 Postojna - Venice Airport Marco Polo 180 km
 Postojna - Milan 450 km
 Postojna - Vienna 440 km



EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT DAYS AMONG THE SECRETS OF THE KARST

- 1: KARSTOLOGY DAY** / Notranjska Museum Postojna
 - 2: SPELEOLOGY DAY** / Križna Cave
 - 3: DAY OF ANCIENT FISHING AND ORNITHOLOGY** / Lake Cerknica and the Jezerski hram Museum / Ornithological Classroom and Heritage House
 - 4: DAY OF PECULIAR WANDERINGS** / Rakov Škocjan
 - 5: DAY OF DISCOVERING LARGE CARNIVORES** / Seasonal Lakes of Pivka, Dinaric Alps, and Ecomuseum of the Seasonal Lakes of Pivka
 - 6: HUNTING SKILLS DAY** / Mašun Forest - Mašun Forest House
 - 7: FORESTRY AND MOUNTAINEERING DAY** / top of Mt. Snežnik, Mountain hut on Snežnik, and Snežnik forests
 - 8: A DAY OF CASTLE COMFORT AND A PATH TO THE PRESTIGE OF THE PAST** / Snežnik Castle
 - 9: DAY OF THE BIGGEST ATTRACTIONS OF THE KARST** / Pick your karst attraction: Postojna Cave, Predjama Castle, Škocjan Caves Regional Park, or Lipica Stud Farm
 - 10: DAY OF RECKONING ON THE RIVER KUPA** / the Kaštel Zrinski Museum and the River Kupa
 - 11: DAY OF SOUNDS IN NATURE** / Kamačnik Canyon - Path of Pan
 - 12: HANDICRAFT SKILLS DAY** / Brod Moravice: Turanj tower, Delač house, Kolarnica
 - 13: BOTANY DAY** / Zeleni vir waterfall - Vražji prolaz canyon, Muževa hižica (small Cave), Skrad
 - 14: RAFTING AND FISHING DAY** / Lokvarsko Lake, Lokvarka Cave
 - 15: A DAY OF CONNECTIONS BETWEEN HUMANS AND LARGE CARNIVORES** / Risnjak National Park, the source of the River Kolpa
 - 16: WILDERNESS DAY WITH SEA VIEW** / mountain trail to the top of the mountain Veliki Risnjak - Veliki Risnjak Mountain Hut
 - 17: ROBINSON CRUSOE DESCENT DAY** / River Kolpa
 - 18: CROSS-BORDER VIEWS DAY** / Slovenia - Croatia border area
- Prezid: Roman wall, Trbuhovica trail, Vesel ethno house; Čabar: the Castle Zrinski Museum; Plešće: Palčeva šiša; Zamost: source of the river Gerovčica, Selančev Mill, Malinarič Sawmill



--- National Border
 — River Kolpa/Kupa

GREEN KARST - Slovenia
GORSKI KOTAR - Croatia



EXPLORE THE WONDERNATURE

Program information and booking:
www.wondernature.eu

WWW.WONDERNATURE.EU

PROGRAMME INFORMATION AND BOOKING:

WWW.WONDERNATURE.EU

RDO Postojnska jama – Zeleni kras / RDA Green Karst
Prečna ulica 1, SI-6257 Pivka, Slovenia, T: +386 5 721 246,
E: info@zelenikras.si

 Zelenikras

EXPLORE THE WONDERNATURE

Issued by: RDA Green Karst

Content design: Marjeta Jeraj, Alpe Adria-Vita, text: Ines Drame, concept and design: Jan Petrič, studio Svetlomodro; translation: Alkemist Translation Agency; print: Abakas Cerknica; cover photo: Rakov Škocjan, author Jaka Ivančič; photographs: Aleš Petrič, Peter Gedei, Miha Skrt, Tine Lindič, Miro Dežulović, Bernard Landgraf, Anagha Devi, Johann Schörkhuber, Stanislav Horaček, Csaba Egri, Aleš Komovec, Tine Vekar, Antun Cerovečki, Zoran Vidrih, Goran Šafarek, Marjeta Marincič, Miha Krofel, Iztok Medja (source of photography: Postojnska jama d.d.).

This brochure is part of the NATURE & WILDLIFE project - Nature Experiences and Wildlife Observation, partly funded by the ERDF within the cooperation programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia 2014-2020.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

RDA Green Karst, Ltd. (leading), Municipality of Pivka, Public Institution Snežnik, Jezerski hram Institute, Risnjak National Park's Public Institution, Local Development Agency PINS, Subjekt, Ltd.

This issue is printed in Slovenian, Croatian, and English.

© Zeleni kras, 2020

I FEEL
SLOVENIA

 HRVATSKA

 Interreg
SLOVENIA - CROATIA
European Union | European Regional Development Fund