

Brežice

Krško

Sevnica

Bistrica

Kostanjevica

Radeče

POSAVJE

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2012/2013

Wine Country

Experience a wine region unlike any other in Slovenia

Unspoilt Nature

Posavje's pristine and diverse natural environment is ripe for exploring

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N°2
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OPERATION FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund



**REGIONALNA
RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA
POSAVJE**

I FEEL SLOVENIA



Posavje...

*... unspoiled nature... wonderful traditional food and wine...active relaxation...
...and much more!*



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ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

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A wine tasting in a castle is a must while in Posavje



The protected wetlands of Jovsi are a birdwatcher's paradise

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Situated in the southeast corner of Slovenia, Posavje is one of the country's most diverse regions, and is just waiting to be explored by visitors seeking the authentic Slovene experience without having to jostle with busloads of tourists. However, to say that Posavje is off the proverbial beaten track would be somewhat misleading as it lies along the main road and rail links between Ljubljana and Zagreb, making it easily accessible from either capital, both as a day trip destination or a convenient stopover on longer travels.

Consisting of six separate municipalities - namely Radeče, Sevnica, Krško, Kostanjevica, Brežice and Bistrica ob Sotli from west to east - Posavje is known first and foremost as one of Slovenia's premier wine-growing regions, but is also blessed with a host of natural, historical and cultural attractions. Some of the many highlights include the magical reprice wine cellars in Bizeljsko (p 19), Krško's charming old town (p 28), Sevnica's beautifully restored castle (p 38), the cluster of churches atop Bistrica's holy mountain (p 41), the Božidar Jakac Gallery outside the island town of Kostanjevica (p 45), and the traditional rafting experience found only in Radeče (p 47). While each municipality is a unique destination in its own right, wherever you go in the region you can be assured of finding welcoming people, tasty traditional food, excellent wine and beautiful natural surroundings to enjoy your time in.

Finally, we owe a special thanks to the region's local tourist offices and associations, as well as countless individuals, without whose help, insights and genuine hospitality this inaugural issue of Posavje In Your Pocket simply would not have been possible. As always we welcome any and all feedback, be it on Facebook, Twitter or even old-fashioned email.

Cover story



Posavje's vineyards are beautiful not only for the natural sights that surround them - such as endless rolling hills, lush green forests, chequered patches of farmland and majestic valleys - but also for the traditional village landscapes of which they are a part. Countless small vineyards that are tended by hand on family estates help to keep

everything on a human scale, and also make for some photogenic imagery. We came across this vineyard in the hills to the west of Bistrica ob Sotli.

Europe In Your Pocket



In Your Pocket has broken much new ground of late, publishing new guides in the **Netherlands** (*Tilburg*, with *Amsterdam* to follow very soon), in **Austria** (*Vienna*), in **Croatia** (*Šibenik*), in **Switzerland** (*Zurich*) and in **Belarus** (*Minsk*). This year will also see the first non-European *Pockets* rolled out in **South Africa** and **Mozambique**.

We also continue to roll out **iPhone apps** to all our cities. We will be launching even more *In Your Pocket* guides as apps throughout this year: to find out which cities we will be covering, and to keep up to date with all *In Your Pocket* news, like **In Your Pocket** on **Facebook** (facebook.com/inyourpocket) or follow us on **Twitter** (twitter.com/inyourpocket).

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ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

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Editor's note

The editorial content of In Your Pocket guides is independent from paid-for advertising. Sponsored listings are clearly marked as such. We welcome all readers' comments and suggestions. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of going to press and assume no responsibility for changes and errors.

Arriving by Car

Car is by far the fastest and most convenient way to reach Posavje and get to many of the locations described in this guide - and even with petrol prices what they are, it will also likely be the cheapest option depending on how many people are in your group. In short, we highly recommend having your own car if you intend to visit the region independently rather than with an organised tour. The only downside is the fact that you won't be able to drink (as much) wine if you are the driver. If you are headed to anywhere in eastern Posavje (ie Krško, Brežice or Bistrica ob Sotli) from Ljubljana, it is faster to take the new A2 motorway. However, if you're not in a terrible hurry, taking the old 108 single carriageway, which twists and turns along the Sava river, is a much more scenic drive.

Arriving by Train

For those without their own cars, train is the most convenient, comfortable and frequent means of reaching Posavje from Ljubljana. While they are not fast by western European standards - it takes nearly two hours to cover the 105km from the capital to Brežice - they are relatively cheap, and the ride is quite scenic as it follows the Sava river through the green rocky gorges of the Zasavska region. If you manage to catch either a EuroCity or InterCity train bound for Zagreb or beyond, you can save about 30 minutes on the journey for a couple extra Euros, but only alight at Sevnica or Dobova and sometimes Krško. See www.slo-zeleznice.si for a complete schedule and prices.

Arriving by Bus

Buses are slower, less comfortable, more expensive and nowhere near as frequent as train, but unfortunately they are the only way to reach any of the towns and villages not located on the main Ljubljana-Zagreb railway (including Kostanjevica and Bistrica ob Sotli) by public transport. See www.ap-ljubljana.si (in both Slovene and English) to search the online schedule and find possible connections, however, beware that in our experience the accuracy of the times listed cannot be entirely trusted.

Arriving by Plane

Ljubljana's Jože Pučnik Airport in Brnik is about an hour and a half by car to Brežice. Although Adria Airways offers the most frequent direct connections to most major European cities and the Balkans, cheaper fares can often be found for connecting flights on Lufthansa, Austrian or Czech Airlines, or on Turkish Airlines if you're flying to the Middle East or Central Asia. Another option is Zagreb's airport, which is less than 40km away and offers a much more extensive schedule, however you will have to spend time crossing the Schengen border to reach Slovenia. Other airports in the region commonly used to reach Slovenia are Vienna to the north, and Trieste and Venice to the west. While there has been talk over the years of opening up the Cerklje ob Krki airbase just west of Brežice to civilian traffic, for activities such as panoramic flights and skydiving, this is sadly unlikely to occur during the life of this guide.



While Slovenia's trains are not the fastest in the world, they are the most convenient and comfortable mode of public transportation in the country

Train schedule

	EC	LP	MV	MV	LP	LP	IC	EC	LP	EC	MV	LP
Ljubljana	01:50	05:50	06:20	08:15	09:50	11:50	14:45	17:15	17:50	18:35	21:15	21:55
Radeče	---	06:59	---	---	10:59	13:04	---	---	19:01	---	---	23:02
Sevnica	02:57	07:15	07:28	09:22	11:13	13:17	15:56	18:25	19:16	19:43	22:24	23:16
Krško	---	07:29	---	09:37	11:29	13:32	16:09	18:39	19:30	---	22:37	23:31
Brežice	---	07:37	---	---	11:37	13:40	---	---	19:38	---	---	23:39
Dobova	03:49	07:42	08:09	10:04	11:42	13:46	16:39	19:06	19:44	20:22	23:05	23:45
Zagreb	04:20	---	08:40	10:35	---	---	17:10	19:37	---	20:53	23:36	---
	EC	LP	EC	IC	LP	IC	LP	LP	MV	LP	MV	EC
Zagreb	05:00	---	06:52	09:00	---	12:30	---	---	18:14	---	21:15	23:50
Dobova	05:47	07:05	07:37	09:45	11:00	13:18	15:11	17:05	19:07	20:05	22:00	00:40
Brežice	---	07:11	---	---	11:07	---	15:17	17:11	---	20:11	---	---
Krško	06:00	07:19	---	09:58	11:15	---	15:25	17:19	---	20:19	22:13	---
Sevnica	06:13	07:35	08:02	10:12	11:31	13:43	15:41	17:35	19:32	20:34	22:27	01:04
Radeče	---	07:49	---	---	11:45	---	15:55	17:49	---	20:48	---	---
Ljubljana	07:22	08:59	09:08	11:19	13:00	14:49	17:02	19:02	20:39	22:02	23:33	02:12

All trains run every day except 1) Not on Saturdays, 2) Not on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays. Schedule valid until 10 Dec 2011. Note: Not all trains are listed here, on weekdays there are a total of 24 trains per day between Ljubljana and Dobova, most of which are local trains that stop at every station in Posavje. See slo-zeleznice.si for complete schedule and prices.



If you're up for the challenge, a bike is perhaps the best mode of transport in Posavje

Arriving by bike

If you're feeling especially sporty (and at least relatively fit), it would be possible to cycle from Ljubljana to Posavje. The most direct route - at around 70km - is entirely along two-lane country roads, from Ljubljana to Šmartno pr Litiji on the 645, then the 417 to the crossroads near the tiny village of Ljubež v Lah, and then the 665 all the way to Radeče. This takes you through some beautiful scenery across the heart of Slovenia and can be done in 4-5 hours with breaks, but certain portions can be quite hilly. The other option, which is around 90km but perhaps even more picturesque, is to essentially follow the Sava on road 108. For those adventurous enough to try it, your efforts will undoubtedly be rewarded, both by the trip itself and the friendly people your bound to meet along the way!

Bus Stations

Brežice Cesta Svobode 11, tel. (+386) 7 499 41 80.
Krško Kolodvorska 5, tel. (+386) 7 490 39 70, www.izletnik.si.
Sevnica Kvedrova 30, tel. (+386) 7 814 17 15.

Rules of the road

The speed limit is 50km/hr in built-up areas, 90-100km/hr on main roads, 130km/hr on highways. Cars must use headlights at all times and must have a spare wheel, warning triangle, spare lightbulb, first aid kit and, in winter, either snow chains or winter tyres. The alcohol limit is 0.05%. The traffic information centre has road webcams and maps of current traffic problems at www.promet.si.

Vinjeta - A Ticket to Drive



Vinjeta www.dars.si. Slovenia requires all motor vehicles travelling on Slovenian highways to have a vinjeta (veen-yeh-tah) sticker. This system exists in lieu of tolls, and the vinjeta can be easily obtained at nearly all gas stations and kiosks.

Yearly/monthly/weekly stickers are €95/30/15 for cars and yearly/half-yearly/weekly ones are €47.50/25/7.50 for motorcycles. Also be aware that border police will likely not remind you to purchase a vinjeta when entering the country, but are highly likely to issue you a steep fine when leaving if you've failed to do so. For more info check www.dars.si.

Train Stations

Brestanica Cesta Izgnancev 2, tel. (+386) 7 298 32 16.
Brežice Trg Vstaje 3, tel. (+386) 7 496 12 93.
Dobova Selska 15, tel. (+386) 7 496 70 62.
Krško Kolodvorska 8, tel. (+386) 7 298 55 61.
Sevnica Kvedrova 32, tel. (+386) 7 298 31 22.

Car rental

Almaha A-4, Tržaška 2 (Tobačna Building, 3rd Floor), tel. (+386) 30 622 862 (Eng/Slo), info@almaharentacar.com, www.almaharentacar.com. ▶ Open Mon-Fri 08:00-19:00, Sat-Sun 08:00-12:00.

Hertz D-2, Trdinova 9, tel. (+386) 14 34 01 47, ljubljana@hertz.si, www.hertz.si. ▶ Open 07:00 - 19:00, Sat 08:00 - 13:00, Sun 08:00 - 12:00. Airport office tel. (04) 201 69 99, open 08:00-22:00.

IdealRent (+386) 31 565 170, fax (+386) 4 2323 776, info@idealrent.si, www.idealrent.si.

Sixt D-1, Trg Osvobodilne Fronte 7, tel. (+386) 1234 46 50, info@sixt.si, www.sixt.si. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat 08:00 - 14:00, Sun 08:00 - 12:00. Airport office tel. (04) 238 24 14, open 08:00-22:00.

Taxis

K2 Taxi Krško, tel. (+386) 40 645 724, dajnanklrm@gmail.com.

Taksi Robi Sevnica, tel. (+386) 51 304 774.

Taksi Savnik Dobova, tel. (+386) 41 790 842, savnikb@siol.net.

Taksi Srečko Kumrovska 4, Bizeljsko, tel. (+386) 70 310 310

Taksi Terme Čatež Brežice, tel. (+386) 41 611 391.



A good electronic navigation system is more or less essential for finding your way through the Posavje countryside



Posavje's traditional zidanica vineyard cottages have been around for centuries, and they have the photographs to prove it!

Basic data

Population

Slovenia 2,053,355 (2009)
 Posavje (total) 74,642
 Krško 25,167
 Brežice 23,253
 Sevnica 17,726
 Radeče 4,617
 Kostanjevica 2,419
 Bistrica ob Sotli 1,460

Area

20,273 square kilometres

Ethnic composition

Slovenian 83%, Former Yugoslav minorities 5.3%, Hungarian, Albanian, Roma, Italian and others 11.7%

Official languages

Slovenian, Italian, Hungarian

Local time

Central European (GMT + 1hr)

Longest river

Sava (221km in Slovenia)

Highest mountain

Kum (Posavje hills) 1220m

Borders

Austria 318km, Italy 280km, Hungary 102km, Croatia 670km

Drinking

Alcohol is only sold to people over 18, and sadly after 21:00 it cannot be bought in stores.

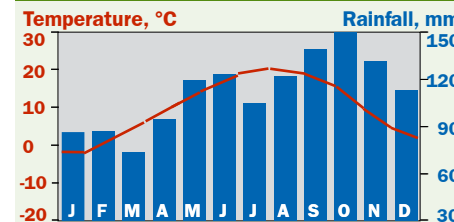
Electricity

Like most European countries, Slovenia's voltage is 220 volts AC, 50 Hz, and the country uses European two-pin plugs.

Money

Slovenia adopted the euro in January 2007. Euro coins come in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents, 1 and 2 euros, while banknotes come in 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros. The Slovenian side of the euro coins are decorated with among other things storks, Mount Triglav, Lippizaner horses, a man sowing stars and a Jože Plečnik design.

Climate





The flags of Bistrica ob Sotli, Slovenia and the EU fly behind a World War II memorial

Politics

The Republic of Slovenia is a parliamentary democracy. The president, Dr Danilo Türk, was elected in 2007. Borut Pahor has been the prime minister since 2008. The next parliamentary elections will be in September 2012. The government consists of the PM and 15 ministers, of which two are without portfolio.

Religion

Although Slovenians are traditionally Roman Catholic, the most recent Eurobarometer Poll in 2005 found that only 37% of the population believe in a god, with 16% atheists and the rest of them believing in 'something'.

Exchange rates

1 EUR € = 1.43 US\$ = 0.61 UK£ =
1.22 CHF = 1.33 AU\$ = 115 ¥ = 9.26 CNY
 (27 May, 2011)

Market values

Compared to the rest of Western and Central Europe, prices in Slovenia are still fairly competitive despite noticeable increases since the introduction of the Euro in 2007. Here are some typical everyday products and prices:

Product	Price
Slice of pizza	€ 1.80
Slice of burek	€ 2.00
Cup of coffee	€ 1.10
Bottle of name brand vodka	€ 12.50
Decent bottle of local wine	€ 3.50
Bottle of local beer in a shop	€ 0.90
Pint of beer in a pub	€ 2.40
Pack of cigarettes	€ 2.50
Postcard	€ 0.30
Litre of petrol	€ 1.28

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Smoking

Cigarettes can't be sold to people under 18. Slovenia recently banned smoking from public indoor spaces except in special smoking areas in offices, hotels and bars.

Tipping

It's not traditional to tip in Slovenia, though a reward of about 10% for good service in a restaurant or bar is always appreciated.

Visas

Many foreigners simply need a passport or ID card to enter Slovenia. Those requiring a visa will be able to travel freely between the Schengen-agreement countries for a limited amount of time, usually 90 days. Always check these details with a Slovenian embassy or consulate. Further information can be found at www.mzz.gov.si.

Tax free shopping



If you're a resident of a non-EU member state, you're eligible to take advantage of tax free shopping while visiting Slovenia. If you spend over €50 at any shop displaying the Global Refund 'Tax Free' logo, they can issue you with a special Refund Cheque when

you pay. At shops that don't officially participate in the program, you'll need to ask for a special invoice for foreigners - you can still get the refund, it just involves a little more red tape. When you leave the EU just show the item you purchased and relevant paperwork to a customs official, who will give you the necessary stamps. You can then receive cash or credit at any of the many Global Refund Offices around the world - at Ljubljana's Brnik airport this is located at the news agents in the check-in area. However, before making any extravagant purchases assuming you'll receive a 20% discount, make sure to double-check your departure info, especially if you have a layover in another EU country on your way home. Not all customs offices are open 24 hours, so depending on the time and length of your layover, it may be next to impossible to get the official stamps you need.

Slovene is a Southern Slavic language with a 25-letter alphabet. It is closely related to Serbian and Croatian, and also shares many words with other Slavic languages. Although some words and letter combinations may appear unpronounceable at first glance, Slovene is actually a fairly phonetic language with very few irregularities - although the letters L and V can do some strange things depending on their position in a word. Luckily, most Slovenes speak either English, Italian or German embarrassingly well, so chances are you won't have to worry about any communication problems. However, as with most countries, attempting to use a little bit of the local language can go a long way towards winning over your hosts. Even the odd 'hvala' and 'prosim' won't go unnoticed.

Pronunciation

c - as in pizza
 e - as in egg
 g - as in go
 j - like y in yogurt

č - like c in cello
 š - like sh in ship
 ž - like s in pleasure

Basics

Do you speak English? - Govorite angleško (Goh-voh- REE-tay Ahn-GLESH-ko) ?
 I don't understand - Ne razumem (Nuh ra-ZOO-mehm)
 Where is the toilet? WC? - Kje je stranišče (Key-yay strahn-EESH-chay) ? WC (Vay-tsay)?
 Good Morning - Dobro Jutro (DOH-broh YOO-troh)
 Good Day - Dober Dan (DOH-behr Dahn)
 Good Night - Lahko noč (Lah-koh noh-ch)
 Yes - Ja (Yah)
 No - Ne (Nay)
 Hello - Živjo (Jeeve-yoh)
 Thank you - Hvala (HVAL-a)
 Please - Prosim (PRO-seem)
 Excuse me/Sorry - Oprostite (Oh-PROS-tee-tay)
 Pardon me (asking for help) - Prosim (pro-SEEM)
 My name is..... Jaz sem (Yahz sem) ...
 I am from... - Jaz sem iz (Yahz sem iz)...

Days

Monday - ponedeljek (POH-nuh-dehl-yek)
 Tuesday - torek (TOR-ek)
 Wednesday - sreda (Sray-dah)
 Thursday - četrtek (chuh-TUR-tuck)
 Friday - petek (peh-tuck)
 Saturday - sobota (soh-BOH-tah)
 Sunday - nedelja (nuh-DEHL-yah)

Questions

Who? - Kdo?(K-doh)
 What? - Kaj?(Kai)
 Where? - Kje ? (Key-yay)
 When? - Kdaj (K-dai)
 How much does it cost? - Koliko stane (KOH-lee-koh STAH-neh)?

Places

Croatia - Hrvaška (Hurr-VASH-ka)
 England - Anglija (Ahn-gee-yah)
 Germany - Nemčija (Nem-CHEE-yah)
 Hungary - Madžarska (Mad-jar-skah)
 Ireland - Irska (Ear-skah)
 Netherlands - Nizozemska (NEE-zo-zem-skah)
 Scotland - Škotska (Shkot-skah)
 Venice - Benetke (Behn-et-keh)
 Vienna - Dunaj (Doo-nigh)

Signs

Open - odprto (Ohd-PURT-oh)
 Closed - zaprto (Zah- PURT-oh)

Learn Slovene



Learn commonly-used Slovene words and phrases on our website - and from a British guy no less!

Entrance - vhod (oo-hod)
 Exit - izhod (eez-hod)
 Push - rini (ree-nee)
 Pull - vleci (oo-LETS-ee)

Travelling

Bus - avtobus (OW-toh-booze)
 Train - vlak (v-LOCK)
 I am looking for.... - Iščem (EESH-chem) ...
 One ticket, please - Eno vstopnico, prosim (Eh-noh oo-stop-NEET-Z-oh pro- SEEM)

Times

Now - zdaj (z-dai)
 Later - kasneje (kaz-NAY-yeh)
 Today - danes (dahn-es)
 Tomorrow - jutri (yoo-tree)
 Yesterday - včeraj (oo-cheh-ray)
 In the morning - zjutraj (z-YOO-tray)
 In the afternoon - popoldne (poh-POLD-neh)
 In the evening - zvečer (z-veh-chehr)
 At night - ponoči (poh-NOH-chee)

Bar Talk

One coffee, please - Eno kavo prosim (EH-noh KAH-voh pro-SEEM)
 One beer, please - (Name of beer), prosim (pro-SEEM)
 Cheers! - Na zdravje (Nah zuh-DRAV-vee-ay)!
 What's going on? - Kaj dogaja? (kai DO-ga-ya)
 Let's party! - Žurajmo! (zhur-AL-mo)
 You have beautiful eyes - Imate lepe oči (EE-mah-tay leh-peh oh-chee)
 You're hot - Si lepa (see LAY-pa)
 Where are you from? - Iz kje si? (iz kye see)
 Can I have your number? - Lahko dobim tvojo telefonsko številko? (Law-koh doh-BEEM t-voy-yo teh-leh-FOHN-sko shteh-VEEL-koh?)
 See-you, bye! - Ajde, čao (ai-dai, chow)

Street smarts

Slovenians usually leave out the word for street in conversation, so while your destination may officially be called 'Poljanska ulica', you can survive by just saying Poljanska

<i>Avtocesta (aw-toh-ses-tah)</i>	<i>Highway</i>
<i>Cesta (tses-tah)</i>	<i>Boulevard</i>
<i>Most (mohst)</i>	<i>Bridge</i>
<i>Nabrežje (nah-breh-dgee-eh)</i>	<i>Embankment</i>
<i>Trg (teh-rg)</i>	<i>Square</i>
<i>Ulica (oo-leet-sah)</i>	<i>Street</i>



If there's one thing that unifies all of Posavje, both culturally and geographically, it's perhaps surprisingly not the Sava river for which the region takes its name, but wine. From north to south and east to west the region is covered in vineyards of all shapes and sizes, and is home to countless wine producers - from small family-run operations to one of the largest wine cooperatives in Slovenia and



everything in between. While Posavje may not be as widely known for its wines as some of Slovenia's other regions, it has much to offer visitors that simply can't be found elsewhere, and knowing that you're in a relatively undiscovered part of the country makes the wine taste even better. With so many wine-related tourist attractions, it would be impossible to give any kind of definitive list of highlights, so the following should only be considered some of the many must-sees:

Vineyard Cottages: If you're staying at a traditional vineyard cottage, or *zidanica*, anywhere in Posavje, free unlimited wine will almost certainly be included in the price, and most of the time you'll even be given your own key to the wine cellar. See page 24 or www.turizemvzidanicah.si for more info.

Repnice: These mysterious flint stone cellars can only be found in the area of Bizeljsko, near the Croatian border north of Brežice. Created by sand deposits at the bottom of the prehistoric Pannonian Sea, they were once used to store turnips, but in recent years have been turned into truly unique wine cellars. Read more about Bizeljsko's repnice on page 19.

Castle Wine Cellars: No matter where you are in Posavje you're never far from either a wine cellar or a castle, and when you find both together it's a recipe for a wine tasting

that you'll never forget. Two of Posavje's more atmospheric wine cellars are at the newly renovated Sevnica Castle, which beautifully showcases dozens of wines from around the region and even a few from other parts of Slovenia, and the family-run Klakočar-Wisell wine cellar situated at Bizeljsko Castle (p 17), where guests can sample award-winning local wine and some exotic home-made schnapps in a cellar that looks much like it did 500 years ago.

Wine Roads

Bizeljsko-Sremiška Wine Road

Contained entirely within Posavje, this route begins in the valley just east of Bizeljsko Castle, continues through Krško, and stretches all the way to the outskirts of Sevnica in the west. On the way it passes many noteworthy sights, such as the repnice of Bizeljsko, Brestanica's enormous Mary of Lourdes Basilica, and the natural wonders of Bohor's four waterfalls near Senovo, while the wonderfully restored castle in Sevnica marks the road's unofficial end. Ideal soil composition and weather conditions also makes this one of Slovenia's best all-around wine growing regions, for both red and white varieties.

Podgorjanska Wine Road

Winding its way from Dolenjske Toplice to Brežice along the foothills of the Gorjanci mountain range, this route could easily be called 'the Cviček Wine Road', as it passes through the heart of Cviček country. In addition to the various vineyards, wine cellars and tourist farms run by friendly locals along the way, the road also passes some of Posavje's major tourist sites, including Kostanjevica monastery, Krakov Forest, Terme Čatež and Mokrice castle, as well as the river Krka itself.

Gornjedolenjska Wine Road

At 64km this is one of the longest wine roads in Slovenia. It extends from Trebnje in the south up through the municipalities of Sevnica and Krško, and beyond. It is the most geographically varied of the wine roads in Posavje, comprising the usual vineyards and orchards, but also large areas of evergreen and mixed forests.



Šmarsko-Virštanjnska Wine Road

Located mainly in the Podravje region, the route also includes the wine hills to the west of Bistrica ob Sotli. Of the wines produced along the route, the majority are white, including the autochthonous Virštanjčan, Renski and Laški rizling, traminac and chardonnay.

Cviček



If you've never been to Slovenia, then chances are you've never heard of Cviček. If you're from Slovenia, then you likely have mixed feelings about it. And if you're from the Dolenjska region, which includes the southern part of Posavje, then not only is Cviček likely your favourite wine, but there's a good chance you consume it more freely than water (at least at the weekends!)

Cviček is a dry and noticeably sour red wine that is synonymous with Dolenjska, which is divided from the region of Štajerska by the Sava river. Other than Chianti, it is the only officially recognised variety of wine that is made from a blend of both red and white grapes - with Modra Frankinja, Žametna Črnina and Kraljevina most commonly used sorts, as well as Laški Rizling somewhat less frequently (with roughly a 70-30 split between red and white).

Since 2001 Cviček has been legally protected both within Slovenia and the EU as a product of traditional denomination, meaning that only wine produced in the Dolenjska region in accordance with official specifications can be labelled as Cviček. This has led to a peculiar situation in Posavje, where essentially the same wine is produced in areas north of the Sava river, but is called by the lesser known name Bizeljčan or even simply red table wine. While Cviček is undeniably sour, it is also quite fresh, light and fruity, and since it is limited to a maximum of 10% alcohol content it can be drunk quite liberally throughout the day or night without completely impairing one's ability to function.

For those interested in learning more about the history and production of Cviček, there is something of a holy trinity of sites that are easily accessible to visitors: the Embassy of Cviček in Raka (p 32), which was recently built for the purpose of promoting the wine; Vinska Klet Krško (p 31), which is by far the largest producer; and the wine cellar at the Božidar Jakac Gallery in Kostanjevica Monastery (p 45), which is widely considered as the birthplace of Cviček.



Almost every building in Brežice's charming old town has a long eventful history and a story to tell - which is all the more true for the town's magnificent 11th century castle, photo by Oskar Gerjevič

Throughout its long turbulent history Brežice has always had something of a border town feel to it, which has been both a benefit and a drawback for those who have called it home. Thanks to its strategic position along the so-called Military Frontier against the Ottomans, the Austrian empire took great pains to secure and invest in the town - most notably with the construction of the massive defensive castle that still remains in excellent condition today and houses both the Posavje Regional Museum and the incomparable Knight's Hall, which is blanketed in 17th century Baroque murals and frescoes, and is the symbolic home of the annual SEVIQC Brežice Festival of Early Classical Music. However, the border has also led to certain hardships, first at the hands of the Turks, then the Germans during both World Wars, and finally after the dissolution of Yugoslavia. While Zagreb and its million plus inhabitants are less than 30km away and literally within sight of Brežice's higher points, the Schengen border that sits in between greatly restricts the free flow of people in both directions.

Nature too has treated the town with fickle hands. While the name Brežice is derived from the Slovene word 'breg', meaning (river) bank - which itself was taken from the original German name for the city, Rein - the Sava river long ago changed course and left the old town and the formerly waterfront buildings along the west side of Cesta Prvih Borcev looking peculiarly high and dry. But Mother Nature has also been quite generous with the area, blessing it with no less than three unique sites: the Natura 2000 protected Jovsi and Dobrava nature reserve; the flint

stone wine cellars, or repnice, of Bizeljsko; and the thermal spring at Čatež, around which the Terme Čatež resort was built and has grown into Slovenia's largest spa and wellness centre - attracting guests from all across Europe and alone accounting for the majority of accommodation in the entire Posavje region. All in all, Brežice offers visitors a wealth of historical, natural and modern sights that simply cannot be found anywhere else.

Tourist Info Centres

TIC - Brežice Cesta Prvih Borcev 22, tel. (+386) 7 496 69 95, www.visitbrezice.com. Located right in the centre of the old town, Brežice's main tourist office is packed virtually floor to ceiling with books, brochures, leaflets and guides to the various sights and activities in and around the town, as well as info about what to see and do elsewhere in the Posavje region. Not everything is in English, especially when it comes to material not produced by the municipality, but someone from the helpful staff will gladly answer any questions you may have.

TIC - Čatež ob Savi Topliška 35, tel. (+386) 7 493 67 57, www.visitbrezice.com. Although the official tourist office at Terme Čatež is a bit smaller than the main office in the old town, it stocks virtually the same material and has an equally knowledgeable staff.

Symbol key

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Casino	Conference facilities
Child friendly	Facilities for the disabled
Fitness centre	Guarded parking
Internet	Non-smoking rooms
Restaurant	City centre location
Sauna	Swimming pool
Animal friendly	Wi-Fi

Hotels

Splavar Cesta Prvih Borcev 40a, tel./fax (+386) 7 499 06 30, tel. (+386) 41 447 958, www.splavar.si. The only hotel in the old town city centre, the so-called Rafter's Pub is modern take on the old-fashioned English country inn, with fifteen rooms of different shapes and sizes located above a restaurant downstairs and furnished with heavy wooden period pieces. While the prominently displayed four-star rating seems a wee bit on the generous side to us, the rooms are comfortable enough, and the whole place does have a charming feel to it. ▶ 15 rooms (singles €50, doubles €75, triples €90).

Hostels

MC Hostel Gubčeva 10a, tel. (+386) 590 83 790, fax (+386) 590 83 791, mc-brezice@siol.net, www.mc-brezice.si. Despite its small town location, the MC Brežice is easily one of the most modern, professionally run, facility laden hostels in all of Slovenia. Located in the extensively renovated premises that formerly served the Yugoslav army, the hostel is part of Brežice new youth centre complex, which means that in addition to standard hostel amenities such as a common room, kitchen, laundry room and wireless internet, guests have access to full conference facilities, a 200m² gym, various meeting rooms, one of the town's most popular nightlife venues and even a recording studio. Situated in the city park opposite the castle, it also has splendid views of the surrounding countryside. ▶ 17 rooms (6-bed dorms €16-17, singles €25, doubles €42-44, doubles en suite €46-48).



The pirate bungalows at Terme Čatež are a truly unique accommodation option copy

Terme Čatež

Camping Čatež Topliška 35, tel. (+386) 7 49 35 010 / (+386) 7 49 36 700, fax (+386) 7 49 35 004, info@terme-catez.si, www.terme-catez.si. The five-star camp ground at Terme Čatež has repeatedly been named as the best campsite in Slovenia, and after seeing the place it's not hard to see why. Some 500 camping pitches are up to 90m² and can accommodate anything from the largest mobile homes to individual tents. Each pitch has the standard supplies of electricity, water and waste disposal, as well as wireless internet and use of heated sanitary facilities that even include washers and dryers for laundry. Guests are also given free entrance to both the Summer and Winter Thermal Riviera water parks. ▶ €17.50-22 per person per day. Supplements include €4.50 for electricity, €5 for washing, €4 for pets and €3.50 for refrigerators.

Čatež Topliška 35, tel. (+386) 7 49 35 000 / (+386) 7 49 36 700, fax (+386) 7 49 35 005, info@terme-catez.si, www.terme-catez.si. The newest hotel located at Terme Čatež, this hotel of the same name is frequented by visitors who come to spa for health related reasons thanks to its professionally staffed health centre as well as the resort's largest wellness centre. The premises have also been purposely designed without any architectural obstacles in order to accommodate guests with mobility limitations, and the hotel's nearly 200 rooms include 16 large family suites, which can comfortably sleep parents and two children. ▶ 170 rooms and 16 family suites (singles €71-108, doubles €108-182, suites €178-222).

Čatež Apartments Topliška 35, tel. (+386) 7 49 35 010 / (+386) 7 49 36 700, fax (+386) 7 49 35 004, info@terme-catez.si, www.terme-catez.si. Calling these 'apartments' is a bit of an understatement, as all units are not only small fully-furnished two-floor houses but are also arranged as a mock village, with driveways, backyards, asphalted roads and house numbers. Three different price categories correspond to the age of the building and the quality of the equipment inside - in the lux category you'll find brand new everything, including flat screen TVs - and when you factor in the free passes for Terme Čatež's water parks, the price per person is downright cheap. If you really enjoy your time you never have to leave, as the apartments can also be purchased. ▶ Standard €75-138, Superior €89-158 and Lux €98-174. Price depends on number of people and season.

Indian Village Topliška 35, tel. (+386) 7 49 35 000 / (+386) 7 49 36 700, fax (+386) 7 49 35 005, info@terme-catez.si, www.terme-catez.si. Easily one of the country's most exotic accommodation offerings, the Indian Village at Terme Čatež has become a popular place to stay for both Slovenes and foreigners during the spring and summer. The 25 traditional-style native American teepees are surprisingly roomy, each with four twin beds, a full-sized table with chairs, small drawers for cloths, a portable kitchenette and fridge and even wireless internet. The price also includes access to canoes on the adjacent man-made lake and up to four passes good for two entrances at either the Summer or Winter Thermal Riviera parks. Just like the real native Americans you'll have to do without running water, but modern toilette and shower facilities are located nearby. ▶ 25 teepees (€69-98).

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Pirate's Bay Bungalows Topliška 35, tel. (+386) 7 49 36 700, fax (+386) 7 49 35 005, info@terme-catez.si, www.terme-catez.si. Looking like something you'd find in Thailand or Mauritius, or at least something you'd find on a film set of a movie taking place in some tropical locale, these floating bungalows on a small man-made island are a fun choice for groups of young people, families with children or really anyone else who is looking for something a little exotic. The interiors are basic, but fully furnished and even include a well-equipped kitchen area, as well as an second queen-sized bed in the loft above. Newly built toilette and shower facilities are located just outside the gated entrance, and the price includes up to 4 passes good for two entrances at either the Summer or Winter Thermal Riviera parks. ▶ 20 bungalows (€89-131).

Terme Topliška 35, tel. (+386) 7 49 36 700/(+386) 7 49 35 000, fax (+386) 7 49 62 721, info@terme-catez.si, www.terme-catez.si. After undergoing major renovations, the four-star Hotel Terme has reopened just in time for the Summer 2011 season. As would be expected its cosy rooms come with all the standard amenities of a hotel in its category, and the multiple onsite conference halls and meeting rooms make it a popular option for business travellers and company retreats. In addition to receiving free passes to Terme Čatež's summer and winter thermal water parks, guests also have access to the hotel's own indoor and outdoor swimming pools, various saunas, a fitness centre and the newly built Roman-Irish baths. ▶ 212 rooms and 12 suites (singles €104-137, doubles €164-210).

Toplice Topliška 35, tel. (+386) 7 49 35 023/(+386) 7 49 36 700, fax (+386) 7 49 35 025, info@terme-catez.si, www.terme-catez.si. While the Swiss chalet style Hotel Toplice may have been the first hotel built at Terme Čatež, over the years the original building has been both renovated and supplemented with a much larger modern wing, as well as direct indoor access to the resort's Winter Thermal Riviera water park, sports centre and Cabana Bar with attached electronic games arcade. The hotel's restaurant is also an attraction in itself, as it is modelled after a tropical garden and is one of the more interesting places you'll likely ever have breakfast. The standard rooms are large, and there are a total of eight suites and apartments to accommodate families. ▶ 131 rooms, 4 suites and 4 family apartments (singles €83-120, doubles €138-196, suites €192-23, apartments €207-251).

Around Brežice

Čateški Dvorec Dvorca 3, tel. 386 7/499-48-70/386 41 400 396, fax 386 7/499-48-97, mercur.turist@siol.net, www.cateski-dvorec.com. Nestled amongst the foothills of Gorjanci in the village of Dvorca a few kilometres south of Brežice - and just across the motorway from Terme Čatež - this former mansion is a great option if you'd like easy access to the nearby water park and spa, but prefer a peaceful village setting to that of a bustling resort. The rooms are classically decorated with plush furniture and dark wood, and the onsite facilities include a conference hall, sauna and (much to our delight) a wine cellar. ▶ 25 rooms (singles €65-69, doubles €90-98).

Mokrice Castle Rajec 4, tel. (+386) 7 457 42 40/(+386) 7 493 67 00, fax (+386) 7 495 70 07, mokrice@terme-catez.si, www.terme-catez.si. Set on an English-style estate at the edge of the Gorjanci Hills, the

beautifully renovated Mokrice Castle looks like something out of a fairytale and is easily one of the most atmospheric accommodation options in the region. Furnished in classic period pieces of dark wood and plush upholstery the place exudes an air of regal sophistication that gives guests a feeling of what was like to live like European royalty, and the two apartments - set in the castle's towers with sweeping views of the countryside - are arguably the most exclusive rooms in all of Slovenia. The castle grounds are also home to a full 18-hole golf course, and guests have free access to many of the facilities are nearby Terme Čatež. ▶ 25 doubles, 2 suites, 2 apartments (singles €100-130, doubles €150-210, suites €350-410, apartments €400-460). Golf suites €75 per day.

Paradiso Selska 15b, tel. (+386) 7 45 22 988, www.paradiso.si, paradiso@siol.net. Surrounded by parkland just opposite of the train station in Dobova, this large four-star hotel appears as something of an oddity at first sight. Only opened in 2010 it is easily one of the most modern hotels in or around Brežice, however, modern doesn't always mean better, as several of the rooms here prove with the help of their headache-inducing carpeting, tacky paintings and bizarre coloured lighting. On the plus side, there's a full-on spa and wellness centre, as well as facilities for smaller business meetings, and three-star rooms can be had for a significant discount. ▶ 16 rooms (singles €41-64, doubles €66-106).

Pension Budič Zagrebška 9, tel. (+386) 7 49 90 450/(+386) 41 969 969, gostilna-budic@siol.net. Sitting at what was surely once a prime location - just opposite the confluence of the Krka and Sava rivers - nowadays the ambience is slightly marred by the fact that the new Ljubljana-Zagreb motorway passes virtually over its roof. Nevertheless it's still a decent option, as long as you manage to secure a room facing the river. ▶ 28 beds (singles €25, doubles €50, triples €75).

Pension Les Rimska 31, Čatež ob Savi, tel. +386 7 49 61 100/+386 31 569 303, info@pension.si, www.gostilna-les.com. Situated in the hillside village of Čatež ob Savi opposite the river and motorway from Brežice proper, this long-running pension is a popular option for budget travellers. The six spacious newly renovated apartments located in a separate house across the street are a great deal - especially the larger wood-paneled one on the top floor. The cosy rooms and friendly staff make the place easy to like, and they also offer packages for admission to the various facilities at nearby Terme Čatež. ▶ 7 rooms and 6 apartments (singles €34-40, doubles €45-53, triples €53-61, apartments €50-90).

Penzion Merkez Brezovica 16a, tel. (+386) 7 495 13 11/(+386) 31 699 146, info@merkez.si, www.merkez.si. This charming pink farmhouse in the heart of Bizeljsko's repnice country dates back to the middle of the 19th century and recently reopened its doors to guests. Its four rooms - each named for an ancient grape variety - and one large apartment are all tastefully decorated in a traditional rural style, and just about guarantee you one of the most comfortable and relaxing stays you've ever experienced. While you're here be sure to try at least a couple of meals, as the lady of the house, Renata, works miracles in the kitchen, and her husband's penchant for hunting means there's usually something slightly exotic on the menu. Independent travellers and groups are also welcome for meals or wine tastings with advance notice. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00. 4 rooms and 1 apartment (singles €33, doubles €56, apartment €80). Breakfast €4, half board €8, full board €16.

Symbol key

	Air conditioning		Credit cards accepted
	Casino		Conference facilities
	Child friendly		Facilities for the disabled
	Fitness centre		Guarded parking
	Internet		Non-smoking rooms
	Restaurant		Old town location
	Sauna		Swimming pool
	Animal friendly		Wi-Fi



At most places in Posavje the portions are so generous it's nearly impossible to finish everything on your plate - especially since saving room for dessert is a must

Restaurants

Ošterija Debeluh Trg Izgnancev 7, tel. (+386) 7 496 10 70. Widely regarded as one of the best restaurants in the region, if not the entire country, thanks to head chef Jure Tomič's innovative approaches to classic dishes, Debeluh is one of the only restaurants in Slovenia to have been awarded a Jeunes Restaurateurs d'Europe rating - often referred to as the 'little Michelin'. Excellence doesn't come cheap however, and you should expect to pay upwards of €50 per person for several courses, and significantly more if you wish to indulge with something off of the equally impressive wine list. For those who can afford it, Debeluh can't be recommended highly enough. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun.

Pizzeria Italia Borštnikova 10, tel. (+386) 7 496 14 00/(+386) 41 411 628. The most popular pizza place in town has never disappointed us, although luckily for us when it comes to pizza we are fairly easy to please. Located near the new Lidl supermarket just off the main intersection of Cesta Svobode and Bizeljska Cesta, it's easiest enough to find, but they'll also deliver to most anywhere in the area for free. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sun 11:00 - 24:00. €6-11).

Santa Lucija Cesta Prvih Borcev 15, tel. (+386) 7 499 254 00. Sure the over the top Baroque décor is perhaps a little kitschy and the place only gets mixed reviews from locals, but there's no denying that it has a great atmosphere, friendly service and a ridiculously varied menu - pizza, pasta, game meats, traditional Slovene and Balkan dishes are all on offer here! It's also right in the middle of the old town, making an after-meal stroll down to the castle and city park almost a necessity. ▶ Open 06:30 - 01:00, Sun 10:00 - 01:00.

Splavar Cesta Prvih Borcev 40a, tel. (+386) 7 499 04 50, www.splavar.si. Well-prepared and presented dishes, as well as the ornately furnished and immaculately kept dining areas, give Splavar a slightly upmarket feel. However, the prices are similar to those elsewhere, so if you feel like treating yourself to a fancy dinner that's easy on the wallet this is your place. Nicknamed the Rafter's Pub, there is of course a large selection of fish menu, but as it's charged by weight, it's always a good idea to enquire about the expected price when ordering. And if you can't decide what to get, the mixed plate for two is never a bad idea. For info about the four-star hotel located above the restaurant, see the Where to Stay chapter. ▶ Open Mon-Fri 07:00-22:00, Sat-Sun 08:00-22:00. (€5.50-24).

Fast Food

Fast Food Centre Trg Izgnancev 5. For late night cravings on the way back to your hotel or hostel, or an unhealthy lunch on the go, this take-away only window has you covered. The usual assortment of kebabs, burek, hamburgers and unappetizing looking hot dogs are all here. ▶ Open Mon-Thu 09:00-24:00, Fri-Sat 09:00-02:00 and Sun 15:00-23:00.

Pekarna Noč in Dan Trg Izgnancev 5. If you're early to catch a bus or train, or perhaps wandering around the old town for some people-free sunrise sightseeing, you can stop here for some sweet or savoury fresh baked goods. ▶ Open 05:30 - 22:00. (€0.30-2).

Around Brežice

Gostilna Kocjan Stara Vas 63, tel. (+386) 7 495 10 90/(+386) 41 331 766, www.gostilnakocjan.si. Opened some 30 years ago as a simple bar on the main Brežice-Bizeljsko road, over the years it expanded into a full-on restaurant, which slowly developed a region-wide reputation for perfectly prepared traditional Slovene cuisine. Still run by the Kocjan family, the premises were completely rebuilt recently and can now accommodate hundreds of guest - making it a popular venue for weddings as well as other social events. There are also six large modern, but sparsely furnished, double rooms upstairs.

Cafés

Café Urška Topliška 35, tel. (+386) 7 49 35 000.

If you're staying at Terme Čatež or just dropping by for the day to use their facilities, you'll almost surely find yourself seated at the centrally located Café Urška, enjoying a coffee in the sun or sampling one of their wide selection of cakes and other treats. The ice cream also comes highly recommended.

Gostilna Šekoranja Bizeljska 72, tel. (+386) 7 495 13 10. Located in a two-hundred year old house below the parish church in the centre of Bizeljsko, Šekoranja is an honest-to-goodness Slovene institution, as can be attested to by the decades of awards and faded photos of celebrity guests that line the walls - the most prized of which includes a smiling President Tito accompanied by a young Italian actress called Sophia Loren. The stellar reputation of the traditionally prepared home-made food is much deserved, and the old-fashioned country inn atmosphere is something that can't be faked. All-in-all it's truly one of the must-visit restaurants in Posavje. ▶ Open 08:30 - 23:00. Closed Mon. (€5-13).

Kalin Obrežje 6, tel. (+386) 452 71 91. Kalin is perhaps the only restaurant where you can have dinner in Slovenia and then go for a drink in Croatia - all without leaving the building! Thanks to the slightly more neighbourly relations enjoyed between the two countries during Yugoslav times, the restaurant is literally on top of what is now the international Schengen border - marked by a thick yellow line running across one of the smaller dining areas that usually serves as a bar. If this geographical peculiarity weren't enough, the food is actually quite good, and the place is hugely popular with locals. But on a serious note, we'd be remiss if we didn't warn you that while crossing the unmanned border just outside the doors may seem a tempting after meal activity, the Croatian police are of a slightly different opinion, and doing so is almost guaranteed to lead to unpleasant consequences - trust us!

Les Rimska 31, tel. (+386) 7 496 11 00/ (+386) 31 569 303, www.gostilna-les.com. There's just something incredibly inviting about this hillside restaurant just off the motorway in the village of Catež ob Savi, which is why it's been tempting hungry motorists (including ourselves more than once) to stop for lunch or dinner for over three-quarters of a century now. The large open main dining area has great views out over the valley below, and the tasty food comes in heaping servings that almost guarantee there'll be some left at the end to take with you. The wood-fired pizza and salad bar are also recommended, and a carafe (or two or three) of local wine is a must.

Pri Peču Stara Vas 58, tel. (+386) 7 452 01 03, vlnoteka@klimaexpert.com, vlnoteka.klimaexpert.com. This authentically rustic gostilna is yet another excellent option for feasting on traditional Slovenian cuisine in the beautiful vineyard covered Bizeljsko wine region. A professional sommelier is always on hand to talk you through the 70 or so different wines on offer, and no visit is complete without a post-meal visit to the wine cellar. If imbibing to excess is on your to-do list, there are also several rooms available on the first floor that can be hired for overnight stays or just the afternoon, although the low sloping ceilings may give sufferers of claustrophobia second thoughts. ▶ Open 10:00 - 01:00. Closed Tue. (€5-17).

Restaurant Grill Topliška 35, tel. (+386) 7 49 35 000. Serving a mix of traditional Slovene cuisine as well as international staples such as pizza and pasta, as the name suggests the standout dishes here are the ones that come hot and plentiful straight off the grill. If your group is an even number, you can't go wrong ordering the plate of mixed grilled meats (vegetarians excepted of course). During the warmer months try to grab a table on the terrace out back with a view of the summer thermal park at Terme Čatež. ▶ (€5.50-18).

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Nightlife

Bars, Pubs & Clubs

Bubka Bar Dečno Selo 32, bubkabar@gmail.com, www.bubka-bar.com. Located some 5km north of Brežice in the village of Dečno Selo - or essentially in the middle of nowhere - is one of the more popular bars in the region and perhaps the most bizarrely named nightlife venue in the whole country. If you're not a fan of athletics, Sergey Bubka is easily the greatest pole vaulter of all-time, and apparently something of a hero to the bar's owner, who also competed in the event. The place is immensely popular during sporting events, with hundreds of people watching a huge outdoor projection screen and enjoying cheap drink specials, and while guests are not actually able to pole vault here, they can make use of the sand volleyball court. Conveniently there are also free taxis back into town at the end of the night. ▶ Open Mon-Thur 06:00-23:00, Fri-Sat 06:00-01:00 and Sun 06:30-23:00.

Cabana Bar Topliška 35, tel. (+386) 7 49 35 000. Even if you're not staying in one of the many accommodation options at Terme Čatež, the resort's bar is one of the more popular nightlife options around Brežice. It's huge terrace is expanded with even more outdoor seating during the summer, and the adjacent electronic arcade offers all kinds of games - including our personal favourite, air hockey, among many other classics.

Hacienda Šentlenart 71, hacienda.club.info@gmail.com, www.hacienda.si. This is where the party is at weekends in Brežice. A Latin-American themed Balkan and pizza restaurant during the day (yes, you read that right), it attracts crowds of young partiers on Friday and Saturday. Standard international dance and pop music is the norm, with some themed nights occurring somewhat sporadically. Situated near the train station, you'll definitely want to take a taxi even if you're staying at one of the accommodation options in the town centre. ▶ Open Mon-Thur 12:00-18:00, Fri 12:00-05:00, Sat 20:00-05:00. Closed Sun.

MC Club Gubčeva 10a, tel. (+386) 590 83 790/ (+386) 590 83 791, hostel@mc-brežice.si, www.mc-hostel.si. The bar/café/club located in the newly-opened MC Hostel and youth centre seems to be attracting more crowds with each passing week. The predominantly red and white venue is divided into two sections: a bar area and lounge, with the latter doubling as a stage for frequent concerts, DJ nights and other performances - all of which take advantage of the surprisingly high-end sound system and lighting. Surrounded by parkland, the back terrace is also a great place for a coffee during the day. ▶

Casinos

Casino Lido Topliška 35, tel. + 386 7 499 48 00, marketing.lido@casino.si, www.termecatez.si. Reopened earlier this year after undergoing extensive renovations, Terme Čatež's Casino Lido offers a diverse selection of nearly one hundred slot machines as well as one electronic roulette table. Not a bad way to spend an evening with your mates, and you may even end up paying for your whole trip if you're lucky!



Mokrice Castle is not only a luxury hotel, but an attraction in itself with a golf course and art gallery

Buildings & Bridges

Bizeljsko Castle (Orešje Castle) Bizeljska vas 20, tel. (+386) 7 495 12 55/(+386) 41 927 628. Of the countless castles located throughout Slovenia, this may be the only one that can properly be called a single family home - by which we mean it's the full-time residence of a working family, complete with kids' toys strewn about the courtyard, laundry hung up to dry and a friendly old dog guarding the drive. Owned by the state, the castle has been leased to the winegrowing Klakočar family for 99 years in order to ensure that it is properly maintained without costing taxpayers a fortune. While most of the premises are off-limits to visitors, there is an authentically arranged wine cellar in the basement that is open to both independent travellers and larger groups. The per person prices for wine tastings accompanied by a degustation menu are quite reasonable (make sure to try the home-made schnapps!), and wines available for purchase include a gold medal-winning Laški rizling and an extremely limited production ice wine. There's also an art gallery on the first floor that hosts infrequent exhibitions. Actually located a few kilometres north of Bizeljsko in the hills above the small hamlet of Bizeljsko Vas, the castle is a bit tricky to find so if you don't come with a local or a guide we recommend at least having a reliable GPS device. ▶ Open by prior arrangement.

Brežice Castle Cesta Prvih Borcev 1, tel. (+386) 7 466 05 17, www.posavski-muzej.si. Brežice's stately Renaissance fortress is both the main tourist attraction in

the old town centre and the symbolic heart of the region, it is also fittingly home to the Posavje Museum as well as one of the Slovenia's most beautiful Baroque halls. Originally built by the Salzburg bishopric after it acquired feudal properties in the area during 11th century, the castle was first mentioned in writing in 1249 and by the middle of the 15th century it had come into the possession of the Hapsburgs. The following 100 years was the most turbulent in the castle's history, as its position at the frontier between the Austrian, Hungarian and Ottoman empires made it of great strategic importance. After changing hands several times, it was badly damaged during the pan-Slovenian peasant uprising of 1515 before being completely destroyed during a Turkish incursion just over a decade later. It was at this time that the Hapsburgs, who had again gained control of the area, decided to construct a new, more strongly fortified castle, and engaged a team of Italian masters to build it. Their efforts were successful, as the castle was the only one in the Posavje region not to be overrun during the Croatian-Slovene peasant riots of 1573, and the its outward Renaissance appearance has been little changed to this day. During the 17th century the castle changed owners several more times, with the noble Attems family emerging as the eventual owners, which retained the case until the end of the Second World War. Since 1949 it has been the location of the main collection of the Posavje Museum, and also one of the main venues of the SEVIQC Festival of Early Classical Music.

Nature Reserves

Jovsi and Dobrava Kapele 20, tel. (+386) 7 452 30 13, dusan.klenovsek@zrsvn.si, www.zrsvn.si/life. Designated as one of Slovenia's four Natura 2000 sites (a Europe-wide network of protected natural heritage locations), Jovsi and Dobrava are actually two separate ecological areas divided by the Dobova-Župelevec road and centred around the picturesque hilltop village of Kapele, some 6km north of Brežice. Jovsi is a grassy floodplain located between the Sotla river and the Kapele Gorce hill, which was regularly covered with water in the years before the Sotla was controlled - in fact, its name is taken from the German 'Jauchsee'. Today its marshy waterlogged meadows are home to a stunning variety of plants and animals, most notably 80 different species of birds, including the endangered corncrake.

On the other side of the hill, Dobrava is a lowland oak and hornbeam forest intersected by countless small streams. Like Jovsi it is also home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, such as the black stork, collard flycatcher, middle spotted woodpecker and even the rare Ural owl.

Together Jovsi and Dobrava cover nearly 3000 hectares, and are open to visitors year-round. Guided tours to both sites can be arranged through the visitor information centre opposite the church in Kapele. At the centre visitors can watch a short English language video about the sites, take part in some interactive exhibitions and of course pick up brochures and other literature. The bird-watching tower at the edge of Jovsi is a 1km walk downhill from the visitor centre. ▶ Open by prior arrangement. Admission free.



German House Cesta Prvih Borcev 48. As the name suggests, this rather imposing building with a somewhat schizophrenic architectural style on the corner of Cesta Prvih Borcev and Trg Izgnancev was built at the turn of the 20th century as a place for the town's then large German population to meet and socialise. The building itself and activities that went on there served to increase national tensions with Brežice's Slovene residents, who built their own National Centre just down the street shortly thereafter. Today the German House is home to the local court of Brežice.



Brežice's iconic water tower

Iron Bridge When it was built in 1906, the iron bridge spanning both the Sava and Krka rivers was one of the greatest technical achievements of the Austro-Hungarian empire, and over a century later it is still a great source of pride for the residents of Brežice. Actually consisting of two separate iron spans connected by a causeway, the entire length of the structure is over 500m. Today the bridge is still open to one-way traffic leading south out of town, while the wide shoulders are a popular with cyclists and in the summer it's not uncommon to see local youths jumping from the top of the iron truss into the waters below.

Knight's Hall Cesta Prvih Borcev 1, www.posavski-muzej.si. Located in Brežice Castle, this is one of the finest and best preserved Baroque halls in all of Slovenia. It was constructed at the end of the 17th century, after the castle had come into the possession of the Attems family. The large hall is most notable for the ornate frescoes and murals that cover the ceilings and walls, which depict various mythological, classical and religious subjects, and were commissioned by Ignac Marja Attems, the first in a long line of the family's owners. The hall is usually open to visitors as part of the Posavje Museum as well as during concerts and other events, but will unfortunately be closed for renovation until mid to late 2012.

National Centre Cesta Prvih Borcev 39. More noteworthy for its historical value rather than its aesthetics, while today the tidy white and yellow building is home to the municipal library and an international bank, it was built in 1904 as a refuge for the Slovenes of Brežice to meet and plan the town's future - serving as both a practical and symbolic counter to the German House just down the road.

Old Pharmacy Cesta Prvih Borcev 15. One of the oldest buildings in Brežice, its most recognisable feature is the twisting chimney protruding rather noticeably from the middle of its roof. A way for the owner's who commissioned it to convey their wealth without being too obvious about it, while these chimneys can be found quite frequently in certain parts of Italy, they are much rarer in Slovenia and even less so in the region. The building now houses a popular restaurant.

Ulica Stare Pravde The oldest street in town is lined with a collection of tightly packed houses and follows what was once the curving interior of Brežice's defensive walls from the castle to the water tower. It has been nicknamed Rhododendron Straße by locals in honour of the bright flowers that bloom down its entire length during the spring or early summer. While there's not any sights on the street per se, it does make for a pleasant (albeit short) stroll.

Water Tower Ulica Stare Pravde. Despite being a certifiable medieval town, Brežice's most recognisable landmark, and arguably its symbol, was not constructed until 1914. Located at the crossroad of the old town's oldest street (Ulica Stare Pravde) and main entryway for vehicles (Bizejsko

Cesta) the unmistakable pink tower was built on the remains of the former defensive walls, and is visible for kilometres in all directions - perhaps most notably for visitors it marks the town's location from the motorway during the spring and summer when all other buildings are obscured by thick foliage. Standing 46m high, the circular tower is topped by an octagonal reservoir that takes its design from historic German towns, and is the only structure of its kind in Slovenia save for a similar tower in Kranj. Originally built out of the necessity of pumping water across a flat town, modern technology has long since taken over gravity's role in waterworks, and the tower is currently only used for a café on the ground floor - although various proposals have been tabled for how to make better use of the premises.

Bizejsko's repnice wine cellars

One of Slovenia's most awe-inspiring - yet largely unknown - attractions are the repnice (pronounced RAPE-neet-sa) wine cellars of the Bizejsko area, which were only 'discovered' some two decades ago after over ten million years in the making. All film poster hyperbole aside, the hand-dug flint stone cellars are truly a unique sight and easily one of the Posavje region's must-see highlights. The foundation for these geological anomalies was laid, quite literally, during the Miocene Epoch, during which time the area now referred to as the Pannonian Plain was actually a body of water called the Pannonian Sea. Existing for some nine million years, the sea collected deposits of flint sand that formed the topsoil when the sea eventually retreated. In certain areas, such as the hills just south of Bizejsko village around the settlement of Brezovica, the flint sand formed thick layers of flint stone that was subsequently dug into by locals and used as cellars for the storage of produce and other goods from around the turn of the 18th century. As one of the main types of produce stored was turnips - or repa in Slovene - the cellars became known as repnice. It was only in the early 1990s that they began to be used as wine cellars, which were duly expanded using the traditional methods.

Today around a dozen or so of these wine cellars are open for visitors, although only a handful have managed to successfully completed the red tape that is necessary to be officially called repnice. With a constant temperature of between 5-10°C and humidity that reaches up to 96 percent, the cellars are ideal for

storing wine. However, it is the beautifully patterned flint stone walls and ceilings of the interconnected subterranean chambers that are the true draw for visitors - with every square centimetre a unique testament to the millions of years of geological activity that produced it. Below are the five official repnice, of which VINO Graben is probably the most professionally set up for receiving guests (and has accommodation), while Repnica Najgar has the most aesthetically impressive cellar. Tourist Farm Pudovi has accommodation as well. As they are all family-run operations, calling ahead to make reservations is mandatory, and the weekends are the best time to visit.

Repnica Balon Brezovica na Bizejskem 33, tel. (+386) 7 49 51 181/(+386) 40 974 891.

Repnica Najgar Brezovica na Bizejskem 32, tel. (+386) 7 49 51 115/(+386) 41 204 876, repnicana-jger@volja.net.

Repnica pri Kovačičevih Brezovica na Bizejskem 29, tel. (+386) 7 49 51 091.

Tourist Farm Pudovi Stara vas 89, tel. (+386) 31 484 003, info@pudvoi.si.

VINO Graben Kumrovska 6, tel. (+386) 30 611 010/(+386) 30 611 011, vino.graben@gmail.com, www.vino-graben.com.



The Najgar family cellar is arguably the most beautiful of all the repnice



The stunning Baroque Knight's Hall at Brežice Castle

Tourist Farms

Pri Martinovih Globočice 8, tel. (+386) 7 49 61 057/(+386) 41 381 271, martinovi@siol.net, martinovi.com. Situated in the Gorjanci hills south of Brežice, unlike many other turističnih kmetij throughout Slovenia Pri Martinovih is a tourist farm in the true sense of the word - meaning you and the kids will have the opportunity to feed (and ride) animals, work in the vineyards or hunt for mushrooms alongside the family members who run the place. Hunting, fishing and hiking trips can also be arranged, as well as the more standard tourist farm activities: eating home-made food and drinking copious amounts of wine. Rooms are available for overnight stays and there are several package offers tailored for families, couples and pensioners. ▶ 28 beds (€38 per person with half board, €31 for stays of three or more nights). ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

Pudovi Stara Vas 89, tel. (+386) 31 484 003, info@pudovi.si.

Vimpolšek Lenartova Pot 22, tel. (+386) 590 22 444/(+386) 590 22 888, kmetija.vimpolsek@gmail.com, www.kmetija-vimpolsek.com. ▶ Open by prior arrangement.

Vinotoč Vitovec Velike Malnce 16, tel. (+386) 7 495 93 60/(+386) 51 247 550.

Zevnik Rimska 22, tel./fax (+386) 7 496 29 46, tel. (+386) 31 893 326. ▶ 2 rooms (€15 per person).

SEVIQC Brežice Festival

22.06 Wednesday - 03.09 Saturday
Various Venues, tel. (386)1 242 08 12, info@kramovs.si, www.seviqc-brežice.si. A superb series of early classical music concerts by international artists in some of the most beautiful concert halls all over Slovenia, Seviqc Brežice Festival brings together the most visible and internationally recognized artists of the early classical music scene. Each year through a diverse programme of carefully chosen pieces, the event brings authentic early music performing practices at all of the concerts, and shows the variety of musical styles from different European countries across the centuries, from the late Middle Ages right up to the beginning of the 20th century. The festival's name, SEVIQC, is an acronym for the Latin Semper viva quam creata or "Always live as created."

Churches

Church of St Lawrence Cesta Prvih Borcev. Originally built in the middle of the 14th century, the church was completely destroyed in the great flood of 1781 - which was so powerful it actually changed the course of the Sava - but was rebuilt by the resilient townsfolk the following year with the help of the Cistercian monks from nearby Kostanjevica. The quaint Romanesque church is located in the centre of the old town, slightly removed from the main road - an architectural peculiarity that resulted from a shortage of funds at the time of construction. The interior of the church is covered in fine frescoes dating back to the 19th century, although the most impressive among them is the one that sits above the presbytery and was executed by famed Slovene artist Stane Kregar in 1966.

Church of St Lawrence in Bizeljsko Župnijski urad Bizeljsko. Perched on a small hill in the centre of Bizeljsko, the parish church of St Lawrence (not to be confused with the church of the same name some 15km away in the centre of Brežice) offers sweeping views of the surrounding vineyards and farmland, which is actually divided between Slovenia and Croatia by the meandering river Sotla less than one kilometre to the east. Aside from its prominent position the church is most widely known as the home of a young chaplain by the name of Martin Slomšek, who served here for three years shortly after being ordained in 1824. Later in the century the chaplain went on to become Bishop Slomšek, and was made Slovenia's first saint by Pope John Paul II in 1996. A small museum dedicated to Slomšek is open to visitors, although you will likely have to track down the priest to unlock the door.

Church of St Rocco (Cerkev Sv. Roka) Milavčeva Cesta. One of two churches in the old town, it was built in the Baroque style in the middle 18th century and dedicated to St Rocco - who is often invoked against the epidemics - after the town had suffered greatly from a cholera outbreak. A wooden statue of the church's patron saint is located on the altar, above which there is a large fresco depicting the Assumption of the Virgin. The church was completely renovated both inside and out over the past few decades, while the noted fresco was restored to its original condition in 1998. To this day it remains a pilgrimage site on both the 15th and 16th of August - Assumption Day and St Rocco's feast day respectively. Concerts and other cultural events are often held inside as well, so check with tourist information office to see if anything is happening while you're in town.



If you can make it up for sunrise, you'll find the vineyards at their early morning best

Museums & Galleries

Posavje Museum Brežice (Posavski Muzej Brežice) Cesta Prvih Borcev 1, tel. (+386) 7 466 05 11, fax (+386) 7 466 05 16, jelena.kostevc@guest.arnes.si, www.posavski-muzej.si. The regional museum in Brežice Castle is the most logical place to start if it's your first trip to Posavje - not only does it give you a chance to see the castle itself, but the well-presented and informative exhibits provide visitors with a comprehensive overview of the region in a variety of areas, including history, ethnology, culture and art.

The first part of the collection is arranged chronologically beginning with archaeological finds dating back to some 7000 years, moving through the Bronze and Iron Ages, and finally arriving at the well-represented Romans and early Slavic settlements. Highlights include a large collection of coins and weaponry (much of it coming from the Celtic tribes that once controlled the area), some larger statues and busts, and even several nearly complete skeletons.

The museum's extensive ethnological collection is perhaps its most interesting, especially for those planning to visit vineyards or tourist farms. Dating from the 19th and 20th centuries, the collection consists of hundreds of everyday items used by farmers, winegrowers and various specialised craftsmen. Other exhibitions are dedicated to the peasant uprisings during the 16th century and the Reformation, and contemporary history, which focuses largely on the Second World War.

In the west wing of the castle is the impressive History of Art collection, displaying paintings, sculptures and a handful of other items from the 17th century onwards. Most of the works are by noted Slovene artists, and many of them were formerly owned by Posavje's wealthy aristocratic families. The exhibition begins with the Memorial Gallery of Franjo Stiplovšek, an accomplished painter, graphic artist and the museum's founding director in 1949. ▶ Open Mon-Fri 08:00-14:30, Sat-Sun 10:00-14:00. Closed 1 Jan, 1 Nov and 25 Dec. Admission €2.50 for adults, €1 for children.

Vineyards & Wine Cellars

Istenič Stara Vas 7, tel. (+386) 7 495 15 59/(+386) 41 780 954, fax (+386) 7 495 16 47, office@istenic.si, www.istenic.si. Istenič is the largest wine producer in Bizeljsko and one of the largest producers of sparkling wine in Slovenia. They are also the region's most professionally organised vineyard in terms of receiving guests, with a multi-lingual website clearly listing different wine tasting packages and menus available with prices, and even the ability to make a booking online. Accommodation is also available in the form of eight modern two-bedded rooms, most with tiny balconies looking out over the vineyards. ▶ Open by prior arrangement. Bookings can be easily made online or by phone. 8 rooms (singles €32, doubles €54). Wine tastings €2.50-15 per person depending on the type of tour and number of wines.

Berkovič Orešje na Bizeljskem 80, tel. (+386) 41 766 318/(+386) 7 49 51 264, andrejberkovic@gmail.com.

Klet Blažinčič Orešje na Bizeljskem 93, tel. (+386) 51 355 626, franc.blazincic@siol.net.

Klet Prinela Bizeljska cesta 69, tel. (+386) 7 49 51 235/(+386) 31 333 523, barbara.iljas@gmail.com.

Nujec Gregovce 16, tel. (+386) 31 304 357, miha.balon@gmail.com.

Pavlin Orešje na Bizeljskem 58, tel. (+386) 41 441 074, vinogradnistvo.pavlin@gmail.com.

Sagmeister Orešje na Bizeljskem 76, tel. (+386) 7 49 51 450/(+386) 31 362 284, sagmeister@volja.net.

Vinogradništvo Mihelin Vinarska cesta 62, tel. (+386) 41 581 651, tayson.mihelin@gmail.com.

Vinotoč Juričko Bukovje 16, tel. (+386) 41 257 829/(+386) 41 382 735, milena.juricko@gmail.com.

Vinotoč Malus Bukovje 25, tel. (+386) 7 49 51 204, kristijan.kristy@gmail.com.

Vinska klet Pr' Mrazi Bukovje 6, tel. (+386) 31 215 699, babic.lea@gmail.com.

Vinska Klet Varlec Podgorje pri Piščecah 38, tel. (+386) 7 49 51 385/(+386) 41 251 452, vina-varlec@siol.net.

Golf Courses

Mokrice Golf Course Rajec 4, tel. (+386) 7 457 42 46, fax (+386) 7 49 57 007, golf@terme-catez.si, www.terme-catez.si. On the hills surrounding the spectacular Mokrice Castle is a 70 hectare, 18-hole golf course of the same name. Designed by world famous golf architect Donald Harradine, the course is built around the natural configuration of the landscape and has been described as a masterpiece of both imagination and design by professional golfers around the world. The course runs through a medieval forest, and exquisitely kept English park and many natural obstacles (including a lake), making it one of the more challenging courses in Slovenia. ▶ Reception open Mon-Fri 09:00-19:00, Sat-Sun 08:00-19:00. Green fee is €40/30 for 18/9 holes on weekdays and €50/33 on weekends and holidays. Guests of Mokrice Castle or any of the hotels at Terme Čatež receive a 30% discount.

Outdoor Sports

Posavje on Bike Gregorčičeva 4a, tel. (+386) 41 657 552, posavjeonbike@gmail.com, posavjeonbike.com. Publisher of cycling guides to all of Posavje, they have both free and for-sale materials at both of Brežice's tourist information offices. Contact them in advance to arrange bike rentals or guided tours for both groups and individuals.

Sport and Recreation Centre Grič Zagrebška 1, tel. (+386) 40 757 756/(+386) 41 619 781, info@sport-party.com, www.sport-party.com. This sports centre is located on the south bank of the Krka river just before the confluence with the Sava. They rent picnic areas in the grassy area along the river and there's also a small rocky beach for sunbathing or swimming. Canoes, kayaks and rafts are available for both rental and guided tours, and they are also the people to talk to if you're interested in going paintballing (or buying equipment).



Fun in the sun at Terme Čatež's Summer Riviera water park

Sports & Fitness Centres

Toplice Sports Centre Topliška 35, tel. (+386) 7 49 35 000/(+386) 7 49 36 700, fax (+386) 7 49 35 005, info@terme-catez.si, www.terme-catez.si. Located within the Terme Čatež complex, the Toplice Sports Centre offers just about every sports activity you can imagine under one roof - from a state-of-the-art fitness room and squash courts to tennis and badminton and even a small bowling alley. However, our favourite is the indoor golf simulator, which lets you play full rounds on dozens of well-known courses using real clubs and balls regardless of the weather. It's a good idea to call ahead and make reservations for the facilities you wish to use, as the centre can be fully booked by groups and sometimes hosts international sports competitions. ▶ See the website for a full price list of all activities.

Water Parks

Summer Thermal Riviera Topliška 35, tel. (+386) 7 49 35 000/(+386) 7 49 36 700, info@terme-catez.si, www.terme-catez.si. Open from April to October, the outdoor water park at Terme Čatež is the largest in Slovenia with over 10,000m² of thermal water surface, including ten swimming pools of different temperatures (from 26-36°C), various water slides and wave pools, and even an Olympic-sized swimming pool to satisfy real sportsman. The land-based facilities also include a miniature golf course and a beach volleyball court, and the entire park is connected to the indoor Winter Thermal Riviera across the street by a pedestrian bridge. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00. Daily admission €11-14 for adults, €9.50-12 for children. Afternoon (after 15:00) admission €8.50-11 for adults, €7-9 for children.

Winter Thermal Riviera Topliška 35, tel. (+386) 7 49 35 000/(+386) 7 49 36 700, info@terme-catez.si, www.terme-catez.si. With over 2,300m² of water surfaces, the Winter Thermal Riviera at Terme Čatež is the largest indoor water park in Slovenia. The facilities have recently been expanded with the addition of several adrenaline activities, including a toboggan diving board, mini Kamikaze toboggan and a pirate ship. A shallow children's pool, wave pool, tropical themed areas and flowing river are only some of the other offerings available for visitors. The complex also contains a sauna park and massage services, as well as a poolside restaurant. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00. Daily admission €13-16 for adults, €10.50-13 for children. 3-hour admission €10-13 for adults, €7.50-10 for children. Evening admission (after 18:00) €7.50-10 for adults, €6-7.50 for children. Admission to the Sauna Park and massage services available for an additional fee.

Wellness Centres

Čatež Spa & Wellness Centre Topliška 35, tel. (+386) 7 49 36 744, wellness@terme-catez.si, www.terme-catez.si. Located on the ground floor of the Čatež Hotel in a specially designed circular building, which seems almost futuristic thanks to its décor, lighting and permeating sense of serenity, the spa and wellness centre at Terme Čatež is the place to go for a day (or days) of serious professional pampering. More massages, saunas, beauty treatments and combination programmes (some lasting up to ten days) are offered than we knew existed, so it's probably best to check the centre's website for a complete price list of all the available options. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00.



The diverse town of Krško lies along both banks of the Sava river, photo by Marinšek & Marinšek

Even in a country as diverse as Slovenia, Krško manages to stand out for the dizzying array of sights and activities that it offers visitors. While in the minds of most Slovenes (and resident foreigners such as ourselves) the name Krško inevitably bears a strong association with the nuclear power plant situated a few kilometres downriver, for those who have had the privilege of spending any time in the area, atomic energy more or less becomes an afterthought. Stretching from the Bohor mountain range in the north to the Croatian border in the south, the municipality encompasses everything from roman ruins and medieval castles to sprawling vineyards and tourist farms and pretty much everything in between - including of course the aforementioned nuclear power plant and what was once one of Yugoslavia's most productive coal mines.

Must-see highlights include the town of Krško itself, which straddles the mighty Sava river and has a beautifully kept historic centre that likely makes for the region's most rewarding walking tour. To the north is Brestanica, which is home to a magnificent castle, an absurdly large basilica and a hostel run by one of Slovenia's only Olympic gold medal winners, and the former mining capital of Senovo at the foot of the Bohor mountains. To the south is wine country, or more specifically Cviček country - the light and slightly sour wine that the vast majority of inhabitants of southern Slovenia consider to be the most indispensable liquid in the world (which is only the slightest of exaggerations!). Aside from the various smaller vineyards, the area south of the Sava also boasts the world's first (and so far only) Embassy of Cviček in the quaint hilltop village of Raka, as well as Vinska Klet Krško, which is by far the largest producer of the wine.

Tourist Information

Cultural Centres

Krško Cultural Centre (Kulturni Dom Krško) Trg Matije Gubca 2, tel. (+386) 7 488 01 90, info@kd-krsko.si, www.kd-krsko.si. As the main cultural centre for both the municipality of Krško as well as the region, the Kulturni Dom Krško hosts a full slate of events throughout the year, such as musical, theatrical and dance performances, screenings of foreign and Slovene films, and various other lectures, exhibitions and cultural events. The premises, including the Great Hall with a capacity of nearly 600, are also used for conferences, meetings, team building activities, workshops and the like. The website is Slovene language only, but the programme will still give you an idea of what is going on.

Tourist Information Centre

Tourist Information Centre Krško Valvasorjevo Nabrežje 2-4, tel. (+386) 7 490 22 21/(+386) 8 205 18 00, tickrsko@cptkrsko.si, www.turizemkrsko.si, www.visitkrsko.com. This small but modern and well-stocked information office in the newly renovated Valvasor Complex should be your first stop in Krško if you'd like more detailed information on any of the sights described in our Posavje In Your Pocket guide. With advanced notice they will also gladly put you in contact with individual tour guides. Due to water damage sustained during major flooding last autumn, the office will be temporarily located at Cesta Krških Žrtev 46 until early summer 2011.

Symbol key

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Casino	Conference facilities
Child friendly	Facilities for the disabled
Fitness centre	Guarded parking
Internet	Non-smoking rooms
Restaurant	City centre location
Sauna	Swimming pool
Animal friendly	Wi-Fi

Hotels

City Trg Matije Gubca 3, tel. (+386) 7 48 80 300/ (+386) 7 49 21 015, fax (+386) 7 48 80 313, info@city-hotel.si, www.city-hotel.si. Krško's largest and longest-running hotel is conveniently placed in the centre of the new town, next to the city's cultural centre on the main square and only a 100 metres from the bus and train stations. Built in the 1970s it's not the most modern hotel we've ever stayed in, but the rooms are decent and well cared for, and ongoing renovations are slowly bringing the entire place up to international standards. Request one of the bright airy rooms on the fourth floor for the best views.

Pacific Mladinskih Delovnih Brigad 1, tel. (+386) 7 48 80 300/ (+386) 7 49 21 015, fax (+386) 7 48 80 313, info@city-hotel.si, www.city-hotel.si. The smaller but more modern sister property of City Hotel in Videm, the somewhat bizarrely named Pacific is situated in the heart of the ever-growing commercial and retail district between Krško and the neighbouring village of Leskovec. The rooms are large and comfortable enough, while the restaurant on the ground floor and pub in the basement are both exceedingly popular. The location also provides for easy access to sights in the south the municipality, as well as the main Ljubljana-Zagreb motorway.

Guest Houses

Gostišče Allegro Cesta Prvih Borcev 47, tel. (+386) 7 497 05 00/ (+386) 41 643 391, beba.urbancic@gmail.com. Located on the main Krško-Celje road more or less in the middle of Brestanica's new town, Allegro is a newer guest house with several rooms of various sizes. The restaurant is also quite popular at the weekends. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00. 15 beds total.

Gostišče Pohle Cesta na Ribnik 3, tel. (+386) 7 497 11 12, fax (+386) 7 497 30 66, pohle.m@siol.net. A medium-sized guest house situated in the heart of Brestanica, literally in the shadow of the Virgin Mary of Lourdes Basilica. There are also two tennis courts and a small swimming pool for guests. ▶ Open 06:00 - 22:00, Sun 07:00 - 14:00. 8 double rooms.

Gostišče Senica Titova 89, tel. (+386) 7 497 17 10/ (+386) 41 682 885, fax (+386) 59 926 045, www.gostilna-senica.si. If you're staying in Senovo, then this is your best option. There are several standard rooms above the town's most popular restaurant, which has live music quite often and can also arrange wine tastings downstairs. ▶

Kočna na Bohorju Dobrava 59, tel. (+386) 7 497 24 75/ (+386) 41 731 125, pdbohor@gmail.com, www.pdbohor.si. Sleep on top of Bohor mountain at 925m in this traditional mountain lodge. The facilities are basic, but after a long day of hiking they may be just about the most comfortable you've ever had. There is hot water, and a great restaurant that turns out bowl after bowl of various mountain stews (among other treats). You'll definitely want to call ahead for reservations as it is an extremely popular stop for hikers. ▶ Open October to April 07:00-21:00, May to September 08:00-22:00. Closed Mondays. 5 rooms with a total of 14 beds, 2 dorms with a total of 23 beds.

Hostels

Kozmus Šolska 1, tel. (+386) 51 441 427, hostel.kozmus@gmail.com, www.hostel-kozmus.si. Located at the main crossroads in the village of Brestanica - just opposite the absurdly large Basilica of Mary from Lourdes - the hostel has the distinction of being owned by one of Slovenia's most well-known and successful sportsmen, the 2008 Olympic gold medal winning hammer thrower Primož Kozmus. The renovated 19th-century building is simply furnished but spacious and comfortable, and only a couple minutes' walk from nearby sports facilities and a public swimming pool. Add in the wealth of activities in the area, and the hostel is an ideal place for larger groups or active independent travellers. ▶ 50 beds (€15 per person, breakfast €3).

MC Krško Cesta Krških Žrtev 105, tel. (+386) 7 488 22 80, info@mc-krsko.si, www.mc-krsko.si. Set to open at the end of June 2011, the hostel is situated south of the old town near the stadium on the road to Leskovec. The extensively renovated building is also home to the city's main youth centre, which hosts various cultural, art, multimedia and music events, and also has modern facilities for meetings, conferences and even its own music studio. The accommodation is in four singles (which are a great value for solo travellers) and two larger dorm rooms, all of which share spacious common areas. Meals, discounts, excursions and other activities can be arranged for larger groups. ▶ 24 beds (singles €20, dorms €16).

Vineyard Cottage Tourism

A unique feature of the Posavje region are the traditional vineyard cottages that dot the picturesque landscape of green rolling hills interspersed with various villages, vineyards and forests. In recent years many of these stone, brick and wood cottages (or zidanice in Slovene) have been renovated and made available for tourists to visit and stay in - a joint project overseen and funded by local, regional and national organisations, as well as the EU. They range from larger estates offering individual rooms and apartments to entire cottages that can be rented at quite reasonable rates (less than €10 per person in some cases), and will often even include unlimited free wine for guests! While each location is different, they are all beautifully renovated inside and out, and run by incredibly warm, welcoming and friendly (if not necessarily fluent English-speaking) local families. For more information on the project, available locations, prices and direct online booking, visit www.turizemzidanica.si.

slovenia.inyourpocket.com

Symbol key

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Live music	Take away
Child friendly	Facilities for the disabled
Internet	Guarded parking
Casino	City centre location
Animal friendly	Wi-Fi
Outside seating	Home delivery

Restaurants

Apolon Dalmatinova 3, tel. (+386) 7 490 23 60, www.pivnicaapolon.com. Probably the most recommended place to eat in the city centre, Apolon is also one of the more expensive dining options in Krško (although still reasonable by Slovene standards). There are lots of heavy meat dishes and whole fresh fish baked or grilled and priced by weight. The pizza is not nearly as good as at Fontana across the street, but the large outdoor terrace and children's play area make it a popular option for families. ▶ Open Mon-Fri 08:00-23:00, Sat 10:00-24:00 and Sun 12:00-22:00. (€6-17).

City Restaurant Trg Matije Gubca 3, tel. (+386) 7 492 21 10/ (+386) 31 777 738, restavracija@city-hotel.si, www.city-hotel.si. As easy as it may be, don't be dissuaded by the faux-Roman columns on the façade or the fact that it's located on the ground floor of a hotel. The reasonably priced menu consists largely of traditional Slovene cuisine

prepared with some modern flare, while the dark tones of the newly renovated dining area provides a pleasant atmosphere. It's a popular lunchtime stop, and the ričet - a thick barely soup with various vegetables, spices and a sizeable chunk of cured pork - is some of the best around. ▶ Open 07:00 - 22:00, Sat 08:00 - 22:00, Sun 11:00 - 17:00. (€4-9).

Fu Man Lou Cesta Krških Žrtev 97, tel. (+386) 7 492 66 88. The somewhat humorously named Fou Man Lou, is the best (and only) Chinese restaurant in town - it's also one of your only options for non-Slovene or Italian cuisine around. Located just a few steps from the MC Hostel, the passable Chinese fare is served fast, cheap (lunch specials from €3.50) and late (till 11pm) seven days a week. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. (€3-9).

Gostilna Murko Cesta Krških Žrtev 16, tel. (+386) 7 492 12 51, matej.murko@amis.net. If you're looking for an authentic no-frills dining experience in the old town, then look no further than this somewhat rough around the edges family-run inn. While the food is more or less unremarkable and the chances of your server speaking English are slim, the unpretentiousness of the place definitely has a 'local-only' charm about it. If nothing else it's an interesting place to grab a midday beer. ▶ Open 06:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun. (€3.5-8).

Grill Veso Cesta Krških Žrtev 130, tel. (+386) 41 832 616. Located on the ground floor of Matija Gubec Stadium - home to the Speedway and various other events - Veso is the nearest place to stop for a pre- or post-event bite. Nothing fancy, but the greasy standards do an adequate job of soaking up all the beer you drank. ▶ (€1.50-5).



A surprising number of Posavje's restaurants not only have excellent food, but also first class presentation and service

Ipusa Mladinskih Delovnih Brigad 1, tel. (+386) 7 48 80 318, fax +386 7 48 80 313, info@city-hotel.si, www.city-hotel.si. This well-known restaurant at the Pacific Hotel has a surprisingly upmarket feel to it given its outward appearance - which includes a vacant dirt lot, a terrace built to resemble a boat and a façade plastered with advertisements. In fact, the interior is more or less indistinguishable from some of the nicer business lunch places in Slovenia's larger cities. The well-prepared and well-presented food is something of a modern take on Slovene classics, and shouldn't set you back much more than €10 for lunch unless you order one of the many steak dishes. ▶ (€6.50-19). 🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴

Oštarja Margareta Cesta 4. Julija 22, tel. (+386) 7 490 50 50/(+386) 31 33 50 50, www.ostarija-margareta.si. We'll be honest, when we first heard of a combination spaghetti, pizza and Mexican restaurant we were more than a bit sceptical. However, the Mexican fare is as good as (if not better) than anything you'll find in Ljubljana, and the homemade pasta dishes are arguably the best in town. Covered in worn wood and darkly lit it feels a bit like a cosy beer hall (in a good way) and the service is fast, friendly and in English. With St Rupert Church an arm's length away, during the warmer months the back terrace is one of the most pleasant places in the city to dine. Definitely recommended. ▶ Open Mon-Thur 08:00-23:00, Fri 08:00-24:00, Sat 12:00-24:00 and Sun 12:00-22:00. (€5-9). 🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴

Pizzeria Fontana Dalmatinova 2, tel. (+386) 7 49 22 200/(+386) 41 944 933, www.dostavahrane.com. The likely favourite to win any Best Pizza in Krško competition, perhaps the only downside the place has is the enormous selection of pies to choose from - which was somewhere around 50 last time we counted. The sprawling menu also has an assortment of pasta, seafood, hamburgers and various deep-fried goodies if you're so inclined, and there's a leafy shaded courtyard out back that even hosts the odd summer concert. ▶ Open Mon-Thur 08:00-23:00, Fri-Sat 08:00-24:00 and Sun 12:00-24:00. 🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴

Portos Cesta 4. Julija 44, tel. (+386) 31 691 911/(+386) 41 656 111. Half café and half restaurant, Portos does a good job of combining some authentic rustic charm (exposed beams and large Spanish-style ceramic tiles) with modern décor (low tables, lots of cushions and modern art). Somewhat surprisingly the Slovene-only menu is sans any fish or seafood dishes, but the home-made njoki is excellent and the lunch specials will only set you back €4 and change. Centrally located in Videm between the bus and railway stations and City Hotel. ▶ Open Mon-Thur 06:00-22:00, Fri-Sat 06:00-24:00 and Sun 08:00-22:00. (€3.50-10). 🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴

Stara Picerija Krško Cesta Krških Žrtev 59, tel. (+386) 41 95 850/(+386) 31 598 999. Not nearly as popular as nearby Fontana, Krško's old pizzeria is nevertheless a fine place to grab a quick bite. There's a selection of pizzas, pastas, lasagne, salads and crepes for dessert. ▶ Open Mon-Fri 07:00-22:00, Sat 09:00-22:00 and Sun 14:00-22:00. (€4.50-9). 🍷🍴🍷🍴

Around Krško

Godova Peč Podbočje 11, tel. (+386) 7 497 73 73/(+386) 51 209 155. Located some 13km south of Krško in the picturesque riverside village of Podbočje, Godova Peč is one of the region's best known restaurants and more or less a must for visitors. Run by the Kerin family - three generations of whom will likely wait on you during your meal - it's best known for the trout that practically come

straight from river to your plate, but (food allergies aside) you literally can't go wrong with anything on the menu. It's common practice to order several starters, sides and main dishes to share, and if you plan on coming for lunch at the weekend reservations are highly recommended. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon. (€2.50-8). 🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴

Gostišče Ribnik Raztez 1a, tel. (+386) 7 49 71 445/(+386) 41 746 786, www.gostisce-dular.com. Situated outside the village of Brestanica a short drive north of Krško, people come from all over the region to dine on fresh fish and homemade Slovene cuisine at this family-run institution - you can even catch your own fish in one of the adjacent ponds! Much of what's on the menu comes direct from the Dular family's own farm, including the award-winning wine. The weekends are especially busy, with live music, lots of families and legions of children playing outside. Reservations are recommended. ▶ Open Mon-Fri 11:00-24:00, Sat-Sun & Holidays 10:00-02:00. 🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴

Medvedji Brlog Zasavska 12, tel. (+386) 7 497 16 83/(+386) 40 802 654. Located along the Sava river on the narrow strip of ground between the railway tracks and the hill leading up to Rajhenburg Castle in Brestanica, Medvedji Brlog (which means the Bear's Den in Slovene), is renowned for its various game dishes - including pâté, salami and several goulashes. Sadly however, bear meat itself is absent from the menu, although you can order a 'bear's paw' (medvedja šapa), which is actually a tasty ham and cheese filled steak. ▶ Open Mon-Fri 09:00-22:00, Sat-Sun 12:00-22:30. 🍷🍴🍷🍴

Pečnik Gunte 8a, tel. (+386) 7 497 15 62/(+386) 41 791 437, gostilna.pecnik@siol.net. Perched high above the Sava river just off the bridge to Brestanica on the road from Krško to Sevnica, crowds come from far and wide to indulge on Pečnik's home cooked Slovene cuisine. If you have the chance, be sure to stop by for lunch on a Friday when the house speciality suckling pig is served. For those without their own cars, the Brestanica train station is only a few minutes' walk away, and we've actually taken the train from Ljubljana just to sample the restaurant's other speciality, succulent roasted lamb. ▶ Open 07:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun. 🍷🍴🍷🍴

Senica Titova 89, tel. (+386) 7 497 17 10/(+386) 41 682 885, www.gostilna-senica.si. Opened in 1878 and currently run by the fifth generation of the Senica family, this restaurant of the same name is one of the only dining options in Senovo and your best bet for lunch if you come to visit the town's mining museum or go for a hike on nearby Bohor mountain. Exceedingly popular amongst locals, the food is basic but excellent and the huge breezy terrace in the back is a pleasant place to while away a couple of hours. Rooms also are available upstairs and live concerts take place with some frequency. ▶ Open Sun-Thur 07:00-23:00 and Fri-Sat 07:00-24:00. (€4-8). 🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴

Silvester Raka 113, tel. (+386) 7 814 65 00, tatjana@kopros.si, www.silvester.si. Located in Raka, a quaint hill-top village in the heart of cviček country, although Silvester is a relatively new restaurant, over the past decade or so it has built quite a reputation as a venue for wedding receptions, anniversaries and other large events. While the menu features many regional specialities and home-cooked recipes, it is decidedly upmarket for these parts, and is a favourite with locals looking for a romantic night out. ▶ Open Mon-Thur 06:30-23:00, Fri-Sat 06:30-01:00 and Sun 08:00-21:00. Open later in the summertime. (€5-17). 🍷🍴🍷🍴

Symbol key

🌬️ Air conditioning	💳 Credit cards accepted
🎵 Live music	👉 Take away
👶 Child friendly	♿ Facilities for the disabled
🌐 Internet	🅑 Guarded parking
🎰 Casino	📍 City centre location
🐾 Animal friendly	📶 Wi-Fi
🚶 Outside seating	🚚 Home delivery



Krško is definitely Laško country

Bars & Pubs

Any Time Pub Mladinskih Delovnih Brigad 1, tel. (+386) 41 795 771, www.city-hotel.si. Easily the most popular bar in town, as the name suggests you can stop by the always open Any Time Pub for a drink (or a coffee) any time. With a crowd ranging from ancient bar flies, local legends and kids of questionable drinking to those in town on business and the odd tourist, the place really gets going in the wee hours after everywhere else in town has long since closed. Aside from the convenient hours and location (in the basement of the Pacific Hotel), several billiards tables, dart board and live DJs round out the appeal. ▶ Open 00:00 - 24:00. 🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴

Debeluh Café Mladinskih Delovnih Brigad 2, tel. (+386) 41 634 830, info@osterija-debeluh.si. Located on the ground floor of a shiny glass building in the commercial district between Krško and Leskovec, it's a bit on the sterile side but a fine place to grab a coffee or a cocktail after a day of shopping. If the passing traffic doesn't bother you, the terrace out front usually gets a nice breeze on warm summer evenings. ▶ Open Mon-Thur 6:30-23:00, Fri 6:30-24:00, Sat 7:30-01:00 and Sun 8:00-22:00. 🍷🍴🍷🍴

Karizma Lounge Bar Cesta Krških Žrtev 69, tel. (+386) 7 49 21 387, karizma.group@gmail.com, www.karizma-on.net. With its yellow interior, Spanish tile floors, comfortable furniture and Hodžepodje collection photos adorning the walls (Einstein, Ali and Elvis share space with the pyramids and Eiffel Tower), Karizma is one of our favourite places in town to grab a coffee or a drink. It generally attracts a younger crowd, and there are often student oriented events at the weekends. ▶ Open Mon-Fri 07:00-23:00, Sat 08:00-23:00 and Sun 09:00-22:00. 🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴

Karizma Videm Cesta 4. Julija 64, tel. (+386) 7 492 00 33, karizma.group@gmail.com, www.karizma-on.net. The sister location of the Karizma Lounge Bar, this café bar on the other side of town is not quite as funky as the original but does stay open later and is conveniently located across the street from City Hotel. Its clientele tend to be slightly older as well, and it's not uncommon to see a packed house drinking away right up until (and sometimes after) closing time. ▶ Open Mon-Thur 06:00-23:00, Fri 06:00-24:00, Sat 07:00-24:00 and Sun 08:00-22:00. 🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴🍷🍴

Stadion Cafe Pub Cesta Krških Žrtev 130, tel. (+386) 7 490 52 33/(+386) 51 600 966, stadion.cafepub@gmail.com. This pub set on the ground floor of Matija Gubec Stadium is actually quite nice, and a great place to be amongst crowds of locals during any kind of event - even youth football matches at the weekends assure a healthy gathering. It's also the most conveniently located place to drink if you're staying at the MC hostel just down street. ▶ Open Mon-Thur 06:00-22:00, Fri-Sat 06:00-01:00 and Sun 09:00-22:00. 🍷🍴🍷🍴

Zvezda Kavarna & Klub Cesta Krških Žrtev 36, tel. (+386) 7 490 24 00/(+386) 40 537 347. One of a couple decent, youth-oriented places to drink in the old town (with the other being Karizma Lounge Bar), Zvezda is located just off the city park and a fine option for grabbing an early drink before heading elsewhere. It's also a cosy place for a coffee or light snacks during the day - as long as you aren't adverse to the colours yellow or red. ▶ Open Mon-Thur 06:30-22:00, Fri 06:30-24:00, Sat 18:30-24:00 and Sun 09:00-22:00. 🍷🍴🍷🍴

Cafés

Cappucciner Hočevarjev Trg 8. Located in the shadow of the Church of St John the Evangelist on Hočevar Square, while the name implies an establishment aimed solely at coffee drinkers, it's also a favourite spot for aged local men to suckle their bottles of Laško from mid-morning till late night - in other words, it has the perfect small town pub atmosphere. It's also the only café on the square, which makes its terrace a popular place to be when the weather is nice. ▶ Open Mon-Fri 07:00-23:00, Sat 08:00-24:00 and Sun 09:00-21:00. 🍷🍴

Valvasor Café Cesta Krških Žrtev 50, tel. (+386) 51 650 635, pekarna.kruhek@siol.net. The building is neither picturesque old or fashionably modern and the view of the car dealership across the street is less than inspiring, but most locals will insist that this is the place to come for the best coffee in town. Once inside, the interior is also open, airy and bright, and the onsite bakery turns out some impressive pastries and other delectable treats. ▶ Open Mon-Fri 06:00-17:00, Sat-Sun 07:00-13:00. 🍷🍴🍷🍴

Valvazorjeva Kavica Valvasorjevo Nabrežje 4, tel. (+386) 31 681 551, pekarnaresnik94@gmail.com. Located alongside the City Museum and Tourist Information Office in the newly renovated Valvasor Complex, the café is a great place to grab a coffee, light snack of fresh fruit juice. There's also a small courtyard out back where you can catch some late morning or early afternoon sun. ▶ Open Mon-Fri 08:00-18:00, Sat 09:00-18:00 and Sun 12:00-18:00. 🍷🍴🍷🍴

Churches

Church of St John the Evangelist Hočevarjev Trg. Dominating Hočevar Trg, the church of Krško's patron saint is noteworthy for the three three-dimensional medallions, two lunettes and sculpture of the Virgin Mary that adorn its façade. Added in 1899, they are the work of artist Ivan Zajc, who was also responsible for one of Slovenia's most famous statues, Ljubljana's Prešeren monument. ▶ Open by prior arrangement.

St Rosalie's Church Pod Goro 6, tel. (+386) 7 492 28 70. Perched a short walk up Trška Gora hill from the old town is the Church of St Rosalie, which is worth a look both for the views it provides over the river valley as well as its beautiful coffered ceiling - the highlight being a series of nine coffers depicting different female saints, with St Rosalie at the centre. The work was originally painted in 1666, and restored in 1840. Unfortunately, the church is usually locked and visits need to be arranged in advance.

St Rupert's Church Savska Pot 1, tel. (+386) 7 490 14 00. Built in 1897 with the support of Josipina Hočevar, the original St Rupert's dates all the way back to the 11th century, and was already mentioned as a parish church in 1155. Today there is not too much of interest to see, but it is the largest church in Krško, and still the seat of the largest parish in the Posavje region. ▶ Open by prior arrangement.

The Church of the Sad Mother of God Trg Borcevi, tel. (+386) 7 492 71 30. The central church of the neighbouring village of Leskovec is a pleasant walk up the hill from Krško's commercial district, and more than worth the effort for a glimpse of its intricate golden altar alone. Originally dating from the 13th century, the church took its present northern renaissance form when it was rebuilt in the first half of the 16th century to celebrate a victory over the Turks. The Baroque altar, which includes over 100 individually carved

angels, was created 1670 by Ljubljana sculptor A. Ferfilla, and is easily one of the most beautiful works of its kind in Slovenia. At the back of the church, now safely secured behind a locked gate, you'll find a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary, which was only recovered recently after having gone missing in the 19th century. If you come with a guide they can arrange to have the church unlocked, otherwise you'll have to try your luck at the parish offices located just north of the square. ▶ Open by prior arrangement.

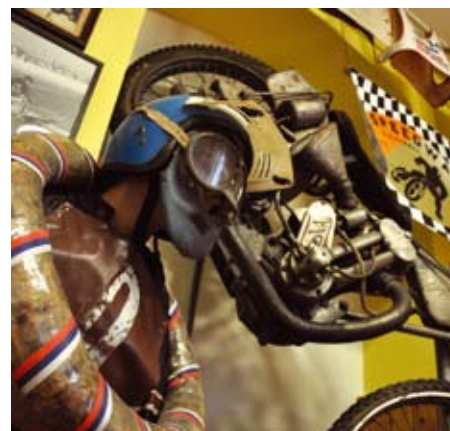
Monuments

Hočevar Mausoleum Cesta Krških Žrtev 26. Tucked away in the southwest corner of the City Park, the impressive neo-Gothic mausoleum is the final resting place of Martin and Josipina Hočevar, wealthy benefactors who were responsible for funding various construction projects, charities and other noble causes in and around Krško during the 19th and early 20th century. While the tomb itself could perhaps use a good scrubbing, the importance it represents for Krško's residents cannot be understated and is a must see sight for those interested in gaining a better understanding of the town's development and history.

Valvasor Monument Valvasorjevo Nabrežje 4. Throughout Slovenia the name of Janez Vajkard Valvasor is one that repeatedly finds its way onto streets, squares, parks and restaurants. The 17th century nobleman was born to a wealthy Italian aristocratic family in Ljubljana, travelled widely in Europe and North Africa and was a fellow of the Royal Society in London, but it was in Krško where he died of natural causes in 1687 at the age of 52. Valvasor was a legendary historian, ethnologist and cartographer, who is best known for his comprehensive encyclopaedia of the Carniola region (which encompasses much of present day Slovenia) entitled *Slava vojvodine Kranjske, or The Glory of the Duchy of Carniola*. The work spans 15 volumes and some 3532 pages, includes 528 illustrations and 24 appendices, and took over



Meter for meter, the Capuchin Monastery Library is one of the most impressive sights in Slovenia



The Speedway exhibition can be seen free of charge at the Valvasor Library

fifteen years to research to complete - it also bankrupted Valvasor and wasn't published until two years after his death. Perhaps equally impressive, although less known, is the fact that Valvasor was responsible for the first written historical account of vampires, when he documented the legend of Jure Grando from Istria. Valvasor's monument, located outside the Valvasor complex on the Valvasor Embankment, is the work of noted local sculptor Vladimir Štoviček, whose works can be seen in many other places around Krško, including a permanent exhibition in the City Museum.

Museums & Galleries

Capuchin Library Cesta Krških Žrtev 26, tel. (+386) 7 490 40 00 / (+386) 7 490 40 11, www.knjznica-krsko.si. Metre for metre the Capuchin library housed in the Krško's central Valvasor library - which itself is located in what was formerly the Capuchin monastery complex - may be one of the most fascinating and photogenic sights in all of Slovenia. The small room is packed floor to ceiling with some 1500 mostly religious tomes, many of which date back hundreds of years. This wealth of historic knowledge can be visited during the main library's opening hours, just enquire at the reception and they will gladly escort you upstairs. A pair of white gloves is also provided if you wish to peruse any of the collection, and if you're lucky you will also get to meet the monastery's only remaining monk and full-time resident, Father Roman - who himself is quite a fascinating and photogenic sight! ▶ Open Mon, Wed & Fri 08:00-18:00, Tues & Thurs 08:00-16:00, Sat 08:00-13:00 and by prior arrangement. Closed Sun (and Sat during July-Aug).

Krško City Museum Valvasorjevo Nabrežje 4, tel. (+386) 7 492 11 00, info@mestnimuzejkrsko.si, www.mestnimuzejkrsko.si. Krško's elegantly restored City Museum is housed in the maze of rooms comprised of what was formerly three separate early 17th century family residences, which is commonly referred to as the Valvasor complex after its most famous one-time inhabitant. Beautifully presented permanent exhibitions include one dedicated to Josipina Hočevar and another showcasing the work of prolific local sculptor and medallist Vladimir Štoviček - who is also responsible for the Valvasor monument located outside the complex. A series of temporary exhibitions promoting Krško's historical and cultural heritage can also be seen, and

for at least the next few years the museum will be home to an exhibition commemorating the Slovenes deported by the Germans during WWII, while Rajhenburg Castle in Brestanica is renovated. Entrance is through the glass enclosure in the inner courtyard, and an English language guide will gladly be arranged with a bit of advanced notice. ▶ Open Tues-Sat 12:00-18:00, Sun 14:00-18:00 and by prior arrangement. Closed Mon. Admission free.

Annual events in Krško

Below is a short list of the major traditional cultural events that take place each year in and around Krško. For more details about these or other smaller events, it's best to enquire with the helpful folks at the Tourist Information Centre.

February/March

Valentine's Day Walk - Participants wait for special Valentine hearts with sweet honey
Pustovanje - Carnival celebrations

April

Easter walk to Armez
First of May bonfire on Trška Gora

May

Jurjevanje na Zdolah - Celebrations for St George's Day with traditional food and entertainment such as folk dancers and singers
Jeziškova nedelja na Bohorju - Tongue Sunday on Bohor mountain with a competition in three categories
Praznik Občine Krško - A municipality-wide festival held for three weeks in May and June

June

Brestanica poje - A concert and municipal holiday in the town of Brestanica (**3 June 2011**)
Speedway Race - Motorcyclists compete for the Francis Babič Cup at Krško Speedway (**4 Jun 2011**)
Bohorski slapovi - A guided walk along the path to the four waterfalls on Bohor mountain (**25 Jun 2011**)

July

Peter's Fair in Brestanica - A traditional event with singing, dancing and costumes, visitors can also purchase crafts and try their hand at archery (**2 Jul 2011**)

August

Cviček Night in Raka (**12 Aug 2011**)
Veliki Šmaren - Assumption Day is celebrated with a gather in Velika Kamen, followed by mass and a festival with traditional games and handicrafts (**14-15 Aug 2011**)

October

Forestry Games - Various woods related games mark the beginning of chestnut season

November

St Martinovanje - There's even more wine drinking and socialising than normal on St Martin's Day (**11 Nov 2011**)

December

Live Nativity in Krško and Veliki Kamen - see the night of Christ's birth recreated along with a choir and Christmas carols (**25-26 Dec 2011**)

Krško Gallery Hočevarjev Trg 6, tel. (+386) 7 492 11 00, info@galerijakrsko.si, www.galerijakrsko.si. The deconsecrated Church of the Holy Spirit is home to Krško's most interesting exhibition space. Managed by the Krško Cultural Centre, the small church on Hočevar Square was originally built in 1777 and has served as a gallery since 1966. A list of current and past exhibitions can be found on the gallery's website (Slovene language only). ▶ Open Tues-Sat 12:00-18:00, Sun 14:00-18:00 and by prior arrangement. Closed Mon. No admission fee.

Speedway Exhibition Cesta Krških Žrtev 26, tel. (+386) 7 490 40 00/(+386) 7 490 40 11, www.knjiznica-krsko.si. With a tradition dating back some 60 years, Krško's Speedway motorbike competitions - including an international Grand Prix - have become an inseparable part of the town's cultural heritage. Nowadays there are roughly half a dozen races held between April and October each year, which regularly attract upwards of 10,000 spectators from across Slovenia and other countries - no small feat for a town with an official population of just under 7,000. If you don't have the good fortune to visit Krško while one of the races is taking place, be sure to check out the Speedway exhibition located at the Valvasor Library in the City Park. The single-room museum is overflowing with all kinds of memorabilia, souvenirs, trophies, classic photos and even an actual motorcycle. ▶ Open Mon, Wed & Fri 08:00-18:00, Tues & Thurs 08:00-16:00, Sat 08:00-13:00 and by prior arrangement. Closed Sun (and Sat during July-Aug). Admission free.

Squares & Parks

City Park Cesta Krških Žrtev 26. Krško's old town city park is compact, but full of monuments, pathways, benches and other sights - there's even a kindergarten, ensuring that the noise of children fills the park on weekdays. The main points of interest include the Valvasor Library (housed in part of the still functioning Capuchin monastery, and also containing the Speedway exhibition), a sculpture park with busts of some of Krško's notable former residents, the former Church



A detail of the façade of the Church of St John the Evangelist on Hočevarjev Trg

of the Holy Cross that now hosts cultural events, and the ornate neo-Gothic mausoleum of the city's great 19th century benefactors, Martin and Josipina Hočevar. Placed in the middle of the old town, the park is a good place to take a break during a walking tour or relax in the shade after lunch.

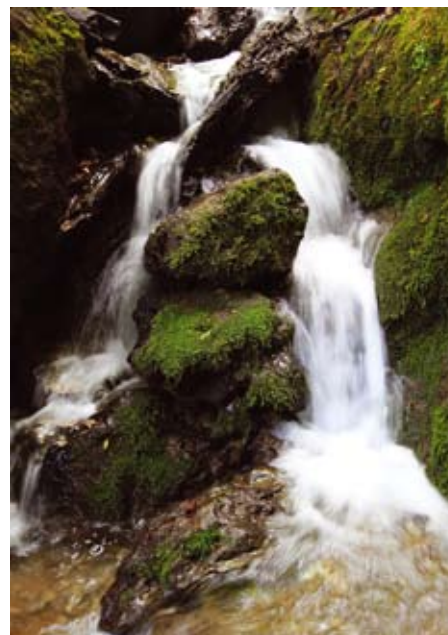
Hočevar Square (Hočevarjev Trg) Named for the Krško's 19th century benefactors, Martin and Josipina Hočevar, as the northern most point of interest in the old town the square is the best place to begin a walking tour. Although there is not much space to sit and ponder the history of the place - other than the atmospheric Cappucciner café - the square is fronted by some of Krško's most important buildings, including the church dedicated to the town's patron saint, John the Evangelist, and the Faculties of Logistics and Energy Technology. The latter was designed and built by Martin Hočevar himself, whose bust can also be found in the small park at the centre of the square.

Jurij Dalmatin Memorial Park Zdolska Cesta. A short hike up the the hill from Matija Gubec Square and the Krško Cultural Centre will bring you to a small but well-kept park named in honour of Krško's most famous son, Jurij Dalmatin - a 16th century Lutheran minister and scholar who is revered throughout Slovenia as the first translator of the Bible into the Slovene language. Initially published in 1584 in a run of 1500 copies (which were smuggled into the largely Catholic country in wooden barrels), Slovenia was only the 12th nation in the world to have the Christian holy book translated into its native tongue. Standing in the middle of the park is a four metre high stature commemorating the achievements of Dalmatin as well as two of his contemporary Slovene Protestant reformers and cultural heavyweights, Primož Trubar and Adam Bohorič, the author of the first printed Slovene book and founder of the first Slovene alphabet respectively.

Matija Gubec Square (Trg Matije Gubca) The main square in Krško's new town is named for the leader of a ill-fated, but often romanticised, peasant uprising against Baron Turn in 1573. A Croatian by birth, the charismatic former serf Ambroz 'Matija' Gubec had maintained a prominent place in local folklore over the centuries, and during WWII his name gained new popularity after it was embraced by Tito and the Partisans. A statue of the moustachioed Gubec dominates the square, which is also home to Krško Cultural Centre.

Around Krško

Bohor Mountains www.pdbohor.si. Past the town of Senovo along the northern ends of the municipality of Krško lies the imposing Bohor mountain range, with its highest peak (Veliki Javornik) reaching over 1000m. Covered in thick forests the hills are intertwined with various trails leading to several attractions worth checking out if you're an avid hiker or nature lover. The most well-travelled route is the famed four waterfalls trail, which leads - as you may have guessed by the name - to four picturesque waterfalls cascading out of deep Dolomite gorges. Due to the length and difficulty of the trail, completing the return trip will likely take the better part of an entire day and hiring a guide, or at least purchasing a detailed topographical map of the area, is highly recommended. The mountains' other main sight is partisan hospital situated just below Veliki Javornik. Built during World War Two, the hospital's remote location and well-camouflaged design helped it avoid detection by the occupying forces. It was renovated in 2002, and is open to visitors. If you're interested in sleeping on the mountain, see Koča na Bohorju in the Where to Stay section.



One of Bohor's four picturesque waterfalls, photo by Goran Rovani

Krško Nuclear Power Plant (NEK) Vrbina 12, tel. (+386) 7 480 21 86, obisk@nek.si, www.nek.si. Located in Vrbina, just south of the town, the Krško Nuclear Power Plant (or NEK) is jointly owned and operated by the governments of Slovenia and Croatia. The agreement to build the plant was first agreed in 1970, with the Krško chosen as the most suitable location due to its proximity to the boarder and location on the Sava river. It was officially opened on 2 October 1981, and went into commercial operation in January 1983. Its 2-loop Westinghouse-built pressurised water reactor has a capacity of nearly 2000 thermal megawatts and currently supplies over one quarter of Slovenia's energy consumption, and 15% of Croatia's. The plant was originally planned to be decommissioned beginning in 2023, but discussions are underway to extend its operational life for an additional 20 years. A short film about the plants history and activities can be seen at the Krško Cultural Centre, and group tours can be arranged in advance directly with NEK's information office. ▶ Admission free.

Nevidunum (Drnovo) stkd@drnovo.si, www.drnovo.si. Founded by the Romans as a military garrison in the first century BC, Nevidunum quickly grew into an important settlement, and acquired full city rights in 70 AD. Located at the crossroads of Celeia (present-day Celje), Emona (present-day Ljubljana) and various Croatian territories further south, the city was also a busy trading port on the Sava river, which used to meander further south before shifting course some centuries later. Although many of the site's archaeological finds have been carted off to various museums around Slovenia and abroad, it is still worth a look for those interested in either Roman or Celtic cultures. Located just outside the village of Drnovo, the site is fairly easy to find as it's just a kilometre or so east of the main Krško exit on the Ljubljana-Zagreb motorway.

Rajhenburg Castle (Slovenian Museum of Recent History) Cesta Iznancev 3, tel. (+386) 7 497 15 68, www.muzej-nz.si. Bretanica's imposing castle has been protecting the trade routes along the Sava from its perch some 60 metres above the river for well over a millennium. In fact, it is the oldest castle in Slovenia to be mentioned in the written historical record, which was at the end of the 9th century. As with most of the region's castles, Rajhenburg (or Reichenburg as it is known in German), has been destroyed, rebuilt and renovated countless times by numerous owners over its tumultuous history. From the late 19th century until the end of World War Two it served as a monastery, and since 1968 it has been gradually turned into a public museum. The castle is currently closed while it undergoes extensive renovations, but is (perhaps optimistically) set to reopen sometime in the second half of 2013.

Senovo Mining Museum Tel. (+386) 31 866 831, anton.petrovic@guest.arnes.si. Although the Slovene government ordered the closure of Senovo's coal mine back in 1996 (which ironically marked its 100th year of operation), the town's history and culture is still inextricably linked to the now shuttered facilities. Once one of the oldest and most technologically advanced mines in all of Yugoslavia, during

Krško Wine Cellar



Krško Wine Cellar (Vinska Klet Krško) Rostoharjeva 88, tel. (+386) 7 488 25 00, info@kz-krsko.si, www.kz-krsko.si. With a history dating back to the 1920s, the region's largest winemaking cooperative (known in Slovene as the Kmečka Zadruga Krško) was founded in its present form in 1993, and produces some 1.5 million litres of wine each year from grapes supplied by over 300 local vineyards. While our personal favourite of the eight types of wine offered is the Modra Frankinja aged in barrique oak barrels from France, one stands head and shoulders above the rest: Cviček, which accounts for over 90% of the annual production. This is no surprise given that the cooperative was one of the driving forces behind a successful campaign to have Cviček protected by an official government recognised labelling system, which has meant that since 2002 only wine produced south of the Sava river in the Dolenjska region can be called Cviček. Located opposite Srajbarski Turn Castle in the hills above Krško and Leskovec, the modern production facilities are partially housed in the castle's former wine cellar, and is open for both tours and tastings.

the previous century the highly productive (and profitable) industry attracted thousands of skilled workers from throughout Slovenia and abroad, and brought great wealth to the town. While vestiges of its former glory are present in the form of several grand buildings, a modern church and various mining-related monuments, the most impressive sight is the small museum that has recently been opened in Ravne at the facilities surrounding the mine's massive elevator shaft. Packed full with a photogenic hodgepodge of machinery, instruments and equipment, the museum is a must see stop for anyone wishing to gain a fuller understanding of the region and its history. Visits must be arranged in advanced through the Senovo Tourist Association.

Senovo Primary School Trg XIV. Divizije 3, tel. (+386) 7 488 19 00, anton.petrovic@guest.arnes.si. Thanks to the great amount of wealth produced by the town's coal mines, the primary school in Senovo was one of the most beautiful in all of Yugoslavia when it was built in 1929. In addition to educating pupils, today it serves as a museum with an impressive display of fossils, minerals and rocks - many of which were donated by the local mining company upon its closure in 1997. Of the 517 individual pieces exhibited, the most notable is a large and extremely well-preserved fish fossil. In the school's basement there is also a recreated mine shaft, which shows life-sized displays of mining methods and technologies used during the past 200 years. Visits can be arranged in advanced for both small and large groups.

Šrajbarski Turn Castle (Grad Leskovec) Rostoharjeva Ulica. First mentioned in the historical record in the early 15th century, the castle's current structure dates from the mid-16th century. Although the castle and its surrounding grounds were declared a cultural monument of national importance by the Slovene government in 1999, it has sadly been left to the elements for some time and is currently closed to the public with no plans for renovation on the horizon. However, the roof is in excellent condition and it remains structurally sound, so there are hopes that a private owner can be found in the near future. That being said, it is still worth a look, and a photograph or two, especially if you already plan to stop by Krško Vinska Klet next door for a wine tasting.

The Basilica of Mary from Lourdes Cesta Prvih Borcev 8a, tel. (+386) 7 497 91 60. One of the largest churches in Slovenia, this Basilica is perhaps the most noticeable of all given its dominant position in the small town of Brestanica. Construction of the massive three-nave structure began in 1908, marking the 50th anniversary of Mary's appearance in Lourdes, France, and was consecrated on 2 July 1914, which as locals will point out was the same day that the bodies of assassinated Austro-Hungarian heir Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sofia passed through the town on their way to Vienna. Pilgrims still flock here on the first Sunday in September every year, but the church's doors are open to visitors every day of the year.

The Church of Christ the Saviour Titova 84a, tel. (+386) 7 497 93 62. Built in the 1960s, Senovo's modern central church is a rarity for the region and Slovenia, where places of worship that are less than one hundred years old are considered 'new'. The building's distinguishing feature is the one of a kind bell tower, which, aside from being blanketed photographically in ivy, is modelled after the elevator shaft of the town's mine. Sadly, the young architect who designed it, Janez Furst, was killed in a car accident while returning home to Ljubljana after the opening ceremonies. Despite being assured by locals that the place was not cursed as a result, we still have our reservations - visitors beware!

The Embassy of Cviček (Cvičkov Hram) Tel. (+386) 41 739 557. The cheekily named 'embassy' is a newly built traditional style house, which serves as a museum upstairs and a wine cellar below. The former contains a collection of winegrower equipment, various ethnological pieces and a fully functioning traditional fireplace. The cellar can accommodate groups up to 60 people, and the sweeping views of the valley below are truly breathtaking. It's located just south of the picture perfect village of Raka.

Tourist Farms



The art gallery at the Špiler estate is one of the hidden gems of the Krško region, and one of more unique places to sample local wines and spirits

There's no better way to experience the Slovene countryside, or authentic home-cooked Slovene cuisine and endless amounts of wine, than at a traditional family-run tourist farm - eight of which are located in the municipality of Krško. While they generally cater to larger groups and host various social events, most will be more than happy to make arrangements for independent travellers, as long as they are given advanced notice.

Dular Kostanjek 20, tel. (+386) 41 746 786, www.gostisce-dular.com.

Glaz Sremič 62, tel. (+386) 7 492 76 36/(+386) 1 306 158.

Hribar Podbočje 36, tel. (+386) 7 497 71 63/(+386) 31 444 693, alojz.hribar1@siol.net.

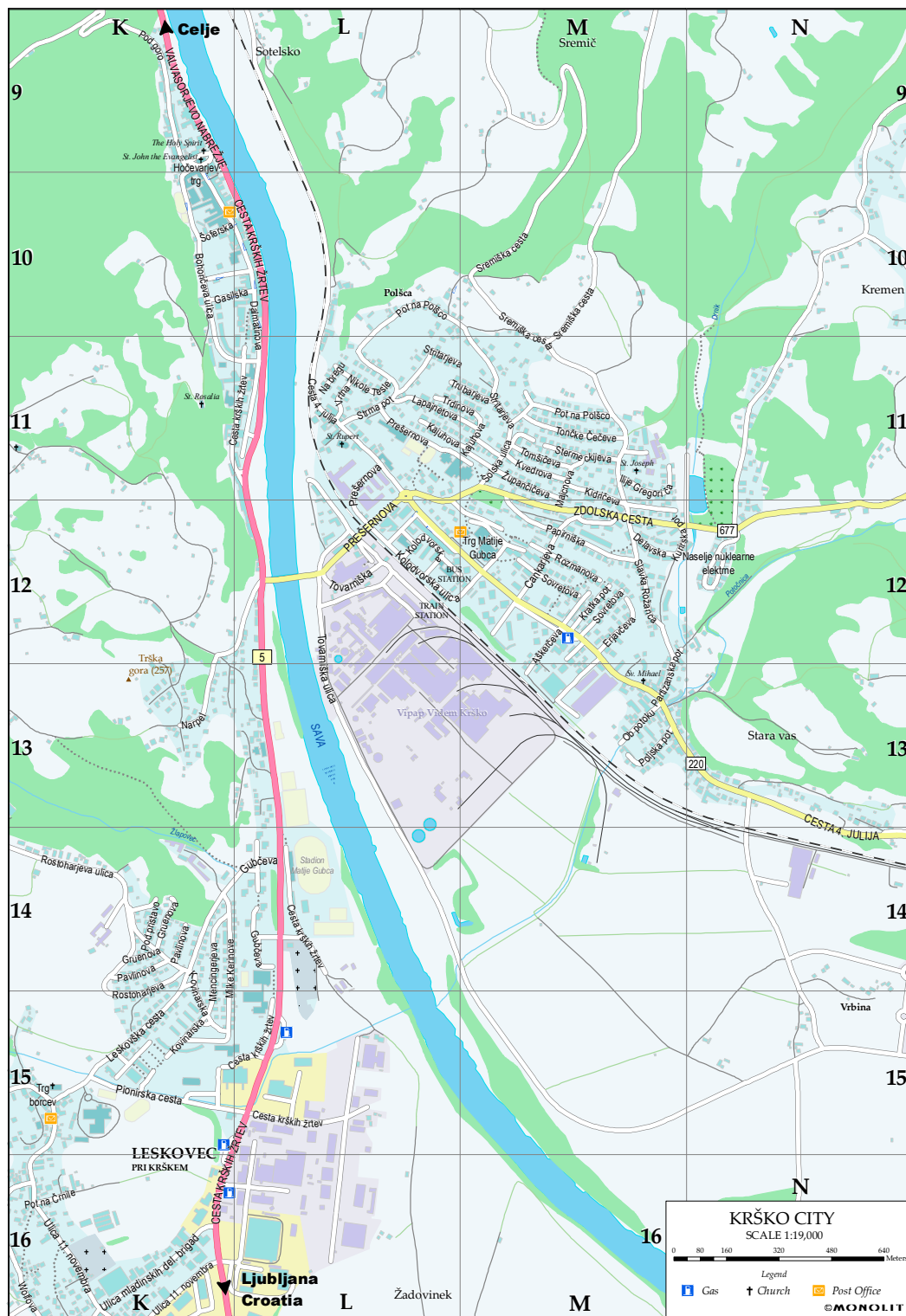
Plahuta Kallišovec 3, tel. (+386) 7 497 02 88.

Radej Sremič 37, tel. (+386) 7 492 14 94/(+386) 41 350 828.

Špiler Kostanjek 18, tel. (+386) 7 477 81 09/(+386) 41 788 222, etnoart.spiler@gmail.com, www.etnoartspiler.si.

Štipeč Planina 6, tel. (+386) 7 497 81 70/(+386) 41 209 790.

Vertovšek Veliki Kamen 42, tel. (+386) 7 497 62 39/(+386) 41 983 170, vertovsek.turizem@gmail.com, www.posavje-turizem.eu.





The old town centre beneath Sevnica Castle, with the Lisca range in the background

With one of Slovenia's most attractive and attraction-packed castles set on top of a small hill right in the centre of town, it would be easy to write off Sevnica as a single faceted destination. However, while there are not many other classic sights in the town centre, the municipality is full of worthwhile things to see and do - especially for those interested in wine tasting.

As both the starting point of the Bizeljско-Sremiška wine road which meanders off through the hills to the north, and a major stop along the 64km Gornjedolenjska wine road to the south, a huge percentage of Sevnica's 280km² are covered in picturesque vineyards and there are countless wineries, wine cellars and tourist farms to visit. For those interested in outdoor sports, look no further than the nearly 1000m Lisca mountain located a short drive to the north. A popular place for hiking, cycling and even paragliding, at the top there is an excellent restaurant and guest house offering extraordinary views of the surrounding countryside.

The other main natural attraction is the river Sava itself, which takes its time to pass through the area and has sev-

Tourist Information

KŠTM Sevnica Glavni trg 19, tel. (+386) 7 81 61 070, fax (+386) 7 81 61 079, info@kstm.si, www.kstm.si.

Sevnica Tourist Information Office Boštanj 80, tel. (+386) 7 816 54 62/(+386) 051 680 287, doziviljaj@kstm.si, www.kstm.si.

eral reservoirs that will delight visiting anglers. Of course most visits to Sevnica will begin in the old town centre, which is located beneath the castle slightly downriver from the newer part of town, where the bus and railway stations are located, and on the opposite bank of the river is Boštanj, which is home to a modern shopping centre and the main tourist information centre.

Accommodation

Ajdovec Trg Svobode 1, tel. (+386) 7 81 61 060/(+386) 31 859 979, joze.gorisek_sp@yahoo.com. Located just opposite Sevnica's railway station, Ajdovec is the only hotel in the city centre, and is a passable option for those planning either late arrivals or early departures by train or bus. The 13 rooms have (hopefully) seen better days, but the staff is friendly and the whole place does have a certain small town charm to it. Its Sunday brunches are also quite popular.

Gostilna Repovž Šentjanž 14, tel. (+386) 7 81 85 661/(+386) 41 732 970, info@gostilna-repovz.si, www.gostilna-repovz.si. With premises that include a restaurant, guest house and organic cooperative market, this tourist farm in the centre of Šentjanž defies conventional categories, but it does have a sterling reputation and over 300 years of tradition to recommend it. Founded by a noble family that immigrated from France in the 17th century, today the Repovž estate is at the forefront of the increasingly popular organic movement in Slovenia, but more importantly for most visitors also prepares great tasting food in the restaurants and offers inexpensive lodging in six cosy modern rooms set in a renovated farmhouse. If you're looking for a relaxing time in the countryside look no further! ▶ Open 07:00 - 22:00. Closed Tue.

Tončkov Dom Lisca Podgorica 36, tel. (+386) 3 57 35 016/(+386) 40 233 753, krasovec.franc@gmail.com, www.lisca-dom.com. Referred to as a mountain refuge or hut, don't be dissuaded by semantics, as it is actually an excellent hotel and restaurant with an unbeatable location and views at the top of Lisca. Long popular with cyclists and hikers who ride or climb the nearly 1000m peak, it is also accessible by road and highly recommended for both the food or a relaxing weekend stay in basic but comfortable accommodation. During the summer of 2011 the premises are undergoing extensive and much needed renovations, but the restaurant will remain open throughout the season, and guest rooms will be available by October. ▶ Open Tues-Thur & Sun 07:00-22:00, Fri-Sat 07:00-23:00. Closed Mondays.

Zidanica Bregar Kamenško 26, tel. (+386) 40 502 101, milena.bregar10@siol.net, www.freeweb.siol.net/dbregar. One of several vineyard cottages in the Sevnica municipality, this newly renovated two floor house above a stereotypical Posavje wine cellar is about the best deal you'll find for accommodation anywhere in Slovenia. It can comfortably sleep four, or slightly less comfortably sleep six, and is popular with small groups of cyclist and hikers. See the Krško chapter or www.turizemzidanica.si for more info on vineyard cottages, or to make bookings. ▶ From €42 for four people.

Restaurants

Gostilna Vrtovšek Cesta na Grad 24, tel. (+386) 7 816 02 90. Located smack in the middle of the old town, just steps from both the main church and the seat of the municipality, Vrtovšek is a Sevnica institution. Not only has it been the home of the annual Salami Festival for the past 50 years, but the kitchen still whips up some tasty traditional Slovene cuisine on a daily basis, including lots of fresh fish dishes straight out of the Sava river. It's also the town's most popular place to meet, and the pleasant courtyard is packed from open till close during the warmer months, with locals enjoying coffee, beers and of course plenty of cvček as they discuss the news of the day. ▶ Open 07:00 - 22:00, Sun 07:00 - 12:00. (€4-13).



Enjoy the sublime views of the Sava river valley from this picnic spot in the village of Razbor (p 37)

Symbol key

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Casino	Conference facilities
Child friendly	Facilities for the disabled
Fitness centre	Guarded parking
Internet	Non-smoking rooms
Restaurant	Old town location
Sauna	Swimming pool
Outside seating	Wi-Fi

Gostišče Dolinšek Vrh pri Boštanju 23, tel. (+386) 7 81 41 595/(+386) 41 685 564. Especially popular for wedding receptions and other large events, we can say with little reservation that this family-run inn located in the hills above Boštanj serves the most mouth-wateringly irresistible food we've had the pleasure of trying in Sevnica. Under the command of Mrs Dolinšek, the kitchen turns out plate after plate of expertly prepared cuisine that can best be described as traditional Slovene with a modern twist - saying any more than that would not do it justice. Grab a table on the terrace to enjoy some excellent views with your meal. Upstairs there are four luxuriously furnished rooms, including a suite with a Jacuzzi for those interested in splashing out a bit. ▶ Open Mon-Thur 10:00-22:00, Fri-Sun 10:00-24:00.

What to see

Ajdovski Gradec Vranje, tel. (+386) 7 81 61 070/(+386) 51 680 289, www.ajdovski-gradec.com. Situated above the village of Vranje some 8km northwest of Sevnica, this late Roman archaeological site was first discovered in 1811 and is one of the best researched settlements from the so-called period of the big migrations - when the Romanised inhabitants of the region were slowly displaced by Slavic immigrants beginning in the late 6th century. Under the administration of nearby Celeia (present day Cejce), the hilltop site acted as a refuge for the early Christians who dwelled there, and excavations have shown that it also served as the regional diocese, with two churches and a hexagonal baptismal font surrounded by seven houses and a series of defensive walls. The site's most impressive archaeological feature is the 120,000 litre reservoir, which assured inhabitants a constant supply of water during attacks from below. It is not only the largest of its kind ever discovered in Slovenia, but also one of the most complete and well-preserved structures found at any late Antiquity fortifications. After its initial discovery and further excavations around the turn of the 20th century, many of the site's finer artefacts were taken to several different museums, and it was left largely untouched until conservation efforts were undertaken during the 1970s and 1980s, after which time the site was declared an archaeological park. Today the open air ruins are accessible via a recently built and well-maintained footpath (there are even benches along the steep 10 minute walk for those of us who are not in peak physical condition), and have information posted in both Slovene and English. Ajdovski Gradec is also one of several sites in Sevnica where visitors can take advantage of a virtual guided tour by calling a special number on their mobile phones - the service itself is free, but the minutes will be charged as a normal phone call. Old-fashioned guided tours are also available if arranged in advanced. To get there, follow the main road from Sevnica east along the railroad tracks and turn left in the direction of Lončarjev Dol, from there the road is signposted for both the village of Vranje and Ajdovski Gradec. ▶ Admission free.

Lisca If the heart of Sevnica is its castle, then Lisca is its soul. Rising some 950m to the north of Sevnica, Lisca is one of the tallest points in the Posavje region, and renowned throughout Slovenia as a hiker's and cyclist's paradise. Luckily for less sporty travellers, these days there's also a sealed road all the way to the top. No matter how you reach the summit, you will be rewarded with sweeping views that reach all the way to Mt Triglav on clear days, and an excellent traditional restaurant at the mountain lodge, which serves up large portions to famished travellers. Rooms are also available on the first and second floors, if you don't think you can manage the return trip or would just like to appreciate the views a little longer. The lodge is surrounded by a rolling alpine meadow, which is a popular picnic spot during warmer months, as there is also a children's play area and small sports field. Of course the most peculiar sight around is the retro-futuristic metal tower topped with a large sphere that sits near the hill's highest point, but don't worry, it's just the regional weather station.

Vineyards & Wine Cellars

Sevnica is the beginning (or ending depending how you look at) point for the Bizejsko-Sremiška wine route, which winds it's way through the Posavje hills north of the Sava all the way to the Croatian border. There are several official (and lots of unofficial) vineyards, tourist farms and the like around the area north of Sevnica in the area around the ruins at Vranje east to Podvrh and beyond, and even more hidden amongst the rolling hills and villages south of the Sava river, especially concentrated in and around Tržišče.

Vinska Klet Mastnak Orešje 10, tel. (+386) 41 690 136/(+386) 31 673 502, zdravko.mastnak@siol.net, www.vinamastnak.com. Situated near the village of Orešje some 4km north of Sevnica, the Mastnak winery is an old family business that moved to its current modern premises in 2006. The sprawling 1400m² central building may only be a few years old, but it's built in a traditional farmhouse style, with large open spaces and a gorgeous old-fashioned open fire place in the centre of the main dining hall. While the place was obviously set up with larger groups in mind, the friendly staff will gladly cater to independent travellers, including guided tours of the wine cellar and bottling facilities to go along with the requisite wine tastings. Throughout Slovenia the name Mastnak is synonymous with sparkling wines, and you can taste up to six different varieties - including our favourite, the award-winning Valentina, a modri pinot rosé that is simply delectable. ▶ Open Mon-Thur 08:00-16:00 and by prior arrangement.

Vinogradništvo Pungerčar Malkovec 4, tel. (+386) 7 81 80 141/(+386) 41 812 555.

Vinska Klet Celestina Zgornje Vodale 13, tel. (+386) 7 81 80 368/(+386) 31 770 068.

Vinska Klet Jakše Studenec 48, tel. (+386) 31 847 178.

Vinska Klet Kozinc Dolnje Impolje 5, tel. (+386) 41 876 047, davidkozinc@gmail.com, www.vina-kozinc.com.

Vinska Klet Stušek Tržišče 15, tel. (+386) 7 81 80 466/(+386) 41 333 048.



Clusius' Gentian or blue trumpet flower at St Lawrence

Meadow of trumpet gentians Okroglice. In addition to being home to several of Sevnica's more established tourist farms, the undulating mountainside village of Okroglice is also the site of one the region's most colourful natural attractions: the meadow of trumpet gentians. The bright blue alpine flower - which is also known as Clusius' gentian after Flemish botanist Charles de l'Écluse - literally lights up the countryside when it blossoms from late April to early May each year. As several other rare mountain flowers also grow here, including the Thora buttercup and Carniolan lily, the meadow is a protected natural monument, so walking in it is strictly prohibited while the flowers are in bloom. However, the views from the surrounding area, including the summit of Lisca mountain and the nearby village of Razbor, are nothing short of spectacular, and the 16th century Church of St Lawrence, which is set at the edge of the meadow, helps to make the scene all the more picturesque.

Razbor www.razbor.si. In a country that is as blessed as Slovenia when it comes to having an abundance of picture-perfect hilltop villages, there are many that claim to be the best or most beautiful, but Razbor actually has the official documentation to back it up. More specifically, Razbor was awarded the title of Slovenia's most beautiful highland village in 2008, and when you visit it's easy to see why. Located beneath Lisca mountain, the village sits at nearly 500m on top of a terraced ridge that not only provides constant sunshine, but also breathtaking views of the surrounding lands: to the north the foothills of Lisca and the Church of St Lawrence, and to the south the Sava river valley. While the main sight is the village itself, the imposing Church of St John the Baptist and the local cemetery are also worth visiting, with the latter having such perfect views that people from all over the country request to be buried there (with limited success). And then there's the people. While we can't actually recommend doing so, Razbor's 43 residents are so hospitable that knocking on any door will just about guarantee you a warm welcome, as well as the requisite plate of homemade cheese and salami and bottomless glass of wine that goes with it.

Sports & Recreation

Fishing

Sevnica Angling Club Tel. (+386) 41 211 879. Thanks to several nearby hydroelectric power plants, and the lake-like reservoirs that their dams have created on the Sava river, Sevnica is home to some prime fishing grounds. The most common species include brown and rainbow trout, carp, pike and perch. In addition to the Sava it is also possible to fish in the idyllic Mirna river, which begins in Mokronog and enters the Sava just opposite the centre of Sevnica, as well as various smaller streams, lakes and fish ponds. Contact the Sevnica Angling Club for more info about locations and permits.

Paragliding

Not far from the restaurant and mountain huts at the summit of Lisca, there is a popular paragliding (and hang gliding) launch pad that attracts adrenaline seekers from all over Slovenia. With frequent thermal winds and gorgeous views over the hills towards the the Sava river valley and beyond, it's easy to why. If you're one of the lucky few who have your own paragliding gear, or would like to arrange a tandem flight with a local club, contact either Sevnica TIC or the Institute for Cultural, Sport, Tourism and Youth Activities for more info.

Salamijada

Originating from a friendly disagreement between local farmers over who produced the superior salami, Sevnica's annual salami contest has officially been held since 1962 and is widely regarded as the most prestigious of all the regional competitions that take place throughout Slovenia each year. Held just off the old town's main square in the historic Gostilna Vrtovšek, the event seems to get bigger every year and now attracts some 150 entrants from all over the Posavje region and beyond. More than just a simple contest of cured meats, Salamijada is a town-wide festival with a full slate of music, cultural and other events, and should definitely not be missed if you're visiting Posavje while it's taking place - especially on its 50th anniversary in 2012!



Tourist Farms

Kmetija Hrovat Preska 5, tel. (+386) 41 385 760/(+386) 7 81 42 914, t.hrovat@siol.net, www.darilo-narave.com. This friendly family-run farm in the the village of Preska isn't the easiest place to find, but it's well worth the effort, both to catch a glimpse of the family's monstrous but easy going Newfoundland dog, and to try some truly unique wines and liqueurs in a beautiful setting. While the standard cvček and modra frankinja are also available, the speciality here is fruit and herbal wines, namely pear, plum, apple and rosemary, as well as a mix of apple and honey called Rajski cvet. The homemade schnapps are excellent too and conveniently come in neat little gift packaging. Although they generally cater to groups of ten or more with advanced notice, smaller groups and individuals are welcome to drop by on Wednesdays. ▶ Open Wednesdays 09:00-18:00 and by prior arrangement.

Azaleja (Turistična Kmetija Krajnc-Pavlič) Okroglice 56, tel. (+386) 3 56 84 387/(+386) 41 62 56 93, azaleja@amis.net, www.azaleja.si.

Gostišče Močivnik Okroglice 33, tel. (+386) 3 568 41 23/(+386) 41 849 231, vidko.mocivnik@gmail.com, www.mocivnik.si.

Kmetija Gnidica Lončarjev dol 40, tel. (+386) 31 618 729, www.kmetijagnidica.si.

Turistična Kmetija Grobelnik Podvrh 39, tel. (+386) 7 81 88 176/(+386) 41 335 257, info@grobelnik.si, www.grobelnik.si.

Turistična kmetija Roštohar Selce 10, tel. (+386) 7 81 65 055/(+386) 41 558 720, rojze@siol.net.



Swimming Pools

Bazen Sevnica Prvomajska 15, tel. (+386) 41 516 344/(+386) 51 680 284. Located in the centre of the new town, this Olympic-sized outdoor swimming pool is open throughout the summer. Aside from the pool, there's also a children's play area, grass volleyball court and table tennis. Season passes and family tickets are available. ▶ Open from early June to late August every day from 08:00-19:30 (closes at 19:00 in August).

Sevnica Castle



The Four Seasons fresco

While Slovenia may very well have more castles per capita than any other country in the world, few if any can match Sevnica's when it comes to the sheer number of things to see and do within its walls. First recorded in the land register in 1309 as Castellum Liechtenwald, it is set high above Sevnica's old town on a hill that was the site of an earlier castle dating back to the 11th century. While the castle officially spent its first half millennium under the ownership of the Salzburg archbishopric, during this time it had many distinguished tenants, including Baron Boltežar Lamberg, who is known for inviting in 600 peasant rebels during the Croatian-Slovenia peasant uprising of 1573, and the powerful Moscon family, who were responsible for renovating the castle at the end of the 16th century in a late Renaissance style that has persisted until the present day. The Salzburg archbishopric finally sold the castle in 1803, and thereafter it changed hands quite frequently until being nationalised at the end of the Second World War. Unfortunately the castle fell into disrepair in the years that followed, but has recently been returned to its former Baroque glory after extensive renovation and restoration works.

Baroque Salon Occupying two rooms in the castle's northwest tower, the Baroque salon has been completely restored to it all of its 18th glory - replete with period piece furniture that is literally fit for a king (or queen), as well as smaller furnishings such as mirrors, vases and glassware, and even a couple of elegant chandeliers. While exhibits like this can be seen in countless other castles and palaces around Europe, this one comes with a novel twist: every item has been provided by local Slovene companies, and is available for purchase - there's even a glossy catalogue for interested visitors to take with them.

Castle Café Open every day, this modern café on the ground floor opposite the information centre and gift shop is a new addition to the castle and reason enough for a visit. The terraces on either side of the castle's main entrance easily offer the best views of

any café in town, if not the entire region, and are a popular place to grab an early drink at the weekends during summer. ▶ Open Mon-Thur 15:00-20:00, Fri 15:00-22:00; Sat 10:00-22:00 and Sun & holidays 10:00-20:00.

Castle Puppet Theatre When Snježana Pungerčič moved to Sevnica after years of working at the acclaimed City Hall Puppet Theatre in Rijeka, Croatia, she was troubled to find that the Posavje region was sorely lacking in puppet-related children's entertainment and decided that something must be done about it. Through this bit of happy coincidence the Castle Puppet Theatre was founded in 2010, with puppets and equipment that would be the envy of most other small town theatres. In addition to hosting school groups throughout the year, free children's workshops are held every Friday evening from mid-June to the end of August, and there are also occasional performances in the castle's courtyard. Even for those without children, the impressive collection of puppets (some of which are life-sized) are worth taking a look at on regular castle tours.

Castle Wine Cellar www.grajska-vinoteka.com. The castle's wine cellar is so well-presented that even abstinent visitors may want to have a look for purely aesthetic reasons. Dozens of mostly local wines are displayed in a circular room on the ground floor of the northeast tower, many of which can only be purchased here or from the producers themselves. Wine tastings cost anywhere from €5 to €25, depending on the number and type of wines and the accompanying degustation menu. Since 2007 the castle has also operated its own small vineyard, consisting of some 500 vines located on the terraced southwest slopes of the hill. Each year a different local producer is awarded the privilege of producing a limited edition wine from the grapes, which is then bottled under the castle's own label and available exclusively at the wine cellar.



The castle wine cellar

Sevnica Castle



Puppet Museum

Firefighter's Collection In support of the old adage that every cloud have a silver lining, while Sevnica was devastated by several large fires in the 18th and 19th centuries, it was also one of the first communities in Slovenia to field an organised fire brigade, and today the castle is home to a collection dedicated to the history of firefighting in Slovenia. While this may seem a rather mundane topic on paper, the collection is actually quite fascinating, with some interesting looking equipment - including a mobile water pump from 1881 and a more recent flame retardant suit that looks like a prop from a 1950s space invaders film - as well as lots of old photographs, flags and other memorabilia.

Guided Tours and Info Cesta na Grad 17, tel. (+386) 7 81 65 440 / (+386) 51 680 289, gsevnica@gmail.com, www.grad-sevnica.com. The many exhibits housed within the castle, as well as the building itself, can only be seen as part of a guided tour. However, the tours can be tailored to suit individual visitors' or groups' needs, with prices adjusted accordingly. A standard tour covers all of the main sights and last around an hour, while a special interactive children's tour, where costumed actors recount what it was like living in the castle during the 16th century, can also be arranged for groups with advanced notice, as can various other children's activities, including medieval games, picnics and workshops. The castle is also a popular venue for weddings - especially during the spring and summer when the ceremony can be held outside in the castle park - and there are also facilities suitable for conferences, meetings and other events. ▶ Open Mon-Thur by prior arrangement, Fri 15:00-18:00, Sat-Sun & holidays 13:00-18:00 (May-Oct) / 12:00-15:00 (Nov-Apr). Admission €2-6 depending age, size of group and type of tour. Art galleries free of charge.

Lutheran Cellar Cesta na Grad 17. Located on a partially manmade terrace protruding from the eastern edges of castle hill, surprisingly little is known about the origins of the so-called Lutheran Cellar, as records of its construction were either not documented at the time or have not survived to the present day. However, judging from its architectural style it is known that the building

dates from the middle of the 16th century, and served as a Lutheran chapel for the then newly emerging Protestant religion - which in itself is quite a coup given that the castle grounds were owned by the Archdiocese of Salzburg at the time. This leads historians to believe that the cellar was secretly built on the orders of Baron Janez Khisl, who was the tenant at the time and known as fierce proponent of Lutheranism. While the exterior resembles an ordinary farm building, the large vaulted interior is decorated with some of the most impressive Renaissance frescoes in Slovenia, which were likely executed by an unknown artist at the beginning of the 17th century. In later years the cellar was later used as a tomb for some of Sevnica's lords and noblemen. Nowadays the building hosts various concerts and other cultural events, but due to ongoing conservation and restoration work on its murals, it will unfortunately be closed to the public until mid- to late-2012.

Rudi Stopar Gallery Opened in February 2011, this permanent exhibition of the works of prolific local artist Rudi Stopar is the newest addition to the castle's collection. Born in 1939 across the river in Boštjan, Stopar has had some 80 solo and 160 group exhibitions around the world, and is active in many different mediums, including painting, graphics and, perhaps most notably, sculpture. He is also an accomplished journalist and poet, and his award-winning works of haiku are well-known in Japan. Located just outside the gallery, a display case presents a frequently rotating exhibition of works by some of Stopar's friends.

School Museum Following the reformation of the Hapsburg education system by Empress Maria Theresa in 1775, it became mandatory for all children between the ages of six and twelve to attend school, which led to the establishment of Sevnica's first primary school in 1782. In another of the castle's unique exhibitions, visitors can see objects detailing the history of schooling in the region, including a fully recreated classroom from the late 19th century. Slovenes may be surprised to learn that their great-great-grandparents were equally keen on vandalising school desks as their children are today!



Rudi Stopar Gallery

Symbol key

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Casino	Conference facilities
Child friendly	Facilities for the disabled
Fitness centre	Guarded parking
Internet	Non-smoking rooms
Restaurant	Old town location
Sauna	Swimming pool
Outside seating	Wi-Fi



A splendid view of the vineyards and farmlands to the west of Bistrica, with the churches of Svete Gore visible in the distance

Nestled amongst the pre-alpine wooded hills of the Orlica mountains, the picture-perfect town of Bistrica ob Sotli may be one of Posavje's lesser known destinations, but those who venture to this hidden corner of Slovenia will be duly rewarded for their efforts. Located entirely within Kozjanski Regional Park - a protected Natura 2000 site - the area's principal attraction is its natural beauty and unspoiled land, making it a great destination for hikers and nature enthusiasts - especially ones who prefer sharing the trail with various flora and fauna rather than other people.

The sacred mountain of Svete Gore is one of Slovenia's oldest places of pilgrimage, and lies only a few kilometres from the town centre. At the top is a cluster of ancient churches and some breathtaking views of the valley below, which includes Kumrovec, the birthplace of Josip Broz Tito, just across the Croatian border. If you haven't brought your passport, Bistrica includes its fair share of Tito-related sites, such as the primary school he once attended (and later named for his mother) and the house of his favourite aunt.

Where to stay

Gals Krkac Kunšperk 19, tel. (+386) 3 809 41 21/ (+386) 31 787 621, gals.krkac@gmail.com. We're not exaggerating when we say that if you love sport shooting (or the just the sound of other people sport shooting) then this might be the most perfect accommodation option in all of Slovenia for you. Located in the river Sotla valley below Bistrica, at the edge of the fields leading to the Croatian border and just metres from the region's only shooting range, the four tidy rooms here are just about the only option when it comes to sleeping near the town. Aside from the shooting range, the owners also rent four-wheelers and can arrange picnics and BBQs on request. ▶ Open Tues-Sun 09:00-21:00 and Mon by prior arrangement. 4 rooms (singles €25, doubles €50). Breakfast is an additional €3 per person, half- and full-board are also offered.

Turistična Kmetija Klet Trebče Trebče 82a, tel. (+386) 3 580 40 65/(+386) 31 282 600, klet.trebce@siol.net. This family-run tourist farm is another place you'll want a good GPS device to find, but once you're there it's worth the effort, as the views over the vineyards back towards Bistrica and the Croatian border can be magical at sunset. There are currently three apartments available for guest, but they were in the process of adding additional rooms last time we were there. As with most accommodation of this type in Slovenia, all rooms come with keys to the wine cellar (meaning all you can drink), and staying without choosing at least half-board almost defeats the purpose. ▶ 3 apartments with a total of 8 beds - prices depend on length of stay and board options.

Where to eat

Gostilna Šempeter Bistrica ob Sotli 9, tel. (+386) 3 580 42 22/(+386) 599 43 577, sreco@sem5er.com, www.sem5er.com. Named for the town's main church that's just a few metres down the road, this long-running gostilna is not only the best restaurant around, it's also Bistrica's most popular café and central meeting place. The traditional Slovene cuisine is made according to old family recipes and the house speciality is kopun (or capon in English), which of course is a castrated rooster - don't ask us why this makes it taste better, it just does! The large outdoor terrace in the back is often packed with tour groups and police from the nearby border crossings, and at the weekends you'll definitely want to make a reservation. Despite the large portions, don't even think of leaving without trying the štrukelj with modra frankinja sauce for dessert. ▶ Open Mon-Wed 07:00-22:00, Thur 07:00-13:00 and Fri-Sun 07:00-23:00. (€5-12).

Tourist Information

Bistrica ob Sotli Municipality Bistrica ob Sotli 17, tel. (+386) 3 800 1500, obcina@bistricaob-sotli.si, www.bistricaob-sotli.si. Visitors can pick up brochures, a detailed map of the area and various catalogues (including sites throughout Posavje and beyond) at the Bistrica ob Sotli municipal building, a newly renovated bright yellow building just around the corner from the main square. ▶ Open Mon, Tues and Thur 07:00-15:00, Wed 07:00-16:00, and Fri 07:00-14:00.

Bistrica ob Sotli Tourist Association tur.drust-vobos@gmail.com, www.td.bistricaob-sotli.si.



The cluster of churches atop Svete Gore is one of Slovenia's most important pilgrimage sites

Nightlife

Klub Metulj (Mladinski Center Bistrica ob Sotli) Bistrica ob Sotli 31, tel. (+386) 51 671 291/(+386) 31 631 138, klubmetulj@gmail.com, www.klub-metulj.org. Located in the basement of the Bistrica's cultural centre (the entrance is down the alleyway to the right), the town's youth centre organises various activities including regular Friday and Saturday night parties. While it's definitely youth oriented and alternative, everyone is welcome and from what we've seen everyone has fun. From time to time they manage to book bands between other gigs in larger venues - we saw jazz band from New York perform earlier this year - and the guy who runs the place, Andrej, is one of the more interesting people (in a good way) that we know in Slovenia, so if you're anywhere around Bistrica consider getting in touch with him. They can also arrange ad hoc accommodation for those who don't mind roughing it. ▶ Open Mon-Thur 09:00-13:00, Fri-Sat 18:00-23:45, and Sun 11:00-13:30.

What to see

Churches

St Peter's Church Bistrica ob Sotli 7, tel. (+386) 3 809 40 42/(+386) 31 278 180, damjan.kejzar@rkc.si. Dating back to the mid-13th century, the church is both the literal and figurative centre of Bistrica, which only began to develop as a market town after the church's construction. Over the centuries the building itself has gone through several major renovations, with the oldest remaining part being the pre-Roman nave (although this was expanded during the 14th or 15th century), while the exterior is in the neo-Gothic style dating from the late 19th century. In 1452, the presbytery was covered in frescoes by an unknown master. Once forgotten they were rediscovered and resorted in the 1970s. The church is often unlocked, but it always better to arrange visits in advance.

Around Bistrica

Bistrica Gorge Part of the protected Kozjanski Park - a Natura 2000 site that actually includes all of Bistrica ob Sotli within its 200 square kilometres - the 3km gorge runs only from Zagalj to Trebče, but is one of the best preserve and most

picturesque river gorges in eastern Slovenia. Upon entering the gorge from the main road you'll find several overgrown houses to the right and a larger industrial looking structure to the left, which we were told was once intended to be some kind of hydro-electric dam on the tiny Bistrica river, however don't be discouraged from continuing as once you round the corner you will be completely immersed in nature. While the road is technically open to cars, it's a much more pleasant stroll than driver, giving you time to take in the views up towards Sveti Gore, and notice details along the path such as the swimming hole not far from the entrance, the various hunters' lookout towers along the way and small wooden bridge which lets you cross the river to find some completely ruined stone houses at the foot of the hill, which is apparently a quite popular location for amorous local couples to come (as are the hunters' towers!).

Svete Gore

Svete Gore Tel. (+386) 3 809 40 42/(+386) 31 278 180, svetegore.slomsek.net. If any single site was Bistrica ob Sotli's raison d'être it would undoubtedly be Svete Gore, or Holy Mountain. Located a few kilometres to the south of town, while the mountain is actually little more than a hill (with its highest point only reaching 527m), its altitude is of secondary importance considering that the area has been inhabited for over two millennium and is one of Slovenia's most sacred pilgrimage sites.

First settled during the Roman era, today the site has a large church and four separate chapels occupying a fairly small area at the top. The holy place is first mentioned in the historical record during the middle of the 13th century, at which time the pre-Romanesque chapels of St Martin and St George were already present - making them two of the oldest continually preserved churches in Slovenia. The chapel of St Sebastian and St Fabian was built during the 15th century, while the chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes, situated at the hill's highest point, was completed in 1518, and the larger Baroque Church of St Mary was consecrated in 1611. Svete Gore's importance as a pilgrimage site continued to grow until the end of the 18th century, when religious reforms imposed by Emperor Josef II greatly curtailed the practice. However, the site again rose to prominence beginning some 100 years later when two local priests moved in and reopened the sacred buildings after undertaking the necessary repairs and renovations.

Nowadays Sunday mass is held at the Church of St Mary from 1 May till November, and especially large gatherings are held on 15 August (Assumption Day), around 8 September (Mary's birthday), 1 November and St Martin's Sunday. When you visit don't miss the famous Orans carving to the right St George's chapel's door. There is still some disagreement amongst historians and theologians as to what it represents, with Jesus, John the Baptist and an older pagan god the most likely candidates.

Svete Gore is part of the European Transromanica project, which connects and preserves important Roman monuments along a common route through much of central Europe. To get to the top you can either take the easy way, ie by car (take the signposted street on the left about 1km before you reaching Bistrica from the direction of Bizeljsko), or the right way, ie hiking 45 minutes or so from the centre of the town.



Take a walk through the unspoiled nature of Bistrica Gorge

place for his partisan fighters in the lead up to World War Two. Today the quaint thatched-roofed home looks more or less exactly as it did when it was originally built some 200 years ago. Inside there is an information desk for Kozjansko park and a small shop selling locally produced crafts and other souvenirs, and visitors can also watch a short video about the life of Tito. The house is situated next to a pond near the main road, and the postcard-worthy setting is perfect for an afternoon picnic. ▶ Open by special arrangement through the Kozjanski Park office in Podsreda.

Kunšperk Castle The ruins of Kunšperk Castle sit ominously on a rocky outcrop above the small village of the same name a few kilometres east of Bistrica. Dating back to the 12th century, the castle was originally owned by the Lords of Kunšperk, who were distant relatives of the much more widely known Lords of Ptuj, and was of some historical significance as both a defensive outpost against the Turks as well as the more mundane - but no less important - task of tax collection for nearly half a millennium. However, with the construction of the Brežice-Podčetrtek road at the end of the 16th century, Kunšperk lost its market town rights, and the castle fell into disrepair. While today it is little more than overgrown ruins, the 45 minute hike along a marked path from the village is pleasant and the views of the valley from the top are excellent.

Sports & Recreation

SK Kunšperk Kunšperk 19, tel. (+386) 31 787 621, info@ssc-kunšperk.com, www.ssc-kunšperk.com. No matter whether you are an expert marksman with your own equipment, or you are a novice who has never fired a gun before, you're more than welcome to try your skill at the Kunšperk gun club. And even if you don't go anywhere near the place, you're likely to hear the echo of shotguns throughout the valley at the weekends. The modern facilities have electronically released clay pigeons and a half dozen available shooting positions. A one-hour mini-course is €35 with all equipment (no license required), or if you already know what you're doing you can pay €25 for up to three hours, or €70 for the whole day.



Visit the former home of Tito's favourite aunt, Ana Kolar, in Trebče



Photo by Matej Jordan

Symbol key

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Casino	Conference facilities
Child friendly	Facilities for the disabled
Fitness centre	Guarded parking
Internet	Non-smoking rooms
Restaurant	Old town location
Sauna	Swimming pool
Outside seating	Wi-Fi

Kostanjevica, or Kostanjevica na Krki as it is formally known, is the only town in Slovenia to be completely surrounded by water, and is one of the oldest settlements in the country. Situated on man-made island in the middle of the Krka river, aerial shots of the picture perfect town can be found on postcards throughout Slovenia. Only 500m long and 200m wide, it is virtually impossible to get lost here as there are only two roads which run in parallel down the island and form a loop at either end, before leading across wooden bridges to the mainland. While the old town itself can be thought of as one large open-air tourist site, most of the area's main attractions are located to the north and south of the island, including the mysterious Krakov Forest, the still largely unexplored Kostanjevica Cave, and the unequalled art complex known as the Božidar Jakac gallery, located within the former Kostanjevica monastery. This is also the heart of wine country, and the surrounding foothills the Gorjanci mountains are dotted with vineyards and tourist farms.

Where to eat

Gostilna Žolnir Krška 4, tel. (+386) 7 498 71 33, fax (+386) 7 498 73 59, sevsek.simona@siol.net, www.zolnir-sp.si. Kostanjevica's most known restaurant and only centrally located guest house lies just to the north of town on the main road to Brežice. Run by the Sevšek family, the inn takes its name from an old story called Kloštrski Žolnir (or Cloistral Mercenary) which tells how Josef Ressel, the former forest warden of Krakov Forest and famed inventor of the steam powered ship propeller, fell in love with a local girl during his time in Kostanjevica at the beginning of the 19th century. Legends aside, the place does cook up some tasty traditional Slovene and international cuisine, and the twelve spotlessly kept rooms are homey relaxing place to spend a night or two while you explore all that Kostanjevica has to offer. Fittingly, the inn is also the starting point for the 8km hiking path through the adjacent Krakov Forest known as Ressel's Trail. ▶ 12 rooms (singles €30, doubles €48, triples €60). Breakfast included. Half-board €8 and full-board €16 per person.

Kmečki Hram Oražnova 11, tel. (+386) 7 498 70 78, info@gkh.si, www.gkh.si. Located almost exactly in the middle of Kostanjevica between the river the main road, you'll be hard-pressed to find a more atmospheric place to dine anywhere in the region than Kmečki Hram. The interior is set up like a traditional farmhouse, with lots of wood beams overhead and large ceramic tiles on the ground, there are even a couple of huge old-fashioned wine presses just for good measure. Of course the food is as traditional and excellent as you would expect - especially during the summer months when the selection off the outdoor grill can't be beat - and there are over 250 wines to choose from as well. ▶ Open Mon-Thur 09:00-22:00, Fri 09:00-24:00, Sat 09:00-01:00 and Sun 07:30-21:00.

Tourist Information

Hot Air Balloon Flights Oražnova 12, tel. (+386) 7 498 73 62/(+386) 40 883 007, marjan.jerele@siol.net, www.balonarstvo.net.

TIC - Božidar Jakac Gallery Grajska 45, tel. (+386) 7 498 81 50. Kostanjevica's only tourist office is well-removed from the actual town centre, but as it's located at the entrance of town's main sight and cultural centre - the Božidar Jakac Gallery - it's still a convenient stop for most visitors. While most of the info available is about the gallery itself, including catalogues of present and past exhibitions, there's also the odd brochure or flyer of other regional sites. Outside of the summer season, the info point moves from the monastery's courtyard to the office to the left when you enter the main complex. ▶ Open April to October Tues-Sun 09:00-18:00, November - March 09:00-16:00. Closed Mondays, 1 Jan, 1 Nov and 25 Dec.



Kostanjevica Cave, photo by Matej Jordan

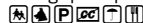
Museums & Galleries

Gorjup Gallery Gorjanska 2 (in Kostanjevica Primary School), tel. (+386) 7 498 81 40/(+386) 7 498 81 43, info@galerija-bj.si, www.galerija-bj.si. Now under the administration of the Božidar Jakac Gallery, this much smaller exhibition space was actually the first modern gallery in Kostanjevica when it was founded in 1956 on the premises of the town's primary school by the school's headmaster and major proponent of contemporary art, Lado Smežkar. The gallery was named in honour of Jože Gorjup, a local painter and sculptor who died at the age of only 25 in 1932. The permanent collection consists of some 1600 works, which are rotated for public view every few years, and are largely representative of Slovene artists from the early to mid 20th century. Most of the works, which include paintings, sculptures, drawings and graphics, were donated directly by the artists themselves. ▶ Open by prior arrangement with the Božidar Jakac Gallery.

Lamut Art Salon Oražnova 5, tel. (+386) 7 498 81 40/(+386) 41 791 263, info@galerija-bj.si, www.galerija-bj.si. Named for the Slovene graphic artist Vladimir Lamut (1915-1962), who lived and worked in Kostanjevica, the gallery is located in the southwest corner of town. Dating back to the 16th century, the building was originally a municipal palace, was later owned and expanded by the church, and finally returned to public ownership in 1793. Today it is part of the Božidar Jakac Gallery, and hosts temporary exhibitions of both established Slovene and international artists. ▶ Opening hours vary depending upon exhibitions. Visits can also be arranged in advance at the Božidar Jakac Gallery.

Wineries & Tourist Farms

Turistična Kmetija Colarič Jablance 17, tel. (+386) 7 498 75 04/(+386) 41 322 900, tk.colaric@volja.net. Located south of Kostanjevica at the foothills of the Gorjanci mountains, this family-run tourist farm is just the place for a relaxing day in the countryside. Although they usually cater to larger groups (up to 60 people), independent travellers and smaller groups are more than welcome to visit the 16 hectare estate with some advanced noticed. Aside from the requisite traditional Slovene lunch or dinner, featuring fresh baked goods from a woodfired oven and smoke meats, and visit to the family wine cellar, activities available include hiking, cycling and horseback riding in the surrounding countryside, and tours can also be arranged for nearby sites and activities, such as hunting, fishing and even hot air balloon rides. For those without their own transport they can also arrange pick up from most bus or train stations in the region.



Around Kostanjevica

Kostanjevica Cave (Kostanjeviška Jama) F-7, tel. (+386) 41 297 001, brane.cuk@gmail.com, www.kostanjeviska-jama.com. Located at the eastern fringes of the Dolenjska karst region, Kostanjevica's cave was only discovered in 1937 when a rapid increase of the subterranean water level fractured the carbonate rock and opened a natural entrance. So far some 2km of underground passageways have been explored and charted, and it is assumed there is still much more of the cave system to find. While only a portion of the known cave is open to tourists, the footpath and lighting system is well-maintained and should not pose much of a problem for either children or elderly people. Although not as large or impressive as its better known karst cousins further west in Postojna or Škocjan, it's also nowhere near as expensive to visit, and there is plenty to see on the roughly 45 minute tour. In addition to numerous stalactite formations and several underground lakes, the cave is home to various unique subterranean animal species including cave crickets and beetles, and the biggest colony of Mediterranean horseshoe bats. During the summer months the clearing surrounding the entrance to the cave is a popular picnic and outdoor sports area, so if you're visiting with a family think about bringing along some supplies and making a day of it. To reach the cave, just follow Gorjanska Cesta south from Kostanjevica for about 2km, the way is well-signposted. ▶ From 15 April to 30 June and Sept to October guided tours leave on Sat-Sun at 10:00,

12:00, 14:00, 16:00 and 18:00. In July and August tours leave daily at the same times. Closed from November to April except for larger groups who make arrangements in advance. Admission with guided tour €7 for adults, €5 for students and €4 for children. Discounts for groups over 20 people.

Krakov Forest (Krakovski gozd) F-6, Oražnova 3, tel. (+386) 7 498 70 22/(+386) 41 657 547. Occupying some 3000 hectares directly north of Kostanjevica, the Krakov forest is the largest lowland floodplain oak forest in Slovenia. Within the larger forest there is actually a secondary primeval forest which has been a protected area since 1952. Here visitors can find ancient oaks that are well over 300 years old and up to 40 metres high. The park is also an important sanctuary for numerous other plant and animal species, including 14 species of amphibians and many rare birds. One of the area's first caretakers was a Czech forest warden by the name of Josef Ressel. In addition to conducting land surveys and regulation works during the early 19th century, he is also credited with inventing the modern ship propeller, which he first tested in Kostanjevica before moving to Trieste in 1821. Today there is an 8km hiking trail through the forest that bears Ressel's name. Taking between two to three hours to walk, it runs from the Žolnir inn to the edge of the primeval forest in the heart of the park. A pamphlet with a detailed map of the route is available at the inn, and visitors can also arrange guided tour through the local office of the Slovenian Forest Service in Kostanjevica.

Božidar Jakac Gallery

Grajska 45, tel. (+386) 7 498 81 40/(+386) 41 791 263, info@galerija-bj.si, www.galerija-bj.si. Housed in what was formerly the Kostanjevica Monastery, Božidar Jakac is not only the largest gallery in Slovenia, it is also one of the most impressive exhibition spaces we have ever seen - in Slovenia or elsewhere. Founded in 1974, by this time Kostanjevica was already something of a regional centre for the arts and artists, with both the Gorjup Gallery and Lamut Arts Salon open since the late 1950s and the Forma Viva open air sculpture biennial then in its second decade - all of which are now administered under the umbrella organisation of the Jakac Gallery.

While it would be easy to assume that the monastery itself is the main attraction here, in fact the collections that are exhibited within more than live up to their grand surroundings. When arriving at the complex, undoubtedly the first thing you notice are the dozens of large scale wooden sculptures that not only fill the main grounds, but are also placed throughout the surrounding countryside and even in and around Kostanjevica. These are the products of the Forma Viva Biennial, which will celebrate its 50th year in 2011.

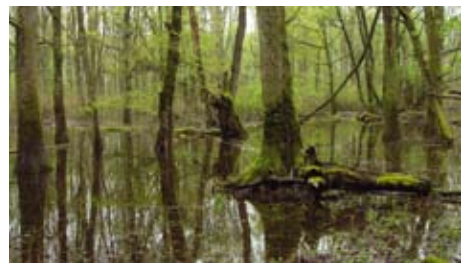
Inside the former monastery is divided into many separate galleries, many of which exhibit works of a single Slovene artist, and are largest collections of the individual artist's works anywhere. They include such notable names as the brothers Tone and France Kralj, France Gorše, Zoran Didek, Janez Boljka, Jože Gorjup, Bogdan Borčić and of course Božidar Jakac, who is represented by some 2500 expressionist drawings. The permanent exhibition also includes the Pleterje Collection, which was permanently loaned to the gallery by the nearby Pleterje monastery in 1977, and features many works from 17th and 18th century masters from central Europe.

Equally impressive is the now de-consecrated monastery church, which was originally built in the 13th century as a triple nave basilica and now serves as a venue for frequent temporary exhibitions - most of which are created specifically to take advantage of the church's unique space and lighting. One more noteworthy attraction on the premises is the monastery's wine cellar. Not only is it the most appropriate place to end (or begin) a visit to the gallery, but it is also of great historical importance as the Kostanjevica Wine Cooperative was founded here in 1928 and it is widely considered the birthplace of Cviček.

▶ Open April to October Tues-Sun 09:00-18:00, November - March 09:00-16:00. Closed Mondays, 1 Jan, 1 Nov and 25 Dec. Admission to gallery €3 for adults, €1.50 for children/students and €5 for families. Admission to temporary exhibitions €2.


















Part of the comprehensive exhibition of Slovene sculptor Janez Boljka at the Božidar Jakac Gallery



Krakov Forest Slovenia

Symbol key

 Air conditioning	 Credit cards accepted
 Casino	 Conference facilities
 Child friendly	 Facilities for the disabled
 Fitness centre	 Guarded parking
 Internet	 Non-smoking rooms
 Restaurant	 Old town location
 Sauna	 Swimming pool
 Outside seating	 Wi-Fi



Located at Posavje's western edge, where the Sava river flows out of the rugged valley of the Zasavska region and slows to a leisurely pace as it nears the vast Pannonian plain, more than any other town in Posavje the history, culture and relative influence of Radeče has been inextricably tied to the Sava river seemingly forever. The area has been a place of human settlement for millennia, and was already an important trading point during Roman times. The settlement was still of strategic importance when it was granted market town rights in 1338, and benefited greatly from the tolls collected from trade on the Sava river all the up until World War II.

Today the town has a bit of a sleepy provincial feel to it - due at least in part to the prevalence of the meandering river on whose banks it's situated - but has plenty of historical, cultural and natural sights to make for an eventful day trip from Ljubljana or a relaxing stop on the way to see the rest of Posavje.

Where to eat

Bistro Križišče Obrežje 5, tel. +386 3 568 76 60/+386 3 568 76 61. ▶ Open Mon-Fri 05:00-23:00, Sat-Sun 07:00-23:00.

Gostilna Strnad Hotemež 6, tel. (+386) 3 568 73 40/ (+386) 41 674 996, www.gostilna-strnad.si. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00.

Gostišče Jež Jagnjenica 12, tel. (+386) 3 568 52 40/ (+386) 41 622 384. ▶ Open Tues-Fri 06:00-23:00, Sat-Sun 06:00-24:00. Closed Mondays.

Natural Attractions

Gašper's Chestnut Tree (Gašperjev kostanj)

Močilno 26, tel. (+386) 3 568 55 34. The largest chestnut tree, and second largest tree of any kind, in Slovenia can be found on the farm of Gašper Kišek, a few kilometres west of Radeče near the village of Jagnjenica. At its base it has a staggering circumference of nearly 11m, while its four separate trunks measure between 3.71m and 5.67m each. Like Radeče's other famous tree - Jerač's Spruce - this one is also protected as a natural monument, and open to visitors. The friendly Kišek family has also set up a few picnic table around the mighty chestnut tree, and will more likely than not offer you some home-made Slovene schnapps as well as various chestnut-based specialities if you visit.

Jerač's Spruce Tree (Jeračeva stebrasta smreka)

Svibno, tel. (+386) 3 568 84 85. Sometimes referred to as 'the mutant tree', this peculiar spruce is actually a legally protected natural monument. Standing 23m high with a nearly uniform circumference of one metre from its top to bottom, the tree more closely resembles a Mediterranean cypress - or even an Egyptian obelisk - than a classic spruce. Its bizarre appearance is believed to be the result of a mutation, making it a one of kind specimen and a tourist attraction. Located in the hills south of Svibno to the west Počakovo village, the tree is a bit tricky to find so it's probably a good idea to get directions at either the KTRC in Radeče or the Svibno tourist association.

Old Town

Church of St Peter Starograjska 14. Dedicated to St Peter, Radeče's parish church is part of the Ljubljana diocese and the most dominate building in the old town. While its origins date back to the late Romanesque period of the 13th century, construction of the church in its present neo-Baroque form was only completed in 1911. However, some of the furnishings, including the altar and several statues, were taken from the church's previous Baroque and gothic reincarnations.

Tourist Information

KTRC Radeče Milana Majcna 1, tel. (+386) 3 568 79 41/ (+386) 51 312 558, info@ktrc.si, www.ktrc-radece.si. Radeče's tourist information centre is easy to find in a large pink building right in the heart of the town. More than just a tourist office, the KTRC is the town's umbrella organisation responsible for culture, tourism and recreational activities, so in addition to providing visitors with information about sights, accommodation, restaurants, events and activities, they also actively promote the development of tourism in the region at both the local and national level. They should be your first stop if you've never been to the area before, and they can also arrange day trips and guides tours with some advanced notice. ▶ Open Mon, Tues & Thur 07:00-15:00, Wed 07:00-17:00 and Fri 07:00-13:00. Closed Sat & Sun.

Tourist Association Ostrovharji Svibno Svibno 18a, tel. (+386) 31 226 378, td.svibno@gmail.com, www.svibno.si. The local tourist association in Svibno provides detailed information about the beautiful mountainous area surrounding the Sopota Valley. It is an especially good idea to talk to them if you intend to go hiking, cycling or horseback riding in the region, or would like additional info about a variety of thematic trails highlighting areas such as wine growing or ethnology.

NOB Memorial This monument was designed by the famous Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik, and is dedicated to the national resistance struggle during World War II. The memorial is composed of four cornerstones as a base for an obelisk with four bronze heads and engraved texts.

Old Iron Bridge Obrežje 75. When it was built in 1894, this steel bridge just north of Radeče was the largest of its kind in Slovenia and the third largest in all of the Austro-Hungarian empire. The construction took nearly a year, and was a joint effort between a local firm called Tršek, which built the supporting foundations, and Vienna's Ignatz Riedl Company, which provided the steel works. While the bridge is still structurally sound and can support up to 12 tonnes, today it mainly serves only pedestrians and cyclists, as a new modern (but far less photogenic) bridge was built about a kilometre downstream in the early 1990s. It is also hosts a traditional diving competition during the Rafting festival in June - with participants leaping into the Sava from the bridge's highest point of 17m.

Ruins of the Old Castle The ruins of Radeče Castle are located on a steep slope northwest of the main city square. The castle was first mentioned in 1336 when its ownership came into the hands of the Counts of Celje (Celjski grofje). Today there's not all that much to see, but visitors come here because of the lovely views of river Sava and the city.

Starograjska Ulica Named after the Old Castle above the city, the street used to be the main traffic artery through the city before the Old Iron Bridge was closed in the early 1990s. The lively street was full of shops and handicraft workshops, but nowadays it makes for a peaceful stroll and hidden architectural gems like Turn Manor House, which was originally built by the Višnjegorski (Weichselberg) family in 1575.

Svibno

Church of St Cross Svibno. Situated on a partially man-made terrace just below the once mighty Svibno Castle, while the church dates all the way back to the 12th century, its oldest remaining original feature is the 15th century gothic belfry, which is actually separated from the church itself and built into the surrounding wall. Today the church has become completely encircled by its cemetery, with some headstones dating back hundreds of years, and from its elevated perch there are lovely views of the cute little village below and the Sopota Valley beyond.

Svibno Castle Svibno, www.svibno.si. Located some six kilometres west of Radeče, the sleepy mountain village of Svibno may not look like much today, but from the 12th to 15th centuries it was the home of the powerful lords of Svibno, who were one of the oldest noble families in Carniola and grew wealthy controlling the trade route between Zagreb and Ljubljana. Built at the top of Ostri Vrh, a rocky hill that towers 643m over the village below, the castle was built during the 12th century on the site of an earlier fort. From the 15th century on the castle slowly lost its importance in the region - due mainly to the shift in trade from land to the Sava river further north, which deprived Svibno of tolls - and slowly fell into disrepair. In an illustration dating from 1689 by famed Slovene historian and polymath Janez Valvasor, the castle was already seen to be largely in ruins. Nowadays the ruins are little more than a few sections of remaining walls, but its position offers superb views of the valley below and the short 10 minute walk from the Church of St Cross leads past several chapels which are still the site of occasional religious processions.

Events

Rafting Days (Dnevi Splavarjenja) www.ktrc.si.

Back in the time when transporting goods on the Sava river was a major economic activity, Radeče was one of the river's main rafting ports, and the town has a strong rafting tradition dating back over five centuries. While rafting as a means of transportation ceased to exist following the Second World War, the tradition lives on as both a cultural heritage activity and an increasingly well-known tourist attraction. The best time of year to experience the true essence of Radeče's rafting history is during Rafting Days. Held annually in late June the festival celebrates the traditional culture of rafting with a rich programme of events over three days, and individual visitors can ride on specially designed rafts and participate in various activities. From the beginning of May till the end of October each year, groups of 30 or more can arrange rafting trips of two to four hours along several different routes.

Sports & Recreation

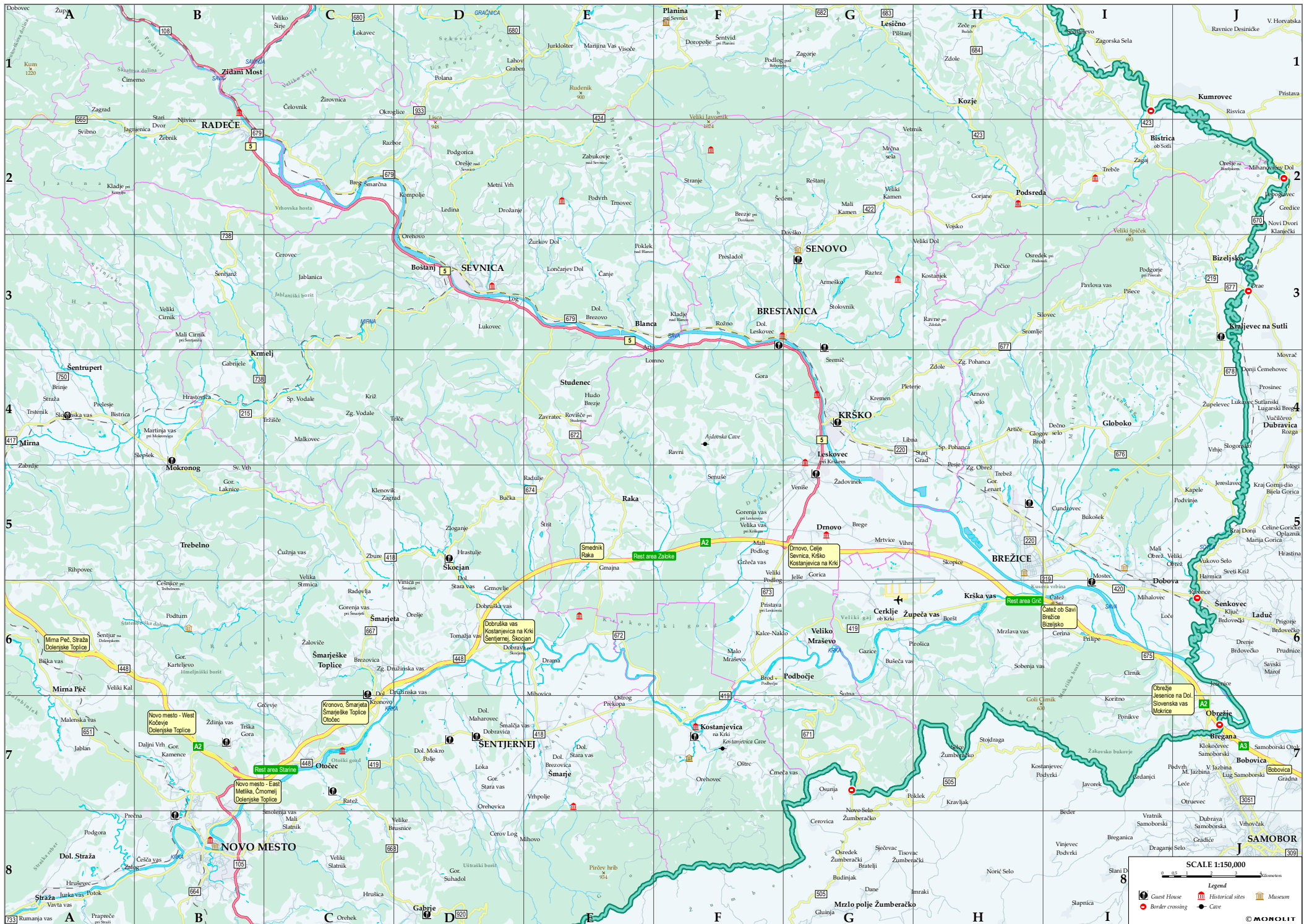
Fishing

Radeče Angling Club Hotemež 30, tel. (+386) 3 568 80 33, www.rbibiska-druzina-radece.si. If you intend to spend a relaxing day along the banks of the Sava river trying your luck at catching fish, make sure to visit the local angling club to purchase a permit first. Their premises are located near the bend in the river, a short drive through the fields east of Radeče. Permits cost between €12-18 depending on the type of fish you intend to catch.

Swimming Pools

Njivice Pool Njivice 33, tel. (+386) 3 568 11 11/ (+386) 3 568 79 41. While it's not quite Olympic-size, at 25 metres long and up to 3.4 metres deep it is more than big enough to entertain the kids for a few hours and perhaps even get a few laps in yourself. The facilities include a small separate pool for younger children and a snack bar with drinks, hot dogs, sandwiches and other assorted treats. The water heated, and the entire premises can be rented with some advanced notice.





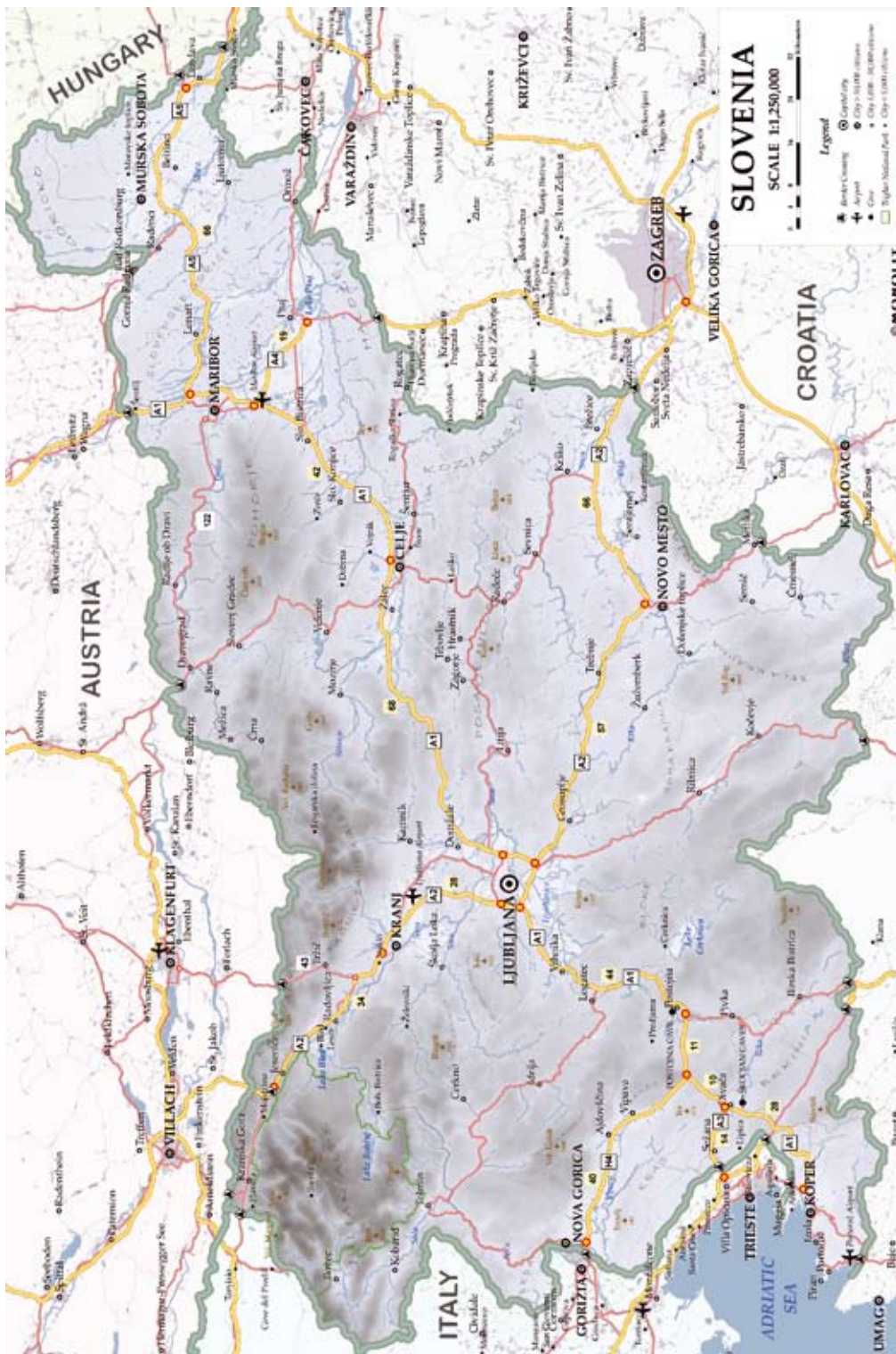
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Legend

- Guest House
- Historical sites
- Museum
- Border crossing
- Cave

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Ajdovec	34	Gostišče Jež	46	Old Pharmacy	18	Svibno Castle	47
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Baroque Salon	38	Gostišče Ribnik	26	Pavlin	21	The Basilica of Mary from Lourdes	32
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Bohor Mountains	30	Hot Air Balloon Flights	44	Pizzeria Fontana	26	Mother of God	28
Brestanica	6	Hribar	32	Pizzeria Italia	15	Mother of God	28
Brežice	6	IdealRent	6	Plahuta	32	Mother of God	28
Bubka Bar	16	Indian Village	13	Portos	26	Mother of God	28
Cabana Bar	16	Iron Bridge	18	Posavje Museum	26	Mother of God	28
Camping Čatež	13	Jerač's Spruce Tree	46	Brežice	21	Mother of God	28
Cappucciner	27	Jovski and Dobrava	18	Posavje on Bike	22	Mother of God	28
Capuchin Library	29	Jurj Dalmatin Memorial	18	Pri Martinovih	20	Mother of God	28
Casino Lido	16	Park	30	Pri Peču	16	Mother of God	28
Castle Café	38	K2 Taxi	6	Pudovi	20	Mother of God	28
Castle Puppet Theatre	38	Kalin	16	Radeče Angling Club	47	Mother of God	28
Castle Wine Cellar	38	Karizma Lounge Bar	27	Radej	32	Mother of God	28
Čateški Dvorec	14	Karizma Videm	27	Rafting Days	47	Mother of God	28
Čatež	13	Klet Blažincič	21	Razbor	36	Mother of God	28
Čatež Apartments	13	Klet Prinela	21	Repnica Balon	19	Mother of God	28
Čatež Spa & Wellness Centre	22	Klet Metulj	41	Repnica Najger	19	Mother of God	28
Church of St Cross	47	Kmečki Hram	43	Repnica pri Kovačičevih	19	Mother of God	28
Church of St Jacob	44	Kmetija Gnidica	37	Restaurant Grill	16	Mother of God	28
Church of St John the Evangelist	28	Knight's Hall	18	Rudi Stopar Gallery	39	Mother of God	28
Church of St Lawrence	20	Koča na Bohorju	24	Ruins of the Old Castle	47	Mother of God	28
Church of St Lawrence in Bizejsko	20	Kolar Homestead	42	Sagmeister	21	Mother of God	28
Church of St Nicholas	44	Kostanjevica Cave	45	School Museum	39	Mother of God	28
Church of St Peter	46	Kozmus	24	Senica	26	Mother of God	28
Church of St Rocco	20	Krakov Forest	45	Senovo Mining Museum	31	Mother of God	28
City	24	Krško City Museum	29	Senovo Primary School	32	Mother of God	28
City Park	30	Krško Cultural Centre	23	Sevnica Angling Club	37	Mother of God	28
City Restaurant	25	Krško Gallery	30	Sevnica Tourist Information Office	34	Mother of God	28
Debeluh Café	27	Krško Nuclear Power Plant	30	Silvester	26	Mother of God	28
Dular	32	Kunšperk Castle	42	Sixt	6	Mother of God	28
Fast Food Centre	15	Lamut Art Salon	44	SK Kunšperk	42	Mother of God	28
Firefighter's Collection	39	Les	16	Speedway Exhibition	30	Mother of God	28
Fu Man Lou	25	Lutheran Cellar	39	Špiler	32	Mother of God	28
Gadova Peč	26	Matija Gubec Square	30	Splavar	13, 15	Mother of God	28
Gals Kirkac	40	MC Club	16	Sport and Recreation Centre Grič	22	Mother of God	28
Gašper's Chestnut Tree	46	MC Hostel	13	Šrajbarski Turn Castle	32	Mother of God	28
German House	18	MC Krško	24	Stadion Cafe Pub	27	Mother of God	28
Glas	32	Meadow of trumpet gentians	35	Stara Picerija Krško	26	Mother of God	28
Gostilna Murko	25	Medvedji Brlog	26	Starograjska Ulica	47	Mother of God	28
Gostilna Sekoranja	16	Mokrice Castle	14	Stipič	32	Mother of God	28
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Gostilna Vrtovšek	35	Nevidodunum	31	St Rupert's Church	28	Mother of God	28
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TERME ČATEŽ

Čatež * Mokrice * Koper * Portorož



THERMAL PARADISE



- Hotels
- Apartments
- Camping
- Pirates bay
- Indian village
- Thermal riviera
- Wellness
- Sport & recreation
- Golf

