

FOLLOW THE TOWN TRAIL





OBČINA POSTOJNA

TRAVELLER, WELCOME TO POSTOJNA!

You can truly conquer it and let it conquer you if you step on its **picturesque town trail** and discover those parts of the town that make Postojna what it is.

Use this handy guidebook and also employ the knowledgeable guides at the Tourist Information Centre, who will make the great men and women of Postojna and the magnificent buildings, linked to the town's blossoming, come to life with their unforgettable stories.

The town trail takes you through 200 years in just under 3 hours. Should that prove too much to start with, there are three shorter theme-based trails to choose from:

**Burghers' Promenade,
Town on the Border,
In the Heart of Karstology.**

Walk safely and walk well!

TOWN TRAIL

Most of the points of interest are accessible without a guide, others can be explored in more detail after making arrangements with the occupants (e.g. Church of St. Stephen – at the presbytery), but some require a guide to be present (Tomb of Fran Jurca's Family, Memorial Room of Dr. Lojz Kraigher, Salon Ozbič). Your guides are more than just bearers of keys. They will enchant you with stories that will conjure up images that this book alone cannot.

Individual tour (without stops on the extended trail): 2 h

* Guided tour: 3 h (including visits to the interiors of buildings)



BURGHERS' PROMENADE

Postojna is a town today, but this wasn't always the case. It received town privileges in 1909, during the Austro-Hungarian period. It was also around that time when Postojna Cave placed the town on the map, with the resulting infrastructure development and first grand buildings beginning to transform it into the town it is today. Its urban side experienced both highs and lows under Italian governance following World War I. Individual tour: 1.5 h * Guided tour: 2.5 h



TOWN ON THE BORDER

People knowledgeable about military history will be attracted by Postojna's strategic position. The Postojna Gate has come to be used as a tactical term lectured on at military academies. Postojna played an immense role in World War I, as it was from here that Austrians orchestrated the deployments to the frontline at the River Soča. Italian military planners kept the town on the map as a strategic border town, which the Italian authorities populated with both civilian and administrative/military personnel. Individual tour: 1.5 h * Guided tour: 2 h



IN THE HEART OF KARSTOLOGY

If you have been charmed by the karst, then you will surely want to know why Postojna is the world's centre of karstology – the scientific investigation of karst and karst phenomena. It all began with a modest native who discovered the most beautiful parts of Postojna Cave and the previously undiscovered life form inside of it, and it continued with the Karst Research Institute and a permanent exhibition entitled the Karst Museum, located in the Notranjska Museum in Postojna. Individual tour: 1 h * Guided tour: 1.5 h

Info:

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PARK AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AND WOODWORKING

Located in a downtown grove are Slovenia's only school of forestry and a hall of residence, which also serves as a youth hostel. Prior to World War I, this was the site of the majestic **Grand Hotel Adelsbergerhof**, a spa resort with healthful climate, which hosted affluent Postojna

Cave visitors from all over the world, especially in the summer. Grand Hotel, as the hotel was referred to by the locals, was built by Franc Proglar from Switzerland, who owned another hotel in Trieste.

The Grand Hotel Adelsbergerhof boasted equipment and facilities that were considered highly modern at the time, i.e. bathrooms with showers, electric lighting and a parking garage, and offered transportation to the railway station and Postojna Cave. In addition to the English Park, there was also



A visit from Archduke Eugen, the Southwestern Front commander of the Austro-Hungarian forces (1917)

a cricket field, a tennis court, an outbuilding with livestock and a vegetable garden that catered for the fine hotel restaurant.

During World War I, the hotel building housed the headquarters of the Austrian armed forces' 5th Army, which defended the front line on the Soča River. The army was commanded by General **Svetozar Borojević von Bojna**. After World War I, it became one of the residences of the House of Windisch-Grätz, before being nationalised after World War II and finally demolished in 1980.

The little grove in the middle of Postojna is an unforgettable oasis where you will experience a mixture of different concepts: age-old and modern elements, war and peace, youth and wisdom, nature and culture.

Tip: The colourful, uniquely designed common areas of Youth Hostel Proteus are a perfect place to connect to the internet or unwind, forget the rest of the world and simply enjoy the youthful, yet peaceful ambience.



Grand Hotel Adelsbergerhof

In the second half of the 19th and early 20th century, *climate-based tourism* in Postojna reached its peak, primarily owing to the local climate with fresh summers, which attracted mostly visitors from Trieste, but from other European cities as well, and also owing to the railroad link, completed in 1857, which tremendously improved the links between Postojna and the rest of the world.

General Svetozar Borojević von Bojna (1856-1920) succeeded in making sure that after Italy attacked, the front line was set on the Soča River, rather than on the Sava River. As the Commander-in-Chief of the Austro-Hungarian 5th Army he prevented the Italians from breaking through and even succeeded in pushing them all the way to the Piave River, earning the title of Field Marshal. He was the only Austro-Hungarian Field Marshal of Slavic origin.

The Windisch-Grätz, one of the most prominent noble families in the Habsburg Monarchy, owned numerous castles and lands, mainly forests, in Slovenia. In the Postojna area, they owned the Predjama Castle and the Haasberg Castle at Planina, and bought the former Adelsbergerhof Hotel after World War I, which they used as the headquarters of their wood processing and selling company.



THE PINK HOUSE AT TRŽAŠKA ROAD 34

The renovated house with a pale pink exterior is a tribute to the Notranjska region's architecture and the old construction techniques. The original appearance of the house, including the facade colour, was taken into consideration during the renovation works. The pink house, and with it Postojna, was inadvertently put on the European literary map thanks to the Austrian modernist writer

Robert Musil, who was staying in the house, only a stone's throw from Grand Hotel Adelsbergerhof, while carrying out office work at the headquarters of General Borojević's 5th Army in 1917. He wrote a short story entitled *Slovenian Village Funeral* (*Slowenisches Dorfbegräbnis*), while staying there and sharing an apartment with two teachers from Postojna; in it he masterly described the funeral of Josipina Vičič, the former mayor's widow. The funeral procession, which Musil watched from a window above the courtyard, made its way from Josipina Vičič's house on the corner, which today houses a bar, to the town cemetery.

If you happen to meet the owners in the courtyard, ask them to show you around the house.

Tip: You can relive Musil's story by walking from the pink house's courtyard, past the yellow house on the corner across the street, and all the way to the town cemetery a few hundred metres further on, parallel with Tržaška Road. Josipina Vičič's grave is located immediately to the right as soon as you come through the cemetery entrance.

'This was the apartment I stood in as I was watching the funeral; a fat woman had died, the one that had lived diagonally across from my windows on the other side of a wide, here somewhat bulging, thoroughfare. In the morning, the carpenter's boys brought the coffin; it was winter, and they brought it on a little handsled, and because it was a lovely morning, they briskly slid down the street with their spiked shoes, and the big black box behind them was jumping from side to side. Everyone watching thought what handsome boys they were and waited expectantly to see if the sled would topple over or not.'

Robert Musil,
Slowenisches Dorfbegräbnis
(The English translation of the excerpt
by Peter Wortsman and Rosman I d.o.o.)



THE TOMB OF FRAN JURCA'S FAMILY

Apart from the Church of St. Lazarus, Fran Jurca's tomb is certainly the town cemetery's most noticeable structure, indicating that it was built by an influential Postojna-based family. The sacred tomb structure was commissioned in the early 20th

century by Fran Jurca (1845-1926), a local landowner and prominent wood merchant, who lived in a villa in the town centre (Villa Jurca, which now houses a court) and whose steam-powered sawmill below the railway station initiated the beginnings of the timber industry in the area of Postojna. The mausoleum stands out with both its neoclassical exterior architecture and its interior, rounded off with a ceiling painting featuring Virgin Mary with a dead Jesus by **Maksim Gaspari**, and a sculpture of a

During World War I, *Robert Musil* (1880-1942), Austrian writer and theatre critic born in Klagenfurt, served as a reserve officer on Slovenian soil, among other locations. He fled to Switzerland following the Nazi occupation of Austria, where he died. He was educated both in technical sciences and humanities, but came to fame as a modernist writer, and is regarded a literary giant alongside the likes of Franz Kafka, James Joyce and Marcel Proust.

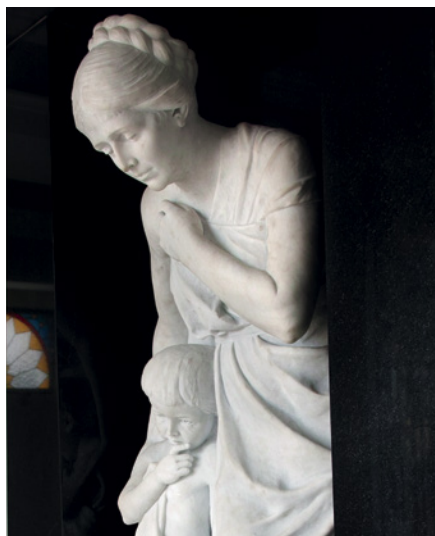


A ceiling painting by Gaspari in Fran Jurca's tomb

mother and her child by **Svtoslav Peruzzi**. The full-body figures made of marble are life-size and depict the landowner's wife, Fani, and their son. After World War II, the Jurca family was expropriated and the family tomb was left to deteriorate up until 2006, when the Municipality of Postojna, based on an initiative by art historians and descendants of the Jurca family, decided to restore the tomb. The restoration project, carried out under the watchful eye of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, was completed in 2016.

The tomb, and its two artistic depictions, is one of the few things in Postojna related to the influential family from the turn of the century that has been preserved up until the present day.

Tip: If you would like to see the tomb's interior, ask at the TIC.



Peruzzi's sculpture of a mother and her child



Robert Musil

Maksim Gaspari (1883-1980), Slovenian painter, illustrator and restorer, who was born in Selšček near Cerknica. His works mainly feature folk customs and landscapes, as well as portraits.

Svtoslav Peruzzi (1881-1936), Slovenian sculptor, born in Lipe on the Ljubljana Marshes, became famous for his grave-related and decorative plastic arts.

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THE BIRTHPLACE OF DR. LOJZ KRAIGHER

V TEJ HIŠI
JE BIL ROJEN
DR. LOJZ KRAIGHER
SLOVENSKI PISATELJ
1877 1959

4

THE BIRTHPLACE OF DR. LOJZ KRAIGHER

The mighty market-town house, the birthplace of Lojz Kraigher (1877-1959), writer, playwright, physician and dentist. Kraigher, who was a contemporary of the Slovenian Moderna and a close friend of the most prominent

Slovenian writer, Ivan Cankar, is also considered the father of the Slovenian faculty of medicine. A little further down the town trail in the Postojna Cultural Centre, visitors can see Kraigher's memorial room and learn about his activities in a number of different fields.



TRG PADLIH BORCEV (THE SQUARE OF FALLEN SOLDIERS)

5

VILLA
JURCA



6

BENO
ZUPANČIČ
LIBRARY



8

THE BUST
OF MIROSLAV
VILHAR



9

MONUMENT TO THE
FALLEN SOLDIERS
OF THE NATIONAL
LIBERATION WAR





7
MIROSLAV
VILHAR
PRIMARY
SCHOOL



10
CHURCH OF
ST. STEPHEN

The Square of Fallen Soldiers, the former main square, has over time changed in both appearance and name (Vilhar Square, Main Square, Piazza Vittorio Veneto). The most important buildings and other features in the recently renovated square continue to resist the time and remain important monuments to culture and the Slovenian nation.

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VILLA JURCA Undoubtedly the most outstanding privately-owned building on the former main square. It was nationalised after World War II. Today, the building houses the district court.

Construction of the family villa located on the site of **the former Adlershofen Mansion** was commissioned in circa 1910 by a local of Postojna, landowner and merchant **Fran Jurca (1845-1926)**. The



building was constructed in a historicist style with a characteristic façade, which remains interesting even today, and was surrounded by a large garden. Around the same time, Fran Jurca also had a family tomb built in the town cemetery.

During World War I, Villa Jurca accommodated **General Svetozar Borojević von Bojna**, Commander of Austrian-Hungarian armed forces' 5th Army, whose headquarters were in Grand Hotel Adelsbergerhof in Postojna. According to the parish chronicles, General Borojević, accompanied by two soldiers, would take a daily walk from the villa through the Majlont area to the hillside of Sovič, from where he returned to the headquarters at Grand Hotel.



Villa Jurca shortly after 1910

Adlershofen Mansion or the Eagle Mansion was owned by the Garzarolli family, who sold the dilapidated building to Fran Jurca. The former sculpture of an eagle on the roof above the front of Villa Jurca was most likely a tribute to the Eagle Mansion.

6

BENO ZUPANČIČ LIBRARY Initially the building was a fascist house, **Casa del Fascio**, whose foundation stone was laid on 19 September 1938 by dictator Benito Mussolini himself. Postojna became part of the Kingdom of Italy after 1918, when it was annexed to Italy by the London Treaty, and remained under Italian control until the country's capitulation in 1943. As a strategic location at the Rapallo border, Postojna under Italy on



the one hand suffered the violence of fascist denationalisation, while on the other hand it experienced an economic heyday, which was reflected in the many buildings constructed during this period, including the present-day library.

The Postojna library, which was previously located in a number of other locations, has been housed in this building since 1967, and has been carrying the name of the writer Beno Zupančič since 1981. The same building also houses the Tourist Information Centre and a gallery. During the time of fascism, when the locals feared the authorities might seize Slovenian books, they would even store the books in suitcases and distribute them among readers, who would then exchange the books among themselves.

Would you like to get to know the history of the town of Postojna in more detail? Visit the library department of local history, where you will be advised on what reading to choose.



Mussolini at the Fascist House's foundation stone laying ceremony; the school building visible in the background

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MIROSLAV VILHAR PRIMARY SCHOOL The imposing building with an austere exterior, which used to have a spacious park in front and a large schoolyard within, was built in 1900. The building has throughout its history housed a number of different schools at different levels – **from a primary**

school to a general upper-secondary school. Nowadays, it houses the Miroslav Vilhar Primary School, one of Postojna's two primary schools.

Miroslav Vilhar (1818-1871), Slovenian composer, poet, playwright, politician and publisher of the political newspaper *Naprej*, came from the neighbouring village of Planina, but spent the main part of his life at the Kalc Castle near Zagorje, Pivka. He was an



The former Fascist House, the present-day library

Casa del Fascio (Fascist House) was a political and cultural institution during the time of fascism, which served as party headquarters, as well as a space for organised leisure activities (*dopolavoro*).

ardent advocate of the rights of Slovenians in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, i.e. the use of Slovenian language in schools and government offices, establishment of the Slovenian insurance company, as well as afforestation of karst areas. He was also the initiator and organiser of the Pivka rally at Kalc Castle, where demands for the realisation of the national programme United Slovenia were put forward.



THE BUST OF MIROSLAV VILHAR

The bronze bust on a stone pillar is the work of the academy-trained sculptor **Stojan Batič (1925-2015)**. Based on a plan by sculptor **Alojzij Repič (1866-1941)** and architect **Ivan Jager (1871-1959)**, the monument to Miroslav Vilhar was solemnly erected in 1906. Following fascist desecration, it was in 1926 moved to the Church of St. Stephen and was then destroyed completely in 1941. The new sculpture by Stojan Batič was put up in the square in 1995.

Take a seat on the bench at the statue of Miroslav Vilhar and have a look around: at the official unveiling in 1906, around 4,000 pleased and proud people from all over Slovenia stood on the square surrounding the memorial.



The bust of Miroslav Vilhar in front of the Miroslav Vilhar Primary School



MONUMENT TO THE FALLEN SOLDIERS OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION WAR

A bronze statue depicting a partisan soldier, the work of Postojna-born sculptor **Frančišek Smerdu (1908-1964)**, completes the square's appearance as well as shares its name. The monument's dramatic expressiveness makes the monument reminiscent of difficult war times on the ever-hard karst soil.

Pay attention! Move closer to Smerdu's partisan and see what his gun is pointed at.



The partisan sculpture by Frančišek Smerdu

Frančišek Smerdu (1908-1964), academy-trained sculptor, who received his training in Vienna as well as from the great Croatian sculptor Ivan Meštrović in Zagreb, is in Slovenia mostly known for his public, monumental sculptures. These were also what left his mark on Postojna.



CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN The imposing **late-Baroque church** with **classicist and rococo details** and impressive frescoes was built in 1777. It is dedicated to St. Stephen, the patron saint of horses, which suggests the economic importance of these draught animals in this area during the period when transportation by means of horse-drawn carts was in full swing.

See the rich and beautiful interior features of the church and make sure to take a look at the tombstone of the Nicoletti family built into the outer church wall. You will learn more about the family on the next stop of the town trail.



Church of St. Stephen



Burghers' Promenade

walking time: 1.5 h / guided tour: 2.5 h

- 1 PARK AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AND WOODWORKING
- 2 THE PINK HOUSE AT TRŽAŠKA ROAD 34
- 3 THE TOMB OF FRAN JURCA'S FAMILY
- 4 THE BIRTHPLACE OF DR. LOJZ KRAIGHER
- 5 VILLA JURCA
- 6 BENO ZUPANČIČ LIBRARY
- 7 MIROSLAV VILHAR PRIMARY SCHOOL
- 8 THE BUST OF MIROSLAV VILHAR
- 10 CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN
- 11 KUTIN'S HOUSE
- 12 RESTAURANT PROTEUS
- 13 KARST RESEARCH INSTITUTE
- 14 GASPARI'S HOUSE
- 15 ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE (LJUDSKA UNIVERZA)
- 17 MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION OF POSTOJNA
- 18 CULTURAL CENTRE AND THE MEMORIAL ROOM OF DR. LOJZ KRAIGHER
- 19 THE BIRTHPLACE OF LUKA ČEČ
- 20 SALON OZBIČ
- 22 MAJLONT (TOWARD SOVIČ HILL)
- 23 THE OLD MATERNITY HOSPITAL



In the Heart of Karstology

walking time: 1.5 h / guided tour: 2 h

- 8 THE BUST OF MIROSLAV VILHAR
- 13 KARST RESEARCH INSTITUTE
- 17 MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION OF POSTOJNA
- 19 THE BIRTHPLACE OF LUKA ČEČ
- 21 NOTRANJSKA MUSEUM POSTOJNA
- 22 SOVIČ HILL (677 m)
- extended trail*
- 24 MLADIKA HUT ON PEČNA REBER HILL (733 m)

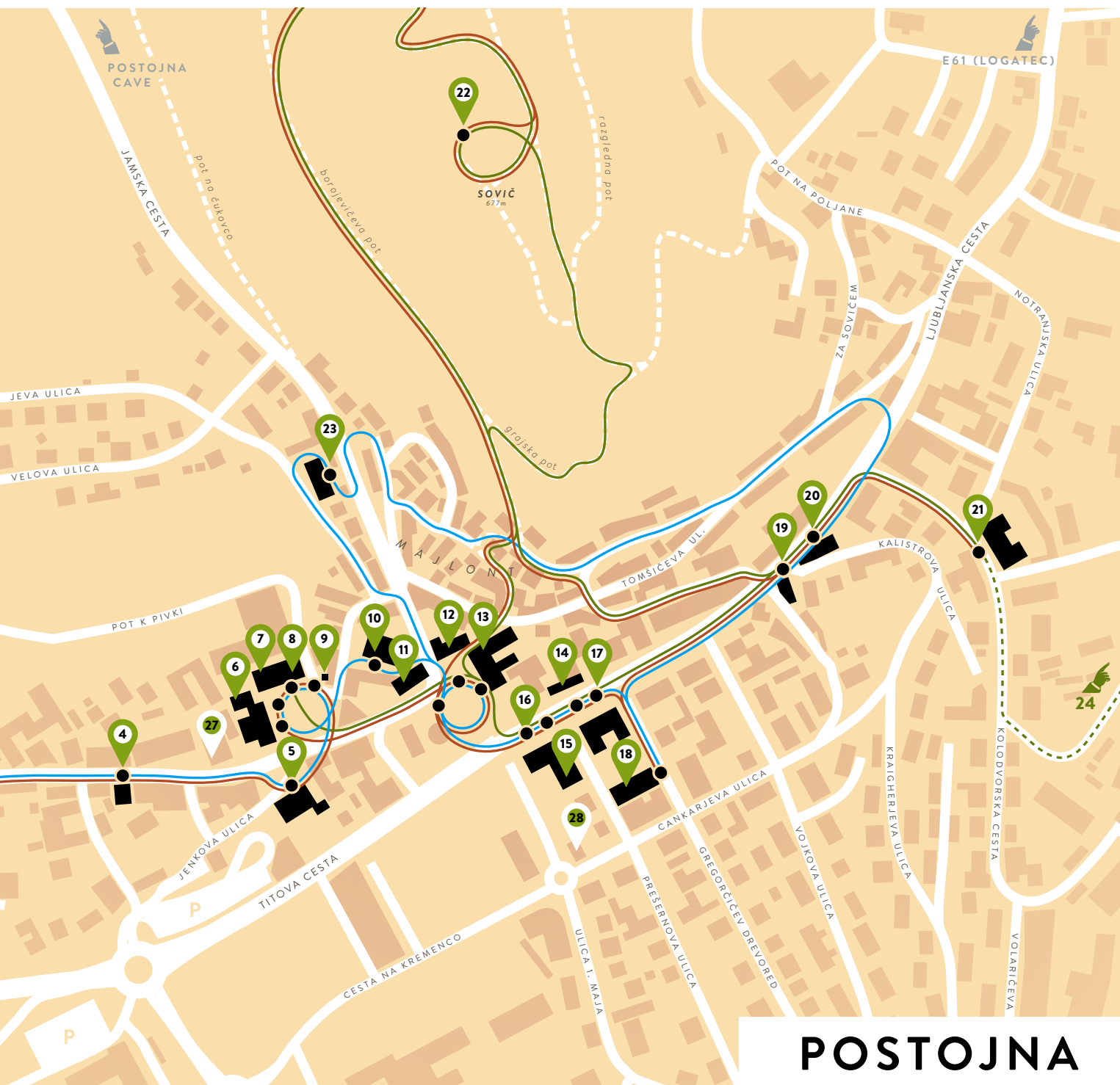


Town on the Border

walking time: 1 h / guided tour: 1.5 h

- 1 PARK AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AND WOODWORKING
- 2 THE PINK HOUSE AT TRŽAŠKA ROAD 34
- 5 VILLA JURCA
- 6 BENO ZUPANČIČ LIBRARY
- 8 THE BUST OF MIROSLAV VILHAR
- 9 MONUMENT TO THE FALLEN SOLDIERS OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION WAR
- 16 MEMORIAL TO THE SARDINIANS
- 18 CULTURAL CENTRE AND THE MEMORIAL ROOM OF DR. LOJZ KRAIGHER
- 20 SALON OZBIČ
- 21 NOTRANJSKA MUSEUM POSTOJNA
- 22 SOVIČ HILL (677 m)
- extended trail*
- 25 MILITARY CEMETERY





TITOV TRG (TITO SQUARE)





The site of the present-day square used to be **the busiest traffic point of Postojna**, as here the Ljubljana-Trieste road branched off to Postojna Cave. The main town square, intended for pedestrians, was created only in 2009, when all road traffic was rerouted around it. A year before that, the new Hotel Kras was completed at the side of the square, and nowadays continues the tradition of the former Hotel Kras, and in particular of the hotel Pri ogrski kroni (At the Hungarian Crown), which was burnt to the ground in 1940. With the creation of the main town square, which is a popular venue for a variety of events, the buildings on the square edge became even more noticeable.

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KUTIN'S HOUSE The former mansion is remembered for its last owners, the Kutin family, a family of merchants and landowners, to which two Postojna mayors belonged. But the first mansion owners were the **aristocratic Nicoletti family**, the managers of the Lipica Stud Farm, and the nearby castle estate of Prestranek to where horses from the stud farm at the former castle farm below Sovič were moved in the mid-18th century.



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RESTAURANT PROTEUS

Locals still refer to the building as Jadran (Adriatic), which was the name of the café that was housed in the building prior to the restaurant. Some people may remember the building as Garzarolli's house – after the owner of the inn that was housed in the building until the very last days of World War II, when it burnt to the ground due to bombing. According to the folk tradition, the semi-circular stone portal of the main entrance, which features the year 1793, was brought from the Church of St. Ursula, which used to stand on Sovič. **Tip:** Sheltered by the terrace you can keep an eye on what is going on in Tito Square, which is at its liveliest in the evenings.



Restaurant Proteus...

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KARST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The mansion, also called the Lower Mansion, was built by the **House of Auersperg** soon after their castle on Sovič had burnt down in 1689. A dominant building with a courtyard was built on the foundations of older buildings and has to this day undergone several reconstructions and has been used for different purposes.



Since 1951, the mansion has housed the **Karst Research Institute**, which is the only department of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU) at a separate location. The bronze olm on the building's façade has been created by academy-trained sculptor Francišek Smerdu, and the interior has been designed by another local, architect **Janko Omahen**. In 2016, the mansion was designated the official ceremonial marriage location of the Municipality of Postojna.

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GASPARI'S HOUSE During the period of Napoleon's **Illyrian Provinces**, grades 1-4 of the local gymnasium were housed here; students in lower grades were taught in Slovenian.



... an inn during the times of the Kingdom of Italy.



The higher primary school in the 1920s...

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ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE (LJUDSKA UNIVERZA)

The foundation stone of the former boys' higher primary school, which was built according to the plans by architect **Josip Costaperaria**, was laid in July 1908, and the school was completed in September 1909. The imposing, art nouveau style building featured a spacious garden, a courtyard, an outdoor workout area and a gymnasium. It was the first higher primary school in the Slovenian territory where students were taught in Slovenian. Between 1920 and 1922, the drawing teacher was the **Trieste-born painter August Černigoj (1898-1985)**, who then spent his teaching earnings on



A bronze olm on the Institute's front

The House of Auersperg was the most influential aristocratic family in the area of present-day Slovenia and one of the wealthiest and most powerful noble families in the Habsburg Monarchy.

The Illyrian Provinces were an autonomous region with the capital Ljubljana. They were established by Napoleon following the victory over the Austrian Empire in 1809. In 1813, the territory was re-conquered by the Austrians.

Janko Omahen (1898-1980) is an architect and a disciple of Jože Plečnik and Ivan Vurnik, the founders of Slovenian modern architecture. He was specialised in interior design, especially furniture, and book design.



...and today as a regional educational centre

studying in Germany, including at the Bauhaus University in Weimar. During the time he spent in Postojna, Černigoj created some of his early works, which are in the possession of the Notranjska Museum. In the academic year 1927/1928, following fascist abolition of Slovenian language in schools, the higher primary school was replaced by an Italian lyceum. Even today, the building provides a venue for educational programmes for people of all ages.

Stop in front of the art nouveau façade and look for the most interesting detail!

Tip: The foundation stone of the boys' higher primary school is on display at the Notranjska Museum Postojna.



Avgust Černigoj, *Postojna*, 1921

Avgust Černigoj (1898-1985) was a Trieste-born painter and the most prominent representative of Slovenian avant-garde artists. He became acquainted with modern art movements, especially constructivism, during his short study period at the Bauhaus University in Weimar. During World War II, he painted churches in the area of Pivka, specifically in Knezak, Bač and Dolnja Košana.



Memorial in front of the Adult Education Centre



MEMORIAL TO THE SARDINIANS

A memorial in memory of the political internees and individuals conscripted to Sardinia by the Italian armed forces, who crossed over to the Allied powers following Italy's capitulation. The monument was built in 1972 on the site of the returnees' meeting point. The stone monument was designed by the Postojna-born architect Stane Dolenc.



The foundation stone of the boys' school

Josip Costaperaria (1876-1951) - Slovenian architect who designed a number of villas and palaces, most of which are in Ljubljana. He began his career in Maks Fabiani's studio, where he was in charge of the construction of the Slovenian National Hall in Trieste and the House of Commerce in Gorica. The project of boys' higher primary school in Postojna gained him professional independence.



Former seat of the county district, the present-day municipality



MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION OF POSTOJNA

The historicist-style building with a variform and picturesque façade was built in 1908. Initially, it housed the seat of the county district. In 1928, the second floor of the building was assigned to the Speleological Institute, which had even prior to World War I been supported by Ivan Andrej Perko (1876-1941), the first Slovenian professional speleologist and karstologist, a manager and a great promoter of Postojna Cave. Today, the building houses the seat of the Postojna Municipal Administration and Administrative Unit.



Monuments of local importance (Municipality of Postojna): Church of St. Stephen (EID 3932), Karst Research Institute (Mansion at Titov trg 2, EID 4895), The Birthplace of Luka Čeč (Homestead at Ljubljanska cesta 20, EID 4912), Notranjska Museum Postojna (Garrison Command, EID 23088), Military Cemetery (EID 4907)



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CULTURAL CENTRE AND THE MEMORIAL ROOM OF DR. LOJZ KRAIGHER

18

CULTURAL CENTRE AND THE MEMORIAL ROOM OF DR. LOJZ KRAIGHER

The memorial room is situated on the first floor of the Cultural Centre of Postojna. The building with a pillared front was built in 1930 as the centre of a fascist youth group (Casa del Balilla), but also housed a nursery school for a while.

Lojz Kraigher (1877–1959), born in a house at Tržaška Road in Postojna, is part of the Slovenian literary history as the author of naturalistic prose and plays, as well as a companion, supporter and chronicler of Slovenia's greatest writer Ivan

Cankar. Kraigher kept in touch with Cankar both in Vienna, where they both studied, and after their return to Slovenia. He provided Cankar with a lot of moral, as well as financial support, especially in the final years of Cankar's life.

Dr. Lojz Kraigher, doctor and dentist, who was among other things briefly in charge of the Provincial Hospital in Ljubljana, is considered one of the founders of the Faculty of Medicine in Ljubljana. In fact, he publicly supported its establishment in as early as 1919, however, the initiative was not realized in full until August 1945. At that time, Dr. Lojz Kraigher was honoured with the faculty's first honorary doctorate. He

also became a faculty librarian and the first editor of the updated *Zdravstveni vestnik* (Medical Journal).

Throughout the period of his public activities, Kraigher remained a proud and nationally conscious Slovenian, as a result of which he was faced with numerous problems – both in the period of fascist terror, during which he was living and working in the Primorska region, and during his Ljubljana-based period, when he was interned to Dachau due to cooperation with the National Liberation Movement. Kraigher's aforementioned advocacy of the Faculty of Medicine is likewise to be understood in the spirit of his aspirations for national autonomy.

Visit the memorial room and see how the workspace of an intellectual from the first half of the 20th century looked like.

Tip: The Memorial Room of Dr. Lojz Kraigher is part of the Notranjska Museum Postojna, where you can make arrangements to see it.



Casa del Balilla, the present-day Cultural Centre



Kraigher's Desk

Casa del Balilla is the home of a fascist youth group. It was named after Giambattista Perasso, called Balilla, an anti-Austria oriented nationalist, who lived in Genoa in the 18th century.



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THE BIRTHPLACE OF LUKA ČEČ



THE BIRTHPLACE OF LUKA ČEČ

What used to be a modest farmhouse is believed to be the birthplace of Luka Čeč, a Postojna Cave lamplighter, who – during preparations for the emperor's visit in 1818 – discovered the deep-lying, previously unknown parts of the cave. Inside the cave, this loyal and conscientious employee, who was among other things responsible for the cave-dwelling olms, also discovered a beetle that later became the first described cave-dwelling insect and was named the slender-neck beetle. Čeč's remarkable discoveries proved crucial in Postojna Cave becoming immensely popular among visitors and researchers from all over the world.



Olms (Proteus anguinus) and slenderneck beetles (Leptodirus hochenwartii) are Postojna Cave's biggest stars. Although the slenderneck beetle was discovered by Čeč, in Latin the beetle was not named after him, but after the manager of the Provincial Museum of Carniola, Count Hohenwart, to whom Čeč had handed over the beetle for research purposes. Similarly, Čeč stayed in the background also when it came to his exceptional cave discovery; in fact, he was not recognised as the official discoverer until 20 years after his death.



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SALON OZBIČ



SALON OZBIČ

The salon owned by master Janko Ozbič is two years older than the owner himself; a salon for men and women was opened in this building in 1924 by Janko's father Viktor. The salon's equipment dates back to 1936, when the father ordered Amata barber's chairs – which were at the time considered very modern – from Parma in Italy.

The master continued to shave and cut hair until he reached 89 years of age, when changes to relevant legislation forced him to put an end to his business. He will nevertheless be more than happy

to divulge stories from his extensive store of exceptional experiences – be it from Postojna or from Italy and France, where he was carried off as a young man by the winds of war. Despite everything else he had learnt, such as photography, he took hold of scissors and the razor and followed in his father's footsteps.

Mr Ozbič is a walking encyclopaedia and his salon a trip down memory lane. There's still time to catch the bygone times.

Tip: To have a look around the salon and maybe also meet the master barber, make a prior arrangement at the Postojna TIC.



View of the former Salon and Čeč's house



Master's tools

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NOTRANJSKA MUSEUM POSTOJNA



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NOTRANJSKA MUSEUM POSTOJNA

The imposing building on the slope below the railway line was for many years inhabited by people in uniform. From 1929, when it was built, until Italy's capitulation, the building was used as the barracks for a crew of the Carabinieri. After the war, their uniforms were merely replaced by others – the building housed the headquarters of a Yugoslav People's Army's garrison. Owing to its historical and testimonial value regarding the recent history of Slovenia, a violent political division of



the Slovenian nation, the presence and organisational structure of various armies, the building was in 2007 declared a cultural monument. It became the seat of the Notranjska Museum Postojna in 2010 and today houses a permanent exhibition on the karst. With the Museum the building acquired a brand new – cultural and peaceful – mission.



Ice age animals

The fossils of marine organisms from which karst rocks originated millions of years ago.



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SOVIČ HILL 677 m



22

SOVIČ HILL (677 M) Every town that knows its worth has its own castle or at least a viewpoint with a fine view. Well, Postojna has both. Sovič is a town hill that is very easy to climb; leaning against its hillside is the oldest part of the town of Postojna, **Majlont**. When you rise above Majlont, you can puff and pant your way towards the **Adelsberg Castle ruins** straight uphill or head towards the hilltop with ruins by going around, i.e. take the so-called **Borojevič Trail**.



From the top, among the castle remains and military passages, you can enjoy a wonderful view of Postojna, the Postojna Cave entrance, the Jamski Dvorec Mansion and the Nanos plateau.

Tip: All the ways uphill through the Majlont area lead to Sovič. The quickest way to the top is continuing along Vegova Street past the Karst Research Institute.



Adelsberg Castle remains



Postojna prior to the 12th c., as depicted by Valvasor



Borojevič Trail

Adelsberg Castle comes to life more than anywhere else in a lithograph by Johann Weikhard von Valvasor. The imposing walled three-storey building was partly destroyed by a devastating earthquake in 1511 and was then finally abandoned in 1689 after it had been engulfed in a disastrous fire. Today, the only thing left are some modest castle ruins and the castle area is criss-crossed with passages and bunkers, which were not dug up by serfs, but by the Italian army during World War I and II.



23 THE OLD MATERNITY HOSPITAL



THE OLD MATERNITY HOSPITAL

Between 1950 and the late 1980s, when the old maternity hospital was replaced by the current one at a different location, women from the Primorska region would give birth here. As no visitors were allowed here on account of safety reasons, many women still vividly remember

that relatives would come to the upper, Jam-ska Road at an arranged time and wave to the new mothers who stood at windows, cradling the newborns. Even before that, from 1908 onwards, the magnificent building housed a hospital which had taken over the work of a smaller adjacent building constructed in 1851. Data about the first Postojna hospital date back to the 18th century, when a small hospital operated in the abandoned stud farm of the manor house below Sovič; the hospital building no longer exists.

Today, both buildings provide space for the youth and children alike – a Postojna

Nursery School unit is housed here, as are the premises of the Postojna scouts, and since 2001 the buildings that used to be part of the Old Maternity Hospital have also housed the centre of youth culture, represented by the Club of Students from the Municipalities of Postojna and Pivka, and the Postojna Youth Centre.



Graffiti on the old maternity hospital

Come closer and see what's going on in the area of the old maternity hospital today.

Majlont is a clustered area on the hillside of Sovič and is considered to be the oldest part of Postojna. The only other site older than Majlont are the castle ruins on Sovič. As regards the origin of the name Majlont, the locals offer two different explanations. According to the first, the settlement was given a German name Mailand after the city of Milan, where workers who had helped constructing the railway in the mid-19th century were believed to be from. According to the second explanation, this is what the workers referred to the area they were staying at in German, i.e. mein Land. You find this hard to believe? Ask the people living in Majlont.

The Borojevič Trail is a picturesque and scenic trail on the hillside of Sovič, which you can take from Vegova Street in Majlont. During the walk, you can enjoy a view of the Nanos plateau or even relive General Borojevič's daily ritual – while he was staying in Postojna, he took a daily walk from Villa Jurca through Majlont, across the hillside of Sovič and then continued on to the headquarters at Grand Hotel Adelsbergerhof.

EXTENDED TRAIL



MLADIKA HUT ON PEČNA REBER HILL (733 m) The trail leading to Mladika hut is a popular walking and recreational destination. After reaching the hut, you will be able to admire a wonderful view of Postojna and its wider surrounding area as well as enjoy some snacks and drinks.



MILITARY CEMETERY The former military cemetery from World War I. In 1945, part of the cemetery was dug up and set up as a cemetery of local patriots who fell under the shots fired by German occupiers, and combatants of the 29th Herzegovina Division, who died fighting for the liberation of Postojna.



Stop on the field of solitude and memories.



TIC POSTOJNA The main Tourist Information Centre in Postojna. Everything there is to know about the town and the region, about the main sights, special cultural and historical features, starting points for exploration of the area, food and beverage establishments and accommodation facilities. A modern and – owing to its design – an eye-catching structure on the edge of town is the holder of the *Iconic Award 2015*.

A must stop for all visitors who would like to get to know Postojna and the wider area in more detail.



For any additional info and guided tours of the Green Karst, drop by the TIC Postojna or TIC Galerija or visit the www.zelenikras.si website.

TAKE A BREAK - TIME FOR SOME REFRESHMENTS!

To make it easier to navigate the rest of the town trail, why don't you look for refreshments or snacks in the nearby food and beverage establishments, which will be happy to offer you local specialties and home-grown products:



GUŠTARNA – wine and food: an extensive selection of Slovenian wine and foods as well as drinks from local producers – not to mention occasional tasty surprises.

The venue, located in a building that is over a century old, boasts a long food-serving tradition. *Tržaška cesta 14*



RESTAURANT PROTEUS – daily menus and à la carte dishes from the wealth of local cuisine, paired with contemporary trends. Wrap up the culinary sensation in the

recently-renovated restaurant by taking a look at the paintings by Leo Vilhar, the founder of the Notranjska Museum, or enjoy the view of the city centre from the shady terrace. *Titov trg 1*



ŠTORJA POD STOPNICAMI – daily menus and other dishes that feature pieces of traditional Slovenian cuisine. Descend the

stairs into the rustic cellar or find a cosy spot in the courtyard of the modernistic building. *Cankarjeva ulica 2*

FROM THE TOWN TRAIL TO THE GREEN KARST

If you plan to stay with us for more than a day, you are bound to be interested in the natural and cultural beauty of the Green Karst. We propose the following destinations for your intensive three-day exploration of the green Notranjska-Karst region.

POSTOJNA CAVE
PREDJAMA CASTLE
'TOPLAR' HAYRACK IN BELSKO
RAVBAR TOWER IN PLANINA
ECOMUSEUM OF THE SEASONAL LAKES OF PIVKA
PARK OF MILITARY HISTORY PIVKA
PREM CASTLE
CERKNICA LAKE
SNEŽNIK CASTLE



Ravbar Tower in Planina



postojna

FOLLOW THE TOWN TRAIL

GUIDE TO THE TOWN OF POSTOJNA

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