

SLOVENIAN STYRIA

Maribor, Pohorje, Slovenske gorice and Dravsko polje

Slovenian Styria is bursting with lush green forests, sunny wine-growing hills, a rich heritage and a remarkable viticultural tradition, the symbol of which is the oldest vine in the world, which grows in Maribor, the centre of the region. The numerous trails in the region are attractive at all times of the year and as well as unique gastronomic experiences the region offers natural and cultural sights of interest that ensure unforgettable hiking experiences. Set off on a hike through the silence of the virgin forest of Pohorje, among waterfalls and peat moors, where you might encounter the giant peacock moth, the largest European moth; on Boč you can admire the beautiful flowers of the extremely rare pasque flower, or follow one of the picturesque wine routes and stop at a tourist farm; you might bump into Ovtar, the guardian of the Slovenske Gorice hills, and you will certainly encounter hospital locals! Combine all of this with the excitement of the European Capital of Culture 2012 and the enormous range of cultural activities in Maribor and its partner towns!



On the Mariborsko Pohorje



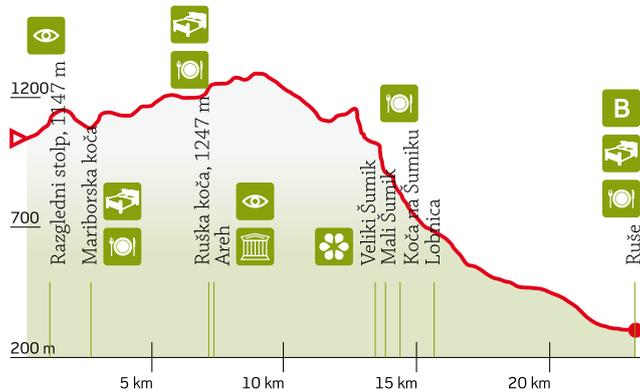
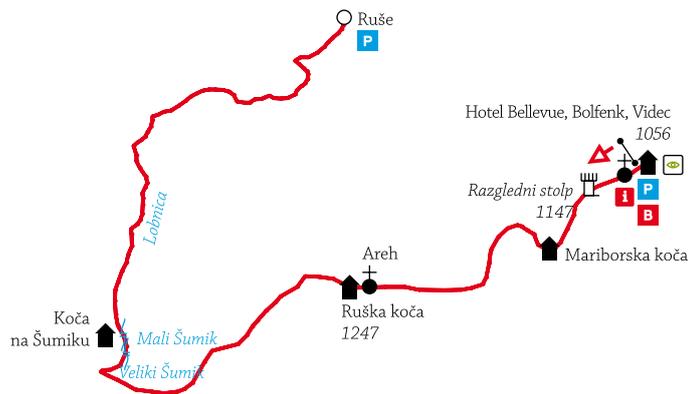
St Urban

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ALONG THE POHORJE TRAIL

From Bolfenk across Areh and Žigartov Vrh, through the Šumik primeval forest and along the Lobnica to Ruše

Passing the church dedicated to St Bolfenk on Pohorje, we set off to a viewpoint from where the view stretches far over the Drava Valley and the wine-growing hills all the way to Austria. Continue through fragrant pine forests across Areh and Žigartov Vrh to Bajgot, where three rivulets of Pohorje meet and many forest paths cross. Take a deep breath and embark on the short and wild walk past Veliki Šumik, the largest waterfall of Pohorje, and then follow the Lobnica to Ruše.



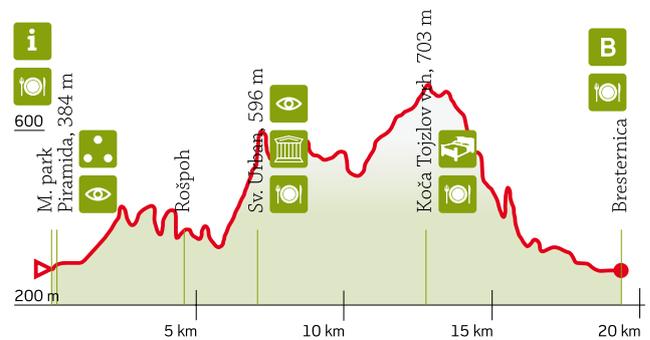
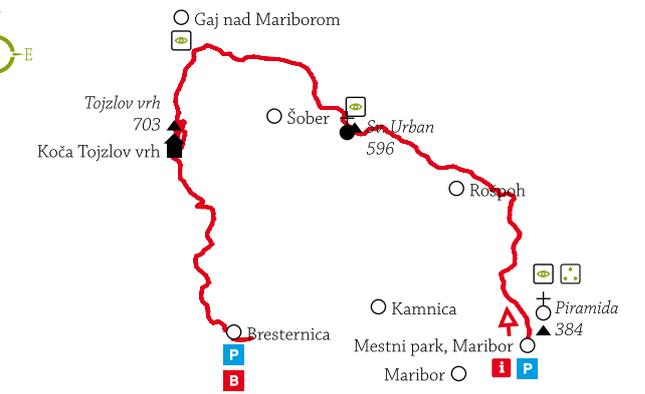
Walking time	8–9 hours
Length	24km
Difficulty	Easy, difficult between Veliki Šumik and Mali Šumik
Elevation gain	350m
Starting point	Church of St Bolfenk, ascended by cable car or on foot from Maribor
GPS coordinates	46.4030N 14.5148E
Maps	hiking map Pohorje (1 : 50 000) leisure map Pohorje (1 : 50 000) leisure map Maribor in okolica (1 : 50 000)
Events	Hike to Pohorje: <i>POMLADNI NA NOGE!</i> - ON YOUR FEET IN SPRINGTIME! (6. 5. 2011)

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KOZJAK TRAIL

Over the wine-growing hills to Urban, Gaj and Tojzlov Vrh

This is a trail of amazing experiences that takes us from the Maribor City Park through a varied landscape of wine-growing hills and forests to the viewpoints on the eastern slopes of the Kozjak range. After a pause at the summit, with the church dedicated to St Urban, we continue through a forested landscape with its isolated farms to the mountain hut below Tojzlov Vrh (703m). Farms and vineyards along the way offer genuine hospitality and open the door to a world of local gastronomic pleasures.



Walking time	6–7 hours
Length	20km
Difficulty	Easy
Elevation gain	500m
Starting point	Maribor city park
GPS coordinates	46.4030N 14.5148E
Maps	hiking map Pohorje (1 : 50 000) leisure map Pohorje (1 : 50 000) leisure map Maribor in okolica (1 : 50 000)
Events	Hike to Urban: <i>ZIMSKI NA NOGE!</i> - ON YOUR FEET IN WINTER! (5. 2. 2012); Hike to Urban: <i>JESENSKI NA NOGE!</i> - ON YOUR FEET IN AUTUMN! (7. 10. 2012)

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THE BISTRIŠKI VINTGAR GORGE

The picturesque gorge of the Bistrica stream

The trail begins by the waterworks in Zgornja Bistrica and continues along the crystal-clear Bistrica stream, which rushes and roars over the obstacles in its course. Past the Roman quarry, the Šum waterfall and the abandoned watermills and sawmills, we come to Močnik, where the path along the gorge ends. From here we can follow the trail markers through the forest as far as Trije Kralji (another 1.5 hrs) or make our way back by the same route. We can also return through the little village of Urh, past the ancient settlement of Ančnikovo Gradišče in Jurišna Vas, and then on towards Veliko Tinje and Visole, from where a path leads us towards Slovenska Bistrica.



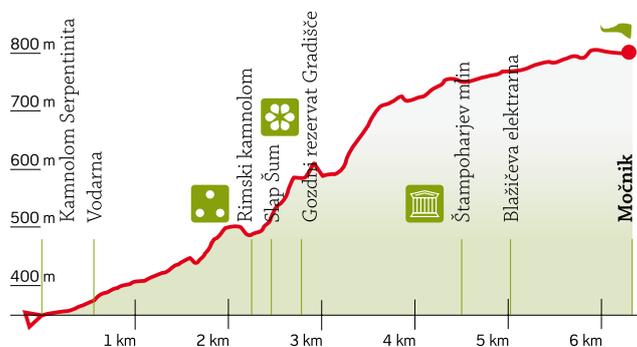
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TRAIL TO BOČ

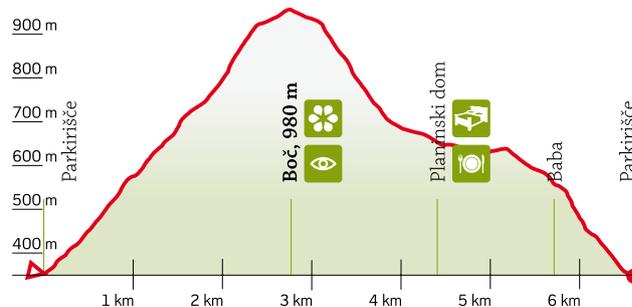
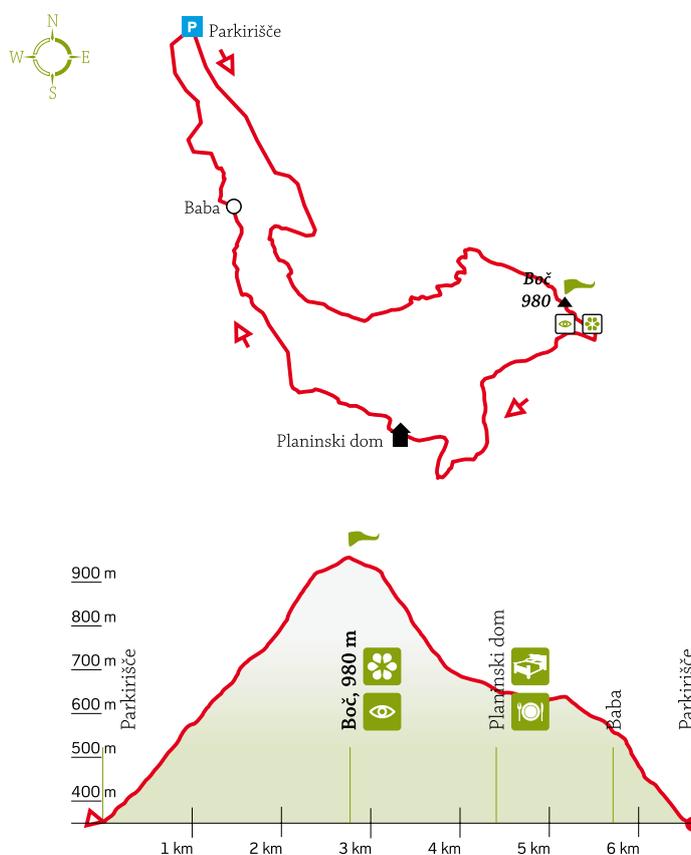
The Triglav of Slovenian Styria



At the start of our hike, a signpost indicates "Detičkova pot", also designated Forest Nature Trail No 1, which will be our path on the way up, and the path over Baba ("čez Babo"), which we will take on our way down. Boč, or the "Triglav of Slovenian Styria" as the locals call it, is in fact the best-known peak of the southernmost extension of the Karavanke, before the mountains give way, via Donačka Gora and Macelj, to the Pannonian Plain. Boč has two peaks of roughly the same height that are just five minutes' walk apart. One peak is topped by transmitters and the other, which is accessible to visitors, by a 20-metre observation tower offering a fine view over the greater part of eastern Slovenia. Boč is covered by thick forest and other vegetation and the area is protected as a natural park. The extremely rare greater pasque flower (*Pulsatilla grandis*) can be found growing near the mountain hut.



Walking time	2.5 hours (to Močnik)
Length	6km
Difficulty	Easy marked trail (in winter and after heavy rain the path can be difficult and dangerous in places)
Elevation gain	600m
Starting point	reservoir in Zgornja Bistrica (past the Impol factory)
GPS coordinates	46.2437N 15.3200E
Maps	hiking map Pohorje (1 : 50 000) leisure map Pohorje (1 : 50 000) leisure map Maribor in okolica (1 : 50 000) <i>Bistriški vintgar, kraljestvo vode in povodnega moža Vodovnika</i> (leaflet about Bistriški Vintgar and the merman Vodovnik who is said to live in the Bistrica)



Walking time	3.5 hours
Length	10km
Difficulty	Easy marked trail
Elevation gain	699m
Starting point	Zgornje Poljčane, car park by the entrance to the forest at the foot of Boč
GPS coordinates	46.2986N 15.5822E
Maps	hiking map Posavsko hribovje Boč-Bohor (1 : 50 000)
Additional information	guidebooks <i>Po kraljestvu gozdnatega Boča, Po gorah severovzhodne Slovenije</i>

Information: TIC Slovenska Bistrica, Trg svobode 17, SI – 2310 Slovenska Bistrica, t +386 (0)2 843 08 10, e ti.center@amis.si

www.tic-sb.si, www.hiking-biking.net/maribor-pohorje

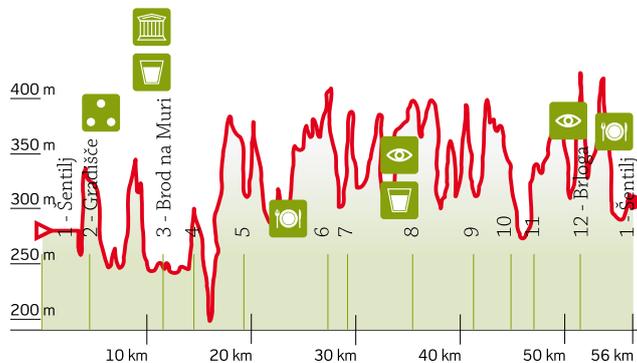
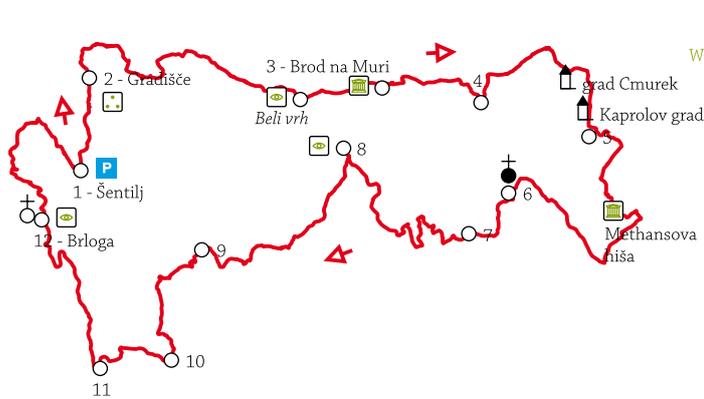
TIC Razvojni center narave, Bistriška cesta 68, SI – 2318 Poljčane, t +386 (0)2 802 92 40, www.hiking-biking.net/maribor-pohorje

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ŠENTILJ TRAIL

Over hills, through vineyards, over meadows and fields, through forests, along the river Mura and through the settlements of the Šentilj municipality

On this hike you can enjoy nature and admire numerous sights of cultural and local interest. These include castles, churches, chapels, wells, and museum collections illustrating local customs and traditions. You can ride a unique ferry across the Mura and visit Zgornja Velka, one of the most beautiful villages in Slovenia. This hike will also take you past the remains of a Celtic settlement, since part of the route follows the so-called Celtic Trail. You will not go hungry or thirsty, since along the way you will find various farms that together form the "Autumn Trail" and are part of trade mark "Good things from the municipality of Šentilj".



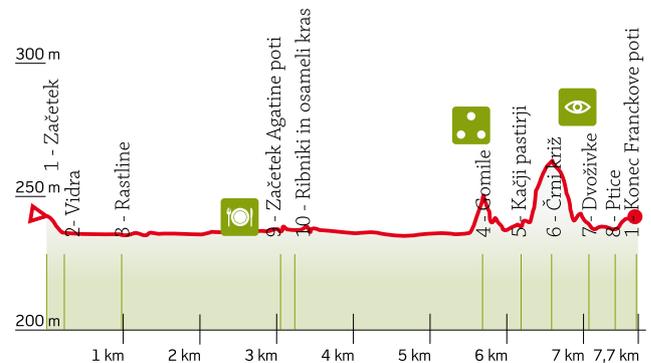
Walking time	17.5 hours
Length	56km
Difficulty	Easy
Elevation gain	1700m
Starting point	Šentilj
GPS coordinates	46.4089N 15.3898E
Additional information	Šentilj Trail logbook with space for up to 12 stamps

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AGATA'S TRAIL AND FRANC'S TRAIL

Nature trail/footpath from Hrastovec Castle to Črni Križ and around the Komarnik lake

Franc's Trail is named after Franc Breznik, who loved the countryside of the Slovenske Gorice region. It is a trail of experiences running along the restored rambler's path around the Komarnik lake, an important sanctuary and home to many endangered species of plants and animals. Ovtar, the legendary guardian of Slovenske Gorice, will be your constant companion during the hike, giving you hints and advice and instructing you. Franc's Trail then joins Agata's Trail, which leads from Hrastovec past Komarnik to Črni Križ (Black Cross), the subject of an interesting legend.



Walking time	3 to 5 hours
Length	7.7 km
Difficulty	Easy
Elevation gain	177m
Starting point	two kilometres west of Lenart, south of the main Maribor–Lenart road
GPS coordinates	46.3427N 15.4806E
Additional information	leaflet Sprehajalno-učna pot Agatina pot in Francova pot