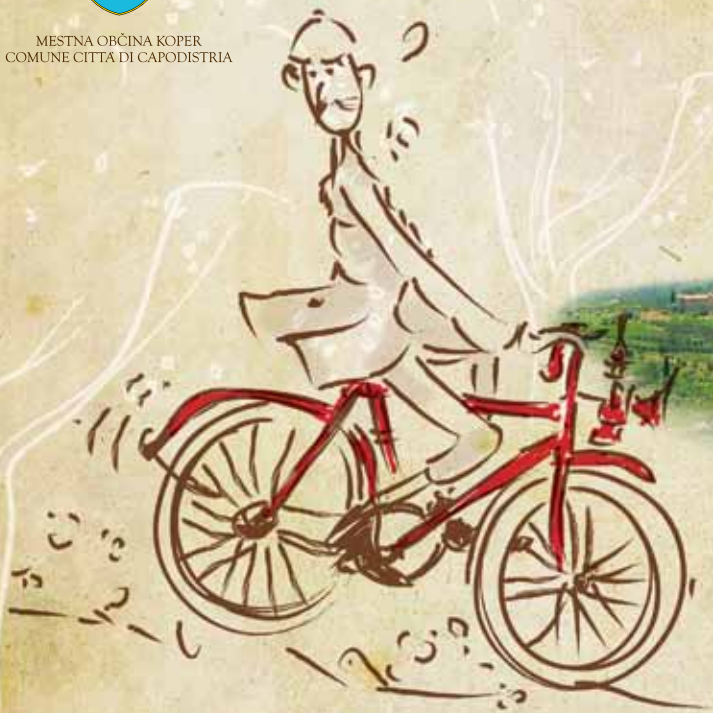




MESTNA OBČINA KOPER  
COMUNE CITTA' DI CAPODISTRIA



# *15 chosen thematic trails*

*in the Municipality of Koper*

guide

[www.koper.si](http://www.koper.si)  
[www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info)



Evropski kmetijski sklad  
za razvoj podeželja  
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**I FEEL  
SLOVENIA**

The project "TEMATSKE POTI PO SLOVENSKI ISTRI" is partly financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Municipality of Koper is responsible for content. The managing authority for the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 is the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Republic of Slovenia.

## We also suggest:



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## Legend




	Top		Gastronomic offer		Railway station
	Viewpoint		Lighthouse		Post office
	Footpath		Church		Store
	Learning trail		Castle		Petrol station
	Bike path		Ruins		Petrol station (open 24 hours)
	Natural monuments		Archaeological site		Pharmacy
	Winegrowing, vineyard		Museum		Medical help
	Mountain lodge		Swimming place		Information
	Agritourism		Spa		113 Police
	Camping		Marina		112 SOS
	Lodging		Bus station		

## Additional information




### Time

	15 minutes
	30 minutes
	45 minutes
	1 hour

### Difficulty

	easy path
	path of medium difficulty
	difficult path


### Length

	short path (< 7km)
	medium-length path (7-9km)
	long path (> 9km)

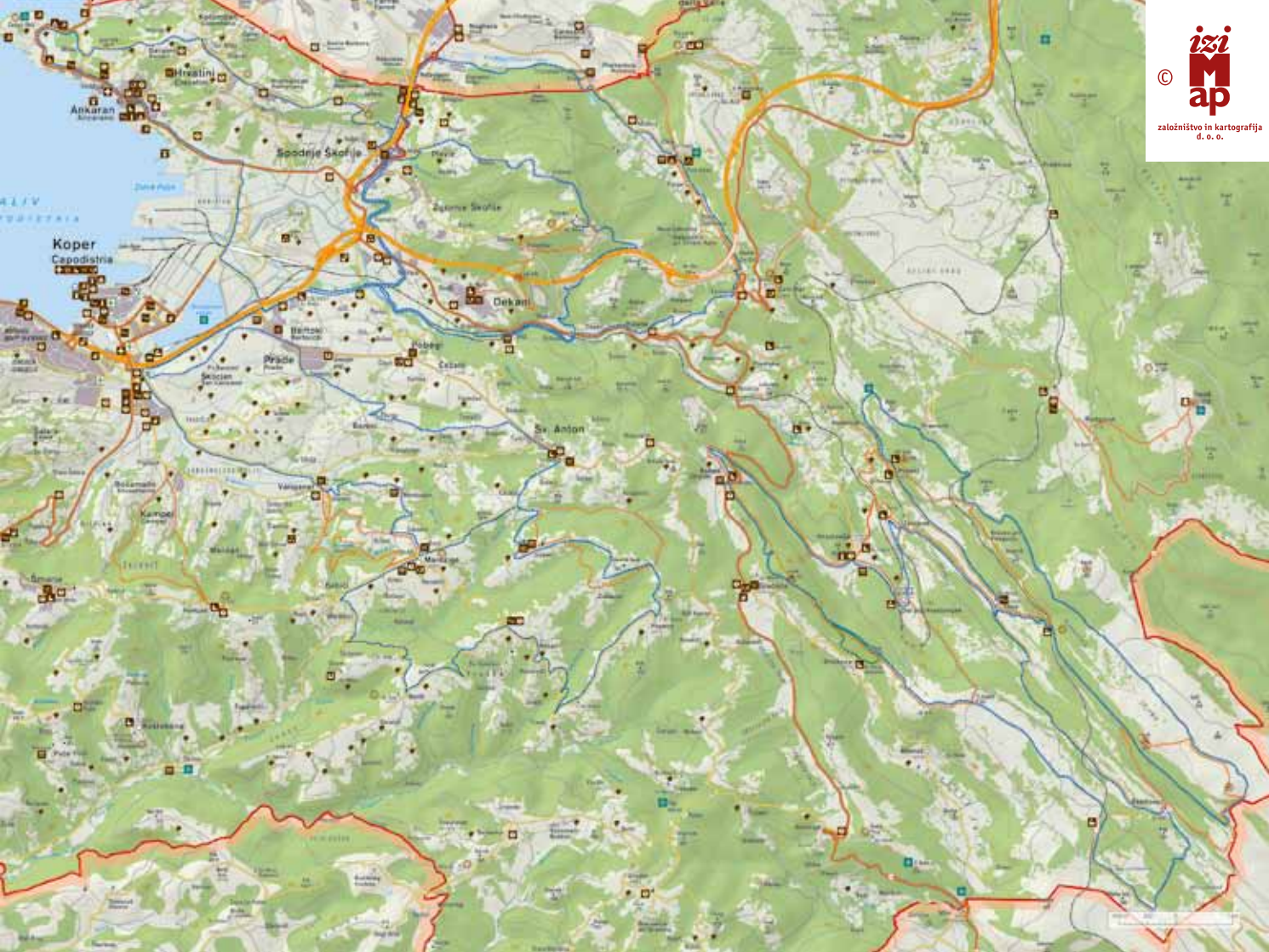
P - Footpath

K - Bike path

U - Learning trail

 Follow yellow arrows (signs) on the path.











P8



K2



P9



U1



K5



K1



K3



K4





**Starting point:** the parking place under the village Podgorje.

**The path:** Podgorje – Slavnik – Podgorje

**The length of the path:** 8 km, 2.30-3 hours

**The height of the path:** the starting point 490 m, the peak 1028 m, the climb 538 m

**Difficulty:** medium difficulty level with a considerable ascent, light hiking boots recommendable. The path is recommendable in all seasons, except during the periods of strong wind. Since the path runs on solid Karst grounds, is also appropriate in wet periods.

**GPS-track:** P1 – Slavnik.gpx

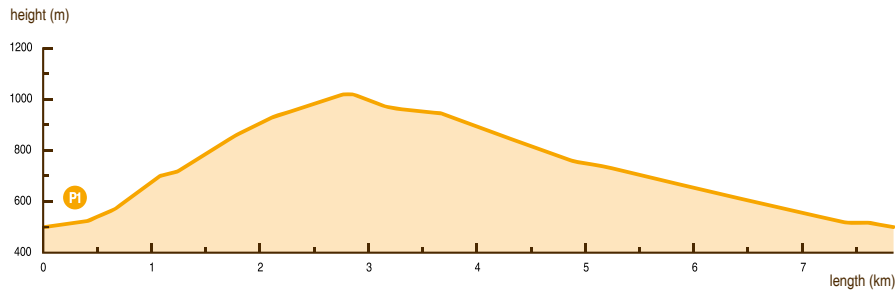
**Characteristics of the road:** cartroads and paths, Karst plateau and slopes of Slavnik with rich flora, marvellous views on the Gulf of Trieste and the Gulf of Koper with the hinterland, Brkini and Čičarija.

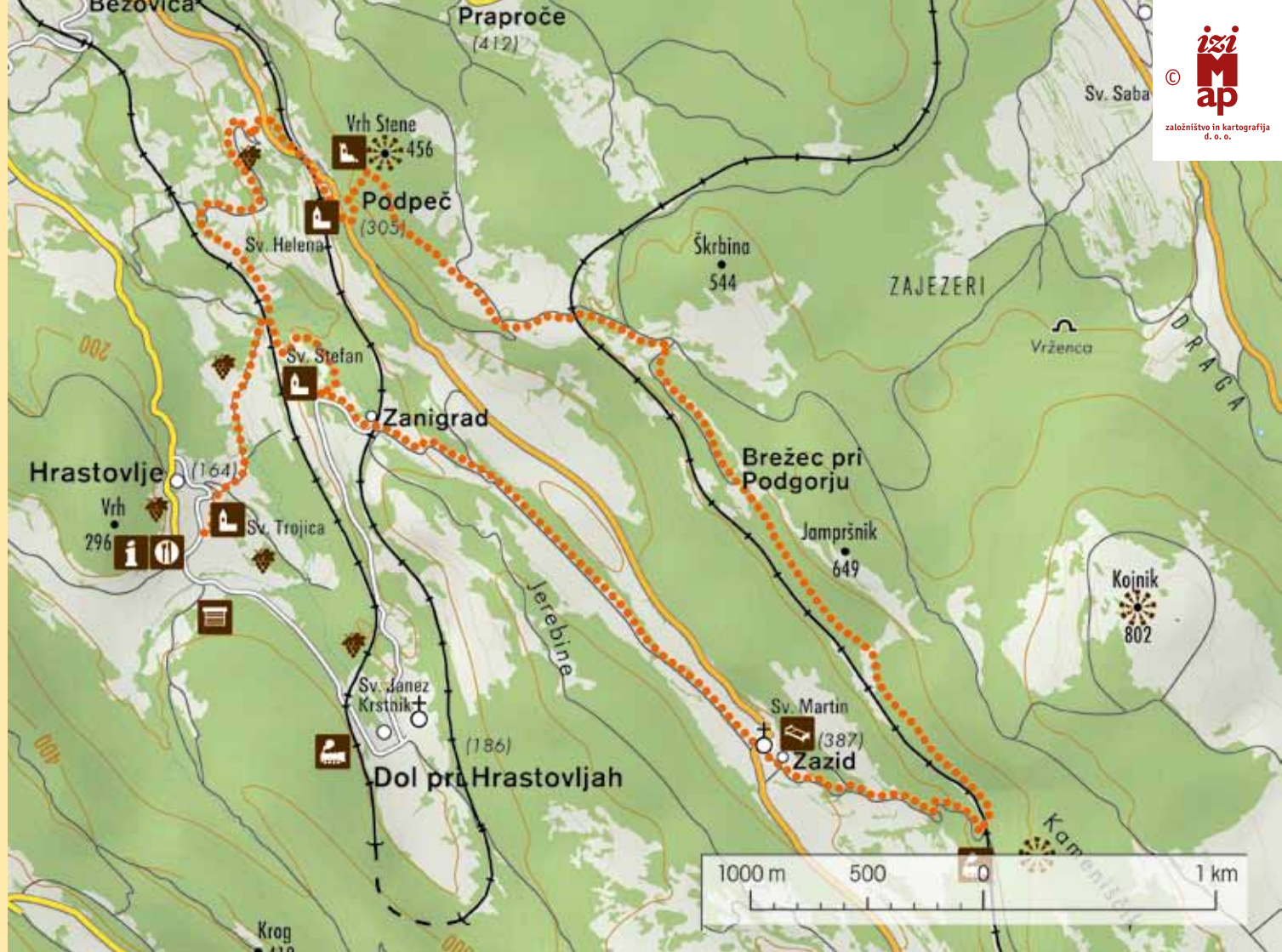
**Curiosities along the path:** the typical Karst Istrian village Podgorje with stone front gates, the peak of Slavnik with the refuge, views.

**Eating places:** the tavern in Podgorje (Gostilna Pod Slavnikom, tel.: +386 (0)5 687 01 70), the mountain hut Tumova koča on Slavnik (the schedule is variable).

**Description:** We turn right from the parking place with the information board and move towards village, where a signpost directs us among the houses and ahead to the forest and a shorter and steeper mountain trail on Slavnik. We climb gradually through the forest, cross the narrow strip cut through a forest which prevents the fire to spread and continue up towards the peak. Be careful in case the ground is wet. Upper, where the forest ends, we start to climb more steeply through some pine trees where the path turns northeast and passes on wide meadows. In spring time, the meadows transform in plains full of saffron, as the first harbingers of spring, followed by gentians, alpine pasqueflowers and daffodils. The lovers of alpine flowers are enchanted by peonies, irises, pale yellow louseworts, Carniolan lilies, burning-bushes and yellow gentians, in a word, a luxury of colours and shapes. The path continues over the meadow to the foothills of the peak. From here, a marvellous view opens towards south and west, the path straightens and leads us towards the mountain hut Tumova koča with the high tower of antennas underneath the peak. On clear days,

the view reaches the peaks of the Alps of Kamnik, Julian Alps and Carniola Alps, Dolomites, the peaks of Čičarija, Učka and Snežnik. Below us we can see Brkini, Čičarija, a Karst plateau, the hills of Šavrinško gričevje and the glittering blue of the Adriatic Sea. The rose of wind with all main directions helps us orient better. Overwhelmed by all the beauty, we can rest and refresh in the shelter of the mountain hut Tumova Koča opened mainly during weekends and holidays. For the return we can choose a slightly longer and gentler path which is also part of the European footpath E6 and is partly modified into a forest road. We take the same road from the mountain hut back, but follow the signs towards left which directs us on a new track that becomes steeper at the edge of the forest. The path which is more steep and winding at first becomes gentle as it moves towards the valley. Afterwards the path makes a sharp turn towards northwest and sweep gently to the village. When we reach the asphalt between the houses, we follow same road as for the ascent and return to the parking place where this interesting circular path ends.







**Starting point:** the parking place near TIC Hrastovle (21 km from Koper).

**The path:** Hrastovlje – Podpeč – Brežec – train station Zazid – Zazid – Zanimgrad – Hrastovlje

**The length of the path:** 13.7 km, 4-5 hours

**The height of the path:** the starting point 116 m, the peak 570 m, the climb 456 m

**Difficulty:** medium difficulty level through cartroads and paths, light hiking boots recommendable. The path is recommendable in all seasons, except during the periods of scorching heat and strong wind. Since the path runs on solid Karst grounds, is also appropriate in wet periods.

**GPS-track:** P2 – Hrastovlje.gpx

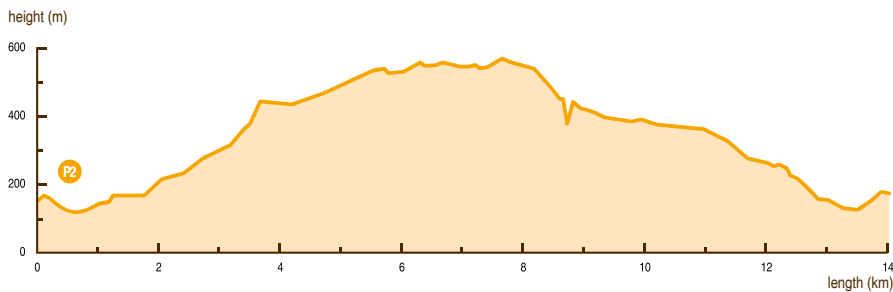
**Characteristics of the road:** very dynamic ground of the Karst border with rich flora, marvellous views towards the Istrian hinterland and the Gulf of Koper.

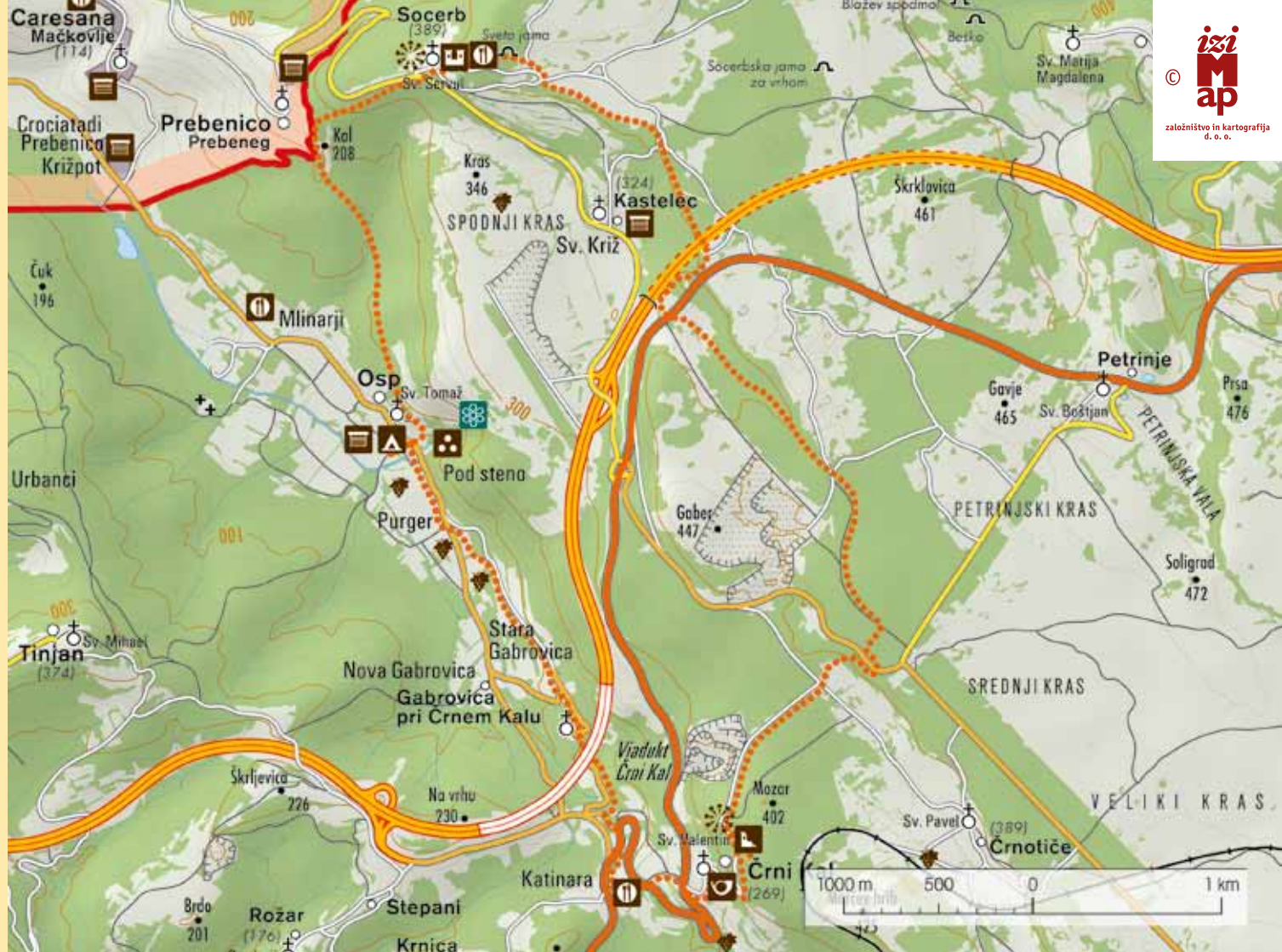
**Curiosities along the path:** the fortified church of the Holy Trinity, the Pohlen and Snoj gallery in Hrastovlje, the Prkič house and the defence tower in Podpeč, the church of St. Stephen in Zanigrad, the church of St. Martina. Zazid.

**Food and beverage service** in Hrastovlje and Zazid.

**Description:** We start from the parking place passing by the chapel towards the church and left through the village. At the crossing (there are the Pohlen and Snoj galleries on the left) we continue towards the cartroad, and at the following branch turn right towards the railway underpass. We follow the yellow trail markers and continue ahead through a long turning with the shape of the letter S until the next crossing, where we follow the trail markers and turn left, cross the meadows, join a wider path and continue up towards Podpeč. The asphalt road leads under the railway tracks and ahead through the village where we can visit the renovated Prkič house, the rest of the ancient architecture underneath the Karst border. There are also an overhanging wall with a cave and a defence tower from 11th century rising behind the houses. The road straightens at the end of the village. Following the trail markers on the left we climb the steep hiking trail till the tower and ahead towards the top of the wall where a magnificent view opens towards Koper, Trieste and a great part of Istria. We follow the yellow trail markers and turn into the forest and almost vertically arrive to the water reservoir. The macadam road climbs over the wall, turns left, crosses the railway tracks and continues gently up towards the crossing, where turns left sharply towards Podgorje (a wooden sign). At that point we continue straight ahead and after 300 metres, at the

following crossing, turn right towards Brežec. We go around (on the left side) the picturesque village and continue along the cartroad through the forest which at the end descends to the railway station Zazid. We cross the tracks and immediately turn left, following the trail markers which brings us on the road (water) and towards the end of the village (e-point). Passing the ancient church of St. Martin, we arrive to a large board with tourist information and continue right along the road damaged by the water. The path brings us underneath the railway and to the abandoned village of Zanigrad. We descend to the church of St. Stephen, covered with stone tiles, with frescoes from 15th century and a Glagolitic inscription from 1418. Each 26th December, they organise the traditional benediction of the horses. We leave the road following the trail markers, than turn right at the church and continue by making a semicircle towards left and continuing on the hiking trail which gradually descends towards the railway underpass, where we end our round. Here we turn left and, taking the same road we used for the ascent to Podpeč, return back to Hrastovlje. In Hrastovlje we can visit the Pohlen and Snoj gallery and the famous Dance Macabre frescoes of the Romanesque church of the Holy Trinity from the beginning of 12th century.







**Starting point:** the parking place in front of the autocamp in Osp (accessible by the highroad, exit Črni Kal, 16 km from Koper).

**The path:** Osp – Prebeneg – the Socerb castle – Varda – Črni Kal – Stara Gabrovica – Osp

**The length of the path:** 15 km, 4-5 hours of walk

**The height of the path:** the starting point 31 m, the peak 444 m, the climb 618 m

**Difficulty:** medium difficulty level through cartroads and paths, light hiking boots recommendable. The path is recommendable in all seasons, except during the periods of scorching heat and strong wind. Since the path runs on solid Karst grounds, is also appropriate in wet periods.

**GPS-track:** P3 – Osp.gpx

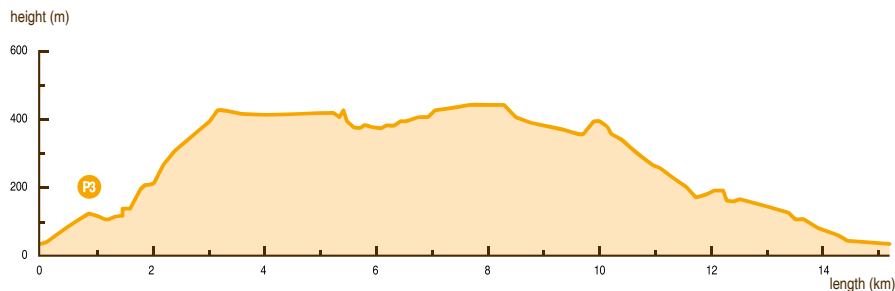
**Characteristics of the road:** very dynamic ground of the Karst border with rich flora, marvellous views on the Gulf of Koper and the Gulf of Trieste, climbing walls Osp, Črni Kal and Mišja peč.

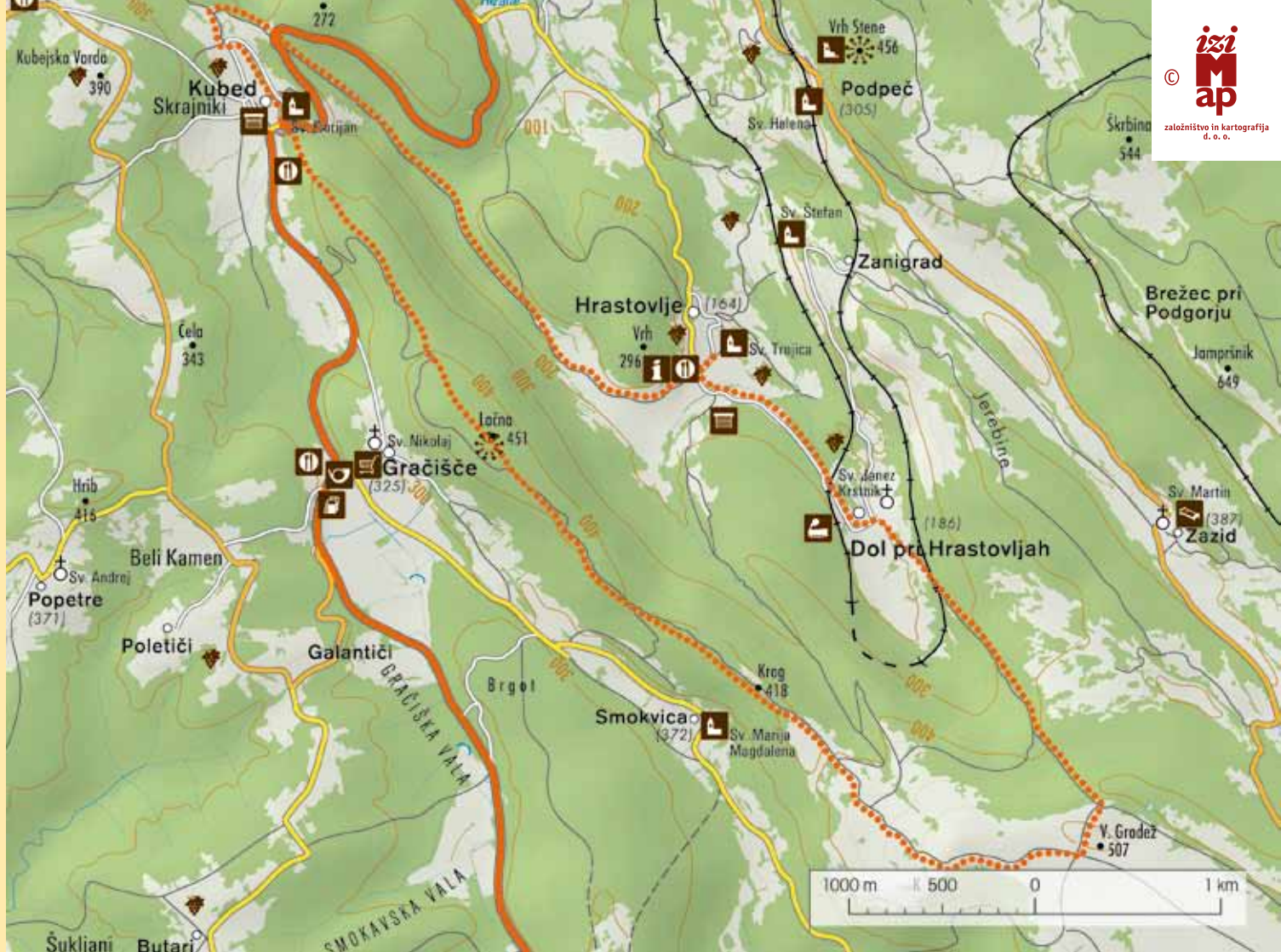
**Curiosities along the path:** the great climbing wall in Osp with the cave Grad and the spring of the river Osp, the Socerb castle, the cave Sveta jama, the Karst border, the ruins of the fortress above Črni Kal, the Benko house and the church of St. Valentine with the hanging tower in Črni Kal, Mišja peč.

**Food and beverage service** in Socerb, Osp and Črni Kal.

**Description:** The route starts at the parking place in front of the autocamp, from where starts to climb towards the village following the trail markers which directs us, passing by the church of St. Thomas, left to the cartroad which slowly rises through the forest towards northwest. When the marked path turns left and steeply up, we continue straight ahead and almost horizontally to the gorge. Here, we turn right and after 30 metres left to a less used path which steeply climbs through the pine forest to the meadow underneath the village Prebeneg. We continue our walk up the path, near the border to the upper cartroad, cross the asphalt road and arrive to the village Socerb. We climb (passing by the village chapel and the puddle) to the rocky edge of the castle, from where a marvellous view opens towards Trieste and a great part of Istria. The castle with the tavern is certainly worth visiting, but we continue along the asphalt road which runs from the village to the castle, in order to visit the near cave Sveta jama with the underground church, the only one in Slovenia. From there, the road continues towards the edge of a wide Karst plateau. The wooden signpost directs us left (we cross the wire and follow the trail markers) towards southeast along the rocky border almost to the road Koper – Kozina. We descend underneath the rocky border and then climb to the panoramic peak Varda, which we can cross in the direction of south or go around on the right by using the forest road. When we meet the cartroad coming from

the direction of Kastelec, we turn up left, cross the road through the underpass and after a gentle climb reach the quarry Črnotiče. We continue along the road through the nice pine forest which leads us to the road for Podgorje. From there, the path gently sweeps down to a lower plate and continues on macadam towards the border of the wall above Črni Kal. Here, we can decide whether to climb the slope passing by the water reservoir and turning left up the wall to the ruins of the old castle from 11th century which squats on the tower of rock, away from the main road. Or we continue the path straight ahead underneath the climbing wall till the upper part of Črni Kal. Here we can visit the Benko house built in 1489, the oldest example of a rural house in Slovenia, and the hanging tower by the church of St. Valentine. From there we sweep down to the lower part of Črni Kal and continue along the road, passing by the monument of the Overseas brigades on the left and than turn right under the mighty viaduct, towards Stara Gabrovica which was burnt down in 1944. We follow the path down the cartroad, passing Mišja peč which belongs, together with the wall of Osp, between the most famous European climbing walls. Only a short walk through the bottom of the valley separates us from our starting point – Osp, one of the oldest Slovenian villages. From here, the path leads us towards the turn where we can choose climb underneath the wall Velika stena which hides the entrance to the cave Jama and the string of the river Osp.







**Starting point:** the parking place near TIC Hrastovlje or the Švab Tavern (accessible by the highroad, exit Črni Kal, 21 km from Koper).

**The path:** Hrastovlje – Dol – Kuk – Lačna – Kubed – Hrastovlje

**The length of the path:** 14.5 km, 4-5 hours of walk

**The height of the path:** the starting point 116 m, the peak 501 m, the climb 704 m

**Difficulty:** medium difficulty level through cartroads and paths, sports footwear or light hiking boots recommendable. The path is recommendable in all seasons, except during the periods of scorching heat and strong wind. Since the path runs on solid Karst grounds, is also appropriate in wet period.

**GPS-track:** P4 – Kubed.gpx

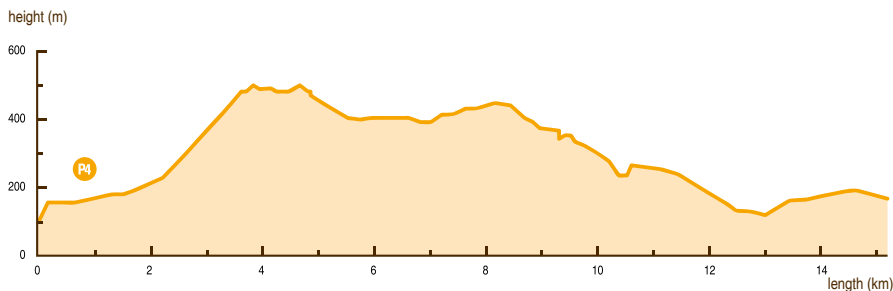
**Characteristics of the road:** very dynamic ground of Slovenian Istria, unspoilt nature, marvellous views from the mountain crest Kuk-Lačna over the Karst border, the Istrian hinterland and Gulf of Koper.

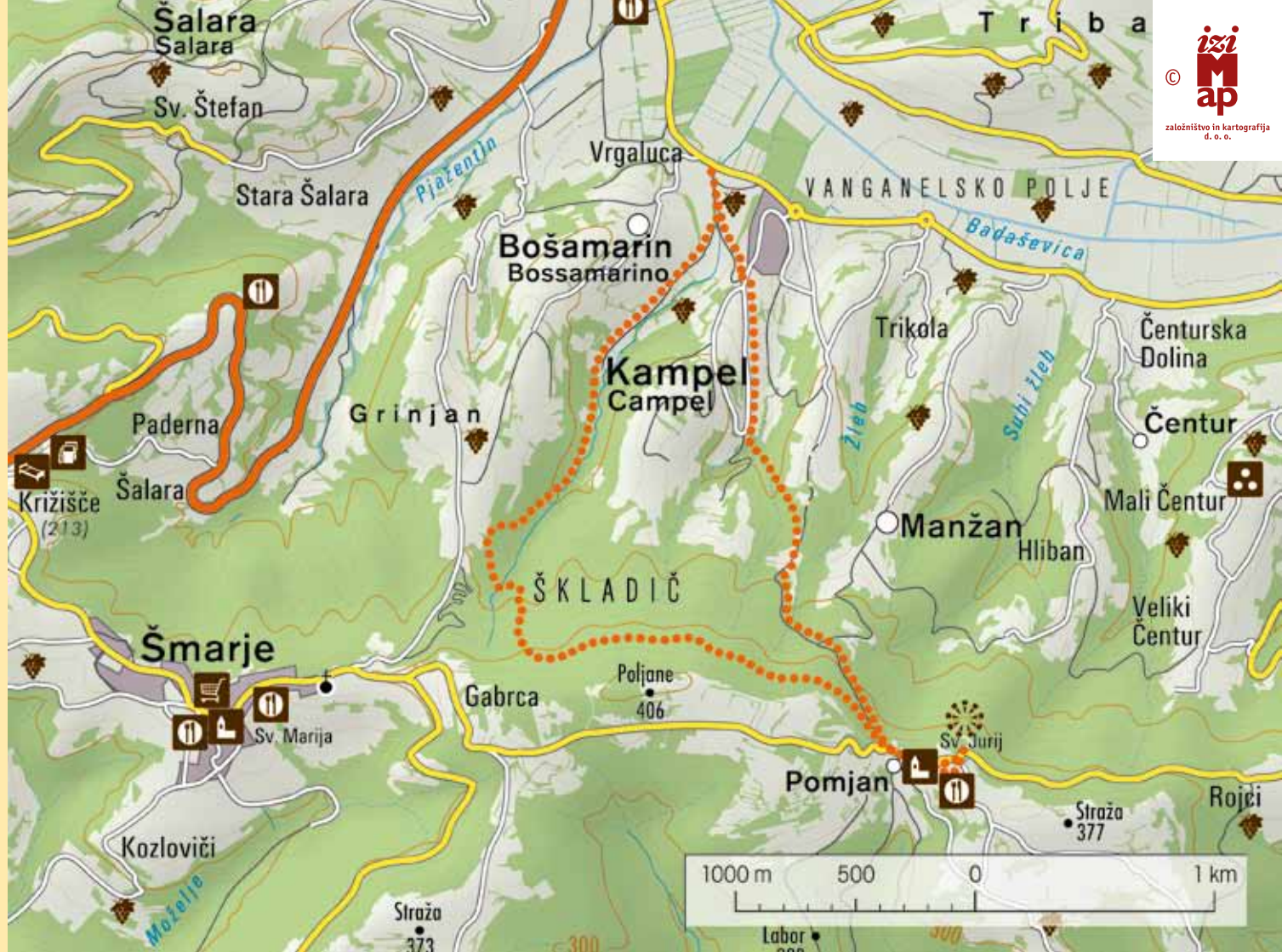
**Curiosities along the path:** the fortified church of the Holy Trinity with the famous frescoes, the Šavrinka sculpture, Pohlen and Snoj gallery in Hrastovlje, the pentagonal tower and the church of St. Florian in Kubed.

**Food and beverage service** in Hrastovlje and Kubed.

**Description:** The track starts from the parking place towards the crossroads with the chapel, than right along the road to Dol which lies in the gable of the valley behind a large the railway dyke. At the crossroad in the centre of the village Dol (the signpost for Zanimigrad) we turn right up, behind the houses, leave the asphalt and direct towards southeast towards the end of the cartroad which gently climbs the slope and crosses the railway tracks. The road from Zazid unites our path, however, we continue straight ahead and in some longer turnings climb to the grassy plains of Kuk above Movraž. From there, a marvellous view opens in all directions – however, the nicest part of the track along the crest is still in front of us. When we reach the crossroad of the cartroads, we turn right (the middle road leads towards Movraž, the left towards Rakitovec) and continue upon the cartroad which runs along the top of the crest in northwest direction, sweeps gently and continues almost straight over Smokvica and from there climbs slightly on Lačna. Here we can climb on top of the lookout tower and enjoy the marvellous view which is otherwise hidden by the pine forest. From here, we can descend steeply down to Hrastovlje and reduce the whole track to half. The original track continues

in the same direction and starts sweeping towards Kubed, leading us to the main road Kubed-Gračiče, where we turn right at the chapel, cross the main road, continue on the sidewalk and soon turn left on the steep slope towards the houses. Behind the houses, on the right, the path passes a large rocky shelter (spodmol) and climbs the wall, above which stands the church of St. Florian from 1860. The interesting bell tower of pentagonal shape, made of white Karst stone, played an important role in the defence from Turks and Uskoks during 15th and 16th centuries. The track continues by turning right down the slope to the wastewater treatment plant and again right to the sharp turn of the main road. We cross the main road and continue upon the cartroad in the same direction towards the bottom of the valley. The track straightens for a brief time and then starts to slowly climb towards Hrastovlje. The cartroad slowly turns left bringing us back to the starting point. At the end of this interesting trip, we can eat something in the tavern or agritourism. We can also visit the Pohlen and Snoj gallery or admire the famous Dance Macabre frescoes in the Romanesque church of the Holy Trinity from the beginning of 12th century.







**Starting point:** the turning of the Vanganel road for Kampil at the chapel (2.5 km from Koper).

**The path:** the chapel in Kampil – the spring – Pomjan – Kampil Brda – the chapel in Kampil

**The length of the path:**

8.2 km, 2-2.5 hours of walk

**The height of the path:** the starting point 8 m, the peak 378 m, the climb 480 m

**Difficulty:** medium difficulty level, light hiking boots recommendable, cartroads and paths. The path is recommendable in all seasons, except during the periods of rain due to slippery slope at some sections.

**GPS-track:** P5 – Pomjan.gpx

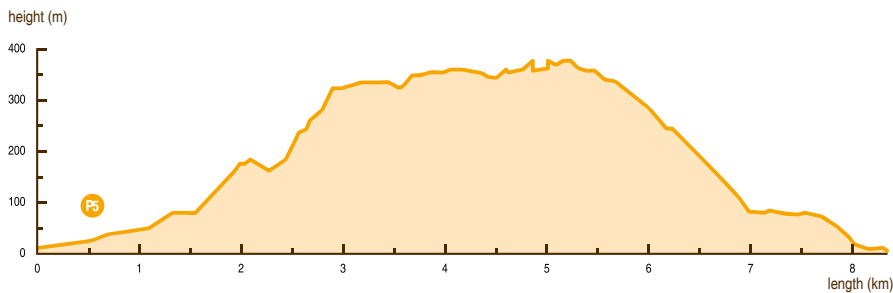
**Characteristics of the road:** dynamic ground in the nearby town hinterland, marvellous views on the Gulf of Koper, the valley of Vanganel, the nearby hills and, on sunny days on Alps and Dolomites. The trail markers help us orient better.

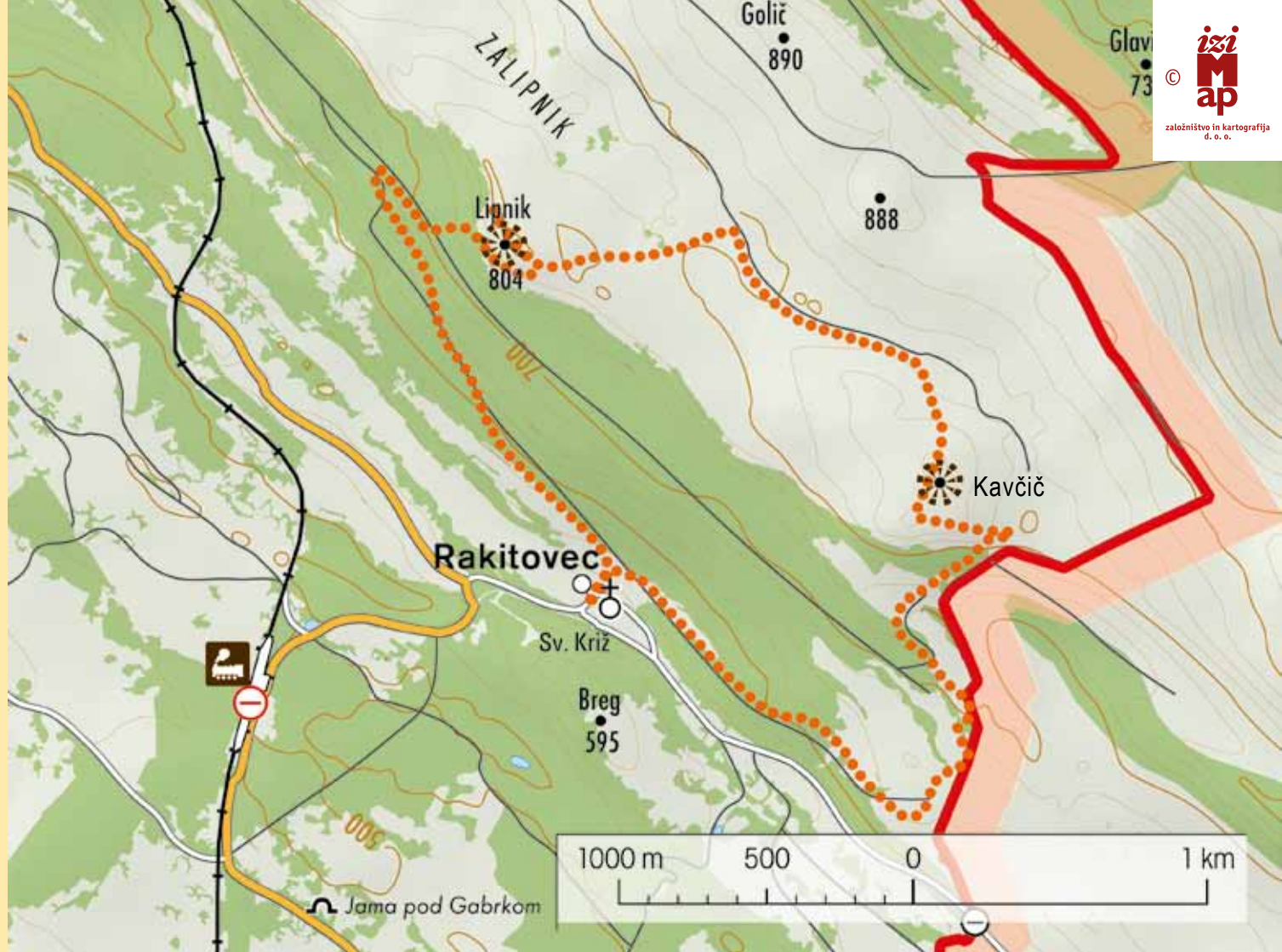
**Curiosities along the path:** the spring underneath Poljane, the rocky platform above Manžan, typical Istrian houses in Pomjan, the monument to the National Liberation Struggle (NOB), the village well, the church of St. George from 1222 with the characteristic bell tower and the church of St. Mary's Birth from 15th century with the remains of the frescoes and Glagolitic inscriptions.

**Food and beverage service:** the cellar Istrska klet Pomjan, tel.: +386 (0)5 656 95 20, [www.istrska-klet.com](http://www.istrska-klet.com)

**Description:** The track starts at the parking place, passes by the chapel which is on our left side, continues along the valley for 200 metres, turning right over the bridge where the road rises above the gorge, continuing straight ahead. At the signpost and the bench of the Lovrečič mountain trail, we turn right into the forest and gradually climb the slope towards the border of a large olive grove. From here, we follow the trail markers which leads us left down to the gorge with the modest spring. Here we cross the gorge and start to climb on the path which rises in numerous turns till the straight cartroad which cuts the slope of Poljane. We cross it and continue along, at times, quite steep track. During the wet periods, the whole ascent from the gorge can be slippery due to the mud, therefore be careful. The path continues towards left through the forest along the cartroad which rises for a short time and that straightens again to bring us on the road which rises from Manžan towards Pomjan. Along the marvellous views, the path riches Pomjan the highest village of the hills Šavrinsko gričevje, at the church of St. Mary's Birth with Glagolitic inscriptions. We continue towards the grait panoramic spot along the main road between the houses up through the village, passing by the church and the tavern on the right where we

can stop and refresh. Below us opens a marvellous view towards the hills of Šavrinsko gričevje and the valley of Vanganel, the Gulf of Koper on the left, Slavnik and the peaks of Čičarija. On sunny days, we can admire the peaks of the Alps and Dolomites. It is time to return. We return by crossing the village along the same track we used for the ascent. We turn left following the trail markers and descend along the cartroad which passes by the water reservoir, arriving at the sharp turning. Immediately after the turning we turn on the left hiking trail which sweeps steeply through the forest till the cleft on a large slab. The hiking trail continues towards left, however, we continue straight ahead till the road which ends at the first house of the village called Kampil Brda. We leave the road which passes by the house and take the path which splits and sweeps gently along the right slope of the gorge till reaching the road. There we turn left and, in an arch in the right direction, reach the asphalt after a gentle climb. We sweep along the road towards the crossroad, continue passing by the built-up area of family houses and reach the valley after a double turning and a steep descend. When the road strengthens, we are only 300 metres away from the chapel where we started our circular track.







**Starting point:** the village Rakitovec, the renovated puddle (accessible along the highway, exit Črni Kal, than through Gračišče and Movraž, 32 km from Koper).

**The path:** Rakitovec – Lipnik – Kavčič – Rakitovec

**The length of the path:** 9 km, 2.5-3 hours of walk

**The height of the path:** the starting point 512 m, the peak 878 m, the climb 440 m

**Difficulty:** medium difficulty level, light hiking boots recommendable. The path is recommendable in all seasons, except during the periods of scorching heat and strong wind. Since the path runs on solid Karst grounds, is also appropriate in wet periods.

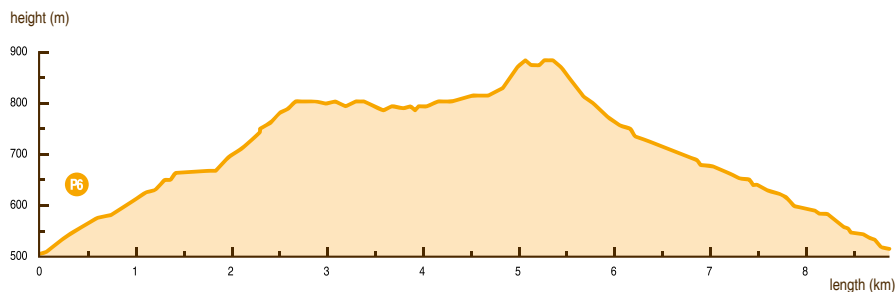
**GPS-track:** P6 – Rakitovec.gpx

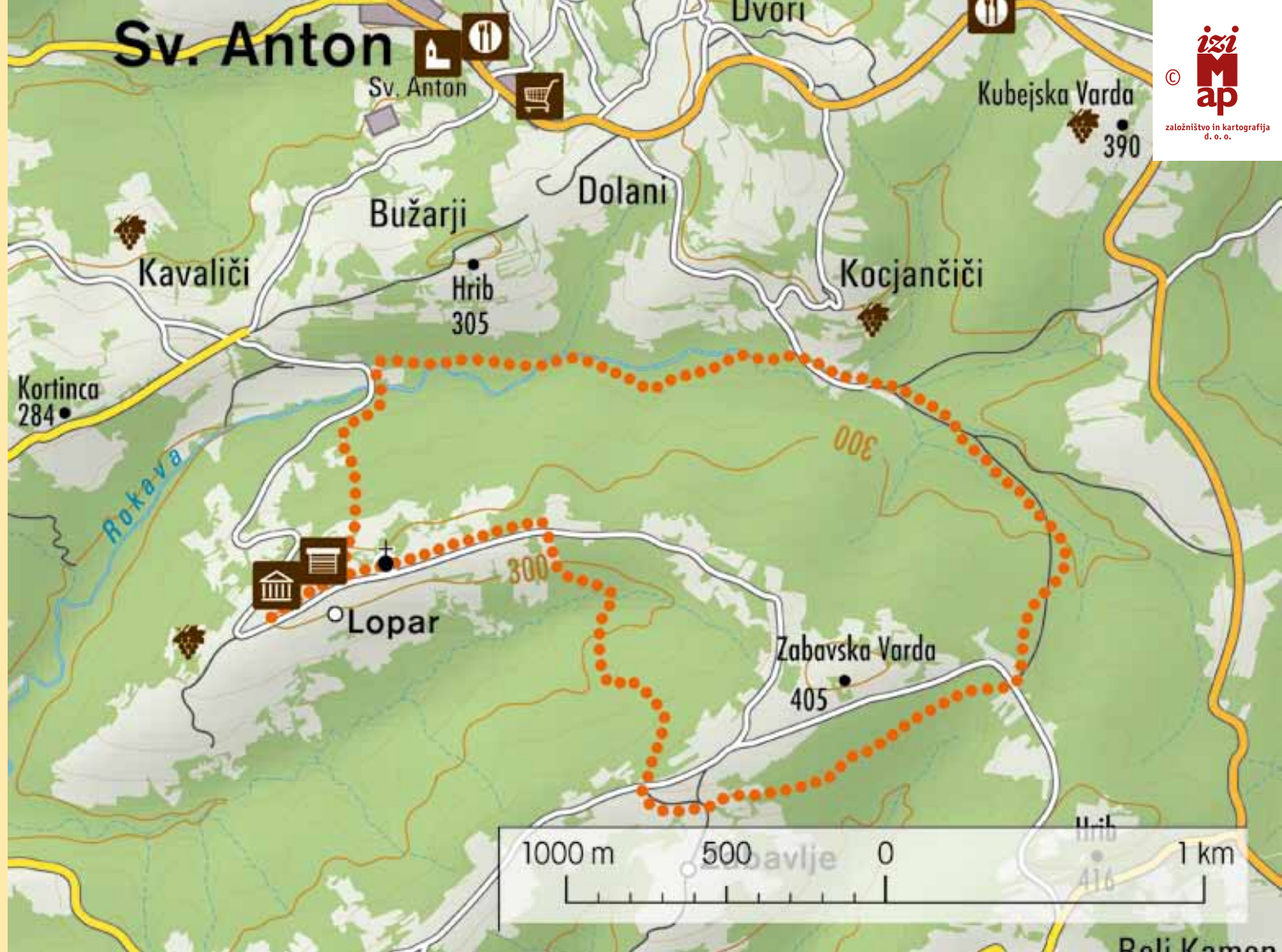
**Characteristics of the road:** paths and cartroads in the unspoiled nature, marvellous views from the crest Lipnik-Kavčič towards the villages underneath the Karst border, the Istrian hinterland and the Gulf of Koper. Rich flora of the Karst border. The locals named the track The path of the daffodils due to the large number of daffodils which bloom in May.

**Curiosities along the path:** typical Istrian village Rakitovec with typical wood external staircase and a large puddle for the watering of the cattle, meadows in bloom along the terraces of the Karst border and the plateau, rocky shelters (spodmoli) under Kavčič, the church of St. Cross from 1520.

**Description:** The path starts at the renovated puddle in front of the village. From there, we turn right, pass by the house of the local community and the e-point, continue among the houses, go up the stairs, take the asphalt road and turn left towards the upper part of the village. We can follow the yellow trail markers. The road turns right, however, we turn (in front of the yellow house number 58) left on the cartroad which, right under the wooded hill, starts to gradually rise towards northwest. We gradually gain height and when the path straightens along the wide meadow with few linden trees, we turn left on the path which rises from Zazid over the large grassy shelf underneath the Karst wall. After 300 metres, the signpost on a lonely tree directs us towards the left path which climbs over the edge of the wall till the crossroads where another signpost directs us left towards the 300 metres distant peak Lipnik. We are walking along the panoramic grassy crest and admiring the hills of the Croatian and Slovenian Istria, the sight reaches the sea and the peaks of Dolomites and Carnic Alps in the distance. We return back to the signpost, honour the memory of the soldiers fallen during the National Liberation Struggle (NOB) – which lies in the right of the stone fences in front of us – and continue towards east to the cartroad from Kojnik that joins us from the left. We are approaching our next

stop, slowly climbing over the vast plateau of Kavčič in the southeast direction. After 800 metres, at the pile of rocks, we leave the cartroad and take the path on the right which, passing the two lonely trees, starts to climb more steeply towards the foothills of the peak Kavčič, which we recognise from afar due to the two crosses at the top. We have reached the highest point of our track, and the view is even wider compared to Lipnik. Right in front of us towards east, our sight is attracted by Žbevnica, the highest peak of the long crest which starts at Kojnik on Croatian territory. The cartroad that we have left shortly before, runs in the same direction, sweeping under the steep wall, where we get surprised by a rocky shelter (spodmol) which offers refuge in case of bad weather or just a spot for a short snack and a rest. We continue down the cartroad which is slowly becoming forest road. The path is winding along the Croatian border. We turn right twice at two different crossroads, but when the road splits in the shape of a letter V, we choose the path on the right and slowly sweep in the direction of Rakitovec. The path reaches the village at the upper houses below the forest. We soon reach the crossroads where we started our scent. From here, we go down to the puddle and finish our picturesque journey along the Karst border above Rakitovec.







**Starting point:** the parking place in front of the ethnological collection the Bardinc house (accessible from the local road over Bertoki and Sv. Anton, 15 km from Koper).

**The path:** Lopar – Zabavlje – Varda – below the village Kocjančiči – the bridge over Rokava – Lopar

**The length of the path:** 7.6 km, 2.5 hours of walk

**The height of the path:** the starting point 300 m, the peak 221 m, the highest point of the ascent 345 m, the lowest point of the ascent 325 m.

**Difficulty:** medium difficulty level along paths and cartroads, light hiking boots recommendable. The path is recommendable in all seasons, also in wet periods. The grounds are solid, in winter is protected from the strong wind. In the periods of heavy rains, it can be difficult to cross the streams.

**GPS-track:** P7 – Lopar.gpx

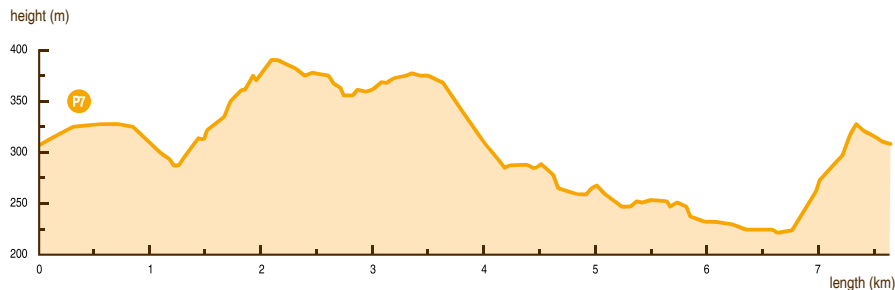
**Characteristics of the road:** Interesting track along the dynamic soil in the unspoiled nature, marvellous views over the Gulf of Koper and Trieste with Alps and Dolomites in the background, the peaks of Čičarija and the hills of Slovenian Istria.

**Curiosities along the path:** typical architecture of the Istrian villages, the Brandinc house and the church of St. Jeruf in Lopar, puddles, the river Rokava, wide olive groves and vineyards.

**Food and beverage service:** Tourist farm Dobrinja in Lopar (open by arrangement, tel. +386 (0)5 655 07 24)

**Description:** Our path starts at the parking place in front of the Brandinc house, home of the local ethnological collection worth visiting. From here, we start our climb by turning right through the village, passing by the cultural centre and the church of St. Jeruf with the three mighty oaks. We continue towards the puddle, where we turn right and join the cartroad, than we turn left and walk along the supporting wall near the vineyard towards the forest, where the path becomes steeper. From there, we go down towards the stream Saje, cross the path at the right side and direct up in a sort of chute, which in periods of heavy rain becomes a brook with numerous bends, climbing up the forest. In case of heavy rain, it can be impossible to cross the brook. The path later becomes a wide cartroad which gradually rises in the south direction till reaching the asphalt road at the top of the ridge. We cross the asphalt road and continue to the first houses of the village Zabavlje. Here, we turn left, again on the asphalt, and after 100 metres turn right in the forest along the concrete supporting wall. At the crossroads, we continue left and down, than make a sharp turn on left and up towards the ditch. We continue along the road on the left; the road straightens almost completely, than turns left and up towards the asphalt road below Varda. From here a view opens towards north and east, we can see Tinjan and the Karst border over the valley of

Rižana. Here, we cross the road and take the cartroad on the right, which starts to sweep towards the valley of Rokava under the village Kocjančiči. Towards the end, the path is steeper and damaged by the water. At the confluence of the ditches, the path straightens and becomes macadam. From here, it starts to climb again and after 100 metres from the lowest point, a narrow cartroad splits left and takes us to the stream Rokava. After crossing the stream, the cartroad becomes a path which winds along the left side of the stream, going up and down, never leaving the forest. When we cross the stream again, the valley straightens becoming wider. Continuing along the straight cartroad, we reach the asphalt road where we turn left and continue towards the bridge over Rokava. From here, the road goes up for another 120 metres till the concrete road which splits on left and continues steeply up the slope. The track ends by a nice field house which we pass at the left side and than, immediately behind it turn right on the cartroad which goes up steeply towards Lopar in front of us. Higher, we join the cartroad coming from the right side and continue straight ahead towards south and up till the first houses and the asphalt in the centre of the village. Here we turn right and go down, passing by the village home and the agritourism Dobrinja on right till reaching our starting point in front of the Bardinc house.







**Starting point:** the parking place in front of the shop and the tavers in Vanganel (6 km from Koper).

**The path:** Vanganel – the lake of Vanganel – the cascade Morigla – Marezige – Bržani – Vanganel

**The length of the path:** 10 km, 2.5-3 hours of walk

**The height of the path:** the starting point 25 m, the peak 284 m, the climb 270 m

**Difficulty:** medium difficulty level, sportswear or light hiking boots, along cartroads and paths. The path is recommendable in all seasons; the ground is solid, the path is protected from the strong wind, the major part runs in the shadow of the forest.

**GPS-track:** P8 – Vanganel.gpx

**Characteristics of the road:** dynamic soil, marvellous views over the Gulf of Koper, the valley of Vanganel, the near hills and in sunny days Alps and Dolomites.

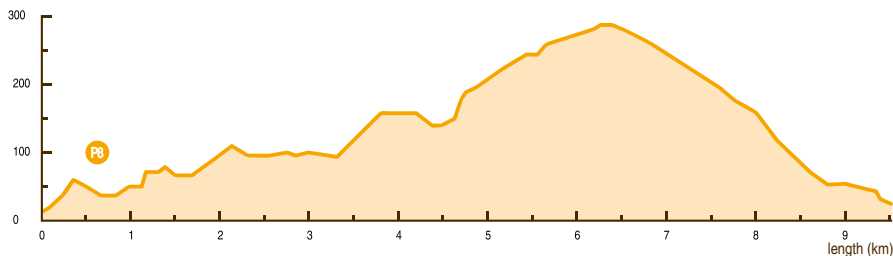
**Curiosities along the path:** the lake of Vanganel, the cascade Morigla below Marezige, the monument to the National Liberation Struggle (NOB), the church of St. Cross and the characteristic bell tower in Marezige.

**Food and beverage service** in Vanganel and Marezige.

**Description:** The path is marked by yellow trail markers, however, we can also follow the red-blue signs (in the shape of the heart) of the path “For the heart”, which partly runs along the same track. The path starts at the parking place in front of the shop in Vanganel, from where we direct towards the main road (Koper – Marezige), cross it and climb among the houses towards the upper asphalt road, where we turn left and sweep again, passing by the houses, towards the main road, which we cross again. At the other side starts a macadam road which brings us, after 30 metres, to the bridge. We leave the road and turn right, taking the path running along the bottom of the valley which brings us to a large stone barrier of the Vanganel lake. We take the stairs on the left side of the lake and climb on the dyke. We carefully cross the dyke and continue on right towards the road. From there, we go up the road till the next crossroads, where we turn left, down to the upper edge of the lake. We start to climb the slope along the damaged cartroad towards right and, at the second crossing turn left on the cartroad which is sweeping down towards the stream with a small cascade. The path straightens and winds through the forest towards the next brook, which we cross and continue around the lake. Then the path goes up steeply towards the crossroads which lies on the vast terrace in the middle of wide olive grooves. Here we can decide whether to shorten our track or continue along the original path. In case we want to shorten it, we turn left and after 300 metres reach again the path P8 which sweeps back to the valley. The original path leads us directly to the water trough. From here we can turn right and visit the small cascade of the brook Morigla,

or go right, up towards the edge of the forest. At this point, the path climbs steeply for some time and leads us to a comfortable cartroad which continues, on left, towards the village Škrgati. There, we turn right, towards the main road (Koper – Babiči) and left, continuing for 500 metres, passing by “osmice” and the cooperative home with a tavern and a shop in Marezige. Reaching the highest point of our track, we can rest. The place is known for the revolt of the locals against the fascist regime. In memory of this event, the 15th May is a municipal holiday of the Municipality of Koper. We must also stop at the monument dedicated to the revolt of Marezige and the victims of the National Liberation Struggle (NOB), from where we can also admire a marvellous view over the hills Šavrinsko gričevje, Koper and the hinterland. At the other side of the gulf are proudly rising the peaks of Carniola Alps and Dolomites. The last third of the track is in front of us. We sweep back down to the valley of Vanganel. We leave the panoramic spot and move towards the church of St. Cross, continue till the crossroads for Montinjan and cross the villages of Sabadini and Bržani. Here a rocky road, once the main connection between Marezige, Vanganel and Koper, joins from the right. Along this road, we reach, in few turns, a wide vineyard, where we turn left on the cartroad which leads us to a stone bridge. There we turn right and take the macadam road, continue towards the main road (Vanganel – Marezige), turn right and soon spot our starting point. We can also cross again the main road and return to the starting point along the same road we used at the beginning of the journey.

height (m)







**Starting point:** the parking place in front of the store and the church of the Assumption of Mary in Dekani (8 km from Koper).

**The path:** Dekani – Goli hrib – Kolobar – Tinjan – Podgorci – the cascade – Dekani

**The length of the path:** 7.8 km, 2.5 hours of walk

**The height of the path:** the starting point 63 m, the peak 370 m, the climb 402 m

**Difficulty:** low difficulty level, along cartroads and paths, sports wear or light hiking boots recommendable. The path is recommendable in all seasons; the ground is solid, the path is protected from the strong wind and runs in the shadow of the forest.

**GPS-track:** P9 – Tinjan.gpx

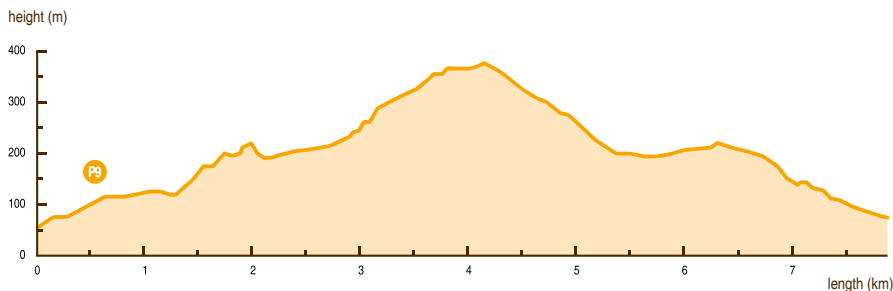
**Characteristics of the road:** dynamic soil of the town hinterland, marvellous views over the Gulf of Koper, the near hills of Šavrinsko gričevje, the Karst border, the valley of Osp with the famous walls, in sunny days, Alps and Dolomites.

**Curiosities along the path:** Istrian village Tinjan with the church of St. Michael, numerous panoramic spots, the cascade above Dekani, the church of the Assumption of Mary from 1229 in Dekani, wide olive groves and vineyards.

**Food and beverage service** in Dekani.

**Description:** The track starts in the centre of the village, at the parking place, in front of the church. From there we go towards the cooperative home, than left up the right turning and pass the cooperative home. After 100 metres we turn left (the blue signpost Galerija) and slightly up, pass the last houses and arrive among the wide olive groves and vineyards. At the crossroads at the edge of the forest, we turn right towards southeast to the panoramic spot and a resting place above the village Miši. From there, the road turns left and starts to climb the slope through the pine forest situated along the right side of the crest Goli vrh. In the last part, a marvellous view opens towards Dekani below us and Koper in the distance. We arrive at the following panoramic spot, from where a view opens towards east, the valley of river Rižana and the Karst border with Slavnik and Kojnik in the distance. The path slightly sweeps and transforms in a forest road, along which we continue our walk by turning right and up towards the crossroads below Kolobar, where stands the information board of the Dekani circular path. High above us we can see out next stop, the peak of Tinjan with the church of St. Michael and the high tower of antennas. The path continues along the asphalt and, at the first house, turns left towards the end of the village, where, at the large rock and the electric pole, the signpost “Tinjan” directs us on the right, up the stone stairs and towards

the stone path which rises in the direction of the forest. The path straightens and leads us, in a gradual climb, towards northeast on the asphalt in front of the signpost Tinjan, where we turn right, around the chapel, pass the puddle and arrive to the church of St. Michael with a mighty linden tree in the centre of the village. We have reached the highest point and are rewarded with a view in all directions. From here, we descend between a nicely renovated stone house and a water reservoir to the great panoramic spot at the northern side of the peak of Tinjan. The view opens towards the valley of Osp and the famous walls which attract climbers from all over the world. From here we sweep steeply straight ahead between the water reservoir and the puddle, where we turn on the right cartroad which later becomes a concrete road at the village Podgorci. A bit lower, a wide road splits on the right and lead us, almost horizontally along the southern slope of Tinjan, back to Kolobar. We descend along the same path we used for the ascent, until the sign “slap” (cascade) directs towards right on a road which leads down in the gorge. We take the left path at the crossroads towards the wooden bridge which crosses the stream above the cascade. Our path comes out of the forest at the edge of a wide olive groove and leads us down to the houses of Dekani and the parking place where our journey ends.



# K1 With a bike along the land of Refošk wine





**Starting point:** the parking place at the Koper train station.

**The path:** Koper – Prade – Bonini – Sv. Anton – Kavalichi\* – Lopar – Popetre – Trsek – Boršt – Marezige – Montinjan – Vanganel – Koper  
\*the shorter track – to Marezige.

**The length of the path:** 39 km, the northern circle 21 km, the southern circle 22 km

**The height of the path:** the starting point 3 m, the peak 402 m, the climb 1012 m

**Difficulty:** high difficulty level, asphalt

**GPS-track:** K1 – Marezige.gpx

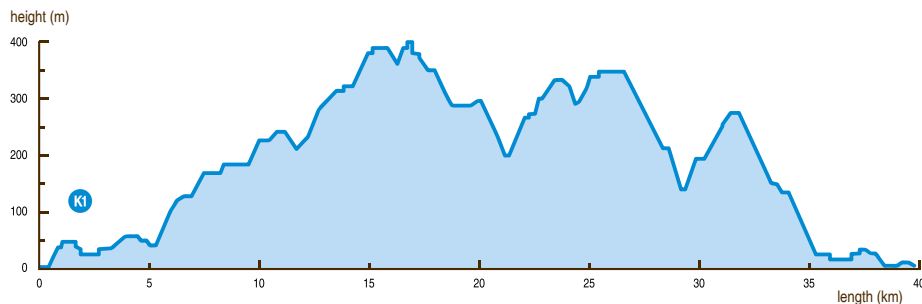
**Characteristics of the road:** dynamic soil of the Slovenian Istria, marvellous views over the Gulf of Koper and the hinterland, the hills of Slovenian Istria, in clear weather also the Giulian and Carniola Alps and Dolomites. It is possible to carry out the track in two parts, using the connection Kavalichi – Marezige.

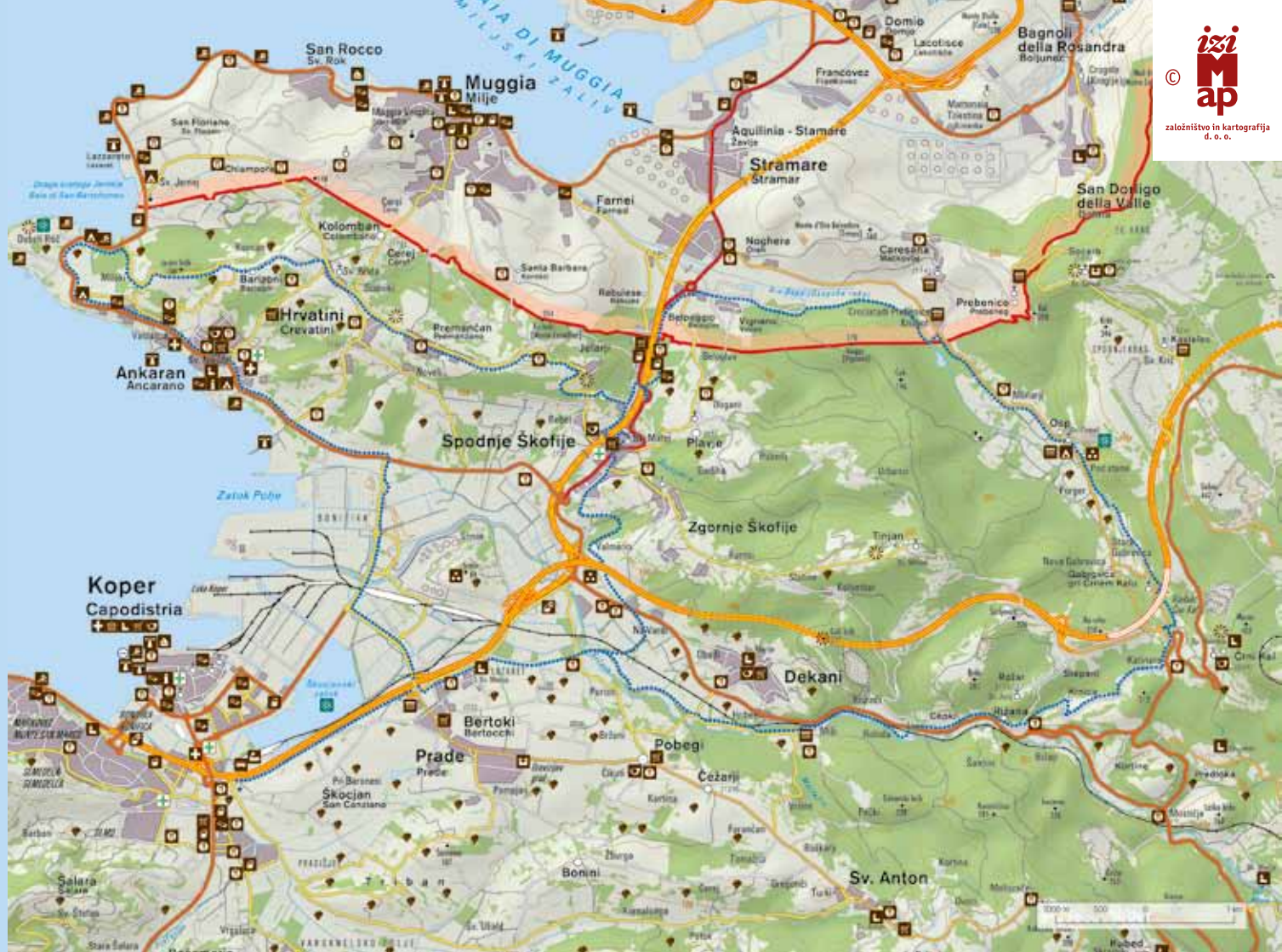
**Curiosities along the path:** typical architecture of Istrian villages, the Bardinc house in Lopar, puddles, the olive groves and vineyards.

**Food and beverage service** in Prade, Sv. Anton, Truške, Marezige, Vanganel and Montinjan.

**Description:** We start at the parking place, from where we take the bicycle path under the highway, continue along the local roads with the traffic light, and go up the hill between the cemetery and the wine cellar Vinakoper. There, we turn left on the top of the hill Škocjanski grič and slightly sweep towards the main road. There we turn right and, at the following crossroads, continue straight ahead for about 300 metres and join again the main road, which we leave after another 300 metres immediately behind the school and the tavern on the right. We start to climb gradually over the hill and at the following crossroads turn left (the signpost Bonini), go slightly down, and then steeply up the hill towards Bonini. From there, we make a sharp turning left on the panoramic crest and continue between the houses till reaching the main road below Sv. Anton. Here we turn right, up towards the village with a store and a tavern and after 300 metres behind the church of Sv. Anton turn right towards the next crossroad in Kavalichi.\* in case we want to reduce the track on half, or leave out the most difficult part along the dynamic hills, we can continue straight ahead towards Marezige. However, the main track turns left in the direction of Lopar. A short descent is followed by a longer gradual climb which brings us to the ethnological collection “the Bardinc house”, worth visiting. From here, the path continues to climb till the crossroads with a mighty oak, from where a wide view opens in all directions. We turn left towards Popetre (the signpost Gračišče) and down to Trsek, situated along the

steep slope above the upper stream of the river Dragonja. From here an even steeper descend follows till the stream Demarnik and again a climb towards Truške. We pass by the former school on Kortina and continue another 200 metres till reaching the crossroads (chapel, tavern). Even though the road sweeps towards Marezige, we turn left and, among the wide vineyards surrounded by stone walls, go down in a sort of saddle, and from there climb gradually to a long, almost horizontal mountain ridge, passing the sharp turning with the reminder of the American parachutist Charles R. Dogherty and ahead, by the natural sculpture in the form of a sheep, towards Boršt. Here we turn right and down to the crossroads for Glem and then right again, down a very steep slope towards the bottom of the valley and over the bridge of Rokava. There is another short and quite steep climb towards the crossroads (saddle) – straight ahead for Babiči and right for Marezige, the heart of the Land of Refošk wine. Here we can rest and enjoy the view. All the difficult ascents are already behind us and there is only the return to Koper waiting for us. We drive to the church of St. Cross, turn left by the school and down to Montinjan and ahead to Vanganel where the descend steep ends. Here we turn right, pass by the tavern and the school with the monument to the fallen soldiers, where we turn left and continue along the valley towards Škocjan. We sweep down the hill near the wine cellar Vinakoper, go under the highway and return to the train station, the starting point of our vagrancy.







**Starting point:** the parking place at the Koper train station.

**The path:** Koper–Ankaran–Barižoni–Hrvatini–former border Škofije\*–part of the track runs along the Italian territory–Osp–Črni Kal–Rižana–Koper\*the shorter track – to Bertoki.

**The length of the path:** 42 km

**The height of the path:** the starting point 3 m, the peak 209 m, the climb 691 m

**Difficulty:** medium difficulty level, asphalt, good macadam, cartroads, mountain bike recommended

**GPS-track:** K2 – Tinjan.gpx

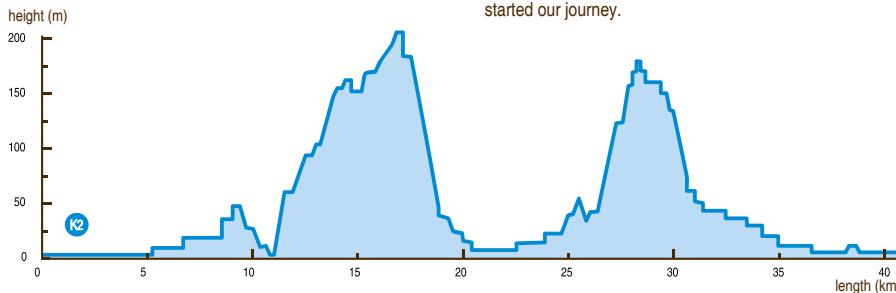
**Characteristics of the road:** dynamic soil of the Slovenian Istria, marvellous views over the Gulf of Trieste and Koper with the hinterland, part of the track along the valley of Osp runs on the Italian territory. It is possible to divide the journey in more parts using the connections K1A Škofije – Bertoki.

**Curiosities along the path:** the Škocjanski zatok Nature reserve, the grove Reslov gaj, typical architecture of the village Osp, the Osp wall and the cave Grad, Mišja peč, Stara Gabrovica, the viaduct Črni Kal, the river Rižana.

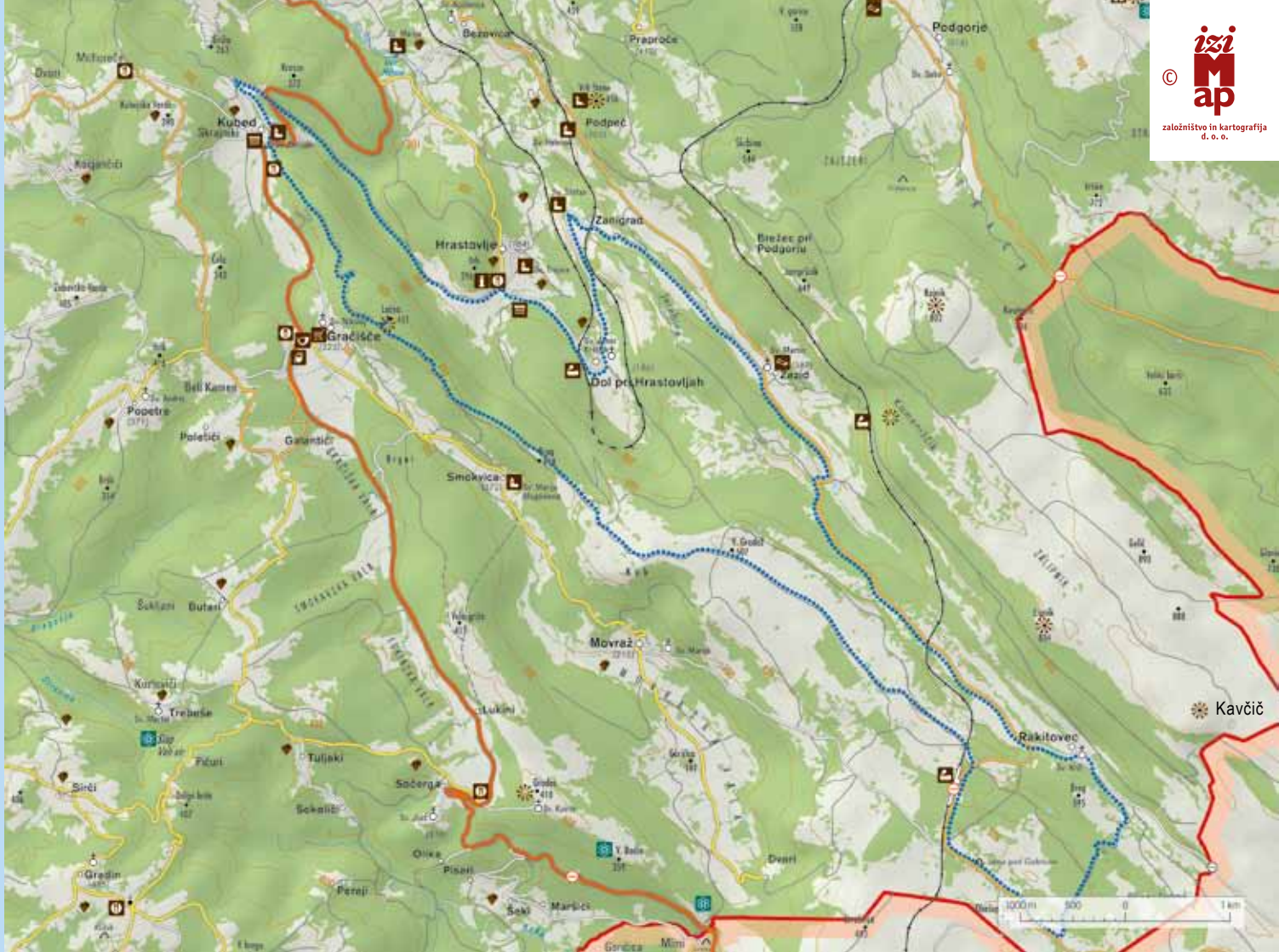
**Food and beverage service** in Ankaran, Osp, Črni Kal, Rižana and Škofije.

**Description:** We start at the parking place, from where we take the bicycle route of health and friendship – Parenzana which runs parallel with the highway along the Škocjanski zatok towards Bertoki. At the end of the path we turn left by the entrance to the nature reserve Škocjanski zatok and continue towards the roundabout. Then we turn right on the viaduct that crosses the highway. We continue straight ahead over the second roundabout till the main road towards Ankaran. Here we turn left and continue through Ankaran till Debeli ritč. The road sweeps towards the sea and, along the narrow part, an asphalt road splits right and steeply climbs through the vineyards on Barižoni. At the turning, in the middle of the sheer slope, we turn left on the plateau (the road is closed for traffic) and continue almost horizontally on macadam along the forest border towards the houses of Barižoni. Along the road, an information board invites us to visit the grove Reslov gaj. Then we turn left and in a light ascent reach the road on the crest of the Muggia hills near the church of St. Bridget. Here we turn right towards Hrvatini, pass the church and the cemetery in order to reach the following crossroads, where we continue straight ahead in a gradual climb, crossing Božiči and Fajti till the crossroads for Jalarji (Elerji/Elari). We turn right and go down to the village and steeply sweep to the service road along the highway Trieste – Koper. At this point we can decide whether to cut the track in the direction for Bertoki and Koper. The path continues down towards the highway (D-8), where we cross the cycling path D-8 and sweep towards the bridge over the highway, turn right, cross the bridge and turn right again, towards Trieste. Behind the Casino and the service station at the former boarder, we leave (on Italian side) the main road and turn right to the old parallel road and continue till the roundabout. At the second exit (industrial zone), we turn right in the valley of Osp and pass the commercial premises,

continuing till the end of the asphalt road where stands the information board "Traversata Muggesana". The cartroad brings us to the forest, by the interesting lakes and almost horizontally along two crossroads, where we turn right, till reaching the crossroad with a barrier. Here we turn left on the small bridge and continue for 100 metres towards the road, where we turn right towards the former board Osp and return to Slovenia. Continuing along this road, we reach Osp and the famous climbing wall with the spring of the ricer Osp. We continue along the up valley and 200 metres after the village centre, we turn left at the crossroads towards Mišja peč. Then the cartroad starts to climb towards Stara Gabrovica (in Stara Gabrovica we turn left at the chapel) and leads underneath the mighty viaduct which is more than 100 metres high, till reaching the church of St. Nicolas and left up to the main road. From there, we sweep towards the lower part of Črni Kal, cross the main road and go down through Krnica to Rižana, where we turn right across the village and drive along the main road through Cepki till the 500 metres far crossroads. Here we turn left on a small bridge over the railway tracks and, right, by the houses between the tracks and the river, where we reach the picturesque part of Rižana with the dykes. A short stone passage follows along the river. Then we cross the bridge and arrive in the courtyard of the wine cellar Bordon. We continue in the right direction till the concrete factory, where we turn left and afterwards immediately right through a narrow asphalt road over Mikoti and, on macadam, towards the bridgehead of Parenzana (D-8). There we turn left till a bigger bridge over Rižana and continue along the cycling path till the main road in front of Bertoki. From there we continue by turning left till the highway, where we turn right towards Sermin. At the end of the bridge, we drive cross the bridge over highway and return towards the Koper train station, where we started our journey.



## K3 Along the Istrian villages of the Karst border



**Starting point:** the parking place in front of Tourist information center Hrastovlje or the Švab tavern (accessible along the highway, exit Črni Kal, 21 km from Koper).

**The path:** Hrastovlje – Dol – Zanimgrad – Zazid – Rakitovec – Kuk – Lačna – Kubed – Hrastovlje

**The length of the path:** 30 km

**The height of the path:** the starting point 180 m, the peak 381 m, the climb 761 m

**Difficulty:** high difficulty level, asphalt, macadam, cartroads, mountain bike obligatory (!); in some parts of the track, the soil is rough. Recommendable in all seasons, except during the periods of scorching heat and strong wind. Since the path runs on solid Karst grounds, is also appropriate in wet periods. The track can be technically demanding along some parts.

**GPS-track:** K3 – Rakitovec.gpx

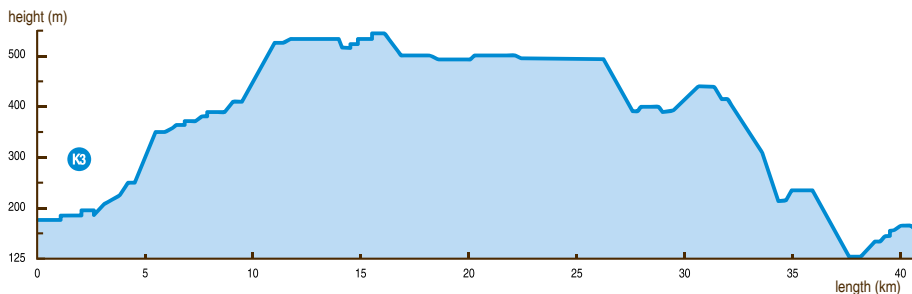
**Characteristics of the road:** the Karst plateau, the slopes of the hills Kuk and Lačna with rich flora, marvellous views over the Gulf of Trieste and Koper with the hinterland.

**Curiosities along the path:** the typical Karstic Istrian villages, the fortified church of the Holy Trinity in Hrastovlje with the famous frescoes, the Pohlen and Snoj gallery in Hrastovlje, the pentagonal bell tower and the church of St. Florian in Kubed, the church of St. Cross in Rakitovec, the Church of St. Martin in Zazid.

**Food and beverage service** in Hrastovlje, Kubed and Zazid.

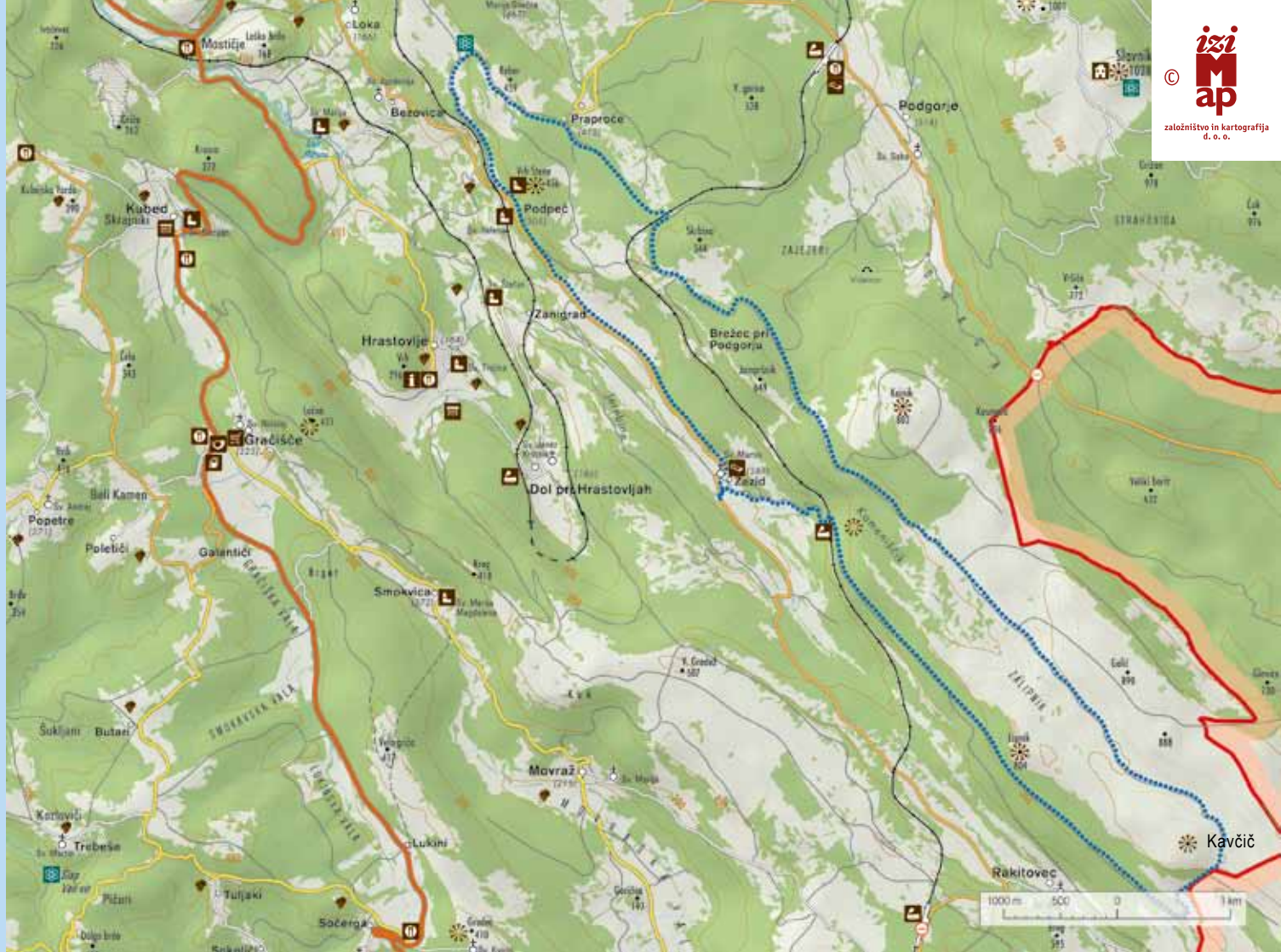
**Description:** We start at the parking place in front of TIC Hrastovlje, from where we drive to the chapel in the middle of the crossroads and climb the gentle slope which brings us to the village Dol. There is a signpost "Zazid" on the wall of the church which directs us around the fire station to the macadam road which sweeps gently and then starts to gradually climb towards Zanimgrad. The last part of the climb is very steep and due to the gravel, hard to drive on. There we can visit the ancient church of St. Stephen with frescoes, and then continue through the abandoned village towards the underpass below the railway. There, the road transforms in a damaged cartroad which starts to ascent along the left side of the valley. The technical ascent (around 600 metres) is very hard due to the bas ground. Less prepared cyclists can walk over it and continue when the road straightens and continues towards the interesting village Zazid, located underneath the walls of the Karst border (water). Before reaching Zazid, we take the right macadam road at the crossroads and pass the wastewater treatment plant. The road continues along the asphalt in a gentle ascent towards the renovated puddle and from there quite steeply up on the large back, where it straightens again. There we cross the railway Diveče – Pula and reach the crossroads with the information board and a resting place in front of the village Rakitovec. We turn left and go down to the village and reach the renovated puddle and the church of St. Cross with the interesting bell tower. From there, we continue through the village towards southeast till the end of the asphalt. We continue along the macadam until we reach the forest road which splits on the right (there is a sign: "forest road – use at your own responsibility") that brings us to the ridge with an interesting sign from 1867. The path that runs parallel with the border starts to sweep becoming almost narrow after few turns and brings us to the asphalt, about 300 metres before the border. There we turn right and soon reach the road (on the left side) from Movraž and crosses the railway. However, we continue straight ahead parallel to it till the railway, where is possible to refill with water. After

about 150 metres, at the crossroads with the information board, we leave the asphalt and turn left on the forest road that after 200 metres crosses the railway and leads us almost horizontally along the ridge with magnificent panoramic spots to Kuk above Movraž. The path runs through wide pastures. We need to cross the fence twice, extra watchful to the wire. In the meantime, trail markers of the "Path of the castles" join us from the left and accompany us till Kubed. The path then starts to sweep for some time and after that again straightens. The soil becomes rougher. We are driving on the top of the crest for the whole time. The soil slightly waves till reaching a steeper ascent on the top of Lačna. We reach the crossroad where the rocky edge starts to steeply sweep left towards Smokvica. There we can reach the asphalt which brings us to Kubed. A more adrenalin ride follows. Those who are not fond of such rides, can cut the path to Smokvica and then, along the asphalt pass Gračišče and Kubed, where can join again on the original path which continues straight ahead. Higher, where the signed path turns right, we take the left turn and continue for about 220 metres, and then along a hardly visible path which splits at 90 degrees right (signpost "stolp" - tower), reach the top of the mount Lačna with the panoramic tower. We return back to the main road which starts to gradually sweep and is, at moments, very rough. Lower, at the crossroads (after about 1.7 km) we turn left where the road turns into a path which sweeps over the rocky edge to the stream and the road for Kubed. For those with less experience is recommendable to do the descent on foot. We cross the road and follow the sign markers up to the church of St. Florian and the famous pentagonal bell tower. From there we continue along the ridge in the northwest direction, turn right at the mirror and after 150 metres carefully (!) sweep down to the cartroad, pass by the wastewater treatment plan and rich the main road (Kubed – Hrastovlje). From there we continue down towards the valley and then back up to Hrastovlje. When we arrive at the vineyards, the road straightens and sweeps down to the starting point.





# K4 From the Karst border to the doorstep of Čičarija



**Starting point:** the parking place in front of the playground Zazid (accessible along the highway, exit Črni kal, 18 km from Koper).

**The path:** Zazid – Podpeč – Praproče – Jampršnik – Kameniščik – Zalipnik – Kavčič – train station Zazid – Zazid

**The length of the path:** 23 km

**The height of the path:** the starting point 387 m, the peak 828 m, the climb 709 m

**Difficulty:** high difficulty level, asphalt, macadam, cartroads, mountain bike. The technically difficult descent to the Zazid train station demand a great deal of caution, especially due to the rocks and leaves.

**GPS-track:** K4 – Zazid.gpx

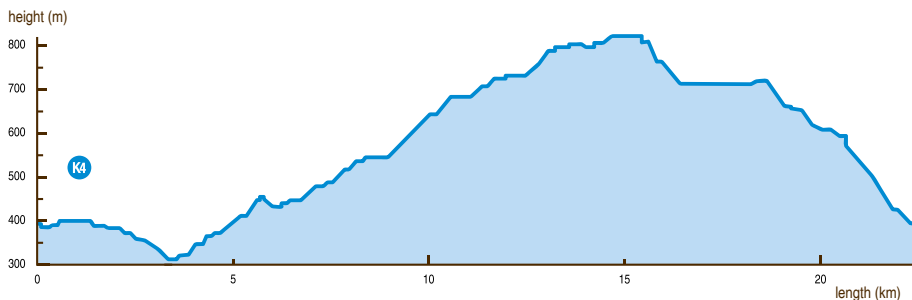
**Characteristics of the road:** the Karst plateau and the slopes of Golič and Kavčič with rich flora, marvellous views over the Gulf of Trieste and Koper with the hinterland (nice view from the panoramic spot along the descent towards the Zazid train station – marked with the red star).

**Curiosities along the path:** typical Istrian villages of the Karst border, the church of St. Martin in Zazid, Prkič house and the defence tower in Podpeč.

**Food and beverage service** Zazid (Hostel Xaxid, tel.: +386 (0)5 639 20 06, [www.hostelxaxid.si](http://www.hostelxaxid.si)).

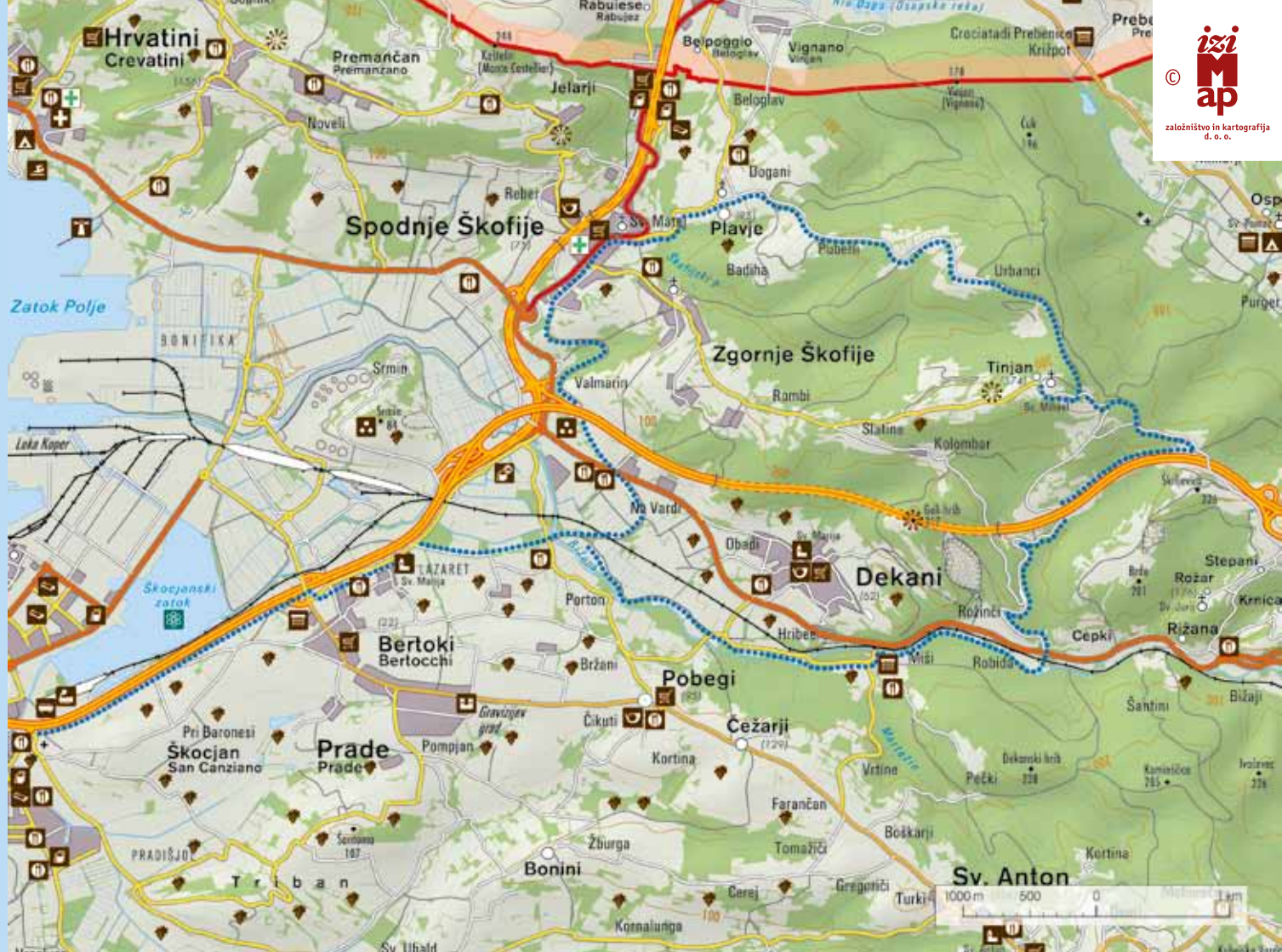
**Description:** We start at the parking place from where we drive along the main road through the village, passing by the ancient church of St. Martin (e-point) towards Podpeč where is possible to visit the Prkič house, the remains of the ancient architecture below the Karst border. We can also visit the interesting overhanging wall with the cave and the defence tower from 11th century which rises above the houses. In front of the railway underpass, we turn right, pass the houses and continue towards Černotiče (a signpost). After a short and steep climb, the path straightens. At the crossroads we continue straight ahead and at the following crossroads turn left. A shorter steep ascent follows. From here, we sweep through the forest towards Praproče and at the sharp turn in front of the village turn right. The path gently climbs through the pine forest and brings us to the strain underpass. We turn right on the macadam path coming from Podgorje and continue through the crossroads for Podpeč. We continue straight ahead after the following crossroad for Brežec and almost horizontally continue in a gradual ascent along the slope of Jampršnik. From the left joins the road from Podgorje (of macadam), the climb becomes steeper and a road splits at left for Kojnik. However, we continue straight ahead and climb to the meadow

along south slope of Golič. As soon as we leave the forest, a wide view opens over southwest. Our path becomes more rough and continues to climb towards southeast under the peak of Kavčič where reaches the highest point – 828 m. We can rest; the hardest part is behind us. Now there is only the descent – a delight for experienced cyclist, other, be careful! From here we sweep over the rocky edge to the caverns (spodmoli) and in a long turn in the left direction, reach the lower rock platform, accessible by the damaged cartroad. At the first crossroad of the cartroads, we leave our path which goes down towards Rakitovec and turn right, back to a cartroad which runs through the meadows of the horizontal panoramic track above Rakitovec. Above the rocky platform on the right, our path starts to sweep down becoming more and more rough, so be careful! From here a neck breaking descent towards the Zazid train station follows – a real delight for experienced cyclists. Along the descend, the marvellous view over the Gulf of Trieste with Alps and Dolomiten in the background will accompany us. We cross the railway tracks and sweep along the macadam road, passing by the water spring “Pod strugo” back to Zazid and the starting point.





K5 The path to Tinjan – from sea to stone





**Starting point:** the parking place in front of the Koper train station.

**The path:** Koper–Bertoki–Škofije–Plavje–Urbanci–Tinjan–Miši (Dekani) –Bertoki–Koper

**The length of the path:** 27 km

**The height of the path:** the starting point 3 m, the peak 364 m, the climb 483 m

**Difficulty:** high difficulty level of ascent and descent, asphalt, macadam, cartroads, mountain bike.

**GPS-track:** K5 – Tinjan.gpx

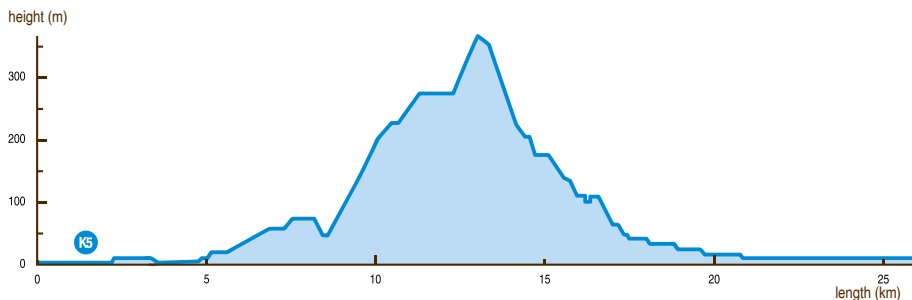
**Characteristics of the road:** the track is suitable for experienced cyclists who enjoy in descents on rough soil. The path climbs to the peak of Tinjan (374 m), which is circled at the foothills by the circle part K2. Marvellous view opens from the top on the Gulf of Trieste and Koper with the hinterland, the valley of Osp and the Karst border, in clear days we can see the peaks of Giulian and Carnic Alps and Dolomites.

**Curiosities along the path:** church of St. Lucy and Rocco in Plavje, the village of Tinjan with the ancient church of St. Michael, numerous panoramic spots, the river Rižana, the Nature reserve Škocjanski zatok.

**Food and beverage service** in Bertoki, Dekani and Škofije.

**Description:** We start at the parking place from where we drive along the cycling route of Health and Friendship – Parenzana (D-8) which runs parallel to the highway along Škocjanski zatok. At the end of the road we turn right over above the highway and take the first road left towards Bertoki. From there, we continue along the main road till the crossroads where we turn right on the route of Health and Friendship (D-8). We follow the path over the fertile valley towards Rižana, continue under the railway tracks, pass along the former train station Dekani towards the main road (Drekani – Koper). We cross it on the left side and immediately turn right, up to the parking place below Lama factory, where we cross the road bridge over the highway and continue, along the picturesque pine forest towards the first houses and the school of Škofije. We follow the trail markers of the D-8 track which direct us first left and then right to the main square in front of the church of St. Mathew, where are also the store, post and inns. From here we continue along the main road towards Trieste and leave it after 200 metres (signpost Plavje). From here, we sweep down to the bridge at the bottom of the valley, where the long climb towards the top of Tinjan starts. We pass the village of Plavje, driving by the church of St. Lucy and St. Rocco, up towards the two crossroads where we turn left. We pass the two water reservoirs and climb on the plateau, where the road straightens till the village of Urbanci. Here ends the asphalt, while the road starts to sweep gently towards the upper part of the mount Tinjan, which we clearly see in front of us. Since we relaxed after almost two kilometres of straight road, we can climb the last slope which brings us, in an arc on right, to the top with the church of St. Michael and the branchy

linden tree. At the only crossroad of the cartroads we continue straight ahead, the right road is too steep and the left will be use for the descent. A marvellous view opens from the top. We can drive around the top and then back between the houses to the original path, sweep to the first crossroad where we turn right (direction Osp, Rižana) and then even steeper towards the following crossroads where we turn left (red signpost Rižana) to a narrow cartroad which sweeps into the pine forest. Be careful – the road is damaged in some sections! A better and less steep macadam road joins from the right side which brings us to the asphalt in front of the road bridge over the highway. Before the road bridge, as soon as the asphalt starts, we turn right to a dynamic service road which sweeps along the highway to the valley of Rižana. We turn left twice at two crossroads and end the descent arriving at the main road, where from the left, joins the original track K2 (Path around Tinjan). We cross the main road and continue straight ahead to the bridge over the railway tracks and then right, passing by the houses. Between the tracks and the river, we reach the picturesque part of the ditches on Rižana. We continue along the river and than turn left over the bridge, arriving at the courtyard of the wine cellar Bordon. We cross the bridge, turn right toward the concrete factory, where we turn left and immediately right to the narrow asphalt road. We pass Mikoti and along the macadam reach the bridgehead along the track Parenzana (D-8). Here we turn left towards a larger bridge over Rižana and continue along the cycling path D-8 till reaching the main road for Bertoki, where we turn left and continue towards the highway. From here, we return along the known path to our starting point.



U1 The green learning trail: Smokvica



**Starting point:** the village Smokvica, the village square in front of the church of St. Magdalene (accessible by the highway, exit Črni Kal, passing Gračišče, 24 km from Koper).

**The path:** Smokvica – the peak of Krog – the cave Špilja - Smokvica

**The length of the path:** 2.7 km, 1 hour of walk

**The height of the path:** the starting point 271 m, the peak 408 m, the climb 166 m

**Difficulty:** low difficulty level, along cartroads and paths, sports wear or light hiking boots recommendable. The path is recommendable in all seasons; the ground is solid and therefore suitable in periods of rain.

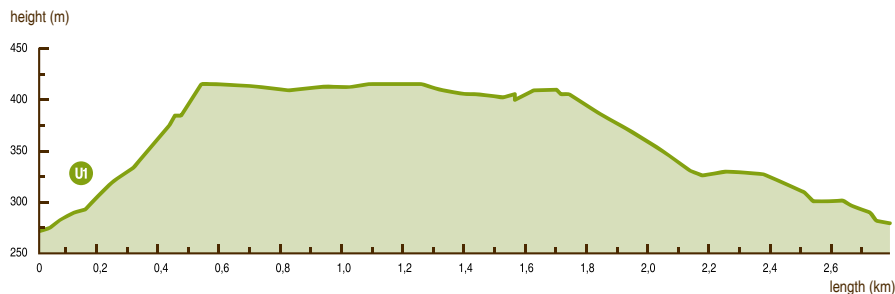
**GPS-track:** U1 – Smokvica.gpx

**Characteristics of the road:** short thematic circular path in unspoilt nature, marvellous views from the crest Kuk-Lačna, the village below the Karst Border (Hrastovlje, Podpeč, Zavrč) and the Istrian hinterland. Rich flora of the Karst border.

**Curiosities along the path:** characteristic Istrian village Smokvica below the crest Kuk-Lačna, protected from the strong wind, meadows in bloom along the plateau, Karst phenomena (dolina, cave), the village square with the watering place for the cattle, the church of St. Magdalene from 1422, the renovated Bržan house. The village is known for figs (smokve) – from there the origin of its name.

**Description:** The path starts on the village square in front of the church of St. Magdalene, where also stands the information board. Along the track we always follow the yellow arrows and the nice coloured mushrooms which mark the observation spots along the path. We start straight ahead towards northeast, passing by the church of St. Magdalene on our right and the watering place on the left. The path continues towards the last house before the wooded hillside, where we turn left behind the house and becomes a nice path which starts to climb more steeply towards east, along the wooded slope of the crest Kuk-Lačna. Along the lower part of the hillside, we can observe the deep ditches, result of the erosion of the flysch ground. Higher, the path climbs, in few turns, up the limestone crest with the peaks Kuk and Lačna. From there, we continue straight ahead and reach a wide cartroad (which connects Rakitovec over Kuk above Movraž, climbs to Lačna

and descends to Kubed). At the cartroad, we turn left and continue towards the crossroad, where the path sewws down towards Smokvica. We continue straight ahead till reaching the cave Špilja (sign: jama-cave) and lightly climb to the small interesting cave at the edge of the limestone crest. The cave is a short tunnel through the rocky edge; this creation of nature is particularly interesting for children. After the visit of the cave, we return along the same path to the crossroads, where we sweep down until a yellow arrow directs us left towards the village. A narrow cartroad leads us towards the first houses below the forest, where we have started our ascent. Here, we turn right and sweep on the village square – our starting point. After this pleasant walk, we can also visit the village of interesting houses with wooden external staircases (baladurji) and the renovated Bržan house with the semicircular front gate.





## Notes along the way







## Info

### Tourist information centre Koper

Titov trg 3  
6000 Koper  
t: +386 (0)5 664 64 03  
e: tic@koper.si

### Emergency telephone numbers

Ambulance 112  
Fire Brigade 112  
Police 113  
Road assistance 1987

Author: Municipality of Koper, Obalno planinsko društvo Koper.

Data source: DTK50, REZI25 –  
Surveying and mapping authority of  
the Republic of Slovenia

### Moving at your own risk!

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