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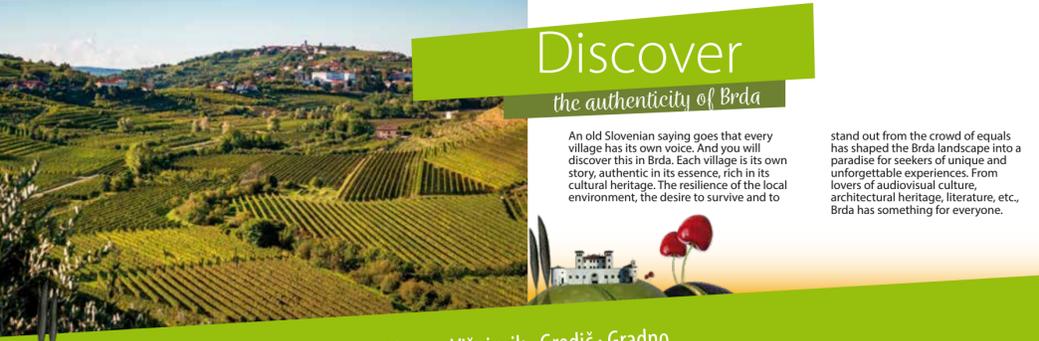


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Discover the authenticity of Brda

By bike



Discover the authenticity of Brda

An old Slovenian saying goes that every village has its own voice. And you will discover this in Brda. Each village is its own story, authentic in its essence, rich in cultural heritage. The resilience of the local environment, the desire to survive and to

stand out from the crowd of equals has shaped the Brda landscape into a paradise for seekers of unique and unforgettable experiences. From lovers of audiovisual culture, architectural heritage, literature, etc., Brda has something for everyone.

Dobrovo · Fojana · Medana · Ceglo · Biljana · Višnjevik · Gredič · Gradno



Dobrovo Castle

Dobrovo, named after the hollow oak tree, has over time become the centre point of all 44 picturesque villages in Brda. It is also the venue of the traditional **Cherry Festival** in June. The renaissance **Dobrovo Castle**, which dates back to around 1600, is the king of the village. It was probably fortified during the Second Venetian Wars between 1615 and 1617. Its characteristic appearance is given by the

graphical works by the world-famous painter **Zoran Mušič** and other occasional museum collections, as well as various events in the Knights' Hall or in the castle courtyard. The two rooms on the first floor, which show the life of the **Baquer** family, are particularly valuable for the history of the castle, as are the **De Baguer** cellar and the **Dom Rebuta** wine cellar by **Klet Brda**, as well as the castle restaurant. The castle is currently undergoing renovation works and will reopen in the 2024/25 season.

Founded in 1957, **Klet Brda** is 100% owned by 400 cooperative farmers, who like to be called "Heroes of the Vineyards" for their hard work and bravery in Brda's characteristic terraces. The cellar is considered the largest cooperative cellar



Klet Brda, Dobrovo



Gradno

the Ascension of the Virgin Mary on 15 August, many Brda people gather in the village to join the traditional procession with the 450 kg golden statue of the Virgin Mary, and after the procession they stay up late into the night to share wine and seasonal snacks. From **Medana**, you can look into neighbouring **Fojana**, which, along with the villages of **Podsabotin** and **Kojško**, boasts two churches. Here, the renowned Slovenian composer **Radó Simonič** developed his musical skills. The Brda region had a brick workshop in the Roman times. It was located in **Ceglo**, where today you will find the **Gredič Manor**, as well as a trio of winemakers (**Marjan Simič**, **Dolfo** and **Movša**) who,



Frlanšče

twenty years now, all this can be experienced at the traditional **Rebula** and **Olive Oil Festival** in April, where over 100 samples of **Rebula** wine from near and far can be tasted. Just a stone's throw away from **Višnjevik**, famous in the Middle Ages for the lords of **Višnjevik** and for **Rittersberg**, the oldest mansion in Brda, is the hidden village of **Gradno** with an extraordinary treasure. Next to the **Church of St. George**,



Hita Alma, Medana

together with many other border winemakers, have sketched the life along the border and the development of Brda in the documentary film "Terra magica". The wines of the Brda winemakers are among the best in the world. Did you know that the 2016 vintage **Rebula** by winemaker **Marjan Simič** was named the best wine in the world in 2018 by renowned Italian sommelier **Luca Gardini**? And we cannot overlook the long-standing success of the **Movša** wineries from **Ceglo** and **Kabaj** from **Slovenec**. Both have been voted among the top 100 wineries in the world by **WineSpirits Magazine**. Brda has also been visited several times by the internationally renowned wine critic **James Suckling**. The wine landscape of



Medana

four corner towers, which offer a beautiful view of the surrounding area. The last and most famous owner of the castle was **Count Silverio de Baguer**. After the Second World War, the castle was used as a guest house for the allied military administration, and after 1947 it became a so-called common property of the people. In the 1970s its management was taken over by the **Gorizia Museum**. The restoration of the castle began four decades ago, and it reopened after the end of the War of Independence in 1991. In Dobrovo Castle you can see the permanent collection of



Višnjevik

in Slovenian! A special experience will surely be a walk through **Biljana**, a village near Dobrovo, where in the centre you will find the Gothic Church of **St. Michael** and the so-called **Dorišče** - a 13th century manor house with the oldest cellar in the world. Before World War I, the building housed the **Austrian**



Biljana

where the Stations of the Cross were painted by the world-famous painter **Zoran Mušič**, and part of the painting is the work of the painter and graphic artist **Lojze Spacal**, we can find the oldest olive tree in Brda and a beautiful example of a restored **dry wall** made of local sandstone. Have you ever wanted to step into an old Brda homestead? Then you need to walk to the hamlet of **Frlanšče**. Here you will be completely taken by the fully preserved homestead, the house of the Brda tenant ("kolon"), where you will be able to see a rich private ethnological collection. We can rightfully say that **Medana** is the cultural capital of the Brda region. The poets **Alojz Gradnik**, whose sculpture created by artist **Jakov Brdar**, protects the



Gradno - dry wall

Brda has also been covered by the most prestigious media, including **CNN**, **Zala**, **Berto**, **Gusto**, **Marija** and **Bonifacij**, as well as many other characters from the most watched series in Slovenia, "Ena zlahtna storija" (One Noble Story), have carved Brda in the hearts of the whole of Slovenia. The wonderful and authentic sights of the landscape around **Ceglo** and **Biljana**, as well as other spots in Brda, enchanted many viewers who then took a trip to Brda.

Interesting facts



Did you know that Brda also has a leaning tower? It is located in **Fojana**. It is the **Church of the Holy Spirit on the Lake**, located in the cemetery in **Fojana**, and the legend holds that it lies above a cave or lake. The bell tower is collapsing due to the creeping terrain, which partly confirms the above-mentioned hypothesis.



Gredič

army, and during the war it was a military hospital. The restoration of the cellar was also awarded by the Association of Italian UNESCO Clubs. It is also worth mentioning the 4th **Biljana Camp** in 1869, which spread the name of **Biljana** far and wide. In **Višnjevik**, one of the few villages without its own church, you will learn all about **Rebula**, which was first mentioned in written sources as early as 1336. This noble vine in the Brda "opoka" soil produces a special harmonious wine, in which Brda hospitality and love of tradition are cut. For



Gredič

entrance of the Dobrovo Primary School, and **Ludvik Zorzut**, grew up here. Contemporary Slovenian artists, and not only Slovenian artists, are also looking for inspiration between the walls of the wineries here! This is where the **Art Circle** initiative was born, a cultural embassy project in which artists from many countries, including across the border, indulge in the spirit of Brda and translate it into their artwork. **Medana** was, along with **Biljana** and **Sveti Križ**, a kind of Christian centre. Especially at "Rožnica", the feast of



Krčnik

The village of **Nebló** in the lower Brda region is made up of several hamlets, a characteristic feature of the places that were part of the **Venetian Republic**. Their **Church of St. Nicholas** from the second half of the 15th century is a kind of hamlet. The church, which also has a small square with a water fountain, has a Gothic presbytery, a Gothic portal in the façade and Baroque furnishings. The Venetian

Šmartno · Vipolže · Kozana · Cerovo



Šmartno

The picturesque walled village of **Šmartno**, with its five preserved towers, can be seen from everywhere in Brda, perched like an eagle's nest on a remarkably scenic hill. Between 16th and the second half of 18th century, **Šmartno** was an important strategic defence post incorporated in the system of fortifications and never taken by the Venetians. The border was defended by contract soldiers coming from far away; many were of **Uskok** (Croatian) origin. The wall between the seven towers was built in a way that the passages were spacious enough to allow movement of soldiers in different directions. It seems that the settlement had a drawbridge in front of the entrance and was surrounded by a deep moat. Military origin of the village is also testified by a church bell tower and by both

1857 with the motif of the Holy Three Kings. The Baroque church has three marble altars, with a particularly rich main altar. The presbytery and the Stations of the Cross were painted by **Jane Kralj**, and the white marble pulpit on the right side of the nave is an exceptional work. There you can see a traditional wine cellar, an exhibition on the development of **Brda House** from prehistoric times to the present day with a film showing Brda life in Brda in the mid-20th century. Otherwise, the ground floor takes us back in time a few decades. The medieval village is the backdrop for two important events: the largest single gastronomic festival on Brda soil, **Brda and Wine in April**, and **St. Martin's Feast** in November. In **Šmartno**, you can also visit one of the stalls selling Brda products throughout the year.



Oljčni bar

by the famous Slovenian architect **Jože Plečnik**. He also created the design for **Ljubljana's Three Bridges**, the National University Library and the city's **Zale Cemetery**, which is why the **Kozana** people are extremely proud of their church. There are two mansions in **Vipolže**: in the upper part of the village, the so-called **New Castle**, which was built in the **Baroque style** in the 18th century and was the headquarters of a cooperative after the Second World War, houses apartments, while the **Old Castle**, which dates back to the 11th century and was rebuilt in 2015, has huge very old cypress trees next to it. We have named it **Vila Vipolže**. The castle used to be a representative villa and a hunting manor of the counts of **Gorizia** where horses were bred, while later on, it changed hands between members of



Cerovo

park and an outdoor fitness centre. The Brda people are considered very sporty; they have won high medals in many high-level competitions, from bowling, volleyball, shooting, majorette and twirling, to cycling, etckolesarstva itd. **Cerovo** stretches from the village of **Hum to Vipolže**. The upper part or **Gornje Cerovo** was mentioned in 1205, when the **Cerovo** lords had their own manor in front of the **Church of St. Nicholas**. **Dolnje Cerovo** is known for the thick chain around the **Church of St. Lenart**. It tells about the vow of a farmer who, with his oxen transported wine, stuck his cart in the mud somewhere along the way, and in gratitude for his return he had a chain forged with the year 1859. In front of the main altar of the **Church of St. Lenart** in **Cerovo**, architects discovered the remains of an older Romanesque church. This discovery is the first and very important discovery in our area, since there are no other remnants of Romanesque churches in the Brda region. Archaeologists also found pottery, partially preserved vessels and metal



Vipolže

squares - upper and lower square - which were intended for gathering of soldiers in case of an enemy assault through the main entrance. An architectural jewel, a cultural monument, unique as a whole and in many details, it takes its name from the **Church of St. Martin**, the largest church in Brda, with a bell tower which was once a fortification tower. It houses a bell from

Kozana is located on the road between **Šmartno** and **Vipolže**, surrounded by numerous vineyards and orchards, where sweet grapes and various types of extremely tasty fruit ripen. It is in **Kozana** that we find the westernmost signature of a giant of Slovenian architecture: the design for the restoration of the bell tower of **St. Hieronymus** was contributed



Vila Vipolže

Herberstein, della Torre, Attens Petzenstein and **Teuffenbach** families. The building was rebuilt several times, in 17th century into a Renaissance villa in the Venetian style. During World War I, the castle was used as a military hospital while in 1948 it was damaged in a large fire. It is one of the most beautiful examples of castle architecture in Slovenia built between Renaissance and Baroque. Today, it is used for business meetings, weddings and private parties. **Vila Vipolže** is also a cultural centre with a rich programme. In **Vipolže** there is the only preserved water mill that still operated in 1990s and the village is also known for fossil mammals that were found there. But football fans also come here to make their mark. In the **Vipolže Sports Park** at the foot of the village, there is a football pitch where the local football club trains, in addition to an indoor four-lane bowling green, a bike



St. Hieronymus bell tower

items. One of the youngest victims of Italian fascism in the Primorska region, **Mirko Brezavšek**, was also from **Gornje Cerovo**. His life and antifascist movement can be seen in the youth film "Črni bratje" (Black Brethren).

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Nebló · Brezovk · Golo brdo · Slapnik



Nebló

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Krčnik is about 5 metres long and one-metre-wide natural stone bridge, which is smoothly rounded due to the grinding of the water over the gorges of the **Kožbanjšček** stream. The gorge is about 40 metres long, six metres deep and between half and six metres wide. Although water has shaped it over millions of years, legend has it that it is entirely the work of the Devil. In a



Kotline

cramp. This is how this natural pearl got its name - **Krčnik** ("krč" means "cramp"). Nevertheless, **Krčnik** is one of the most beautiful sights of its kind in Slovenia and is accessible in all seasons. Also popular are the nearby **Kotline**, three pools formed by the **Kožbanjšček** stream overcoming a rock face more than 10 metres high. This is where the youth of Brda find a place to cool off in the summer.



Slapnik

The village of **Slapnik**, which was emptied decades ago due to the economic situation, has been listed on the Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage since 1985. It is interesting for its motifs and beautiful stonemasonry details, which testify to its former lively pulse.

Kojško · Sabotin · Vrhovlje pri Kojškem



Kojško

On the hill above **Kojško**, you will find a real jewel in the **Church of the Holy Cross**: a 500-year-old Gothic wing altar made in the Vilach carving workshop. The path to the church is surrounded by the chapels of the Stations of the Cross. It is the only outdoor Stations of the Cross in Brda. **Sveti Križ** was once a famous pilgrimage site. People used to pilgrimage here from **Carinthia**, **Friuli**, **Gorizia**, **Vipava** and **Posodej**, but today it is mainly an interesting tourist spot with a magnificent 360° view. Even the King of Italy is said to have viewed the battle positions on **Sabotin** from **Sveti Križ** above **Kojško** during the battles of the **Isonzo Front**. The strategic importance of the town in World War I is also reflected in the preserved 300-metre



Kojško - Sv. Križ

tunnel of the narrow-gauge railway "Na kaleh": The **Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary**, rebuilt in the Baroque style in the second half of the 18th century, is also interesting; only the presbytery remains late Gothic. Unfortunately, you can only see a few remains of the once beautiful and largest castle in Brda, which was the focal point of **Gorizia's** cultural life in the 18th century and, as the seat of the judicial power, shared justice with almost the whole of Brda. Before World War I, **Kojško** was the economic and cultural centre of Brda. Just along the road you can see a monument to **Srečko Kumar**, a famous choirmaster and music teacher. In 1879, the first wine tasting, exhibition and



Sabotin

evaluation took place in the town, and every year the feast of the Holy Cross is celebrated with a procession. **Sabotin** hill is the witness of the irrationality of war. The spirit of WWI accompanies you at every step, because the hill is covered with trenches and underground tunnels, now cleaned up and prepared for viewing. Over a century ago, a network of caves was dug by people from 22 different nations. Remnants from WWI are exhibited in a rich museum collection on **Sabotin**. The World War I memorial is also one of the most botanically diverse areas in Slovenia, with a huge variety of bird species. **Vrhovlje pri Kojškem** is a hamlet with a late Baroque pilgrimage Church



Vrhovlje pri Kojškem

of the **Virgin Mary** on a lookout hill, where a chapel service is held on **Divine Mercy Sunday** (the first Sunday after Easter). In the past, the fair's vendors sold typical cakes, and old and young, from near and far, gathered together. **BRDA COLLTO**



Slapnik

golden altar was built in the 17th century and traces of frescoes were found during probing. The nearby archaeological site of **Borg** proves the importance of the area in antiquity; there was a **Roman pottery workshop** in **Nebló**. North of **Nebló** we reach **Hruševlje**, the local farmers were once the so-called "koloni" of the landowner **de Onesti**, and later of the **Margaret** family. The Gothic church of **St. Margaret** with its open roof and ornamented planets, wooden altar and wooden sculptures of **St. Sebastian**, **St. Margaret** and **St. Rochus** are also very interesting. Another interesting feature is the two-arch stone bridge to **Slavce**, on which a stone sculpture of **Janez Nepomuk** is located. On the pedestal you can admire a unique signpost: a fist with an outstretched forefinger in shallow relief and the inscription **Peto-Slavce** from 1903. The memorial at **Peternel** commemorates the arson that burnt 22 people during World War I.



Golo Brdo

ravine, a young man was challenged by a devil to bring him gold from the depths of the sea. The devil was so angered by this that he rushed with his horse to **Kožbanjšček**. The water boiled, the rocks began to crack and melt, and a stone bridge was built across the stream. Another legend has it that young boys from the **Kožbanjšček** corner used to prove their courage to each other by jumping off the bridge into the water. Among them is the mayor's son, who drowned after jumping into a pool and getting a



Brezovk

The village of **Brezovk** was almost untouched by the rapid post-war renovations, so the preserved Venetian-style architecture can be found here. A small town on the border river **Idrja** experienced various upheavals in its history, which have often caused the locals to move away.



Nebló

Also worth a visit is the medieval church just above **Golo Brdo**, known locally as **Mary on the Lake**. It was built in the 13th or 14th century; according to oral tradition, it was built by a count in gratitude for the survival of his son, who fell into the abyss below the present altar. On Easter Monday, Slovenian, Italian and Friulian pilgrims



Gonjače

In good weather, the best place to start your tour of Brda is right here - at the **lookout tower** in **Gonjače**, where you can see all around: **Brda**, **Julian** and **Carnic Alps**, **Dolomites**, **Friuli Venetia Giulia**, **Gulf of Trieste**, **Karst**, **Vipava Valley** and **Trnovski gozd** forest. Next to it is a memorial to the 315 victims of World War II, the work of sculptor **Janez Bojka**.

Interesting facts

Did you know that the site of the Gothic Church of St. George was the site of an older chapel, which is said to be the first church in Brda?

Capture the magic of the picturesque Brda

The Brda region is most certainly one of the most picturesque landscapes in Europe and at the same time it shows a rich mark of the past. In the embrace of the emerald Soča River, Friuli Venezia Giulia and the historic hill of Sabotin, the traditional image of life has been preserved much longer than elsewhere. The cultural heritage of the Brda region is highlighted by cultivated landscape, typical architecture of villages, castles and churches, and the ethnological features of the everyday life of locals, in their traditional festivities and typical dialect. The Brda region is especially interesting for nature admirers. It is a natural amphitheatre, full of evident and hidden beauties.

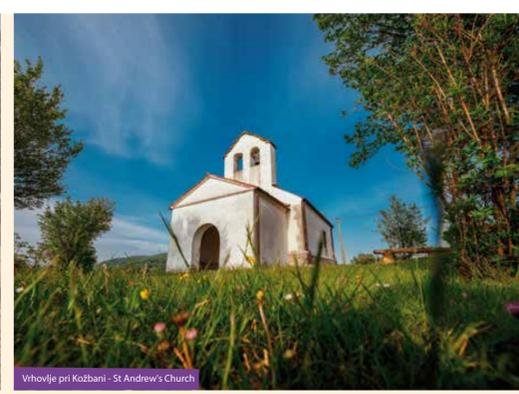


Discover

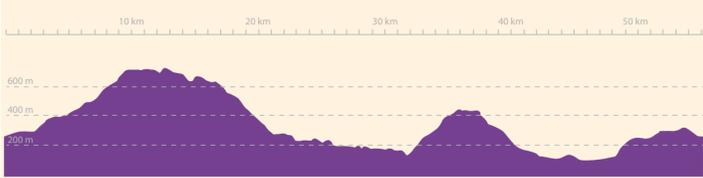
"OLIVE TREE" Cycling Route

55 km

From the medieval village of Šmartno, we climb through the village of Imenje to Gonjače and Vrhovlje pri Kojškem. Over the Korada hill reach the villages of Lig and Břtof, and then continue along the Idrija River to Golo Brdo, where you need to climb again to the villages of Senik and Vrhovlje pri Kozbani. Pass through the village of Kozbana and descend to the Krčnik Nature Monument, Kotline and the village of Pristavo. At the hamlet of Petercel, continue past the village of Nebo to the village of Drnovk, where you begin the final climb to Šmartno via Vedrijan.



Vrhovlje pri Kozbani - St Andrew's Church



"KHAKI" Cycling Route

23 km

Starting in the village of Hum, you first descend to the village of Podsabotin, which flourished with the construction of the so-called Osimo Road along the slopes of Sabotin. The trail then leads across the border to the village of Pevma and the village of Oslavje, with its famous channel house dedicated to Italian soldiers killed in the fighting on the Isonzo Front. From here climb to Števerjan, the central village of Brda in the Italian part of Brda, and then return to the Slovenian side of the border via Valerišče, where you follow the valley of the Birša stream in Dolnje Cerovo and climb to the villages of Snežatno and Hum.



Gornje Cerovo - St Nicholas Church



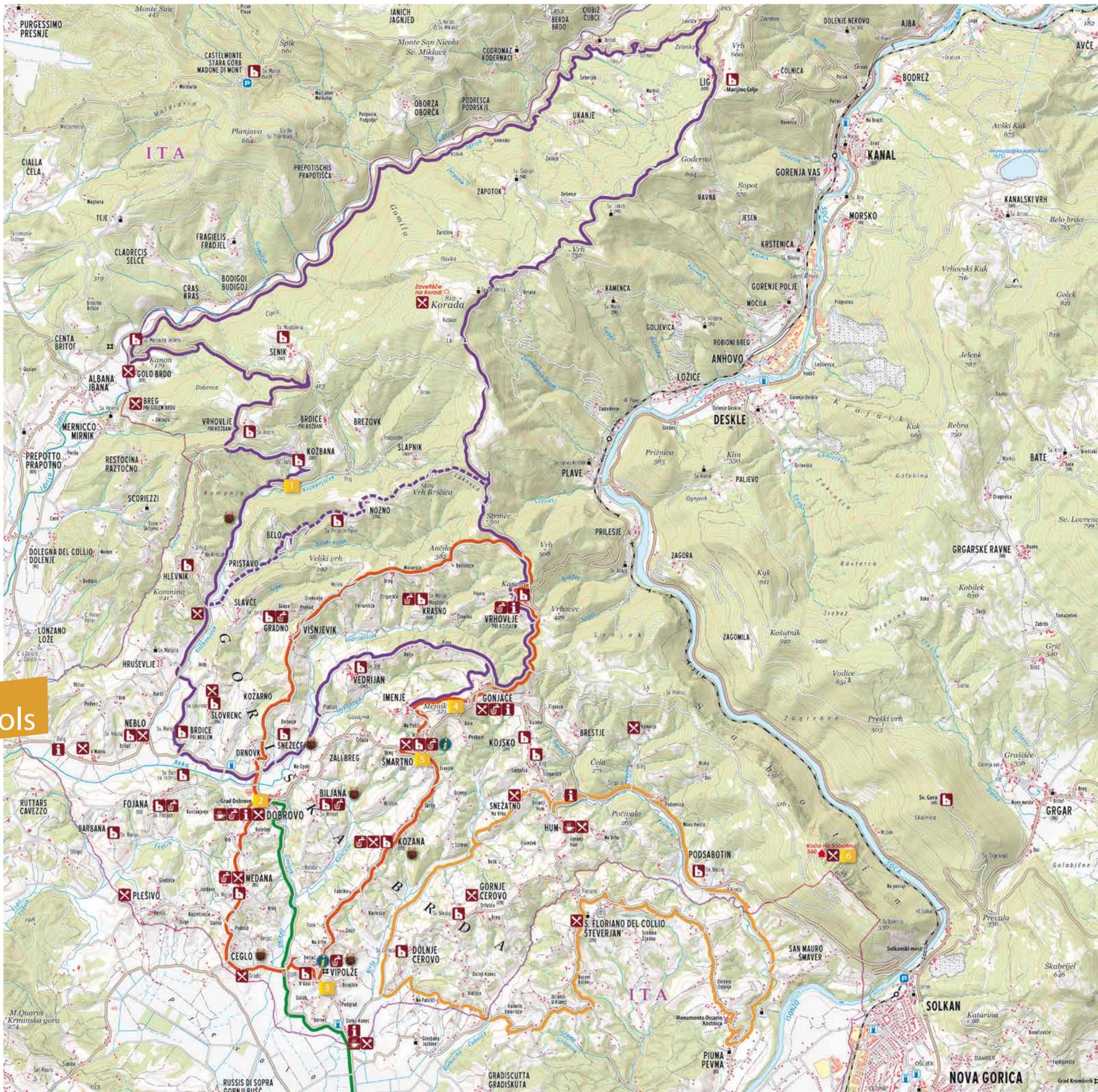
"PEACH" Cycling Route

21 km

From Dobrovo, ascend to Medana and then through the village of Ceglo, past Gređič, to Vipolže. Then turn in the direction of Kozana and later turn towards the village of Šmartno. Continue driving through Gonjače to the turnoff, where you turn towards Vrhovlje pri Kojškem and continue climbing to the foot of Korada. Then turn left towards the villages of Krasnó and Višnjevik. Once you leave Višnjevik, it's just a downhill to Drnovk and then a short drive to the starting point, Dobrovo.



Medana



Key to symbols

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- 6 Sabotin
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- PEACH cycling route
- OLIVE TREE cycling route
- R2 cycling route (Dobrovo – Nova Gorica)
- 📍 TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE
- ℹ️ INFO BOARD
- ⛪ CHURCH, CHAPEL OR ROADSIDE SHRINE
- 🍷 HOSPITALITY OFFER
- 🚰 DRINKING WATER
- 📺 SPOTS WHERE THE TV SERIES WERE RECORDED