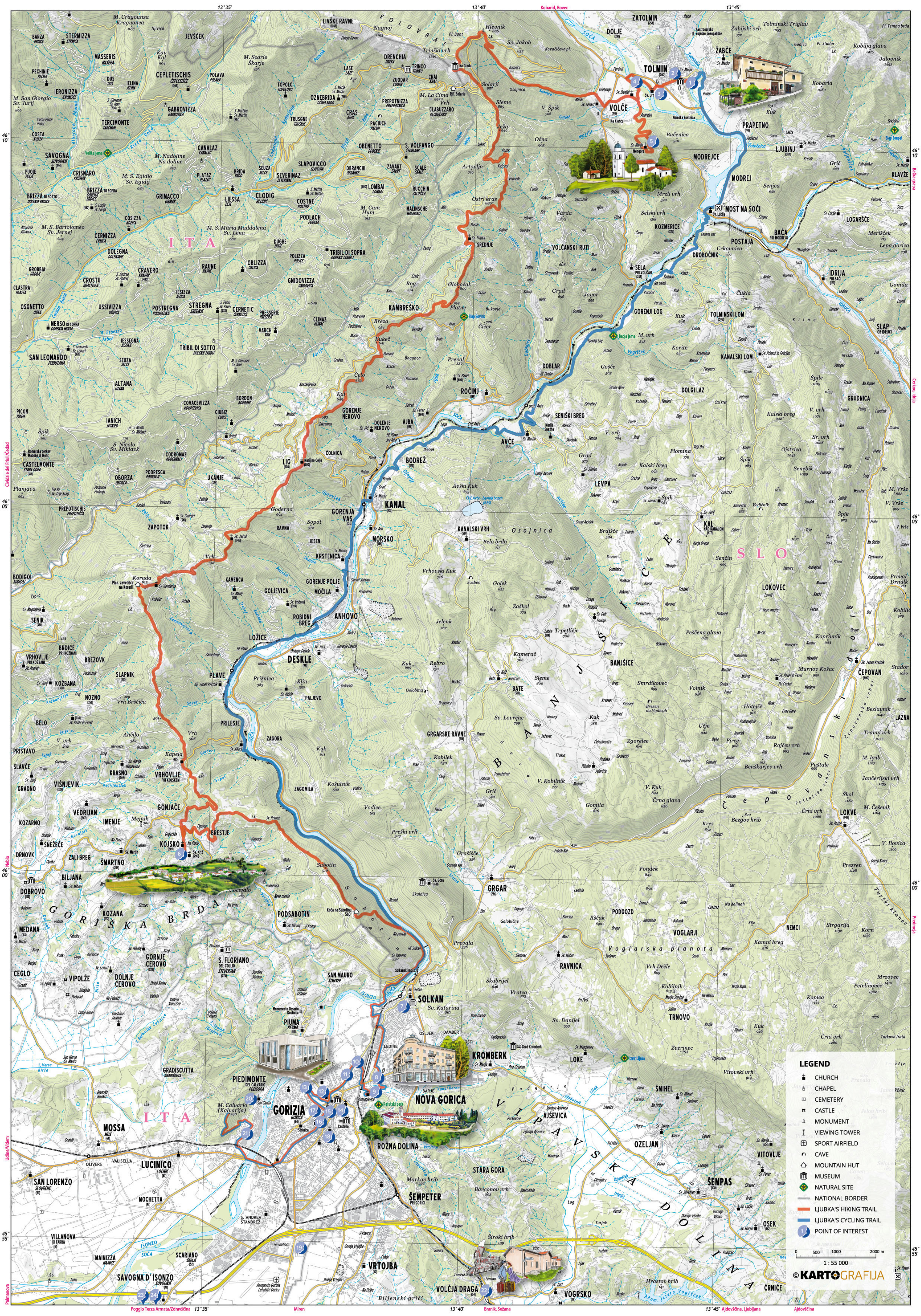






Ljubka's Trail is a cross-border cultural trail celebrating the life, art, and history of Ljubka Šorli and other writers who have made a lasting impact on Gorizia. It aims to shed light on writers who have been largely unknown, forgotten, or overlooked, and are rarely featured in historical and literary records or textbooks.

Initiated by the Forum of Slavic Cultures and the Lojze Bratuž Cultural Center, Ljubka's Trail merges the European initiatives of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the European Capital of Culture EPK GO! 2025 Nova Gorica – Gorica.



1. TOLMIN, Klanec 10

Klanec, happy childhood place ...
Birthhouse of the poet Ljubka Šorli.



Poet Ljubka Šorli was born on 19 February 1910 in Tolmin. Her father Luka was a tanner, and her mother Alojzija, nee Mlakar, came from Bača nad Podbrdom. The family found refuge from World War I in Jesenice, where young Ljubka started primary school. When the family returned home to Tolmin, she completed primary school and finished higher primary school in 1923.

↑ Altitude: 171 m → Distance to the next point: 510 m

2. TOLMIN, Brunov drevoed 1

Sweet land of Tolmin, blessed be you!
In this house, Ljubka Šorli spent her youth.



Between 1923 and 1925, Ljubka Šorli went to the school of commerce in Gorizia. Afterwards, she started to work in the family shop, which her mother opened after World War I. The war took a heavy toll on the family – her father returned home ill and died in 1925, leaving the burden of providing for the family (three daughters) on Ljubka's shoulders. The poet grew up immersed in the national culture: she took part in cultural and educational organizations, she stepped in as an organist in her parish, and led a girls' choir.

↑ Altitude: 198 m → Distance to the next point: 1080 m

3. TOLMIN Cemetery by the St. Ulrich

St. Ulrich binds the dead to God ...
In Ljubka Šorli's poetry, the worlds of the living and the dead often meet.



Ljubka Šorli's poetry depicts many faces of love – romantic, patriotic, lyrical, landscape-inspired, and often also religious. The poet holds on to the Christian principle of love, which she sees as the key to the core humanist values: peace.

freedom, reconciliation.
The Šorli family grave in Tolmin carries the poet's epitaph to her younger sister Vera, who died from tuberculosis on 31 May 1931, before her 20th birthday.

↑ Altitude: 162 m → Distance to the next point: 1000 m

4. TOLMIN, at the confluence of the Soča and the Tolminka rivers

All strewn with jewels the sprightly Soča ...
In Ljubka Šorli's poetry, nature comes to life through the poet's experiences.

As a young girl, Ljubka Šorli loved going to the confluence of the Soča and the Tolminka, the rivers that she celebrated in numerous poems. She used nature motifs to convey her moods and express her romantic, patriotic and religious feelings.

↑ Altitude: 159 m → Distance to the next point: 3060 m

5. MENGORE

The history of Mengore, so old ...
The painful history of the region of Tolmin echoed in Ljubka Šorli's poems.



In her Tolmin poems, Ljubka Šorli used historical motifs as a reminder of the hardship that the local people endured through history and both world wars.

↑ Altitude: 450 m → Distance to the next point: 42900 m

6. KOJSKO, The former Post Office

In the heart of Brda, the blessed land of wine ...
Here, Alma Karlin, the first Slovenian world traveller, visited her aunt.



World traveller **Alma Karlin (1889–1950)** captured the impressions from her travel adventures in successful novels and travelogues. She set off on her first journey in 1914, but her life's journey took place between 1919 and 1928. Before the war she followed her language teacher Ms. Pervanija-Kotalik to Gorizia, where she lived for a short while with her mother Vilbaldia. The two women and other relatives often visited Vilbaldia's sister-in-law and Alma's aunt Ernestina in Kojsko, where Ernestina served as a post mistress.

↑ Altitude: 249 m → Distance to the next point: 13,650 m

7. SOLKAN, Šolska ulica 20

Be merry, my Gorizian land ...

In this house Pavlina Pajk, the first Slovenian novelist, spent her youth.



Pavlina Pajk (nee Doljak), Slovenia's first woman novelist, was born in Pavia, Italy, to Pavlina Milharčič and Josip Doljak. When both her parents died she went to live with her uncle in Solkan, and it was there that she first started to learn Slovene at the age of 16 and take part in the cultural life at the Solkan reading society. Pavlina Pajk was one of the most popular and widely read women authors of her time. She embarked on her extremely successful career as a writer as a student at the Ursuline school in Gorizia. When she left the Gorizia region after her wedding (which took place at the Gorizia cathedral), she conveyed the love for her home there in some verses.

↑ Altitude: 99 m → Distance to the next point: 1860 m

8. NOVA GORIZA, Erjavčeva ulica

The poem goes ... In far and near with it my loving thought ...
Busts of Ljubka Šorli and Lojze Bratuž.



Ljubka Šorli's bust statue, the work of sculptress Milena Branišelj, stands next to the statue of her husband Lojze Bratuž. Their life and work has become a symbol of Littoral Slovenians' anti-fascist resistance.

↑ Altitude: 90 m → Distance to the next point: 1260 m

9. KOSTANJEVICA, Škrabčeva ulica 1, Nova Gorica

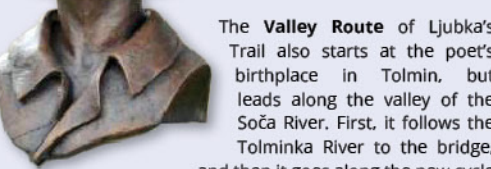
On the charming hill, surrounded by vineyards and orchards ...

The serenity of Kostanjevica inspired also Marie von Egger, one of the most popular authors of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy.



the former Gorizia Teacher's College. Nearby the »Trgovski dom« (House of Commerce) and the former Hotel of the Golden Angel on Via Carlo Favetti can be found. Ljubka's Trail now leads along Corso Italia to the Gorizia Centrale railway station, from where it turns left along Via Trieste to the town cemetery, where Ljubka Šorli and Lojze Bratuž are buried. From the central railway station the trail goes to the right to the bridge over the Soča River to Podgora/Piedimonte. On Via IV. Novembre, there is a memorial plaque to Lojze Bratuž, and close by the Church of St. Justus. Not far from the memorial plaque, the route turns left into Via Scipio Slataper and continues along Via del Monte Calvario. Along a well-known path and a local road, the trail passes three crosses and climbs up to the obelisk at the top of Calvario, which offers one of the best views of Gorizia and Nova Gorica. The Ljubka's Trail ends at the obelisk.

The **Valley Route** of Ljubka's Trail also starts at the poet's birthplace in Tolmin, but leads along the valley of the Soča River. First, it follows the Tolminka River to the bridge, and then it goes along the new cycle track to Most na Soči. In the centre of the town, it follows the local road up to the hamlet of Drobočnik and on through Gorenji Log towards Avče. The only difficult crossing on this part of the trail is through the ravine of the Vogršček stream, past the cave of Babja Jama. All the way to Avče, the route goes up and down a narrow side road or track, followed by a slight descent along the road towards Kanal. In the centre of Kanal, it crosses the Soča River over the famous stone bridge and follows the local road towards Anhovo. In Plave, it reaches a new cycle track along the Soča River, which brings it to the Ridge Route of the Ljubka's Trail below Sabotin.



When Italy capitulated, Ljubka Šorli and her children returned to Tolmin. Ljubka took a teacher training course here and subsequently served as a primary school teacher. When she returned to Gorizia in 1946, she worked as a secretary at the Slovenian teacher training college, and later, from 1948 until she retired in 1975, served as a teacher in Gorizia and surrounding villages.

Maria von Egger (1851–1929), known under the pen name Paul Maria Lacroma, spent her childhood years in Venice and Osijek. She went to school with school sisters in Gorizia, where she met her husband, attorney Camillo von Egger. She wrote her popular stories and books in German. Her home was at Via Giosuè Carducci 35 (previously: Via Signori 13) in Gorizia. In her collection of short stories Bagatele (1892; Trivialities) we read also about the tomb of the Bourbons in the Kostanjevica monastery.

↑ Altitude: 102 m → Distance to the next point: 840 m

10. GORIZIA/GORIZA Via Ugo Foscolo, 16

How many plans for days to come ...

Home of Ljubka Šorli and her children, Lojzka and Andrej Bratuž.



Ljubka Šorli and Lojze Bratuž's children went on to become important members of Slovenian national community in Gorizia. Lojzka Bratuž (1934–2019) was literary historian, linguist and culture worker, and Andrej Bratuž (1936–2011) served as professor in Slovenian schools, a political worker, publicist and composer. In 2007, both siblings were honoured by the President of the Italian Republic with the prestigious title of "Commander of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic".

↑ Altitude: 87 m → Distance to the next point: 600 m

11. GORIZIA/GORIZA Via del Monte Santo, 23

Come with me, you said, on a new journey ...
In this house, Ljubka Šorli and Lojze Bratuž lived after their marriage, between 1933 and 1936.



In 1933, Ljubka Šorli married Lojze Bratuž (1902–1937), teacher, choirmaster, organist, and composer. Their daughter Lojzka (1934) and son Andrej (1936) were born in this house.

↑ Altitude: 87 m → Distance to the next point: 1090 m

13. GORIZIA/GORIZA Riva Piazzuta, 18

Across the field, like chirping birds, again the sound of our words ...

In this house, the historical seat of Catholic Slovenians, Ljubka Šorli taught violin.



In 1923, Ljubka Šorli arrived in Gorizia, where she went to the school of commerce and took violin lessons with Rodolfo Lipizer at Trgovski Dom. She met her future husband, conductor Lojze Bratuž, here, and his brother, tenorist and professor Jožko Bratuž.

↑ Altitude: 84 m → Distance to the next point: 660 m

13. GORIZIA/GORIZA Viale XX Settembre, 85

Here we are! That's where we want to stay!
Cultural seat of Catholic Slovenians



Ljubka Šorli's poems often feature motifs from Tolmin and its surroundings, the Gorizia Hills, Karst, Slavia Friulana, and the Kanal valley. In the face of life's pain she finds solace in religion, which holds an important place in her life. Šorli's lyric poetry is traditional in form and topic, often written in sonnets, with a clear and distinctly melodic language. Many of her poems were put into music, namely by Lojze Bratuž, Vinko Vodopivec and others.

↑ Altitude: 78 m → Distance to the next point: 1200 m

14. GORIZIA/GORIZA, Via Favetti, 5 (at the former Golden Angel's Hotel)

Grant us the freedom for our individual growth ...

On this spot stood the hotel where Zofka Kveder, Slovenia's first professional writer, gave lectures.

Zofka Kveder (1878–1926), Slovenian writer, playwright, translator, editor, and an advocate of women's rights was associated with Gorizia through her publisher Andrej Gabršček, who published her book of short prose Odseli (Reflections, 1902), and Anton Dermota, lawyer, translator and editor of Naši zapiski (Our Notes) magazine. On 24 January 1910 she held a notable lecture in Gorizia, of which the newspaper Rdeči prapor (Red Banner) reported: "Yesterday, on the 24th, author Zofka Kveder Jelovšek held a remarkable lecture on feminism. She spoke most calmly – as she said – without aspirations. And she was more than successful." Gorizia features in her novel Gabrijela, where Kveder describes a meeting between the first-person narrator with her school friend in a park next to Trgovski Dom.

↑ Altitude: 90 m → Distance to the next point: 540 m

15. GORIZIA/GORIZA Corso Giuseppe Verdi, 17

Here you are, dear Slovenian ladies, a paper ...

The teacher's college where the first Slovenian literary editor Marica Nadlišek Bartol was educated.

Marica Nadlišek Bartol (1867–1940) was born in Trieste, where she went to primary and secondary school before she started teacher training college in Gorizia. After her graduation in 1886 she worked as a teacher in the Trieste hinterland. She was a writer and editor of the first Slovenian women's magazine Slovenka (Slovenian Woman) and mentor to many women authors of her generation. In her novel Fatamorgana (Fata Morgana), which appeared in instalments in the literary magazine Ljubljanski zvon in 1898, she depicted different women of her time and their life stories.

↑ Altitude: 87 m → Distance to the next point: 390 m

16. GORIZIA/GORIZA Corso Giuseppe Verdi, 52

The Castle of Gorizia, so jovial in the spring ...

The cultural centre of Slovenians at the beginning of the 20th century, where Ljubka Šorli learned the violin.



In 1923, Ljubka Šorli arrived in Gorizia, where she went to the school of commerce and took violin lessons with Rodolfo Lipizer at Trgovski Dom. She met her future husband, conductor Lojze Bratuž, here, and his brother, tenorist and professor Jožko Bratuž.

↑ Altitude: 84 m → Distance to the next point: 300 m

17. GORIZIA/GORIZA Via Dante Alighieri, 14

St. John's Eve is here, South Slavs' wonderful, great spring festivity ...

In this house lived and died Mara von Berks, writer and one of the first European ethnographers.



Mara von Berks (1850–1910) signed her works also as Mara Cop Mariet and Mara Tschopp. She travelled extensively with her first husband, including to North Africa and a number of Mediterranean islands, and shared her impressions from these travels with readers of different French newspapers and journals. Her contemporaries particularly admired her ethnographic studies on the Sinti and Romani people, for which she was appointed honorary correspondence member of the Gypsy Lore Society. Following the death of her first husband she moved to Graz and in 1894 married Hugo von Berks, landowner and member of the Austrian Imperial Council. After her husband's death in 1906 she moved to Gorizia, where she died of tuberculosis in 1910. She wrote novels, dramas, libretto for the opera Princesa Vrtavka (The Giddy Princess) by Josip Ipavec, and translated theatre plays.

↑ Altitude: 81 m → Distance to the next point: 1200 m

18. GORIZIA/GORIZA Via dei Rabatta, 15

May a generation of heroic women emerge on this soil ...

Birthhouse of Gizela Belinger Ferjančič, the first editor of a Slovenian women's magazine in the Gorizia region



Gizela Belinger Ferjančič (1887–1976) graduated from the teacher training college in Gorizia. She served as editor of the women's magazine Slovenka (Slovenian Woman, 1922–23) and contributed her writings to other magazines as well. She was the founding member of Gorizia's Slovenian women's society Splošno žensko društvo (General Women's Society). She published several manuals: Materinstvo (Motherhood), Vzorna gospodinja (Model Housewife), and Nova kuharica (The New Cookbook), and wrote about children and youth education – these seminal essays were published in books Telesna vzgoja otrok (Physical Education for Children) and Duševna vzgoja otrok (Mental Education for Children).

↑ Altitude: 87 m → Distance to the next point: 4,200 m

19. GORIZIA/GORIZA, Town Cemetery

And the grave will be our last abode ...
Šorli-Bratuž family grave

The aftermath of World War I, exile, Italian occupation, fascist oppression, and concern for the well-being of the Slovenian minority in Italy left an indelible mark on the life of Ljubka Šorli and her poetry. She died on 30 April 1993 at the age of 83. The poet is buried with her husband Lojze Bratuž (1902–1937), to whom she dedicated the crown of sonnets Venec spominčič možu na grob (A Wreath of Forget-Me-Not for My Husband's Grave, 1957), their daughter Lojzka (1934–2019), and son Andrej (1936–2011).

↑ Altitude: 66 m → Distance to the next point: 5100 m

20. PIEDIMONTE/PODGORA The Parish Church of St. Justus

In vain you waited for the farewell song ...

Square named after Lojze Bratuž, husband of Ljubka Šorli

In 1957, Ljubka Šorli self-published the crown of sonnets A Wreath of Forget-Me-Not for My Husband's Grave with the acrostic To Lojze Bratuž. In it, she professes her commitment to the undying love for her husband and finds comfort in faith, while symbolically conveying the significance of her husband's violent death for the survival of the Slovenian nation.

↑ Altitude: 63 m → Distance to the next point: 930 m

21. PIEDIMONTE/PODGORA Via IV Novembre, 32

For a holy cause to die it's easy ...

Memorial plaque to Lojze Bratuž, husband of Ljubka Šorli



Ljubka Šorli's husband Lojze Bratuž was persecuted by fascists for his unwavering patriotism and was imprisoned several times. On 27 December 1936, after the mass in Podgora, where his choir sang Slovenian songs, fascists forced him to drink machine oil mixed with petrol. He died in excruciating pain on 16 February 1937. On 18 February people spontaneously gathered from far and wide for his funeral, so the authorities, fearing that riots could break out, moved the funeral to the next morning. The funeral took place under police supervision in the closest family circle.

↑ Altitude: 60 m

23. VOLČJA DRAGA, Train Station

The wind came gusting ...

In this house, lived the poet and writer Anica Žemlja, (pseudonym Gorčanka), one of the first Slovenian fairy-tale writers.



Poet and writer **Anica Žemlja (1875–1922)** published many of her works under the pseudonym Mira Mokriška. Between 1907 and 1915 she lived in Volčja Draga, where she felt most welcome, and the time she spent here marks her creative peak. The memory of the happy days in Gorizia stayed with her even after she returned to Ljubljana. She published her work in Slovenka and Dom in svet (Home and the World) magazines. Žemlja also wrote fairy tales and poems for children, and published a book of fairy tales Pravljice (Fairy Tales, 1913) in collaboration with Ljudmila Prunk.

23. POGGIO TERZA ARMATA/ ZDRAVŠČINA

Fate ennobles us through misery. There's one thought, one cry: Liberty.

A memorial with verses by Ljubka Šorli, her response to the torturers in the fascist camp



In 1943, fascists arrested Ljubka Šorli for her patriotic activity and her connections with Janko Premrl's family. They tortured and interrogated her in Trieste before she was imprisoned in Zdravščina concentration camp near Gorizia for several months. Her retort to her tormentors is inscribed on the memorial plaque at the concentration camp.

24. VERMEGLIANO/ROMJAN, Via del Capitello, 8

So often, away from schoolbooks to the meadow I would dash ...

Ljubka Šorli Primary School, a school with Slovenian as the teaching language



From 1948 on, Ljubka Šorli worked as a teacher in villages around Gorizia (Ronke, Gabrije, Mirnik, Skriljevo, St. Maver, Pevma, Podgora, Steverjan), and from 1967 until she retired in 1975 she taught in Gorizia. Published in different magazines, her poems for children were underpinned with love for the motherland and the Slovenian language, and respect for values and life. Her poetry book for children Veseli ringaraja (Merry Ring a Ring o'Roses) was published in 1983, and Pesmice z razglednice (Postcard poems) in 2024.