



THE WALK OF PEACE

from the Alps to the Adriatic

THE EMERALD TRAIL



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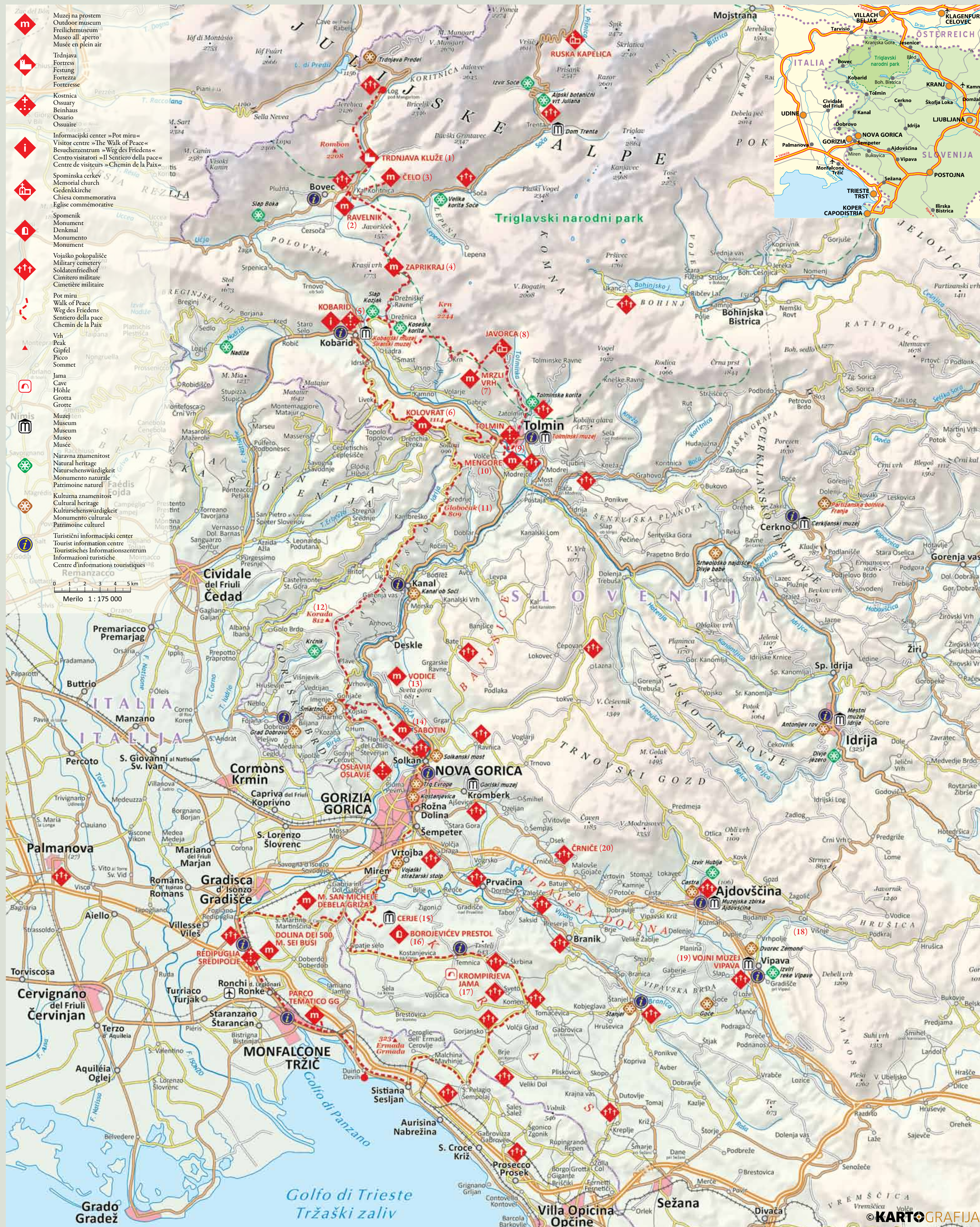
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THE ISONZO FRONT 1915 – 1917

During the 1st World War the Isonzo Front was part of the 600 kilometres long southwest front which ran from the pass of Srdiovo on the Swiss-Italian-Austrian border trifurcation across Tyrol, the Dolomites, the Carnic and Julian Alps, the Upper Soča Region, Goriska Region and the Krasi down to the Adriatic Sea.

The fights along the Soča went on from May 1915 through October 1917. This warfare was characterized by mountain combats – at certain points the front rose even to a higher altitude than 2000 metres – and fights on rocky grounds, which further aggravated the conditions of warfare. After the initial incertitude, fights and shifts the frontline stabilized and trench warfare began.

Within the 29 months of fighting between Italy and Austria-Hungary twelve Isonzo battles took place. Eleven of them were launched by the Italian Army and the decisive one, the twelfth, was

launched by the soldiers of Austria-Hungary and Germany.

The joint Austro-Hungarian-German Army caught the Italian troops by surprise with a new fighting strategy by surprise with a new fighting strategy in the 12th Isonzo Battle. As a result the front moved from the Soča to the river Piave in Italy. The 12th Isonzo Battle is known in history under several names: the Battle near Kobarid, the Miracle of Kobarid, and, in Italian sources, the Disaster at Kobarid...

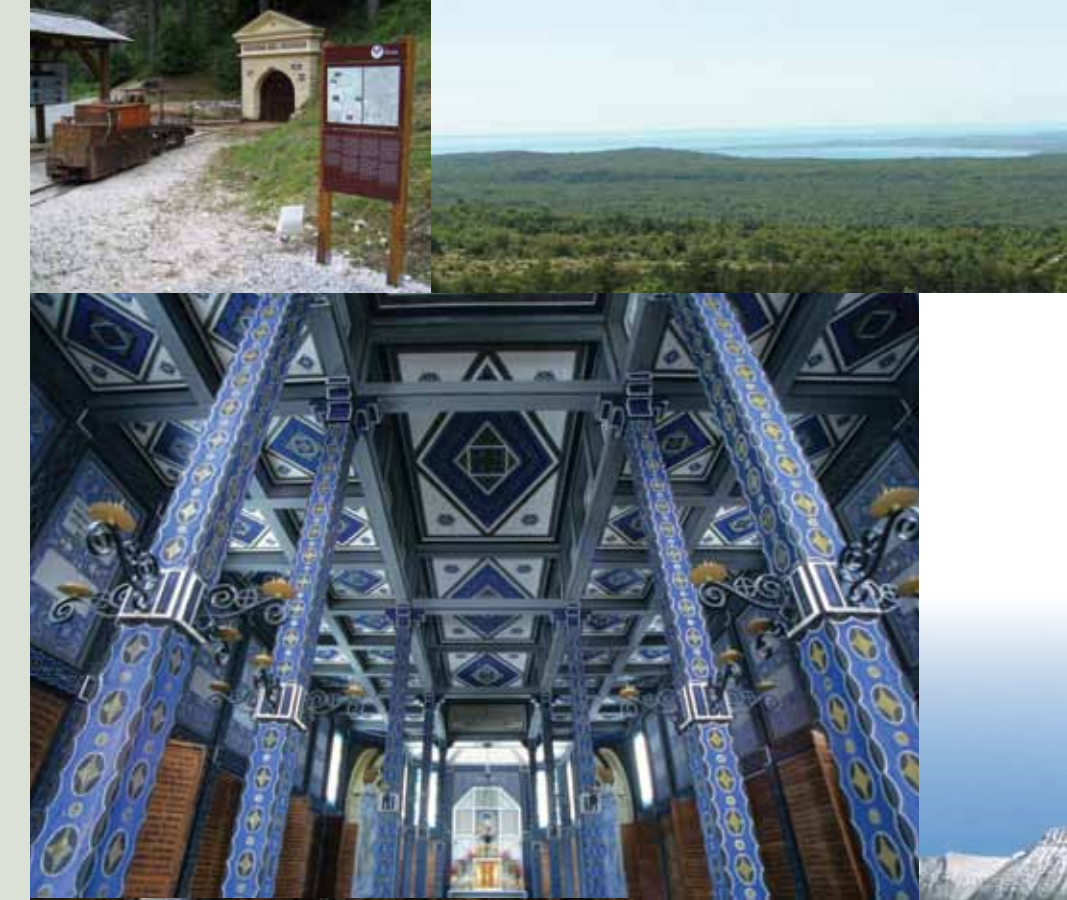
Not only the frontline but also the rear played an important role with its dumps and stores, transport routes, ropeways, airports and hospitals.

The war heavily inflicted the locals since they had to leave their homes and sought refuge, and on their return they found their homes demolished and the landscape devastated.

About 300,000 soldiers lost their lives in the fights along the Soča.



THE WALK OF PEACE FROM THE ALPS TO THE ADRIATIC



The Walk of Peace interconnects the areas and people and rich cultural and natural heritage along the onetime Isonzo Front. It is a memorial to all who suffered in the time of the 1st World War and a warning against wars which should never happen again. Above all it promotes the value of peace and the opportunities for common development.

Numerous remains have been left behind the front which are now perfectly restored and maintained through the efforts of various institutions and societies. Military cemeteries, caves, trenches, chapel houses, chapels, monuments, outdoor museums and other memorials – are part of significant material and non-material heritage of European history. Their testimony, mood and stories form the spine of today's Walk of Peace from the Julian Alps to the Adriatic.

The Walk is uniformly marked, suitable for hikers and bikers. Major places worth seeing are also accessible by car or bus. The Walk of Peace is a right choice for everyone who wishes to spend their leisure time actively, experience magnificent views and beauties of nature, learn about history and culture, meet the locals, experience the lifestyle of today and taste delicious local food. Recommended are guided tours, with local tourist guides.



I FEEL SLOVENIA

The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic, the Isonzo Front 1915-1917.
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1. **FORTRESS KLUŽE**

It was built in the present form under Austria-Hungary in the years 1881–1882. In the time of the Isonzo Front it served as the place for commands and reserve units and also as a dressing station. In spite of Italian shelling it remained undamaged. Throughout the history its image and purpose were subject to changes. Today, a museum with a permanent exhibition is arranged in Kluže.



2. **OUTDOOR MUSEUM RAVELNIK**

It is arranged on the onetime first Austro-Hungarian line of defence on the slope of Mt. Ravelnik in the Bovec basin. The circular path connects the cleared up and restored trenches and connection galleries, pillboxes, caves, machine-gun emplacements and reconstructions of cabins.



3. **OUTDOOR MUSEUM ČELO**

It consists of the Austro-Hungarian fortified gun position on the slope of Mt. Svinjak. The trench connects two gun positions, a kitchen, observation post, two dwelling rooms and a shelter. A beautiful view opens from here over the Bovec basin, Mt. Rombon and other nearby mountains.



4. **OUTDOOR MUSEUM ZAPRIKRAJ**

The museum lies within the area of the Triglav National Park and still active alps. In addition to the insight into the organization of Italian defence the well fortified Italian first line of defence in the Km range also offers the pleasures of hiking in unspoiled nature.



5. **ITALIAN CHARNEL HOUSE**

It is constructed around the church of St. Anthony on the hill above Kobarid. Mortal remains of 7014 known and unknown Italian soldiers who fell in the 1st World War were translocated to it from military cemeteries in the surroundings. It was opened in September 1938 by Benito Mussolini. Similar charnel houses are also in Oslavje/Oslavje and Redipuglia/Sredipolje.



6. **TRANSBORDER OUTDOOR MUSEUM KOLOVRAT**

It consists of a part of the Italian third line of defence. Here are located commanders' and observation posts, machine-gun and gun positions, caves and a net of trenches. From the ridge of Mt. Kolovrat an exceptionally magnificent view opens over the Soča valley, Friuli and all to the Adriatic Sea, the nearby mountains and on the entire battle-field of the Isonzo Front, as if projected on a video-wall.



7. **OUTDOOR MUSEUM MRZLI VRH**

The mountain is densely crisscrossed with trenches and caves of both the belligerent sides. Preserved in one of the caves is the altar of the Holy Virgin which was built by Hungarian soldiers. The circular path of the museum runs past the alps of Pretovč and Lapoč.



8. **MEMORIAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE JAVORCA PLATEAU**

It stands in exceptionally splendid natural environment of the Julian Alps and has won the European Heritage Label. It was built in the time of the Isonzo Front by the Austro-Hungarian soldiers in memory of their dead comrades whose names are burnt in on the oak boards which open like pages of a book along the walls of the church interior. Every Sunday, soldiers of different religions attended the holy mass there and could, for a short time at least, forget about the war.



9. **GERMAN CHARNEL HOUSE**

It stands on the site of a former military cemetery. The artificially built last resting place of about 1000 German soldiers who were killed on the battlefields along the Soča in the 12th Isonzo Battle consists of stone walls and a central part, i.e. a chapel. In the chapel there is the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

10. **OUTDOOR MUSEUM MENGORE**

The area is the core of the onetime Austro-Hungarian defence of the Tolmin bridgehead. The circular path runs past caves, memorials, remains of stone cabins, water reservoir and the monument in the former military cemetery. On the top of Mengore there is the church of the Holy Virgin's Name.



PRIVATE MUSEUM COLLECTIONS OF THE 1ST WORLD WAR

Throughout where the Isonzo Front ran there are collectors who have for many years collected its remains and arranged them in their homes into fine and substantial museum collections. In addition to interesting items they also collected stories of oral tradition and they recount them with great zeal and a lot of knowledge.



1ST WORLD WAR CEMETERIES

They are the last resting place of a multitude of soldiers of diverse nations who fought and lost their lives in the battles along the Soča which lasted for twenty-nine months. Their tombs in numerous cemeteries scattered from the source to the mouth of the Soča are a constant reminder of and also a warning that something like that must never happen again.

11. **MT. GLOBOČAK**

In the time of the Isonzo Front Globočak was one of the more important fortified Italian peaks of the Kolovrat ridge, since it offered an excellent view over the Soča valley and the Banjšice plateau. Arranged hiking paths run past numerous remains.



12. **MT. KORADA**

The Italian Army fortified this strategic peak and used it for observation posts and gun positions. St. Gertrude (Gendrica) is the harbinger of spring works in the open air and the patron saint of the church under the top of Mt. Korada. The church, which was first mentioned in 1523, was destroyed during the 1st World War but was afterwards restored.



16. **MONUMENT – SIGNPOST AND THE THRONE OF BOROJEVIĆ**

The monument – signpost, built by the 43rd Infantry Regiment, was erected in honour of the commander to the 7th Austro-Hungarian Corps, Archduke Joseph, and also had the function of a signpost since it gives the distances to Lokvica and Kostanjevica. The throne of Borojević (the Emperor's – Borojević's Stone Chair) was named after the commander of the 5th Austro-Hungarian Army, Svetozar Borojević von Bojna.



17. **KROMPIRJEVA JAMA**

The natural karst cave offered shelter to about five hundred Austro-Hungarian soldiers in the 1st World War. It also served as a storage for food, potato in particular, hence its name. The cave was furnished with a periscope, water reservoir, kitchen, phone station, ammunition dump, commander's room and toilets.



18. **UPPER VIPAVA VALLEY**

The area served as the rear for supplying the Austro-Hungarian troops, therefore it was often the target of shelling. Today, the remains still survive of strongholds, soldiers' positions and cemeteries. One of the most important vestiges is the line of defence which runs from Predmeja to Otlica, Zagolč, Col, and Sanabor, to the slope of Mt. Nanos where the remains of strongholds, walls and water reservoirs are particularly well visible.

19. **MILITARY MUSEUM AT VIPAVA**

In the barracks of Vipava a museum has been arranged which presents part of the battle-field of the first frontline, a dressing station for the heavy wounded, universal workshop, working-dwelling room of battalion commander, shelter, cave and connecting tunnel that runs to the guard post; in one room individual items are exhibited.



20. **MONUMENT IN THE CEMETERY OF THE 1ST WORLD WAR AT ČRNIČ**

Buried in the cemetery are more than 450 soldiers of different nations, who mainly fell on the front which raged 15 km west of Črnič.



15. **CERJE**

The memorial to defenders of the Slovenian land is designed as a seven-storey tower, a stronghold that connects the past and the future. The museum collection will symbolically present travelling through time. The incentive for erecting this monument emerged from the patriotic organisation TIGR.



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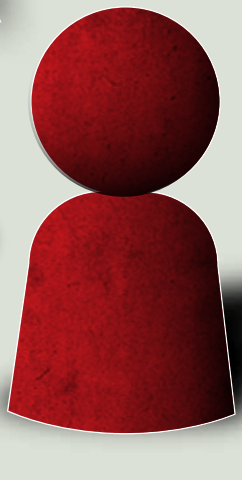
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Come and join me in a guided tour!



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KOBARIŠKI MUZEJ

Kobarški muzej (The Kobarid Museum) boasts the most comprehensive narrative about the Isonzo Front, the mountain warfare in the Julian Alps, and the 12th Isonzo Battle or the Battle of Kobarid (Caporetto/Karfreit). It complements its offer through annual thematic exhibitions. The relief-models of the Upper Soča Region and Mt. Krm, numerous maps and photographs, the exhibits and the 20-minute documentary film exhaustively describe the famous battle which stigmatized some world-famous persons, such as Ernest Hemingway and Erwin Rommel. Expert guides take visitors through the Museum, or lead them along the Kobarid historical trail and along the onetime battlefield.

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HISTORICAL-ETHNOLOGICAL COLLECTION od do **PLANIK**NE KE

The museum on cheese-making "OD PLANINE DO PLANIKE" (FROM THE ALP TO PLANIKA) is the museum of the Planika Dairy (Mlekarna Planika) which has developed its delicious products following the famous tradition of the Soča Region cheese-making, reaching centuries back. The heritage of the alps and alpine pasturing is presented through ethnological exhibits, a documentary film and reconstruction of an alpine lodge with all the belonging equipment for milk processing. The famous cheese "Tolminc", other dairy products and typical cottage-industry products can be bought in the local shop.

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The rich cultural heritage of the Upper Soča Region is concisely presented in the permanent exhibition of the Tolmin Museum, housed in the Coronini Mansion in the centre of Tolmin. For millennia, different cultures, ethnic groups, families and interests have been intertwined in this area. The finds from the archaeological site Vrh gradu on the Sentvška planota plateau, now exhibited in the Museum, evince the presence of the Roman army. The castle on Kozlov rob was one of the most important castles and also the administrative and military centre of the area. The exhibited model gives a clear image of the castle building at the beginning of the 17th century, due to its strategic position the castle was integrated in the Austro-Hungarian system of defence during the Isonzo Front.

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Partizanska bolnica Trnava
»na gori pri vasi«

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1st April to 30. September: daily from **9.00 to 18.00 h**
1st October to 31 October: daily from **9.00 to 16.00 h**
1st November to 31 March: for booked groups,
subject to favourable weather conditions

The Franja Partisan Hospital is a place of remembrance that conveys an important message and symbolic meaning, a symbol of humanity and comradeship. It operated in the narrow Pasica gorge in the village of Dolenji Navaki near Cerkno from December 1943 until May 1945. The hospital was named after a partisan physician, Dr. Franja Bojc Bidovec, who became its administrator soon after its establishment. 578 wounded persons of various nationalities were treated here. The Franja Partisan Hospital is a cultural monument of national importance and is entered in UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage, and bears the European Heritage Label. Following a disastrous flood in September 2007, the monument has been restored in its entirety, and was reopened to visitors in May 2010.