



GOSPIĆ

SO NEAR AND SO VARIED!





Tourist Board of the Town of Gospic

Bana I. Karlovića 1, 53000 Gospic

Phone: +385 (0)53 560 752 Fax: +385 (0)53 574 784 Email.: t.z.gospica@gs.t-com.hr

Tourist Information Centre

Bana Ivana Karlovića 1, 53000 Gospic

Phone: +385 (0)53 560 754 Email.: ticinfogs@gmail.com

www.tz-gospic.hr

Ordered by: Tourist Board of the Town of Gospic

President: Petar Krmpotic, MSc Political Science

Project Manager: Maja Strilić, BSc (Econ)

Editors: Maja Strilić, BSc (Econ) and Ivica Šubarić, MA

Proofread by: Ivica Šubarić, MA

English translation: Marija Sabol, MA - Traducta,
translation and intellectual services, owned by Željko Kučinić

Graphic design: Plavi Sjaj d.o.o.

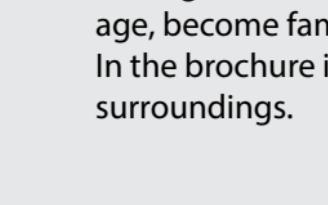
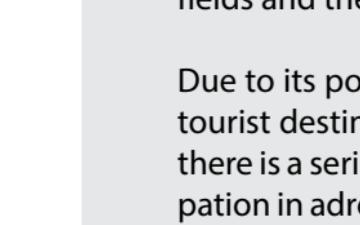
Graphic editor: Denis Leo Rostohar

Photography: Tourist Board of the Town of Gospic, Croatian Tourist Board, Aleksandar
Gospic, Nikola Mraović, Tourist Board of the Lika-Senj County, Museum of Lika in
Gospic, Velebit National Park, Goran Šuper, Božidar Yerkovich, Ivo Pervan

Printed by: Vjesnik d.d., Slavonska avenida 4, 10000 Zagreb

Sources: Tourist Board of the Lika-Senj County, PP Grabovača, Tourist Board of the
Karlobag Municipality, Tourist Board of the Town of Otočac, Northern Velebit National
Park, the Plitvice Lakes National Park

Gospic, March 2016



Welcome to Gospic!

The Town of Gospic, the regional centre of the Lika-Senj County and the seat of the Gospic-Senj Diocese, is situated in the North-Western, mountainous part of Croatia. The distinctive diversity of the landscape is marked by the Velebit mountain range, the largest and the most beautiful Croatian mountain, below which there is the spacious Lika field valley adorned with centennial forests, green fields and the blue of the calm rivers.

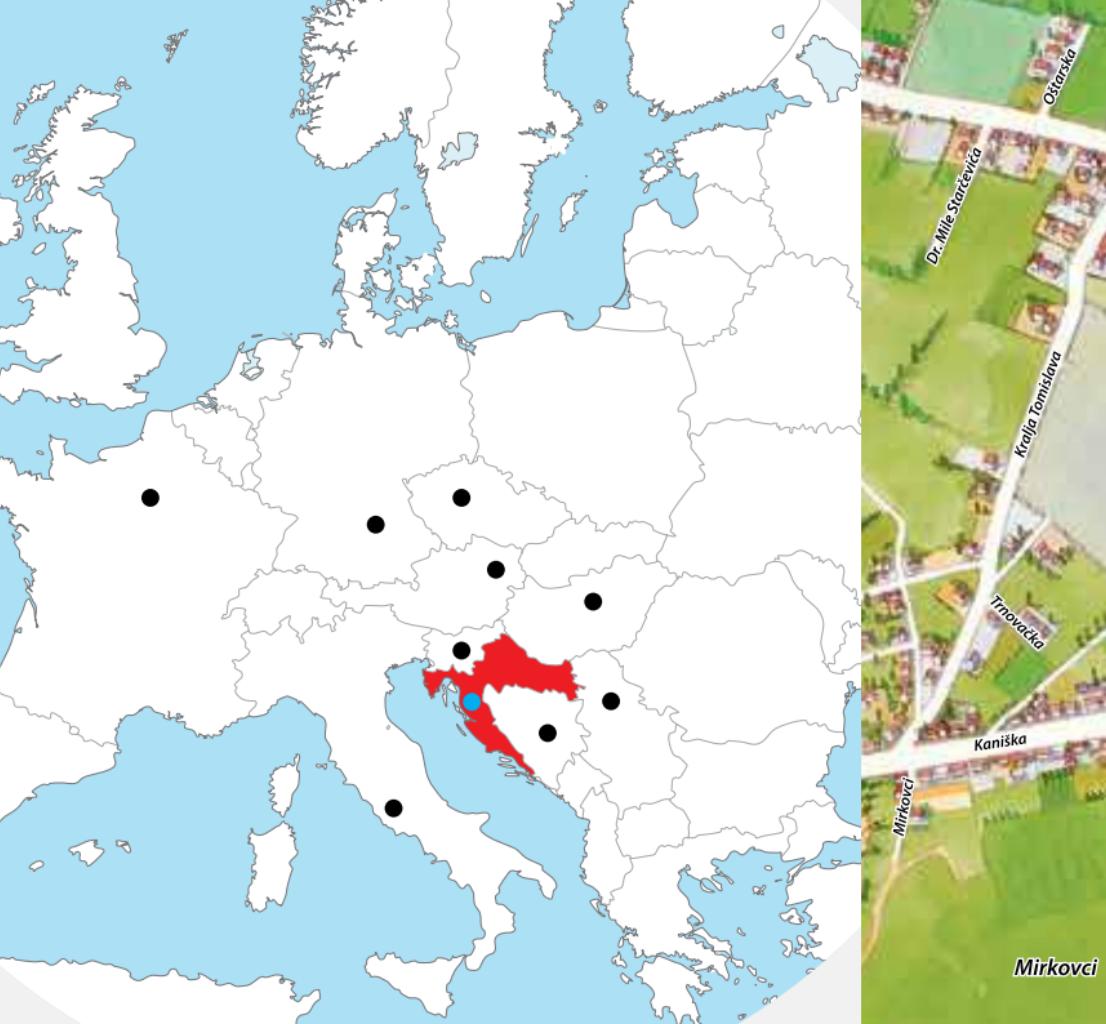
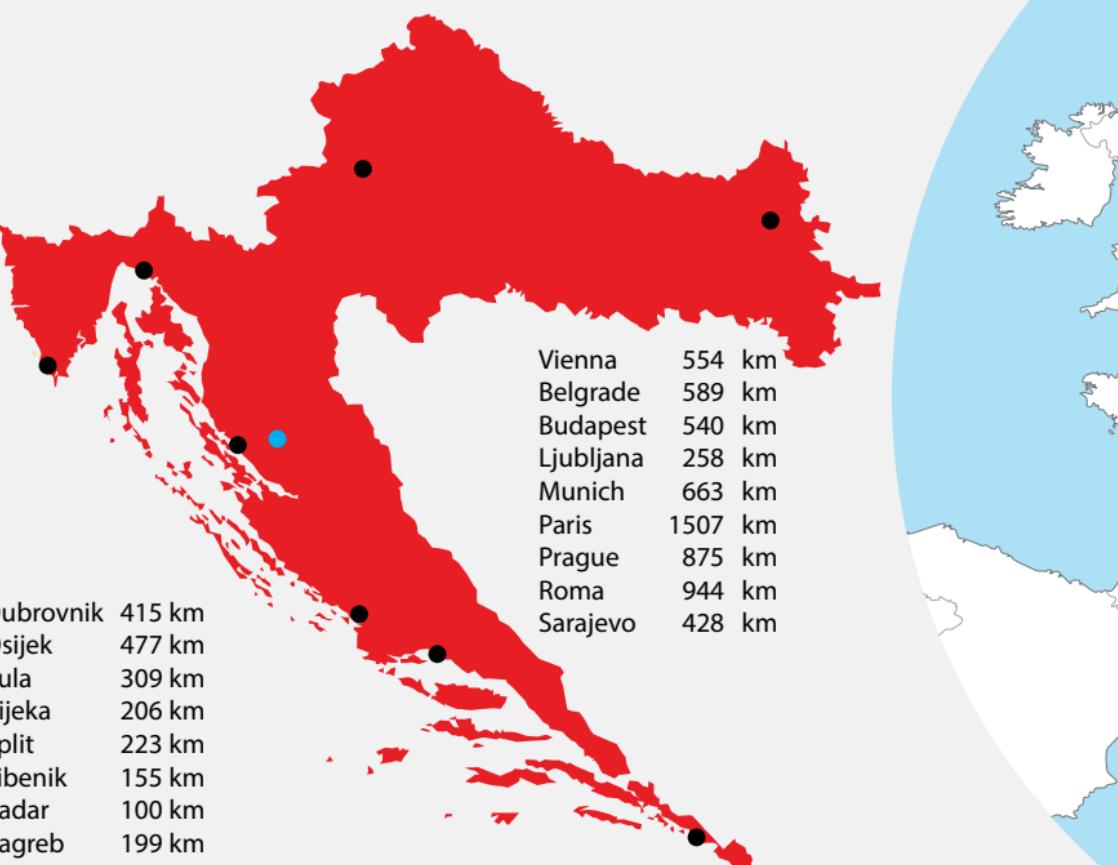
Due to its position at the crossroads from the North to the South of the country, Gospic is excellent for a short break and also as a tourist destination offering an exceptional experience to nature lovers and fans of active tourism. In Gospic and the environment, there is a series of different activities waiting for you: hiking, fishing, hunting, bicycling, canoeing, walking along forest paths, participation in adrenalin sports or simply spending time in the well preserved environment, all of which will offer you a unique experience as well as a sense of harmony and mutual interconnectedness of man and nature in this region.

Through different events during the year, you will get to know the traditional culture, taste the autochthonous Lika food and beverage, become familiar with the interesting history and the rich cultural heritage of the region.

In the brochure in your hands you will find a lot of useful information with descriptive imagery of the tourist offer of Gospic and the surroundings.

Welcome!

DISTANCE OF THE TOWN OF GOSPIĆ FROM THE LARGER CITIES IN CROATIA AND EUROPE



MAP OF THE TOWN OF GOSPIĆ



CULTURAL SIGHTS

Apart from the beautiful natural landscape on the territory of the Town of Gospić, there is also a whole range of cultural sights. As a town of rich history and cultural heritage, Gospić offers a variety of interesting localities and facts; in continuation you will find those that, according to our opinion, you should visit by all means: Museum of Lika in Gospić, Nikola Tesla Memorial Centre in Smiljan, the Cathedral of Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary in Gospić and Dr. Ante Starčević's Memorial Home in Veliki Žitnik.

Special programmes are organised by the following institutions: the Museum of Lika in Gospić, the State Archives in Gospić, Dr. Ante Starčević Open University in Gospić, Independent National Library in Gospić and Nikola Tesla Memorial Centre in Smiljan.



THE SCULPTURE OF MARTA BEARING WATER

The bronze sculpture of Marta bearing water, the symbol of the town of Gospić, has been erected on 31 December 1893 in memory of the completion of the construction of the first town waterworks, from the well in the village of Brušane to Gospić.

This is a standardised Austro-Hungarian sculpture that used to be erected upon completion of the waterworks construction; however, it was named after the young woman from Gospić, the first woman who came to get water from the fountain, i.e. after Marta, a popular housemaid.

It used to be a little further away from the road, surrounded by acacias; in the first half of the 20th century, as a public fountain, it also served as a sort of an employment bureau since day labourers and landowners used to gather there.

It was removed after World War II but at the end of the 20th century it was returned to the place where it was originally placed, i.e. to the old town of Gospić, in front of the Cathedral of the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary. To the South of the sculpture, on the rector's corner, there is a milestone from the 19th century.



THE MUSEUM OF LIKA IN GOSPIĆ

The Museum of Lika in Gospić was founded in 1958. The entire museum's holdings are divided into the archaeological, cultural, historic and ethnographic parts and the gallery. The museum possesses the most comprehensive collection of the traditional culture in the Croatian Dinara region, while the permanent ethnographic exhibition of the Museum can be found in a special log cabin covered with wood shingles with the appropriate interior decoration.

The old archaeological "Terra viva" exhibition is a result of centuries of research that have taken place in Lika since the end of the 19th century. For more than forty years in continuation, in the organisation of the Museum of Lika, an art event, the Lika Art Annale, have presented the fine arts creations with the topic of Lika.

Besides collecting, processing, conserving and presenting the cultural heritage, the Museum conducts scientific research in the area of archaeology, ethnography and history.

THE ARMS COLLECTION OF THE MUSEUM OF LIKA IN GOSPIĆ



The Arms Collection of the Museum of Lika in Gospić encompasses the categories of firearms and edged weapons created in the period between the 17th until the middle of the 20th century, originating from the local, European and Eurasian area. The material has been collected during the fifty-six years of the Museum's existence, primarily through donations and purchases.

This collection, as a part of the entire holding, is one of the more important material sources in studying history both of the inner areas of Lika, with its peculiarities of the geographically and politically isolated region, and of the entire Croatian history. The weapons as a necessary means of survival in the area are material evidence of not only their use value but also of the way in which they were made.

Most often these are professional and superbly produced items which witness of the development stage in the production of material goods as well as of the artistic value of individual items. They are evidence of an exceptionally high degree of skills and artistic sensibility of the masters of the time.



NIKOLA TESLA MEMORIAL CENTRE IN SMILJAN

The life and scientific path of Nikola Tesla started precisely here, at a place that inspired his first attempts at inventing which later produced many ingenious inventions. Endeavouring to connect the autochthonous ambience with the most representative of Tesla's inventions, one has tried to connect the untouched and peaceful nature with the restlessness of the scientific research and present a well-thought-out presentation of the person and the work of Nikola Tesla.

The concept of the Memorial Centre is the co-existence of various content with the one that used to exist earlier, i.e. Nikola Tesla's birth house with the associated farm building, the church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, the cemetery, stone monuments and benches up to the newly built content: the porch, the parking lot, hiking trails, the monument of the sculptor Mile Blažević, an auditorium, actual size prototypes, Tesla's test stations from Colorado Springs, Tesla's turbines, a remote control ship, a bridge platform, a children's playground and ambient light. All of this makes this centre a dynamic, open and accessible place of communication and a source of impressive information. www.nikolatesla.hr



THE CATHEDRAL OF THE ANNUNCIATION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Cathedral of the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary or simply the Gospic Cathedral has been raised to the degree and dignity of a cathedral church on 25 May 2000, when the Gospic-Senj Diocese was founded. A parish church at first, today's Cathedral was built between 1781 and 1783 as a Baroque and Classicism building and is an example of a standardised Krajina (frontier) church of the 18th century, adjusted to the Gospic urban matrix. On 25 May 2000, Pope John Paul II proclaimed the church a cathedral; since Gospic has been the seat of the Gospic-Senj Diocese since 2000, it has also been proclaimed the first church of the newly founded diocese. On the Western front of the Cathedral there is a relief, a monument to the fallen border guards, work of Robert Frangeš Mihanović. The relief presents a border guard after the clash with the Napoleon's army standing heroically and with his head bended holding the flag above the dead bodies of his fellow soldiers. According to the old records of travel writers, it is assumed that the church was built at the place of a church bearing the same name which is mentioned in the legends on how the name Gospic came into being, i.e. Gospoja's village, the village of the lands of Gospoja's church (Gospoja = Lady). It is obvious that both the village and the lands got their name after the remnants of some torn down church dedicated to the Mother of God.



THE CHAPEL OF ST. JOHN OF NEPMUK

The Baroque chapel of St. John of Nepomuk was built in the first half of the 18th century and was at the time at the periphery of the then town where the town cemetery was also located. It was raised not far from the river Novčica and dedicated to the patron saint protecting against water diseases, floods and similar calamities. The Chapel's patron saint is recognisable also by the large number of the Czech soldiers who served in the military Krajina troops in the 18th and 19th centuries.

In the Chapel, there is the grave of the major Franjo von Topp who was wounded and died after the battle at Lisičjak on 22nd July 1737, as well as the grave of Elizabeta de Pelican of 1759, wife of Colonel Maximilian Pelican, commander of the Lika regiment.



Ante Starčević (Veliki Žitnik, Gospić, 23 May 1823 – Zagreb 28. February 1896) was a Croatian politician, journalist and writer.

Beside politics, he was also dealing with history, philology, literary criticism, philosophy and translating; he was writing poems, drama and political satire.

He was named the Father of the Nation while still alive.



THE MEMORIAL HOME OF DR. ANTE STARČEVĆ

The Memorial Home of Dr. Ante Starčević was opened on 23 May 1998 on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of his birth. The house was built in the traditional architecture of Lika as a two-story building. The lower part of the house is made of stone, while the upper part is made of wood and with a balustrade, i.e. balcony. The interior of the home in the upper part of the house is presented by two rooms with an antechamber. One room is built in the ethno-style of Lika suggesting a trip into the history of Lika accompanied by domestic textile, prints, patchworks and Lika rugs. The other room is decorated as a library with the works of Dr. Ante Starčević and works from the Croatian history.

The surroundings of the Memorial Home are decorated by ornamental shrub seedlings, roses and trees giving it a special atmosphere throughout the year. In front of the house, there is the bust of Dr. Ante Starčević, work of the sculptor Petar Dolić.

www.arhiv-gospic.hr



KOLAKOVAC PARK

In the 1930s, the mayor of the town of Gospić, Josip Kolaković, for the first time decorated the park after having refurbished the flooding creek flowing in the direction of today's street on the Eastern side; the park has gotten the mayor's name.

The park is dominated by the building of the Chancery Office of the Diocese in the East, built in the 19th century, and the Fire Station built at the time on the Western side. In the middle, there is a flowstone from the Samograd cave. A new landscaping was done in 2005, while in 2008 and 2010 sculptures of modern Croatian sculptors have been placed there.





THE LIKA CAP

The symbol of belonging to one regional cultural circle, the Lika cap, hides a legend on a great battle and also the suffering that took place on 9 September 1493 in the Krbava Field between the Croatian and the Turkish armies.

According to the legend, the bottom of the cap represents the flat Krbava, while the red and the black colours are the two armies, i.e. the good and the evil. The embroidery on the circumference presents the battle, while the tassels on the cap symbolise the tears and the sorrow for the fallen Croatian warriors.

It is assumed that the Lika cap is only a variant of the red cap that used to be worn in the regions of the old Red Croatia. The cap emerged from the old soldiers' helmets. The cap changed its form in the course of the time, however, it remained the symbol of identity, continuity of living and survival in the region. As such, this is the symbolism given to it nowadays as well.



THE GOSPIĆ GUARD BRIGADE, THE WOLVES

The robe of the Gospic guard, the Wolves, is made based on the analysis of the written material and illustrations of the border guard uniforms of the Lika regiment of 1762. It consists of the calpac, i.e. cap, shirt, sleeveless gown, coat, trousers, belt, leather sword belt and the boots.

The name "The Wolves" was taken from the time of the Homeland War, after the name of the 9th Guards Brigade, the Wolves. The Gospic Guard, the Wolves, have been for the first time presented to the public on 9 September 2005, on the occasion of marking the Medak pocket military and police operation and during the festivities of laying the foundation stone for the Church of Croatian Martyrs in Udbina.





ACTIVE VACATION

Are you a lover of an active vacation and do you prefer discovering the surroundings by bike rather than as a member of tourist sightseeing? Do you like hiking and reaching tops and are you no stranger to hang gliding from the mountain tops that you have conquered by climbing? The town of Gospic is the right destination for you! The preserved nature is an ideal destination for all of you who like to hike, mountaineer and camp and who look forward to a vacation in the true nature. Of course, there is also the horseback riding and cycling, numerous trails and tours that can take you in different directions and in the rhythm that you like and prefer.

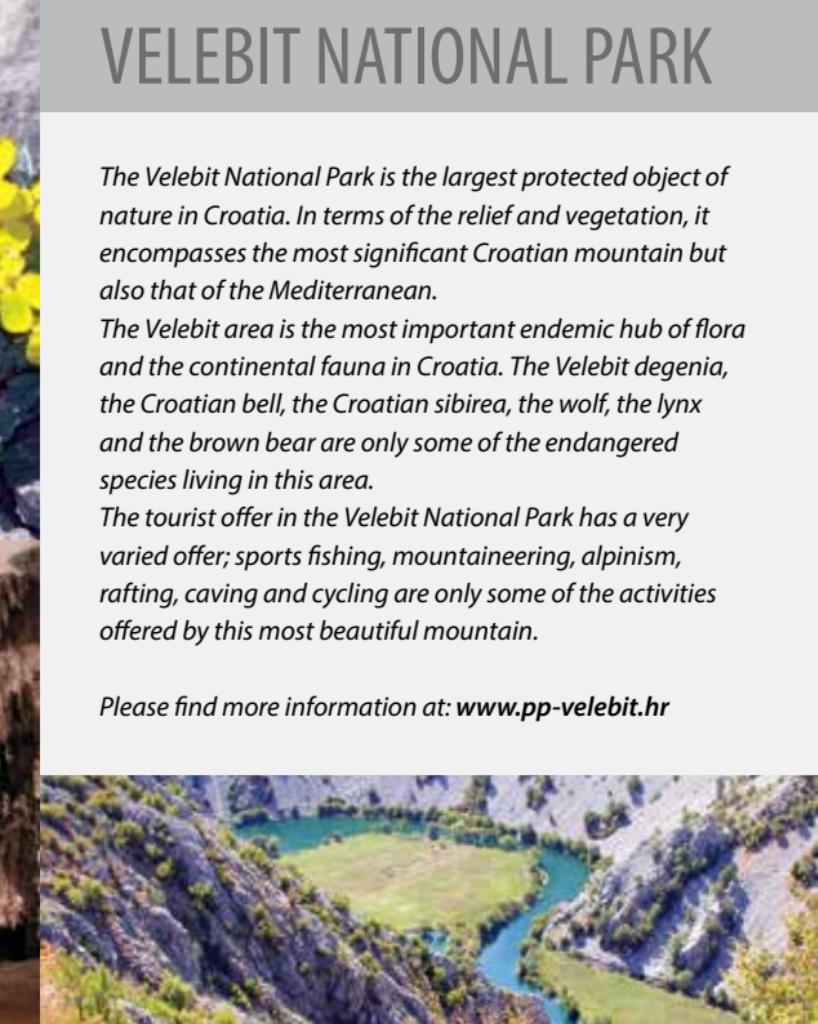
Finally, if you belong into the category of adrenaline lovers of activities such as rafting on the river rapids, parachute gliding or hang gliding above the Velebit peaks, you will discover this region as a place of exceptional challenges.



CYCLOTOURISM

Taking the cyclotourist routes of the town of Gospic, you will enjoy the beauty of pristine nature and the hospitality of the local population. The physically not much demanding ride on the local roads that follow the flow of the clear rivers is intended for all bicycle users but also all true nature lovers, while the mountain trails, that will draw the last atom of strength from you, are intended for those who push themselves and their bike to the limits.

Each of the routes offers its specific adventure; you will savour in the richness of the cultural and historic heritage and enjoy the most beautiful nature. On the territory of the town of Gospic, 397 km of cycling trails have been built and put to use, divided in 8 units under the common name "On the Trails of Velebit and the Famous People". Each of the trails tells its own story. The trails connect the places in the surroundings of Gospic and expand all the way to Štirovica, a spacious valley in the Central Velebit. The town of Gospic has an economically and ecologically sustainable public bike system. Nextbike stations are available at two locations in the town of Gospic with a total of 10 bikes. The bikes are available 24/7. Take a seat and a ride!



VELEBIT NATIONAL PARK

The Velebit National Park is the largest protected object of nature in Croatia. In terms of the relief and vegetation, it encompasses the most significant Croatian mountain but also that of the Mediterranean.

The Velebit area is the most important endemic hub of flora and the continental fauna in Croatia. The Velebit degenia, the Croatian bell, the Croatian sibirea, the wolf, the lynx and the brown bear are only some of the endangered species living in this area.

The tourist offer in the Velebit National Park has a very varied offer; sports fishing, mountaineering, alpinism, rafting, caving and cycling are only some of the activities offered by this most beautiful mountain.

Please find more information at: www.pp-velebit.hr



KAYAK AND CANOE ADVENTURES

As a part of the tourist offer of the Adventure and Excursion Rizvan City Centre in Rizvanuša, lovers of adventure tourism may experience the canoe safari adventure by calm paddling on the largest river in Lika, the Lika, especially sailing its mystically magical canyon up to the Kruščica Lake.

Moreover, within the tourist offer of the Velebit National Park, there are rafting trips and canoe rides organised on one of the most beautiful Croatian rivers, the Zrmanja.

The tradition of kayaking and canoeing in this area has been revived with the foundation of the Kayak and Canoe Club named Gospić. The club is the organiser of regattas on the river Novčica in Gospić and it attracts a large number of paddling and ecology lovers.



PARAGLIDING

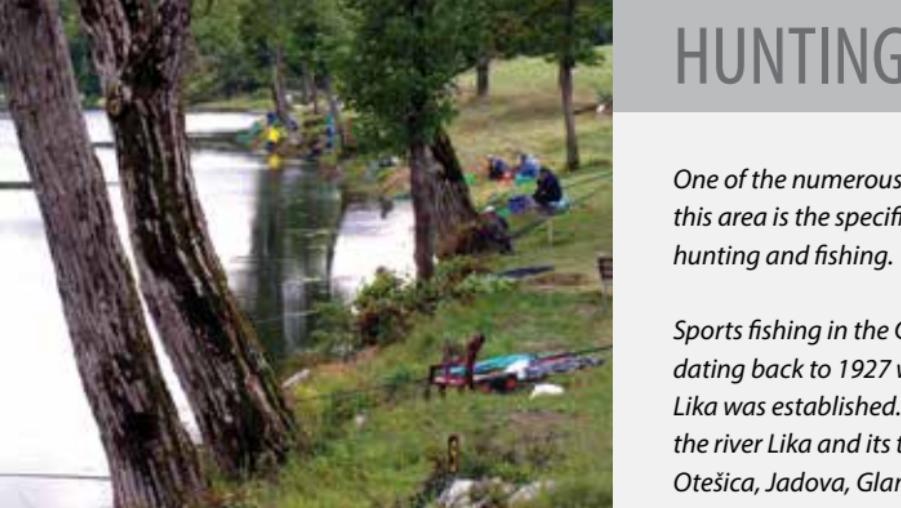
Paragliding is one of the adrenaline sports that make it possible for a human being to fly like a bird and enjoy the most beautiful views from the air.

In Lika, there are some of the most beautiful and best airfields in this part of Europe, of which Bjelopolje near Korenica is the absolute top. The highest altitudes in this part of Europe have been reached there.

One flies also from Visočica toward Lički Čitluk, from Basaća to Karlobag, from Ljubičko Brdo on Velebno and Godača above Sinac. Experiencing the sense of perfection and peace, combined with excitement, is simply priceless.

The Paragliding Club Fenix operates on the territory of the Town of Gospić; you may find more information at: www.pgfenix.hr

© 2024



HUNTING AND FISHING

One of the numerous possibilities for an active vacation in this area is the specific going back to the nature through hunting and fishing.

Sports fishing in the Gospić area has a long tradition dating back to 1927 when the Sports Fishing Association Lika was established. Nowadays, the Association manages the river Lika and its tributaries Novčica, Bogdanica, Otešica, Jadova, Glamočica and the Kruščica Lake making a flow of a total of 155 kilometers.

Many types of fish are represented in the waters, the most famous being the trout, pike, catfish, amur, chub, tench and goldfish. In the upper parts of the watercourses, in the foothills of Velebit, there is the endemic fish, the Lika (Croatian) Pijor, inhabiting only this karst area. Beside the rivers, an especially attractive area for the sports fishermen is the Kruščica Lake where there are capital examples of catfish weighing over 90 kilograms, carps of over 25 kilograms, pikes of over 15 kilograms, tenches and chubs of over 3 kilograms.



Almost half a million of hectares of hunting grounds in the predominantly karst relief and a varied composition of the hunting fund enable supreme experience and satisfaction for the hunters.

In the mountainous areas of Velebit, there is the brown bear. In the continental part, the most attractive is the wild boar hunting. The coastal slope of the Velebit is inhabited by mouflon, chamois and the fallow deer.

Within the small game, one can emphasize the wild duck, woodcock, the common rabbit, grey partridge and the common quail. The most attractive is the bear hunting, followed by the deer and wild boar hunting. Only on Velebit there are approximately 80 bears, the number of the deer amounts to approximately 400, while the number of wild boars is continually growing.

Please find more information at: www.sru-lika-gospic.com

TRIPS

The dreamlike nature which will make you forget the hurried rhythm and sounds of the urban life is an excellent destination in which we can offer you pleasant moments with local food and beverage, far from the daily crowds and stress, attuned to nature and man, a true oasis of peace. The fishing grounds near the town of Gospic will provide a true pleasure for the fishermen, while others will be able to take a stroll in the wonderful nature. Beside accommodation and local eno-gastronomic offer, some of the trip destinations offer also a horseback riding school and other sports activities including children's playgrounds. A specialty of the trip destinations is the production and preparation of healthy food, production of herbal medicines, tea mixtures and herbal drops. Far from the urban crowds, apart from savouring peace, the trip destinations will provide you with true gourmet moments; you will also be able to try the adrenaline sports as well as immediate encounters with the deer. You will not make a mistake by selecting any of our trips because all of them are an excellent choice for the weekend. Welcome!





RIZVAN CITY

The adventure and excursion centre, Rizvan City, is not far from the town of Gospic, i.e. in the Velebit National Park, in Rizvanusa, a small and typical village of Lika. The old family farm has been transformed into an adventure and excursion centre offering numerous and unique adventurous activities.

Within the Rizvan City adventure and excursion centre, you may spend the night in the renovated Lika house built from the traditional materials, stone and wood or in a camp. One can camp with campers, in tents or you may rent a wooden bungalow.

This unique adventure and excursion centre offers numerous interesting activities: paintball, a forest adrenaline park, zip line, climbing rock, a giant swing, archery, shooting, human "table" football, quad safari, jeep safari on Velebit, kayak safari on the river Lika and hiking on Velebit.

Please find more information at: www.adria-velebitica.hr



Linden Tree Retreat & Ranch is the only ranch open for guests in Croatia, located on the Velebit mountain, within the biosphere reserves under the protection of the UNESCO. Intimate and hidden, the ranch offers a wide range of first class eco-adventures appropriate for individuals, families and groups. The ranch is an ideal place for people looking for something completely different – a relaxing environment with an authentic and intimate ambience – your true home far away from home. In this beautiful environment, the ranch can take only a few selected guests at a time.

The place fits entirely into the wilderness filled with the omnipresent sounds of nature. This secluded and hidden place expands on a surface of 25 hectares of private pastures and forests.

The ranch has received numerous prizes for its well-known cuisine, the unique connection between horses and people, as well as for projects with the aim of conserving the nature.

www.LindenRetreat.com

GASTRONOMY

Beside the beautiful landscape, rich nature, sources of potable water, this region is also rich in a wealth of tastes and scents of autochthonous home-made products. The recipes have been passed from one generation to the other and the tastes of our food and beverage contain much effort, love and, most important, the tastes and scents formed by the climate in which we live. In the past, the inhabitants of the region mainly used to deal in livestock farming, agriculture and milling. The traditional food was based on dishes rich in calories which were the basis for hard physical labour in the field, forest and in the house. The autochthonous Lika meal starts with the Škripavac and Basa cheeses, "ličke pole" (potato halves) and smoked bacon or prosciutto; for your main course you may choose between lamb soup with smoked meat, sour cabbage with ribs and sausages, or a lamb on the spit, mushroom noodles or game dishes. The meal ends with "uštipci" (dough balls) or home-made "pogača" (type of bread). A large number of excellent restaurants will introduce every guest into the riches of tastes and scents of the Lika region. The well-known Lika potato has been permanently protected in the EU; the protection of the Lika potato is based on its quality ensuing from the specificity of the breeding area and its reputation based on the long breeding tradition.





EVENTS

The calendar of festivals and events in Gospic is truly rich. Therefore, it is very certain that everyone will be able to find something he or she is interested in. The events are based on the rich tradition and the festivals cherish the musical or performing art specialties of the region attracting every year an ever larger number of visitors who often decide the time of their visit based on the calendar events.

In the most beautiful ambience of museums and galleries, town squares or in the primeval natural environment, the magic world of arts, nostalgia or modern sounds will come alive before you. In short, joy and amusement for all tastes and generations.

The most important events and annual happenings in the town of Gospic are: the exhibition of traditional culture "Autumn in Lika", the cultural, ethno, eno and gastronomic event "Gospic and Friends", the Classical Music Festival "The Music Summer in Gospic", "The Snowman Festival", the Gospic summer rock scene "Grocks", marking the "Night of Museums", the traditional arts exhibition "Lika Art Annale", marking the birthday of Nikola Tesla, various sports events, "Kayak and canoe regatta on the river Novčica", winter and summer futsal tournaments and "Gospic Cup in Float Fishing".



THE AUTUMN IN LIKA

"The Autumn in Lika" is the most important traditional, economic, cultural, ethno and tourist event of international character in the county lasting for three days.

This event has a special significance in the promotion of economic and tourist potentials of the region, in the presentation of old crafts and trades, autochthonous production, gastronomy and ecology and nurturing of the folklore tradition. Beside presenting traditional products, old crafts, trades and folk customs, the goal of the event is to present the public with the potential of small farms, small entrepreneurs and all those who base their production on tradition as proven by applying old, autochthonous ways of producing food, decoration and useful products typical for the rural heritage of the region.

"The Autumn in Lika" takes place every year in October.

www.lsz-lira.hr



GOSPIĆ AND FRIENDS

ETHNO- AND ENO-GASTRONOMIC EVENT

At the traditional cultural and ethno-eno-gastronomic event "Gospic and friends" taking place on the occasion of the Day of the Town of Gospic, on 22 July, representatives of the friendly cities of the Town of Gospic participate.

During the event, the autochthonous, eno and gastronomic products, as well as the ways of their preparation, are promoted. The very event is enriched in its content by folklore groups, town brass bands, the "klape", choirs, majorettes and historical troops.

Through the content of this event, the traditional values of different regions are connected respecting their originality such as the comparative specificities of creating and promoting one's own traditional product.



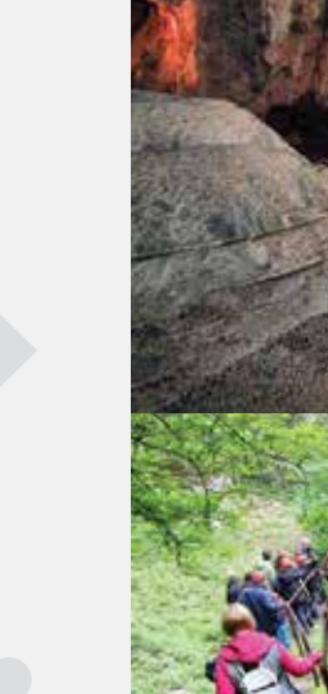
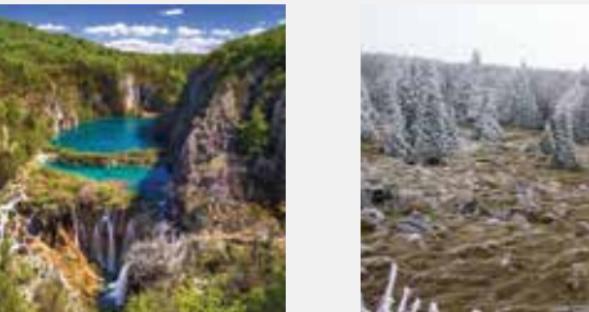
THE SNOWMAN FESTIVAL

Everyone is invited to this attractive winter event organised by the Town of Gospić, especially the youngest ones. In the atmosphere of true winter magic presented by nature, let your imagination wander and build Snjegograd (the Snow City) with joint forces and participate in making and adoring your own snowman.

Beside encouraging get-togethers, creativity and enjoying the winter, this event sends the message of importance of maintaining the equilibrium of the world climate which today, due to global warming, is ever more threatened.



IN THE VICINITY, YOU SHOULD VISIT...



Cave Park Grabovača (13 km)

The cave park Grabovača provides the visitors with the opportunity to return to the past, thousands of years back. The only tourist cave in the park is the Samograd cave.

All the caves in the park are connected with a trail taking you through the forest, forest slopes and cuttings beside all the caves where you may read about each of the caves and their history. Regardless of the season, by hiking you will best be able to delve into the calm atmosphere of this region, tire your body a little yet rest your spirit.

The park provides a unique experience at any time of the year. One does not know whether it is more beautiful in winter, when the soil rests below a thick snow cover, or in spring, when everything awakens and grows. The autumn brings dramatic yellow, golden and crimson nuances.

Regardless of the season, the Cave Park Grabovača has something to offer.

INFORMATION: Public Institution "Cave Park Grabovača"
Trg popa Marka Mesića 2 (Municipality Building),
Perušić 53202, Email: info.grabovaca@gmail.com
Phone: (053) 679 233, web: www.pp-grabovaca.hr

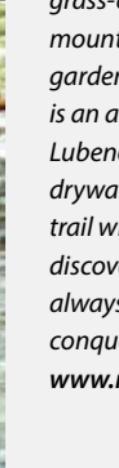
National Park Plitvice Lakes (59 km)

In a place of magic beauty between Mala Kapela and Lička Plješivica, immediately along the road connecting Dalmatia with Zagreb, there are 16 cascading lakes with magnificent waterfalls, surrounded by forests rich in fauna. This is the first Croatian national park, the Plitvice Lakes, whose value was recognised by UNESCO that included it on the World Natural Heritage List.

The two largest and deepest lakes, Kozjak and Prošće, together with ten smaller ones on the dolomite deposit, make the group of the Upper Lakes, while downstream from Kozjak in the limestone canyon that is 70 to 80 meters deep, there are the Lower Lakes. Immediately before entering the Prošćansko Lake, the Black and the White River join into the Matica river; Rječica flows into the lake Kozjak and the river flowing from the lake is the beautiful Korana. At the most impressive place in the park, Sastavci, together with the waterfalls of the last lake, a 78 meters high waterfall of the Plitvica river flows into it. On its way to Golubnjača, the deepest cave in the national park and further toward Karlovac, Korana itself forms some most beautiful waterfalls.

Even though the Plitvice Lakes do not have a high altitude, thanks to the rich forests, the impression of a mountain landscape is complete; the most preserved is the complex of the original beech and fir forest in the Čorkova uvala rainforest.

www.np-plitvicka-jezera.hr



National Park Northern Velebit (69 km)

A conquering mountain, one with large, almost uncovered blocks of rock with a multitude of cracks, forests difficult to pass, small and large valleys, grass-covered karst valleys, caves, sinkholes, snow-covered areas, puddles and cracks..., this is what characterises the Northern Velebit area, a mosaic consisting of the most varied habitats making a home for many types of mushrooms, plants and animals.

Thanks to the excellent preservation of the ecosystem, the Northern Velebit is a natural habitat of the bear, wolf, lynx and golden eagle. On the territory of the Park, approximately 1.5 thousand types of plants, mushroom and animals were noted in the studies conducted so far. Zavižan and Alan are areas of constant exchange of open grass-covered fields, rich green forests and huge stone limestone blocks, surrounded by mountain tops offering magnificent views of the sea and Lika. In the Velebit botanical gardens you may enjoy the riches of the flora and the variety of fauna, while Štirovača is an area of exceptionally rich coniferous forests and the only wet area in the Park. Lubenovac, a spacious Velebit pasture, with numerous remnants of old cabins and drywalls, witnesses of the former life of the people on the mountain, while the Premužić's trail will take you through the most beautiful parts of Northern Velebit. Once they discover the secrets of the Northern Velebit, active vacation and recreation lovers will always return to its pristine nature. It is said for the mountains that they are to be conquered, however, Velebit is a mountain that wins over its visitors.

www.np-sjeverni-velebit.hr

The river Gacka (55 km)

The Gacka valley is a large karst field surrounded by Velebit toward the sea and by Kapela toward the interior of the land. The field is dominated by the Gacka, springing up on one end of the field and diving underground on the other.

According to its length, Gacka is the third largest undercurrent in the world. Its original flow is 32 km long, however, after the construction of the hydropower plant Senj in the 1960s it was shortened to 11 km, since on the territory of the town of Otočac a larger part of the water is taken into the artificial Gusić Lake by means of tunnels for the needs of the hydropower plant. Due to the mild fall of the altitude, its flow is peaceful and curvy.

The water of the Gacka is exceptionally clean and rich in oxygen. The original spring area of the Gacka consists of many smaller springs, with the three largest ones being: Tonković vrilo (spring), Klanac and Majerovo vrilo. The springs have the shape of a small lake and are very picturesque. There are also numerous old mills – the so-called "malenicas", of which some have been renovated and decorated in the traditional style.

Beside the mills, there are also water saws, mortars and baskets for cloth washing. The trout in the Gacka grow particularly fast (around five times faster than in the other karst rivers) and are widely known among the fishermen around the world.



Baške Oštarije (21 km)

Baške Oštarije is a village on the Gospić-Karlobag road at an altitude of 924 m, 21 km away from Gospić and 19 km away from Karlobag. Oštarijska vrata (927 m) are a saddle 2 km away from Oštarije from which you can have a wonderful view of the island of Pag and the surrounding islands.

Oštarije is very important for hikers because of its excellent accommodation (mountain lodges, hostels, campsites, etc.) and the vicinity of different peaks of the Central and Southern Velebit. Moreover, Oštarije is only 19 km away from the sea so that in the summer months it is possible to combine bathing with mountaineering and accommodation on higher altitudes offering refreshment.

Gospa od kamena (Stone Lady), Kubus, Ljubičko brdo (mountain), Dabarski kukovi, ski resort, the Terezijana educational trail and Filipov kuk are only some of the hikers' favourite destinations. Those longing for adrenaline will be awaited by numerous challenges of mountain biking and rock climbing. In the immediate vicinity, there is also the Rizvan City adventure centre which is a very much liked destination for fun or teambuilding with its adrenaline park, archery, paintball, jeep safari, etc. The surrounding rural households offer traditional products: cheeses, soured milk, forest mushrooms, honey products, medicinal herbs and various beverages.



Karlobag (39 km)

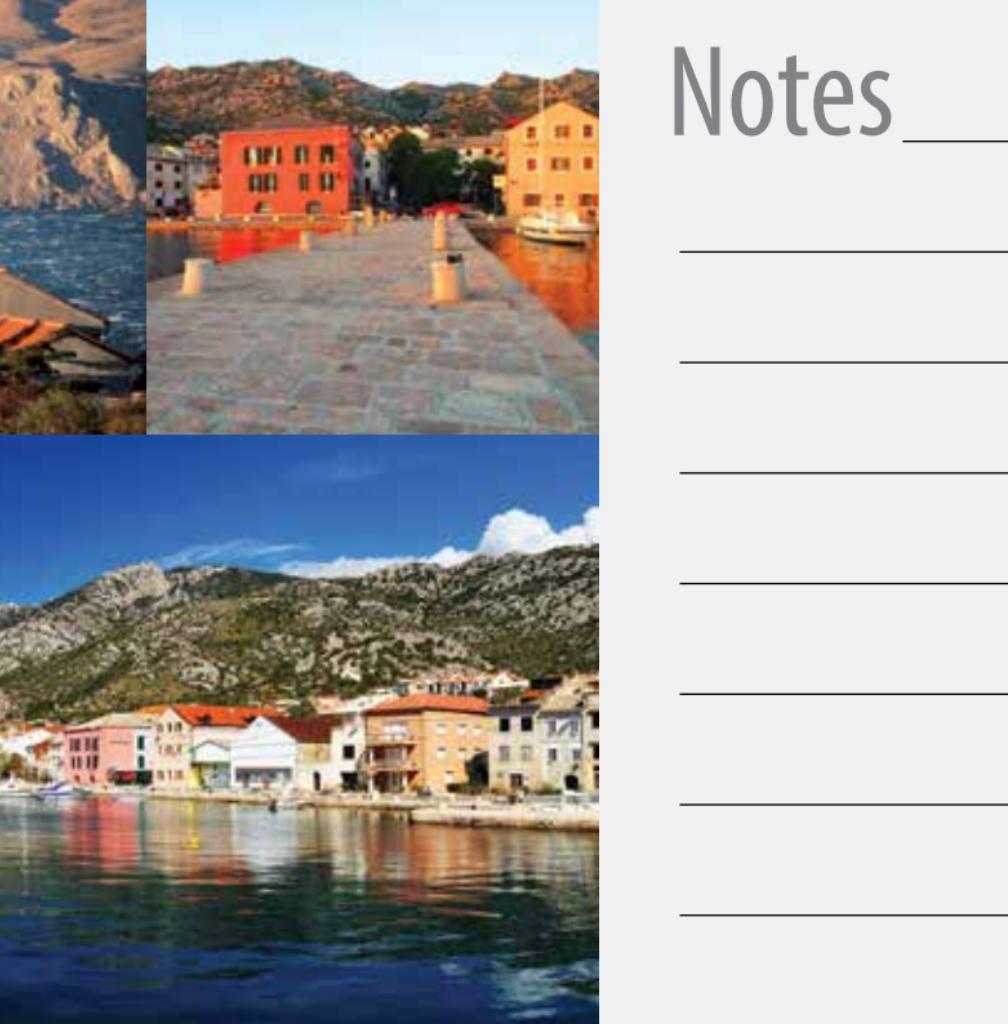
A town between Velebit and the sea, located on an important road leading from Rijeka to Dubrovnik on the Adriatic highway, and inland on the way to Gospic, the Plitvice Lakes and Zagreb.

Karlobag is a miraculous combination of the Mediterranean and the continent, of crystal clear sea and the most beautiful Croatian mountain which is only several minutes by car away.

Beside the town of Karlobag, that is also the municipal headquarters, the largest towns on the riviera are: Ribarica, Cesarica, Lukovo Šugarje, Barić Draga and Sv. Marija Magdalena and Baške Oštarije on Velebit.

Karlobag is a place of gastronomic delicacies of Mediterranean and continental Velebit style, with a rich and varied culinary offer. The natural taste of the sea and numerous Mediterranean specialties have not changed through the centuries at all.

www.tz-karlobag.hr



Notes

Notes





CROATIA
Full of life



CROATIA365