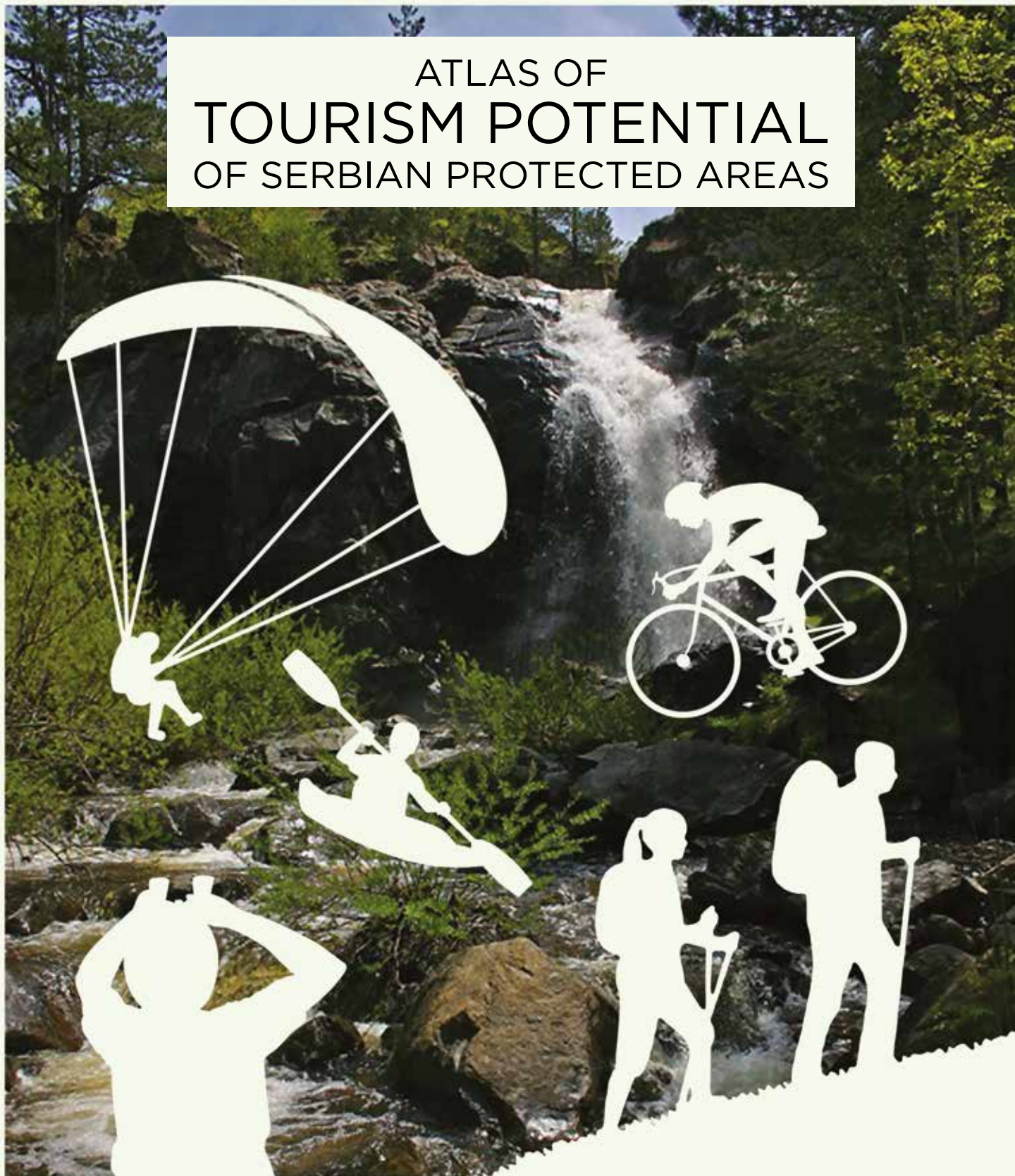


ATLAS OF
TOURISM POTENTIAL
OF SERBIAN PROTECTED AREAS



Dear reader,

Serbia's protected areas, the jewels of the country, contain numerous wonders of nature. A variety of rare, endangered animal and plant species can be observed in their natural habitat. Designating protected areas allows the provision of safe harbours for these species and ecosystems, which in many cases are unique. And promoting nature-respecting tourism and recreation in these areas not only allows visitors to explore these wonders, but also contributes to the livelihood of the people and communities who have lived in and shaped those landscapes over centuries.

It is UNDP's ambition, together with the authorities and people of Serbia, to support tourism and recreation in protected areas, so that you can explore their treasures. Hiking, bird watching, sport fishing, camping, but also adventurous activities, such as mountain biking, canyoning, paragliding or rafting, offer multiple opportunities for spending high quality time outdoors. Tourism infrastructure – like visitor centres, educational signalization, observation towers and walking trails – are currently being built in all the protected areas to facilitate and guide visitors in exploring the nature, while enhancing the understanding and willingness to protect their unique character and inherent, rare species.

I hope this "Atlas of Tourism Potential of Serbian Protected Areas" will inspire you, guide you to remote corners of Serbia, and wake your curiosity to explore some of the most beautiful sides of this country. I would like to use the opportunity express my gratitude to the protected area managers for their valuable contribution in preparing it.

I wish you a pleasant journey through this Atlas and, of course, through many of the protected areas in Serbia!



Jürg Staudenmann

UNDP Deputy Resident Representative



Serbia



ATLAS OF TOURISM POTENTIAL OF SERBIAN PROTECTED AREAS

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SPECIAL NATURE RESERVES

LAKE LUDAŠ and SELEVENJE HEATH

LANDSCAPE OF EXTRAORDINARY
CHARACTERISTICS

SUBOTICA SANDS

NATURE PARK

PALIĆ

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LAKE LUDAŠ SPECIAL NATURE RESERVE

The Lake Ludaš (Ludaško Jezero) Special Nature Reserve is situated east of Subotica. This reserve comprises the lake and its shoreline beside the villages of Šupljak, Hajdukovo and Nosa.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lake Ludaš is the second biggest lake in North Bačka District and one of the oldest reserves in Serbia, as well as an area protected by the Ramsar Convention. The lake has a high diversity of sand and steppe wetland ecosystem. It is the only shallow, semi-static lake in the steppe area in Serbia, as well as a gathering and resting point for all sorts of migratory birds. The name of the lake is derived from the Hungarian word *lúd*, meaning goose, which reflects the abundant birdlife here – comprising some 230 species, including wild goose, mallard, heron and other swamp and marsh birds. The birds that inhabit this area inclu-

de Bearded Reedling, Aquatic Warbler, Little Crake and Western Marsh-harrier. The plants that grow in the lake area are sea arrow-grass and milk-vetch root. The lax-flowered orchid, which has also found a home here, is an internationally protected species. The area around Lake Ludaš is famous for its cultural and historic monuments (the old Ludaš settlement and granges are excellent examples of traditional architecture). This region has been populated since the Stone Age and there are several archaeological sites near Nosa.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The lake (Ludaš Visitor Centre in Hajdukovo) is 14km from Subotica. There is a paved road leading to Hajdukovo that is suitable for all kinds of vehicles (cars, buses, bicycles). Visitors can also take a train to Subotica and then a bus to Hajdukovo. The local Szeged-Subotica (via Đala) bicycle path runs next to the southern part of the lake.



Photodocumentation: PE "Palić – Ludaš"



SELEVENJE HEATH SPECIAL NATURE RESERVE

The Selevenje Heath (Selevenjske Pustare) Special Nature Reserve is located close to the national border with Hungary, east of Subotica and northwest of Kanjiža, between Bački Vinograd and Horgoš.

DID YOU KNOW?

This reserve is known for its biodiversity of lowland habitats of mixed steppe, salt marsh, sand and swamp type, which are characteristic for this heathland area, and is home to original and rich Pannonian flora and fauna. The close proximity of underground waters, which create swamps and salt marshes on this undulating terrain with extremely dry desert plains nearby, adds to the area's diversity. This reserve is home to many attractive species of loose-flowered orchid and iris. In terms of fauna, there are marsh frogs, sand lizards, bats and nesting birds (like the European Roller), which live in the salt marsh and Selevenje Forest. There is also the Templompart medieval site and an old forest ranger's shack.

HOW TO GET THERE?

This heathland is 23km from Subotica and

22km north-west of Kanjiža. It is connected to the main road, as well as a summer dirt road suitable for cars and bicycles.

SUBOTICA SANDS LANDSCAPE OF EXTRAORDINARY CHARACTERISTICS

The Subotica Sands (Subotička Peščara) Landscape of Extraordinary Characteristics is situated in the very north of Bačka, close to the national border with Hungary, in the region known as the Subotica-Horgoš Sands.

DID YOU KNOW?

Subotica Sands is known for its unique ecological attributes of sandy terrain comprising undulating dunes and special underground waters, along with a characteristic mosaic of ecosystems and diverse habitats. The most important of those are wetlands formed on the lowland peat in the valley of the River Kireš. Well-preserved fragments of vegetation are a valuable testament to the Pannonian Plain's ancient plantlife. The most significant plant species in the area are the spring meadow saffron, wild carnation and Siberian iris. The most important mammal here is lesser mole rat. Of 170 bird species here, it is worth mentioning the Great Spotted Woodpecker, Hoopoe, Eurasian Hobby, Swallow, Song



The Lake Ludaš and Selevenje Heath Special Nature Reserves, Subotica Sands Landscape of Extraordinary Characteristics and Palić Nature Park are all located in northern Vojvodina's North Bačka District.





Thrush, Southern Grey Shrike and numerous birds of prey.

HOW TO GET THERE?

Subotica Sands is 80km from Subotica (Hrastovača locality) and 13km from the Tresetište locality. There is a paved entrance from the direction of Subotica and a partially paved, partially dirt summer road suitable for cars and bicycles (Tresetište locality)

PALIĆ NATURE PARK

Palić Nature Park is also located east of Subotica (N 46° 04' 32", E 19° 43' 36"). This is a protected area due to its unique lake ecosystem and as a habitat for rare flora and fauna.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the vicinity of Palić lake there is a zoo, as well as many cultural and historical monuments. The landscape is wonderfully green, with flowered areas and sports & recreation grounds. Certain localities are home to many bird species, including the Mediterranean Gull.

HOW TO GET THERE?

Palić is 8km from Subotica and is linked by a

road suitable for all kinds of vehicles. There is also a regular bus line from the town of Palić to the protected area (to localities like the Great Park, the Men's Beach and the Weekend Settlement). The local Szeged-Subotica (via Đala) bicycle route passes beside Palić.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The Ludaš Visitor Centre has several rooms for guest researchers and lecturers who participate in eco-camps, seminars and workshops. The Rokin Grange on Lake Ludaš is a rustic facility with an interesting ethnological collection showcasing grange life in Vojvodina (www.etnolife.org).

The Sunjog Čarda in the Ludaš Reserve, Hajdukovo, serves fish delicacies. It is surrounded by untouched nature. This authentic thatched house has an interesting monument erected in honour of the mosquito (www.palic.rs) in front. There is the Wine Court, Gujaš Čarda and Resting House near Ludaš (up to 3km from the lake), as well as the Flower Grange (Cvetni Salaš) and the Crown of Palić (Palička Kruna) in Palić. Guests can also stay at hotels in Subotica and Palić. More information can be obtained from the tourist organizations of Subotica (www.visitsubotica.rs) and Kanjiža (www.kanjizatourism.org.rs)

WHAT TO DO?

Walking: there are the Čurog and Kireš walking trails along Lake Ludaš, as well as walking trails in Selevenje Forest – Lofej, in Hrastovača (Subotica Sands) and in the Ptičje Ostrvo locality in Palić. There are also guided tours through the Grand Park. Specialised and educational tours can be organized on Lake Ludaš and Selevenje Heath upon request. The themes of these tours relate to the characteristics of the area surrounding the trails.

Cycling: cycle paths form part of the EuroVelo6 system. There are also bicycle trails in





Palić, where visitors can hire bikes.

Bird watching: Lake Ludaš viewing points include Rosa Sandor Lake, shores near Budžak and Visoka Obala. Selevenje Heath has the Stočni Pašnjak site, while Subotica Sands has a viewing point near Jasenovac Forest and Palić boasts the Ptičja Ostrva (Bird Island). Birdwatching and photographing are possible only if accompanied by a tour guide or forest warden. Fees are charged.

Excursions: picnic sites exist at Subotica Sands and Lake Tresetište.

Camping: Camp de Tour in Palić (+381 (0)24 753 440) is suitable in-season.

Recreational fishing: on lakes Ludaš and Palić. Public enterprise 'Palić-Ludaš' issues annual permits, while the fish warden issues daily permits on site.

Hunting: there are hunting grounds and the Hrastovača facility in the area of the Subotica Sands (+381 (0)25 432 830).

Water sports: surfing and sailing are options on Lake Palić, while there are two lake beaches and boat sailing on Lake Ludaš.

Adventure: motor kite flying.

Tours: Wine Trails – the Subotica wine trail, many cultural, historic and religious monu-

ments in Subotica and Palić.

Carriage rides.

Events: Lake Ludaš – fish chowder competition (late June), Garlic Days in Šupljak (August), equestrian meetings (early October), Harvest Days in Palić (September) and others.

VISITOR CENTRE

Ludaš Visitor Centre
12, Prespanska, Hajdukovo
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www.ludas.rs

This centre is located along the north edge of the Ludaš Reserve. Visits and guided tours should be booked in advance. The best time to visit is between April and October. The Centre's staff members speak Serbian, Hungarian and English. There is a fee to pay for guided visits to the protected area. Promotional materials are available at the Ludaš Visitor Centre, the HQ of public enterprise "Palić-Ludaš" and the offices of the Subotica Tourist Organization. Tourist materials are usually bilingual (Serbian and Hungarian), as well as trilingual (Serbian-Hungarian-English).



SPECIAL NATURE RESERVE

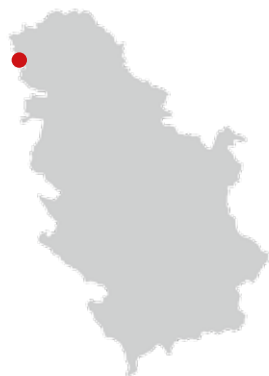
GORNJE PODUNAVLJE

Photodocumentation: PE "Vojvodinašume"



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The Gornje Podunavlje (The Upper Danube Basin) Special Nature Reserve is located in Vojvodina's West Bačka District. It spans 64km from the state border with Hungary to the village of Bogojevo, along the left bank of the River Danube. It is a part of a large fenland area which stretches into neighbouring Hungary and Croatia.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Gornje Podunavlje is one of the last floodplains in Europe. It comprises two large fens – Monoštor and Apatin which cover an area of 19,605ha of forests, meadows, swamps and marshes, including the river Danube and its meanders. This reserve is home to 51 species of mammals, 248 bird species, 50 fish species, 11 amphibian species, 9 reptile species, a huge number of invertebrates, as well as 60 species of butterflies and over 1,000 different plant species. This area is also home to many rare birds, such as the White-tailed Eagle and

Black Stork, and is inhabited by the biggest local population of red deer, which is one of the last deer species living in an authentic fenland area. Other mammals include wild boar and roe deer. This is the location of some of the best fish hatcheries on the Danube, such as the Stari Dunavac, Petreš, Srebrenica and Staklara. Dense, almost impenetrable fenland forests of native poplar and willow are almost relict. This reserve is known for its White and Yellow Waterlily, Christmas Rose, Iris Spuria, Adder's - tongue Spearwort, Hungarian Hawthorn and other plants. The Gornje Podunavlje is characterised by its authentic cultural heritage. In an effort to live in harmony with the great river and its temperament, the people here have developed native customs, dress, language, fishing gear, boats and food.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The area is approximately 175km from Belgrade, 15km from Sombor and 15km from



Apatin. It can be reached by rail, road or waterway. It is also located along EuroVelo 6 Pan-European cycling route.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The citizens' associations 'Vikend' from Bezdan and 'Podunav' from Bački Monoštor are in charge of rural tourist activities here. There is the Junaković Spa in Apatin, very close to the reserve, with a water park and swimming pools. The Štrbac Hunting Lodge in Bački Monoštor and Mesarske Livade Hunting Lodge in Apatin are fit for hunting tourism. The best restaurants here are the Pikec fish restaurant in Bezdan, Zlatna Kruna in Apatin (serving classical dishes) and hunting lodges 'Štrbac' and 'Mesarske Livade' in Bački Monoštor and Apatin respectively.

WHAT TO DO?

Educational children's tours: Children can learn about environmental protection, the Reserve and its animal and plant life from tour guides using educational equipment. They can take the Karapandža walking trail, ride in an

eco-friendly catamaran, walk along the Štrbac trail (Bezdan, Bački Monoštor), which takes 1.5 hours, and visit the Bestsrement trail which includes a boat ride to the River Drava's Lavač estuary. Tours are available upon request and the guide speaks both English and German.

Walking: the walking trail starts at the entrance to the reserve. Guests will be accompanied by a guide for a tour of the Danube floodplains. This trail is 15km long. It is flat and suitable for people of all levels of fitness. The routes are not marked. The route runs through mostly arid areas, forests and meadows. Information billboards located at the entrance show the optional trails suitable for individual visitors.

Bird and game watching: the Šarkanj viewing point in Štrbac is suitable for bird or game watching throughout the year, though visitors must be accompanied by a guide.

Recreational fishing: permits can be obtained from the reserve's manager and the Association of Recreational Fishermen.

Hunting: Hunting tours are organized here.

Recreation and swimming: there are many wild sandy beaches along the Danube shores.

Rowing: possible on the Danube in rented wooden boats.



The Gornje Podunavlje is one of the last floodplains in Europe.



SPECIAL NATURE RESERVE

GREAT BUSTARD PASTURES



Photodocumentation: Hunting Association "Perjanica"

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The Great Bustard Pastures (Pašnjaci Velike Droplje) Special Nature Reserve is located in Vojvodina's Northern Banat District near the town of Kikinda.

DID YOU KNOW?

This area is a typical Pannonian lowland where heath, salt marsh and swamp habitats with characteristic flora and fauna overlap in a mosaic pattern. This is the only remaining home of the Great Bustard in Serbia, though only 35 birds remain here. The Great Bustard is a big, unique lowland bird. There are other animal species here, such as the Dragonfly, Eastern Spadefoot Toad, Short-eared Owl, European Ground Squirrel and Stone Curlew. The most important flora representatives here are the Greater Burnet-saxifrage, the White Sticky Catchfly, Diviner's Sage, Schwarzenberg's plantain and Autumn Squill. Guests will also find several old Banat granges here, as well as a few World War II monuments.

HOW TO GET THERE?

This protected area is 15km from Kikinda and can be accessed by car, bus or bicycle. There are no bus lines leading directly to the reserve, but it is possible to organize a trip to the reserve by car, cart or carriage.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

There are two ethno-houses in the village of Mokrin, which is only 3km from the Visitor Centre and provides accommodation and food.

WHAT TO DO?

Walking: an eco-trail runs along the entire Reserve (8km). The trail has signs with general information about the reserve and protected species.

Specialised and educational tours can be organized upon request to the reserve's manager.

Bird watching: there is an observatory near the Visitor Centre.

Hunting: the Hunting Club offers all sorts of services to tourists.

VISITOR CENTRE

The Jaroš Visitor Centre is located on the edge of the protected area near the village of Mokrin. Apart from an observatory, it has two separate rooms and a summer terrace. The opening hours are not set in advance, since tours are booked with the manager (+381 (0)60 6116 202). An Italian speaking guide is also available, while tourist material can be found at the Visitor Centre.

SPECIAL NATURE RESERVE

SLANO KOPOVO

The Slano Kopovo Special Nature Reserve is located in Vojvodina's Central Banat District close to the town of Novi Bečej and the River Tisa.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Reserve has one of the last preserved salt marsh lakes in Vojvodina and is one of the most important bird habitats in Serbia, with a total of 203 bird species (63% of all bird species registered in Vojvodina live here). The reserve is also home to birds that are not typical to the Pannonian Plain, but rather the Pontic-Caspian Steppe and sea shores. Slano Kopovo is a unique migratory bird station. At peak time up to 17,000 cranes and several thousand ducks and geese can be spotted here. The reserve is a favourable habitat of cranes, ducks, geese, and charadriiformes like the Pied Avocet and the Kentish Plover. There are close to 20 species of mammals living in the reserve, including hare, roe deer, European ground squirrel, Pygmy shrew, northern water vole and others. Plants here are usually annual, like glasswort and Pannonian succulent seep weed, both of which are protected species.

HOW TO GET THERE?

Slano Kopovo is 5km from Novi Bečej, 60km from Novi Sad, 40km from Kikinda and around 150km from Belgrade. It can be accessed by car or bus by using two roads: the Bašaid and Miloševac-Kikinda road. Entering the reserve by car is not allowed.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

There is no accommodation within the reserve, but there are several lodges on the Tisza



Photodocumentation: Milan KNEŽEV

River and the Tiski Cvet Hotel (<http://tiskicvet.com>) in Novi Bečej.

WHAT TO DO?

Walking: there are two 7-km-long walking trails. Tours led by a guide should be booked in advance.

Bird watching: there are two hides on the left bank of the lake with billboards providing information on bird species here. There is also a bird watching tower in the Visitors Centre, a medium-high viewing point in Poštino Kopovo and a low viewing point near the Visitor Centre. The European Bird watching Weekend takes place each October.

VISITOR CENTRE

The Visitor Centre is located within the reserve, a 20-minute walk from the entrance. You can get there on foot or by car, using the local road. The facility can be used only as a short resting point and route to the areas. Brochures and leaflets in Serbian, Hungarian and English are available. An entrance fee is charged.

CONTACT

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SPECIAL NATURE RESERVE

CARSKA BARA



Photodocumentation: Fish Farm "Ečka" a.d.

CONTACT

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The Carska Bara (The Imperial Swamp) Special Nature Reserve is located in Central Banat District, Vojvodina, in the municipality of Zrenjanin. Carska Bara is an area between the Begej and Tisza rivers, with many swamps, lakes, natural waterways, boglands and salt marshes.

DID YOU KNOW?

The reserve has over 500 plant taxa, of which 30 are protected nationally and internationally. Marsh vegetation dominates. The reserve has 20 registered fish species, with two species being highly protected – the European Bitterling and the Weather Loach. Out of 239 birds species on the reserve, 207 are highly protected, with 15 of them considered endangered on globally. One of the special aspects of Carska Bara is that all ten species of the European Heron live there. The most important predator in the marsh is the White-tailed Eagle. The reserve is also an ideal environment for many protected species of insects, reptiles and amphibians. There

also are numerous mammals species, of which many are very rare and endangered (water, marsh and forest shrews, otters, bobcats, the European pine marten, the beech marten etc.). The European ground squirrel lives in steppe areas of Carska Bara. The reserve is also home game, including wild hare, roe and wild boar.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The reserve is 55km from Belgrade, 60km from Novi Sad, 14km from Zrenjanin and 6km from the Ečka airport. Guests can get to the reserve by bus, car, bicycle or boat. Also, there is a daily bus traveling from Zrenjanin to Belo Blato. Travel agencies organize transport to the reserve and relevant information can be obtained from the Zrenjanin Tourist Information Centre, travel agencies or directly from the manager of the Ečka Fish Farm. There are two car parks – near the Sibila Hotel and the Natural History House. Parking is free. The reserve is on an international bicycle route.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The Sibila Hotel (2*) is 50m from the reserve and has a restaurant. Visitors can enjoy a drink, an ice cream or a coffee in the reserve's resort. There are boxes for dogs. There is a hotel Kaštel (4*) in Ečka. In Belo Blato the Lujza farm is home to indigenous animals and cuisine, with an eco-ethno complex, education centre and accommodation.

30 km from Carska Bara is the Rusanda Spa, in Melenci, which offers medicinal mud treatments. In the ethno-village Tiganjica, the restaurant Trofej has accommodation. The 'Kod Despota' Motel is located locally, on the Zrenjanin-Beograd road.



WHAT TO DO?

Specialized and educational visits for pupils and students dedicated to ecology with the emphasis on marsh & swamp ecosystems. Booking should be done in advance. Lecturers speak English.

Visiting the Natural History House with an exhibition of taxidermy indigenous animals and a souvenir shop. Visitors can also see a film and a video clip about Carska Bara there.

Walking: There are two hiking trails – 4 and 22km long. They have guideposts and signs with information.

Cycling: There is a bicycle trail that is 22km long.

Bird and game watching: There are special bird and game watching programmes. There are also bird watching and photo view points. Entrance fee is charged.

Recreational fishing: “Mali Begej” fishing area with boat rental. The Joca Lake is perfect for sport fishing.

Boat rides: The reserve can be seen via a boat tour. The boat takes up to 50 passengers. During the tour, guests will be able to go to an observatory, accompanied by a tour guide. It is possible to rent a motor boat for six (tour guide included) as well as combine the walking

tour with a boating tour.

Rowing: Guests can rent a kayak and a rowing boat.

Adventure: Flying motor kite and light airplanes (+381(0)23 884 025).

Visits to cultural, historic and religious monuments – The Museum of Naive Art in Kovačica, the Mihajlo Pupin House in Idvor, the Eastern Orthodox Church in Perlez with an iconostasis painted by the famous painter Uroš Predić, the Kaštel Castle with a Catholic church and the oldest Easter Orthodox Church in Banat County, in the town of Ečka (1711).

VISITOR CENTRE

A tourist and information point is located at the beginning of the walking trail. Guests can also obtain information from the Natural History House located at the very entrance to the reserve. The staff speaks English language. Fees are charged for tourist activities in the Reserve and for visits to the Natural History House. The promotional material and maps are available at the Natural History House, at the reception desk of the Sibila Hotel and in the Reserve's resort in both Serbian and English language.



Carska Bara is an area between the Begej and Tisza rivers, with many swamps, lakes, natural waterways, boglands and salt marshes.



NATURE PARK JEGRIČKA



Photodocumentation: PWME "Vode Vojvodine"

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www.vodevojvodine.com



The Jegrička Nature Park is located in Vojvodina, between the Small Bačka Canal, near Despotovo in the west, and the confluence of the Jegrička River into the Tisza River, near Žabalj in the east. Its area covers four municipalities - Bačka Palanka, Vrbas, Temerin and Žabalj. The nature park was named after Jegrička, the largest river in Bačka, which is 64km long. Jegrička was regulated in the 19th C. and later became part of the DTD hydro-system. Jegrička enjoys protection due to the area's unusual features, significant biodiversity and beautiful landscapes.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jegrička Nature Park contains a water biotope, made up of a canal, an untouched marsh ecosystem and an area that has been converted into a fishpond.

Jegrička is the habitat for many plant and animal species, including some protected species that are included in Serbia's 'Red Book'. There are 76 different water and marsh plant species, such as white water lilies, marsh fern, water caltrop and bladderwort. The Jegrička small river is home to 20 fish species, including tench, pike, perch, catfish and carp. The wet areas are also a good habitat for amphibians and reptiles. Visitors will find marsh turtles and snakes, such as the grass snake and dice snake, in the park. There are also important mammal species, like the otter, which is endangered worldwide. Jegrička Nature Park is one of few remaining oases for marsh birds. To date a total of 198 species have been identified, including a substantial number of very rare and endangered birds, including the Great Bittern, Northern Shoveller, Whiskered Tern, Great Crested Grebe, Bearded Reedling and many others.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The Information Centre is 30km from Novi Sad. It can be accessed by car, bus or bike. There are daily buses from nearby municipalities to the protected area. The area is also covered by the local bicycle path. A car park is situated next to the Information Centre.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The Bor Inn in Sirig (Čarda Bor), in Temerin municipality, has six double rooms and a bungalow, a restaurant with an extensive menu, a meeting room, as well as a park with water fountains, swings, a swimming pool, fishing spots, an ethno-corner, a health trail and a re-

creational trail.

Visitors can camp in a regulated area near the Nature Park's Information Centre, which spans 2,000m² of flattened land and can take up to 20 tents.

In Temerin guests can spend the night at the inns 'Three Hats' (Tri Šešira) and 'Beervarijum' (Pivarijum).

WHAT TO DO?

Walking on the health trail.

Cycling: visitors can cycle on pedestrian and other paths.

Bird watching: a viewing point is located 3.5km from the Information Centre on the bank of the Jegrička riverlet in the municipality of Temerin.

Environmental workshops (to be booked in advance).

Excursions: guests can visit the Bor Inn in Sirig and the Jegrička Nature Park's Information Centre. The Mladost Association of Sport Fishermen has rest areas on the banks of the Jegrička riverlet, as well as in Zmajevo and Ravno Selo.

Recreational activities: all kinds of sports can be played on grassed areas.

Hunting: there is an acacia forest near the Bor Inn in Sirig that has a fenced off area oc-



cupied by wild boar.

Recreational fishing: permits can be obtained from the manager at public enterprise Vode Vojvodine.

Events: there are many events held in and around the Jegrička Nature Park's Information Centre to mark important environmental dates (Earth Day, World Environment Day, World Water Day, Danube Day etc.). During Jegrička Days, a festival from May 25th to 31st, there are many children's eco-workshops, as well as sport fishing, literary and art contests and environmental knowledge quizzes.

Tours: the Čurug windmill was built in Hungary in 1843 and transported to Čurug in 1846. There is also the Church of the Ascension in Čurug.

VISITOR CENTRE

The Visitor Centre (also known as the Information Centre) is located close to the bridge on the Novi Sad-Bečej road. Visits should be booked in advance. The Centre's staff members speak English. It is possible to organize one-day trips to the Jegrička area, during which guests can visit the main features of the park. An entrance fee is charged. Promotional materials and geographic/tourist maps are available in Serbian, Hungarian and English.



Jegrička Nature Park is one of the very few remaining oases for marsh birds.



SPECIAL NATURE RESERVE

KOVILJ-PETROVARADIN FEN

Photodocumentation: PE "Vojvodinašume".



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The Kovilj-Petrovaradin Fen (Koviljsko-Petrovaradinski Rit) Special Nature Reserve is located in the southeast of Vojvodina's Bačka District, sprawled across both banks of the Danube near the towns of Kovilj and Petrovaradin. This complex fen, marsh and forest ecosystem spans an area of 5,895ha and is rich in wildlife that makes it an integral entity.

DID YOU KNOW?

Today's fenland area, which stretches for a length of 20km, is a remnant of a former great, dense, lush and almost impassable fen. The main features making this area significant are its conserved and diverse wetlands (islets, river islands, backwaters, meanders and oxbow lakes), plant communities and diversity and abundance of fauna, especially waterfowl and fish. This fenland is home to 206 species of birds and 26 species of fish. The area is also a nursery for wild pike, carp and sturgeon. Vegetation here comprises conditioned hydrological forests of willow

(almond willow and white willow) and poplar (silver poplar and black poplar). Rare and endangered plant species, such as the White and Yellow Water Lilly, Willow Gentian, Water Violet, Water Chestnut, Four-Leafed Clover and Loose-Flowered Orchid make this area especially valuable. Rare animal species also live here, such as the wildcat and otter.

HOW TO GET THERE?

This reserve is 20km from Novi Sad and 60km from Belgrade. It can be accessed by car, bus, bicycle or boat, via the Danube. There is also



a regular Novi Sad-Kovilj bus line and the reserve lies along the EuroVelo 6 Pan-European bicycle route.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Sremski Karlovac's Hotel Dunav (2*) offers accommodation, but visitors can also find accommodation in nearby Novi Sad. The reserve has no shops or restaurants within its boundaries. Information can be obtained from the tourist organizations of Sremski Karlovci (www.karlovc.org.rs), Novi Sad (www.turizamns.rs) or Vojvodina (www.vojvodinaonline.com).

WHAT TO DO?

Walking/hiking: There are two educational trails (2km), one of which – the Kurjačka Greda trail – includes information billboards all along its route and ends near a bird watching viewing point. The Šlajz locality is closest to Kovilj and serves as a meeting point for nature lovers, fishermen and ramblers. The Tikvara trail runs along the bank of the Danube near the local road and has its own Ecological Education Centre with an outdoor classroom, a bird watching centre and an educational trail (1km long) with benches, tables and information billboards. These trails are suitable for walkers of all levels of fitness, thanks to their flatness, and guests do not require any specific orienteering skills. They are also suitable for children and the elderly. Visits and tours of the reserve last up to three hours. Tours are adapted to suit visitors' requests, while there are also organized visits for school children and students who can enjoy classes in nature. Tours are accompanied by a forest guide.

Cycling: all walking trails are also suitable for cycling.

Bird watching: there are three viewing points with bird spotting hides: one in Tikvara and



two in Kurjačka Greda. Charges are applicable for admission and photography.

Waterborne activities: visitors can rent wooden rowing boats in Šlajz. 10 boats are available and are generally hired for sport fishing purposes.

Recreational fishing: permits can be obtained from the reserve's manager, though only during the official fishing season.

Hunting: the fen area offers organized individual and group wild boar hunting tours.

Cultural and historic monuments: the Serbian Orthodox Monastery of Archangels Mihailo and Gavriilo is a protected cultural monument, while the nearby Vodica Chapel is dedicated to St. Petka and was built over 700 years ago. There is an old tree growing through the Chapel, which storks use to nest in. There are several archaeological sites in the Kovilj area, two Serbian Orthodox churches and the house where famous Serbian poet Laza Kostić was born. Houses built in the typical Šajkaš style can be viewed in the nearby villages of Petrovaradin, Sremski Karlovci, Kovilj and Gardinovci.

VISITOR CENTRE

There is a small-scale education centre with a covered outdoor classroom located beside the local road in Kovilj. Admission is only charged for organized groups. Visitors can also obtain brochures about the reserve and its unique features.



Kovilj-Petrovaradin Fen is a remnant of a former great, dense, lush and almost impassable fens.



SPECIAL NATURE RESERVE

BAGREMARA



Photodocumentation: PE "Vojvodinašume"

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The Bagremara Special Nature Reserve is located in Western Bačka, Vojvodina, just north of the town of Bačka Palanka. Bagremara is the only place in Serbia that is home to protected plant Winter Aconite. The Reserve is a designated area only for scientific research and eco tourism.

DID YOU KNOW?

The reserve is covered with 20 to 28 years old acacia trees, and sporadic Black Walnut and English Oak. The Winter Aconite blossoms in February and March, when its golden yellow flower dominate the lowest levels of the forest. The Aconite is also a rare plant in nearby countries. The reserve is home to 70 species of bird, 30 of which nest in the reserve. There are also 93 different species of insects.

HOW TO GET THERE?

This protected area is 48km west of Novi Sad, 123km from Belgrade and 10km from the state border with Croatia. Guests can reach the re-

serve from Bačka Palanka and Odžaci by car, bus or bicycle. There is a daily Novi Sad-Bačka Palanka bus to the reserve.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The reserve does not have any food or accommodation facilities, but there are plenty of options nearby, in Novi Sad and Bačka Palanka. There is a restaurant near the 'Sintelon' tennis courts, which are close to the forest.

WHAT TO DO?

Walking tours: Visitors can tour part of the reserve that is under the second degree of protection. A local road takes guests to the Bagremara forest. The tour starts near the Eco-Marquee (Eko-Nadstrešnica), and continues along an educational path. Apart from hiking, guests can take photographs, enjoy the forest's ecosystem, and get see protected plants and animals in the company of the tour guide. Tours should be booked several days in advance. Tourist activities stop between January and March- the period in which the Winter Aconite blossoms.

Bird watching: Although there are no bird watching observatories in the reserve, there is the possibility to organize a bird watching tour.

VISITOR CENTRE

The Eco-Marquee is located in the forest. With its wooden benches and blackboard it resembles an outdoor classroom. The Eco-Marquee hosts visitors, is used as a venue for the presentation of the reserve and for teaching. Only organized groups of visitors have to pay for entrance.

NATIONAL PARK FRUŠKA GORA



Photodocumentation: Dragiša SAVIĆ

Fruška Gora National Park rises out of the southern Pannonian Plain in the province of Vojvodina's Srem District. Stretching over an area of 80km between the rivers Danube and Sava, it is 15km across at its widest point. Fruška Gora is actually a low mountain range in an otherwise flat area, with its highest peak, Crveni Čot, at an altitude of 539m/asl. The lower slopes and foothills are adorned with pastures and fertile meadows, vineyards and orchards, while the higher altitude climbs (above 300m) are covered in dense deciduous forests. Fruška Gora is the oldest national park in Serbia, designated in 1960. Its protected area sprawls over an area of 25,525 ha.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fruška Gora is known for its forests, particularly of Sessile oak, beech, linden and hornbeam. Some 1,500 plant species grow here, of which 700 have medicinal properties. The park's fauna is also diverse and abundant. Of the total number of mammal species, 38 are protected as natural rarities. In terms of small

mammals, this mountainous area is the home to the European ground squirrel, lesser mole rat and Pygmy shrew, while larger mammals include the jackal, wildcat, fallow deer and roe deer. Thanks to its unique and numerous flora and fauna fossil remains, Fruška Gora is also referred to as 'the mirror of a geological past'. Sixteen Orthodox monasteries represent the real gems of Fruška Gora. They are famous for their specific architecture, valuable treasures, libraries and frescoes. Fruška Gora is also known for its many prehistoric and historical archaeological sites.

HOW TO GET THERE?

This national park is 20km from Novi Sad and 80km from Belgrade. It can be accessed by car, bus or bicycle via Novi Sad, Belgrade and Sremska Mitrovica. The park is 60km from Belgrade's Nikola Tesla Airport. There are also regular bus lines running to the perimeters of the park from Novi Sad's central bus station. The park is also along Pan-European bicycle route EuroVelo 6.

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ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The Norcev Hotel (3*) is four kilometres from Iriški Venac. There is also the CePTOR Centre on Andrevlje. Both facilities are suitable for congress tourism purposes.

The Termal Special Rehabilitation Hospital is in Vrdnik, while the Banja Kulina Spring has medicinal water that can help cure dermatological disorders and rheumatic diseases.

The Testera Children's Resort is suitable for youngsters aged between seven and 14. It is located above the village Čerević (250m/asl) and has audio and video equipment, as well as educational tools.

Camping: the Fruška Gora Eco Camp is in close proximity to the Stražilovo outdoor sports area. The camp has 30 plots suitable for all sorts of camping. It has a children's playground, barbecue pits, a reception area, sanitary facilities and a parking lot (www.campingfruskagora.com).

Private accommodation: holiday apartment/chalet facilities include Perkov Grange (near Neradin), Eco-Ethno Club Čerević, Jazak ethno-house and many more.

There are many restaurants in the vicinity of the Fruška Gora Information Centre at Iriški Venac, as well as the Vojvodina Mountain Lodge.

WHAT TO DO?

Walking: Fruška Gora's many walking trails cover a total length of 90km and commence/ culminate at relevant locations like the Information Centre Staro Hopovo - Novo Hopovo Information Centre (10 km), Information Centre Paragovo (9 km), Beočin Monastery - Osovlje - Pavlasov Čot - Brankovac - Kraljeva Stolica - Popovac (20.2 km) and others.

Hiking: several hiking trails are used by participants in the Fruška Gora Marathon, such as the Path of Joy and Satisfaction (3.5 km), the West Marathon for Trainees (19.9 km), the Little West Marathon (33.1 km), the Little East Marathon (32.9 km), the Middle West Marathon (57.5 km), the Middle East Marathon (58.3 km), the Great Eastern Marathon (82.9 km), the Great Western Marathon (86.8 km) and the Ultra Marathon (102.7 km).

Mountain biking: there are over 500km of marked cycling routes that can also be used by ramblers.

Wine tours: Fruška Gora is home to over 60 winemakers, most of whom live and work in Sremski Karlovci. Here guests can sample authentic local wines like 'Bermet' and 'Ausbruch', both of which are very sweet, strong and aromatic. 'Neoplanta' is another autochtho-





nous aromatic wine which can be sampled at the Kuzmanović Wine Cellar in Čerević. There are other very interesting wine cellars and wineries in the villages of Neštin, Banoštor, Erdevik and Irig.

Excursions: excursion destinations include Čortanovac Forest, Stražilovo, Partizanski Put, Iriški Venac, Glavica, Popovica, Zmajevac, Letenka, Andrevlje, Testera, Ciganski Logor, Lipovača and others. These excursion sites have wooden forest furniture, barbecue pits and children's playgrounds.

Recreational fishing: the national park issues fishing permits which are mandatory for all anglers.

Hunting: there are enclosed and open hunting grounds managed by the Fruška Gora National Park. The Vorovo enclosed hunting ground is near Erdevik, located around 15 kilometres from the Belgrade-Zagreb motorway.

Adventure: Paintball and airsoft events are organized in collaboration with local organizations.

Organized visits cover eagle feeding spots, though visits must be booked in advance and include a modest fee.

Visits to cultural and historical monuments and numerous monasteries, like Krušedol, Petkovic, Rakovac, Divša, Hopovo,

Jazak, Grgeteg, Beočin, Šišatovac, Ravanica and others, are highly recommended.

The Fruška Gora Marathon is held each May and has taken place annually for the past 30 years. Tourists can also attend traditional Wine Days events in Sremski Karlovci, Irig and Banoštor.

VISITOR CENTRE

The Fruška Gora Information Centre building is located at Iriški Venac near the monument. The centre marks the starting point for all cultural, scientific and tourist events in the park. Tour guides provide lectures on site in the park or in the info centre building and there are also regular screenings of films dedicated to Fruška Gora's nature and ecology. The info centre also has a natural history exhibition with displays showcasing the natural and cultural richness of the national park. There is a souvenir shop, while tourist brochures are available in Serbian and English. Local municipalities also have tourist information points. It is possible to organize tours for pupils and students, with tour topics adapted to cater for group interests. Tour guides speak English, while tours should be booked in advance.



Fruška Gora is known for its forests, particularly of Sessile oak, beech, linden and hornbeam.



SPECIAL NATURE RESERVE

ZASAVICA



Photodocumentation: Nature Conservation
Movement of Sremska Mitrovica

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The Zasavica Special Nature Reserve is located in southern Vojvodina and northern Mačva, east of the river Drina and south of the Sava, on the territory of the municipalities of Sremska Mitrovica and Bogatić.

DID YOU KNOW?

This area is dominated by a river biotope which is comprised of the Zasavica riverlet and its confluent Batar, as well as the Jovača and Prekopac canals. The River Zasavica is directly connected to the River Sava via the Modran Canal. The reserve is brimming with rare plant and animal species, some of which are so rare that they are almost extinct. The area is home to over 600 plant, 198 bird, 27 amphibian/reptile and 23 fish species. The most valuable species is a fish called the European mud minnow, which lives in only one other location worldwide, and the waterwheel plant (*Aldrovanda Vesiculosa*), which grows exclusively at Zasavica. The Reserve is also the guardian of genetic resources of Serbia since a rare spe-

cies of pig – the swallow-bellied Mangalica (or Srem Black Lasa) is bred here, as is the Balkan donkey and the Podolian cow.

HOW TO GET THERE?

Zasavica is 9km from Sremska Mitrovica, 12km from the Belgrade-Zagreb E70 motorway, 62km south of Novi Sad and 80km west of Belgrade. It can be accessed by car, bus or bicycle. There is a regular bus line (only during the school year) that takes visitors directly to the reserve. Zasavica has its own parking area, with parking tickets charged.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The Visitor Centre provides accommodation. The Zasavica Car Camp (3*) can accommodate up to 40 people. There are also two rural households offering accommodation. Visitors can take advantage of a barbecue grill, a fish barbecue grill and a fish pot in Bircuz kod Dabra (Beaver's Inn). Guests can also taste Manguli-

ca and Podolian cow stew, grilled fish, fish stew and roast Mangulica pork. Additional information can be obtained from the Sremska Mitrovica Tourist Organization (www.tosmomi.rs).

WHAT TO DO?

Specialised and educational tours for school children and students covering environmental protection, ecology, sustainability, biodiversity, flora and fauna inventory and ornithology. English-speaking guides are available, though booking in advance is required for group visits.

Walking: there are two walking trails (3.5km and 7km), with three bilingual information billboards (Serbian and English). The walking route goes through the Valjevac steppe (3.5km) and flat meadows. The route is marked and easy to cover.

Cycling: walking trails can also serve as bicycle trails.

Bird watching: The Tower Centre (18m high) offers a great view of 300ha of pastures in the widest and the most beautiful part of the River Zasavica's flow. Bird watching tours can be organized and guests are provided with a tour guide and are permitted to take photos of the birds. There is also an ornithology camp held each year. Fees are charged for organized bird watching tours.

Sailing down the River Zasavica: touring the reserve in a rowing boat is possible, while there is also the Umbra tourist boat (the tour lasts 45 minutes).

Recreational fishing: annual permits can be obtained from the Serbian Fishing Association, while daily permits can be obtained from the Visitor Centre. There are rowing boats available for hire.

Adventure: a jeep safari on the Valjevac meadows is possible.

Visits to ethno-rooms, ethnographic and historical exhibitions of old household and

agricultural objects and tools from the late 19th and early 20th C.

Touring cultural and historical monuments near the reserve: the monument to the Battle of Ravnje, monuments erected in honour of the Jews killed by the Fascist regime, the monument of one of the most important leaders of the First Serbian Uprising, Stojan Čupić, also known as Zmaj od Noćaja.

Events: Štukijada (dedicated to pike fishing – held twice a year), the Donkey Day (held in spring), the Srem Pig Slaughter (first Saturday in December), the Rotary Club Regatta (once a year), the Endurance Horse Race on the Valjevac pastures (once a year).

VISITOR CENTRE

The Visitor Centre is located in the village of Zasavica II and is the reserve's central tourist spot. Here visitors can buy tourist brochures in Serbian and English. Apart from a tall wooden construction, guests can also see a dolap (an old waterwheel), which is a tourist attraction in itself. A modest entrance fee is charged.



This area is dominated by a river biotope which is comprised of the Zasavica riverlet and its confluent Batar, as well as the Jovača and Prekopac canals.



SPECIAL NATURE RESERVE

OBEDSKA BARA



Photodocumentation: PE "Vojvodinašume"

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The Obedska Bara (The Obed Swamp) Special Nature Reserve is located in the southeast of Vojvodina's Srem District, between the River Sava and the villages of Grabovci, Obrež, Ašanja, Kupinovo and Progar. This is the biggest floodplain in Serbia, as well as one of the oldest protected natural areas in the world, with the first administrative protective measures having been introduced in 1874.

DID YOU KNOW?

This Obedska Bara is actually an oxbow lake, a remnant of the meanders of the old Sava River, 13.5km long and with an average width of 750m. This is one of the most abundant and best preserved habitats of plant and animal species in the Pannonian Basin. Diverse species and ecosystems are the true values of this reserve, which is home to over 500 plant species, many of them endemic. Insects,

like the stag beetle, European rhinoceros beetle and old world swallowtail butterfly, all live here. The area is filled with various reptiles and amphibians, as well as mammals like the swamp bat, common vampire bat, fat dormouse, bank vole, harvest mouse, hedgehog, bicoloured shrew and others. There are a total of 222 bird species, 145 of which nest in the pond area. Obedska Bara is also home to a mixed colony of heron and cormorant, with 800 nesting pairs of grey, red, small white, yellow and great white heron, including the little pied cormorant and night heron. The Pond's golden age spanned from the late 19th C. to early 20th C. Back then, close to 60,000 pairs of waterfowl nested in the swampy bed of the pond, known as 'The Horse-Shoe', 15,000 pairs of them belonging to nine species of heron, which is the greatest number of heron ever recorded in Serbia. Guests should visit the Obed Tower, the Mother Angelina Meadows,

The Bird Island, the Heron and Common Shag Island, Kupinska Greda Reserve near Debela Gora, Obed Monastery, an ethno-village and other sites nearby.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The Obed Swamp is 90km from Novi Sad and 56km from Belgrade. It can be accessed by car, bus, bicycle or boat along the River Sava. Belgrade's Nikola Tesla Airport is just 31km away.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Rooms are available at the Obedska Bara Hotel. There is a fish restaurant beside the Sava and the Šanac ethno-restaurant near the Kupinovo ethno-village.

WHAT TO DO?

Walking: there are several tourist trails totalling a length of 60km. One of them passes next to the Obed Tower, along the Horse-Shoe trail, all the way to the Spomenik viewing point. The trail stretches through the woods. The route is easy to cover and takes two hours. All trails are suitable for walking. There are organized walking tours for school children and students. More information can be obtained from the Reserve's manager and the tour guide speaks English. Advanced booking is required.

Cycling: walking trails are also suitable for bicycles.

Bird watching: there are six viewing points, two towers, one platform, two locations on the Horse-Shoe trail, a platform on Košarnjača, the Čenjinjske Meadows, the Kupinik Meadows and the Mother Angelina Meadows. Guests can also take a photo-safari.

Boat or catamaran rides: rowing boats (20 available) or a catamaran can be hired.

Swimming: the Arena Club in Obrež has both



paddling and adult swimming pools that can take up to 300 people.

Recreational fishing: Permits can be obtained from the Reserve's manager.

Hunting: Only large game is hunted here.

Excursions: The recreational park near the Obedska Bara Hotel has 23 tables, 45 benches and 17 barbecue spots with 51 small benches and firewood.

Touring cultural and historic monuments:

The Obed Monastery, town of Kupinik, the St. Luke Church and the Kupinovo ethno-village.

Events: Art colonies, sport fishing contests, the River Sava Regatta etc.

VISITOR CENTRE

The entry station, with a relaxation and recreation park, is located near the Obedska Bara Hotel. An entry fee is charged. There is also an education facility that can take up to 45 students, a covered summer classroom suitable for screening films about the reserve, educational classes and eco-workshops. Guests can also buy tourist maps, brochures and other promotional material. Tourist information in English is displayed on tourist boards.



Diverse species and ecosystems are the true values of this reserve.



LANDSCAPE OF EXTRAORDINARY CHARACTERISTICS

VRŠAC MOUNTAINS

Photodocumentation: Milivoj VUČANOVIĆ



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The Vršac Mountains (Vršačke Planine) Landscape of Extraordinary Characteristics is located in the Banat District of southeast Vojvodina. Most of this 20km-long mountain range lies within Serbia, while a smaller part crosses over into Romania. Its tallest point, Gudurički Vrh (641m/asl), is the highest mountain peak in Vojvodina. A total of 4,408ha are under general protection, while 190ha enjoy the highest degree of protection.

DID YOU KNOW?

Oak and linden trees dominate this mostly forested landscape. There are a total of 1,016 plant species registered here, of which 23 are protected species and two are included on the European Red List of Endangered Species. Vršac Mountains are abundant with wildlife, including birds, amphibians, reptiles, rodents and larger mammals. Notable species include the common European adder, newt, fox, roe deer, hare and wolf. These mountains are also of cultural, historic and educational significance. There are many archaeological

sites and some of them, like Kremenjak, are included on European archaeological maps. There are also the remains of a medieval 14th C. fortress (Vršac Tower), many monuments depicting historical events from the 16th C. (the peasants' rebellion against Ottoman imperial rule) and a protected 16th C. Mesić Monastery.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The small Vršac Airport is only a kilometre from this protected area, while the mountains lie 84km from Belgrade, 78km from Timisoara (Romania) and 174km from Novi Sad. This area can be reached by car, bus or bicycle, while trains bring visitors as close as the nearby city of Vršac.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The Villa Breg (5*) offers excellent cuisine and accommodation. There is a Red Cross children's recovery facility and a mountain lodge, where visitors can sample traditional Banat cuisine. Nearby there is the Hotel Srbija (3*) and

motel Vetrenjača. More information can be obtained via the Vršac Tourism Organization (www.to.vrsac.com, www.vrsacturizam.rs).

WHAT TO DO?

Walking: Forest trails cover a total of 100km.

Specialized and education tours: children and adults can participate in guided tours acquainting them with the natural and landscaped environment and the mountains' wildlife and plant life.

Mountaineering: visitors can ascend the 39km-long Vršac Transversal with eight control points, maintained by Mounteneering-skiing Association Vršacka Kula and fully marked (www.psdkula.com).

Cycling: The Hotel Srbija organizes a cycling route through the mountains (www.hotelsrbija.rs).

Bird watching: There are viewing points near the Holy Cross Church (equipped with a watcher's hide), on Gudurički Vrh (15m tall) and in Kamenolom, where visitors will find a wooden shack used only for watching animals that gather at the nearby feeding point. Charges apply for use of all of these facilities except the Holy Cross Church view point.

Excursions: excursion areas include the Plato site (equipped with picnic tables and a stage), the Red Cross area and the Vršac Mountain Lodge.

Recreational activities: there are basketball



courts, children's playgrounds and a camp site near the Mountain Lodge.

Hunting: Hunting grounds cover the entire Vršac Mountains area, offering large game, like deer and wild boar, as well as pheasant. Hunting permits are issued by the Banat Forest Administration (www.banatsume.rs).

Adventure: Paintballing, paragliding (Izazov Extreme Sports Club in Vršac), mountain biking, horse riding, rock climbing, kite flying, kayaking on the Karaš River near Vršac and panoramic flights in small planes from Vršac Airport.

Camping: visitors can camp at the Široko Bilo, while the Vršac Mountains Youth Volunteer Camp sees participants mark the boundaries of the protected zone and compile maps detailing geological landmarks like springs, habitats of natural rarities and sites with bird houses.

Wine tours: local wineries are well worth visiting and include visits to the view point on Gudurički Vrh. Numerous wine cellars are located on the Mountains' slopes.

Horse/bicycle racing: Bridled horse racing and bicycle contests are held on tracks that date back almost 200 years.

VISITOR CENTRE

The local Visitor Centre is situated near the Vršac Tower medieval fortress and it is managed by the Vršac Tourism Organization (+381 (0)13 831 055). Working hours during the tourist season are daily from 10am to 8pm. In addition to Serbian, Visitor Centre staff members also speak English and German. Promotional materials and maps in Serbian and English are available from the premises of the information centres, as well as from the Vršacke Vesti newsstands and the Izazov Extreme Sports Club in Vršac. Guests can also purchase a souvenir with petrographic materials, i.e. a box containing authentic rocks from the Vršac Mountains.



Thanks to its lush vegetation, Vršac Mountains are abundant with wildlife, including birds, amphibians, reptiles, rodents and larger mammals.



SPECIAL NATURE RESERVE

DELIBLATO SANDS



Photodocumentation: PE "Vojvodinašume"

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The Deliblato Sands (Deliblatska Peščara) Special Nature Reserve is located in the north-eastern part of Serbia, in the province of Vojvodina, Banat District. It is comprised of a sand area, a loess range and a section of the Danube River.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Deliblato Sands is the biggest European sand area with a pronounced dune relief. This reserve is habitat to close to 1,000 types of plant and several thousand animal species with many of them declared as international natural rarities. The Deliblato Sands is the only habitat of the European (or Banat) Peony and Steppe Gerbil in Serbia. Deliblato is also the home to the greatest numbers of the fern leaf peony, bulrush, and fritillaria. The sand dunes of Deliblato are the habitat of many insects, including the endemic species of tentyria. Deliblato is also the biggest gathering-point and mass wintering grounds of waterfowl in this part of Europe. The coastal area and river islands are nesting grounds

for the Sand Martin, the Glossy Ibis, and the Little Pied Cormorant. The area is known for the biggest colonies of mole rats and ground squirrel in the Pannonian Plain. There are many deer and wild boars residing here, as well as rare species of wolves and the Eurasian Eagle-Owl. Deliblato has the biggest fish hatchery in the midstream Danube. The temperature here fluctuates greatly with cold southeasterly winds.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The Deliblato Sands reserve is 60km from Belgrade and 70km from Surčin. Visitors can get there by the Belgrade-Vršac train (Vladimirovci station), bus or car, exiting at Devojački Bunar, Čardak, Dubovac, Šušara and Grabenac. Apart from the regular bus routes, the reserve's manager can organize transportation. The area is on the local cycling route Kovin-Bela Crkva. It is possible to come by boat or river ferry to Ram or Stara Palanka and by wooden rowing boat to Dubovac or Stara Palanka.



ACCOMODATION AND FOOD

The student recreational centre Čardak is very near Deliblato and is suitable for school children. It has an outdoor football pitch, basketball, and tennis courts, as well as a children's playground and a multi-purpose hall. Camps available in the reserve on the grounds of the Čardak Centre, as well as in Devojački Bunar and Vračev Gaj. There is also private accommodation in the villages of Skorenovac and Šušara. The reserve has several hunting lodges - Fazaneriya, Dubovac, Šumarak, Marina, Flamunda and Dolina. The Čardak Centre has a restaurant serving classic dishes, while mountain lodges serve specialized dishes. There are also many restaurants and cafe bars in the area.

WHAT TO DO?

Specialized and educational eco-tours for pupils and students are organized on request. The tours can also be in English and Italian language.

Walking: The Čardak mountain trail.

Bird watching: There are five solid metal hides at 20 and 50m altitude, as well as a wooden hide at 5m altitude. Guests can visit these hides only in groups and if accompanied by a tour guide.

Hunting: Hunting from hunting stands or in hunting drives. Accommodation is provided in mountain lodges.

Recreational fishing is allowed.

Adventures: Mountain climbing and jeep safari.

Events: Marathon and orienteering contests, celebrations of world environment days.

VISITOR CENTRE

The Čardak Education Centre is 4km from the village of Deliblato and 60km from Belgrade. The Centre has a yard with two marquees that can seat up to 100 people and botanical gardens with a future museum exhibition space. The Centre is surrounded with walking trails that have viewing areas and resting spots. It is possible to obtain all sorts of information here or ask for assistance along the trails, as well as pick up promotional material and buy authentic souvenirs. Entrance fee is charged. The staff speak German, English, Romanian, Hungarian and basic Italian. Promotional material can also be purchased in the Čardak Education Centre and municipal tourist organizations. Information points are located in the Čardak Recreational Centre, the Čardak Education Centre, and on Šušara, Devojački Bunar and Stara Palanka information premises.



The Deliblato Sands is the only habitat of the Banat Peony and Steppe Gerbil in Serbia.



LANDSCAPE OF EXTRAORDINARY CHARACTERISTICS

GREAT WAR ISLAND

Photodocumentation: PUC "Zelenilo Beograd"



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The Great War Island (Veliko Ratno Ostrvo) Landscape of Extraordinary Characteristics is located in Belgrade at the confluence of rivers Sava and Danube rivers. It occupies an area of 211ha.

DID YOU KNOW?

This landscape of extraordinary characteristics comprises the Great and Small War Islands. These are the Belgrade area's last two intact natural oases, which are separated by the body of water from the urban centre of the Serbian capital. Lush vegetation is made up of water and marsh communities, as well as a community of floodplain white, almond and crack willow forests, and black poplar, green ash tree and indigo bush forests. Abundant vegetation and many minor waterways are home to a substantial number of birds, such as the Garganey, Ferruginous Duck, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Little Grebe, Little Bittern and many others. There is also a natural fish hatchery.

HOW TO GET THERE?

Visitors can reach Belgrade by road, rail, air or waterways and then take a boat to the islands.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Accommodation and all sorts of tourist information about the Belgrade can be found in the Tourist Organization of Belgrade (www.tob.rs).

WHAT TO DO?

Walking: trails are up to 7km long.

Specialised and educational eco-tours are organized upon request for school children and students. Other types of tours with guides can be arranged on request to the Island's manager.

Bird watching is possible from a bespoke viewing point.

Excursions: Lido Beach has swings, slides and seesaws for children.

Relaxation and swimming: relax or swim from the great Lido Beach

Recreational activities: there are outdoor football pitches and beach volleyball courts.

Kayaking around the Island (Wild Serbia Adventure Club, www.wildserbia.com).

Celebrations of international environment days, educational camps and exhibitions. Daily visits, promotional materials and maps of Great War Island, in Serbian and English, can be obtained from the offices of Public utility company "Zelenilo Beograd" on the Island itself.



NATURAL MONUMENT

RESAVA CAVE

The Resava Cave (Resavska Pećina) Natural Monument is located in the Pomoravlje District's Municipality of Despotovac, on the Babina Glava limestone hill at the edge of the Divljakovac karst field.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Resava Cave is one of the most significant and beautiful speleological discoveries in Serbia, due to its lavish and different forms of crystal ornaments. The cave is 4.5km long, of which 2.83km has been investigated in detail. It is close to 80 million years old, whilst the cave ornaments are estimated to be 45 million years old. The cave's interior has many different chambers, channels, galleries, pillars, stalactites, stalagmites, draperies and petrified waterfalls. The ornaments come in three colours – red, yellow and white. The Lisine natural monument is also nearby. It is comprised of the Veliko Vrelo spring and its watercourse is one of the biggest tufa waterfalls in Serbia - the Veliki Buk.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The cave is 20km from Despotovac, 150km from Belgrade and 138km from Niš. It can be accessed by car, bus or bike. Free parking is available directly in front of the protected area.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The Resavski Uranak restaurant and the Đula facility, located in the area of the Lisine natural monument, both offer accommodation. The Vodopad Lisine inn has four bungalows. The restaurants near the waterfall



Photodocumentation: PE "Resavska pećina"

all serve classical dishes and there is also a cafe bar near Resava Cave.

WHAT TO DO?

Visiting the cave: the upper and lower galleries are open to visitors. They are each 800m long. The temperature here does not fluctuate from 7°C, unlike the air humidity which varies between 80% and 100%.

Excursions: Visiting the Lisine locality, the Veliko Vrelo spring and the tufa waterfall. There is also a 500m long walking trail.

VISITOR CENTRE

Promotional material in Serbian and English is available at the locality, as are souvenirs. The tourist season in the Resava Cave lasts from April to November. Intended group visits beyond that season should be booked in advance. Tours are accompanied by a tour guide who speaks English and German, though a modest fee is charged.

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NATURAL MONUMENT

RISOVAČA CAVE



Photodocumentation:
Narodni muzej Arandelovac

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The Risovača Cave (Pećina Risovača) Natural Monument is an important archaeological, speleological and paleontological site. It is situated to the southeast of the town of Arandelovac on the right bank of the River Kubršnica on Risovača Hill.

DID YOU KNOW?

Risovača was populated back in the Ice Age and is one of the most important Palaeolithic sites in Europe. Flint and bone tools made by Neanderthal man, a rational being and a great hunter, are the first pieces of evidence proving that Serbia was populated in the Palaeolithic period. Thousands and thousands of fossil remnants animals were found. The Cave was home to the cave bear, cave lion, cave hyena, wolf, fox and other animals. The total length of accessible cave passageways is 159m. Starting from the entrance, there is the Archaeological passage, the Ice Age Fauna passage, the Optimist Hall, the Cascade Hall, the Amber Room and the Risovača Man Hall. Belt marble onyx, cave ornaments, stalactites, columns, corals, globulites in snowy white and reddish brown tones all contribute to the beauty the cave.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The Cave is located 76km from Belgrade, at the entrance to Arandelovac from the direction of Topola and 2km from the town centre. It can be accessed by car or bus. There are parking facilities outside the cave.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Visitors can stay at hotels and boarding houses in Arandelovac, where there are also many restaurants, café bars and cake shops. Near Arandelovac there is the Bukovička Spa, which is a specialised rehabilitation hospital that uses spa water and clay in medicinal treatments.

WHAT TO DO?

Sightseeing: visit the reconstructed habitat of the Neanderthal man.

Potholing and rock climbing.

Surrounding area: there are many sport facilities in Arandelovac and Bukovička Spa, such as tennis courts, football and volleyball pitches, an ice rink, swimming pools, water park and gyms. A marked 5km walking trail from the Arandelovac Park to Bukulja Mountain. Equestrian tracks stretching from Bukovik to Bukulja.

VISITOR CENTRE

The centre is open daily from 9am to 5pm. Group visits should be booked in advance. A fee is charged at the entrance of the cave. There is a Risovača Cave Guide in English, Serbian and Russian available at the information stand in front of the cave.

NATIONAL PARK ĐERDAP



Photodocumentation: PE "Nacionalni park Đerdap"

Đerdap National Park is located in northeast Serbia's Bor and Braničevo District, close to the national border with Romania. Its territory encompasses parts of the municipalities of Golubac, Majdanpek and Kladovo. Serbia's biggest national park sprawls over an area of 63,608ha and covers a length of 100km of the right bank of the River Danube.

DID YOU KNOW?

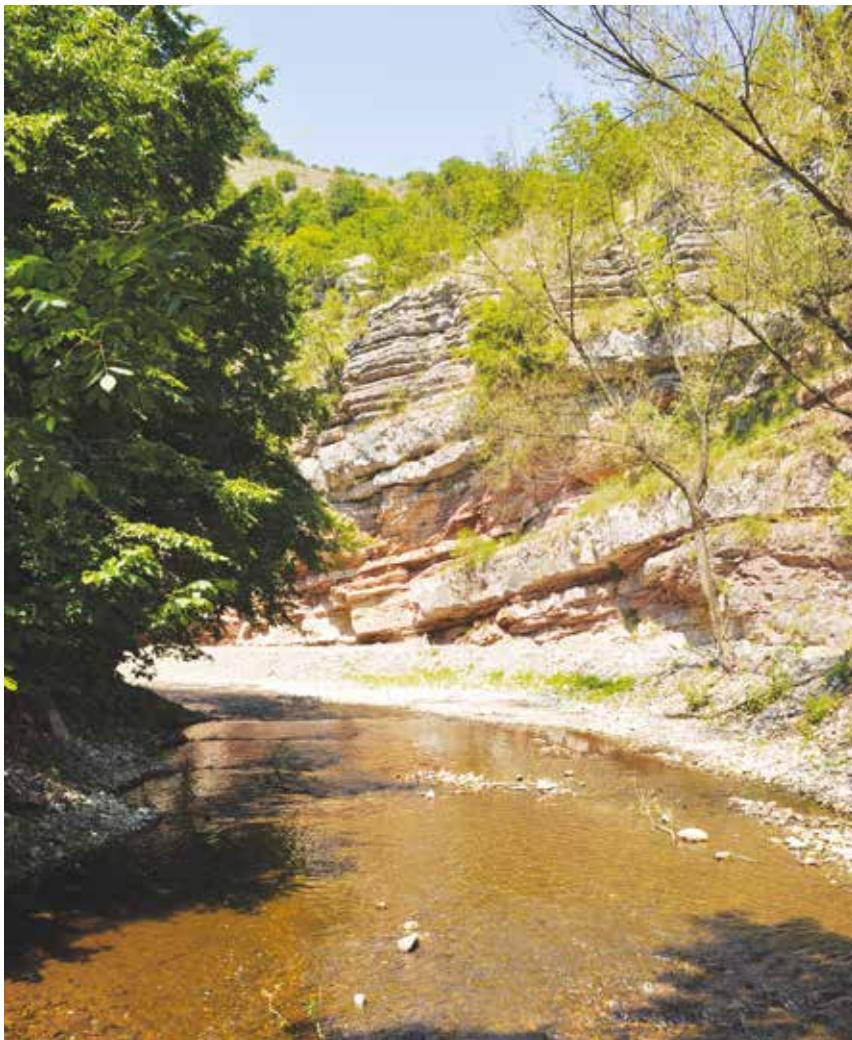
The most dominant natural phenomenon is the magnificent Đerdap Gorge, Europe's longest and deepest river gorge. Comprising four canyons and three valleys, the most beautiful canyon, Veliki Kazan, towers up to 300m above the Danube. The Đerdap Gorge is also where the Danube is at its deepest (90m), narrowest (140m)

and widest (7km). The Danube is home to large specimens of catfish and pike, while fallow deer, roe deer, wild boar and hare roam dense forests and the canyon peaks are the kingdom of rare eagles and falcons. This national park is Serbia's biggest natural habitat of the lynx, a very rare species in Europe, as well as being home to wolf, jackal, wildcat, otter, squirrel, fox, marten, pine marten, badger, chamois and other mammals. The most significant bird species are the Pygmy Cormorant, the Lesser Spotted Eagle, the Long-Eared Owl, the Black Stork and the Booted Eagle. The gorge is home to over 1000 plant species and sub-species, such as the Turkish hazel, the European nettle tree, wild walnut, lilac, silver lime, Montpellier oak, downy oak and others. Archaeological sites and

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cultural and historical monuments, such as the prehistoric Lepenski Vir settlement, Roman era Diana, Golubački Grad, Emperor Trajan's Tablet (Tabula Traiana), the remnants of the ancient Trajan's road, the Roman limes, many small castles and remnants of the old Slavic architecture all serve to confirm that this area has been populated since prehistoric times. The remnants of sacral architecture and monumental sculptures dating back 6500 years, to 4500 B.C., have changed the way historians and archaeologists interpret the beginnings of civilization.

HOW TO GET THERE?

Đerdap National Park is around 200km from Belgrade and 185km from Niš. It can be accessed by bus, car or boat. The M25-1 main Đerdap Road leads directly to the national park, which has three main entrances: two via the M25-1 and one via the regional road. This national park is also located along Pan-European Corridor 7 (Rhine-Main-Danube-Black Sea waterway). The nearby Port of Donji Milanovac is 990km from the mouth of the Black Sea. The nearest airports are located in Belgrade and Niš.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

This national park has hotels and private accommodation, as well as a youth camp. The Lepenski Vir Hotel (3*) is located in Donji Milanovac, the Golubački Grad Hotel (2*) is located near the Danube quay in Golubac, while the hotels Aquastar Danube (4*) and Đerdap (3*) are both located in Kladovo. There are also many restaurants in and around the National Park. Detailed information, in both Serbian and English, can be obtained from the tourist organizations of Golubac (www.golubac.rs), Majdanpek (www.toom.rs) and Kladovo (www.tookladovo.rs).

WHAT TO DO?

Walking/hiking: there are nine marked walking trails of differing lengths that pass through engaging countryside and nature reserves, most of which culminate near the viewing sites of Sokolovac, Greben, Kovilovo, Ploče, Mali Štrbac and Veliki Štrbac. Under the guidance of expert forest rangers, walks along these trails are a real treat. The trails range from easy to medium hiking difficulty and cover a total length of 67.3km. More information is available at the National Park.

Cycling: the EuroVelo 6 Pan-European cycling route, which runs from the Atlantic to the Black Sea, traverses the National Park

over a length of 100km.

Bird watching: those keen on exploring the birdlife of the area can do so accompanied by a specialist guide from the national park.

Cruising the Đerdap Gorge: organized tours start from the Đerdap Hotel in Kladovo. The cruise boat passes through the locks of the Hydro-Electric Power Plant and through the Veliki and Mali Kazan canyons all the way to Tekija. Visitors are able to see the area's most important landmarks, such as Trajan's Tablet, dating from 101 B.C., the Hajduk Water Mill, a depiction of the king of Dacia – Decebalus, carved into the rock, the Mrakonia Monastery (on the Romanian side), the settlement of Tekija, the Diana ancient Roman and early Byzantine camp from the 2nd C. and the Fetislam Fortress near Kladovo. Cruise participants will be accompanied by a guide and lunch is included in the tour. Tours are organized once a week or upon request for large tourist groups (www.djerdapturist.co.rs).

Hunting: organized hunting tours with the Đerdap National Park should be booked in advance. Licensed hunters can take advantage of organized hunting with guides and beaters.

Recreational fishing: daily and weekly angling permits can be obtained directly at the national park.

Potholing and gold panning: visits to Rajko's Cave, which is 2.4km from Majdanpek, can include gold panning in the river near this interesting cave.

Recreation and swimming: this area includes Danube beaches that are suitable for swimming.

Sports and recreation: there are both indoor and outdoor sport terrains, swimming pools and gyms available within the park.

Cultural tourism: tours of galleries and ethno houses are available, while the Lepenski Vir Visitor Centre includes a working model of this prehistoric locality and around 100 exhibits from the Mesolithic and Neolithic period (www.lepenski-vir.org).



Visitors can also tour the Đerdap Archeological Museum.

Touring the Đerdap Hydro-Electric Power Plant: this Danube project was implemented jointly by the former Yugoslavia and Romania in 1972.

Events and contests: these include Folklore Meetings or the Lilac Festival, the Danube Days event, the Ethno Festival in Kladovo, the Danube Fair in Golubac, the Golden Churn of Đerdap in Tekija, the International Kayak Regatta, which starts in Tekija and ends in Kusiak, the State Sailing Championship, the Pike Days etc.

VISITOR CENTRE

The Đerdap National Park Visitor Centre is located at the park's HQ in Donji Milanovac. The Centre is open weekdays from 7am to 3pm and on weekends if a tour has been booked in advance. Here visitors can get information about the national park and tourist brochures in Serbian and English. Guides for bird watching or hunting can be engaged from here, while visitors can also participate in organized educational tours covering various topics.



The most dominant natural phenomenon is the magnificent Đerdap Gorge, Europe's longest and deepest river gorge. Comprising four canyons and three valleys



NATURAL MONUMENT

VRATNA CANYON WITH TWO GATES



Photodocumentation:
Serbian Institute for Nature
Conservation, Srdan **BELIJ**

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The Vratna Canyon with Two Gates (Kanjon Vratne sa Dva Prerasta) Natural Monument is located in Eastern Serbia's Negotin District on the eastern side of the Veliki Greben mountain range. The protected area is comprised of the river canyon (300 x 100m) stretching from the estuary of Suvi Potok to the exit of the second gate. The Vratna River is a confluent of the Danube.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Vratna Canyon, its caves and gates, are considered natural phenomena. The canyon is fairly inaccessible as it is pretty isolated. Throughout history the Vratna has sculpted a natural phenomenon with three gates called the Gates of Vratanj, stone arches above the river. They were formed when the cave ceiling collapsed. The Minor Gate is 34m high. Close to it is the Major Gate (26m high), while the Dry Gate is 20m high, in the least accessible part of the canyon and is the most beautiful and

most challenging for hikers. A total of 24 tree species (walnut, beech, Turkish hazel, lilac, sycamore etc.) grow on the banks of the Vratna, as do 170 species of herbaceous plants, 57 bird species, as well as 10 species of bat, steppe polecat, otter and badger. Fallow deer and moufflon can be found in hunting grounds. The Vratna Monastery is in the wide valley of the river. According to local legend, the Monastery was built by Archbishop Nikodin in the 14th C., during the rule of King Milutin. Over the centuries the monastery has been destroyed and rebuilt several times and today it is home to nuns.

HOW TO GET THERE?

Visitors can reach the area by car or bus with an organized tour. In order to reach the village and monastery of Vratna guests will need to take the Negotin-Majdanpek or the Negotin-Kladovo road via the villages of Slatina and Urovisa.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Accommodation is available in the town of Negotin. More information can be obtained from the Negotin Tourist Organization (www.toon.org.rs). There are quite a few restaurants, mainly serving fish, along the banks of the river Danube.

WHAT TO DO?

Walking: there is a trail from Vratna Monastery to the Minor and Major Gates.

Hunting: visitors can hunt for fallow deer, moufflon, roe deer and wild boar at the Vratna hunting grounds (1,312ha, 158 – 365m altitude).

Excursions: The Negotin Tourist Organization organizes one-day field trips to the village of Vratna.

NATURAL MONUMENT

LAZAR'S CANYON

The Lazar's Canyon (Lazarev Kanjon) Natural Monument is located in the catchment basin of the River Lazar and Malinik Mountain, in the eastern part of the Kučaj mountain range.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lazar's Canyon is a unique combination of limestone valleys of impressive scale, pronounced morphological shapes and many speleological sites (like the Lazar Cave and Vernjicka). The site was formed by circulating karsts water. The canyon has abundant flora and fauna and its landscape is exceptionally beautiful. It is also one of the most impervious canyons in Serbia. It is 4.5km long and 350-500m deep. Its minimum width is 4m. The canyon is connected to the shallower and smaller canyons of Mikulj, Pojen River and Demizlok. Lazar's Canyon is one of the rare areas of the European black pine in Serbia. The Canyon is also home to chamois and many other autochthonous animal species.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The Canyon is 230km from Belgrade and 21km from Bor. It can be reached by car and bus.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Visitors can find accommodation in hotels in Breštovačka Banja, as well as in the Dubašnica hunting lodge. More information is available from the Bor Tourist Organization (www.tobor.rs).

WHAT TO DO?

Excursions: visits to Lazar's Cave, which is located on the eastern slopes of Kučaj, 21km



from Bor, are possible. The cave is comprised of two horizontal channels with 800m suitable for tourist visits. The beautiful cave chambers – the Throne Chamber, the Concert Chamber, the Bat Chamber and others – are adorned with cave ornaments. In the early Bronze Age the cave was used as a hunting lodge, whilst in the Iron Age it was used for casting iron. Visits are organized from 15th April to 15th November with a tour guide provided. Zlots Caves are nearby.

Recreational fishing: permits can be obtained from public enterprise "Srbijašume".

Hunting: the Zlatne Šume – Crni Vrh hunting grounds occupy 15,447ha of the eastern part of the Južni Kučaj mountain range. The grounds are 290km from Belgrade and 40km from Bor. Guests can hunt red deer, roe deer, wild boar and moufflon.

Adventure: canyoning involves descending from the river cliffs.

Photodocumentation:
Serbian Institute for Nature
Conservation, Srdan **BELIJ**

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NATURE PARK

STARA PLANINA



Photodocumentation: PE "Srbijašume"

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The Stara Planina (The Old Mountain) Nature Park is located in Eastern Serbia, on the border with Bulgaria, on the territory of the town of Zaječar and municipalities Knjaževac, Pirot and Dimitrovgrad. It is part of the spacious mountain range called the Balkan. Its peak Midžor is 2,169m high.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Old Mountain is an area of exceptional geological diversity with developed and preserved flora and fauna. The area is morphologically intersected while many mountain areas like the valley of the Bigar creek, the gooseneck meanders of the Temštica River, and the localities Midžor and Babin Zub, enrich the landscape features. The diversity of the plant and animal world can be seen in 1,200 plant species (115

endemic sorts, 40 which are rare species in Serbia and 50 species of endangered European flora), 150 species of breeding birds, 30 species of mammals, 6 species of amphibians, 12 species of reptiles, 26 species of fish, as well as many species of moss, lichen, mushrooms and insects, autochthonous races and all kinds of domestic animals and herbal cultures. It is worth mentioning the peat bogs which are the home to the very rare meat eating plant called sundew, as well as other endangered species like winged bluebell and Pančić's common groundsel. In respect of the Mountain's flora, there are species like the European ground squirrel, snow vole, bobcat and bear. The Mountain's cultural value is reflected in medieval monasteries, folk buildings, traditional tools, objects, professions and customs of the local population. People living on the Mountain are



quite traditional and industrious. Their cultural heritage is characteristic of Eastern Serbia.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The Old Mountain is 330km from Belgrade and 70km from Niš. Visitors can get there by car or regular bus services.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Visitors can stay at the Babin Zub mountain lodge, the Stara Planina Hotel (4*), the Babin Zub Hotel (2*), and private accommodation in rural households and villas. More information can be obtained from the mountain tourism public enterprise 'Stara Planina' (www.jpstara-planina.rs) and municipal tourist organizations.

WHAT TO DO?

Hiking: Trails Mountain Lodge – Midžor, Babin Zub, six trails Čuštica, Ravno Bučje and St. Nikola Bend. The Babin Zub Mountain Club from Knjaževac organizes walking tours (www.jpstaraplanina.rs).

Excursions: Village of Stanjinac near the Kn-

jaževac-Pirot road.

Skiing: Five slopes with a total length of 12km the longest one being 1,275m.

Swimming: At the beaches of Zavojско Lake or in swimming pools.

Adventure: Mountain biking in organized tours. During summer, many paragliding competitions take place here. Also, there are mountain biking contests. The Euro Balkan Bike Cup will take place here.

Recreational fishing: Fishing for brown trout in the rivers and creeks managed by public enterprise Stara Planina is banned. The fish caught in the so-called Third Protection Zone, i.e. in the lower flow of rivers Tolodol and Vi-sočica and the Zavojско Lake, should be immediately released. Permits can be obtained from the forest warden at the offices of public enterprise Srbijašume.

Hunting: There are eight hunting grounds in total, with three of them managed by public enterprise Srbijašume: Suvodol, Stara Planina and Stara Planina II. Guests can hunt for pheasant, rabbit, deer and wild boar.

Visits to the monasteries of Holy Mother of God from the 14th C., Sveta Trojica, Suvodol, Temska and other cultural and historic monuments.



Stara Planina is an area of exceptional geological diversity with developed and preserved flora and fauna.



NATIONAL PARK KOPAONIK

Photodocumentation: PE "Nacionalni park Kopaonik"



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Kopaonik National Park is located in central Serbia, covering parts of the territories of the municipalities of Raška, Brus and Leposavić on the upper climbs of Kopaonik Mountain. Most of the national park is comprised of the most densely forested parts of Kopaonik's peaks. This area of outstanding natural beauty and diversity affords views and access to mountain peaks, pastures, dense coniferous and deciduous forests, and plateaus with springs, gorges, creeks and barren highland plains.

DID YOU KNOW?

This national park commences at a height close to 600m/asl and ends along mountain ridges that are interconnected by high mountain passes. The highest peak is Pančić's Peak (2,017m/asl). A total of 1,375ha of the park are under special protection, with 13 nature reserves including Kozje Stene, Vučak, Jankova Bara and others. Kopaonik is known for its vast

biodiversity and many plant species (50 on the Red List of Serbia, and four on the international list). There are also 91 endemic and 82 sub-endemic plant species, while three – Kopaonik Houseleek, Pančić Watercress and Kopaonik Violet – grow exclusively on this mountain. This area is also the only habitat of the endemic and relict *Colias Balcanica* species of butterfly. There are many amphibians and reptiles, while local birdlife includes 173 species, 90% of which are nesting birds like the Balkan Long-Eared Lark. The park is home to 40 species of mammals, including the rare otter. The clean waters of Kopaonik are rich in brown trout. The protected area includes 26 natural monuments, such as the Samokovska, Gobeljska, Barska, Brzeka and Duboka rivers. Twelve cultural sites are also under protection, including the remains of the medieval Kukavica Road (4km long), the early Christian Basilica from the 5th and 6th C., the St. Peter and Paul Church, the Turkish baths from the period of the Ottoman Empire, the Pančić Mausoleum, Mijatovića Jaz, the St. Metodije Olimpijski Church and others.

HOW TO GET THERE?

Kopaonik is 259km from Belgrade via Jošanička Spa, 290km via Kragujevac and 279km via Kruševac. The Kruševac-Kopaonik road





is 86km long, the Kraljevo-Kopaonik road is 98km long, the Kragujevac-Kopaonik road totals 148km, while the distance from Niš to Kopaonik by road is 171km. Visitors can access the national park via car, bus or bicycle. There are regular bus lines, while local travel agencies also organize transportation to this major protected area. Kopaonik's tourist centre is also serviced by private taxis. The nearest airport, at Niš, is 120km away. Local and regional bicycle routes also pass through the protected area.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Almost all facilities are located at the Kopaonik Tourist Centre – hotels JAT Apartmani, Grand, Andela, Srebrna Lisica, Konaci, Olga Dedijer, Putnik, Klub A, Jugobanka and the Rtanj Mountain Lodge, as well as numerous restaurants. The hotels and restaurants Zoned, Kraljevi Čardaci and Vila Runolist are located in the Kopaonik Chalet Settlement. Brzeće and Jošanička Spa also offer hotel accommodation and restaurants. The spa centre is renowned as a health resort with thermal springs (water temperature of around 78°C) and baths.

The hotels Andela, Grand, Putnik and several others provide conference halls, while the Kragujevac and Rtanj resorts are made



Photodocumentation: MK Mountain Resort

to cater for children. More information can be obtained from the tourist organizations of Raška (www.raska-turizam.rs) and Brus (www.turizamopstinebrus.co.rs).

WHAT TO DO?

Walking: there are several walking trails covering a total length of 40km and hiking tours are organized upon request – depending on the number of visitors. English-speaking tour guides are also available, though tours should be booked in advance. Descriptions of the routes and maps are available via the national park's website.

Mountaineering: explore the possibilities provided by the Kopaonik Mountain and Skiing Club (www.psd-kopaonik.org.rs).

Cycling: this national park has two cycle routes, Suvo Rudište and Pančičev Vrh, covering a total length of 5.5km. Visitors can hire bikes and other required equipment from the Kopaonik Ski Centre (PE Skijališta Srbije, www.skijalistasrbije.rs).

Horse riding: the Kopaonik riding school runs daily from June to October (MK Mountain Resort, www.mkresort.com).



Kopaonik is home for 91 endemic and 82 sub-endemic plant species.





Game watching: viewing points are located at Raskrsnica, Čelo and Gvozdac.

Excursions: the Kadijevac excursion area is 12km from Jošanička Spa on the foothills of Mount Kopaonik, while the Đorov Bridge is located near the entrance gate to the Spa and Malo Metode is situated on the outskirts of the settlement of Brzeća.

Adventure: the many options in this branch include rock climbing, (www.psd-kopaonik.org.rs), paragliding (Paragliding Club „Golija“ www.para-golija.org.rs), white water rafting, jeep and quad tours, as well as paintball events (www.mkresort.com).

Skiing and ice skating: Kopaonik ski slopes (55km) are suitable for Alpine skiing, while there is also a 12km-long ski trail for Nordic skiing. Visitors can practice ice skating on the Malo Jezero Lake, which lies within the tourist centre (www.skijalistasrbije.rs).

Recreational activities: many outdoor and indoor sport and recreational facilities exist at the Hotel Grand, as well as outdoor facilities for summer activities.

Swimming: swimming pools are available year-round at the Grand and Klub A hotels, while during the summer months bathers can enjoy facilities at the Kraljevi Čardaci Spa Centre and the Jošanička Spa.



Events and happenings: the children's ecology competition 'EcoQuiz', the Boletus Days event, the Blueberry Days event, religious gatherings and celebrations of St. Prokopije Day at the Neveske Stolice resort and St. Metodije Day at Metode, as well as training for picking and gathering blueberries, mushrooms and medicinal herbs.

Visits to cultural, historical and religious sites: churches at Metode and Neveske Stolice (available during summer), St. Peter and Paul Church at Kriva Reka.



VISITOR CENTRE

The Vila Raška Visitor Centre is located within the confines of the tourist centre (near the Hotel Grand). Here visitors can get all sorts of information about the National Park (tel: +381 (0)36 5471 230). There is also a tourist info point at Jošanička Spa. Souvenirs and locally manufactured products can be bought on the local market or at reception desks of local hotels and motels. Promotional material and maps can also be obtained at all Kopaonik hotels and motels and are available in Serbian, English and Russian.

NATURE PARK

SIĆEVO GORGE

The Sićevo Gorge (Sićevačka Klisura) Nature Park is located in eastern Serbia near the city of Niš and the municipality of Bela Palanka. It stretches from the village of Dolac, where the Nišava River exits the Bela Palanka Valley, to the village of Prosek, at the entrance of the Nišava Valley.

DID YOU KNOW?

The gorge was formed by the river Nišava carving its way through the limestone relief. The gorge is around 17km long and comprises three morphological entities: the Gradište Canyon, the Prosek Gorge and the Ostrovica Basin. This is the shared habitat of two Tertiary Age relicts – endemic Balkan species – the Serbian phoenix flower and Natalie's ramonda. The gorge is also home to plant species like sage (its largest and northernmost finding), scorpion senna (a sub-Mediterranean species, very rare in Serbia), common lilac, common rue, Turkish hazel, wild cherry, mugwort, the Rtanj tea plant, Jerusalem thorn, smoke-tree, Montpelier maple and others. The Sićevo Gorge is also home to the medieval Eastern Orthodox monasteries St. Petka and Holy Mother of God, as well as to the remnants of the ancient Roman road 'Via Militaris'.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The Gorge is 14km east of Niš (airport, bus and railway stations) and 235km from Belgrade. It can be accessed by bus or car.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Accommodation is available in the Sićevo shelter and hotels in Niš. Guests can obtain



Photodocumentation: Serbian Institute for Nature Conservation, Danko JOVIĆ

more information from the Tourist Organization of Niš (www.visitnis.com).

WHAT TO DO?

Adventure: white-water kayaking near Ostrovica. This is an active, moving water route with frequent changes of direction while kayaking along the Nišava River rapids. This is an ideal location for competitions.

Paragliding: following the 2005 World Paragliding Championship, the paragliding route here was declared the best in the Balkans.

Rock climbing (www.vodic.spirit.rs).

Events: the Sage Days have been taking place in late May every year for the past 15 years. There is also an art and literary colony in Sićevo.

Visit the St. Petka and Holy Mother of God monasteries.

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SPECIAL NATURE RESERVE JELAŠNICA GORGE



Photodocumentation: Serbian Institute for
Nature Conservation, Danko JOVIĆ

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The Jelašnica Gorge (Jelašnička Klisura) Special Nature Reserve is located in eastern Serbia, at the foot of the Suva Planina (The Dry Mountain), south-east from Niš, near the Jelašnica and Čukljenik villages. The area is a protected habitat of many relict and endemic species, especially plants like the Serbian Phoenix Flower (*Ramonda Serbica*) and Nathalia Rock Plate (*Ramonda Nathaliae*), which are both symbols of the Gorge.

DID YOU KNOW?

The river Jelašnica runs through the narrow and steep Jelašnica Gorge. The Gorge is 2km long and its widest section is only 30 metres wide. In certain places, its vertical sections are only 7 to 8 metres apart, which is a natural rarity in Serbia. In respect to erosive forms, the windows Kupina and St. Ilija are distinct in terms of their size, beauty and their peculiar positions. The area that the Jelašnica Gorge covers, which is home to many relict and en-

demic species, is of exceptional importance in fauna and flora studies conducted on the Balkan Peninsula. Apart from the Serbian Phoenix Flower and Nathalia Rock Plate, the reserve has 39 Moesian, as well as 20 Balkan and 6 Illyrian endemic and subendemic species.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The road to the Jelašnica Gorge starts in Niš (15km) and goes via Niška Banja in the direction of the Jelašnica village. There is also the Niš-Pirot-Dimitrovgrad (E 80) road which goes directly to the village. The Gorge stretches from the last houses in the village to the next village of Čukljenik. Also, there is a regular bus route that goes from Niš to Jelašnica and Gornja Studena.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

There is a mountain lodge called "Čelin Kamen" in Donja Studena and the Studenac mountain lodge in Bojanine Vode. There is also a camp in the Gorge, near the Studena River.

WHAT TO DO?

Rock climbing: The Jelašnica Gorge is the first climbing site in Serbia suitable only for rock climbing. All 200 directions and 150 boulders are well equipped and marked, but orientation is very difficult without help from a guide (www.serbianclimbing.com).

Touring historic and religious facilities: There are over 30 small churches and monasteries in the Gorge area, as well as the first ever hydro-electric power plant in Serbia built by the Austrians in the early 20th C.

NATURAL MONUMENT

DEVIL'S TOWN

The Devil's Town (Đavolja Varoš) Natural Monument is located in Southern Serbia's Niš region. Devil's Town comprises two very rare phenomena – peculiar rock formations and two natural water springs with very high mineral content. The oddly aligned exotic formations, strange tasting and smelling waters, and the mystic chime of the wind as it blows through the formations, have prompted locals to call the area Devil's Town (Đavolja Varoš).

DID YOU KNOW?

The rock formations are a result of several centuries of erosion. There are 202 distinctive formations in total. They range from a height of 2 to 15m and width of 0.5 to 3m, with stone caps. Locals refer to the formations as towers. They are located in two gullies, divided by a narrow watershed. They are known as 'The Devil's Gully' and 'The Hell Gully', which speaks volumes about their appearance. Located close to the rock towers is the Devil's Water spring, which is cold and extremely acidic. 400m away, on the flat alluvial plain, is 'The Red Water Spring', which is slightly less acidic. The attractiveness of this natural wonder is enhanced by the nearby countryside, remnants of old settlements, the old St. Petka Church, a graveyard and several interesting mining pits.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The Devil's Town Natural Monument is 27km southeast from Kuršumljija and 89km southwest of Niš. It is 288km from Belgrade. Guests can access this protected area by car, bus or bike. Devil's Town is open to visitors from March to November. An entrance fee is charged.



Photodocumentation: "Planinka" a.d.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The Radan Hotel (3*) is located in Prolom Banja. The hotel has indoor and outdoor swimming pools, both with thermal water. It is suitable for children and pupils. The hotel is 27km from Devil's Town. There are also the hotel Kopaonik and hotel Jelak in Lukovska Banja, which is 61km away from Devil's Town. There is an outdoor restaurant very near Devil's Town. The tourist meeting point is at the entrance of the protected area. There is also a souvenir shop where visitors can buy brochures in Serbian, English, Russian, Bulgarian, Slovenian and Macedonian.

WHAT TO DO?

Walk: the 800m long route in the protected area, which has two trails. The first starts near the souvenir shop and leads to rock formations via two viewing points (lower and higher), from where guests can see the formations clearly. Opting to return via the second trail leads past St. Petka Church. The walking route is marked and not physically demanding, apart from the ascent to the viewing points and the somewhat steeper and slightly slippery parts of the trail on the return leg.



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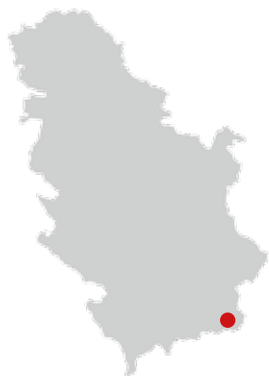
LANDSCAPE OF EXTRAORDINARY CHARACTERISTICS

VLASINA



CONTACT

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The Vlasina Landscape of Extraordinary Characteristics is located in Southeast Serbia on the territory of the municipalities of Surdulica and Crna Trava. It covers most of the Vlasina Plateau. Vlasina is an example of characteristic wetland, meadows and peat bogs, which are quite unique on the Balkan Peninsula.

DID YOU KNOW?

Vlasina is a plateau located at 1,265m/asl. It is surrounded by the mountains of Gramada, Vardenik and Cemernik. Vlasina Lake is at the centre of the Vlasina Plateau. At 1,230m/asl this is the highest and largest artificial lake in Serbia, covering an area of 16km². It was created following the construction of a dam on the 'Vlasinsko Blato' peat bog. The lake is unparalleled due its floating peat islands. The Vlasina River itself flows just beneath the dam. Vlasina's flora comprises plants characteristic to peat bogs, such as creeping cinquefoil, European white birch, carnivorous plant sundew, buckbean etc. Despite the changes that have occurred through several centuries of anthropogenic influence, the fauna here includes rare and endangered species such as the

Alpine Newt, corn crane, European ground squirrel, water vole and otter.

HOW TO GET THERE?

Vlasina is 320km from Belgrade, 100km from Niš and its airport, 100km from Sofia and its airport, and 140km from Skopje and its airport. Guests can reach Vlasina by car, bus or bicycle. Apart from the regular bus line, the Surdulica Tourist Organization can arrange transportation to the protected area. The area also lies along the regional bicycle route. There are parking facilities near hotels, restaurants, villas and holiday cottages.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

In close proximity to each other and near the lake's shore, there are hotels and motels Vlasina (2*), Jezero and Narcis. The resort is owned by the Vlasina Hydro-Electric Power Plants Company and also has holiday cottages that are mostly available to tourists. There is also a camp on the shore which is managed by the Hotel Vlasina. All the aforementioned facilities are child-friendly and just beneath the Hotel



Vlasina guests will find children's climbing frames, seesaws, slides and easy chairs. Visitors can obtain more information from the Surdulica Tourist Organization (www.tosurdulica.org).

WHAT TO DO?

Walking: Trails (total length of 144km) here are marked and lead to the nearby hills and mountain peaks.

Cycling: Cycling is possible near the lake, whilst mountain bikers can use over 100km of marked bicycle routes.

Bird watching: There are hides on the Bukova Glava, beneath the St. Ilija Church, and above the Tito Fountain.

Recreational fishing: Sports angling permits can be obtained from the reserve's manager.

Hunting: Accommodation is provided for hunters and organized hunting tours on enclosed hunting grounds called Valmište at the foot of the Cemernik Mountain, 12km from Vlasina Lake. Red deer and wild boar are hunted here (+381 (0)16 243 034).

Specialised and educational tours for school children and students can be organized upon request. A tour guide is provided, though tours must be booked in advance.

Excursions: All locations are equipped with wooden gazebos with benches, tables and barbecue pits.

Recreational activities: A grass football pitch has auxiliary grounds and an athletics track. It is located near the Hotel Vlasina. The hotels Narcis and Vlasina include their own gymnasiums.

Adventure: Kayaking, jeep safaris and scuba diving are all possible.

Relaxation and swimming: There are no official beaches on Vlasina Lake, but the lake's shore has gazebos with benches, tables and sunbathing platforms.

Winter sports: Visitors can ski on Vlasina Okruglica where there is a small privately-owned cable car and a 500m long slope. Guests can also skate on the lake when it is frozen.

Visit the 13th C. monastery 'Vavedenje Presvete Bogorodice' in Palje, the St. Ilija Church in Rido and the Holy Trinity Tower and Church in Klisura.

Events: The Vlasina Regatta, the Vlasina Fish Pot, the Vlasina Hook, the Vlasina catfish contest 'Somovijada', the Golden Hands and Vlasina's Summer.

VISITOR CENTRE

The Surdulica Tourist Organization has an information point near the green market. Brochures and maps can be obtained from the forest warden on site and at the manager's office. Maps of Vlasina are available in English.



Photodocumentation:
PE "Direkcija za građevinsko
zemljište i puteve oštine
Surdulica"



Vlasina's flora comprises plants characteristic to peat bogs, such as creeping cinquefoil, European white birch, carnivorous plant sundew, buckbean



LANDSCAPE OF EXTRAORDINARY CHARACTERISTICS

PČINJA VALLEY

Photodocumentation: The Eastern Orthodox Diocese of Vranje



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The Pčinja Valley (Dolina Pčinje) Landscape of Extraordinary Characteristics is located in the municipality of Bujanovac, Pčinja District and borders FYR Macedonia in Southern Serbia. This protected area covers 2,606ha and to the northwest borders the slopes of Starac Mountain, while to the southeast, it passes the slopes of Kozjak Mountain. The Pčinja River runs through the Kozjak Valley.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Pčinja Valley is a national natural landmark of great importance. It has significant preserved natural resources, unpolluted land and waters,



an abundance of forest communities, flora and fauna, as well as small rural settlements. The Pčinja River is a tributary of the River Vardar and is one of the cleanest rivers in Serbia. The river meanders from northeast to southwest through the protected area. On the left bank of the river, at the foot of Kozjak Mountain, lies the monastery complex of the Holy Father Prohor of Pčinja, which is a spiritual and cultural centre of special importance for Serbia. According to traditional stories, the monastery was built by Byzantine Emperor Romanos Diogenes in the 11th C. as an expression of gratitude toward the Prohor of Pčinja, who had prophesized that Diogenes would become emperor.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The Pčinja Valley is located 39km south of Vranje, near the St. Prohor of Pčinja border crossing with FYR Macedonia, 4.5km from the Visitor Centre. Visitors can reach the valley by bus, car or bicycle. There is a regular bus line from Vranje to the protected area. The area is also located on a local bicycle route. The roads are in good condition, regularly cleaned and maintained. There is also a car parking near the monastery.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The Vranje Inn (Vranjski Konak), located within the monastery complex, has 80 rooms and can host up to 200 guests. This inn has a large dining area and a conference hall with booths for interpreters and translation equipment. Visitors can also stay in a marked campsite or in privately-owned accommodation. The Prohor of Pčinja Monastery has a restaurant and a hospitality room. The menu



is comprised of original dishes that reflect the spirit of the location.

WHAT TO DO?

Walking: there are regular walking tours to the St. Prohor of Pčinja Anchoress (2.8km). The route passes through beautiful old oak forests. English-speaking guides can be provided. There is no need to book the tour in advance. The terrain is hilly and guests need to be reasonably fit. Each tour can accommodate up to 20 people. If visitors are not able to walk long distances, there is the option of travelling by jeep, three times a day. The tour takes between two and three hours. The road is not paved and most of the route runs through woodland.

Mountaineering: there are two mountain trails – 'Four Oaks' (2.2km) and 'Anchoress Post' (2.8km).

Cycling: a bicycle path stretches from the monastery to Gornji Starac. It is 4.5km long. Bikes are available for hire. The route is appropriate for all levels of proficiency.

Bird watching: There are three bird watching points in the Gornji Starac municipality. A fee is charged to visitors.

Excursions: visits to the Gornja Reka resorts are possible, though infrastructure is rather undeveloped.

Swimming: the Pčinja River has beautiful beaches and guests can hire a pedal boat.

Camping: during the summer months there is a summer eco-camp for high school children.

Recreational fishing: fishing permits can be purchased from the guard's office in the monastery.

Adventure: free climbing is possible on rocks and cliffs.

Events: there are folk and home cooking events. The most famous is the two-day Ivanjdan Fair (the 7th July Fair).

VISITOR CENTRE

The visitor centre is located in the Vranje Inn at the St. Prohor of Pčinja Monastery. The monastery's souvenir shop and Natural History Exhibition sell many kinds of postcards, and publications in Serbian and English, as well as various local souvenirs. Guests can also buy local products, such as Pčinja honey, rye and buckwheat flour, wine and brandy and other. The Natural History Exhibition is suitable for children and pupils. There is no entrance fee. More information can be obtained from the head of the Monastery, Father Nikolaj.

Klenike, municipality of Bujanovac, Tel: +381 (0)17 580 66; Email: monah.justin@gmail.com
www.svprohor.org



The Vranje Inn (Vranjski Konak), located within the monastery complex, has 80 rooms and can host up to 200 guests.



SPECIAL NATURE RESERVE

TREŠNJICA RIVER GORGE

PHOTO: Stevan GRUBAČ



FOTO: Bratislav GRUBAČ



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The Trešnjica River Gorge (Klisure Reke Trešnjice) Special Nature Reserve is located in western Serbia's Ljubovija municipality. The River Trešnjica breaks to the surfaces under Povlen Mountain and flows for 23km before emptying into the River Drina. This stunning gorge was declared a protected area in order to preserve the habitats of the rare Griffon Vulture and its population, as well as the River Trešnjica itself and the region's valuable ethnic heritage.

DID YOU KNOW?

Just prior to merging with the Drina, the River Trešnjica passes through a gorge several kilometres' long that it has carved out of the limestone. The gorge is around 500m deep, with sheer cliff faces. This gorge includes many cavities, rock shelters and cliffs of various shapes and sizes. Most of the reserve is covered in forests of Hop Hornbeam, Turkey Oak and Black Pine, as well as Juniper underbrush. As well as being home to the majestic Griffon Vulture, Serbia's largest bird, Trešnjica also provides a habitat for the Golden Eagle, Common Kestrel, Eurasian Goshawk, Eurasian Sparrow hawk and Common Buzzard. The river is also a nursery area for the huchen.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The Trešnjica River Gorge lies 180km from Belgrade near the national border with neighbouring Bosnia's Republic of Srpska entity. Visitors can access the area by car or bus along the road to the village of Gornja Trešnjica, walking from the village to the gorge via Pašine Ravni, the village of Matići or the village of Grbići.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Rural tourism households in the village of Gornja Trešnjica offer accommodation, restaurants, relaxation terraces and boat moorings. Other accommodation capacities are located just beyond the perimeter of the reserve itself. There is also a mountain lodge in Bobija. More information can be obtained from the Ljubovija Tourist Organization (www.turistickaorganizacijaljubovija.rs).

WHAT TO DO?

Walking/hiking: the area offers marked walking trails.

Mountaineering: mountain trails (6km) run through the most picturesque parts of the gorge and are clearly marked. Setting off from Debelo Brdo or Gornje Košlje, they run all the way down to the river and the village of Gornja Trešnjica. Ramblers are advised not to stray from the marked trails, due to the risk of flash flooding.

Hunting: the Ljubovija Hunting Club provides all relevant information regarding hunting in the area.

Adventure: canyoning and white water rafting in organized tours is available (Wild Serbia Adventure Club, www.wildserbia.com).

NATIONAL PARK TARA



Photodocumentation: PE "Nacionalni park Tara"

Tara National Park covers the biggest part of the Tara Mountain, which is situated in western Serbia's Zlatibor District. In 1981 Tara was declared a national park due to its diverse and preserved forest ecosystems, many of which are relics, and great biodiversity, including being the natural habitat of the Pančić Spruce. The national park covers 19,175ha. It belongs to the municipality of Bajina Bašta and its average altitude varies from 1,000 to 1,200m/asl. Apart from the Drina Valley Canyon, which has impressive limestone cliffs towering over 1,000m high, there are also the beautiful and wild Rača, Brusnica and Derventa river canyons.

DID YOU KNOW?

The distinctive geographical relief and favourable micro-climate of the Tara Mountain have made it possible for relic and endemic species of

the Balkan Peninsula, such as the Pančić Spruce, to survive. Out of 53 species of mammals to have been found and registered on the Tara Mountain, the most attractive is the brown bear (the area has the largest population in Serbia) and chamois, which live at an altitude of up to 290m, whilst in Europe these species usually do not inhabit areas below altitudes of 800m. The Pančić grasshopper lives in the relic black pine forests. Similar species can only be found in Palestine and Kurdistan. The Drina Canyon is the third deepest canyon in the world, with cliffs as high as 1,000m. Tara has many archaeological sites which date back to Neolithic and medieval times. There are well-known necropolis tombstones in Perućac and Rastište which have been nominated for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List, as well as remnants of the medieval fortress Solotnik and Rača Monastery, which is the 13th C. endowment of the King Dragutin Nemanjić.

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www.nptara.rs





HOW TO GET THERE?

Visitors can reach Tara by car, bus, train, and even bicycle. It is 180km from Belgrade, 245km from Novi Sad, 290km from Niš and 45km from Užice. Apart from regular bus lines from Belgrade, Novi Sad, Užice and Bajina Bašta, it is possible to arrange transportation with the help of the Tara National Park. Moreover, the Braneško Polje railway station (on the Belgrade-Bar railway) is only 15km from Kaluderske Bare. All catering, hotel and excursion facilities have free parking facilities.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Hotels Beli Bor (2*) and Omorika (3*) on Kaluderske Bare also have restaurants. There is also the Mitrovac children's resort and nature lovers can use the mountain lodges on Mitrovac, Predov Krst and Račanska Šljivovica. All are managed by the Tara National Park. The Predov Krst hunting lodge has 30 beds and a restaurant.



PHOTO: Dragoslav MIRKOVIĆ

Four rural households also offer accommodation (lodgings and dining).

Guests can also visit one of six restaurants and cafe bars located at the heart of the protected region, offering relaxation and local dishes.

The following hotels are in close proximity to Tara: Jezero and Villa Drina in Perućac and Hotel Drina in Bajina Bašta.

WHAT TO DO?

Walking: there are five educational walking trails on Mountain Tara.

Hiking: European hiking trail E7 (63km long) runs through the Tara National Park. Also, there are 25 mountain trails with a total length of 200km.

Cycling: there are three cycling routes with a total length of 118.3km. The map of cycling paths contains the QR Code compatible with Smartphone (www.mapa.iz.rs).

Adventure: rafting, rock climbing, canoeing, kayaking, paragliding, sailing on Perućac Lake.



Skiing: five ski slopes with a total length of 2,000m.

Hunting: there are 300 chamois, 320 roe deer and around 40 wild boar in the Tara forests. The Tara National Park Department for Protection and Promotion of Hunting and Fishing issues hunting permits, provides tour guides and can transport game to other areas.

Recreational fishing: here can be a real treat. There are over 19 fish species in Tara's waters (huchen, grayling, brown trout, catfish, barbel etc.). Permits can be obtained from the HQ of the Tara National Park in Bajina Bašta, the Perućac control and information point and the fish warden on site.

Sports and recreational activities: the two hotels located at the heart of the protected region have gyms, bowling alleys and also an outdoor volleyball court, as well tennis and basketball courts and football pitches. There are also running tracks. The Omorika Hotel also has the Mitrovac children's resort and an indoor pool. Lakes Zaovina and Perućac are suitable for swimming and all sorts of water sports.

Education: there is the Young Rangers Club for the youngest adventurers (aged seven to 15). The camp is managed by the Tara National Park. The club's instructors and educators are there to teach children various orienteering skills.

Excursions: visits to the Rača Monastery, necropolis tombstones, the Soltnik Fortress, archaeological sites and many viewing areas.

Organized events: orienteering and mountain bike contests, race tracking and many other activities. More information can be obtained from the Park's manager.

VISITOR CENTRE

The Mitrovac (Mitrovac on Tara) Visitor Centre is open daily from 9.30am to 2pm. Guests can obtain all sorts of useful information about the national park and purchase a map of Tara



PHOTO: Bogdan PEDOVIĆ



PHOTO: Dmitri SHAROMOV

at the Visitor Centre, as well as from the Perućac information point (the Perućac Lake, 1km downstream from the dam, opening hours during summer – daily from 9am to 5pm). Most of the staff speak English and some Italian and German. Promotional materials are available in Serbian and English. Souvenirs can be bought at the Visitor Centre and Perućac information point, as well as at shops and counters within the park.



Out of 53 species of mammals to have been found and registered on the Tara Mountain, the most attractive is the brown bear (the area has the largest population in Serbia) and chamois, which live at an altitude of up to 290m/asl.



NATURE PARK

ŠARGAN - MOKRA GORA

Photodocumentation: "Park prirode Mokra Gora" d.o.o.



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The Šargan - Mokra Gora Nature Park is located in Western Serbia, Zlatibor District, in the municipality of Užice. An engaging mountain landscape, interesting watercourses – creeks, rivulets, mineral water springs – peat bogs, lush forests and meadows, rich flora and fauna with many rare, endemic, relict and protected species, characteristic and prolific architecture were good enough reasons for this 10,814ha area to be put under protection.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mokra Gora is known for its exceptional geo-heritage. Here guests have the Beli Rzav Canyon, the stone formation Đavolja Pećina (The Devil's Cave), Hajdučka Pećina (The Brigand Cave), the Veliki Skakavac waterfall, peat bogs, sinkholes, underground streams, speleothems, sulphur water, alkaline springs, salty springs and Late Cretaceous lime-

stone with fossils. There are also rivulets Beli Rzav, Kamešina and Bratešina, as well as many springs and creeks. Plant species are numerous - oak, beech, red and white pine, spruce and fir forests. The vegetation found on meadows, pastures, amongst rocks and screens is very characteristic. The following plant species in the park are considered endemic - Wood Stitchwort, Lady's Mantle, Yugoslav bellflower, Pančić sow-thistle, Pančić Spurge, Balkans moor grass and others. The most prominent fauna species in the park are bear, bobcat, chamois, wolf, hare, otter, roe, badger, the southern white-breasted hedgehog and wild boar etc. The most important bird species here are the golden eagle, the short-toed snake eagle, the long-legged buzzard, the rock partridge, the corn crake, the common kingfisher, the Ural owl, the long-eared owl and others. The area is known for its ethno-heritage and traditional Old Vlach log cabins.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The park is 23km from Višegrad, 51km from Užice, 101km from Valjevo, 110km from Čačak and 255km from Belgrade. Guests can reach Mokra Gora by bus, car or bicycle. The Užice-Višegrad regional road runs through



the protected area. There are also regular bus services. The area is on the bicycle route map.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The Drvengrad Hotel (4*) is located in an ethno-cultural-tourist complex called Drvengrad on Mečavnik, which is the main tourist gathering spot. The hotel has log cabins for tourists, catering facilities, exhibition space, cinema, swimming pool, sports grounds, seminar hall and a nursery. An entrance fee is charged. The Čarobni Breg inn, situated near the National Ecological Centre, has accommodation, a cafe bar, a kitchen and a restaurant.

The Mladost Mountain Lodge, located on Iver, has a restaurant and a cafe bar. There is also a cafe bar and a restaurant at the railway station in Mokra Gora, as well as the Jatare restaurant.

WHAT TO DO?

Walking: The European walking trail E7 and four local trails, with a total length of 49.5km, run through the nature park. There are organized walking tours with a tour guide. More information can be obtained in Drvengrad and at the National Ecological Centre. The best period for walking is from April to October. All trails are marked, and can be covered in a few hours (2 to 5) of relatively slow walking.

Cycling: There are three bicycle paths with a total length 97.6km. The bicycle route map has the QR Code for Smartphones (www.mapa.iz.rs/?ruta=zs-mgor-mg1).

Bird watching: Hides are located near the Šumarska Kuća in Sargan, on Gornji Krst, Vukov Osoje, Brezovice, Bratešina Dugout, Osječina and Ogradenica.

Recreational fishing: Permits can be obtained from the park's manager.

Excursions: The Bele Vode resort has several beaches on the river Kamešina, a restaurant and a souvenir shop.



Adventure: jeep and photo safaris.

Skiing: On the Iver peak, 8km from Drvengrad. There are four Alpine skiing slopes (red and black category) with a total length of 5km. Guests will have to buy a ski pass and it is possible to rent skis.

Swimming: Drvengrad has a swimming pool and the River Kamišna has suitable beaches.

Riding on the Šarganska Osmica train: Guests can take this old train to tour the park.

Events. The film and music festival Kustendorf, the International Children Folklore Festival, the Svibor Knight Tournament, the celebration of Mokra Gora's patron saint, celebrations in Kršanja and Kotroman and international ski competitions for junior skiers etc.

VISITOR CENTRE

The National Ecological Centre is 8km from the Drvengrad tourist complex. The Centre has an inn open 24 hours a day. Its educational section has classrooms that can take up to 25 students, a conference hall and offices. The staff speak English, German, Italian and French. If guests come by car, guests will have to pay an entrance fee either at the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina or when guests make your visit to Drvengrad on Mečavnik.



Plant species are numerous - oak, beech, red and white pine, spruce and fir forests.



LANDSCAPE OF EXTRAORDINARY CHARACTERISTICS

OVČAR-KABLAR GORGE

Photodocumentation: Čačak Tourist Organization



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The Ovčar-Kablar Gorge (Ovčarsko-Kablar-ska Klisura) Landscape of Extraordinary Characteristics is located in central Serbia, covering the municipalities of Čačak and Lučani. The Western Morava River has formed a gorge between the mountains Ovčar and Kablar.

DID YOU KNOW?

The most impressive natural feature is striking mountain ranges Ovčar and Kablar. The gorge is 1km long. The Western Morava River has three meanders, with the first two considered geo-morphological phenomena – goose-neck meanders. The Banjski Creek, the right confluent, has many small waterfalls. The gorge is the habitat of many animal species, including Hermann's tortoise, the European pond turtle, the fire salamander, the European pine marten, the beech marten, badger, bobcat, otter and others. There are also different plant species, many of them relict, such as the smoketree, common hornbeam, oriental

hornbeam, lime, manna ash, mezereon and spurge laurel. There are nine medieval monasteries situated on the river banks, unique because of the location and the time period in which they were built. There are also three sanctums – chapels. All of them combine to create a unique entity of twelve sanctuaries of the Serbian Mount Athos. The gorge also boasts the Ovčar Spa, known for its medicinal mineral water springs used in the treatment of muscle trauma, rheumatism, sport injuries and skin diseases.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The gorge is approximately 160km from Belgrade and 8km from Čačak. Visitors can reach it by car, bus, train or bicycle. There are regular bus lines from Čačak, Belgrade, Kragujevac and Niš. Guests can also take a train (along the Belgrade-Bar railway) or cycle via the M5 main road (E761). Taxi services can also bring visitors from Čačak or Pože-

ga. There are several parking areas along the main road, while at Međuvršje and Ovčar Spa – are free.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Ovčar Spa has the Kablar wellness centre boasts a restaurant. There are also resorts in Ovčar Spa and Međuvršje, along with inns, a camp, a mountain lodge and many private accommodation facilities. Ovčar Spa has a rehabilitation hospital that is open from May to October. The restaurants serve national meat, dairy and fish dishes. The Ovčar Spa camp has 36 beds in 13 bungalows and 40 camping spots.

WHAT TO DO?

Walking/hiking: There are nine marked trails with lengths ranging from 2.75km to 6km, with an altitude difference up to 720m. The total length is around 50km. The following hiking routes are available: Ovčar Spa–Kablar peak–Ovčar Spa or Ovčar Spa–Ovčar peak–Ovčar Spa. The trails run next to several monasteries and each mountain peak has its own view point.

Cycling: bike lovers can opt from several cyc-

ling tracks that vary in length from 25km to 50km.

Horse riding: there are three different paths–20km, 30km and 43km long.

Recreational fishing: fishing permits can be obtained from the gorge's manager.

Sailing: There are organized sailing trips along the meanders of the Western Morava through the Ovčar-Kablar Gorge and on Međuvršje Lake, with a panoramic sightseeing tour of the Nikolje and Uspenje monasteries (with optional visits to the monasteries).

Adventure: rock climbing and mountaineering are possible. Required equipment can be hired from the Armadillo Extreme Sports Club and the Kablar Mountain Club.

Sports and recreational tourism: Ovčar Spa has outdoor sports grounds, while the Kablar wellness centre has both outdoor and indoor swimming pools.

Excursions: visits to Blagoveštenje, Nikolje, Jovanje and Uspenje monasteries (on the slopes of Kablar Mountain) and Vavedenje, Vaznesenje, Preobraženje, Sv. Trojica and Sretenje (on the slopes of Ovčar Mountain), as well as to churches Ilinje and Kadjenica, the cave church and the St. Sava Church situated in a cave on Kablar Mountain.

Entertainment: During summer there are musical events, literary evenings, theatre plays, exhibitions and sporting events at Ovčar Spa.

VISITOR CENTRE

Guests can obtain information on attractive localities, accommodation, catering facilities and events from the Čačak Tourist Organization and Ovčar Spa (+381 (0)32 559 6366). Opening hours are weekdays from 8am to 8pm. Staff members speak English. Guests can also obtain tourist brochures in Serbian, English, German, Russian, French and Italian. Fees are charged for organized visits. Ovčar Spa also has a souvenir shop.



The Banjski Creek, the right confluent, has many attractive small waterfalls.



NATURE PARK GOLIJA

Photodocumentation: P.E "Srbijašume"



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Golija Nature Park is located in Southwest Serbia's Raška District. It comprises the Golija mountain range, which rises from 415m to an altitude of 1,833m. The area is covered in oak, beech, fir and spruce forests. The highest peak is Jankov Kamen (1,833m/asl), which offers outstanding views of the vast forests, meadows and pastures. In 2001 UNESCO declared this nature park the "Golija-Studenica" Biosphere Reserve. This protected area covers 75,183ha.

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the main characteristics of Golija is the great number of springs, creeks and rivers. There are many gorges on its northern side, with Studenica and Izubra, which has three outstanding small waterfalls. The park has beautiful peat bogs and lakes, with the biggest lakes being Košaninovo and Dajičko. Most of the park is forested. Golija is the habitat of the Balkan maple and beech. Some parts of

the forests could come under the category of jungle. There are over 1,100 registered plant species in the park, with many of them relict or endemic. Golija is home to many mammals, such as the lesser mole rat, Alpine shrew, bear, wolf and fox. Golija also has over 45 very rare bird species. Golija's special cultural and historical value lies in its monasteries. The Studenica Monastery is included on UNESCO's World Heritage List. It was built by the Great Prefect Stefan Nemanja in the 12th C. Studenica is one of the most beautiful Serbian monasteries, the endowment of the Nemanjić dynasty, the most important centre of the Serbian medieval state and one of the most beautiful monuments built in the Raška style. There is also the Gradac Monastery, with the 13th C. St. Annunciation Church, the endowment of Helen of Anjou – a French princess and wife of King Uroš. The first ever girls school was opened at this Monastery. There is also the Pridvorica Monastery, dating from the 12th C., and several others.



HOW TO GET THERE?

Golija Nature Park is 258km from Belgrade, 98km from Užice and 20km from Ivanjica. It can be accessed by train, bus, car or bike. The area is covered by the Euro Velo 6 cycle route.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The Bele Vode Visitors Centre has two three-bed apartments.

The Golijska Reka mountain lodge provides accommodation for hunters.

There are also mountain lodges on the slopes of the Vrhovi Golije Mountain.

For more information please visit www.golija.rs.

WHAT TO DO?

Walking: a walking tour to Lake Košaninovo is advisable.

Hiking: the Golija Mountain Climbing Association organizes hiking tours. It also provides accommodation and a tour guide for groups of up to 15 people, though a fee is charged (www.golija.rs).

Excursions: trips to localities such as Rudno, Studenica, Česta Vrela, Jankov Kamen, and Mlanca 'The Tree of Love'. There are gazebos with benches, tables and water fountains.

Recreational fishing: permits can be obtained from public enterprise "Srbijašume".

Hunting: the Golija hunting grounds are located south of Ivanjica. They cover 32,507ha and guests can hunt wild boar, roe deer and wolf.

Skiing: the Ski Centre is 35km from Ivanjica at an altitude of 1,350m/asl. The ski slope is 450m long. The centre has a ski lift and 50 sets of skis for teaching skiing on the Dajica Hill.

Adventure: paragliding on Lisca, Trnava, Odvracenica and several other terrains (The Golija Paragliding Club, www.para-golija.org.rs).

Tour the monasteries of Studenica, Gradac, Pridvorica and Kovilje.

THE BELE VODE VISITOR CENTRE

This centre is near Ivanjica, where guests can obtain more information about the Golija Nature Park. Specialised and educational tours can be organized upon request. The tours are led by a guide and should be booked in advance.



Golija is the habitat of the Balkan maple and beech. Some parts of the forests could come under the category of jungle.



NATURAL MONUMENT

POTPEĆE CAVE

Photodocumentation: Užice Tourist Organization



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The Potpeće Cave (Potpećka Pećina) Natural Monument is located in the Zlatibor District near Užice, in the village of Potpeće. It is quite unique, with a monumental entrance shaped like a horse shoe.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Potpeće Cave was shaped by underground streams flowing downstream in the Drežnic Valley, later emerging in a cave or a springhead as a cave river called Petnica. The entrance to the cave is 50m high and it is one of the tallest cave entrances in Serbia and the Balkans. The cave has two floors with 12 separate compartments. It is presumed that the first inhabitants of the cave were Neolithic people. Archaeological remnants of ceramic dishes, processed deer antlers and flint tools have been found here.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The cave is about 190km from Belgrade and 14 km from Užice. It can be accessed by car, bus or train, which stops at Zlakusa just 2km from the cave. There are also regular bus lines (Užice–Zlakusa–Požega) and train services (Užice–Zlakusa–Požega–Belgrade).

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

In the village of Potpeće guests will find restaurants that serve fish and local dishes, as well as an ethno-park. There are also restaurants and accommodation to be found in the village of Zlakusa. In Zlakusa visitors can also buy pottery items made by the famous Zlakusa potters. In the village of Potpeće there is a small camp that has additional infrastructure and can accommodate up to 10 tents. The Roška Spa is only 5km



up the mountain trail, which takes guests directly to the cave. Guests can also find hotel accommodation in the nearby towns of Užice and Požega.

WHAT TO DO?

Sightseeing: specialised and educational tours of the cave.

Surrounding area: walking – marked trails that are over 50km long. Hiking with the Rujno Mountain Climbing Club (+381 (0)65 5000 622), cycling, more information can be obtained from the club 'Sports for all' (+381 (0)60 3230 379), adventure sports like free climbing and paragliding, KBES 'Soko' (+381 (0)64 3481 232), and field trips to the monument on Gradina, Vesala, the Roška Spa and Terzića Avlija.

VISITOR CENTRE

Tour guides have information point located in front of the entrance to the cave in the village of Potpeće. Here visitors can obtain all sorts of information, book tour guides and buy brochures in Serbian and English, as well as maps and souvenirs. The tour guides (+381 (0)63 585 304) work from 10am to 6pm every day from April to November. The Tourist and Information Centre in Užice (+381 (0)31 500 555) can provide information about the cave or a tour guide and brochures, maps and souvenirs.

NATURAL MONUMENT STOPIĆ CAVE

The Stopić Cave (Stopića Pećina) Natural Monument is one of the biggest caves in Serbia to have been thoroughly explored. It is located in the Zlatibor District on the left bank of the River Prištavica. Due to its morphological and hydrological features, including tufa terraces and preserved endemic cave insects, Stopića Cave has been granted protected area status.

DID YOU KNOW?

Stopića Cave is actually a river cave that is traversed by the Trnavski Creek. It is approximately 1,700m deep, though only the first 240m is suitable for tourist visits. The cave is divided into five chambers: the Light Hall, the Dark Hall, the Great Terrace Hall, the Terrace Canal and the River Canal. The Light Hall is a magnificent entranceway with a 630m² cavity. The Dark Hall is the highest chamber equipped with wooden bridges. The tufa terraces of the Terrace Hall are attractive and represent the trademark of the cave. The terraces are flooded for most of the year, while the River Canal includes the Source of Life Waterfall.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The cave is 250km from Belgrade, 30km from Užice and 19km from the centre of Mount Zlatibor village. From the direction of Užice it is located between the villages of Rožanstvo, Trnava and Sirogojno, while guests arriving via the regional road will find it between the villages of Zlatibor and Gostilje. The cave area can be accessed by car, but there are also local bus lines from Užice and organized coach transport. Close to the cave is a free parking area for buses and cars.



Photodocumentation: Zlatibor Tourist Organization

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Hotels, restaurants, cafe bars, rural tourist facilities, spas, congress facilities, as well as children's areas and hunting tourism facilities, are located in tourist centres of Sirogojno and Zlatibor, as well as souvenirs and locally-produced products.

WHAT TO DO?

Specialised educational tours are organized upon request.

Excursions: the Sirogojno and Zlatibor tourist centres have sport grounds, swimming areas and pools, wellness centres, ski slopes, an ice skating rink, walking, cycling, mountain and horse riding tracks and picnic areas. All excursions set off from Zlatibor's tourist centre.

VISITOR CENTRE

The Tourist Organization has a stand near the entrance to the cave. Here visitors can obtain brochures in both Serbian and English. Tour guides are constantly present. English speaking tour guide is available, if booked in advance (+381 (0)31 583 377). An entrance fee is charged.

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SPECIAL NATURE RESERVE

UVAC



PHOTO: Dragan BOSNIĆ

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The Uvac Special Nature Reserve is located in Southwest Serbia's Zlatibor District. It is comprised of the gorge of the river Uvac and its subsidiaries. The reserve spans an area of 7,543ha and is located at an altitude of between 760 and 1,322m/asl, on the right and left side of the river's gorge. The area is unique due to its colony of very rare and scarce species of bird of prey – the Griffon Vulture – which has a wingspan of up to three meters. This carnivorous bird has an important place in the food chain here.

DID YOU KNOW?

This attractive gorge has many meanders and high cliffs. There is the longest cave system in

Serbia – the Ušac Limestone System – which is 6,185m long. The Tubića Cave is also outstandingly beautiful. Apart from the Griffon Vulture, the Reserve is also home to the Golden Eagle, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Common Merganser, Peregrine Falcon, Wallcreeper, Eurasian Eagle-Owl and Common Kingfisher. In the last few years the two species of the Griffon Vulture – the Black Vulture and the Egyptian Vulture – have returned to the reserve to nest. The most prominent representatives of mammals here are bat and otter, which has found its place on the European Red List, as well as wolf, wild boar, bear and roe deer. The 17th C. Dubnica Monastery is very close to the reserve in the village of Božetići. There are also wooden churches in the villages of Radijevići and Peti, in addition to the 17th C. Janja Monastery, located in the village of Rutoši.

HOW TO GET THERE?

This reserve is approximately 50km from Užice, 200km from Kragujevac and Sarajevo and 260km from Belgrade. It can be accessed by car, bus and bicycle. There are daily bus lines from Nova Varoš and Sjenica. The nearest railway station is in the village of Bištrica, municipality of Nova Varoš, which is 25km from the reserve.



PHOTO: Darko ČIROVIĆ

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The reserve does not have any hotels and motels, but a Visitor Centre with accommodation is soon to be completed. There are several households engaged in rural tourism and many more nearby. These households are famous for traditional local dishes and drinks, homemade juice and brandy. There are several restaurants and bars near the reserve. Guests can get necessary information from the Zlatar Tourist and Sport Centre (www.zlatar.org.rs) and Sjenica Tourist Organization (www.turizam.sjenica.com).

WHAT TO DO?

Walking: a walking trail of around 40km runs around Uvac Lake. A walking trail near Zlatar Lake (20km) is currently being prepared.

Specialised and educational tours for school children and students are organized upon request. The tours are dedicated to protecting, preserving and developing this protected area. The best time to tour is from April to October.

Cycling: Pedestrian paths can also be used for mountain biking.

Bird watching: there are several viewing points with fantastic views of the Uvac's meanders and the Griffon Vulture. The Molitva viewing point is located on the shores of Uvac Lake at an altitude of 1,234m/asl. Directly opposite is another viewing point – Veliki Vrh – at 1,200m/asl.

Boat and quattro-maran tours on Uvac, Zlatar and Radoinje lakes.

Swimming in crystal clean waters of the abovementioned lakes.

Visits to cave systems: In collaboration with Wild Serbia, there are walking tours through the Ušac Cave which is 6km long (www.wild-serbia.com).

Recreational fishing: Permits can be obtained from the Reserve's manager.



PHOTO: Dragan BOSNIĆ

Hunting: information on hunting and hunting tourism can be obtained from hunting associations Kozomor from Nova Varoš and Vrhovi from Sjenica.

Adventure: kayaking, jeep safari, scuba diving and photo-safari.

Skiing on the Zlatar Mountain: Information can be obtained from the Zlatar Tourist and Sport Centre and Sjenica Tourist Organization.

Visits to cultural, historic and religious monuments in Nemanjić Town on Uvac Lake, and the churches in the village of Štitkovo and other villages.

Events: the Radoinjsko Lake Regatta in August. Fishing competition.

VISITOR CENTRE

The Visitor Centre is located in Kokin Brod, near the Zlatar Lake dam. Guests can buy here maps of the reserve and souvenirs, as well as obtain fishing permits and book sightseeing tours by boat, catamaran, car, bike or on foot. An entrance fee is charged. Guests can also obtain necessary information at the entrance to Uvac Lake, from the Markova Ravan locality, as well as in the locality of Rastoke, which is very close to Uvac and Zlatar lakes. Promotional materials can be obtained from the manager of the protected area in Nova Varoš.



PHOTO: Jaroslav PAP

The area is unique due to its colony of very rare and scarce species of bird of prey – the Griffon Vulture



PHOTO: Rade PRELIĆ

REGIONAL NATURE PARK

MILEŠEVKA RIVER GORGE

Photodocumentation: Serbian Institute for Nature Conservation, Nenad SEKULIĆ



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The Mileševka River Gorge (Klisure Reke Mileševke) Regional Nature Park is located in south-western Serbia, in municipality of Prijepolje. The River Mileševka runs through mountain ranges Zlatar and Jadovnik where it forms wild limestone cliffs.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Mileševka River Gorge is 24km long and 1,230m deep. In some places, it is only 4m wide. There are a total of 581 plant species growing here which makes 15% of the total number of herbal species and sub-species in Serbia. The Gorge is the home to spruce and winter heath, autochthonous sweet chestnut and beech forests, as well as mixed forests of sweet chestnut and pine and sweet chestnut and common hornbeam. Also, there are 30 endemic taxa. The gorge is a sanctuary for many animals – roe, chamois, bear, otter, the Griffon Vulture, the Golden Eagle, the Short-Toed Snake Eagle, the Peregrine Falcon and many other nationally and globally protected species. At the entrance of

the Gorge, there is the Mileševa Monastery with the burial church of St. Sava. Until 1594, the relics of the most important Serbian saint Sava were kept there. The Monastery is also famous for the renowned icon “Beli Anđeo” (The White Angel). Only two kilometres from the monastery, there is the medieval town of Mileševac which dates back to the 13th C. The nature’s reserve Ravnište is also located in the Gorge.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The area of the Gorge is 6km east of Prijepolje which is situated near the border with Montenegro. It is 300km from Belgrade, 200km from Podgorica and 180km from Sarajevo. Visitors can get to Prijepolje by Ibar motorway and Belgrade - Bar railway and take a car or a bus to the protected area.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The Mileševa Monastery has an inn. Visitors can also find accommodation in Prijepolje. More information can be obtained from the Prijepolje Tourist Organization (www.turizam-prijepolje.org.rs).

WHAT TO DO?

Walking: Walking tour Zlatar - Međanska River - Mileševka is approximately 28km long, the ascend is 790m long and is of medium difficulty. The Sopotnica-Divljaci-Kačevo-Kumrijina Česma-the Mileševka Canyon- the Mileševa Monastery mountain trail is 18km long. The trail runs through a vivid part of the gorge where guests can descend all the way to the banks of the Mileševka River. The trail is of medium difficulty, but guests should be careful and always listen to the instructions from the guide.

The Sopotnica-Divljaci-Kačevo-Hisardžik-Savina Isposnica- the Mileševa Monastery-Kamen Gora mountain trail is also 18km long. Guests will take an ancient caravan road which used to connect Dubrovnik to Constantinople. Guests can also visit the remnants of the medieval fortress Mileševac, a mosque in Hisardžik (which has a 400-year-old copy of the Quran), the St. Sava spring which is located in monk anchorite chambers under Mileševac and the medieval monastery of Mileševa.

Hiking: Mountain trail (5km) starts just beneath of the last tunnel of an abandoned road route. After Ravnište, it continues along the Međanska River to the village of Pockvine and further on to the village of Aljinovici.

Excursions: The Prijepolje Tourist Organizations organizes field trips from May to October.

Visits to the Mileševa Monastery, the medieval town of Mileševac, the anchorite chambers of St. Sava and Hisardžik. Souvenirs and local products can be bought near the Mileševa Monastery.



Photodocumentation: PE "Srbijašume"

The Gorge is the home to spruce and winter heath, autochthonous sweet chestnut and beech forests, as well as mixed forests of sweet chestnut and pine and sweet chestnut and common hornbeam.



NATURAL MONUMENT

SOPOTNICA FALLS



Photodocumentation:
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The Sopotnica Falls (Slapovi Sopotnice) Natural Monument is located in southwest Serbia's Zlatibor District, on the territory of the municipality of Prijepolje, and on the River Sopotnica located within western slopes of Mount Jadovnik.

DID YOU KNOW?

This natural monument starts at the source of the River Sopotnica, which has several permanent and intermittent springs that form rivulets. The Sopotnica, which eventually merges with the River Lim, is characterised by the great difference in altitude from its low estuary (465m/asl) and its highest spring (1,150m/asl). The morphological and hydrological value is its four karst springs, several water sources and seven flattened, fan-like, cascades of falling water and numerous falls flowing over the edges of the sinter terraces, creating picturesque waterfalls and cascades. The Great Waterfall is undoubtedly one of the most attractive features, along with the old and revamped water mills. Sopotnica's flora comprises 62 species of moss, which is considered a great degree of biodiversity for such a small area.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The Sopotnica Falls are 21km from Prijepolje, 170km from Podgorica and 310km from Bel-

grade. Visitors can reach this area by bus, car and bicycle. A local cycle route passes through the area, while free parking is available near the Jadovnik Mountain Lodge.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The Mountain Lodge offers accommodation in the form of a fully-equipped adjacent campsite. Restaurants serving traditional fare are located at the rural farms of Miloš Ljujić, Slaviša Janjušević, Predrag Tmušić and Branko Ljujić.

WHAT TO DO?

Walking/hiking: the circular tour is very easy to traverse. It lasts three hours and includes a tour of the falls. The Sopotnica-Jadovnik-Katunić-Sopotnica tour is of medium difficulty and takes 6.5 hours, while the highly difficult Sopotnica-Mileševka Canyon-Mileševa Monastery walking tour takes eight hours to complete.

Mountaineering: the area has a total of 53km of mountain trails.

Cycling: bicycle routes through the area cover a total of 40km.

Excursions: field trips are recommended to Sopotnica's traditional water mills.

VISITOR CENTRE

The Mountain Lodge acts as a visitor centre and is located at the very entrance to the protected area. Here guests can find promotional materials and locally manufactured souvenir products. Information is available in both Serbian and Russian. Specialised educational tours are organized upon request.

