

ABOUT THE POKLJUKA GORGE



The almost 2 km long and up to 50 m deep Pokljuka Gorge (Pokljuska soteska), cut into the limestone deposits, was carved by the former glacier river running from the melting Pokljuka Glacier. It created the largest fossil gorge in Slovenia. Because there is no water permanently running, the trail runs along the dry stream of the former river, at the end of the gorge it leads via the hanging wooden galleries through a narrow area one-metre-wide. The 4-km-long circular trail can be walked from the upper side, i.e. from the hamlet of Zatrnik at 906 m altitude, or from the lower side, i.e. from the area of the village of Krnica near Zgornje Gorje and starts at Jela at an altitude of 650 metres.

Visiting the gorge in bad weather or in winter conditions is not recommended. There is a risk of falling rocks from the overhanging and high walls.

YOUR STEP MATTERS. IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH, BUT MAKES A GREAT DIFFERENCE.

Harsh climate, young and shallow soil, and crumbly limestone rocks foster the growth of alpine flora. The sturdy vegetation along mountain and other trails is adapted to the demanding conditions of this high-altitude terrain. Attentive visitors who appreciate and respect the sensitive and fragile mountain environment observe the nature conservation, management, and aesthetic guidelines of mountain visitation and refrain from walking outside designated paths.



Hodite po označenih poteh. Stay on trails. Varujmo tla. Protect the soils.

THROUGH THE POKLJUKA GORGE



1 RIBŠČICA GORGE

This 2-km-long gorge was carved in the solid limestone by the torrential glacial rivers, running from the tips of the Pokljuka Glacier approximately 10,000 years ago, during the warming period at the end of the last Ice Age. The Pokljuka Gorge is also called the Ribščica Gorge. Its name originates from the Ribščica brook which runs through the gorge in rainy periods.

2 WATERS

Induced by extreme precipitation, torrent water runs in the area of the gorge, even forming a waterfall in the side valley. Otherwise, a small brook emerges in the lower parts of the gorge, at the starting point of the gorge in Jela. The brook soon disappears below the gravel and bursts to the surface right before running to the bottom of the valley of Radovna.

3 HIGH WALLS

Steep and in some places even overhanging limestone rocks are up to 50 m high and up to 150 m high in the lower part of the gorge. There is only about a metre's distance between them in the narrowest sections, and in many places, they almost touch one another. The walls are made of grey limestones with dark cherts that deposited at the bottom of the deep sea more than 200 million years ago. The Slovenian Geological Trail also runs through the gorge.

4 POKLJUKA HOLE

This is a cave hall with two entrances and three windows. For many centuries, the path to Stara Pokljuka and across the meadows to the Pokljuka plateau has turned through this hole. It is the shortest passage from Gorje to Pokljuka. A typical feature of the Pokljuka Hole is a naturally carved deck, which the local people named "Priznica" (pulpit).



5 MAGNIFICENT WORLD OF PLANTS

The conditions in the valley of the gorge are similar to the conditions typical for a frost hollow with high humidity level; therefore, some plant species can be found in the gorge at a relatively lower altitude than usual. At the beginning of the gorge, you can find goat's beard, perennial honesty, drooping bittercress ... At a higher altitude, there are many small and cushion-like plants such as Bursar, shield-leaved and round-leaved saxifrage, mountain cowslip, Scheuchzer's bellflower and many more.



Mountain cowslip
Primula auricula

An evergreen perennial that grows in rocky crevices. It blooms from March to July.

6 ALPINE MEADOWS

Many typical meadows span above the Pokljuka Hole, and most of them carry their own name: "Janezov rovt", "Pustovo polje" ... Cattle and sheep are grazed at the start and end of summer, thus significantly contributing to the preservation of cultural landscape and biodiversity.

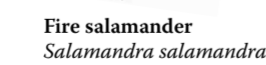


7 FAUNA DIVERSITY

The forests in this area offer shelter to many animal species: roe deer, red deer, chamois, mouflon, fox, badger, dormouse and many birds.



Red fox
Vulpes vulpes



Fire salamander
Salamandra salamandra

8 FOREST

The forests in the area of the Pokljuka Gorge have an emphasised protective function; therefore, they are not managed and are subject to natural development. The forests comprise various forest associations: beech, fir, spruce and sycamore maple, as well as European hop-hornbeam and manna ash scrubs with individual alpine laburnums.



European hop-hornbeam
Ostrya carpinifolia



9 VRTCI

The special feature of the gorge are large expanded areas, called "vrta" (garden-plots). Three of them are most pronounced: Plezalni vrtec, Osrednji vrtec and Zadnji vrtec. After passing the Zadnji vrtec, the path runs over a former charcoal burning mound.

10 OSTRICH FERN

The humid and cold conditions make this area the perfect habitat for ferns and spleenworts. The ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) with dimorphic fronds – for photosynthesis and reproduction via spores – is quite the eye catcher.



11 GALLERIES OF PRINCE ANDREW

In the high wall of the narrowest part of the gorge, 35-metre-long technically complex galleries were constructed in the vertical wall in 1930. This shortened the path from the valley of Radovna towards Mrzli Studenec. They were named after Yugoslav Prince Andrew. His father's hunters and beaters searched for places where deer managed to escape them in the gorge.

12 ZATRNİK

A circular trail runs through the gorge enabling you to see this beautiful feature in all its glory. Near the Galleries, the path branches off towards the hamlet of Zatrnik.

13 NATURAL BRIDGE

A high rock arch, called the Great Natural Bridge (Veliki naravni most), is 24 metres high and about 3 metres wide in the middle.



SAFELY TO THE MOUNTAINS - RULES OF CONDUCT IN TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK

Triglav National Park is the only national park in Slovenia. Visitors are only guests in this beautiful and sensitive natural environment and cultural landscape. Welcome!

The Pokljuka Gorge is a natural monument of national importance.

Be considerate visitors who take nothing except for memories and data stored on memory sticks.

Leave your vehicle in a designated car park. Use public transport.

Weather in the mountains is very changeable. Make sure the tour is suitable to your physical and mental fitness. Bring a change of clothes, wear hiking shoes, and carry an adequate supply of water.

Before setting off, obtain the relevant information on the conditions of paths and trails, available mountain huts and bivouacs, and the weather. In case of an accident call 112.

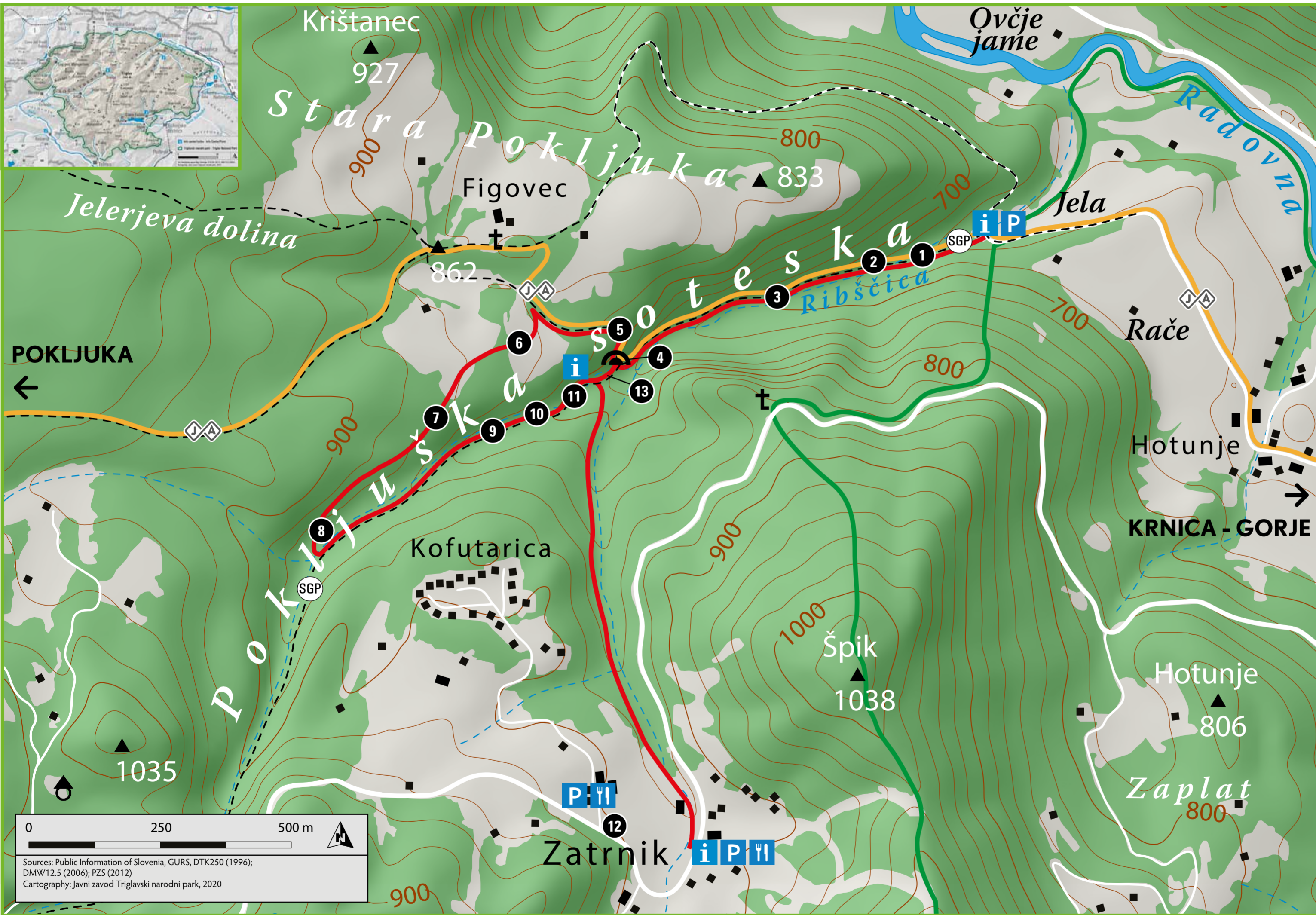
As respectful visitors, make sure the area remains a place of peace and quiet for residents and visitors.

Respect the habitats of animals and plants. Admire them in such a way that you do not disturb them, because they are as unique as you.

Visitors are not allowed to spend the night outside designated areas. Plentiful accommodation is provided at mountain huts.

Attentive visitors appreciate the fragile natural environment and keep to designated trails. High risk of slipping on steep terrain.

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