



BJELOVAR
& Bilogora

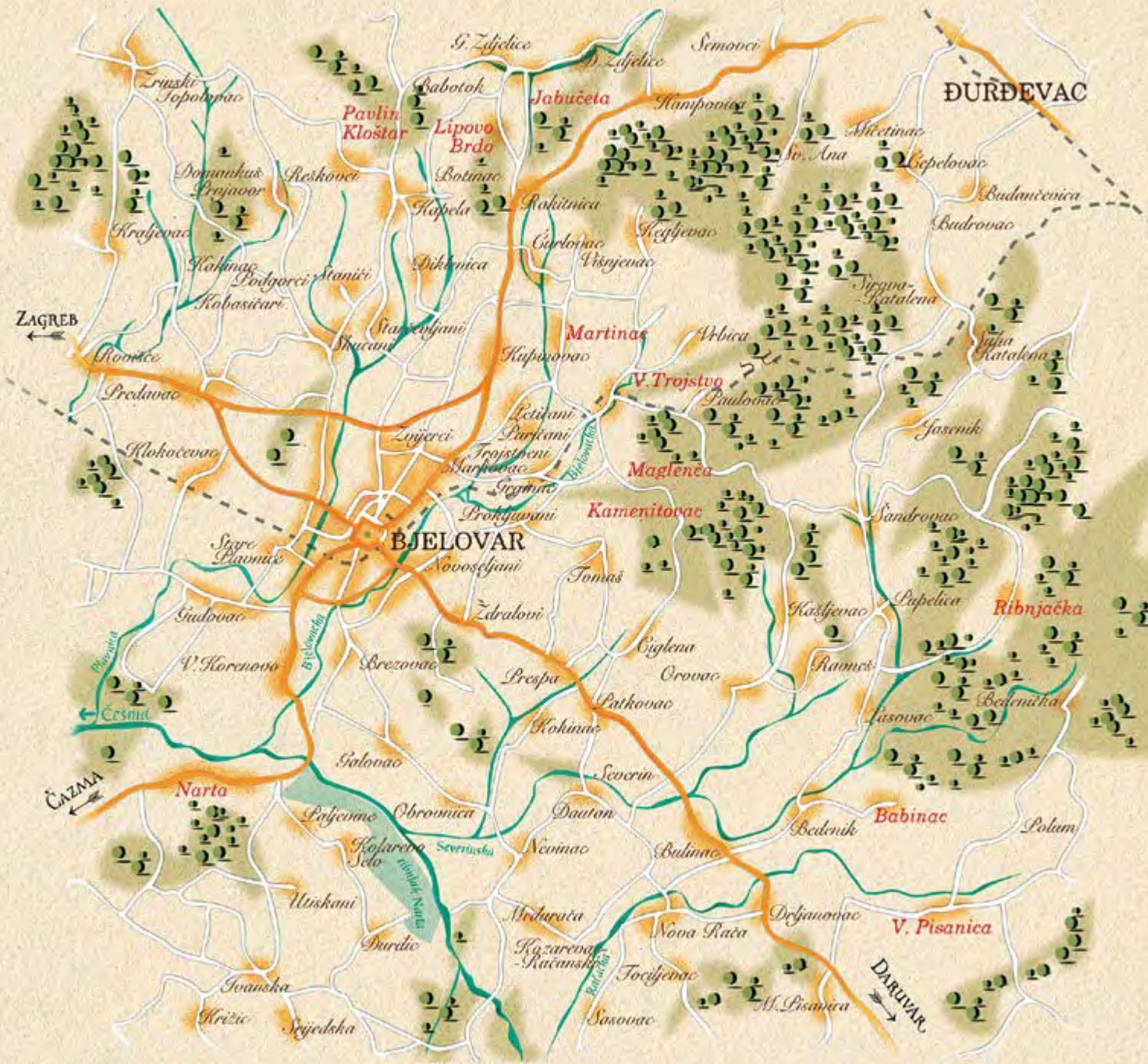


www.turizam-bilogorabjelovar.com.hr

Founded as the City of Bjelovar Tourist Board, today the Bilogora-Bjelovar Tourist Board operates in the area of the City of Bjelovar and the municipals: Kapela, Nova Rača, Rovišće, Severin, Šandrovac, Veliki Grđevac, Velika Pisanica, Veliko Trojstvo and Zrinski Topolovac.

For more than 20 years, we have been promoting and advancing inland tourism, and the tourist catalogue in front of you, came about so as to familiarise you with the cultural and natural heritage of the Bjelovar-Bilogora region.

Bilogora-Bjelovar Tourist Board





BJELOVAR
& Bilogora

Tourist Board for the Bilogora – Bjelovar Region, 2018.



Welcome to Bjelovar and Bilogora!

This tourist catalogue enables us to familiarize you with Bjelovar, one of the youngest cities in the Republic of Croatia, as well as the municipalities and settlements on the green hills of Bilogora that surround it. If the heart is a symbol of love, and its heartbeats, its pulse, the symbol of life, then Bjelovar geographically positioned between two rivers, the Bjelovac and Plavnica, and embracing the fertile and wooded Bilogora region, is one of the strongest Bilogora heartbeats.

Explore Bjelovar, the largest city in and the centre of the Bjelovar-Bilogora County, and also the centre of the Diocese of Bjelovar-Križevci. When you discover all the city's heartbeats, get to know the geometric regularity of its streets, the you will walk along the village roads, forest paths and wine-producing hills, and let your heart guide you to the most beautiful Bilogora panoramas. You will come across wonderful views, farms, wine roads, wineries and outdoor retreats, including dear and hospitable people.



BJELOVAR

the pulse of history



The area of today's City of Bjelovar and its wider surroundings has been inhabited since ancient times, and from the ruins found in several localities, we know that the Starčevo, Korenovo and Sopot cultures had existed there. During the period and expansion of the Roman Empire, this region became an integral part of the Roman province of Pannonia. The Romans are not remembered only for their military power and political intrigue, but also for their brilliant constructions, especially the roads linking the farthest places of their Empire. Several Roman roads also traversed our region, leading from Ptuj to Mursa, or what is known today as Osijek.

We do not have much information about the medieval organisation of the settlement nor the very life of the Bjelovar region. Only from a few later records written by the bishops in Zagreb can we learn about how this area was inhabited, its acceptance of Christianity and the establishment of its oldest parishes.

Coming from the East was a new powerful military – the Ottoman Empire. They also destroyed and plundered these parts; hence for the purpose of defending the inhabitants and the territory, defensive forts were built. Even as far back as 1495, records mention the fortress in today's Gudovec (castrum Gudowch). Given that the Ottoman Empire did not lessen its conquest endeavours, a series of new fortifications were built along the border to the Ottoman Empire. Although the name of the settlement Bélavár, Belovar, Beloblatje (Beloblaće) is mentioned in historical sources even much earlier, we cannot say with certainty whether the name actually refers to a settlement in today's Bjelovar area. The first credible mention of Bjelovar (Belovar) dates back to 1626. At that time, it was a fortress with a permanent military unit for the defence of the Croatian Military Frontier (*Vojna Krajina*).

A city can be established only at a location which is a crossroad of routes, where different

peoples and cultures meet, where everybody is able to leave their mark in history. It took a long time, wars and fatalities, as well as a rebellion by the border garrison of the Military Frontier for the Habsburg female ruler Maria Theresa to issue an order in 1756 for the establishment of Bjelovar as a military town. The construction of the town was entrusted to the Habsburg General Baron Philip Lewin Beck.

Since then, the Bjelovar story has unfolded, a story about a city that gradually transformed itself from a defensive city to a market as well as the economic and cultural centre of this part of our homeland. The city underwent full development for the demobilisation of the Croatian Military Frontier, and its area was restored to the administrative rule of the Croatian citizens. One of the important dates that should be mentioned is August 5, 1874, the day a law was enacted by the Parliament of the Kingdom of Croatia, Slavonia and Dalmatia proclaiming Bjelovar a free royal city.

1413. Belauar
 1200. Belablata
 1423. Beloblathye
 1483. Belovaracz
 1579. Belouac
 1611. WELLOVAR
 ~1700. Belovar
 9.11.1892. BJELOVAR

An interpretation of the name Bjelovar – Belovar (Ljerka Biondić)

Belovar means an oak forest planted on a marly soil. There is a type of oak called white oak (belo), where the name "bel" refers to the part between the bark and heartwood. "Var" refers to the marly soil (as it is called Zagorje). According to this theory, the name itself referred to a natural environment (an oak forest on marly soil) where a fort was built.

The legend of the origin of Bjelovar

What can certainly be said of Maria Theresa is that she was a brave and wise ruler, but she was also a beautiful woman, perhaps too aware of her needs. Once, while travelling through her great empire, she arrived into our region. It so happened that a wheel on her carriage broke, with no carriage craftsman nearby. While waiting for the carriage to be repaired so as to continue her

journey, she entertained herself with all the earthly pleasures. Happy and satisfied, she decided to set up a town right at that exact location. Indeed, today, there is a stucco on both sides of the entrance to the Bjelovar Cathedral in the form of a chariot to the empress's measure, to her satisfaction. But the real truth is that the founder of the city, Maria Theresa never actually visited the city which was established by her imperial decision.



Bjelovar – Novi Varaždin

When the city was founded, it was supposed to have the name of Novi Varaždin, but it was never widely accepted. It was only as late as November 9, 1892, that Bjelovar got its current name. It was modelled on the castrum – the Roman military camp. The rectangular shape of the very city centre which is still evident today, along with square blocks of houses and the central city square, was conceived on the model of the Renaissance fort, Taurine or Turin in Italy.

The Bjelovar Scandal

Long ago in 1888, in the vicinity of Bjelovar, major military manoeuvres were held by the Austro-Hungarian army. On that occasion, Bjelovar was visited by Emperor Franz Joseph I in the company of the Austrian heir to the throne, Rudolf, the English prince of Wales (the future king of England, Eduard VII), and the Croatian ban, Dragutin Khuen-Héderváry. As the emperor had been receiving Croatian dignitaries, he also received the Bosnian and Srijem Bishop, Josip Juraj Strossmayer, to whom he had objected of having sent a congratulatory message to Kiev on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the Christianisation of Kievan Rus'. In reply to the objection, the bishop replied, “No, my Majesty, I sent the telegram to Kiev in full awareness, my conscience is clear and completely at peace.” On account of the tone that the Bishop addressed the Emperor, journalists throughout the monarchy, and beyond, called this meeting a scandal, even high treason, and history will remember it as the Bjelovar Scandal.



Coat of arms of Bjelovar

Even on the older versions of the coat of arms of Bjelovar we can see a tower and soldiers, guards beside it. So it is that today's coat of arms originated from these historical scenes. The coat of arms has a motte, a square fortress with gun workshops, an arched gateway and a red roof. Standing next to the tower is a soldier - a frontier, and three tree stumps in front of the fort. There are numerous interpretations as to what these three stumps symbolise, from that of three officers – fort commanders (three voivodeships), to perhaps representing the place of the razed oak forest where the city was founded. Whatever symbolic interpretation of the coat of arms is accepted, it remains a symbol of Bjelovar, which is also found on the official white flag of the city.



Bjelovar-Bilogora County

Today's Bjelovar-Bilogora County was established on the foundations of the first Bjelovar County dating from 1871, and which was administered by the first great prefect, the poet Ivan Vitez Trnski. The decision by the Croatian Parliament in 1992 led to the establishment of the today's county with its centre in Bjelovar, and its first county prefect was Tihomir Trnski.



Bjelovar-Križevci Diocese

Based on the papal bull of Pope Benedict XVI dated December 5, 2009, the Bjelovar-Križevci Diocese was founded with Vjekoslav Huzjak appointed as its first bishop. The diocese was fully established through the execution of the papal bull on the established, and the ordination and installation of the first bishop, which took place on March 20, 2010. The Bjelovar Cathedral is the former church of St. Theresa of Avila, whereas the co-cathedral is in Križevci in the former church of the Holy Cross. The patron of the Diocese is St Mark Križevci.



The oldest Croatian Easter egg

The Bjelovar Museum has the oldest Croatian Easter egg which was found in the Gradina site in Gudovac, not far from Bjelovar. It is estimated to date back to 1470, and is decorated using a wax technique and geometrical ornaments.



Bjelovar frontier guards - Hussars 1756.

In memory of the city's military history, as well as of the rich cavalry tradition of the region, when only man's courage and loyalty as well as his horse could defend the homeland, a flamboyant military unit was established in 1756 called the Bjelovar border guards – the hussars, with a mandatory use of the Gidan breed of horse. They were first paraded on June 14, 2008, with the dedication of their official flag. Today, they are present at numerous cultural and tourist events throughout our homeland and abroad.



Gidran - the pride of the Pannonian Plain

The hussars, courageous and loyal soldiers - horsemen, were faithfully followed by and carried on their backs by these gaudy Gidran breed of horses. The Gidrans are a special breed of horse for cavalry military troops on the Pannonian Plains. They originated from the Hungarian place of Mezohegyes, in the Bábolna stud. The horse is originally an Arabian half-bred. The original progenitor was the Arabian full-bodied stallion Siglavy Gidran. It was crossed with mares of different origins. The Arrogante mare, of Naples-Spanish origin, gave birth to foals known as Gidran II, named after the progenitor of the breed. Today's Gidran horses draw their origins from that breed. Since 1855 they have been declared by the Habsburg Monarchy as military horses and have served in all cavalry units until the collapse of the Monarchy in 1919.





Barutana memorial area

Located at the entrance to the City of Bjelovar, in the Bedenik Forest, is the Barutana memorial area. The former Yugoslav People's Army had a magazine or munitions store (barutana) there. The liberation of the city began in the early morning of September 29, 1991. The Commander of the Yugoslav Army, Major Milan Tepić, refused to surrender to Croatian forces and at 10.40 am detonated the magazine which contained 170 tons of explosives. A mushroom cloud rose above the site of the exploded magazine. From the force of the detonation, a 200-meter radius of the nearby forest was obliterated, and the impact itself was heard more than 20 kilometres away.



Permanent museum exhibition of the Homeland War in Bjelovar

The permanent exhibition of the Homeland War is a museum concept managed by the Society for the Preservation of the Croatian Military Tradition. It is divided into topical units, with the first part exhibiting the official uniforms and insignia of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Armed Force of the Republic of Croatia, the second topical unit includes work and war uniforms, equipment and insignia, while the third topical unit covers the domestic area focusing on homeland war veterans from Bjelovar and the Bjelovar-Bilogora County. The collection of the permanent exhibition includes very interesting items such as the first uniforms of the adjutant to the President of the Republic of Croatia, the uniforms of Lieutenant-General Mile Ćuk, Major-General Krešimir Kašpar, the First Secretary of the Croatian Parliament, Major-General Velibor Kikerec, as well as the items of Croatian war veterans

who were directly involved in war operations in the battles within the Bjelovar Operational Zone and on other frontlines across the Republic of Croatia. These topical units and exhibited items are a direct witness of the warfare, which is why the museum has not only historical but also sentimental value. The local area is the most emotional part of the exhibition, featuring the insignia, equipment and uniforms of the units that were formed in Bjelovar and the Bjelovar-Bilogora County, with special attention given to the exhibition of items relating to the events of September 29, 1991, when the Bjelovar war veterans liberated the city. The exhibition was set up methodically and didactically based on the scientific monograph of the President of the Society, Marin Sabolović, and titled Military Uniform Designs of the Croatian Armed Forces 1990-1996, published by Meridijani, 2015 (editor Jakša Raguž, PhD), which gives the museum exhibition a special scientific and educational character.





BJELOVAR

the pulse of the city



There are four main entrances to the city, from the direction of Zagreb, Đurđevac, Daruvar and Čazma, or Garešnica. Also, passing through Bjelovar is a railway connecting Zagreb via Križevci and Bjelovar to Slavonia. It does not matter which means of transport and from which direction you come into this city, because it will await you with wide open arms and an open heart. So the best way to get to know it is from its center. There you will find a stone pavilion surrounded by four statues: St Theresa of Avila, St George, St John of Nepomuk and St Helena, Constantine the Great's mother.

Take a stroll along the main Bjelovar promenade, popular known as Korzo, located between two historic buildings of the old Bjelovar grammar school and the first town library. Located nearby is the museum, cathedral and bishop's residency, and also the first and only Bjelovar skyscraper. The central park is surrounded by buildings built at the very beginning of the city's construction, including the most impressive local city administration building.



Do not be surprised by the number of hospitality businesses and large outdoor terraces, Bjelovar holds the record for the number of cafes per number of inhabitants, which speaks of the friendliness and hospitality of its citizens. In exploring the Bjelovar streets, you will come across old private houses - villas, which hide a story of the city's economic development and the wealth of the villa's owners.

The pulse of the city and its close connection with the surrounding villages can best be experienced at the Bjelovar marketplace. In the bustle of voices, variety of sales benches, scents and flavours of fruits, vegetables, milk and dairy products and all kinds of handicrafts, it possesses everything that gives life to a city. Here, kind female sellers will call you sir or madam, offer you not only their produce, but also a lot of advice relating to life and health, or just a cordial discussion on the weather and daily politics.



Bjelovar tunnels - a trip to the city centre

There is almost no Bjelovar resident who has not heard about the legend of the tunnels below the city. There are as many versions of the story, as there are entrances to the tunnels. Someone will convincingly say that one of the entries is in the crypt of the Bjelovar Cathedral of St Theresa of Avila, while someone else that it is located on Radićev trg (square), whereas others are convinced that they extend far beyond the immediate city centre. According to one version of the story, the tunnels were built for defence against the Turks. Though there are those who claim to have walked through these tunnels in childhood, until the Bjelovar underground is investigated more seriously, we can only imagine what the hidden part of our city looks like.





Bjelovar Pavilion

At the site of today's pavilion was once a well, with its shape evident on old photographs. During the Second World War, construction of a music pavilion began and was opened to the public on September 8, 1943. It is built from stone from the Island of Brač and is the largest stone pavilion in Europe.



Statues in the central park

The four stone statues in the central park were erected in 1777 and 1778, and are dedicated to: Saint Teresa of Avila – the patroness of the Empress and Queen Maria Theresa, Saint George – patron of the 6th regiment of the Croatian Military Frontier (Đurđevac), Saint Helena, Constantine the Great's mother – patroness of the 5th regiment of the Croatian Military Frontier (Križevci), Saint John of Nepomuk – the patron of the seal of the confessional. After the Second World War, i.e. in 1949, the statues were removed but preserved. After thorough restoration, they were returned to their original location on September 22, 2000.





Bjelovar churches and religious buildings

The largest Bjelovar church is also the Cathedral of the Bjelovar-Križevci Diocese which was dedicated in 1772 in honour of Saint Teresa of Avila. The tablet on the cathedral with Latin writing reveals that the church was dedicated by Maria Theresa to the holy virgin Theresa. On the back of the tablet is a relief of the mythological scene of Medea, Jason and Argonaut. Unfortunately, the tablet has been walled in and the relief can no longer be seen. Renovation of the church was led by the famous builder Hermann Bolle in 1888. Three altars and a confessional, wall paintings and stained-glass windows were done precisely according to his designs.

The second largest Orthodox Church of the Holy Three was built in 1795. At its very beginning, the church had a belfry similar to that of the Church of St Theresa of Avila, receiving its current form from a later restoration after an earthquake. The creation of a new iconostasis in the church of the Holy Three was done by painters who were considered to be contemporaries of modern Croatian painting, Bela Čikoš Sesija, Celestin Mato Medović and Ivan Tišov.

Located in the wider centre of the city is also the church of Saint Anthony or as the people called it, the small church. It houses a reliquary of the relics of Saint Francis of Assisi, a piece of his clothes. On the feast of Saint Anthony of Padua,

celebrated every year on June 13, many pilgrims come for masses and processions throughout the day.

Not far from the central park is a synagogue. Today, the House of Culture is located there. The synagogue with its size and the beauty of its original form, which, unfortunately, is only preserved in photographs, testifies to the size of the Jewish community before the Second World War. Beside the Bjelovar market is a small chapel dedicated to Saint Florian.

Also worth mentioning is the Chapel of the Holy Cross, better known as the Chapel of Saint Andrew, located on the cemetery of the same name, which Bjelovar residents call the Old Cemetery. It was built in 1776.

When we mention the cemeteries, as places of memory, silence and contemplation, we can say that the two burial cemeteries, Saint Andrija and Borik, are among the most prestigious Croatian cemeteries.

In settlements that are territorially part of the City of Bjelovar, there are several beautiful old churches, among which special attention should be given to the Church of Saint Thomas the Apostle in Tomaš. Its interior and decoration are intertwined with Baroque and Gothic styles, and since it is close to the city, be sure to visit it.



The pulse of the city is also its industry

At the entrance to Bjelovar are welcome signs informing visitors that they are entering a city of cheeses. This phrase best describes the relationship between the milk and dairy industry with the rural family farms where milk is traditionally produced and processed. Back in the 1980s, the Bjelovar company *Sirela* was the largest producer of hard and semi-hard cheeses in the former country, and was ranked second in purchasing and processing of milk. Today, you can find on refrigerator shelves *Podravec*, *Dimsi*, *Ribanac* and other types of cheeses. Bjelovar is surrounded by two streams, Bjelovacka and Plavnica, but there is also a third, which is the river of milk that flows into it every day.



Not only is Bjelovar a city of cheeses, it is also the city of biscuits and wafers produced by *Koestlin*. This sweet factory was established on the foundations of a small busi-



ness for the production of pastry and wafers that was founded long ago in 1905 by Dragutin Wolf. If you decide to try some of the biscuits, you will certainly return someone to their childhood, or make someone's childhood a little nicer. The biscuits called *Piknik*, *Petit beurre*, *Paris* are just part of the rich assortment of biscuits. An assortment of salted pretzel sticks called *Saltas* and *Flips* are also produced, with the products from this factory heading off to a number of countries. At a time when our fields are handled by large and expensive tractors, many Bjelovar residents can remember the small tractor *Tomo Vinković* produced at the Bjelovar factory of the same name.

Majburger - the juiciest hamburger steak

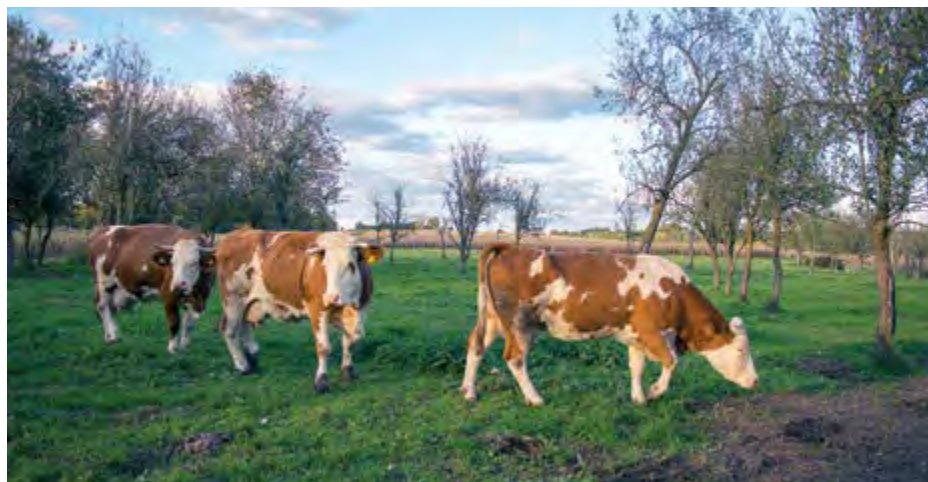
At the beginning of the 1980s, at the Bjelovar factor called "5th of May", the production of hamburger steak similar to American hamburgers was started, only that these got the name of the factory, hence the name *Majburger*. This culinary delight was created by the top chef Branko Ognjenović, who was born in Bjelovar. The specialty of this hamburger steak is in the quality of the ingredients and its quick preparation. Given that purchases were syndicated at that time, this led to the *Majburger* finding its way to numerous freezers throughout the former country. In the 1990s, production of this Bjelovar brand ceased, but once again, in 2017, the *Majburger* found its way back to tables, becoming a reminder of the aromas and flavours from youth, but also to win over new kids and their taste buds with the *Majburger's* juicy flavour.





Bjelovar kvargl cheese

A small cheese shaped like a cone, spiced with salt and grated red pepper at each end has its own local name, in Međimurje it is the turoš, in Podravina prgica, and in Bjelovar it is called kvargl. Production of this type of cheese began on a village and was handed down from generation to generation. Fresh cow cheese is mixed with spices, it is then shaped into a cone, and left to dry. The kvargl is then smoke dried for half a day, giving it a unique aroma and flavour. It was the Austrian army way back in 1756 that brought this cheese to the Bjelovar region.



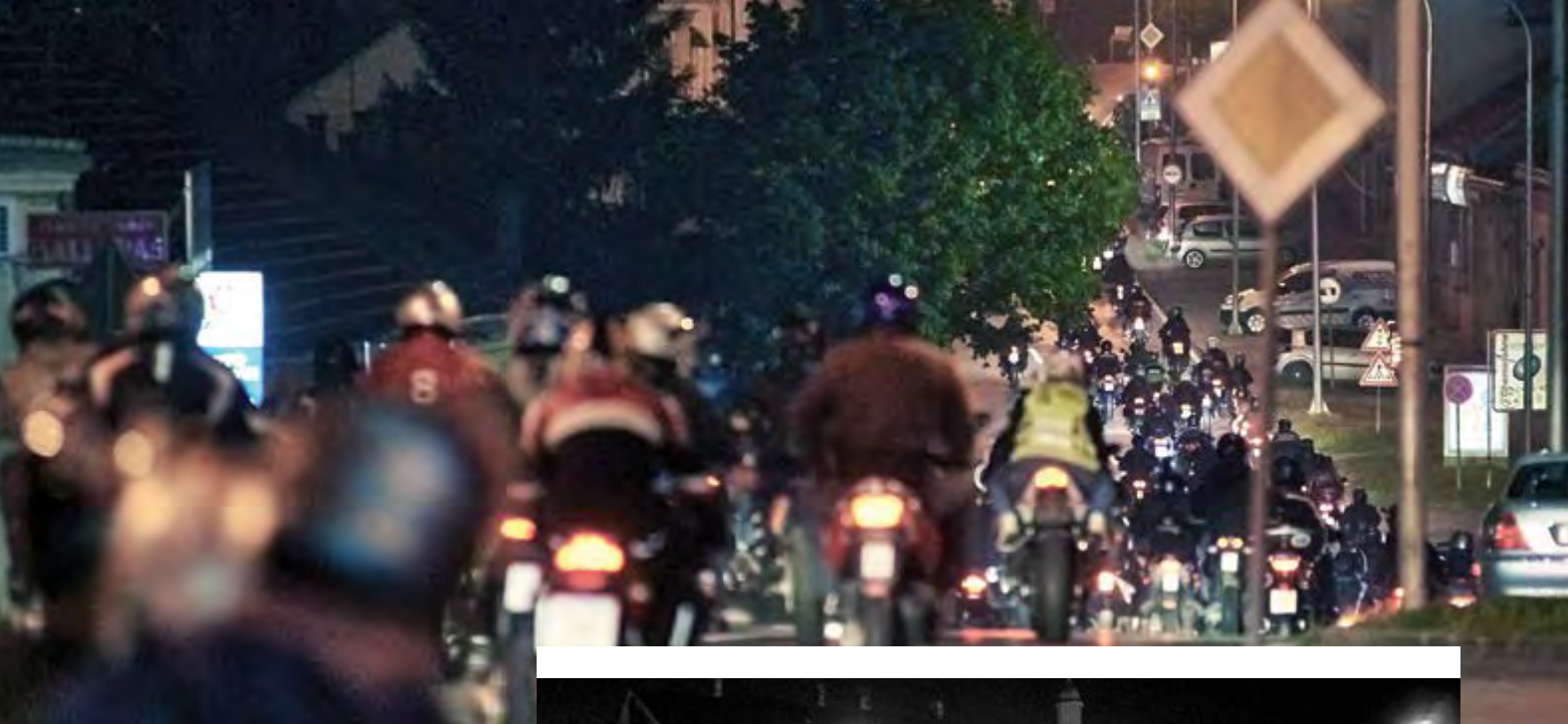
Bjelovar silk

Given that state authorities in the second half of the 18th century encouraged the production of silk, it so happened that at today's Vojnović, on the estate of Đure Vojnović, a plantation of white mulberries was planted in the 1780s for growing silkworms. Even back in 1785, the military authorities set up two silk mills which had thirty looms. Silk production progressed well until the onset of silkworm disease and foreign competitors, and in the mid-19th century production ceased.

Bjelovar Fair

The Bjelovar Fair was founded on a long tradition of holding fairs in Bjelovar and its surroundings extending over a period of more than 500 years. In addition to the two main fair events, the Bjelovar International Spring Fair and Bjelovar International Autumn Fair, several other specialised fair events and car shows are held every week. The fair space is located in Gudovac, near Bjelovar, and extends over an area of 235,000 square metres. Presentation of the latest achievements in agricultural production and equipment, cattle auctions, round table talks and lectures as part of the fairs are visited by more than 50,000 visitors from all over Croatia and around the world.





Patriotic call on Labour Day

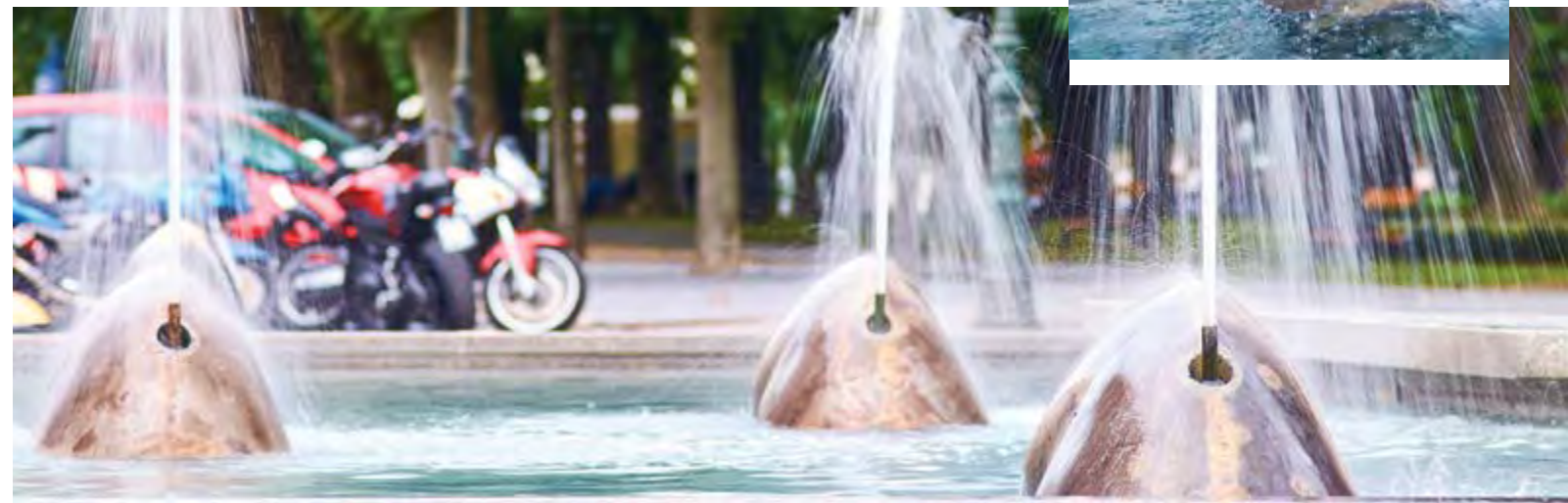
Labour Day in Bjelovar has been celebrated since 1920 by organising a traditional and patriotic call unique in the world. That is when numerous motorists cruise in their tuned cars through the city and surrounding areas. Its origin is linked to the rebellion by the working class in the 1990s against inhumane and poorly paid jobs and their unfavourable position in society. Although the patriotic call was initially held illegally and very early in the morning, so that workers could be at work by normal morning hours, today it is organised by the Bjelovar Moto Club. The smell of gasoline, burnt tires, the exhaust noises without mufflers is part of the patriotic call. And nobody complains about being woken very early on Labour Day, because the patriotic call is a good introduction to the May the first celebrations at the pavilion in the central park.



Return of the Pannonian whales - fountain

The only Bjelovar fountain is located next to the Korzo (main city promenade). There are three whales in the fountain, and three swimming next to it. It reminds us of the origin of the Pannonian Sea, in which these areas were submerged in ancient times, when numerous other types of fish and large

whales lived in it. Its symbolism tells us about the generations who come and leave this city, which the famous writer Goran Tribuson, born in Bjelovar, described in his many novels and whose scenes take place in the streets of Bjelovar. The word whale, like a slang expression for a guy, refers to numerous guys with their unusual life paths who have passed through this city.





BJELOVAR

the pulse of sports and recreation

Croatian falcon

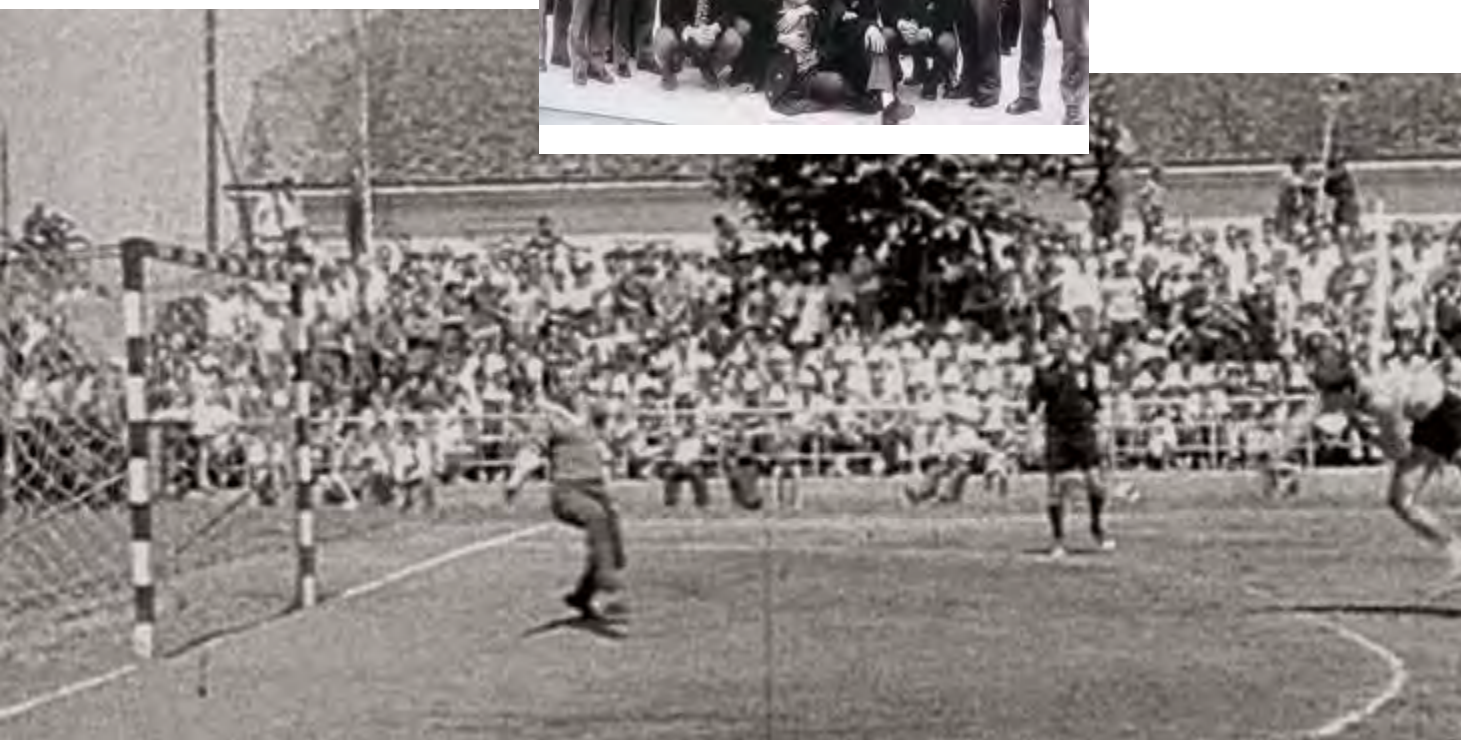
In Bjelovar, in 1884, the Croatian Falcon Society was founded, but its activities were only restored once again at the beginning of the twentieth century. As early as 1911, the construction of a falcon club house began, which was designed by the Zagreb architect Dionis Sunko, and completed in 1912. Popularly known among people as the “Sokolana”, this building was built with donations from people and is the oldest sports facility in the city.



Handball

Back in the 1930s, handball was played in Bjelovar schools. But the true glory of Bjelovar handball occurred with the founding of the Partizan handball club in 1955. Partizan has been state champion nine times but achieved greatest fame internationally. That was on February 19, 1972, when Partizan players beat the German club Gummerbach with a score of 19:14 and won the 1971/72 European Championship.

The reconstruction of the old Partizan playground began at the end of 2013 and on that occasion construction of the first and only underground garage was commenced, and which was subsequently opened on January 10, 2014.



Boatmen on the Neretva

Although Bjelovar was not built alongside a larger mass of water and there is no place for training, particularly in large boats, and especially for the Neretva competition, nonetheless, the Bjelovar team Argonauts rowed the 22.5 km long route and won the 19th boat marathon on August 13, 2016. Among the 34 teams, for the first time an inland team not from the Neretva valley took the title and won the Prince Domagoj Shield handed over annually, and the small shield to be kept permanently.

Cycle touring

Bjelovar and the surrounding area is best explored on the well-kept and marked bike trails. There are three main routes: 25.2 km of the Bilogora Route, 16.5 km of the Vineyard Route and 19,8 km of the Fair Route. You do not have to ride only along the marked trails, explore by bike the Bjelovar streets, take a break in the shadows of the centuries-old Plane trees and head to nearby villages scattered around the Bilogora hills.



Equestrian tourism

Since the first days of Bjelovar as a military town, Bjelovar residents have been linked to horses, those noble and powerful animals. Apart from equestrian clubs that offer riding opportunities and organize numerous competitions, in the surrounding area there are also family farms which offer recreational riding, riding schools and country riding. You will have the opportunity see green meadows, bordered by hills. Not only do the high forests provide shade but also are home to numerous birds and other animals. Horseback riding, which is harmony between horse and man, will enable you to discover your link to nature and yourself.





BJELOVAR

the pulse of culture and events



IPEW - International Percussion Ensemble Week in Bjelovar

Once a year, Bjelovar becomes the capital of percussion instruments, the best of them. The International Percussion Ensemble Week hosts the most important names from percussion music not only from Croatia but from the world as well. Because of its dynamism and attractiveness, this event is remarkably visited. Experience the sounds of different percussion instruments and indulge in the rhythms.







BOK fest - Bjelovar theatre echoes

Once a year, Bjelovar becomes a big theatre stage where the most prominent names from Croatia and neighbouring countries gather and perform the best performances of their ensembles. Given that Bjelovar is, due to its long professional and amateur theatrical past, linked to "boards that mean life", in

those two weeks, besides watching the performances, there are also a number of accompanying events. Worth mentioning is certainly the live exhibition by actors in the saloon, humanitarian handball games, and an interesting motorcycle "alka" event held in the centre of the city. Bjelovar's streets and cafés liven up during

those days with a special rhythm, and the city becomes full of actors that most people know only from the small screens. In the last couple of years, the Mali Bok festival was also begun, where the youngest and even those that are a little older enjoy the performances of preschool children to high school pupils.



TEREZIJANA - a tourist, cultural and entertainment event

Although history does not exactly remember the arrival of Maria Theresa in Bjelovar, this city is able to remember its foundress at the Terezijana event, when in one of the scenes she visits the city herself. Her arrival, along with the emperor's entourage and accompanied by the Historic Cavalry Unit of the Bjelovar Frontier Guards - Hussars in 1756, is always attractive due to the actual scene. The empress next addresses her people and comments on the current situation not only in Bjelovar but also in the former empire. During the few days of the program, along with numerous

concerts, performances by street artists and other artists, plays and children's playgrounds, as well as various sports competitions, the streets of the city become alive. Therefore, along with the rich offers of hospitality business and offers of traditional and various products form family farms, spend part of June in Bjelovar.





DO DANIKU MENTARNOG FILMA BJELOVAR

DOKUart - professional documentary film festival

At the beginning of October, an international showing of professional documentary films called DOKUart takes place in Bjelovar. Film screenings of the best documentaries from Croatia, European Union countries and neighbouring countries are



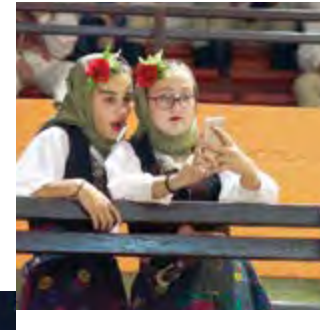
shown. The event presents authors from different countries who use film to address topics that know no boundaries and are always current. During DOKUart, there is also the Small DOKUart where documentaries from elementary school pupils from all over Croatia are shown. An interesting feature of DOKUarta is also that the festival hosts a single film in one of the villages near Bjelovar.



National Minorities Evening

Bjelovar is a multicultural and tolerant city. There are people from various nations living in it. Once a year in November, along with numerous guests, they present a cultural and artistic program as well as creative achievements from their societies and associations. Using music and dance as well as customs, they maintain a connection to their native countries, and through their work they contribute to the richness of the city's diversity. The program includes Albanian, Bosniak,

Czech, Hungarian, Roma, Ruthenian, Russian, Slovakian, Slovenian, Serbian and Ukrainian groups, with several thousand visitors testifying to the interest of the program.





*Oh, my little Svarog lunay le, lunay le
Oh, my little Svarog
visit our abodes,*

*our abodes and sheepfolds...
(Song written in the surrounding
area of Bjelovar - Ciglenac)*

Advent in Bjelovar

Advent is the time of anticipating Christmas as the happiest solemnity of the year. The Advent festival in Bjelovar is held in the very centre of the city. A central stage is placed in the pavilion, and around the stage there are numerous small houses offering rich catering, craft and trades offer of commemorative products. Everyday concerts, various programs, displays of Christmas customs, as well as jewellery and other decorative workshops contribute to the holiday atmosphere of the city and the socialising among its residents and guests. The event ends with an organised New Year's Eve celebration and a great concert as well as joyful folk song.



CHRISTMAS GALA CONCERT - jazz, pop and gospel music concert

The traditional Christmas gala concert is organized in co-operation with Croatian Radio-Television, which is usually aired at around the Christmas holiday. The concert features the most famous Croatian musicians accompanied by a conducted ensemble and renowned performers from Europe and America who perform the world's best Christmas favourites, most often in jazz form.





the pulse of BILOGORA



Ethno park in Veliko Trojstvo

You will find traditional examples of buildings in the Veliko Trojstvo. The old traditional houses, barns, granary, bread ovens and corn drying sheds preserve the memory of old farmhouses and their appearance. At the ethno park there is an ethnographic collection that preserves a lot of usable items, and it seems as though you have opened an old chest full of memories from which we can see the life and customs of Bilogora villages.

Svijetle pruge wooden sculptures

On the road between the villages of Maglenča and Šandrovac there is a gallery of wooden figures called “Svijetle pruge”. Some of the figures are also exhibited in other places: Bjelovar, Velika Trojstvo and Veliki Grđevac. This unusual and unique outdoor gallery was created in cooperation with the state company Croatian Forests, Bjelovar-Bilogora County and Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb as well as the Veliko Trojstvo Municipality.

Let us go outside the city, on the tranquil Bilogora hills, to settlements and municipalities surrounding Bjelovar.

It is a good idea if you want to escape stress and noise, to experience the scents and flavours that take you back to your childhood. Here, mixed styles of original rural construction and modern family farms are intertwined. The symbol of this low-land mountain are the forests that provide shade and firewood. They are the forests of mythological beings, Bilogora's stories and legends.

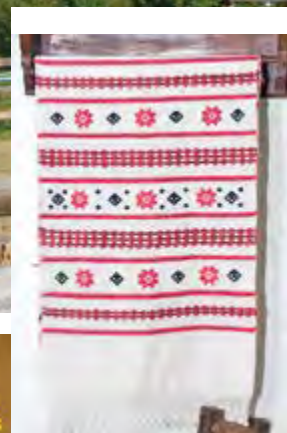
Passing through the villages, you will meet these marvellous and hospitable people. You

will see villages surrounded by fields and meadows bordered by hills, streams and ponds. On the hills there are churches and chapels, as well as cottages and vineyards, filled with clusters of grapes, the nicest in autumn.

In the richness of the scents and flavours, you can try the original dishes prepared from the fruits of gardens and orchards, wine from old basements, brandy which has been toasted from long ago.

And perhaps the most beautiful thing Bilogora has to offer are unforgettable views of a large part of central Croatia.





Spring at Bilogora

The Spring at Bilogora event is held every year at Veliko Trojstvo on the eve of the feast of Saint George. From long ago, on that day the cattle would come out to graze for the first time in the year, and somehow protect themselves from snakes, obstacles and all other bad things that could happen to them in the long season of grazing and farm work. Our Bilogora residents treasure their cattle, because not only did they feed them, but they were also used for the most difficult agricultural works.

The event begins on the eve of Saint George when a huge bonfire is set alight on the hill above Veliko Trojstvo on which a lookout is built in the form of an old wooden tower (čardak). Melodies and songs are performed around the bonfire to celebrate the re-awakening of nature in spring. In the morning a face washing ritual is carried out in pure spring water in which there are spring flowers. With this face washing devotion, everyone who washes also invokes health, happiness, and blessing. The event ends with the blessing of horses, so that the year will be good to them and also to the riders.



Tunnel in Paulovac

Traveling by train from the plains of Slavonia to Bilogora or in the opposite direction, situated on the railway line between Bjelovar and Kloštar Podravski is a tunnel with a total length of 360 meters. Its entrance from the Bilogora side is located in the village of Paulovac, located in the Veliko Trojstvo Municipality. The specialty of this tunnel is that it is the only tunnel in this part of inland Croatia.

Apparition of Our Lady in Paulovac

According to the visionaries and the events that followed, it is believed that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared in one of the youngest settlements in the Veliko Trojstvo Municipality in 1949. Leading to the chapel and Our Lady's Well is a well-kept forest trail on which the Stations of the Cross are located.



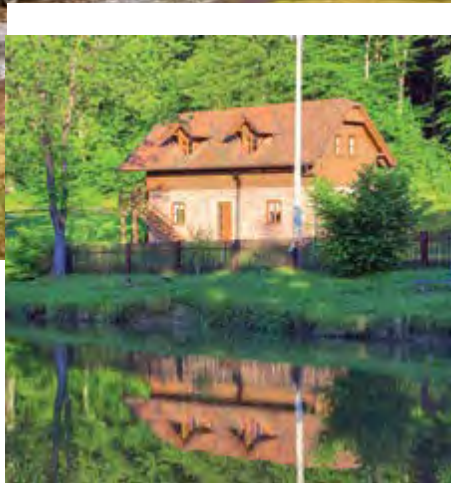
Mythological beings of Bilogora

In memory of grandfathers and grandmothers, numerous stories and legends about amazing beings living in houses, forests, streams, and underground mines have been preserved. This is where humanoid forest men (*vedi*), humanoid forest women (*šumske dekle*), night hunters (*noćni jagari*), *Sena*, candlemen (*indunjeri*), sorceresses and witches, coopers (*pintari*), sisters of fate (*suđenice*), shadow gnawer (*Glodan*), Baba Yaga (*babaroga*), Moira (*Mòra*), spook (*Danja*) and many others. Among the most interesting characters are the humanoid forest men (*vedi*). These *vedi* were giants, like humans, their bodies covered with hair. They were either good or bad. The good ones helped people in farming jobs and around the house, whereas the evil ones (*hudi*) did not associate with people, and sometimes they kidnapped people and tortured them. *Vedi* lived deep in forests, where they had their towns, and sometimes a big brick can be found there. Let your imagination run free and listen to the forest, you may hear the voices of some amazing creatures.



Mato Lovrak Cultural Centre

The renowned person of Croatian children's literature is Mato Lovrak who was born in Veliki Grdevac. He has written numerous literary works alongside which generations of children have grown up. Some of the works have ended up on screens, like the *Družbe Pere Kvržice*, *Vlak u snijegu*, etc. In his honour, Lovrak's Days of Culture are held in Veliki Grdevac at which awards are given for the best children's novel of the year.



Blessed martyr of Drina from Veliki Grdevac

Bernardeta Banja was born in Veliki Grdevac. In her early youth, she accepted the divine call and entered the religious community of the Daughters of Divine Charity. During the Second World War, she and four other nuns were martyred and thrown into the Drina River. They were given recognition with the erection of an altar in 2011 when Pope Benedict XVI declared them blessed.



Kukavica Sports and Recreation Centre

Located the forest, not far from the main Bjelovar – Daruvar road, is the Kukavica Sports and Recreation Centre. There are several accommodation facilities within the complex, including a kitchen, meeting or seminar room, and changerooms adjacent to the sports grounds. Its position and accessibility invites you to visit and relax your spirit and body in the heart of Bilogora.

Velika Pisanica - the longest village

Due to its length of 13 kilometres, the village of Velika Pisanica is considered the longest village in Croatia.

Pisanica Eco-Ethnic Track

If you want to meet and explore the Velika Pisanica Municipality, the best way to embark on this trail, which connects tourist destinations in the area of this municipality.



From Mušinja to Šandrovac

Long ago back in the year 1245, the deed of gift of King Bela IV mentions the settlement of Mušinja (Mosyna, Musyna, etc.) in the area of today's Šandrovac Municipality. However, in 1491 it became the property of the nobleman Sandor (Sandroffy) and the old name of Mušinja was lost, with the name Šandri-grad, Šandrovec prevailing and finally becoming Šandrovac, as it is still called today.

Nova Rača - the diocese's Mother of God shrine

Since ancient times, Nova Rača has been known for its great religious processions (*kramovi*) on the feasts of the Assumption of Mary and the Nativity of Mary. Besides pilgrimages and prayers, fairs were also held on these feast days.

Ferdo Rusan

This officer, of the Illyrian movement and poet, was born at Pavlin Kloštar in the Kapela Municipality.



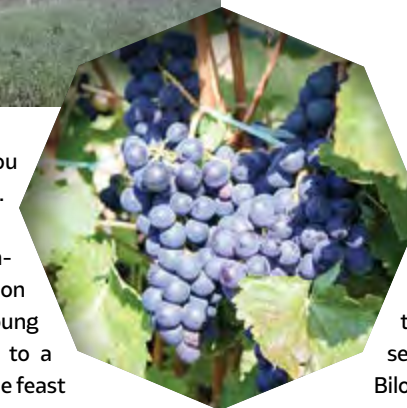


BILOGORA

the pulse of **wine** roads



*Trying gives wheat,
On labour vine
grapes hang.*



The fertile and hilly Bilogora, the green heart of our homeland, has since long ago given “God’s drop” of red and white wines used to celebrate with joy or mourn during those difficult times. The preserved customs of the farms remind us that the vineyard year begins in January, on the Feast of Saint Vincent (*Vincekovo*). That is when several vines are cut, and the grapevine is placed into water so that its flourishing can be predicted how the year will produce grapes. From spring, when first breaking up the soil and spraying, until the autumn and the actual harvest, vineyards require constant care. Early varieties appear as early as August, and around the feast of

Saint Bartholomew you can drink wine must. Nonetheless, the proper harvest is in September, and the fermentation of must results in a young wine, which according to a baptismal custom on the feast of Saint Martin is transformed into wine. Although the most abundant variety previously was Noah, today with the development of winery on Bilogora, new plantations of high quality wine varieties have been raised. Located in the surrounding area of Bjelovar is the Bilogora wine road. Numerous fam-

ily farms and wineries plant new vineyards, and along with a rich selection of wines and homemade products they offer a delight to taste buds and all other senses. While traveling to the Bilogora hills, you will discover beautiful views. Villages that preserve the customs and traditions, that have long ago lived from the land and everything that it offers. You will become acquainted with the customs and cultural heritage as well as local delicacies from tourist offers and when sightseeing the Bilogora wine road.



The vineyard seeks a servant, not a master.







ACCOMMODATION
IN THE CITY OF BJELOVAR

HOTEL CENTRAL ★★★

📍 Matice Hrvatske 6, 43000 Bjelovar

CONTACT: 043 243 133

E-MAIL: repcija@hotel-central-bjelovar.com.hr

WEB: www.hotel-central-bjelovar.com.hr

IVANKOVIĆ APARTMENTS ★★★★★

📍 Matije Gupca 33, 43000 Bjelovar

CONTACT: 099 511 1110

E-MAIL: selimir.ivankovic@gmail.com

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📍 Velike Sredice 29c, 43000 Bjelovar

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E-MAIL: mirkopirslin@gmail.com

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📍 Antuna Mihanovića 41, 43000 Bjelovar

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E-MAIL: dragec1804@gmail.com

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E-MAIL: sobeivana@gmail.com

WEB: www.apartmani-ivana.info

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📍 Tome Bakača 15a, 43000 Bjelovar

CONTACT: 043 247 135

DIVIĆ ROOMS ★★★

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Ivana Mažuranića 4, 43000 Bjelovar

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WEB: <http://www.sobe-bjelovar.com/>

MARINA MARIĆ
APARTMENTS ★★★

📍 Lavoslava Ružičke 5, 43000 Bjelovar

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E-MAIL: imaric@bluewin.ch

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E-MAIL: tamara.vaclavek@gmail.com

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E-MAIL: dajana.istvanic1@gmail.com

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VITA NOVA

📍 Klokočevac 1a, Klokočevac,

43000 Bjelovar

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E-MAIL: info@vitanova.hr

WEB: www.vitanova.hr

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📍 Poljana doktora Franje Tuđmana 7,

43000 Bjelovar

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E-MAIL: dom@dubj.net

WEB: www.dubj.net

HOSTEL BJELOVAR

📍 Vladimira Nazora 2, 43000 Bjelovar

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E-MAIL: dom@dubj.net

WEB: www.dubj.net

PAVIČIĆ HOSPITALITY BUSINESS

📍 Letičani bb, 43 000 Bjelovar

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OTHER ACCOMMODATION
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Farm House Rooms ★★★★★

📍 Ribnjačka 82, 43270 Velika Pisanica

CONTACT: 098 788 197

E-MAIL: turizam@namalenombrijegu.hr

WEB: www.namalenombrijegu.hr

SANTO FAMILY FARM BUSINESS

Farm House Rooms ★

📍 Bjelovarska 3, 43270 Velika Pisanica

CONTACT: 043 883 204

E-MAIL: opgsanto@gmail.com

WEB: [f/VelikaPisanicaSeoskiTurizamSanto](https://www.facebook.com/VelikaPisanicaSeoskiTurizamSanto)

PAJDO HUNTING HOUSE

Rural Holiday House ★★★★★

📍 Maglenča 80 a, 43226 Veliko Trojstvo

CONTACT: 043 273 273

E-MAIL: pajdo@pajdo.hr

WEB: www.lovackakuca-pajdo.com

ŽUŽIĆ RURAL REST HOUSE ★★★★★

📍 Prekobrdo 38, Prekobrdo, 43212 Rovišće

CONTACT: 091 542 9434

„BILOGORSKA ČAROLIJA“
RURAL HOLIDAY HOUSE

📍 Vinogradska II/3, 43226 Veliko Trojstvo

CONTACT: 091 545 6980

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IVICA LIPEJ HOLIDAY HOUSE ★★

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43226 Veliko Trojstvo

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E-MAIL: ivicalipej@gmail.com

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E-MAIL: vinarija@coner.hr

WEB: www.vinarija-coner.hr

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BABINAC HUNTING HOUSE

📍 Babinac 178, 43270 Velika Pisanica

Board and services, Apartment ★★★★★

CONTACT: 098 438 960

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KAMENITOVAC
MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

📍 Maglenča 117, 43226 Veliko Trojstvo

CONTACT: 043 885 105, 099 255 2011,

099 341 0202

E-MAIL: bonus.plusjdoo@gmail.com



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CONTACT: 043 622 100

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CONTACT: 060 304 080. 043 241 147

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CONTACT: 099 590 7211

BJELOVAR STADIUM

Poljana dr. Franje Tuđmana, Bjelovar

CULTURAL HERITAGE

VELIKO TROJSTVO ETHNO PARK

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HOMELAND WAR MUSEUM

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43270 Veliki Grđevac

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BILOGORA WINE ROAD



CONER WINERY

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E-MAIL: vinarija@coner.hr

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VINIA RETREAT AND WINERY

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Ruralna kuća za odmor

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EXCURSION CENTRE „VRATA BILOGORE“

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099 555 5999

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VELIKO TROJSTVO ETHNO PARK

📍 Braće Radić 70, 43 226 Veliko Trojstvo

KONTAKT: 043 885 643

E-MAIL: info@veliko-trojstvo.hr

WEB: www.veliko-trojstvo.hr



„BILOGORSKA ČAROLIJA“ RURAL HOLIDAY HOUSE

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E-MAIL: etnokucabj@gmail.com



KAMENITOVAC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

📍 Maglenča 117, 43226 Veliko Trojstvo

KONTAKT: 043 885 105, 099 255 2011,
099 341 0202

E-MAIL: bonus.plusjdoo@gmail.com



SVIJETLE PRUGE – wooden sculptures

📍 On the road between the villages of Maglenča and Šandrovac; some of the figures are also exhibited in other places: Bjelovar, Velika Trojstvo and Veliki Grđevac.



AGRITOURISM „NA MALENOM BRIJEGU“

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PUBLISHER:

Tourist Board for the Bilogora – Bjelovar Region

FOR THE PUBLISHER:

Ana Kelek

PHOTOGRAPHS BY:

Željko Smešnjak, Delimir Hrestak,
Stipe Bošćić, Igor Pavlović, Štefan Brajković
Arhiva TZ BB/TZ BBŽ

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE:

Slaven Klobučar

GRAPHIC DESIGN BY:

Colloco d.o.o., Bjelovar/ Tatjana Malnar Pocrnić

PRINTED BY:

Kerschhoffset d.o.o., Zagreb

CIRCULATION:

1000 copies

Bjelovar, 2018

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Coming events

Calendar of events

01/January

IPEW - International Percussion Ensemble Week
Bjelovar

02/February

International Bee Fair, Wine and Winery Equipment Exhibition
Gudovac Fairgrounds

03/March

Mali BOK fest – Little Bjelovar theatre echoes
Bjelovar

04/April

Bjelovar International Spring Fair
Gudovac Fairgrounds
St George's day on Bilogora
Veliko Trojstvo

05/May

BOK fest - Bjelovar theatre echoes
Bjelovar

06/June

Lovrak's Days of Culture
Veliki Grđevac
Terezijana
Bjelovar
XCM Terezijaner – bicycle marathon
Bjelovar/Maglenča/Veliko Trojstvo

07/July

Bjelovar Summer of Culture

08/August

Bjelovar Summer of Culture
Bilogora equestrian games and Biloklik
Veliko Trojstvo

09/September

Bjelovar International Autumn Fair
Gudovac Fairgrounds

10/October

DOKUart
Bjelovar
Night of Warlocks – night bicycle tour
Bjelovar

11/November

National Minorities Evening
Bjelovar
Ethno festival “Bilogora I’m carrying you in my heart”
Veliko Trojstvo

12/December

Advent in Bjelovar
Christmas Gala Concert
Bjelovar



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